BASE Organization

FIGHTING AGAINST EXTREME POVERTY AND EXPLOITATION SINCE 1991

Annual Report

2024

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Foreword from the Executive Director

We are exceptionally happy on this remarkable occasion of publishing our annual progress report 2024 which shows our most prominent achievements. Having the sole vision of the "creation of an exploitation free society", BASE has implemented its projects in collaboration with local and state actors in its target districts. BASE has specifically worked to raise the living standards of indentured and disadvantaged grassroots communities and excluded children, and has done this through its management of BASE members and professional activists to support them in aligning their work with the needs of target groups.

This year BASE has focused on several types of community development projects. In recognition of the problems of educational inaccessibility in the Lumbini, Sudurpaschim and Karnali Province of Nepal, BASE has launched WASH and educational projects in collaboration with district education coordination unit, local governments and the ministry of social development of the different provinces. To address the horrific problems faced by thousands of bonded laborers and their children, BASE has delivered livelihood projects which ensure basic rights and formal education. In relation to disaster preparedness and response, BASE has engaged in emergency aid and humanitarian support. BASE has contributed to formed and made advocacy for the formation and amendment process different policies to make enable environment to access the government services to marginalized, minorities and grassroots communities of local and provincials governments.

BASE is a mass membership-based organization committed to strengthening communities through institutional development approaches. Therefore, organizational capacity building, including the formation and reformation of groups and institutions, are central to our work and has continued throughout the year. BASE's work focuses on all disadvantaged people. We help all exploited and vulnerable groups such as women, Children, gender and sexual minorities, people with disabilities, youths, tharu, madhesi, dalits, chidimar, natuwa, badi, gandharva, pasi, kori, sonaha, kusunda, majhi, mumal, raidas, teli, mahatawa/ bhalmansa /badghar etc. Much of this work takes place in rural areas and other marginalized areas.

At this time, with the publication of our annual report, we appreciate the warm cooperation of our national and international development partners who have been incredibly supportive of us. Furthermore, our sincere thanks go to the local communities and the civic organizations, who increasingly took ownership over our community development initiatives. We hope for your continued cooperation in future projects. Finally we always appreciate the feedback, comments, inquiries and suggestions from our well-wishers who have been in direct and indirect contact with our organization.

On the whole my gratefulness is overwhelmingly extended to the team of BASE, board members, project coordinators and all staffs who managed the publication of the annual report 2024, as well as the efforts of our respective district staffs and implementation units for their added support.

Churna Bahadur Chaudhary
Executive Director

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SUMMARY

BASE Organization (Backward Society Education) is a membership organization that works for vulnerable, poor, marginalized and deprived communities. Since its establishment it has been working in Lumbini, Sudurpschim and Karnali provinces carrying out different programs such as policy advocacy and lobby, Education and Social Protection (Child Labor, Human Trafficking and ending the child marriage), Livelihood, Agriculture, Entrepreneurship and Employment, Health, Nutrition and WASH, Peace, Governance and Human rights, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction and other services. Over the period of 2024 annual reports BASE implemented 12 different programs related to above mention sectors. BASE implements its projects with the technical and financial support of international developments partners in the close coordination with three level of governance mostly with the local and provincial level governments. With the hard works of executive committee members and professional staffs, BASE has able to successfully and effectively engage to total 55051 target stakeholders and beneficiaries during this year. Among them 24456 were male, 30537 were female, 18 were from Gender and Sexual Minorities, 57 of them were people with disability. Among the total 55051 stakeholders rich by the organization 55.47% were women and 72.14% were children. The following is the summary of our most significant achievements during 2024.

1. **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MARGINALIZED COMMUNITY IN NEPAL PROJECT:**

- 40 women have received skill and knowledge on sewign and cutting training (traditional dress making and support (eg. *Lahanga*) and runing business.
- 120 persons received skills and knowledge on traditional cultural dance equipment making training and support (*Jhali, Majura and Bhur-Bhura, Kastar* etc.) and started business.
- 75 Tharu indigenous families received Pig rearing support to start alternative livelihood option.
- 15 most marginalyzed Dalit family (*Badi and Gandharba* community) received support for Pig rearing as a alternative livelihood support.
- 4542 persons received vegetable seed support and training to run the vegetable production business.
- 80 poorest of the poor families received mushroom production training and support to run the small mushroom production business.
- 6 cooperatives has been formed/registered and around 450 members are affiliated in cooperatives (minimum 3 to maximum 4 group can be affiliated in a cooperative and it can be gradually increased).

2. **SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAM-EXPANDING PROVINCIAL POLICY NETWORK (EPPN) PROJECT**

- Total stakeholders engaged in policy level dialogue were 1810 and among them 1281 were men, 512-women, 17-G&S. In terms of ethnic representation 938 were Brahmin/Chhetri, janjati-560, Dalit-155, 157 belongs to others group including minorities.
- The project has strengthen the capacity of the marginalized and minorities groups on enhancing their skills and deepening their understanding of policy network, constitutional rights of marginalized community, stakeholder engagement, supportive evidence for lobbying for rights of 47 persons (25-male, 21-female,1-G&S) through training.
- During this year 10 numbers of issues were analyzed-in order to identify policy gaps, leading to targeted interventions. Among the 10 issues, 2 were gender-based issues, 1 was conflict based and others covers the sector of health, education, revenue management, tourism, consumer rights and protection, Dalit rights, marginalized people access to provincial polices.
- Achievement from dialogue on participation of marginalized community people in Provincial Planning process:
    - After the dialogue on participation of marginalized community people in Provincial Planning process, Lumbini Province government has allocated the budget for 5,00,000 under the

heading of Capacity building and empowerment for Gender and Sexual Minorities Community
    - Lumbini Province Government has also allocated NRS 10,00,000 in the heading of livelihood improvement of Badi, Natuwa, Chidiyamar, Sonaha, Pattharkatta and other marginalized Community
    - Eakikit Yojana Tarjuma Digdarsan has been drafted by provincial planning commission and presented in provincial assembly.
- Achievement from Policy Dialogue on Health Insurance in Lumbini Province:
    - Province government has realized its role in the sector of health insurance such as formation of provincial coordination committee.
    - Commitment from Province Government and Insurance Board on establishing a provincial insurance coordination committee in lumbini province, transfer of Insurance coordination office to Deukhuri dang and suggestions for other improvement in health sector like strengthening financial aspect of insurance board by assuring maximum number of people in insurance has been achieved.
    - After Dialogue, Lumbini province government and Health insurance board has undergone meetings for establishment of insurance coordination committee. At the same meeting they have also applied some suggestion from dialogue like provision of compulsory insurance by civil servant, which resulted in 2,600 civil servants engaged in health insurance. This will help to ensure better finance management of health insurance.
    - Province government has also planned to allocate some budget for people with disability as a pilot project which was also suggested in dialogue.
- Policy dialogue on Cultural Tourism
    - Concept paper of tourism policy 2081 has been drafted.
    - Tourism policy is expected to be presented at upcoming assembly meeting and Coordination has been made with three tires of Government as well.
    - In order to promote cultural tourism, BASE organization has advocated for creation of cultural circuits like Tharu circuits.
- Policy dialogue on dispute between community forest users' group and Province **government.**
    - After the dialogue on revenue management and conservation of Forest, community forest user group and province government came to the common understanding of paying tax through 1 door mechanism.

- **Dialogue on Karnali River Management issue:**
    - Ownership /kinship have been taken by both province stakeholders regarding the Issues. Commitments have been made by stakeholders to conserve and sustainably utilize Karnali River resources.
    - Chief Minister of lumbini province and Sudurpaschim province has declared to form a suggestion committee with the suggestion of member to be included and responsibility of task to be done.
    - Member suggested in Recommendation Committee are as follow:
        - Secretary of Lumbini Province Government- Coordinator
        - Secretary of Sudurpaschim Province Government-member
        - Representatives from both provinces' Forest sectors'- members
        - Representatives from local governments connected to riverbank areas –member
        - Representatives from Survey Department (*Napi Karyalaye*) of both Province – member
        - Warden Bardiya Nation Park- member
    - Dialogue group Responsibilities of the Suggestion committee suggested by ministers are as follow:
        - Identifying problems associated with local, provincial, and federal governments.

    - Categorizing issues and proposing solutions.
    - Prioritizing actions and offering recommendations related to budget
    - Study of Laws that need to be amended in upcoming days.
    - Update and Documentation of work being carried.
  - The Suggestion Committee had prepared the report document which include the problem identification, actionable recommendations and action plan with responsibility of the tires of government and handed it to the Lumbini Province Government and Sudurpaschim Province Government.
- **Achievement from policy dialogue on consumer Rights and Protection.**
  - Lumbini Province has realized the need of proper market monitoring and committed to form market monitoring committee and related provision necessary for its formation.
  - This year Lumbini province government is to increased subsidies in the sector of agriculture and promote organic agriculture product as per commitment made by Agriculture Minister of lumbini Province.
- **Achievement from policy dialogue on timely implementation of budge**t.
  - Stakeholder has realized the challenges faced by contractors and others due to late implementation of budget. Province government has now planned to release the tender more than of 5 lakhs.
- **Policy Dialogue regarding the draft of the Dalit law and Rights in Karnali Province**:
  - In the facilitation of the Sambad Samuha Karpali Province Dalit Law of Karnali province has been drafted.
  - The Drafted Dalit Law of the Karnali Province has been tabulated in the parliament by the Ministry of Social Development of Karnali Province for the approval.
- **Policy Dialogue of Gender Equality Policy 2080 of Lumbini Province:**
  - The province government has realized the gaps of the GESI policy regarding the social inclusion.
  - Made the commitment to include the part of Social Inclusion in the GESI policy
  - Realized the lacking of the desegregation data like Gender based and caste based.
- **Policy Dialogue on Lumbini Province's 2nd Periodic Plan**.
  - The Lumbini Province Planning commission has realized to make the participatory and inclusive 2nd Periodic Plan
  - The Lumbini province government 2nd Periodic Plan has been drafted
  - The Vice president of the Lumbini Province Planning Commission Mr. Nahakul KC has made commitment of include the desegregated data and the participatory planning of the province as the stakeholder's has provided the suggestion and feedback.

3. PREVENTING EARLY MARRIAGED THROUGH ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT PROJECT:

- A key message against early marriage has been produced and tested then been disseminated through local radio FM stations of Dang, Banke, Rolpa, Kapilvastu and Rupandehi district.
- The events of video shows to raise awareness on child marriage, its causes and consequences were organized in the schools of ward Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Rolpa, Kapilvastu districts. Altogether 3898 individuals participated in the video screening are aware on the causes and consequences of child marriage
- In total, 2655 individuals, including students, teachers, parents, and ward representatives, participated in the signature campaigns and gained awareness about the causes and consequences of child marriage
- In total, 366 individuals, including students, teachers, and parents, members of local CBOs, political parties, mothers' groups, youths, and ward representatives were sensitized to the various causes and severe consequences of child marriage.

- Total 5,000 copies of leaflets were printed and they have been distributed which has complete information on child marriage that aware the readers and understand early marriage is a false practice.
- 28 persons were trained on ToT with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in SRHR, child marriage prevention, and facilitation techniques. Through a blend of interactive sessions, practical activities, and reflective discussions, participants developed a deep understanding of the topics and enhanced their ability to train others effectively
- 17 persons trained on psychosocial counseling and leadership development. The participants were child marriage survivors, no longer in the marriage, still with the person they married and others were student, activists, and CBO members.

4. SAFE MIGRATION TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING PROJECT

- The roundtable meeting was held on 10th January, 2025 Policymakers and Stakeholders in Lumbini Province at Bhalubang Dang Lumbini Province, Nepal.
- In the Round table meeting total 43 stakeholders and policy makers were presented.
- During the meeting the following issues has been raised:
  - Open border arrangement lacks adequate surveillance mechanisms, benefiting traffickers: The unrestricted and poorly managed movement between Nepal and India, while beneficial for legitimate travel, also creates opportunities for traffickers to transport vulnerable Nepalese people across borders without detection.
  - Limited checkpoints but numerous unmonitored corridors prone to human trafficking: While official checkpoints like Sunauli and Rupedia exist in Lumbini Province, there are dozens of unofficial crossing points that remain unmonitored by the security forces and other stakeholders, making it easy for traffickers to avoid detection.
  - Weak tracking of internal and external mobility of people: The current system introduced by the Government of Nepal fails to effectively monitor and record the movement of people both within the country and across borders, making it difficult to identify trafficking patterns.
  - Poor monitoring of dance bars and cabin restaurants in emerging cities and border districts: These establishments often serve as fronts for cross-border trafficking operations, but insufficient oversight allows illegal activities to continue unchecked.
  - Lack of reliable and disaggregated data on migrants and trafficking victims: The federal as well as the province government of Nepal lacks a comprehensive database that tracks the number of migrants and trafficking victims, making it difficult to understand the true scale of the problem.
  - Scale and characteristics of undocumented cross-border migration largely unknown: Due to the informal nature of many border crossings, authorities cannot accurately assess the number of people moving between countries or their reasons for doing so.
  - Weak reporting systems: Current mechanisms for reporting trafficking cases and suspicious activities are inadequate, leading to underreporting of incidents.
  - Significant data gaps in tracking and follow-up: The lack of systematic data collection and monitoring makes it difficult to track cases over time and assess the effectiveness of interventions.
  - Women and children are the most vulnerable to trafficking: These groups face the highest risk of exploitation, particularly for forced labor and sexual exploitation.
  - Growing adult entertainment sector in border cities increasing trafficking cases: The expansion of this sector has created new venues for exploitation and increased demand for trafficking victims.
  - New trafficking purposes emerging (skin transplantation and surrogacy): Traffickers are finding new ways to exploit victims, including forcing them into dangerous medical procedures.
  - Nepali hotels and restaurants in border areas becoming undeclared red-light areas: These establishments are increasingly being used as fronts for trafficking operations and sexual exploitation. Women and girls working into those hotels are at the risk of cross-border as well as third country trafficking.

- Lumbini province serving as both source and transit for human trafficking: The region faces a dual challenge as traffickers both recruit local victims and transport others through the area.
- High incidence of third-country migration through human smugglers: Many people from Lumbini province are being trafficked to third countries using India as a transit point.

- Finding the Solutions to Address Cross-Border Migration issue:
  - Strengthen surveillance systems in the bordering districts of Lumbini province: Implementation of modern surveillance technology along with increased number of security personnel to better monitor border areas is suggested as a fundamental task for enhancing border security.
  - Implement effective document verification processes: Establish robust systems to verify the authenticity of travel documents and identify potential trafficking victims.
  - Use technology-based interventions: Employ advanced technology for border monitoring, data collection, and information sharing between agencies within Nepal as well as with the concern authorities from the India side.
  - Establish additional security centers for immediate support to victims: There was also a suggestion for creating facilities near border areas to provide immediate assistance to the identified trafficking victims.
  - Regular dialogue between Nepal and India: Maintain consistent communication channels between both countries to address cross-border trafficking issues.
  - Political, diplomatic, and security cooperation: Foster collaboration at multiple levels to create comprehensive solutions to trafficking problems.
  - Joint efforts between Nepal and India for trafficking control: Implement coordinated operations and information sharing between security forces of both countries.
  - Improved coordination among organizations working at Nepal-India border: Enhance collaboration between NGOs, government agencies, and security forces operating in border areas to detect traffickers and minimize the risk of cross-border trafficking.
  - Establish crisis management and rehabilitation centers: Create facilities to provide comprehensive support services to trafficking survivors.
  - Implement victim and witness protection systems: Develop programs to ensure the safety and security of trafficking survivors and witnesses.
  - Create strong information exchange processes: Establish efficient systems for sharing intelligence and data between relevant agencies.
  - Provide right information and counseling to potential migrants: Ensure that people considering migration have access to accurate information about risks and legal procedures for a regular and documented migration.
  - Develop skill development training programs: Provide vocational training to vulnerable populations to reduce their risk of being trafficked.
- Declared the role of Province Government for Safe Migration Management
  - Formulate province-specific migration policy: Create comprehensive policies that address the unique migration challenges faced by Lumbini province.
  - Mainstream migration into provincial development planning: Integrate migration management considerations into all aspects of provincial development.
  - Incorporate safe migration and anti-trafficking policies into periodic planning: Ensure that anti-trafficking measures are included in regular government planning cycles.
  - Develop guidelines for trafficking victim support fund: Create clear procedures for accessing and utilizing the 8-million-rupee trafficking victim support fund.
  - Establish and strengthen rehabilitation centers: Improve the quality and capacity of existing centers and create new ones to meet demand.
  - Form committees/task forces to combat trafficking: Create dedicated groups to coordinate and implement anti-trafficking initiatives at the local and province level.
  - Allocate adequate budget for returnee migrants: Ensure sufficient funding to support the reintegration of trafficking survivors and returning migrants from India and other countries.

- Create data portal and management systems: Develop comprehensive systems to collect, analyze, and share data on migration and trafficking.
- Coordinate among three tiers of government: Ensure effective collaboration between federal, provincial, and local governments.
- Collaborate with Nepal Police and border security forces: Work closely with law enforcement agencies to improve border security and anti-trafficking measures. This collaboration should also be extended with authorities from the bordering Indian states.
- Monitor organizations active in trafficking prevention: Oversee and support the work of NGOs and other organizations involved in anti-trafficking efforts.
- Coordinate with NGOs and other stakeholders: Foster partnerships with civil society organizations to maximize the impact of anti-trafficking initiatives.
- Manage trafficking victim/survivor support fund: Effectively administer the established fund to provide necessary assistance to survivors.
- Provide protection to families of trafficking victims: Extend support services to include families of trafficking victims who may face threats or stigma.
- Ensure quality services in rehabilitation centers: Maintain high standards of care and support in the government-run rehabilitation facilities. Province government should also monitor and provide necessary support to the NGO run rehabilitation facilities.
- Implement family and community security-based interventions: Develop programs that address trafficking risks at both family and community levels.

5. TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH NUTRITION (TLTN-IDE)

- District Advisory Committee Meeting (DPAC) on Integrated Nutrition Project-TLTN has been conducted where 60 stakeholders (47 men and 13 women) were engaged and orient in the project objectives and working modality and the role of the stakeholders.
- Coordination/update meetings with Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees at Ward level has been conducted where delved into the working modality of the project, outlining how it would operate on the ground, and shed light on the nutrition-sensitive activities that would be rolled out. The orientation was dedicated to the Multi-Sectorial Nutrition Plan (MSNP). This plan, with its own set of important objectives, is a broader framework that the TLTN project aligns with.
- Live cooking demonstrations preparing nutrient dense foods targeting children under 5 years and HHs with pregnant and lactating women during nutrition sessions has been conducted.
- Train and mobilize Community Business Facilitators (CBFs)/Plant Doctors (PDs)/Agriculture Technicians (ATs) for agricultural and WASH technical tools and services to support families in adopting sustainable farming techniques within 11 Participants.
- Last mile supply chain actors for the promotion of nutrition/climate smart agriculture tools/inputs and services (Sales skills Training to the CBFs) has been conducted where 13 Participants 6 Male 7 Female were trained.
- 137 persons were trained in home garden through nutrition sales agents among them 136 females and 1 male) were presented.
- The project has provided support of seeds and materials for nurseries and diversified farming to 82 females.
- Vermin-compost Pit construction materials (3 m X 1 m) and worms, Height 50 cm has been conducted where 277 persons (3 males and 274 females) were trained.
- 305 (4 males and 301 females) FCHVs were trained and mobilized for awareness programs to improve community health and nutrition, marked and mass sensitization.

6. SAMARTHA PROJECT:

- Policy dialogue had been conducted in the area of social sector (health, education) were the Honorable social development ministers, Ex-chef minister, ex social development ministers, local level representatives of total 54 persons were presented (40 Male, 13 Female and 1 from gender and Sexual minorities). Likewise, in the program 5 were from dalit, Janajaties were 17, Brahmins/Kshetri

28 and 4 were from other community. Among the total 2 of them were from the people with disability.

- Provide support to facilitate policy improvements in the social development areas of Lumbini province especially in the sector of education and health.
- Shared the experience among the policy makers, implementers and the beneficiaries regarding the good experiences, gaps, challenges and possible solution for the improvement of the policies in the sector of education and health.
- 74 different laws enacted by Lumbini Province are not being enforced. Services like education, healthcare, sanitation and others are included as fundamental rights in the Constitution of Nepal.
- It was concluded that all levels of government should create the necessary laws to uphold these rights and enforce the existing ones.
- The provincial government must collaborate with local governments and focus on ensuring proper implementation.
- There is a shared belief that urgent amendments are needed to address the challenges in the health and education sectors at the policy level.
- The participants also emphasized that no political influence or misuse of power should interfere with critical sectors like education and healthcare services.

7. SMILING CHILDREN KITCHEN FACILITIES IN NEPAL PROJECT

- Under the Smiling Children Kitchen Facilities in Nepal Program of CFRD, one school; Janashramik Primary School of Tulsipur-5, Gairapatu Dang has been selected to build well equipped kitchen and dining.
- School has constructed the kitchen dining hall along with hand washing basins and other necessary kitchen utensils. The construction has been completed and used by the school.
- For the Kitchen hall has been construction with total budget of NPR 2079027.75 rupees. Among them the project has supported NPR 1455319.43 and Nepal government has provided 623708.33.
- After the construction of the kitchen hall 125 students are feeling better and comfortable with the facilities they have received after the construction.
- Daily meal is being prepared in well-equipped and managed space for children.
- Children are getting to dine in better space which they used to do in an open space before.
- It has helped to ensure hygienic and cleanness for children.
- Mothers are feeling at ease to prepare daily meals.
- School Management, Parents, Teachers and local government is thankful for this praiseworthy support in a community school.
- The construction has created employment opportunities for the workers around school.

8. WASH FOR GENDER AND ADOLESCENT INCLUSIVE SCHOOL IN NEPAL (WASH GAINS)

- WinS procedure has been localized by Madhuvan, Gulariya, Barbardiya Municipality and Geruwa Rural Municipality.
- Geruwa Rural Municipality has established WASH Section separately which was lacking last year. It has been possible by the continuous interaction by WASH focal person of this municipality.
- Geruwa RM oriented to LG staffs and head teachers on WASH in School procedure and on Operation and Maintenance of WASH facilities in school coordinating with WASH GAINS staff in September 2024.
- WASH & MHH plans are included in School Improvement Plan (SIP) for further execution
- For the fiscal year of 2081/082 local government have allocated budget for WASH in School in their Red Book mentioned as below:
    - *Geruwa: Rs. 240,000.00*
    - *Barbardiya : Rs. 20,50,000.00*
    - *Madhuvan : Rs. 8,00,000.00*

- *Gulariya : Rs. 11,50,000.00*
- *Thakurbaba : Rs. 11,00,000.00*

- Mayor of all five local governments have committed to manage quality pad in schools.
- All five local government representatives have committed to support school to upgrade as three star schools.
- Local government has approved two schools as star two schools, nineteen schools as one star out of 33 school in March 2024.
- Based on self-assessment conducted in July and August month 2 schools scored for star three, 10 schools scored for star two and 21 schools had scored for star one schools.
- Teachers increased their learning by 34.85% (pre-test 47.63% and post-test 82.48%)
- They were confident to deliver HBC session preparing their session delivery plan.
- Students are washing their hands with handwashing soap. This is a increasing behavior change of the students.
- Teachers are actively involving for sanitation support to the students. Even male teachers are encouraging adolescent girls to demand sanitary during menstruation.
- Schools are incorporating contents of HBC in extra-curricular events.
- 10 schools of Barbardiya Municipality have established O&M fund for the sustainability of WASH facilities in schools.
- Banglamukhi Secondary School Gulariya has constructed 50-meter-long pathway supporting Rs. 150,000 by school itself.
- Janachetana Basic school Narayanpur has constructed 167 meter long pathway and gardening utilizing budget of Rs. 174,270.
- The Sustainable, inclusive, and accessible WASH facilities are established/rehabilitated within 33 targeted schools. Construction works of 15 school in first year of the project was completed and handover in March 2024. Similarly, 98% of construction work of 18 schools in 2nd year completed till December 2024.
- As per orientation to the SMC/PTA members, documents related to stock record book are well managed in all schools.
- SMC/PTA members and teachers regularly monitored construction work and suggested teachers to accomplish the construction work as soon as possible.
- Water Quality Test training has been provided to 87 participants (male: 77 and female: 10) Increased practical skills in water quality testing and treatment. After training, school support staffs are regularly treating water with chlorination method on the regular supervision of head teachers and students are getting opportunity to drink safe water.
- 8939 students (male: 4184, female: 4755) had access to hygiene reach through HBC session in 33 schools' students are washing their hands before eating, after touching dirt and after using toilet. Schools avoided junk food for the students in schools since it creates dirty environment and on the other, it is not allowed in three star declaration approach and proper disposal of waste in schools.
- Public Audit and handover of construction works where 435 (male: 221 and female 214) participants had participated.
- Post Safety and Accessibility audit has been conducted in 15 school were, there were 97 (male: 65 and female: 32) participants involved.
- Raise awareness to 726 participants (male: 342 and female: 386) through the day celebration for promotion of safety managed WASH-Day celebration, campaigns (World disability Day).
- 44 participants (male: 34 and female: 10) trained on caretakers for O & M of install facilities for sustainability.
- 33 Child club has been formed and oriented to 634 students were 338 girls and 296 boys on basic concept of Education Right like free and compulsory at basic level and free at secondary level which is provisioned by government of Nepal among the 53 children were people with disability.

- 2046 participants (male: 547 and female: 1499) were aware on Menstrual Health Hygiene Management (MHH) rights and WASH rights of of WASH rights-availability, accessibility, affordability, non-discrimination and quality of WASH facility like menstrual cycle and keeping their record to manage their menstruation, Pad disposal practice in incinerator has been improved in schools and able to demand pad during menstruation event with male teacher confidently.
- Students of 21 schools and teachers are donating handwashing soap during their birthday.
- Adolescent girls are leading as the chairperson of 16 schools child clubs.
- There are 26 children with disabilities included in child clubs.
- Barbardiya Municipality and Thakurbaba Municipality has localized Operation and Maintenance Procedure which has been possible because of regular lobby and advocacy with those local government representatives.
- Child clubs have made action plan for regular sanitation campaign. As a result schools environment is cleaner than previous days.

9. TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH NUTRITION (TLTN-HKI)

- An orientation program was conducted for staff and committee members of the BASE Organization to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for the Transforming Lives through Nutrition (TLTN) project.
- A three-day capacity-building training was held for BASE Organization staff to enhance their understanding of project orientation, Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), data entry into DHIS2, and proper use of forms and reporting formats.
- The inception meeting for the Transforming Lives through Nutrition (TLTN) project was held with key stakeholders to align on the project's vision and goals.
- Municipal Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) meetings were held across seven rural municipalities, one municipality, and two sub-metropolitan cities in Dang district to build a supportive environment among local stakeholders.
- A one-day refresher training on the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) was conducted in Dang District, reaching 555 health workers.
- IMAM training was conducted for 844 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) across Dang District to enhance their capacity in identifying, managing, and preventing acute malnutrition at the community level.
- Onsite coaching on IMAM was conducted across 18 health facilities providing outpatient therapeutic care (OTC) services, with 112 health workers participating.
- A mass screening campaign was organized for early detection and management of acute malnutrition in children aged 6 to 59 months. 25103 children were screened in Dang District.
- Orientation programs for the Mother and Baby Friendly Health Initiative (MBFHI) were conducted at four basic hospitals to equip healthcare workers with the necessary knowledge and skills for successful implementation of MBFHI.
- Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were broadcasted in collaboration with four radio stations in Dang District to increase public awareness about the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and educate communities on the risks of breast milk substitutes (BMS).

10. ENHANCE ECONOMIC RESILIENCE OF TARGETED VULNERABLE INDIGENOUS GROUP

- A total of 42 participants attended the inception meeting at Godawari Municipality, while 27 participants joined the meeting at Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City. The meeting established coordination and collaboration, creating a conducive environment for the successful implementation of the project.
- BASE Organization conducted comprehensive mushroom production training at Godawari Municipality, Kailali and Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City, Dang where 25 participants in Godawari Municipality and 30 participants in Tulsipur. The training was divided into three days, blending theory and practice.

- Training on vermi-compost production and organic pesticides (Jholmol 2 and 3) was held in Godawari Municipality Kailali where 30 farmers attended and similarly in Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City with 25 farmers. Participants received hands-on support and feedback, concluding with positive responses and confidence in using the new methods.
- A pickle-making training took place at Godawari Municipality, and at Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan Municipality. The training aimed to teach farmers how to produce value-added products from locally available fruits and vegetables, helping them to generate a sustainable income. 25 female in Godawari Municipality and 27 participants in Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City.
- A training on hygienic cooking business was conducted where a total of 38 participants attended the training sessions in both Godawari and Tulsipur.
- BASE has delivered short-duration fruit crop training focusing on citrus and banana and has supported of 250 citrus saplings in Godawari, and 192 citrus saplings and 390 banana suckers in Tulsipur, covering over 1 hectare of land across both locations.
- BASE conducted a "Start and Improve Your Business" (SYIB) training 024, in Godawari and Tulsipur, with a total of 50 participants.
- BASE organized training on enhancing post-harvest practices for better pricing and market linkage .A total of 40 participants attended the sessions.
- BASE organized an interactive meeting in Godawari and Tulsipur to promote private sector engagement in enterprise development, climate change adaptation, branding, and marketing of organic products. The event was attended by 49 participants (24 female), including 7 municipal representatives, 9 traders, 4 entrepreneurs, and 29 farmers.
- BASE Organization organized a one-day observation visit for farmers in Godawari and Tulsipur. Participants explored demonstrated practical vermicomposting techniques where 44 participants attended in the observation,
- A joint monitoring visit was conducted with officials from Godawari municipalities led by the Deputy Mayor of Godawari and in Tulsiupr led by Mayor. The visit aimed to assess the progress of agricultural projects and the impact of farmer training. Farmers shared their experiences, and the municipality discussed further support, including distributing mushroom seeds.
- BASE organized learning and sharing workshop in Godawari Municipality and Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City with 39 participants.

11. Strengthening the Market Development System for Clean Cooking in Nepal:

- The Project has provided support of NPR.3691550 to 1717 household to install the electric cooking stoves. Each household got support of NPR 2150 to install the electric stoves with two pots
- The larger number 735 households of cooktops are installed in Rupandehi District, in Banke-532 HHs, Kapilvastu district has installed 200 HHs, Dang district has installed 150 HHs and Nawalparashi Bardaghat Susta West district has installed 100 HHs cooktops.
- 12 inception meetings has been conducted with the palikas of Dang, Banke, Kapilvastu, Rupandehi and Nawalparasi were 491 stakeholders has been presented and orient on the project concept, objectives, targets and the clean cooking process. Among the total 229 were male and 162 were Female.
- 38 events of demonstration were carried out in the project working districts where 1481 people (male 663 and female 818) attended in the demonstration events to promote and introduce about the E-cooking solutions as well as create the enabling environment for electric cooktop and for behavior change, demonstrations at community level.

12. SMILING CHILDREN SCHOOL FEEDING PROJECT:

- 25 teachers including the principal of the 13 school has orient on financial orientation and review meeting among the teachers of beneficiary schools.
- BASE staffs were oriented on financial management and documentation process for the project management through online session.

- Project Review meetings has been conducted with school Management Committee Chairpersons and Principals of 13 beneficiary schools with an aim to review about daily meal status in the schools were 29 persons were presented. The school team shared that students prefer haluwa very less than other meals so they suggested to changed it from daily meal.
- Team from CFRD Headquarter, Beijing and Nepal Country office visited Dang and monitored the beneficiary schools.
- There was a review meeting held to discuss about the issues related to daily attendance record, meal record, quality photo, documentation of meal with the schools. In the meeting BASE's ED, PD and FO too and 31 participants including SMC Chair and Principal were in the meeting. SMC chairpersons asked to join them on the messenger groups and it was done.
- Daily meal in the community schools has fed many of the hungry students stomachs as most of the children in such schools come from poor economic backgrounds
- School meal has contributed to bring students regular and concentrate on the studies than before
- Parents have less financial burden to manage daily school meals money for their children
- It has contributed to improve nutrition conditions of the children
- Knowledge and skills of schools team has improved on financial management, reporting and documentation
- Mothers engaged in daily meal preparation have got income generation opportunities as well as utilize their time and skills. If this support does not continue most of the mothers are going to face economic challenges whereas some of the mothers would be able to utilize their cooking skills further by operating small food shops.
- Parents expect to continue the school meal for their children.
- Schools feel that it will be challenging to manage daily meal within government's fund (NPR 15) which is too less to maintain hygiene and nutritious meals every day.
- Local government expects to continue the meal support from CFRD until government provisions better funds for daily school meals. Daily meal support has developed ownership of the local government as they have contributed funds to cover grade six into daily meal support with their own funds.
- Discontinuation of meal support from CFRD may effect to students numbers and daily attendance of students into community schools.

13. Market-led Enterprise Promotion through Access to Finance and Partnership with Private Sector (Uddhyami Project.

- Conducted Entrepreneurship Development Training for 150 youths.
- Build Technical Skills on Different Enterprises for 150 youths.
- Conduct Training on Marketing for 150 youths.
- Provide business incubation support for 150 youths.
- Support in Preparation of Business Plan for 150 youth.
- Direct participants of the project are those participating in the key project activities such as training and inputs support. So far 150 participants are directly involved in training activities of which 107 are women and 43 are men. Indirect beneficiaries are 975 people from the family of the direct beneficiaries.
- Throughout the coordination and collaboration, we observed several unexpected results, our project's entrepreneurship development approach and combination of activities are liked by local governments representatives and has been adopted the approach while finalizing their annual programs, which supported entrepreneurs holistically (strengthen technical skills, support inputs, access to finance and market.

1 ABOUT BASE

1.1 WHY BASE EXISTS?

The origin of BASE organization (Backward Society Education) is to be found in a pioneering group of young activists who established the Charpate Club in January 1985. It was during their traditional Tharu New Year meeting in the village of Dumrigaon in Dang that the thirty four young people, including our founder Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary, gathered together to discuss the problem of kamaiya bonded labor. After raising 700 rupees through cultural shows, the Charpate Club went on to become BASE in 1990, and to lead the fight against the exploitative Kamaiya system which was finally abolished on 17 July 2000. After this monumental event BASE continued to work for the education and rehabilitation of the freed-Kamaiyas, as well as people from other marginalized communities.

BASE is a mass membership organization that works for the welfare of the marginalized, poor, and deprived communities. Since its establishment it has been working in the Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces of Nepal, carrying out different programs such as policy advocacy and lobby, Education and Social Protection (Child Labour and Human Trafficking), Livelihood, Agriculture, Entrepreneurship and Employment, Health, Nutrition and WASH, Peace, Governance and Human rights, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction and other services.

BASE has been enlarging its organization and memberships in the working areas. BASE has Palika, District committees with a central committee in Tulsipur, Dang.

BASE is not only an NGO but a great social movement organization. It is not only involved in the development work, but also in raising a voice for indigenous and marginalized people's rights and BASE campaigned and still working for the abolition of child labor and child marriage. Policy advocacy for the reformation of existing policies and new policy formation at federal, provincial and local level to control human trafficking and child labor through creating child friendly village in Nepal. More than this BASE has been helping to the local and provincial level government to formulate policies and guidelines on Disaster Risk Reduction, such as LDMP (Local Disaster Management Plan), Health related policies and plans and economic development including business development plans. BASE also works on an effective implementation of various policies of government. BASE raises a strong voice against exploitation, injustice, and deprivation. BASE has historically played a leading role to end the Kamaiya system from Nepal.

1.2 VISION:

To create self-reliant and equitable society in Nepal.

1.3 MISSION:

BASE commits for socio-economic, human resource and institutional development, cultural, environmental, and human rights protection and promotion and creation of equitable, peaceful, and prosperous society.

1.4 GOAL:

To create educated, equitable and healthy society by providing opportunities of livelihood, development, education, employment and social inclusion for excluded community.

1.5 GOVERNANCE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

BASE has been implementing developmental projects with the financial assistance of development agencies since its establishment. The programs are implemented by project staffs, and supervision and monitoring is conducted by members of committees (Central, District and Palika Committees). Each committee monitors the programs in its' own level. Board committees in each level meeting organize on a quarterly basis to share program activities and review organizational works.

The organization also implements youth awareness and skill development programs because of the importance youth plays in the developmental sector. BASE also gives significant recognition and respect to Tharu traditional governance systems -Bhalmansa/Mahatau/Badghar/Kakandar (village heads), guruwa (priests) and chirakiya (assistants to village heads) - because their support for BASE's work is vital in ensuring legitimacy, ownership and the long-term sustainability of our projects.

As well as program supervision and monitoring, BASE's central committee generates organizational policies to maintain order within the organization. BASE has developed a strategic plan, an administrative policy, a financial manual, as well as specific sector policies. BASE amends these policies as required.
In order to ensure the timely management of our day to day work, BASE has formed a central management committee at the central level, and district management committees at district levels; both of these meet on a weekly basis.

Central management committee: The roles of the central management committee is to provide strategic oversight to all programs managed by BASE, as well as project and organizational structures.
Composition of central committee: BASE's central committee is made up of the following members:
1. Mr Yagya Raj Chaudhary - Acting President
2. Ms. Sangita Chaudhary – Vice-President
3. Mr. Defu Lal Chaudhary – Vice-President
4. Mr Gopal Chaudhary – Vice-President
5. Mr. Lokjan Chaudhary – General Secretary
6. Mr. Rajesh Chaudhary - Treasurer
7. Mr. Dhurba Bahadur Shah - Secretary
8. Mr. Man Bahadur Chaudhary – Joint Secretary
9. Mr. Prashu Narayan Chaudhary - Member
10. Ms. Juna Khadka - Member
11. Ms Sabita K.C. - Member
12. Mr. Jageshwor Chaudhary - Member

1.6 PROJECT STRUCTURE:

To implement and monitor ongoing projects, there are senior level officials working at the central level: Executive Director, Program Director, Administration Coordinator Program Coordinator, Assistant Program Coordinator, Accountant Officer, and Office Assistant. Similarly at the district level, there are the: District Program Coordinators, Assistant District Coordinators, and Social Mobilizers, along with administrative officers. At the present time there are 42 staffs, of which 26 are male and 16 are female.

2. PROGRAMS

2.1 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MARGINALIZED COMMUNITY IN NEPAL

2.1.1 INTRODUCTION:

BASE has been implementing the Economic Opportunity for the Marginalized Communities in Nepal in Tulsipur Sub-metropolitan City, Dangisharan Rural Municipality in Dang district, Rapti Sonari Rural Municipality Banke District and Thakurbaba Rural Municipality and Barbardiya Rural Municipality in Bardiya District. The period of project is 1 January 2024 to December 2024. The project aims to empower poor, vulnerable marginalized communities through economic opportunities and cultural prevention. The project has targeted the poor and vulnerable Badi and Gandharba community who work as daily wages in low payment and marginalized Tharu women who works as domestic dish washers and daily wages.

2.1.2 THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT ARE AS BELOW:

a) Capacitate low-income household's youth and women with skills development opportunities.
b) Enable economic status of the marginalized families through income generation support and market linkage as well as business promotion.

2.1.3 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT:

SN	Major activities	# of direct beneficiaries
1	Handicraft Production Training and Support:	
1.1	Sewign and cutting training (traditional dress making and support (eg. Lahanga)	-40 women (2 groups)
1.2	Traditional cultural dance equipment training and support (Jhali, Bhura-Majura, Kastar etc.)	-120 person (4 groups)
2	Lives took Training and Support (Piglets support):	
2.1	Pig rearing support to the Tharu indigenous community	-75 members (3 groups)
2.2	Pig rearing support to Badi community	-15 members (1 groups)
3	**Seed distribution support and training**	
3.1	Vegetable seed support and training	-4542 person (90 group)
3.2	Mushroom production training and support:	-80 members (2 group)
	Total	- **4,872 women/person (102 groups) we also need to check this number**

Project Orientation and Planning Meeting: After the identification of beneficiaries, an orientation and planning meeting with BASE board members and project team was conducted. Executive Director of BASE shared the concept and its interventions along with target beneficiaries in detail. During the orientation and planning meeting, detail activity plan was prepared for implementation in the field. The orientation and planning meeting was facilitated by Program Director of BASE.

Objective 1: Capacitate low-income household's youth and women with skills development opportunities

2.1.4 HANDICRAFT PRODUCTION TRAINING AND SUPPORT:

1. Sewign and cutting training (traditional dress making and support eg. Lahanga):

BASE organized sewing cutting training on traditional dress making in Dang district. 40 Tharu indigenous women participated in the training. The training was organized in 2 groups in a same period. The training was conducted for 45 days during the period of Sep. 17 to Nov. 22 , 2024 in Dang District. The training participants were selected based on the poor economic condition, Covid-19 pandemic

affected person. The priority was given to the Bhada Majhne (Dishwashers), ex- Kamlahari women and women headed families.

Based on the last year's (2023) experience work of this project, the training was organized as it has good business for the most marginalized women. The training is highly demanded because the training has been supporting to produce cultural goods including traditional *Lahenga, Jhuluwa, Cholya, Gunnya, Khalti* etc. The training is helping on to preserve traditional culture of the Tharu indigenous society which also give opportunity to do the business for the economic development. The training has capacities and enhanced the skills of women. After the training they are running sewing cutting shop in groups. Some of the women groups already registered in a cooperatives and the other will gradually register. Meanwhile, they are providing learning opportunity for other women at their sewing and cutting shops and in each group 4-5 women are admitted for the sewing and cutting work in a year. The trained women have started their sewing and cutting shop in a group in Dang. They are earning minimum NPR 50,000 to 60,000.00 (USD 380.00 to USD 450.00) in a month. For example one traditional *Lahenga* sets cost is NPR minimum NPR 7000.00 (USD 52.00). BASE is planning to replicate this type of training and support in other District too.

2. Traditional cultural dance equipment making training and support (*Jhali, Bhura-Majura, Kastar etc.)*

The very historical dances and equipment are disappearing from the community so it is most essential to protect and promote those equipment's. The dances and equipment are the identity of the Tharu indigenous groups as well. In this year (2024), BASE has formed 4 groups (120 male and female mixed groups) to provide opportunity for the rational cultural dance equipment making training (*Jhali, Bhura-Majura, Kastar* etc.) and provided support to the groups. Altogether 120 person (both male and female) participants were attended at the training. The above mentioned equipment are used in dances during festivals, wedding ceremony and most important events of Tharu indigenous society. The training was focused on development of dance materials such as *Bhura-Majira* (the musical instrument of Mahabharat based dance which is used and performed almost one month by Tharu women during Dashain big festival). The *Jhali* (the musical instrument used and performed by Tharu male and female during performance of typical *Chhokra* historical dance) and the *Kastar* (the typical instruments which is used and performed by male and female during Tharu traditional dance).

The equipment (*Jhali, Bhura-Majura, Kastar* etc.) are highly demand in the Tharu indigenous society as the population of Tharu is also the fourth rank in Nepal. If the trained groups link with markets there is high possible to success for the economic development of Tharu society. BASE has identified the skillful human resources from Tharu indigenous community to run the training. The beneficiaries are also belongs to the most marginalized families such as freed- Kamaiyas, freed- Kamlaharies, economically poor family members, women headed (eg. widows) and Covid-19 affected persons. This type of training and support will also help to transform the skill and knowledge to the new generation of youth which will protect the historical dances and tradition culture of Tharu indigenous society in one hand and create the opportunity for the economic development with the link of markets in other. Moreover it will support to revitalize historical and traditional culture. The traditional cultural dance equipment (*Jhali, Bhura-Majura, Kastar etc.)* making group will gradually registered in a cooperative.

The following is details of the training wise group number and participants;

SN	Name of instrument	# of participants	Remarks
1	*Bhura- Majira*	50 person	2 group
2	*Jhali*	45 person	2 group
3	*Kastar*	25 person	1 group
Total	**3 items**	**120 person**	

Objective 2: Enable economic status of the marginalized families through income generation support and market linkage as well as business promotion

2.1.5 LIVESTOOK TRAINING AND SUPPORT (PIGLETS SUPPORT):

a) Pig rearing support to the Tharu indigenous community:

Pig rearing in Chakhaura village of Dang

During this reporting period BASE has provided piglets to the Tharu indigenous women. BASE carried out a quick assessment with the support of Tharu traditional leaders (called- Mahatawa/Bhalmansa). The field assessment report found that the demand of pigs is higher in the local as well as regional markets. In the Tharu community there is also high demand of pig meat as it has found during the community consultation meeting.

In Dang, Banke and Bardiya district. BASE has identified 75 indigenous women and economically poor families and provided one day orientation about the pig rearing management. There are 3 groups consisting 75 members. The beneficiaries have been selected from ultra-poor families, freed-Kamaiyas, freed- Kamlaharies, the families are below the poverty line, women headed (eg. widows) and Covid-19 affected persons. The following is the district wise groups and members;

SN	Name of District	# of families	# of groups	Number of piglets received
1	Dang	25	1 group	One piglet each family
2	Banke	25	1 group	One piglet each family
3	Bardiya	25	1 group	One piglet each family
Total		**75**	**3 groups**	

Tharu community are traditionally experience to rearing the pigs, however BASE has provided a knowledgeable farmers/expert to provide extra skill and knowledge about management of pig rearing. For instance, how to prepare appropriate place and sheds for pigs and management of food for pig. The expert also gave orientation on cost analysis of Pig rearing including total investment and benefits so that group member/farmers can easily analyze the investment and benefits from pig business. BASE has provided piglets to the women groups and the group can provide one pig to the each family those were identified to receive support. The group is responsible to decide who can get support as per their group rule and support criteria in the settlements. The group is organizing periodic meeting and monitor the progress of individual household.

Based on the decision and rule of group the individual family who received support will return one pig to the respective group after his/her pig gave birth of piggeries. Then group is taking decision to provide those return piggeries to the other families as per group decision. In this way the other families will also get opportunity for the pig rearing support. Among the 3 group one male pig has been provided for the breeding purposes from BASE. The female pig can give birth to minimum 5 to maximum 12 piggeries at a time within 14 month so the women farmer can sell some of the piggeries of NPR 6000.00 (USD 45.00). The women member/ farmers rear at their own home they can sell meat in the local markets. Basically one pig can grow at least 50 kg within a year and farmers can either sell the meat in the local community during festival or in local markets. Sometime the local traders go to the villages to collect the pig meat for selling at market. In the past only Tharu indigenous people were consumed the pig meat and the other community (specially, *Brahman* and *Chetry*) were not allowed even to touch and eat meat of pig. Now the situation has been changed and non- Tharu community people are also consuming the pig meat so there is high demand in the market of pig meat.

As per the group member they are earning NPR 120,000.00 (USD 900.00) to NPR 300000.00 (USD 2240.00) from the pig meat selling business in a year. The income varies from the number of pigs that group member rear at home. So the pig rearing business is one of the most successful businesses as the demand is increasing and poor family can rear at their home yard corner. In this way the poor and marginalized community is doing economic development work.

The groups have also practice to conduct regular meeting, regular saving practice ranging NPR 25.00 (0.18 cent) to NPR 100.00 (USD 0.75 cent) and from that group saving amount they can also borrow money individually to increase number of pig at home. During regular meeting the group member also discuss about the social problems like- early child marriage, child labor practice, importance of continuation of school education for their children, school dropout, health and sanitation etc. The group will gradually register in a cooperative.

Tharu indigenous community historically and traditionally works in group. For example, during paddy farming and harvesting they have practice to help each other and work together. They have traditional customary system lead by village head (traditional name –called *Matawa* and *Bhalmansa*) who is democratically elected by the all villagers in annually (during mid-January of Tharu indigenous new year). The village head mobilizes the villagers for community development, cultural and ritual performance and dispute resolution. In this way the groups are formed and monitor by the village head.

b) Pig rearing support to *Badi* community:

Nepal retains its centuries-old caste system. Dalits (un-touch ability), the discriminated people under this system, suffer from restrictions on the use of public amenities and entering into the houses of elite people, deprivation of economic opportunities and neglect by the state and society. More than twenty Dalit caste groups exist in the country at present and 13.09% out of the total population is Dalit in Nepal. The *Badi* and *Gandharba* (also known as a Gaine) Dalit communities are more suffering from the difficulties of the economic situation among other Dalit groups as these communities are highly marginalized in Dang district where BASE organization continues working in this area. The Badi community remains the lowest ranking untouchable caste in Nepali society under the Dalit caste and is one of the most marginalized among other Dalits.

In Nepal, they are in 38,603 (0.1%) number of population. Some of the Bdi children are facing to get citizenship card from government authority as their children born without getting marry (the women get pregnant during sex business). They have very poor and are holding very small pieces of registered land for a living purposes provided by the government. To make folk instrument, *Madal* (hand drum) they go to the village to village to get rice is their traditional occupation. They used to go to the houses of elite families for dancing and singing during some special occasions offered by richest and elite families and got some money.

Due to the lack of employment opportunities around settlement area, and poor economic condition, it's difficult for them to send their children to school, and are compelled to send their children to work as child labor as well. Most of the Badi families go to India for earning and do the unsafe and risky jobs. In the past the Badi women were involved in sex business which is gradually decrease however it has been continued in some extend. In this situation, there is necessary to provide them with economic development opportunities to utilize their traditional skills and knowledge in producing various types of materials i.e. musical instruments (*Madal* etc.) and modern instrument tools so that they could revive their traditional knowledge and skills for their economic development.

In order to improve the livelihood opportunity of Badi community, in 2023, BASE has provided piglets to 50 households (one piglet to each household) for the alternative livelihood options for economic development. This year- in 2024 BASE has provided 15 households of Badi community (1 group) for the piglets support based on the demand by Badi community as they can easily manage within their small piece of land. Now they are rearing with additional pigs to increase the number of pigs . This has supported them to make their earnings. This support helped to improve their economic condition. In this year- 1 group has been formed of Badi community for piglets support and that group will be encouraged to follow the process to qualify for the registration in to the cooperatives.

2.1.6 **SEED DISTRIBUTION SUPPORT AND TRAINING**:

(a) **Vegetable seed support and orientation (vegetable package: cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, Radish, Bean, cucumber)**:

Women group member are selling

In west Nepal, there was bonded labor system (locally named – Kamiya system) and mostly Tharu indigenous people were suffered from this practice. With the leadership of BASE organization the Kamaiya freedom peaceful movement was organized and in July 2000 the Kamaiya system was abolished by the Nepal government. After the 24 years many Kamaiya family are still suffering from the economic difficulties however they received rehabilitation package from the government. According to the data of Nepal government the number of families of freed Kamaiyas were 36,000 (200,000 family member) before 24 year and it has reached more than 85,000 families. Sometimes the freed Kamaiya families including small farmers are affected by the flash flood and destroyed the crops, which impacted in food security of the farmers dependent on agriculture.

Farmer making fencing to support cucumber plant.

In this context BASE has distributed vegetable seeds (vegetable package: cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, Radish, Bean, cucumber etc.) to the freed Kamiya farmers, Tharu indigenous farmers, Dalits, landless and other disadvantaged communities those are below poverty line and are also suffering from economic hardships. In total 4542 family (in 90 groups) has been received seed support from BASE in this year. The following are the District wise status of seed distribution status;

SN	Name of the District	# of families received seed	Portion of seed received by individual families
1	Dang	2060	One family received the seed is equal to NPR 350 (USD 3.00).
2	Banke	1032	
3	Bardiya	1450	
Total	**3 District**	**4542**	

Taking care by farmers group member of

As per the assessment by the BASE field staff, the farmers who received seed support are getting income of NPR 25,000.00 to 30,000.00 per month (USD 187.00 to 224.00 per month) by selling vegetable in the local market. The women group members and farmers are carrying themselves of vegetable production in to the market for selling. The demand to support seeds is increasing as farmers received quality seeds from BASE. BASE has also support to link with agriculture technician to get technical support from local government and provincial government too.

(b) Mushroom production training and support:

During the reporting period BASE has provided training on Mushroom production in Dang District. There were 80 persons/ farmers in the training and the duration of the training was 3 days. The 2 group members from Tulsipur Sub Metropolitan City stand to benefit from this training initiative and 2 mushroom houses were demonstrated. The field-based sessions was planned during the establishment of mushroom balls and another following the initiation of the cultivation process. The training emphasized on imparting knowledge about climate-resilient. The basic equipment was also provided to the group members and farmers during training.

BASE is dedicated to delivering practical training to empower group members in the cultivation of mushrooms during the summer season, utilizing specialized plastic houses. The program entails hands-on demonstrations, guiding participants through the process of setting up plastic houses, preparing mushroom beds and protecting mushroom spawns, farming practices and gender-friendly technology. The group members and farmers can manage to construct the sheds and small houses for the mushroom farming and produce the mushroom at their own houses.

Training of women/farmer group member attending at moshroom training in Dang.

The group members started mushroom business and earning NPR 1100.00 (USD 82.00) per day and NPR 15,000.00 (USD 112.00) a month in local markets. This group will also register to the cooperative in the future.

2.1.7 FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES OF LAST YEAR (2023) ACTIVITIES:

1. ***Madal* (Drum) Making support to Badi community (Dalit) families**:

BASE has provided support to Badi community for the *Madal* Making in last year (2023). In this reporting period (2024), BASE has followed up of this support. To safe their traditional culture and identity the organization has provided support which has been helping to increase their income through revitalization of their traditional occupation. BASE has also extended support to expand their markets to sell the produced Drum. Due to lack of *Madal* (drum) production in the Tharu indigenous community population in the area, the Tharu traditional culture was also disappearing as the Drum is the very important for the Tharu indigenous community's cultural performance. The one of the major objective of BASE is to protect and promotion of traditional culture and due to this intervention the Tharu culture and tradition is also revitalizing as most of the Tharus are buying Madal (Drum) in their individual households in one hand and on the other Badi community are getting good business to produce and sell Drum. Due to this above mentioned reason the Madal Making training and support is highly successful.

The Badi women making Madal.

Due to the demand for Madal making training and support BASE is planning to provide more opportunity for the other Badi community in other surrounding district of Dang in upcoming year too.

2. **Training and Support to Gaine community (Gandharba) families on Sarangi Making:**

BASE provided training and support to Gandharba for Sarangi making in (2023) and for this year, BASE followed up this ongoing activities in the Gandharba community in Dang District. Based on the follow up of supported activities and interaction with Gandharba community this support is less successful due to the problem of market as the population to use Sarangi (musical instruments) is very less in Nepal.

Hence, making Sarangi is a traditional profession of the Gandharba community in Nepal. To protect identity and dignity of Gandharba community it is equally important to revitalize the Sarangi making and performance work, however it is challenging in terms of business perspective. BASE is thinking to provide other alternative livelihood option to the Gandharb community.

BASE has also followed up pig rearing support of Gandharba community and they are continuing doing an alternative livelihood option.

3. **Bangles (Lakh ko Chura- local name) making training:** In order to enhance the skills of marginalized youths and women, the Bangles making training was provided in Dang district by the BASE organization. Altogether 62 women were participated in the Bangles making training in average 28 days in three groups in last year (2023). The groups are gradually running business of Bangles making. The Bangles making groups were required advance level training as well as they needs to make good finishing of the products. Because the market demand is high for the Bangles in Nepal and BASE is planning to revitalize the Bangle making business.
4. **<u>Other regular activities</u>**

4.1 Regular monitoring by BASE and local stakeholders: In order to ensure the effective implementation of the project activities, BASE senior management team members and staffs have frequently conducted field monitoring and providing feedbacks and to make effectiveness of the program. The other stakeholders are also monitoring the activities as well.

4.2 Social Welfare Council (SWC) monitoring : This is the mandatory of government rule to monitor the field of the project implemented, so BASE is coordinating to SWC for project monitoring and before the implementation of activities BASE is taking approval from SWC.

2.1.8 MAJOR OUTCOMES (2024):

- ✓ 40 women have received skill and knowledge on sewing and cutting training (traditional dress making and support (eg. *Lahanga*) and running business.
- ✓ 120 persons received skills and knowledge on traditional cultural dance equipment making training and support (*Jhali, Majura and Bhur-Bhura, Kastar* etc.) and started business.
- ✓ 75 Tharu indigenous families received Pig rearing support to start alternative livelihood option.
- ✓ 15 most marginalized Dalit family (*Badi and Gandharba* community) received support for Pig rearing as a alternative livelihood support.
- ✓ 4542 persons received vegetable seed support and training to run the vegetable production business.
- ✓ 80 poorest of the poor families received mushroom production training and support to run the small mushroom production business.
- ✓ 6 cooperatives has been formed/registered and around 450 members are affiliated in cooperatives (minimum 3 to maximum 4 group can be affiliated in a cooperative and it can be gradually increased).

2.1.9 **METHODOLOGY/APPROACH OF THE PROGRAM**:

BASE has applied the unique methods/approach to work with most marginalized and ultra-poor community. Before providing any support BASE has been conducted quick assessment to finding out the families with the support of village head. BASE has collecting data about the beneficiaries those are really suffering from the economic problem. After the collection of data BASE has its own approach to form the groups in the settlement/cluster basis. In one group there are 15 to 35 members in a groups and its depend on number of households and interest of involvement of households in the program. There are following basic steps to form the groups and process of building capacity of groups/members.

- ✓ Based on the guidelines of community mobilization of BASE the first step is to conduct the community consultation/meeting with the wider participation of community people including women in settlements basis.
- ✓ Share to the community people and women participants about the objectives and importance of Self Help Group (SHG).
- ✓ Share them about the regular saving, why do the saving?
- ✓ Share them about the benefit of saving.
- ✓ Support to form SHG group, discuss about the role and responsibility of SHG group members. The group composition is from 15 to 35 members in a group.
- ✓ Note down the name list of interested members with their basic information (eg. number of family member, household number, basic information of property of individual members etc.)

- ✓ What short of training the SHG member want to do?
- ✓ Support to prepare the plan for SHG members for the training package.
- ✓ Intervention of project delivery/support in accordance with their interest including support materials for book keeping, record keeping, meeting minute keeping etc.
- ✓ Support SHG accordingly.
- ✓ Support and facilitate them for the conduction of regular meeting of SHG members
- ✓ During regular meeting BASE organization facilitate about the importance of cooperative and encourage them to form OR register cooperative.
- ✓ Support to do prepare for cooperative registration process. Facilitate to develop some basic guidelines/policies of the groups for cooperative registration process so that they can move towards for cooperative registration. The 3-4 groups can be registered in a cooperative.
- ✓ Link to the cooperative division office for registration.
- ✓ During regular (monthly) meeting SHG group discuss about social problems (eg. early child marriage, child labor, trafficking, importance of education, drug addiction, moral education to the youths towards parents/ elders, health, sanitation and hygiene and community development.
- ✓ Provide technical support to mobilize group saving within the groups/cooperatives members.

2.1.10 **DEMAND AND CHALLENGES**:

- ✓ Mostly, the Tharu indigenous family were bonded labor (Kamiyas) and they got freedom in July 2000 however they received small piece of land from Nepal government. They do not have enough land to do the agriculture activities. So, there is high demand by Kamaiya families for the income generation activities to grow their economic status.
- ✓ Some of the marginalized indigenous groups such as *Raji, Sonaha, Kusbandhya* etc. are deprive from the economic opportunities which resulted to send their children in schools and compelled to send them as child labor for earning.
- ✓ There are other most marginalized and un-touch ability community such as the *Natawa* is one of the endangered group in Nepal and their population are around 1200 to 1500. Some other groups within the untouchably categories are *Chamar, Pasi, Gandharba, Badi e*tc. There is dire need to provide support for the economic development. There are some social problems within the un-touch ability community such as early child marriage and child labor.
- ✓ The nutrition level of Natawa, Chamar, Pasi, Gandharba and Badi community is lower comparing to other community as they are suffering from food scarcity. The citizenship is another problem which resulted to get government services as well as education opportunity. For this BASE is doing lobby and advocacy to provide citizenship to the *Badi, and Gandharba* community from the government.
- ✓ Due to illiteracy and low level of education of un-touch ability community member they face the problem to get employment.
- ✓ The enrollment for school education of un-touch ability community is lower. If they enrolled but they have practice to dropped out from the early grade of school.
- ✓ There is discrimination by the elite community due to un-touch ability practice and if un-touch ability community member go to the outside of village they did not get employment opportunities. They also face the difficulties as they are not allowed to use public tap for the collection of drinking water facility.

2.1.11 **RISKS**:

- ✓ BASE has provided support to *Gandharba* community to make *Sarangi* (musical instrument). Due to less opportunity for the market to sell Sarangi the business is less success however BASE is trying for other alternative opportunity for the *Gandharba* community. There is hoping to make success as they become in groups.
- ✓ In the Tharu indigenous community still there is practice to send their children as a *Kamlahari* (girl child labor) at hotels and restaurants in the local or regional markets which is risk for their lives as they lack the education opportunities.

2.1.12 GOOD IMPACT/ PRACTICE:

- ✓ In the Tharu indigenous community the nutrition level is good as they have vegetable farming which has supported to cover the portion of nutritious meal from varieties of vegetable.
- ✓ The Tharu indigenous community has practice to conduct regular meeting and saving practice of groups which is gradually increasing group funds for the future sustainability. They are buying some goods from their group saving such as seeds and fertilizers. The saving money is helping to send their children at schools as well.
- ✓ During group meeting there is practice to discuss about their social problems and way forward to solve those problems together.
- ✓ The Tharu indigenous community is traditional practice to work in groups so the support strategy and module is easy to replicate in other areas/ districts.
- ✓ In Badi community the Madal making business is become successful module as they shows good encouragement. If they increase markets linkages it would support to increase their economic development.

2.1.13 BUDGET STATUS:

BASE has received USD $50,000.00 (NPR. 6631682.00) for the Economic Opportunity for the Marginalized Community in Nepal Project for the period of Jan. 1, 2024 to Dec. 30, 2024. During this reporting period USD $49889.75 has been expended and USD 110.25 has been remaining.

(note: please see the details of financial status in separate attached sheet).

2.2 SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAM: EXPANDING PROVINCIAL POLICY NETWORK (EPPN) PROJECT

2.2.1 BACKGROUND:

BASE is implementing the Strengthening Sub-National Governance Program as part of the Expanding Provincial Policy Network initiative in Lumbini Province, with technical and financial support from The Asia Foundation (TAF)**.** The project, with a total budget of NPR 6925659.00, aims to enhance the participation of marginalized and indigenous communities such as women, gender and sexual minorities, people with disabilities, youths, Madhesi, Dalits, Chidimar, Natuwa, Badi, Gandharva, Pasi, Kori, Soni, Majhi, Pattharkatta, Kumal, Raidas, Kusunda, Teli in provincial planning budgeting and policy-making processes. These policy network groups are informally structured to represent community concerns and advocate for their inclusion in provincial policies, laws, and directives**.** The network comprises political party members, human rights activists, legal advocates, journalists, Dalit representatives, women's rights activists, persons with disabilities (PWDs), gender and sexual minorities, religious minorities, traditional leaders, and other civil society representatives**.**

The policy dialogue process follows a structured approach, beginning with policy gaps, issue analysis based on the 5P framework (Problem, People, Process, Power, and Policy), followed by stakeholder selection, coordination meetings, the main policy dialogue, and follow-up activities**.** Policy analysis and Issue analysis is conducted using insights from context analysis research, stakeholder consultations, and media sources**.** Additionally, coordination and consultation meetings with local and provincial governments are ongoing. A key component of the project is the capacity building of network members and staff, which follows a standardized approach. BASE remains committed to addressing sensitive issues responsibly and ensuring effective information dissemination while continuously refining strategies based on lessons learned and emerging challenges.

2.2.2 HIGHLIGHTS:

The Expanding Provincial Policy Network project has successfully achieved total engagement of 1810 stakeholders, fostering coordination between province government, marginalized community, local governments, community-based organization, and civil society. Among the total stakeholder, 1281 were men, 512- women, 17-G&S and in terms of ethnic representation 938 were Brahmin/Chhetri, janjati-560, Dalit-155, 157 belongs to others group including minorities. To strengthen the capacity of participants, 47 person was trained, (25-male, 21-female,1-G&S) through a series of structured sessions on an event of training. These training sessions focused on enhancing their skills and deepening their understanding of policy network, constitutional rights of marginalized community, stakeholder engagement, supportive

evidence for lobbying for rights, so that they can actively participate in public policy formation processes and other governmental schemes.

Total 9 events of issue analysis meetings have been conducted on 10 numbers of issues -in order to identify policy gaps, leading to targeted interventions. Among the 10 number of issues, 2 were gender-based issues, 1 was conflict based and others covers the sector of health, education, revenue management, tourism, consumer rights and protection, Dalit rights, marginalized people access to provincial polices. On these issues10 events of policy dialogue has been conducted successfully, the province government has taken complete ownership of the 4 issues and on other unresolved issues BASE has planned to continue to follow up in following days.

2.2.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT:

The major objectives of the project are:

- Support in the formulation of inclusive policy by province government through the involvement of stakeholders who previously have not been actively involved.
- Strengthen the capacity of the provincial stakeholders (CSOs, CBOs, private sector and marginalized groups) through the awareness in policy formulation/reformulation and effective service delivery mechanism.
- Increased clarity of roles and functions of provincial government with provincial stakeholders.

2.2.4 TARGET GROUPS:

The project's target beneficiaries primarily include marginalized groups, individuals directly affected by the issues, and the Provincial Government. Special priority is given to historically marginalized communities (women, gender and sexual minorities, people with disabilities, youths, Tharu, Madhesi, Dalits, Chidimar, Natuwa, Badi, Gandharva, Pasi, Kori, Soni, Majhi, Pattharkatta, Kumal, Raidas, Kusunda, Teli, gender and sexual minorities, religious minorities, and community leaders, ensuring their active participation in the policy-making process. At the institutional level, the project engages local, provincial, and federal governments, political parties, and elected representatives at various levels as key stakeholders. These institutions play a crucial role in fostering inclusive governance and ensuring that the voices of underrepresented communities are incorporated into provincial policies and frameworks.

Interventions:

2.2.5 ACTIVITIES DETAIL

Activity-1: Start up Meeting: BASE Organization, under the EPPN project, conducted a start- up meeting as a part of its initiatives. The meetings took place over two days from June 9- June10, 2024. Participants included facilitators, staff from EPPN Project, BASE Organization staff, BASE Organization's center member. In total 23 individuals (male 18 and female 5) has attended the meetings. The main objective of the workshop was to provide information about the program and outlines plans for the upcoming period.

Activity-2: Provincial Forum Dialogue Meeting: Two Provincial Dialogue Forum meetings have been organized to facilitate discussions on key provincial issues and promote engagement with government representatives and stakeholders. These meetings brought together 38 participants, including 28 males, 9 females, and 1 representative from Gender & Sexual (G&S)

Provincial Dialogue forum meeting

minority groups. Among the attendees, 5 were Dalits, 9 were Janajatis, 18 belonged to the Brahmin/Chhetri community, and 6 represented other groups, while 2 participants were persons with disabilities (PWDs). The Provincial Dialogue Forum meetings have played a crucial role in highlighting key issues at the provincial level, fostering dialogue among government representatives, stakeholders, and interlocutors**.** These discussions have contributed to amplifying the concerns of marginalized communities and ensuring their inclusion in provincial policy and decision-making processes**.**

Activity-3: Issue analysis and Preparation Meetings: 14 events of Issue analysis meetings were conducted. Total 107, Male- 86, Female-21 persons were participated in the issue analysis meeting. Before conducting the policy dialogue, the issues are analyzed through the coordination with various stakeholders. The meeting supported to analyze the detail of the issues. Issue analysis meeting were conducted before any policy dialogue. Issue analysis is not only limited with the meeting of stakeholder but also made through the desktop review.

Activity-4: Pre-consultation and Coordination meetings: A total of nine pre-consultation and coordination meetings were conducted with 45 stakeholders at various intervals. The primary objectives of these meetings were to identify key issues prevalent in different sectors of activity within Lumbini Province and to foster relationship-building among stakeholders. Of the 45 participants, 40 were male, and 5 were female. In terms of ethnic representation, there were 25 Brahmin/Chhetri participants, 19 Janajati participants, and 1 participant from other groups.

Honorable Forest Minister Devkarn Kalawr of Lumbini Province on the dialogue on policy dialogue on revenue management and forest conservation

Activity-5: Policy Dialogue BASE Organization conducted a total of 10 policy dialogue events this year, providing a platform for marginalized communities, policymakers, civil society, and other stakeholders to engage in discussions on key policy matters. These dialogues have played a significant role in fostering meaningful conversations and promoting inclusive participation in the policymaking process. As a result of these discussions, notable progress has been made, including the provincial government's recognition of its role in sectors such as health insurance, consumer rights and safety, tourism, and other critical areas**.** The details of the specific issues addressed in these dialogues are outlined below.

SN	Issue	Province
1	Policy Dialogue regarding the draft of the Dalit law and Rights in Karnali Province	Lumbini Province
2	Policy Dialogue of Gender Equality Policy 2080 of Lumbini Province	Lumbini Province
3	Policy Dialogue on Lumbini Province's 2nd Periodic Plan	Lumbini Province
4	Dialogue on participation of marginalized groups in provincial annual budget and its implementation	Lumbini Province
5	Policy Dialogue on Timely Implementation of Budget	Lumbini Province
6	Policy Dialogue on Health insurance in Lumbini Province	Lumbini Province
7	Policy Dialogue on Cultural Tourism in Lumbini Province	Lumbini Province
8	policy dialogue on revenue management and forest conservation	Lumbini Province
9	Policy Dialogue on Consumer Rights and Protection	Lumbini Province
10	Policy dialogue on social development sector like health and Education in Lumbini Province	Lumbini Province

A total of 469 participants attended the policy dialogue, including 363 males, 100 females, 6 representatives from gender and sexual minority communities, and 9 persons with disabilities (PWDs). The participants represented diverse caste groups, including 243 from the Brahmin/Chhetri community, 104 from the Janajati community, 68 from the Dalit community, and 54 from other caste groups

Policy dialogue on Dalit Act of Karnali Province

Activity-6: Multi-stake holder Dialogue Program:

Activity-6.1: Mini Joint Dialogue: The Mini Joint Dialogue involves discussions where multiple stakeholders, particularly the primary beneficiaries of the relevant issues, come together to develop a common understanding. A total of two Mini Joint Dialogue meetings have been conducted, engaging 36 participants—29 males and 6 females. Among the 36 stakeholders, 1 was Dalit, 17 were Janajati, 11 belonged to the Brahmin/Chhetri community, and 6 represented other groups. These meetings have played a crucial role in building consensus on key issues, with a specific focus on Karnali River Management Issue.

Joint dialogue with the Palika representative of Bardiya re

Activity 6.2-Join Dialogue: Two **Joint Dialogue meetings** were conducted to address critical issues related to **Karnali River management and the Suklaphanta landless dispute.** These dialogues provided a platform for stakeholders to engage in discussions, share perspectives, and work toward solutions. A total of **273 participants** attended the meetings, comprising **247 males and 26 females**. Among the attendees, **14 were Dalit, 106 were Janajati, 123 belonged to the Brahmin/Chhetri community, and 30 represented other groups.** The specific issues discussed during these dialogues are outlined below.

Joint dialogue with the Chief Ministers of Lumbini and Sudurpaschim Province, Principal Secretaries, Ministers and the local level representatives and Secretaries of Kailali and Bardiya regarding the Karnali River Research management

SN	Issue	District/Province
1	Karnali River Resources utilization and preservation	Lumbini and Sudurpaschim Province
2	Dialogue on Suklaphanta landless dispute management Issues	Sudurpaschim Province

Activity-7: Separate Meeting: Over this period, 14 separate meetings were conducted to enhance coordination and collaboration among dialogue members, interlocutors, and stakeholders. These meetings played a crucial role in gathering detailed information on key issues and preparing for subsequent Mini Joint and Joint meetings. A total of 48 stakeholders participated, including 31 males and 17 females. Among them, 13 were Janajati, 26 belonged to the Brahmin/Chhetri community, and 9 represented other groups. These meetings had significantly contributed to strengthening engagement and ensuring well-informed discussions in the broader dialogue process

Activity-8: Follow up meetings: BASE organization conducted 22 follow-up meetings to address 13 issues, including the merger and land issue of Gayatri Aadharbhut School in Janaki RM Ward 4, Tikapur, the map and land issue of the Basanta Irrigation Canal (a branch of the Rani Jamara Kulariya Irrigation Project) in Tikapur, and the formulation and management of education, health, judiciary, and cooperative policies in Putha Uttarganga RM, Rukum. A total of 90 participants took part in the follow-up process, including 73 males and 17 females. In terms of ethnic representation, there were 4 Dalits, 31 Janajatis, and 48 Brahmin/Chhetris.

Activity-9: Monitoring: Monitoring refers to the process of tracking a progress to ensure activities and progress stays on schedule, within budget, and meets its objectives. 18 events of monitoring have been organized in this fiscal year 2080. Total of 158 stakeholder has participated among them 119 were men, 39 were female, 10 -dalit, 62 -Janajati, 69- Brahmin/Chhetri,12 others. Monitoring was also conducted by Social Welfare Council for 2 days in the Bardiya and Kailali district. Total 42 participants involve in this monitoring event among them 9 were Brahmin/Chhetri, 2 were Dalit, 14 were Janajati, 7 were others.

Activity-10: Learning Sharing Workshop Organized by TAF: 1 event of Learning and Sharing Workshop was conducted from March 11 to 13, 2024, at Hotel Country Villa, Nagarkot, initiated by The Asia Foundation (TAF**)**. This workshop was facilitated by Chris Spies**,** consultant for TAF. A total of 29 participants attended, including 21 males and 8 females, representing the TAF team and its partners from BASE, NEMAF, NFRJ, and Sahara Nepal. The workshop focused on key discussion areas, including the role of dialogue, the necessity of dialogue, its operational mechanisms, and the identification of unfinished activities**.**

Participants of the Training involved in Group works on the importance of the Provincial policy Network.

Capacity building training to the Provincial Policy Network groups from the Marginalized, minorities

Activity-11: Workshop Organized by BASE Organization: A workshop and training session on federalism, provincial governance, and the public policy process was organized for representatives from CSOs, cooperatives, private sectors, associations, and community groups. The primary objectives of the event were to provide information about constitutional rights for marginalized communities, enhance understanding of the provincial planning process and the role of communities in shaping policy, explore the roles, strengths, and impact of coordination and networking groups, and motivate participants to engage actively in social activities. A total of 47 participants attended the workshop, including 25 men, 21 women, and one individual from a gender and sexual minority. The participants represented various communities: 9 Dalit, 15 Janajati, 15 Brahmin/Chhetri, 7 from other groups, one from a religious minority community, and one person with a physical disability

Activity-12: Staff Sharing Meeting: 7 events of review and sharing of progress, lessons challenges and planning meetings were conducted. Total 64 (M-48& F-16) people were participated in the review, sharing and planning meeting. The review, sharing and planning meeting has support to update the progress, making the strategies for facilitating issues similarly,2 events of sharing meetings has been organized in this fiscal year.

2.2.6 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

1) Achievement from dialogue on participation of marginalized community people in Provincial Planning process

- After the dialogue on participation of marginalized community people in Provincial Planning process, Lumbini Province government has allocated the budget for 5,00,000 under the heading of Capacity building and empowerment for Gender and Sexual Minorities Community
- Lumbini Province Government has also allocated NRS 10,00,000 in the heading of livelihood improvement of Badi, Natuwa, Chidiyamar, Sonaha, Pattharkatta and other marginalized Community
- *Eakikit Yojana Tarjuma Digdarsan* has been drafted by provincial planning commission and presented in provincial assembly.

2) **Achievement from Policy Dialogue on Health Insurance in Lumbini Province:**
   - Province government has realized its role in the sector of health insurance such as formation of provincial coordination committee.
   - Commitment from Province Government and Insurance Board on establishing a provincial insurance coordination committee in lumbini province, transfer of Insurance coordination office to Deukhuri dang and suggestions for other improvement in health sector like strengthening financial aspect of insurance board by assuring maximum number of people in insurance has been achieved.
   - After Dialogue, Lumbini province government and Health insurance board has undergone meetings for establishment of insurance coordination committee. At the same meeting they have also applied some suggestion from dialogue like provision of compulsory insurance by civil servant, which resulted in 2,600 civil servants engaged in health insurance. This will help to ensure better finance management of health insurance.
   - Province government has also planned to allocate some budget for people with disability as a pilot project which was also suggested in dialogue.

3) Policy dialogue on Cultural Tourism
   - Concept paper of tourism policy 2081 has been drafted.
   - Tourism policy is expected to be presented at upcoming assembly meeting and Coordination has been made with three tires of Government as well.
   - In order to promote cultural tourism, BASE organization has advocated for creation of cultural circuits like Tharu circuits.

4) Policy dialogue on dispute between community forest users' group and Province government.
   - After the dialogue on revenue management and conservation of Forest, community forest user group and province government came to the common understanding of paying tax through 1 door mechanism.

5) Dialogue on Karnali River Management issue:
   - Ownership /kinship have been taken by both province stakeholders regarding the Issues. Commitments have been made by stakeholders to conserve and sustainably utilize Karnali River resources.
   - Chief Minister of lumbini province and Sudurpaschim province has declared to form a suggestion committee with the suggestion of member to be included and responsibility of task to be done.
   - Member suggested in Recommendation Committee are as follow:

     - Secretary of Lumbini Province Government- Coordinator
     - Secretary of Sudurpaschim Province Government-member
     - Representatives from both provinces' Forest sectors'- members
     - Representatives from local governments connected to riverbank areas –member
     - Representatives from Survey Department (*Napi Karyalaye*) of both Province – member
     - Warden Bardiya Nation Park- member

   - Dialogue group Responsibilities of the Suggestion committee suggested by ministers are as follow:

- Identifying problems associated with local, provincial, and federal governments.
- Categorizing issues and proposing solutions.
- Prioritizing actions and offering recommendations related to budget
- Study of Laws that need to be amended in upcoming days.
- Update and Documentation of work being carried.

- The Suggestion Committee had prepared the document which include the problem identification, actionable recommendations and handed it to the Lumbini Province Government and Sudurpaschim Province Government.

6) Achievement from policy dialogue on consumer Rights and Protection.

- Lumbini Province has realized the need of proper market monitoring and committed to form market monitoring committee and related provision necessary for its formation.
- This year Lumbini province government is to increased subsidies in the sector of agriculture and promote organic agriculture product as per commitment made by Agriculture Minister of lumbini Province.

7) **Achievement from policy dialogue on timely implementation of budge**t.

- Stakeholder has realized the challenges faced by contractors and others due to late implementation of budget. Province government has now planned to release the tender more than of 5 lakhs.

8) Policy Dialogue regarding the draft of the Dalit law and Rights in Karnali Province:

- In the facilitation of the Sambad Samuha Karpali Province Dalit Law of Karnali province has been drafted.
- The Drafted Dalit Law of the Karnali Province has been tabulated in the parliament by the Ministry of Social Development of Karnali Province for the approval.

9) Policy Dialogue of Gender Equality Policy 2080 of Lumbini Province:

- The province government has realized the gaps of the GESI policy regarding the social inclusion.
- Made the commitment to include the part of Social Inclusion in the GESI policy
- Realized the lacking of the desegregation data like Gender based and caste based.

10) Policy Dialogue on Lumbini Province's 2nd Periodic Plan.

- The Lumbini Province Planning commission has realized to make the participatory and inclusive 2nd Periodic Plan
- The Lumbini province government 2nd Periodic Plan has been drafted
- The Vice president of the Lumbini Province Planning Commission Mr. Nahakul KC has made commitment of include the desegregated data and the participatory planning of the province as the stakeholder's has provided the suggestion and feedback.

2.2.7 CHALLENGES:

1) **Frequent changes in leadership/Government:**

- Central government changes lead to shifts in provincial leadership and turnover of officials.
- These changes had hindered the implementation of decisions and commitments made during dialogues.
- This has further decreased effectiveness and ownership of discussed issues due to inconsistent leadership
- Continuous leadership changes have disrupted the consistency of issue transformation as a result outcome seen in field is often delayed.

2) **Marginalized Community Representation:**

- Issues of target groups are not prioritized, limiting their participation in planning and policy-making. Often marginalized group lacks the negotiation skills, evidences during the policy dialogue.

3) **National-Level Coordination Challenges:**
   - There is the lack of understanding of dialogue processes and their importance at the national level. Limited lobbying in national level hinders timely policy management and changes.
4) **Lack of stakeholder commitment:**
   - The provincial government has shown limited ownership in resolving Suklaphanta landless issues. More frequent dialogues or alternative methods are needed to seek government support.
   - Sensitive issues lead stakeholders to hesitate in committing or participating actively.
5) C**hallenges in Policy Dialogue Continuation:**
   - The government plans to continue dialogues on a cluster basis on its own, but follow-up of the progress made is difficult, as province government lacks dissemination of activities and progress made.
   - Sometime Province Government delays the activities to carry out on its own effort which resulted in delay of the outcomes. For example, after the policy dialogue, community forest users' group came to the common understanding of paying tax through 1 door mechanism however delays in a further action in this issue has resulted in movement.
6) **Gender Mainstreaming and Inclusion:**
   - Limited representation of women and marginalized groups in Government bodies and elite position.
   - The sudden loss of Anik Rana, a G&S minority member of policy dialogue, has increased challenges in incorporating G&S perspectives. There is the need for additional training to strengthen G&S participation in dialogues.
7) **Building Relationships and Meeting Expectations:**
   - Establishing trust and meeting the expectations of new participants is challenging.
   - Participants often seek proposal assistance from the BASE Organization, Fulfilling the expectation of the stakeholder is often challenging. Misaligned expectations can strain relationships and reduce trust. This has also increased workload for the BASE Organization to meet participant needs.

2.2.8 LESSON LEARNED:

1. In case of conflict (e.g., between community forest user groups and provincial government), multiple separate dialogues should be held initially for a clear understanding. This approach helps identify necessary stakeholders and maintain common understanding between the parties. Example: A finance committee member from the province could offer a new approach to address the issues of community forest.
2. When the needs and issues of the provincial government are well raised, response, coordination, and results are more effective. The provincial government has prioritized creating a tourism policy and has actively participated in preparing the document.
3. Multiple separate dialogues are needed to address cross-cutting issues. In the case of tourism policy dialogue, cross-cutting issues were not discussed due to time and human resource constraints.
4. Well-structured documents guide participants' discussions within the topic and time frame. Documenting dialogue achievements and submitting them to government bodies ensures continuity, even with changing administrations. Example: A GEDSI issue dialogue occurred, and commitments were made, but the lack of documentation required a new dialogue

5. Dialogues with former ministers or experienced individuals provide valuable insights into policy-related difficulties.
6. Delays in raising or facilitating issues make resolution challenging and leave issues incomplete. Example: The Dalit Bill of Karnali province, conflict between community forest users' group, faced delays due to untimely facilitation.
7. Regular collaboration, coordination, and sharing with government agencies and stakeholders streamline the dialogue process. Example: The collaboration with Lumbini and Karnali provinces during GEDSI and Dalit Bill policy dialogues led to more effective outcomes.
8. Delays between concept design, planning, and agreement diminish the value and relevance of activities. Example: The delayed agreement between the Asia Foundation and BASE delayed the policy dialogue on timely implementation of marginalized groups' participation in the provincial planning process.
9. If issues are not raised and facilitated timely and effectively, achieving expected results and implementing decisions become more challenging.

Success story:

Strengthening community through policy network

32 years old, Sunita Chidimar belongs to one of the marginalized communities, Chidimar community a group historically surviving by preying on birds. With a total population of just 1,615, making up a mere 0.01% of Nepal's demographic landscape, the Chidimar people have long struggled to gain recognition, resources, and access to fundamental rights. Sunita's journey was fraught with challenges from the very beginning. She was married off at the age of five, a practice that robbed her of her right to education and other basic child rights protected in the Constitution of Nepal. Without continuous formal education, exposure to governmental structures, she and her community remained disconnected from the governmental public schemes meant for their livelihood upliftment.

However, a turning point arrived when Sunita met Mr. Sushil Kumar Basnet, the lead facilitator of the Dialogue Project: Expanding Provincial Policy Network. He encouraged her to participate in policy dialogues and directly present her community's concerns to the provincial government. Although intrigued by the opportunity, Sunita hesitated—her culture had never supported women in leadership roles. Moreover, she had never traveled beyond her home district of Banke, making the idea of stepping onto a larger stage both thrilling and intimidating.

To ease her transition into advocacy, Sunita attended her first policy dialogue accompanied by her mother, Basanta Chidimar. The session focused on the involvement of marginalized communities in the provincial planning process. Lumbini Province Government, for the first time, allocated a budget of NPR 1,000,000 in the annual program for 2081/82, specifically for the livelihood improvement of Badi, Natuwa, Chidimar, Sonaha, and Pattharkatta communities. This milestone reaffirmed the power of advocacy and participatory governance.

With each training and engagement, Sunita's confidence grew. She learned about constitutional rights, fundamental entitlements, and the responsibilities of local and provincial governments in addressing the needs of marginalized groups. She understood the sophisticated process of how community demands are channeled to the government and how policies are formulated. Sunita says "I express my deep gratitude

for the opportunities provided by the Provincial Policy Network, BASE Organization and Sushil Kumar Basnet who have motivated me and my family too. I acknowledge my journey and involvement with the network has significantly improved my public speaking skills and confidence to present my community good and bad in various plat forms". She shared, for the very first time she feels more connected to the government and its policies, realizing that change is possible through active participation. She now encourages other women in her community to step forward, knowing firsthand the transformative power of unity.

Sunita's advocacy has not only brought policy changes but has also inspired a new generation of women in her community. She has now proceeded to register Chidimar community organization in District Administrative Office of Banke She has initiated local meetings to educate women about their rights, ensuring that they, too, have a voice in governance. Her leadership has led to increased awareness and participation among the Chidimar people, fostering a collective movement towards socio-economic progress. She firmly believes that education and awareness are the keys to breaking the cycle of marginalization.

2.3 PREVENTING EARLY MARRIAGED THROUGH ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

2.3.1 INTRODUCTION OF PROJECT:

Under Kailash Satyarthi Children Foundation's Preventing Early Marriages Through Education and Awareness Project BASE organization will implement activities to support marginalized families of indigenous and Dalit communities where early marriages prevalence is comparatively higher. In order to protect children and prevent them from getting in to child marriages the project will focus on empowerment as well as policy advocacy activities. Girls' will get in to the schools which is one of the major factors that can play vital role in stopping girls from getting married at their early ages. Similarly, awareness campaign and mobilization of the survivors for empowerment will be additional actions to prevent early marriages. In addition to these policies enforcement will be pressurized to gain optimum results in stopping child marriages through consultation meeting with the policy makers at the province and federal levels. The government of Lumbini Province has developed a 10 year strategy (by 2078 BS) to end child marriage in the province so our interventions will support achieving the strategic objectives of the government declaring Lumbini Province Child Marriage free. This is a 9 months project that shall start from 16th November 2023 to 15th August 2024. The local government will be coordinated in its interventions to reach the needy communities and put collaborative approaches for securing better impacts of the project. Likewise, BASE's board members and staffs will receive capacity development trainings to increase competitiveness on project management and documentations.

2.3.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

The overall objective of the project is to prevent early marriages. The specific objectives of the project are as below:

- To change behavior of vulnerable communities by raising awareness against child marriage.
- To partner with local government to ensure implementation and enforcement of child friendly laws for ending child marriages.

2.3.3 KEY INTERVENTIONS OF THE PROJECT:

Project orientation and planning meeting: One day Project orientation and planning meeting has been conducted among the board members and senior staffs of the organization. The event was organized on 25th December, 2023 in Dang district. Central executive board members, District board members and senior staffs participated in the meeting in which Program Director Ms. Pinky Dangi, shared and oriented about the project along with the project plans. There were around 25 participants in meeting out of which 3 were female and 22 male.

Meeting with stakeholders: The stakeholders meetings have been conducted in Kathmandu and Butwal with the federal government, provincial government representatives, UN agencies, INGOs, media persons

and KSCF representatives. BASE representatives have organized and participated in the meetings with various stakeholders in Dang as well. On 25th January 2024, BASE Program Director visited to the Provincial Ministry with an aim to meet and discuss with Social Development Ministry team regarding the campaign activities planned under the Early Child Marriage Prevention through Advocacy and Empowerment Project. BASE Organization has been implementing the project from the financial support of KSCF, US in Lumbini province in which we have planned several campaign activities therefore for carrying out those activities, we try to coordinate with the government and collect their approval for the formal activities implementation.

Half day meeting was with Ms. Sharada Basyal, Chief Officer of Social Development Unit and Ms. Laxmi Pokhrel, officer with whom PD shared about the project and plans along with the draft copies of leaflets, radio PSA drafted by BASE team as well as submitted the letter for the facilitator to conduct orientation to the local government in six districts of Lumbini Province. From the meeting, we came to know that they also have similar plans and we made an understanding to cooperate for implementing activities to minimize duplication. From the meeting the Chief Officer suggested to give sometime to discuss and then they will come back to us with their thoughts. Now we have received the suggestion and taking the activities forward.

On the 29th January, 2024 half day meeting was organized with the stakeholders at Hotel Himalaya in Lalitpur. The meeting was led by Honorable Chief Minister, Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary, Nobel Peace Laureate Mr. Kailash Satyarthi and the Country Representative Ms. Alice Aukunga of Unicef Nepal. Likewise, there were several other participants from the Provincial Government of Lumbini Province, KSCF US and India, other organizations and BASE organization.

The meeting was fruitfully held discussing with the remarks from the honorable CM, Nobel Peace Laureate and Unicef regarding the prevention of early marriages in Nepal and cross borders. There are already several initiatives being taken by the government itself as well as several UN agencies including development organizations and now those efforts need to get pushed up for the impactful achievement in preventing child marriages. Lumbini Province is committed towards eliminating early marriages for which they have formulated the 10 years' strategy in ending child marriage. Therefore BASE Organization is trying to assist in their aim through its interventions. The Nobel Peace Laureate, Mr. Kailash Satyarthi has been advocating the issues of children in his non-stop journey in ensuring child rights therefore he also suggested to focus on protecting children from the various exploitations in which child marriage is one of the important issues. UNICEF, representative extended her cooperation in doing better for the children always.

Conduct awareness campaign: The project is focused on raising awareness of the children, parents to empower as well as to make them feel their ownership for their good life and education that is possible without doing early marriages. Most of these people are aware enough about the consequent of early marriage and its negative impact on the future of children but still these false practices exist. Therefore BASE Organization has focused on conducting various campaign actions in the schools and communities to attract attention who have done and are vulnerable to early marriages. Similarly, we have engaged stakeholders and policy makers in these actions for their accountability. In each of the schools and communities we carried out these campaigns there was active participation as well as support of the stakeholders. Everybody has recognized this campaign as a best way for empowering with a mass coverage.

Child rights and effect of child marriages Video shows in the schools: The events of video shows to raise awareness on child marriage, its causes and consequences were organized in the schools of ward Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Rolpa, Kapilvastu districts. Altogether 3898 individuals participated in the video screening are aware on the causes and consequences of child marriage. The participants are committed on fighting against child marriage and raising awareness against child marriage at schools, families and communities. The primary goal of this initiative was to raise awareness among the students those are vulnerable to early marriages about the harmful effects of child marriage and to empower them not to do this disadvantageous as well as illegal practice. By educating young minds, the organization aimed to foster a community committed to ending child marriage and ensuring a brighter future for all children.

The video presentations were on the adverse impacts of child marriage. The videos featured performances by teenage girls and boys, designed to vibrate with the student audience and drive home the message of the importance of education and the dangers of early marriage. The events have contributed to increase awareness among students about the detrimental effects of child marriage, including its impact on education, health, and personal development. It has also empowered students to become advocates against child marriage, encouraging them to spread the message within their communities and to their peers. As per the teachers and stakeholder, this activity has provided an educational platform that combined visual and emotional elements to effectively communicate the seriousness of child marriage, making the message more relatable and memorable for the students.

PSA broadcast: A key message against early marriage has been produced and tested then been disseminated through local radio FM stations of Dang, Banke, Rolpa, Kapilvastu and Rupandehi district. The basic concept, theme and key message was written by BASE Program Director and the jingle was prepared and edited by Radio Tulsipur FM. The radio jingle has been developed in two languages i.e. Nepali and Tharu to reach mass coverage with understandable to the community peoples. Both language jingle is broadcast in Dang, Banke, and Kapilvastu because there are mix communities in these districts. In Rolpa and Rupandehi only Nepali language jingle is broadcast. Each FM stations are broadcasting the jingles for six times a day. BASE Organization has formal agreement with all of these FM stations for this broadcast service. These stations are selected on the basis of their wider coverage and effective in the communities. The FM station of Banke district is based in Kohalpur and it has coverage up to Bardiya district therefore we have not selected any FM stations in Bardiya district. The radio PSA has been supportive in spreading the information and messages against child marriages that we have been receiving several calls from different districts to report and share about the cases of child marriages as well as to collect further support. In the response, BASE and team have been providing counseling, relevant information, ideas and moral support to the callers and those in need. Below is the list of the FM stations we are disseminating the effective PSA through;

FM Station	Address	Capacity	Language	Daily Broadcast
Radio Tulsipur FM 100.2	Tulsipur-6, Dang	500 watt	Nepali and Tharu	6 times
Radio Pratibodh 102.4	Kohalpur, Banke	500 watt	Nepali and Tharu	6 times
Siddhartha Media Service PVT. Ltd. Butwal FM 94.4	Butwal, Rupandehi	1000 watt	Nepali	6 times
Radio Kapilvastu 104.2	Kapilvastu	500 watt	Tharu and Nepali	6 times

Samudayik Radio Rolpa 93.8	Holeri, Rolpa	500 watt	Nepali	6 times

Child Marriage Free and signature campaigns: This campaign activity is targeted in the schools where most of the vulnerable to early marriages children remain. And there are teachers who can be the effective watch dogs to the children against child marriage. Along with the student, parents and local government representatives are engaged in the rallies, formal program. Participants from various stakeholder groups organized rallies against child marriage, holding placards with messages advocating against the practice. They symbolically lit candles as a pledge against child marriage and signed the campaign's signature sheets.

Similarly, the pledges have been collected with the signature of the students, parents and government representatives for their commitment as well as ownership in preventing child marriages in their families, schools, communities and wards. After the rallies, the participants light the candles with promise to stop early marriages from their end. This campaign symbolizes collective pledge, responsibility and engagement to end child marriages. This has been effective to make feel and realize each of the participants that child marriage is harmful and they should stand by to stop such bad practices that makes children's life and future dark. This campaign is cooperated and appreciated by the students, parents, teachers and stakeholders.

The signature campaign events aimed at raising awareness about child marriage and securing commitments from stakeholders were organized in the schools located Dang, Banke, Bardiya and Rolpa districts. These campaigns were part of the Preventing Child Marriage through Advocacy and Empowerment Project. The objective was to contribute to the child marriage prevention strategy of Lumbini Province and local governments. In total, 2655 individuals, including students, teachers, parents, and ward representatives, participated in the signature campaigns and gained awareness about the causes and consequences of child marriage. The participants have expressed their commitment to actively oppose child marriage and to continue raising awareness within schools, families, and communities.

Interaction among the community leaders, religious leaders, teachers, parents, youth clubs, women groups about child marriage, Gauna (Early marriage in madhesi community), Dowry: The joint interaction events focused on raising awareness about child marriage and the dowry system were organized in project areas of Dang, Bardiya, Rolpa districts. The primary objective was to contribute to the child marriage prevention strategy of Lumbini Province by bringing the leaders and stakeholders together in a common platform to discuss and interact about the status of early marriages, its impact, reasons and challenges.

In total, 366 individuals, including students, teachers, parents, members of local CBOs, political parties, mothers' groups, youths, and ward representatives, participated in these interaction programs. Through these sessions, participants were sensitized to the various causes and severe consequences of child marriage. The staff and board members facilitated the interaction programs, which featured in-depth discussions on the prevailing situation of child marriage and the dowry system, the root causes of child marriage, its adverse impacts on individuals and communities, and effective strategies for eradicating child marriage in the rural municipality.

The participants actively engaged in the discussions and expressed their strong commitment to opposing child marriage. They pledged to continue raising awareness within their schools, families, and communities, working together to foster an environment where child marriage is not only discouraged but actively prevented. Their collective goal is to create lasting change and protect the future of their children by ensuring a child marriage-free community.

Leaflets production and distribution: The leaflets with the key information about child marriage has been developed, printed and distributed in the schools, communities of all six working districts. The leaflet includes the definition, effect, major reasons, problems/effects of child marriage and it also includes lawful punishments against child marriage and ownership of the citizen to report child marriage in the given number of police. Total 5000 copies of leaflets were printed and they have been distributed which has complete information on child marriage that aware the readers and understand early marriage is a false practice. It is a portable and easily readable informative document printed in Nepali language with colorful pictures and arts.

Code of conduct in the schools: Schools are the second home of children where children learn for their better life. Therefore schools are those spaces which need to be much focused for ensuring child rights and their dignity. Schools need to be safe and secure and to ensure this all of the responsible members should be accountable. As of the current scenario, most of the school aged children are getting into early marriages. Therefore it is essential to empower children and make them liable so that they themselves realize and contribute for preventing early marriages. Similarly there are responsible team i.e. School Management Committee, Parents Teachers Association, Teachers and children clubs who are responsible to the protection of children. That's why each of them have to bound with their responsibilities and ownership to prevent early marriages which can then contribute to ending child marriage in Lumbini Province as well as country Nepal.

In order to ensure the protection of children and prevention of early marriages, BASE Organization has contributed to develop and apply Code of Conduct for 46 community schools of its working districts. For making schools and communities, Child Marriage Free, we have organized consultation meetings among the local government representatives, SMCs, PTAs, teachers, clubs then developed the Code of Conduct in joint collaboration and understanding. Representatives including teachers, students, parents, and ward representatives conveyed sincere appreciation for the organization's initiative in establishing a code of conduct to prevent child marriage. They expressed gratitude to the organizers for orchestrating these influential campaigns, underscoring their pivotal role in educating teachers, students, and parents about their responsibilities in preventing child marriage. They stressed the ongoing need for awareness-raising efforts and fostering widespread community commitment. The primary objective was to contribute to the child marriage prevention strategy of Lumbini Province and local governments. The participants participated in these events focused on discussing and developing school codes of conduct to prevent child marriage. Participants were sensitized to their specific roles and responsibilities in preventing child marriage.

The participants actively engaged in these discussions, demonstrating a strong commitment to opposing child marriage. They pledged to continue raising awareness within their schools, families, and communities, collaboratively striving to create an environment where child marriage is not just discouraged but actively prevented. Their collective aspiration is to effect lasting change and safeguard the future of their children by promoting a child marriage-free schools as well as communities.

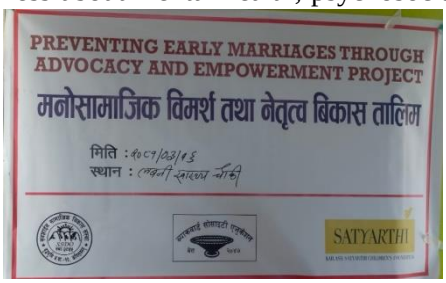
Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Child marriage prevention training to adolescent girls' network and youth members: Base Organization recently organized a Training of Trainers (TOT) on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Child Marriage Prevention in Lumbini Province, Nepal. This training was conducted in Tulsipur Dang from June 9th - 13th, 2024, bringing together 25-30 participants, including members of the Adolescent Girls Network, youth, local NGOs representatives and organizational staff. The Training of Trainers (ToT) program commenced with an engaging morning session focused on welcoming participants and establishing a conducive learning environment by the Program Director, Ms. Pinky Dangi of BASE Organization. Then 5 days' session plans were facilitated by Mr. Nishant Kumar and Ms. Shristi Gautam Peer Educators/Trainers from YPEER Nepal.

The major topics included and provided training on were;

- Young people's sexual health, Body mapping, SRHR and SDG
- Child Marriage, its legal framework, its consequences
- Understanding LGBTQ+ terminology and issues, legal rights and protections
- Effective communication and advocacy, creating inclusive spaces collaborating with allies and organizations, and using case studies
- Family planning, Sexually transmitted infections and diseases, Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), Genital health
- SRHR rights, focusing on gender-based violence (GBV), Preventing sexual exploitation and abuse
- Accurate and accessible information to young people
- Mental health and wellness
- Team building, enhancing trust and collaboration
- Co-facilitation skills, Volunteerism, Motivation and goal setting
- Problem identification, issue research and stakeholder mapping

The ToT program successfully provided participants with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in SRHR, child marriage prevention, and facilitation techniques. Through a blend of interactive sessions, practical activities, and reflective discussions, participants developed a deep understanding of the topics and enhanced their ability to train others effectively. The program fostered a supportive and collaborative learning environment, culminating in a celebratory closing ceremony. The program culminated in a cultural night, featuring performances, certificate distribution, and closing remarks, celebrating the participants' achievements and the successful completion of the ToT program.

Psychosocial counseling and leadership development training to survivors: Two days event for providing psychosocial counseling and leadership development skills to the survivors of child marriage, domestic violence and vulnerable to early marriages was conducted by mobilizing trainers in Tulsipur Dang. Total 17 participants from three rural/municipalities (Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city, Dangisharan rural municipality and Shantinagar rural municipality) participated in the training. The participants were child marriage survivors, no longer in the marriage, still with the person they married and others were student, activists, and CBO members. Two trainers/psychosocial counselors (Ms. Yashoda Basnet and Ms. Bhumika GM) facilitated the training event. The training aimed to provide awareness about mental health, psychosocial well-being, psychosocial problems, different symptoms of psychosocial and mental health and its management and to develop leadership skill to married and unmarried females of three Municipality and rural Municipality of Dang district over two days. The training was comprehensive, equipping with the necessary skills and knowledge for psychosocial counseling and leadership development.



Likewise, Sun Shine Development Organization (SSDO), the local partner of BASE has also conducted one event of the training on counseling and leadership development to the mixed participants including students, survivors, vulnerable to as well as victims of child marriage boys and girls. The trainings have been facilitated by Mr. Shambhu Prasad Harijan and Neelam Harijan in Suddhodhan rural municipality, Kapilvastu. The training has helped raise awareness about the importance of mental health and management of stress and emotions. It has also been helpful for the participants in learning about coping as well as openly speak about their mental health. Similarly the participants learnt essential skills for leadership, communication skills, problem solving and mobilization which they can utilize as well as refer to their peers about their learning. The training was focused to give a space for the survivors, vulnerable children and girls to manage their mental health for their wellbeing. The participation of boys too created a platform to openly discuss and understand as boys are also victim of child marriage and they have a role to play in ending child marriage. Joint efforts as well as delegation is more powerful to eliminate bad practices.

Monitoring follow up: The monitoring and follow up of the project activities is being carried out by BASE board and senior staff in the project intervening districts and areas. The team has observed the activities and documented them. BASE provided orientation on the program along with the detail plan of the activities among the local NGOs, BASE committee members and staffs. Program Director oriented on the program and activities and Finance Officer shared about the finance. There were total 4 representatives' two organizations HURAC Rolpa and SSDO, Kapilvastu. SSDO is implementing the activities in Rupandehi too. BASE district committee members participated from Dang, Banke and Bardiya in the orientation. All of them were shared about the objectives, activities, expected results and reporting system during the orientation session. Then each of them developed their detailed plans to conduct the activities in the communities and schools. Now each of the partner organizations are being followed up through calls, emails and reports collection.

Learning sharing and mass empowerment: Since BASE Organization conducted the training and engaged the young girls, youth and NGO workers they learnt about volunteerism, motivation and facilitation skills

through the motivational remarks kept by Program Director of BASE at the opening of the training event. As per our expectation and guidance, the participants volunteer to utilize the learning from the training and raise mass awareness on SRHR as well as against child marriage. Based on that, the participants developed joint plans to conduct orientation sessions on SRHR and child marriage prevention in their communities, schools, colleges and districts. Then they voluntarily organized one day orientation events in different districts and areas they are currently living. They have shared their experiences in coordination with the local government, children clubs, schools and colleges. They were not provided any resources from BASE Organization for doing this. They have willingly contributed to empower students, children and give a message of their dedication to social work as well as to child rights. BASE has created a network with Adolescents' Girls, Youth and local organizations which will enable regular coordination and cooperation for protecting children and preventing harmful practices against children. Till June 2024, this event has been conducted
in five districts reaching 257 children, adolescents, youth, women.

2.3.4 LESSONS LEARNT

- The revised version of the project is aimed at contributing to the actions planned under Child Marriage Ending Strategy of Lumbini Province so the interventions have been able to achieve some of the major indicators i.e. child marriage prevention code of conduct in the schools, accountability of the parents, teachers and government through signing pledge as well as participating in signature campaigns, empowerment of the children, parents through PSA broadcast, engagement of the stakeholders in interaction events and show their commitment to stop early marriages.
- The pledge signing/signature campaigns have given a sense of ownership to those who have signed. The accountability of the parents, teachers and local government is authorized from the signatures they have put in the pledges. Similarly children themselves have a realization as well as their eyes open against harmful practices of early marriages. The signature campaign has brought all the relevant actors together to commitment for stopping child marriages from their home, village, school, community.
- The project has intervene the reach to schools which are the main sources of child marriages through campaign as well as outreach activities that has created mass awareness against the early marriages. While the program has successfully engaged students in specific schools, reaching a wider audience, including those not in school, remains a challenge.
- Linkage and collaboration with the strong network of girls advocating for child rights, local NGOs, CBOs and government has been developed and strengthened which is very useful to make a mass reach and deliver the mediations effectively.
- Effective coordination and collaboration with the stakeholders contribute in successful implementation of the campaigns.
- Management of time for school targeted events were very challenging as the campaigns were likely to hamper the classes of students, effective coordination with the schools and ward representatives and scheduling the events on Friday as well as second half of the classes helped to resolve the issue
- There are many potential actors such as clubs, network, CBOs members who need to get identified and capacitated along with giving them spaces and opportunities to contribute their efforts for advocacy and empowerment to add achievable results to our plans and actions.
- Along with the campaigns and capacity building activities, database, livelihood support as well as activism actions are required for bringing more effective results with integrated approach in such issues for preventing child marriages, child laborers and trafficking. Because these issues are related with social, economic, cultural aspects.
- Child marriages is a complex practice hampering children's' wellbeing and social norms so it has to be prevented timely. In spite of being a false and illegal they are very less reported and documented neither are barred so becoming challenging.

- Involving local schools and communities in awareness programs can enhance the effectiveness of the message and encourage community-wide support and action

Case Studies/ Success Story

Story; DREAMING TO ENSURE CHILD RIGHTS BECOMING MAYOR IN TEN YEARS
KALA BASYAL
Participant of SRHR Training, Member of NAGN, Child Rights Campaigner

Kala Basyal is 19 years old daughter of Mr. Tek Prasad Basyal and Mrs. Kubija Basyal of Sunwal municipality ward no. 4, Nawalparasi. She has younger brother Roshan Basyal who is studying in grade 10. Kala herself has appeared in 12th grade exam and waiting for the final results. Her father is in Malaysia since 17 years and mother is a house wife. They are originally from Syangja district and migrated to Nawalparasi district 14 years ago.

Kala is a member of National Adolescents' Girls Network (NAGN), campaigner of Give for Girls, member of Parents Teachers Association (PTA) in Mahakabi Devkota Model Secondary School and was a secretary of Sunawal Child network. She has been engaged in these network and committees since 3 years for getting interested in social work especially for child rights.

Her aim is to become a Mayor of Sunawal Municipality in ten years from now and she is very confident on that. She is dreaming to end child labor and create Sunawal Municipality child marriage free. To fulfill her aim and dream she has been involved in various activities and campaigns against child labor, child marriage and menstrual rights. She is cooperating the local government, children clubs, and schools as well as other organizations in promoting child rights.

Kala shared, "I am interested in working for child rights from my childhood. I have participated in various trainings such as child marriage reduction, menstrual health management but this is first time I got to participate in such long and effective training that include all aspects of child rights. This Sexual Reproductive Health Rights training is new and exciting experience as it has covered integrated skills and knowledge. I am feeling like equipped with so many skills that I can utilize for my upcoming career. The topics of the training are relevant in relation to child marriage prevention."

She further added, "I would like to express my gratitude and especial thanks to BASE Organization for giving us platform to learn significant skills with most effective program. We should also thank the funding organization KSCF, US who has enabled such opportunities for us. I would suggest to keep providing such chances to other members of Girls' network, youth and potential children those can contribute to bring change in the society. I also request KSCF and BASE to think to bring further programs i.e. educating parents, orientation to the clubs, network for advocacy and empowerment, campaign activities to prevent child marriages, drug addiction among children and youth with collaboration to local government. We are ready to extend our support and engagement to succeed campaigns for ensuring children's' rights. I also commit that I will share my learnings and experiences to other children and youth in my place. We will spread the messages to reduce early marriages in our areas."

Story; THE TRAINING HAS PLAYED VITAL ROLE FOSTERING OUR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO MAKE CHANGES
PRERANA BATALASRHR training participant, NAGN member and student

Prerana Batala is 17 years old girl from Tansen Palpa district. Her father Mr. Khim Bahadur Batala is a farmer and mother Mrs. Hira Batala is a house wife. She has four siblings with three sisters and one Rita Batala is a teacher, Ranjana Batala is in Japan, Rekha Batala is student and one brother Pramit Batala is a student too. She has appeared in 12th grade exam and waiting for the results of Science. She has been a member of National Adolescents' Girls Network (NAGN) for three months.

Prerana is engaged in doing social activities from her school days. After getting chance to involve in some of the activities i.e. campaign against child marriage, climate marriage and drugs abuse she got encouraged as well as interested to continue this work. Her aim is to do social work and study BSc Nursing. She actively participated in SRHR and Child Marriage Prevention training.

She said, "In my opinion there are many challenges for children in Lumbini Province such as poverty, lack of proper knowledge and information about their rights, peer pressure, lack of family guidance and poor thinking. These issues need to be addressed by law enforcement, education and empowerment, awareness campaign, provide trainings, community engagement, and cooperation with local government, and give knowledge about their rights and monitoring. Children need attention and we should be able to provide that to them. Children in our areas are getting early marriages so it is important to prevent such practice with joint efforts."

Prerana added, "I would like to regard SRHR and Child Marriage Prevention training provided by BASE Organization very sensitively to address significant health and social issues which are still prevalent in our society. It is important for empowering communities by educating them, enhancing knowledge and skills, promoting gender equality, preventing child marriage and conduct awareness program, reducing health risks, teaching them about mental health and effective community engagement for sustainable development. I have been able to learn so many things from the training like; reproductive and sexual health, SDG goals, family planning, contraceptive device, child marriage causes and effects, GBV, mental health, roles of social worker etc. Overall the training has played vital role for fostering good health which leads to positive changes in society and behavior."

She suggested, "There should be some of the effective activities to be carried for preventing early marriages like; awareness, counseling, engage them into clubs, provide effective training. I really thank BASE Organization and KSCF, US for providing such a wonderful training. I appreciate these organizations. I think counseling and motivational training is needed for girls for their personality, confidence and mental health development."

2.4. SAFE MIGRATION TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING PROJECT:

2.4.1 INTRODUCTION:

The Indo-Nepal cross-border migration presents complex challenges, particularly in Lumbini province which shares a border with India. While the open border arrangement between Nepal and India facilitates legitimate movement, it has become increasingly vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers who target Nepalese women, men, girls, and children for both cross-border and third-country trafficking. To address this protracted issue, BASE Nepal and Just Rights for Children with the support of GiZ, convened an Indo-Nepal dialogue on safe migration and trafficking prevention in Dang district of Lumbini Province on 10 January 2025. The dialogue focused on identifying key concerns around cross-border migration management and developing realistic, actionable solutions to ensure safer and better-managed migration. Additionally, participants explored the roles of various stakeholders, with special emphasis on the Lumbini provincial government's responsibility in addressing these unique human mobility challenges.

Objective of the roundtable meeting: Before the conduction of Indo-Nepal Regional Dialogue among the policy makers, stakeholders and delegates between Nepal and India, BASE Organization will organize one roundtable discussion meeting among the policy makers and stakeholders to identify the ongoing context, gaps and needs to tackle safe migration and trafficking between both countries. As Nepal and India share open cross borders which have been easy pass ways for the migrants and traffickers, it is very important to make effective mechanisms and regulations at these spaces to minimize the potential risks associated with the unsafe migration of workforce as well as trafficked children and women between both countries. Therefore a roundtable meeting is intended to be held to;

- Presentation of gaps identified from policy analysis
- Discussion of possibilities of the government and other stakeholders to address the gaps
- Specification of topics to present and discuss in the Indo-Nepal regional dialogue
- Preparation of good practices and challenges to share them in the Indo-Nepal dialogue

Date and Venue:
The roundtable meeting was held on 10th January, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM at Hotel Pauwa, Bhalubang Dang Lumbini Province, Nepal.

2.4.2 KEY POINTS EMERGED DURING THE DISCUSSION

One important aspect of the dialogue was to diagnose the problem associated with cross-border migration. The problems discussed during the dialogue can be broadly clustered into three major categories, namely, *border management*, *data and documentation*, and the *trafficking and security concerns*.

a. Border Management Issues

Four major issues were emerged under the border management and they are summarized as follows;

- Open border arrangement lacks adequate surveillance mechanisms, benefiting traffickers: The unrestricted and poorly managed movement between Nepal and India, while beneficial for legitimate travel, also creates opportunities for traffickers to transport vulnerable Nepalese people across borders without detection.
- Limited checkpoints but numerous unmonitored corridors prone to human trafficking: While official checkpoints like Sunauli and Rupedia exist in Lumbini Province, there are dozens of unofficial crossing points that remain unmonitored by the security forces and other stakeholders, making it easy for traffickers to avoid detection.
- Weak tracking of internal and external mobility of people: The current system introduced by the Government of Nepal fails to effectively monitor and record the movement of people both within the country and across borders, making it difficult to identify trafficking patterns.
- Poor monitoring of dance bars and cabin restaurants in emerging cities and border districts: These establishments often serve as fronts for cross-border trafficking operations, but insufficient oversight allows illegal activities to continue unchecked.

b. *Data and Documentation Issues*

There were four major concerns around data and documentation with regard to the cross-border migration and trafficking problems and they are summarized as follows;

- Lack of reliable and disaggregated data on migrants and trafficking victims: The federal as well as the province government of Nepal lacks a comprehensive database that tracks the number of migrants and trafficking victims, making it difficult to understand the true scale of the problem.
- Scale and characteristics of undocumented cross-border migration largely unknown: Due to the informal nature of many border crossings, authorities cannot accurately assess the number of people moving between countries or their reasons for doing so.
- Weak reporting systems: Current mechanisms for reporting trafficking cases and suspicious activities are inadequate, leading to underreporting of incidents.
- Significant data gaps in tracking and follow-up: The lack of systematic data collection and monitoring makes it difficult to track cases over time and assess the effectiveness of interventions.

c. Trafficking and Security Concerns

- Women and children are the most vulnerable to trafficking: These groups face the highest risk of exploitation, particularly for forced labor and sexual exploitation.
- Growing adult entertainment sector in border cities increasing trafficking cases: The expansion of this sector has created new venues for exploitation and increased demand for trafficking victims.
- New trafficking purposes emerging (skin transplantation and surrogacy): Traffickers are finding new ways to exploit victims, including forcing them into dangerous medical procedures.
- Nepali hotels and restaurants in border areas becoming undeclared red-light areas: These establishments are increasingly being used as fronts for trafficking operations and sexual exploitation. Women and girls working into those hotels are at the risk of cross-border as well as third country trafficking.
- Lumbini province serving as both source and transit for human trafficking: The region faces a dual challenge as traffickers both recruit local victims and transport others through the area.
- High incidence of third-country migration through human smugglers: Many people from Lumbini province are being trafficked to third countries using India as a transit point.

2.4.3 SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS CROSS-BORDER MIGRATION PROBLEMS

Border security enhancement, cross-border cooperation, and the introduction of prevention as well as protection measures were some of the key concerns raised by the participants.

a. Border Security Enhancement

- Strengthen surveillance systems in the bordering districts of Lumbini province: Implementation of modern surveillance technology along with increased number of security personnel to better monitor border areas is suggested as a fundamental task for enhancing border security.
- Implement effective document verification processes: Establish robust systems to verify the authenticity of travel documents and identify potential trafficking victims.
- Use technology-based interventions: Employ advanced technology for border monitoring, data collection, and information sharing between agencies within Nepal as well as with the concern authorities from the India side.
- Establish additional security centers for immediate support to victims: There was also a suggestion for creating facilities near border areas to provide immediate assistance to the identified trafficking victims.

b. Cross-border Cooperation

- Regular dialogue between Nepal and India: Maintain consistent communication channels between both countries to address cross-border trafficking issues.
- Political, diplomatic, and security cooperation: Foster collaboration at multiple levels to create comprehensive solutions to trafficking problems.

- Joint efforts between Nepal and India for trafficking control: Implement coordinated operations and information sharing between security forces of both countries.
- Improved coordination among organizations working at Nepal-India border: Enhance collaboration between NGOs, government agencies, and security forces operating in border areas to detect traffickers and minimize the risk of cross-border trafficking.

c. Protection Measures

- Establish crisis management and rehabilitation centers: Create facilities to provide comprehensive support services to trafficking survivors.
- Implement victim and witness protection systems: Develop programs to ensure the safety and security of trafficking survivors and witnesses.
- Create strong information exchange processes: Establish efficient systems for sharing intelligence and data between relevant agencies.

d. Prevention measures

- Provide right information and counseling to potential migrants: Ensure that people considering migration have access to accurate information about risks and legal procedures for a regular and documented migration.
- Develop skill development training programs: Provide vocational training to vulnerable populations to reduce their risk of being trafficked.

2.4.4. ROLE OF PROVINCE GOVERNMENT FOR SAFE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

The program also emphasized a crucial role that Lumbini Province government can play for ensuring safe migration to combat trafficking. Four prominent roles of the province government, namely, policy development, institutional support, coordination and monitoring, and protection initiatives, were mainly suggested from the stakeholders.

a. Policy Development

- Formulate province-specific migration policy: Create comprehensive policies that address the unique migration challenges faced by Lumbini province.
- Mainstream migration into provincial development planning: Integrate migration management considerations into all aspects of provincial development.
- Incorporate safe migration and anti-trafficking policies into periodic planning: Ensure that anti-trafficking measures are included in regular government planning cycles.
- Develop guidelines for trafficking victim support fund: Create clear procedures for accessing and utilizing the 8-million-rupee trafficking victim support fund.

b. Institutional Support

- Establish and strengthen rehabilitation centers: Improve the quality and capacity of existing centers and create new ones to meet demand.
- Form committees/task forces to combat trafficking: Create dedicated groups to coordinate and implement anti-trafficking initiatives at the local and province level.
- Allocate adequate budget for returnee migrants: Ensure sufficient funding to support the reintegration of trafficking survivors and returning migrants from India and other countries.
- Create data portal and management systems: Develop comprehensive systems to collect, analyze, and share data on migration and trafficking.

c. Coordination and Monitoring

- Coordinate among three tiers of government: Ensure effective collaboration between federal, provincial, and local governments.
- Collaborate with Nepal Police and border security forces: Work closely with law enforcement agencies to improve border security and anti-trafficking measures. This collaboration should also be extended with authorities from the bordering Indian states.
- Monitor organizations active in trafficking prevention: Oversee and support the work of NGOs and other organizations involved in anti-trafficking efforts.
- Coordinate with NGOs and other stakeholders: Foster partnerships with civil society organizations to maximize the impact of anti-trafficking initiatives.

d. Protection initiatives

- Manage trafficking victim/survivor support fund: Effectively administer the established fund to provide necessary assistance to survivors.
- Provide protection to families of trafficking victims: Extend support services to include families of trafficking victims who may face threats or stigma.
- Ensure quality services in rehabilitation centers: Maintain high standards of care and support in the government-run rehabilitation facilities. Province government should also monitor and provide necessary support to the NGO run rehabilitation facilities.
- Implement family and community security-based interventions: Develop programs that address trafficking risks at both family and community levels.

2.5. TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH NUTRITION (IDE)

2.5.1 INTRODUCTION:

An integrated nutrition program is essential for addressing the ongoing challenge of malnutrition and improving overall health and well-being. The Transforming Lives Through Nutrition (TLTN) initiative has been implemented by BASE Organization (Backward Society Education) across 10 local areas in Dang District, including Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan, Ghorahi Sub-Metropolitan, Lamahi Municipality, Bangalachuli, Rajpur, Gadawa, Babai, Shantinagar, Dangisaran, and Rapti Rural Municipality. This comprehensive program focuses on improving the health and nutrition of children aged 6 to 59 months, while also promoting the well-being of mothers and families. The TLTN project primarily targets the monitoring of acute malnutrition and the implementation of the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI) at birthing centers. Through a variety of strategic and collaborative approaches, the program aims to strengthen the capacity of healthcare personnel and Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), streamline screening processes, and provide vital nutritional support. Additionally, the TLTN will work to improve data collection, analysis, and reporting mechanisms across the district. The main goal of the project is to encourage the consumption of nutritious foods and dietary diversification, ultimately reducing malnutrition in Lumbini Province.

2.5.2 OBJECTIVES:

- **To reduce the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months** within the ten targeted local areas of Dang. This is a critical aim, focusing on the most vulnerable age group and a condition that can hinder their growth and development significantly. The project is likely employing strategies like regular screening, early detection, and providing therapeutic and supplementary feeding to achieve this.
- To **improve the knowledge and practices related to infant and young child feeding (IYCF) among mothers and caregivers**. This is a preventative measure, aiming to ensure that children receive optimal nutrition from the earliest stages of life.

- **To strengthen the capacity of the local health system to deliver quality nutrition services**. This includes training healthcare workers and Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) on various aspects of nutrition assessment, counseling, and management of malnutrition.
- **To implement the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI) at birthing centers.** This initiative focuses on creating a supportive environment for breastfeeding and mother-infant bonding right from birth.
- **To enhance the data collection, analysis, and reporting mechanisms for nutrition-related information** within Dang District. Accurate and timely data is essential for monitoring the progress of the project, identifying areas that need more attention, and making informed decisions about resource allocation and intervention strategies.
- **To promote dietary diversity and the consumption of nutritious foods at the household level**. This involves educating families about the importance of a balanced diet, encouraging the use of locally available nutritious foods, and potentially supporting initiatives that improve access to diverse food sources.

2.5.3 MAJOR PROJECT INTERVENTIONS:

District Advisory Committee Meeting (DPAC) on Integrated Nutrition Project-TLTN:

A palpable sense of anticipation filled the air at City Plaza in Ghorahi on 16th August 2024. It was the day of the inception meeting for the Transforming Lives Through Nutrition, or TLTN, project – a project that holds so much promise for our community's health and well-being.

The meeting was a significant step, a gathering of minds and intentions, all focused on this vital initiative. Stakeholders from across the district converged, eager to learn more about how the TLTN project would unfold. The primary purpose was clear: to provide everyone involved with a solid understanding of the project's goals and the objectives it aimed to achieve. BASE Organization, the driving force behind the TLTN, took the floor, introducing themselves and their commitment to this endeavor. Then came representatives from Helen Keller International, or HKI, and iDE, outlining the specific interventions they would be contributing to the project. Startup meeting wasn't just about receiving information; it was about building a foundation of shared understanding. The organizers had made it a key objective to ensure that all participants left with a common grasp of the project's activities. Adding weight to the occasion was the presence and leadership of Mr. Nityananda Sharma, the Chief of the Dang District Coordination Committee. His chairmanship underscored the importance the local authorities placed on this project, a strong signal of support for the efforts to combat malnutrition in our district.

The room was filled with a diverse group of individuals, sixty in total. Among them were the dedicated project staffs of TLTN, the Program Director, and the District Chairperson, all deeply invested in the project's success. Representatives from HKI, including a Senior Project Coordinator and a Field Officer, were present, as was the Field Coordinator from iDE International. The breakdown of participants – 47 men and 13 women – offered a snapshot of the stakeholders involved. The inception meeting had successfully served its purpose, orienting key individuals and fostering a collective understanding of the path ahead for the Transforming Lives through Nutrition project.

Organize/participate in coordination/update meetings with Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees at Ward level

(multi-sectorial architecture of the government):

Following the district-level gathering, the momentum of the Transforming Lives through Nutrition (TLTN) project, we successfully conducted seven municipal-level inception meetings. A key outcome of these municipal meetings was the facilitation of something vital: the formation of Nutrition and Food Security Steering Coordination and Implementation Committees. These committees, established at the municipal level, are set to become the local engines driving the project forward, ensuring its activities are aligned with community needs and are effectively implemented. During these meetings, much like the district one, information was shared, but with a more localized focus. Representatives from BASE Organization were there, explaining their role and the overall approach of the TLTN project. They delved into the working modality of the project, outlining how it would operate on the ground, and shed light on the nutrition-sensitive activities that would be rolled out. A significant part of the orientation was dedicated to the Multi-Sectorial Nutrition Plan (MSNP). This plan, with its own set of important objectives, is a broader framework that the TLTN project aligns with. Explaining the MSNP helped stakeholders understand how the TLTN fits into the larger picture of improving nutrition across the province and the nation. Crucially, these municipal meetings also focused on the roles and responsibilities of the ward-level committees. These committees, operating at an even more grassroots level, are essential for the project's success, as they will be directly involved in implementing activities and reaching beneficiaries within their specific wards. These municipal-level inception meetings felt like the project was truly taking root, branching out from the district level to connect with the local leaders and community representatives who will be instrumental in making the TLTN a success. By forming these committees and providing comprehensive information, the project is building a strong network of local stakeholders committed to improving nutrition and food security in our communities.

Organize/participate in coordination/update meetings with Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees at Ward level (multi-sectorial architecture of the government).

Just like at the municipal level, a key focus of these ward meetings was the formation of Nutrition and Food Security Steering Coordination and Implementation Committees. But here, at the ward level, these committees take on an even more direct and personal role. During these meetings, the representatives from BASE Organization once again shared crucial information. They reiterated their commitment and explained how the TLTN project would function within our specific ward. They detailed the nutrition-sensitive activities that were planned, the ones that would directly impact our families and children. The Multi-Sectorial Nutrition Plan (MSNP) was also discussed, helping us understand how the efforts in our ward contribute to the larger goals for Lumbini Province and Nepal. It was about connecting our local actions to a broader vision. But perhaps the most important part of these ward-level meetings was the focus on our roles and responsibilities within these newly formed committees. We learned what would be expected of us, how we could contribute our local knowledge and insights, and how we would be involved in implementing the project's activities right here in our neighborhoods. These ward-level inception meetings felt incredibly significant. They weren't just about

informing us; they were about empowering us, about putting the responsibility and the opportunity for change into the hands of the community itself.

Organize live cooking demonstrations preparing nutrient dense foods targeting children under 5 years and HHs with pregnant and lactating women during nutrition sessions:

Across the seven rural municipalities, a wave of practical nutrition education unfolded through live cooking demonstrations. The heart of these sessions was the hands-on guidance provided by the Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), with crucial support from their municipal supervisors. Each gathering was a multi-faceted lesson in healthy living. It began with the foundational principles of hand washing, emphasizing its critical role in preventing the spread of illness, especially among young children. Then, a new element was introduced: home gardening. Participants were guided on how to cultivate their nutrient-rich produce, empowering them to take control of their food sources. The culinary highlight, of course, was the preparation of pumpkin and banana kheer. Pumpkin, a powerhouse of Vitamin A, was highlighted for its contribution to vision and immune function, while bananas, rich in potassium and fiber, were presented as a natural and readily available energy source. The overarching goal of these live cooking demonstrations was to combat malnutrition, targeting children under two years old and households with pregnant and lactating women. These sessions aimed to equip mothers with the knowledge and skills to provide their families with nutrient-dense meals. The FCHVs didn't just teach cooking; they imparted essential lessons on sanitation and hygiene, crucial for maintaining a healthy environment for children and families. They emphasized the importance of dietary diversity, encouraging mothers to explore a wide range of locally available foods to ensure their children received a balanced and comprehensive nutritional intake. By combining practical cooking skills with education on hygiene and home gardening, these demonstrations empowered communities to build a foundation for long-term nutritional well-being.

Train and mobilize Community Business Facilitators (CBFs)/Plant Doctors (PDs)/Agriculture Technicians (ATs) for agricultural and WASH technical tools and services to support families in adopting sustainable farming techniques:

In the month of October, a crucial three-day agricultural technical training took place, empowering Community-Based Facilitators (CBFs) to become catalysts for positive change within their communities. From the 24th to the 26th, these dedicated individuals immersed themselves in a comprehensive curriculum designed to enhance their agricultural expertise and communication skills. The training's scope was broad and impactful. Participants delved into the working modality of the Transforming Livelihoods and Technology for Nutrition (TLTN) project, gaining a clear understanding of its objectives and strategies. They explored recommended dietary needs, ensuring they could effectively guide farmers towards nutritious food production. Crucial communication and behavior change techniques were also covered, equipping CBFs to effectively disseminate knowledge and encourage positive practices. The curriculum then moved to the practical aspects of sustainable agriculture. Sanitation and hygiene practices were emphasized, alongside Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies, nursery raising techniques, and pest and disease

management. Participants also gained valuable insights into climate-smart agriculture and regenerative farming practices, crucial for building resilient and sustainable food systems. Post-harvest techniques, vermicomposting, and good agricultural practices were also covered, providing a holistic understanding of the agricultural value chain. Finally, the roles and responsibilities of CBFs were clearly defined, ensuring they were prepared to serve as effective intermediaries between farmers and the project.

The training culminated in a hands-on practical session at a CBF's farm in Dangisharan Ward No. 6, Prasadwa. This immersive experience allowed participants to apply their newfound knowledge in a real-world setting. Demonstrations were conducted on poly house tunnel preparation, nursery management, vermicomposting, and the preparation of Jhol Mol, an organic pesticide. This practical component solidified their understanding of these essential techniques. The overarching objective of this training was to empower CBFs with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively share agricultural best practices with local farmers and project beneficiaries. The training's success was evident in the active participation of the 11 attendees, comprising 6 males and 5 females, who were left, equipped to drive positive change within their communities.

Develop/strengthen last mile supply chain actors for the promotion of nutrition/climate smart agriculture tools/inputs and services (Sales skills Training to the CBFs):

In November, a two-day sales skill development training convened, bringing together Community-Based Facilitators (CBFs) from Dang and Kapilvastu districts. Held at Metro Hospitality in Tulsipur, Dang, from November 20th to 21st, the event was a collaborative effort between BASE Organization (Backward Society Education) Dang and Kalika Self-Reliance Social Centre; Kapilvastu.The training drew a diverse group, including 11 CBFs, 2 supervisors, a program director, and the District Chairperson from Dang District. The first day commenced with a warm welcome from Mr. Mahabir Chaudhary, District Chairperson of BASE, who set the stage for the training's objectives. Mrs. Pinky Dangi, Program Director of BASE, followed with a brief introduction to the partner non-governmental organization (PNGO).

The technical sessions then took center stage, facilitated by Agriculture and Nutrition Officers (ANOs) and Project Officers (POs) from both Dang and Kapilvastu. Mr. Jung Bahadur Gurung, PO of iDE, initiated the technical sessions by outlining the roles and responsibilities of CBFs, and delved into the attributes of a successful salesperson. Mr. Santosh Kumar Sharma furthered the discussion by introducing the fundamentals of sales and the sales cycle. The focus then shifted to the products being promoted. The ANO from Dang Mr. Manoj Chaudhary addressed the impacts of pesticides and insecticides on human health, highlighting the importance of safe and responsible product use. The ANO from Kapilvastu then provided insights into presales activities, emphasizing the importance of connecting with and qualifying potential customers. The second day began with a review of the previous day's topics by WASH supervisor Mr. Ram Prasad Chaudhary. A dynamic role-playing session followed, where CBFs practiced their sales skills by simulating interactions with customers and beneficiaries. This practical exercise allowed them to apply the theoretical knowledge gained on the first day. Mr. Jung Bahadur Chaudhary then led a session on solution provision and self-management, equipping CBFs with strategies to address customer needs and maintain their own professional effectiveness. The two-day training proved to be a valuable experience, providing CBFs with essential sales skills and knowledge. The cross-district participation fostered an environment of shared learning, allowing CBFs to exchange experiences and perspectives. The training's primary objective was to enhance the CBFs' ability to effectively share

agricultural practices and techniques with local farmers and project beneficiaries. The training was attended by 11 participants, including 5 males and 6 females.

Organize home garden training through nutrition sales agents:

In 2024, a wave of green initiatives swept across the rural municipalities of Rapti, Gadhawa, Dangisharan, Shantinagar, and Babai, as six home garden training sessions took root. Led by two dedicated facilitators, these trainings aimed to empower community members with the knowledge and skills to cultivate their nutritious food sources. The training sessions were carefully designed to address key aspects of sustainable home gardening. Participants learned about the importance of dietary diversification, understanding how a variety of homegrown vegetables can contribute to balanced and healthy meals. The facilitators also emphasized the numerous benefits of home gardening, from improved nutrition to increased household food security.

Practical skills were at the forefront of the training. Participants were introduced to effective insect pest management techniques, learning how to protect their crops without resorting to harmful chemicals. Climate-smart agriculture technologies were also discussed, equipping participants with strategies to adapt to changing environmental conditions and ensure long-term sustainability. The impact of these trainings was significant, reaching a total of 137 individuals, with an overwhelming majority of female participants (136 females and 1 male). This focus on women's empowerment reflects the recognition of their crucial role in household food security and nutrition. Community-Based Facilitators (CBFs) played a vital role in these training sessions, serving as a bridge between the community and the project. They were actively involved in establishing linkages, gathering community demands, and ensuring the supply of requested products. Furthermore, they used the opportunity to clearly communicate their roles and responsibilities, strengthening their relationships with community members. To further support the participants in establishing their home gardens, vegetable seeds were distributed upon completion of the training. Encouragingly, many participants committed to putting their newfound knowledge into practice, pledging to create their own thriving home gardens. This initiative not only provided practical skills but also fostered a sense of ownership and empowerment, paving the way for healthier and more resilient communities.

Seeds and materials support for nurseries and diversified farming:

As the year drew to a close in December, a series of impactful events unfolded across Gadhawa, Dangisharan, and Shantinagar Rural Municipalities, focusing on empowering communities with seeds and material support for nurseries and diversified farming. These events were more than just distributions; they were hands-on learning experiences designed to foster sustainable agricultural practices. Participants were guided through the preparation of Jholmol, a natural pesticide, learning how to create effective pest control solutions using readily available resources. They also explored the process of vermicomposting, understanding its benefits in enriching soil fertility. Furthermore, they received practical training on establishing vegetable nurseries, laying the foundation for successful home gardens.

To amplify the training's effectiveness, facilitators were engaged at selected locations, sharing their expertise on the methods and advantages of these sustainable farming practices. These facilitators provided valuable insights; ensuring participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the techniques being demonstrated. Recognizing the importance of providing tangible support, the group members were equipped with a range of tools and materials tailored to their needs. These included IPM tools, vegetable seeds, drip irrigation systems, tunnel plastic, insect nets, and mulching, all distributed based on the groups' collective decisions. This approach ensured that the support provided was relevant and aligned with the specific requirements of each community. The events witnessed a strong participation of women, with a total of 82 females actively involved. This emphasis on women's inclusion highlights the recognition of their critical role in agricultural development and household food security. The overarching objective of these events was to empower participants to establish thriving home gardens. By providing practical training and material support, the initiative aimed to equip community members with the knowledge and resources necessary to adopt sustainable farming practices and enhance their self-sufficiency in food production. These events were a testament to the commitment to building resilient and food-secure communities.

Pit construction materials (3 m X 1 m) and worms, Height 50 cm:

December saw a surge in sustainable agriculture initiatives across six rural municipalities: Dangisharan, Babai, Shantinagar, Rajpur, Gadhawa, and Rapti. Nine successful pit construction events took place, marking a significant step towards promoting organic farming and reducing reliance on harmful chemical fertilizers. The core objective was to encourage the widespread adoption of vermicomposting, a practice that enriches soil fertility naturally.

To ensure the success of these events, essential materials were provided to the participants. This included earthworms, the heart of the vermicomposting process, as well as cement, zinc sheets, bricks, and sand, all necessary for constructing durable and effective pits. Crucially, the direct beneficiaries demonstrated their commitment to the project by contributing 20% of the total pit construction costs. This shared investment fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the initiative.

The vermicomposting pit construction events garnered considerable attention, attracting both direct and indirect beneficiaries. Local observers expressed significant enthusiasm about the potential of vermiculture. They recognized the dual benefits of this practice: environmental sustainability and economic opportunity. By utilizing organic fertilizers, farmers could improve soil health and reduce their environmental footprint. Furthermore, the potential to establish businesses by selling earthworms and vermicomposting presented a new avenue for income generation, empowering local communities. This initiative aimed to create a ripple effect, fostering a shift towards sustainable agricultural practices and creating a new income source for local communities. The successful completion of these pit construction events marked a significant stride towards building a more resilient and environmentally conscious agricultural landscape.

Conduct group sales presentation:

In December we aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture, with 14 group sales presentations taking place across Babai, Dangisharan, and Rapti Rural Municipalities. These sessions, led by dedicated

Community-Based Farmers (CBFs), were designed to introduce and demonstrate the benefits of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools and climate-smart technologies.

The CBFs took center stage, showcasing a range of practical tools, including lures, traps, plastic trays, and other climate-smart solutions. They provided clear and concise demonstrations, illustrating how these tools contribute to more sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices. By highlighting the effectiveness of these methods, the CBFs aimed to empower local farmers to adopt innovative approaches to pest management and agricultural production.

Beyond the practical demonstrations, the presentations also served as an opportunity to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the CBFs. This aspect was crucial in fostering a sense of collaboration and understanding between the CBFs and the participating farmers. By outlining their contributions and involvement in the implementation of these practices, the CBFs strengthened their relationships with the community and built trust in their expertise.

These group sales presentations played a vital role in raising awareness about climate-smart agricultural solutions. They provided a platform for farmers to learn about and engage with these technologies, ultimately strengthening their capacity to adopt sustainable farming methods. The participation numbers were notable, with 3 males and 274 females attending, emphasizing the project's success in reaching and engaging women, who form a significant part of the agricultural workforce.

Training to FCHVs / FCHVs mobilization:

December was a month of concerted effort to improve community health and nutrition, marked by 13 training events for Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) across all rural municipalities. Following these trainings, 15 mass sensitization events were conducted in Gadhawa-4 and Dangisharan-7, extending the reach of vital health information.

These sensitization events were facilitated by officers from local health institutions, who addressed critical topics such as malnutrition, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), and waterborne diseases. Supervisors further enriched the sessions by providing practical guidance on home gardening and the alternative use of chemical fertilizers, promoting sustainable and healthy food production. The backbone of these initiatives was the FCHVs, who played a pivotal role in leading the awareness programs among group members. The sessions focused on promoting essential health and nutrition practices, including home gardening, diversified dietary consumption, drinking water purification, organic fertilizers, and proper handwashing techniques. The impact of these programs was substantial, with a total of 4 males and 301 females participating in the awareness programs. A key component of the events was the practical demonstration of correct hand washing techniques. The FCHVs meticulously demonstrated each step, emphasizing its importance in preventing the spread of disease. To reinforce the learning experience, participants were

provided with the necessary tools, including a bucket with a tap, a handkerchief, and Dettol soap. They were then encouraged to practice hand washing themselves, ensuring they could effectively implement the technique in their daily lives. This interactive and hands-on approach fostered a deeper understanding of hygiene practices, making the sessions both informative and engaging. The events aimed to improve public health by empowering participants with essential knowledge and skills that they could readily apply in their daily lives. The project's Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials were effectively utilized to enhance the learning process, ensuring that the messages were clear and impactful.

Case Stories:

Our intervention and facilitation have encouraged a mother of a three-year-old to embark on micro-entrepreneurship:

Following the inception program of TLTN at the Palika with the Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee, Ward-4 of Gadhwa Rural Municipality was selected as an intensive intervention area. TLTN Dang then organized a kick-off program with the Ward-level Nutrition and Food Security Coordination Committee, led by the chairperson.

As part of TLTN's targeted beneficiaries and program objectives, a group comprising pregnant women, lactating women, and mothers of children under five was formed in Gadhwa-4, Paraspur. Home gardening training was conducted by TLTN_BASE Dang, facilitated by project staff, focusing on home garden establishment and entrepreneurship development in the Laliguras Nutrition Farmer Group.

Mrs. Sona Chaudhary voluntarily took the initiative to establish a vegetable nursery and cultivate off-season vegetables on her farm. The TLTN district team supported her in setting up the vegetable nursery and provided various technical assistance. Her dream became a reality when, after one month, she started selling seed saplings in small volumes, including bitter gourd, cucumber, tomato, and chili, initially worth NRs 3,500.00.

Committed to best practices, Mrs. Chaudhary ensured that saplings were sold at lower prices within the group compared to external buyers. With continued technical support from TLTN, she aspires to scale up her business and plans to establish vermicomposting on her farm in the near future.

Coordination and collaboration begin from here:

After our TLTN intervention via different activities as in pensive ward, Coordination and collaboration took a significant step forward in Babai Rural Municipality, Ward No. 7 with the establishment of a demonstration (demo) plot within the ward and health office (birthing center), and premises. This initiative was designed to serve as a resource center, showcasing various climate-smart technologies and sustainable agricultural practices to local farmers and community members. The primary objective of the demo plot is to act as a resource center where various technologies contributing to home garden establishment are displayed and practiced. These include: Vermicomposting, Bio-pesticides JholMol (fermented

Organic fertilizer), Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies, off-season vegetables cultivation practices and Regenerative agriculture practices. By seeing these technologies in action, local farmers and beneficiaries

are encouraged to adopt them at the household level, following the principle of "seeing is believing."
The demo plot was established with a cost-sharing arrangement between the ward and the implementing organization (TLTN) is on 85:15 ratio i.e. TLTN: 85% and Ward: 15%
This collaborative approach ensures local ownership and sustainability while leveraging external resources for maximum impact where the expected outcomes was;

- Adoption of climate-smart technologies by local farmers
- Improved household-level home garden establishment
- Increased use of organic and sustainable farming methods
- Strengthened collaboration between local government and development partners.

The establishment of this demo plot in Babai Rural Municipality, Ward No. 7, marks a crucial step in promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Through this coordinated effort, farmers are empowered with the knowledge and resources necessary to enhance their agricultural productivity while ensuring environmental sustainability as well establishment of home garden. This initiative is a testament to the power of collaboration in driving meaningful change at the grassroots level where ultimately contribute on nutritional improvement of targeted beneficiaries.

2.5.4 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS:

We could complete the remaining ward level inception meetings. We completed the sales skill development training to the CBFs with the joint coordination of the Kapilvastu district partner NGO running the TLTN project.

2.5.5 LEARNINGS:

During the course of conducting our live cooking food demonstrations, an insightful realization emerged. We discovered that the impact and effectiveness of these demonstrations would be significantly amplified if we were to shift our focus and conduct them directly within schools where the Early Child Development (ECD) curriculum is already in place. This strategic shift promises to create a more fertile ground for learning and engagement, directly reaching the young learners we aim to benefit.

2.5.6 CHALLENGES AND THEIR MITIGATION MEASURES:

a. Retention of CBF in our program during the whole project period is more challenging to overcome the CBFs as it is unpredictable that if they will give the output and sustain as expected by the project.
b. Season grabbing for agricultural activities is more challenging to overcome priorities on farm agricultural practices events is more crucial for the time being.
c. It would be easier to conduct project activities after the identification of beneficiaries and group formation.
d. BASE 2024 (directly reached out beneficiaries 2125 (Agriculture and food security)

Disaggregated Data of the Participants:

Dalit		Disadvantaged Janajati		Disadvantaged Madhesis		Muslims		Others (Brahmin/Chhetri)		Total	
M	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**	**M**	**F**
7	165	79	802	17	182	5	76	62	730	**170**	**1955**

Budget:

S.N	Headings	Budget	Expenditure
1	Services and Trainings	8275026	2763461.48
2	Goods and Materials	8479498	1785722.15
3	Monitoring and Evaluation	1338750	297671.91
Total		**18093274**	**4846855.54**

2.6 SAMARTHA PROJECT:

2.6.1 BACKGROUND:

Samartha is the event based pilot project of BASE. This project is financially and technically supported by The ASIA Foundation/FCDO. It is the short terms of project started on 10th September to 20th September 2024. The project is focused on the policy level dialogue among the policy makers, the implementers and target beneficiaries. The project has been facilitated by the dialogue team which is continuously facilitating the different sectors of policy gaps, the policy formation and amendments process among the provincial level stakeholders of Lumbini province. The overall objectives of the projects is to analysis the gaps of the policies formulated in the sector of Health and Education and the share the experience of the stakeholders during the implementation of the policies of the education and health and find out the challenge and provide suggestion for the policy amendments for the proper solutions.

2.6.2 OBJECTIVES:

- Provide support to facilitate policy improvements in the social development areas of Lumbini province especially in the sector of education and health.
- Share the experience among the policy makers, implementers and the beneficiaries regarding the good experiences, gaps, challenges and possible solution for the improvement of the policies in the sector of education and health.

2.6.3 TARGET BENEFICIARIES:

Lumbini province chief minister, former chief minister, Ministers, secretaries, officials, representatives of the local level, representatives of the health and education sector of different 12 districts of Lumbini province, Policy makers Lumbini province planning commission, officials, representatives of the I/NGOs and the community leaders of the marginalized and minorities communities.

2.6.4 INTERVENTION:

The policy dialogue has been conducted in 13th Sep. 2024 at Hotel Pauwa Bhalubang Dang. The Sambad Samuha senior facilitator Sushil Kumar Basnet welcome to all the participants and inform to all about the program modality of the policy level dialogue, support organization the Asia foundation and the implementing partner BASE. In the program Former Chief Minister, Former social development minister of Lumbini province, policy makers, former vice president and members of the Lumbini province planning commission, stakeholders of the education and health sectors working in different 12 districts of Lumbini province, officials, representatives of the I/NGOs and the community leaders of the marginalized and minorities communities were presented. In the program total 54 participants were engaged. Among them 13 were female, 40 were male and 1 from Gender and sexual minorities. Likewise, in the program 5 were from dalit, Janajaties were 17, Brahmins/Kshetri 28 and 4 were from other community. Among the total 2 of them were from the people with disability.

2.6.5 PROGRAM MODALITY:

The program has been designed in the Talk Show model of panel discussion. The two sessions of panel discussion has been conducted. The program was facilitated by Dr. Bhaskar Gautam the consultant of the Asia Foundation and the Sushil Kumar Basnet has played as the co-facilitator. The program was focused on experience sharing, gaps analysis and recommendation of the proper solution of the policies, especially in the sector of Health and education. The first session has been made the panel discussion among the honorable former chief minister Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary, honorable former social development minister Sudarshan Baral. The second panel discussion has been made among the Khildhoj Panthi the mayor of the Resunga Municipality Gulmi Lumbini province, Saraswati Chidi Darlami the president of Gagnaskali Rural Municipality Palpa Lumbini and the social worker Gyanu Poudel. During the panel discussion the facilitator raised the question related to social sector mostly in the area of health and education and the plan of the government for the solution.

First Session:

As the presenter former Chief Minister Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary said, "I had allocated a lot of budget for culture tourism promoting when I was Chief Minister. He informed that the province government has allocated the budget and plan for various types target groups, ethnic identity, minorities. But the budget has not been able to spend due to lack of procedures. He said that the budget refrigeration problem has been faced by the province government due the unwillingness of the employee to make a procedure and even afraid of trying to spend the budget.

Foreign Minister Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary also said that he would ensure to make the policy on the long-term manner in coming days. The community needs skill and the government must make plan for the skills development of the community. At first we would emphasize on infrastructure development index only. We could no focus on the human development index. Until not far without paying attention to human development, we cannot gain overall development and the human development achievements. With physical infrastructure, social development should also need to be focused on, otherwise the sustainable development index will not ne success or possible. There is the huge gaps and lacking on desegregated data management. There is a lack of skilled people in the province. The government should focused and make plan on social and human development sector.

Likewise, Former Social Development Minister honorable Sudarshan Baral said, that Nepal's investment is going on wrong term. Social Development is the foundation of the whole development process. We all are giving focused on social security allowances in social development for the senior citizen and all political parties have competition in this sector. In case of other developed countries practices, they are investing in their children for their education to make the child a great person, how to make them good man. The developed nation has already made developed in the sector of infrastructure so, their priority was been in social development. But Nepal has to balance on both on infrastructure development and social development consequences were that the result is not seen positive and it is being challenging.

The infant and mother's mortality rate in Lumbini province is more. We have not been able to make our Hospitality efficient and skilled. The territory of the government should pay attention to this scene. In which Tharu, Madhesi, Muslim, Dalit, marginalized and minorities should get equal opportunity for the government services. According to him, the girls have less access to education. So, in my time we have made decision to reduce the 11 and 12th-class fee of science education for girl students. This has increased the initials of the girls reading in 11 and 12 class. We must review the overall province policies whether the work level is low. We are missing to strengthening the province government. The leaders should realize it. It is important to correct it.

Suraj Thapa the representative of the Gender and Sexual minorities said, that "The Province government has not been able to keep the statistics of gender and sexual minorities. There has not also been able to find genders based facilities of toilet. Due to this, raising the health problems in our community like a kidney (stone), the urine has been infected. Due to the lack of the opportunities of employment and business our community compelled to involve in illegal sexual action. The state government should make a policy for gender minorities to create an enable environment to live in community. Education should emphasize for the Gender and sexual minority to raise the public awareness. The government should build a separate toilet for gender and sexual minorities during the formation of the physical infrastructure project of the province government.

Likewise, the minority community representative Shanti Sonaha said "Due the forest act our profession of fishing and sieve the gold was being risk. We have no more land for cultivation and there is no other skill and opportunity of occupation and employment. So the province government should bring the plan and budget for the marginalized community. There is only about 1200 number of our community we are

deprived from the opportunities and service of the government. The government has not made our identity.

Like this the Sunita Chidimar from the chidimar community said that "The three levels of governments have not able to raise the voice, sustainable plan and budget for the minorities groups of different district of Lumbini province. The government could not recognized the less number of Chidimar community of about 400 numbers. Sunita Chidimar presented that the Chidimar community's primitive profession of catching the birds was in risk due to this they are facing the problem of livelihood and requested to Former Chief Minister Dil Bahadur Chaudhary and former social development minister Sudarshan Baral to bring the plan of skill development and profession for this community. She complains that due to the problem of identity of Chidimar community are deprived from receiving health insurance services. Sunita added that due to the financial problem this community is not be able to reach quality health care. Hence, the policy of social development sector should be made to get the opportunity of profession cultural identity, education, health and employment.

Second Session:

In the second session, Resunga Municipality, Gulmi Mayor Khildhoj Panthi said that there is no idea that the province and local level is considered in the sector of policy. There is a lack of coordination. It has some project provide by the province government but the project monitoring is being zero. The province government seems that they do not want to recognize the local level in the sector of policy development.

Saraswati Darlami, the Chairperson of Baganaskali Rural Municipality in Palpa, said although there are challenges in resource management, many local governments has succeeded in achieving social development. However, local governments are facing significant difficulties in policy and practice, primarily due to the intervention of the federal government and the provinces' lack of coordination.

During a policy dialogue, the heads and representatives of Education Development and Coordination Units and Health Offices across various districts of Lumbini Province noted that the district-level offices have been sidelined due to the provincial government's failure to formulate proper policies. They also pointed out that legal obstacles arise as local education and health branches are prioritized without clear legal frameworks. Former officials, civil society representatives, and others highlighted that some of the 74 laws created by Lumbini Province are more restrictive in law than in their implementation.

Social Worker Gyanu Poudel said "The social development and infrastructure sectors are interconnected. For example, when establishing a maternity ward, it is crucial to ensure easy access for pregnant women. Social development cannot succeed without infrastructure, so both must be developed together. We now have a structure that is inclusive of all ranging from hospitals and government agencies to disability-friendly, women-friendly, children-friendly, and senior citizen-friendly facilities. For example, while constructing a health building, it must adhere to specific standards. After the implementation of federalism, the construction process now follows these standards. Additionally, we have declared various rural municipalities as fully literate, and we continue to monitor their literacy status every year after the declaration.

Having heard from previous speakers, I would like to address the regulatory system in Lumbini Province regarding lawmaking and its implementation, especially in the context of social development, health, and education policies. There is hope that we will now achieve a common understanding of how to proceed. Our constitution mandates that there should be a female chairperson or vice-chairperson in the mayor/deputy mayor positions. However, the current practice

shows that men occupy the mayor and chairperson roles, while women are placed in deputy mayor and vice-chairperson roles. This trend is now being reviewed, as the number of men in the deputy mayor positions is increasing, though other factors might be influencing this. This requires further investigation.

During a recent program I attended in Japan, it was noted that Nepal is a leader in South Asia when it comes to creating policies and regulations for women. However, the implementation of these policies remains weak, and there is a gap between the federal and provincial governments. Lumbini Province has developed a gender policy, which was made possible through collaboration with the dialogue group and The Asia Foundation, and for this, I am truly grateful. However, the issue of social inclusion was largely overlooked in the gender policy discussions, and it has yet to reach all municipalities. What defines social development? Is physical infrastructure considered human development? Does social inclusion only apply to political decision-making processes at the local level? How do we address the needs of marginalized groups, such as women and single women who lack access to services? When planning, how much disaggregated data do we have on their needs? Planning should be based on this data.

Not all municipalities have developed gender equality policies yet, and where they have, implementation plans are often missing. Provinces may create policies, but now there is a gender act. What role do the province and municipalities play in implementing these plans? Given the many policies, it is crucial to develop clear planning procedures for both provinces and local governments to effectively implement these activities. In my experience, resources should be allocated to local bodies to make them more accessible to the public. There are also examples where we have failed to make a difference when it was most needed for the target groups. This shows how weak our policy system remains. To practice good governance and accountability, programs must address at least three core principles or indices.

Citizen awareness is key. Post-federalism, the condition of organizations has improved, with increased transparency and accountability. Organizations should plan their actions and ensure they reach out to the community and government. If this does not happen, it is often reported that only those with access are receiving budget allocations. Our next task should be to advocate for marginalized groups, whether women or others, and ensure their inclusion in policy. If policies are lacking, we need to create them; if they need revision, we should focus on discussing those changes. In the current context, the lack of a common understanding has widened the gap, and the lack of information is preventing target groups from participating.

Dr. Rana Bahadur Bogati Chief of the Bhalubang Provincial Hospital: The main problem of the health and education sector is the migration of the skilled power. In the line of the migration Doctors are also involved. Some of the health and education sector officials do their work as their responsibility but some of them use to for only show their presentation and signature in the remote and rural area and returned back to urban city. The government is missing to provide or divide the work as proper way, and there is lacking on the monitoring and evaluation. To stop the migration of the doctors the province government should make plan to increase the employment sit in this sector from the public service commission. There are some policies made which is creating the problem on working, like the sector of the 5th and 6th level employee appointment process is determined on province government so, the health committee has to depend on the province government. It creates that when will be the employee come and work. Due to this the hospital committee is facing the dropdown problem.

Angad Bahadur Shah, Head of Health Office Banke and Kishore Acharya, Head of Dang: The federal government has issued a draft health directive, but the provincial government has not drafted yet. We are currently working on the federal government's draft directive. When allocating the budget, the government provides funds to the health office in installments 10% in the first quarter and 90% in the fourth quarter. However, this creates challenges. Policies and programs are designed to be implemented in the first quarter, but the budget is disbursed in phases, with the final release in Ashar. We are unable to

function effectively under such conditions. The budget should be released in alignment with the implementation plan.

Development progresses through morality and honesty. Currently, social security benefits are distributed based on caste, but they should also consider education and poverty levels. Given the presence of many political figures, this issue is crucial. In Banke district, maternal mortality rates are high, particularly among the Madhesi and Muslim communities. Additionally, leprosy remains prevalent, and malaria poses a significant risk. A one-size-fits-all (Blanket Policy) approach is insufficient. The province must develop programs that consider social factors and protect cultural values.

Dr. Nahakul K.C., Former Vice President, Lumbini Provincial Planning Commission said "I expect this dialogue to explore how new social issues can be brought forward. From my experience, one recurring complaint is that the federal and provincial governments do not communicate effectively. The law states that policies should guide action, but in practice, this often does not happen. Local representatives village, municipality, and ward officials tend to follow their mayors' perspectives rather than focusing on subject matter expertise.

The provincial government should primarily focus on capacity building and monitoring. If, both the provincial and local governments engage in the same activities, who will take responsibility for oversight and employee training? These issues must be addressed in policy discussions. Additionally, social classifications need careful review. For example, I was surprised to learn that the Natwa caste in Kapilvastu has been categorized as Dalit. Who will address such issues? Future dialogues must consider these matters, as they fall outside the scope of federal and local governments. The provincial government has the authority to create policies and regulations for such concerns. Another pressing issue is Dalit rights. Various local governments have identified marginalized groups and introduced protective policies. For instance, some municipalities in Banke and Bardiya have implemented reservations for Badghar, Bhalmansa, and Matawa communities. What is the provincial government's policy on these matters? Rather than merely copying and pasting policies, the government must create need-based solutions. Child and maternal mortality, along with malnutrition, are rising in Lumbini Province. Addressing these issues requires practical, ground-level policies rather than overly ambitious frameworks. The provincial and local governments must engage in meaningful discussions to find effective solutions.

Dr. Sudan Kumar Oli, Former Member, Lumbini Province Planning Commission said, "I have two key points to highlight. First, when discussing development models, we must strike a balance between hard and soft development. Second, in social development policy dialogues, we must ask critical questions: How many social policies have been formulated in Lumbini Province? What are they, and how effectively have they been implemented? What challenges exist, and how should we move forward? I encourage this dialogue group to incorporate these considerations in future discussions.

Bhuwan Chaudhary, Outgoing Member, Lumbini Province Planning Commission said, "Many aspects of the education policy have been copied and pasted without adaptation. Educational materials often fail to instill a sense of belonging to the country. There is a noticeable lack of content on social and national figures.

In developed countries like those in Europe and America, education is closely linked to practical, time-relevant skills. However, Nepal continues to follow an outdated system. To improve education, skill-based learning must be integrated into the curriculum.

Chintamani Poudel, President, and Disabled Network Dang: The province must develop a comprehensive policy for people with disabilities. During the tenure of former Minister Sudarshan Baral, there was a proposal to form a provincial-level disability coordination committee, but it has yet to be established. Other provinces have already implemented such committees, coordinated by their Ministers of Social Development. Currently, people with disabilities receive only an identity card, but their needs extend far beyond that. Policies must address education, healthcare, and employment. The Planning Commission has skilled human resource and now these policies must be implemented effectively.

Ganesh Prasad Rijal, Nepal Teachers Federation, Lumbini Province: The first school for children is society itself. Our policies and regulations must be based on facts and ground realities. A major issue today is the mass migration of students abroad after completing 10+2. To address this, we must create a

structured link between education, skills, labor, technology, and production. Education is the foundation of national development, and I urge all stakeholders to recognize its importance.

Sushila Acharya, Vice president, Senior citizen society Lumbini Province: Policy issues concerning senior citizens frequently arise, but we are not seeing effective implementation. There is a pressing need for rights within the healthcare sector. One of the key challenges is the migration of talented youth abroad. Nepal's struggling economy, the lack of regular health check-ups, and the public's limited awareness of education are contributing factors. While commendable laws have been established, emotional reactions often overshadow the lack of implementation. Government employees retire at 60, bringing valuable skills, but the provincial government should take responsibility for passing on this knowledge to the next generation, as these skills are currently going to waste. As we age, dental problems become a major issue, but the cost of treatment is prohibitively high. Neither health policies nor insurance have addressed this issue.

Sumina Rai Karki, The Asia Foundation: Infrastructure is indeed necessary, but the issue lies in the haphazard approach to its development. The provincial hospital construction project in Lumbini Province as an example—once infrastructure is built, there is a pressing need for skilled manpower to operate it. Investing in this manpower is just as crucial as building infrastructure, as it contributes to social development. In this regard, I would like to ask about the policy taken by Lumbini Province and whether there is a need for a policy to manage doctors and healthcare workers at various hospital levels?

Churna Bahadur Chaudhary, Executive Director of Base Organization: I would like to share my experience; former Tourism Minister Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary had allocated a budget of around 160 million for a target group. However, the funds could not be fully utilized due to the lack of a working procedure, which took six months to develop. He questioned how the implementation process is progressing in light of such challenges.

2.6.6 CONCLUSION:

Despite being established as legal provisions, 74 different laws enacted by Lumbini Province are not being enforced. Services like education, healthcare, sanitation and others are included as fundamental rights in the Constitution of Nepal. It was concluded that all levels of government should create the necessary laws to uphold these rights and enforce the existing ones. The provincial government must collaborate with local governments and focus on ensuring proper implementation. There is a shared belief that urgent amendments are needed to address the challenges in the health and education sectors at the policy level. The participants also emphasized that no political influence or misuse of power should interfere with critical sectors like education and healthcare services.

2.6.7 LESSON LEARNT:

- When the needs and issues of the provincial government are well raised, response, coordination, and results are more effective. The provincial government has prioritized creating the policies related to education and health has actively participated in preparing the document.
- Dialogues with former ministers or experienced individuals provide valuable insights into policy-related difficulties.

2.7 SMILING CHILDREN KITCHEN FACILITIES IN NEPAL PROJECT:

2.7.1 PROJECT INTRODUCTION:

BASE Organization has been implementing Smiling Children School Feeding Program with the financial and technical support from China Foundation for Rural Development in Dang district since July 2022. In line with the Nepal Government's school meal program BASE Organization has been providing additional support to 13 schools in three palikas i.e. Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city, Dangisharan rural

municipality and Shantinagar rural municipality of Dang district. The meal support is being provided to the students from ECD to grade six of 13 schools. Every school day students are served with milk and healthy hygienic fresh meals prepared at the schools. Mothers of the same schools are mobilized to prepare meals based on the daily menu approved by the health division.

To prepare daily meals kitchen and dining is very essential in every schools. Some of the schools have managed them within their spaces and some have built temporary rooms for kitchen and dine students. Under the Smiling Children Kitchen Facilities in Nepal Program of CFRD, one school; Janashramik Primary School of Tulsipur-5, Gairapatu Dang has been selected to build well equipped kitchen and dining. In this regard the school has constructed the kitchen dining hall along with hand washing basins and other necessary kitchen utensils. The construction has been completed and used by the school.

2.7.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

The project aims to support community schools with kitchen facilities to access to clean and easy meal preparation for students with the specific objectives ;

- Support nutritious day meal to bring smiles on the faces of children
- Support for kitchen construction for preparing day meals in schools

2.7.3 KEY INTERVENTIONS OF THE PROJECT:

School assessment: Among 13 schools BASE Organization selected Janashramik Primary School in Tulsipur-5, Dang after the assessment and discussion with the school team as well as local government. Most of the students in this school come from Dalit and marginalized communities. Many of the parents are depend upon daily wages labor work income and children do not get proper time and meal at their home so they used to come hungry before we served day meal in the school. Moreover Ward Office of Tulsipur ward no. 5 is positive and supportive for this school as well as day meal program that they agreed to contribute 30% of cost for the kitchen construction therefore this school was selected for the kitchen facility support project.

Formal agreement with ward office: BASE Organization has made a formal agreement with Ward Office of Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city ward no. 5 before the construction of the kitchen. In order to formalize the verbal understanding between BASE Organizations and ward offices, the agreement has been signed by the Ward President Mr. Birendra Shah and BASE ED Mr. Churna Bahadur Chaudhary with witness of Shree Janashramik Primary School. The singed copy is documented too.

Project approval from Social Welfare Council: The project was submitted with the required documents and it has been approved by the Social Welfare Council.

Kitchen construction: The kitchen has been constructed at Janashramik Primary School in Tulsipur-5, Dang with the help of design and estimate plan from Engineer of Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city as well as ward no. 5 office. There are two rooms (one kitchen and other dining) built that has made comfortable cooking and dining. Along with the kitchen and dining school has received water tank, steel rack, exhaust fan, gas stove. 3 hand washing basins are also managed for children. The size of the constructed building is 8.50 meter length, 5.30 meter width and 3 meter height. The kitchen has been a model space among community schools.

Monitoring: During and after the construction regular monitoring is being carried out by CFRD team, BASE staff, local government representatives as well as technical officials. Necessary feedback has been provided to school team and workers that has brought a better construction shape and it has been timely accomplished.

Achievements: The project has contributed to bring positive impact to daily meal program in the school along with;

- 125 students are feeling better and comfortable with the facilities they have received after the construction.
- Daily meal is being prepared in well-equipped and managed space for children.
- Children are getting to dine in better space which they used to do in an open space before.
- It has helped to ensure hygienic and cleanness for children.
- Mothers are feeling at ease to prepare daily meals.
- School Management, Parents, Teachers and local government is thankful for this praiseworthy support in a community school.
- The construction has created employment opportunities for the workers around school.

2.8 WASH FOR GENDER AND ADOLESCENT INCLUSIVE SCHOOL IN NEPAL (WASH GAINS):

WASH GAINS is a three years project being implemented from April 2023 to 31 March 2026. The crux of the project is to upgrade schools as three star schools increasing retention, and completion of girls and children with disabilities (CWDs) aged 11-20 in education in all 33 coverage schools of Gulariya, Barbardiya, Thakurbaba, Madhuvan Municipality and Geruwa Rural Municipality of Bardiya district. To achieve this target, project is sensitizing those all students to improve their hygiene behavior mobilizing students, teachers, School Management Committee/Parents Teachers Association representatives in close coordination with concerned local government for the sustainability of the project. Further, it is also influencing at policy level localizing and implementing procedures related to WASH in Schools of those local governments and schools with advocacy, lobby and campaigning to sustain the interventions of the project.

2.8.1 OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT:

The project seeks by March 2026 to enhance the quality learning environment for adolescent girls and children with disabilities in targeted schools of Bardiya, Nepal. The project will do this by working with schools, the wider community and authorities to improve access to sustainable, inclusive WASH services and menstrual health. At the impact level the project seeks to contribute to the achievement of SDG 4, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education in Nepal.

2.8.2 TARGET GROUPS:

The beneficiaries of the project are 13,500 adolescent girls, boys and children with disabilities (CWDs) aged between 11-20 years of age.

INTERVENTIONS:

Following are the output wise interventions carried out under WASH GAINS project

Output 1: Schools, Local Government, CSOs are oriented, capacitated and influence to ensure right to education and implement WASH in school procedure and other plans/policies

Activity 1.1. Conduct multi-stakeholder barrier analysis to identify problems require changes and integrate it at LG Level

Multi-stakeholders' Barrier Analysis have been organized at all five municipal level in order to sensitize local government and schools reviewing barriers based on building blocks in preparing action plan to address those barriers in WASH in School (WinS) sector. This intervention has supported to sensitize local government on planning and budget allocation during planning process of local government, localize and implement WASH in School procedure making those stakeholders accountable for regular monitoring for the assurance of quality service delivery to upgrade education status contributes for the retention and

completion of especially adolescent girls and children with disabilities in schools. In total there was participation of 122 (male: 97 female: 25) in five events of this activity.

2.8.3 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INTERVENTION:

- WinS procedure has been localized by Madhuvan, Gulariya, Barbardiya Municipality and Geruwa Rural Municipality.
- Geruwa Rural Municipality has established WASH Section separately which was lacking last year. It has been possible by the continuous interaction by WASH focal person of this municipality.
- Geruwa RM oriented to LG staffs and head teachers on WASH in School procedure and on Operation and Maintenance of WASH facilities in school coordinating with WASH GAINS staff in September 2024.
- WASH & MHH plans are included in School Improvement Plan (SIP) for further execution

Activity 1.2. Conduct district/LG level networking and coordination meetings on prioritizing of education and WASH resources in municipal plans.

Networking and coordination meetings has been organized to sensitize the local governments allocate budget and develop policy and program from three star school approach. Based on this objective, BASE organization shared upcoming planning and budget to the participants of this events.

During this intervention, there was discussion with local government representative and staff on budget allocation on WASH sector including operation and maintenance for schools to prioritize during local level planning process. Further, BASE team requested to local governments to replicate implementing WASH in school procedure to all schools even where WASH GANS project is not being implemented. Based on sharing local governments (LGs) representatives committed to replicate WASH in School procedure to all school for star upgrade. All together 100 participants (Male: 78 and females: 22) participated in meeting of ten events of this activity.

2.8.4 ACHIEVEMENT OF THE EVENTS:

For the fiscal year of 2081/082 local government have allocated budget for WASH in School in their Red Book mentioned as below:

Geruwa:		*Rs. 240,000.00*
Barbardiya	*:*	*Rs. 20,50,000.00*
Madhuvan	*:*	*Rs. 8,00,000.00*
Gulariya	*:*	*Rs. 11,50,000.00*
Thakurbaba	*:*	*Rs. 11,00,000.00*

Activity 1.3. Promote Shikshya Kachahari for social accountability & responsiveness of duty bearers and service providers in addressing the issues on Education and WASH. Workshops at school levels

Five events of Shikshya Kachahari events has been organized at municipal level inviting selected students, of all schools and teachers and SMC representatives of WASH GAINS implementing schools as well as local government representatives and officials so as to make service providers and duty bearers accountable to address issues of WASH & MHH facilities and quality education.

First of all, head of education section shared the progress on WASH and MHH, waste management and quality education being supported by teachers and local government itself. In the same manner, planning related to policy, allocated budget and

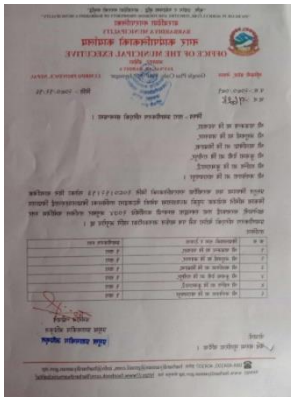
monitoring for quality education was also shared by education section head of LGs. Thereafter, the floor opened for open discussion. teachers, and students raised the questions, feedback for the proper management of WASH, MHH and for quality education.

While responding, LG authorities addressed their responses and at the same time, they also suggested to the students to use existing WASH facilities in sustainable way. Further, LG authorities committed to support for star upgrade in schools. In total there were 326 (male: 186, female: 140) of 5 events of this activity.

2.8.5 ACHIEVEMENT/COMMITMENT:

- Mayor of all five local governments have committed to manage quality pad in schools.
- All five local government representatives have committed to support school to upgrade as three star schools.

Activity # 1.4. Undertake mapping exercise of WASH in school progression Plan of 14 schools with star approach at RM levels for motivating to execute SIP commitments (School self-assessment)



Based on WASH in School procedure, school self-assessment has been organized in all 33 schools by the support of School WASH Coordination Committee (SWASHCC). As per achieved score on 10 indicators, star approval process was occurred and Social Development Committee of local government have approved schools as star school.

As per WASH in school procedure, self-assessment again carried out in July and August 2024 by the support of SWASHCCs and based on 10 indicators they scored the number as per the existing reality of WASH and MHH facilities in schools. To scale up the score, they made action plan and followed up regularly. In total there were In total there were 356 (male: 191, female: 165) participants in five events.

2.8.6 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT:

- Local government has approved two schools as star two schools, nineteen schools as one star out of 33 school in March 2024.
- Based on self-assessment conducted in July and August month 2 schools scored for star three, 10 schools scored for star two and 21 schools had scored for star one schools.

Activity 1.5. Orientations, Sensitization, trainings, sessions on: local WinS procedure to LG and teachers

Orientation to teachers on WASH in School (WinS) has been organized in December month inviting teachers of 22 schools out of 33 schools. The events were carried out jointly gathering a pair schools' teachers and SMC/PTA in cluster basis. Quiz contest was carried out in order to identify their learning on WinS procedure. Later on, contents such as legal provision of WinS procedure, formation of SWASHCC, 10 indicators for school self-assessment, star declaration process and O&M fund establishment in school was delivered to the participants. While organizing events, all the teachers were requested to upgrade WASH & MHH facilities based on the norms of WinS procedure. In total there were 563.participants (male:340, female: 223)

Activity 1.6. Joint Monitoring and follow-ups for sector performance monitoring at local level

Joint monitoring was organized with local government authorities in in February and March 2024 with the support of LG authorities and concerned stakeholders in order to update progress and to get feedback for further project interventions as well as to sensitization to the project implementing schools for star upgrade.

During joint monitoring the visiting team monitored the construction works, interacted with SMC chairs, head teachers, members of child clubs and kishori clubs. This intervention was carried out based on check list where visitors have discussed and interacted with the schools on ongoing support of project and their contribution such as sanitation campaigns led by child club, awareness raising by kishori clubs to other adolescent girls, support of SWASHCC for star upgrade.

At the end of the joint monitoring, there was sharing amongst the visitors and they have shared feedback to schools as well as to WASH GAINS team. In total there were 142 participants (male: 107 and female: 35) in the events.

Feedbacks:

- Coordination with municipal engineers/technical person for regular monitoring during construction work.
- Mobilization of students for regular sanitation campaign and sensitize them for proper use of WASH & MHH facilities.
- Sensitize teachers, SMC/PTA members to carry out plan developed during school self-assessment for star upgrade.

Activity # 1.7. Training to Teachers on Hygiene Behavior Change

In total 118 (Male: 71, Female: 47) teachers were involved in the training enhance their capacity on Hygiene Behavior Change (HBC) and thereby to deliver the HBC session in 33 schools' students from grade to above. The three days TOT was organized in four slots in July 2024 based on the Manual Designed previously by the support of Local level to federal level expertise.

The TOT was organized inviting LG representatives and Education Section chiefs. The session had been delivered as per the result of the pre-test of the teachers and measure the knowledge increased by the post test at the end of the session. Meanwhile, HBC package materials were distributed to all participants so that they could use it while delivering those sessions to students.

Achievement:

- Teachers increased their learning by 34.85% (pre-test 47.63% and post-test 82.48%)
- They were confident to deliver HBC session preparing their session delivery plan.

Activity 1.8. Teacher review and Sharing meeting on HBC session delivery:

A. School level Teachers' Review Meeting

Teachers' review meeting got started from August in monthly basis after delivering HBC session in each month. The objective of school wise teachers review meeting was to interact on progress, learning and way forward for the betterment of HBC session delivery. In the review meeting there was participation of all teachers of each 33 school in order to replicate knowledge and learning of trained teachers. Finally, they again agreed to incorporate those sharing in upcoming session. In total, there were 720 (male: 399, female: 321) teachers participated in the events.

Achievement:

- Students are washing their hands with hand washing soap. This is a increasing behavior change of the students.
- Teachers are actively involving for sanitation support to the students. Even male teachers are encouraging adolescent girls to demand sanitary during menstruation.
- Schools are incorporating contents of HBC in extra-curricular events.

Activity 1.9. Mobilize SMCs/PTAs/SWASHCCs for influencing at LG/SMCs level (for creating enabling environment at schools)

SMC/PTA meeting has been organized in all 33 schools. In the meeting, there was discussion on timely utilization of allocated budget for SWASH & O&M for the sustainability of WASH facilities in schools. While discussing on this matter they informed to consult with local government representatives. They also shared us that they were frequently consulting to LG representatives for its timely execution.

Meanwhile, there was discussion on star upgrade of schools based on earlier school self-assessment following action plan developed in participatory approach. Further, it was also interaction on increment and utilization of O&M fund as per requirement. In total there were 582 (male: 321, female: 261) participants involved in activities.

Achievement:

- 10 schools of Bar bardiya Municipality have established O&M fund for the sustainability of WASH facilities in schools.

- Banglamukhi Secondary School Gulariya has constructed 50-meter-long pathway supporting Rs. 150,000 by school itself.
- Janachetana Basic school Narayanpur has constructed 167 meter long pathway and gardening utilizing budget of Rs. 174,270.

Output-2 By 2026, sustainable, inclusive, and accessible WASH facilities are established/rehabilitated within 33 targeted schools

Activity 2.1. Accessible and inclusive construction work in schools

Prior to the construction works in schools in all 33 schools, first of all, technical staff conducted survey and based on it, they made design, drawing and estimation for MOU with schools was carried out with bil ateral understanding for the construction work and thereby its sustainability to upgrade the schools as star schools.

To lead the construction work in school, there was mutual agreement to receive and verify the quality construction materials by the support of School Management Committee (SMC) thereafter to monitor construction work mobilizing skilled and unskilled laborers. Later on, based on design and estimation for the construction works, required materials were procured and quality was monitored by designated SMC members.

Construction works of 15 school in first year of the project was completed and handover in March 2024. Similarly, 98% of construction work of 18 schools in 2nd year completed till December 2024. The construction works were of slab casting, plastering, plumber work and electricity work had been completed consulting with schools and technical staff of concerned LGs. Following are the detail types of construction works in those 18 schools.

New construction works completed (of first year and second year):

SN	Types of works	Number schools
1	New accessible toilet with incinerators	24
2	Hand washing station	29
3	Drinking water station	27
4	Waste management pit	33
5	Soak pit and septic tank	26
6	Tube well plate form	33
7	Bio-sand filter system	9
8	Nudges painting	33

Renovation construction works:

SN	Types of works	Number schools
1	Toilet	18
2	Hand washing station	33
3	Drinking water station	33
4	Bio-sand	7
5	Incinerator	10

Activity # 2.2. Pre-construction and SMC construction management support cost (record keeping, meeting and travel cost and handover event cost)

Detail process:

This events got organized in 18 schools for the SMC representatives and teacher to build ownership of the schools and for the successful completion of construction works. In total 327 (male: 187 and female: 140) participants involved in the events. Following are the contents of the events which was delivered during those interventions:

Contents of the meeting:

- Record keeping and safety & security of construction materials
- Payment process to the laborers

- Supervision of construction works
- Code of conduct and Community Feedback and Accountability Mechanism (CFAM)

Achievement:

- As per orientation to the SMC/PTA members, documents related to stock record book are well managed in all schools.
- SMC/PTA members and teachers regularly monitored construction work and suggested teachers to accomplish the construction work as soon as possible.
- The quality materials were delivered for construction works. SMC/PTA regularly took care of those construction materials and construction work.

Activity # 2.3.: Water Quality Test training

Water quality test training has been organized where there was participation of head teachers and school support staff of all 33 schools and this event was facilitated by the technical support of WASH Mart Pvt Ltd. Kohalpur, Banke to trigger schools on safe drinking water availability where group discussion and practical demonstrations method was occurred so as to concretize their learning and thereafter implementation of received skill in schools. There were total 87 participants (male: 77 and female: 10) in the training events.

Achievement:

- In the beginning of the day pre-test was undertaken where it was 55 % and in the las day there was post-test was carried out and it was 92%
- Increased practical skills in water quality testing and treatment.
- After training, school support staff are regularly treating water with chlorination method on the regular supervision of head teachers and students are getting opportunity to drink safe water.

Activity # 2.4. Post Safety and Accessibility audit

After completion of construction works in 15 schools in first year of the project, post safety and accessibility audit got organized in February and March 2024. While organizing such events, assurance of accessibility of constructed WASH & MHH facilities was carried out by the support of children and person with disability using wheel chair. The wheel chair users moved his/her wheel chair from the gate and to each constructed facilities on the presence of technical staff of concerned local government, SMC members, teachers, members of koshiri club and child club. While auditing the accessibility, he/she has used those facilities and based on successful functionality and accessibility of each facilities report prepared for the evidence. Hence all the WASH facilities are accessible as per the organized events. Total, there were 97 (male: 65 and female: 32) participants involved in those events.

Activity # 2.5. Public Audit and handover of construction works:

After completion of construction works in all 15 schools, public audit and handover of construction works event has been organized simultaneously in March 2024 to share the detail information such as estimated cost, types and number of WASH & MHH facilities and real expenditure in schools on the presence of LG and SMC/PTA representatives, teachers and students. During events, work completion certificate was handed over to the school by BASE organization. In total, there were 435 (male: 221 and female 214) participants had participated in the events.

Output 3: By 2026, 13,000 targeted adolescent girls and boys (including CwDs), have improved knowledge on children's right to education, disability inclusion, right to water and sanitation and inclusive WASH including Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH).

Activity # 3.1. HBC session Delivery to Students in 33 schools.

- In order to change the hygiene behaviors of students, tr ained teachers on Hygiene Behavior Change (HBC) session have delivered to the students from grade 5 to above in all 33 schools by the trained teachers on HBC sessions. There was total 6 sessions including 2 MHH sessions and till December 2024, schools had reached to the mid-session delivery in all schools and those deliveries of session were monitored by WASH GAINS staff to provide feedback and suggestion to the teachers for the effective session delivery in upcoming days. Till December 2024, 8939 students (male: 4184, female: 4755) had access to hygiene reach.

Achievement of HBC session:

- Students are washing their hands before eating, after touching dirt and after using toilet.
- Schools avoided junk food for the students in schools since it creates dirty environment and on the other, it is not allowed in three star declaration approaches.
- Proper disposal of waste in schools.

Activity # 3.2. Raise awareness for promotion of safety managed WASH-Day celebration, campaigns (World disability Day)

WASH Gains Project successfully conducted day celebration events such as world water day on 22 March, International Disability Day on 3rd December, World toilet day on 19th November where there was participation of students, teachers and local government representatives. Such events were marked organizing speech contest and quiz contest and provided prizes of stationery and hand washing soap to the winer students so that they can use it in their daily life, These events has supported to the students raising their awareness on the importance such events. In total there were total 726 participants (male: 342 and female: 386) in day celebration events.

Activity # 3.3. Training on caretakers for O & M of install facilities for sustainability

A one-day event of caretakers for operation and maintenance training has been organized in June and another one-day event has been organized in July 2024 inviting WASH focal teachers and school support staff of 33 schools. The objective of the event was to train for the regular operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in schools. In order to facilitate the session, plumber was hired as a trainer who carried out technical session with the support of equipment and materials. Hence this training has equipped well to the participants who committed for regular maintenance of WASH facilities in their schools. In total there were total 44 participants (male: 34 and female: 10) involved in the trainings.

Activity # 3.4. Child club formation/reformation and orientation.

To conduct this event, first of all, project staffs oriented to the teachers on Child Club Formation Procedure endorsed by the concerned LGs. They shared to teachers on required number of child club members, inclusiveness in terms of gender, ethnicity and disability. Later on, reformation was initiated in all 33 school by the teachers in April, May and June 2024 where total 634 girls,338.boys: 296 and 53 children with disabilities are involving in child clubs.

After the completion of child club reformation events in all schools, orientation to child club members was carried out on basic concept of Education Right like free and compulsory at basic level and free at secondary level which is provisioned by government of Nepal. In the same manner, they also shared the rights on education such as availability, accessibility, adoptability, acceptability and quality.

Activity 3.5 Awareness raising will be conducted through child club and Kishori clubs

Based on annual survey result, awareness raising has been conducted to child club and kishori club members to strengthen thier knowledge on Menstrual Health Hygiene Management (MHH) rights and

WASH rights. To conduct this event, first of all, there was brainstorming on proper management water, sanitation and menstrual hygiene. Based on their response staff of WASH GAINS project responded to clear them.

During intervention, the content pertaining to rights of menstruation hygiene management was displayed on chart. Kishories were oriented about the menstruation cycle through calendar method. The students were oriented on key 5 component of WASH rights-availability, accessibility, affordability, non-discrimination and quality of WASH facility.

Further, there was discussion with adolescent girls about the good participation on school activities such as asking question, writing on white board, participation on sport (playing games), replying answer, worship to the temple, working on kitchen. In total 33 events was conducted where there were 2046 total participants (male: 547 and female: 1499) participated in the event.

Achievement:

- Adolescent girls gained knowledge on menstrual cycle and keeping their record to manage their menstruation.
- Pad disposal practice in incinerator has been improved in schools.
- They are able to demand pad during menstruation event with male teacher confidently

Activity # 3.6. MPAC meeting at LG level.

MPAC meeting has been organized in all five Municipalities. In the meeting project team has shared project major implemented activities, updated progress, learning, challenges and way forward for the sustainability of the project. While organizing such events, project's annual detail budget during local level planning process and detail expenditure was shared for their information.

To upgrade schools as the 3 star schools, project team requested to concerned local government implement the policy level planning where those local government have made plan to upgrade schools as 3 star schools. Interaction also took place for the timely utilization of allocated budget on WASH in School and operation and maintenance sector. For the ownership of local government and schools, it was requested to representatives of those local governments and teachers to continue rights session through extra-curricular events and proper utilization of the recently constructed accessible and inclusive WASH & MHH facilities in 15 schools.

Other Achievement:

- Students of 21 schools and teachers are donating hand washing soap during their birthday.
- Adolescent girls are leading as the chairperson of 16 schools child clubs.
- There are 26 children with disabilities included in child clubs.
- Barbardiya Municipality and Thakurbaba Municipality has localized Operation and Maintenance Procedure which has been possible because of regular lobby and advocacy with those local government representatives.
- Child clubs have made action plan for regular sanitation campaign. As a result schools environment is more clean than previous days.

2.9 TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH NUTRITION (TLTN):

2.9.1 INTRODUCTION

The Transforming Lives through Nutrition (TLTN) program is a vital, integrated nutrition initiative designed to combat the persistent issue of malnutrition and improve the overall health and well-being of vulnerable populations in the Dang district of Nepal. Malnutrition remains a significant public health concern in the region, contributing to high rates of child morbidity and mortality, impaired physical and cognitive development, and poor maternal health outcomes. Recognizing this urgent need for comprehensive nutritional interventions, the TLTN program has been strategically designed to create

sustainable improvements in nutrition by addressing both immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition. The TLTN initiative takes a holistic approach, recognizing that malnutrition is a multi-dimensional issue influenced by food security, healthcare access, sanitation, education, and social norms. It goes beyond the traditional focus on food provision by integrating health services, capacity building, community engagement, and behavior change strategies to promote long-term improvements in nutritional outcomes. Furthermore, the program aligns with national nutrition strategies and global frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ensuring that local efforts contribute to broader, global commitments.

The program targets all the local level of Dang Districts; 7 rural municipalities (Rapti, Gadhawa, Rajpur, Banglachuli, Babai, Shantinagar, and Dangisaran), 1 municipality (Lamahi), and 2 sub-metropolitan cities (Tulsipur and Ghorahi), areas identified as having particularly poor nutritional indicators. These locations were selected based on a combination of factors, including high prevalence of acute malnutrition, limited access to healthcare services, socio-economic vulnerabilities, and local government priorities. By focusing on these high-need areas, the program aims to ensure that support reaches those who need it most; children under five, pregnant and lactating mothers, and families living in poverty.

By fostering collaboration among local governments, healthcare providers, and community stakeholders, the TLTN program aims to build a resilient, nutrition-sensitive health system. This approach not only addresses immediate nutritional needs but also strengthens the capacity of communities and health systems to prevent malnutrition in the future, ultimately transforming lives and paving the way for a healthier, more prosperous Dang district.

2.9.2 OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:

The objective of sproject is to enhance the capacity of Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and government health facility personnel through training and skill development to effectively manage and address acute malnutrition in children aged 6 to 59 months. This includes ensuring timely and accurate screening using Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC), height, and weight measurements, providing nutritional support like Super Cereal Plus to children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), and referring children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) to Outpatient Therapeutic Centers (OTCs) for comprehensive care and follow-up.

The project is designed to combat acute malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months and improve the wellbeing of mothers and infants through a multi-faceted approach. It emphasizes capacity building, community mobilization, nutritional support, and strengthening health systems. Below is a summarized breakdown of the project's key components:

1. Project Management:
   - Recruitment, orientation, and capacity-building training for staff.
   - Monthly review meetings for monitoring progress and reporting.

2. Project Orientation:
   - Meetings with the District Project Advisory Committee (DPAC) and Local Project Advisory Committees (MPAC/LPAC) across 10 local municipalities.

3. Capacity Building:
   - Training for 330 health workers and 942 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs).
   - On-site coaching to strengthen 10 Outpatient Therapeutic Centers (OTCs).
   - Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) training.
   - Specialized training for doctors and nurses on managing Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases with complications.

4. Mass Screening and Follow-up:
- Mobilization of staff and FCHVs to screen 36,521 children aged 6-59 months.
- Distribution of Super Cereal Plus to children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).
- Referral of SAM cases to OTCs and follow-up to ensure continued care.
- Coordination with health facilities and local authorities for referrals, admissions, and discharges.
- Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling for caregivers.

5. Regular Coordination:
- Ongoing meetings with Health Offices, Municipalities, and Health Facilities to track progress.
- Support for Provincial Health Logistics Management Centers (PHLMC).

6. Joint Monitoring:
- Collaborative monitoring visits with government and project staff to ensure accountability and track results.

7. Nutrition Review, Campaigns, and Governance:

- Support for nutrition review meetings, national campaigns (e.g., iodine month), and social audits.
- Mobilization of FCHVs for Vitamin A and deworming campaigns.

8. Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI):
- Training health workers from Bhim Hospital and four Primary Health Centers (PHCs) on MBFHI essential steps.
- Semi-annual review meetings to assess progress and challenges.
- Support for Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials.

9. Strengthening OTCs:
- Provision of essential equipment, training, and IEC materials to improve OTC service delivery.

10. Mass Media and Awareness:
- Development and dissemination of TV and radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and IEC materials to promote awareness about Breast Milk Substitutes (BMS).

The project follows a comprehensive strategy that combines capacity development, community engagement, and health system strengthening to tackle malnutrition sustainably.

2.9.3 Beneficiaries:

1. **Children (6-59 months)**: Children in this age group benefit from nutritional tests, support, and follow-up care to enhance their nutritional status and overall well-being.
2. **Mothers and Caregivers**: Mothers and caregivers receive individualized counseling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), with an emphasis on promoting good nutrition and care practices.
3. **Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs)**: FCHVs gain knowledge and skills through capacity-building initiatives, empowering them to address malnutrition and improve maternal and child health within their communities.
4. **Healthcare Personnel**: Healthcare personnel at government health facilities receive training on the Mother-Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI), which aims to improve the quality of healthcare services.
5. **Healthcare Facilities**: OTCs, NRCs, ECD Centers, ORCs, and EPI Clinics benefit from collaborative efforts and improved care quality through regular follow-up visits.

2.9.4 KEY INTERVENTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- An orientation program was conducted for staff and committee members of the BASE Organization to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for the Transforming Lives through Nutrition (TLTN) project.
- A three-day capacity-building training was held for BASE Organization staff to enhance their understanding of project orientation, Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), data entry into DHIS2, and proper use of forms and reporting formats.
- The inception meeting for the Transforming Lives through Nutrition (TLTN) project was held with key stakeholders to align on the project's vision and goals.
- Municipal Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) meetings were held across seven rural municipalities, one municipality, and two sub-metropolitan cities in Dang district to build a supportive environment among local stakeholders.
- A one-day refresher training on the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) was conducted in Dang District, reaching 555 health workers.
- IMAM training was conducted for 844 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) across Dang District to enhance their capacity in identifying, managing, and preventing acute malnutrition at the community level.
- Onsite coaching on IMAM was conducted across 18 health facilities providing outpatient therapeutic care (OTC) services, with 112 health workers participating.
- A mass screening campaign was organized for early detection and management of acute malnutrition in children aged 6 to 59 months. 25103 children were screened in Dang District.
- Orientation programs for the Mother and Baby Friendly Health Initiative (MBFHI) were conducted at four basic hospitals to equip healthcare workers with the necessary knowledge and skills for successful implementation of MBFHI.
- Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were broadcasted in collaboration with four radio stations in Dang District to increase public awareness about the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and educate communities on the risks of breast milk substitutes (BMS).

2.9.4 INTERVENTION:

2.9.4. INTERMEDIATE RESULTS:

1. Program Management:

2. Activity

2.1 Program Orientation:

An orientation program was conducted for the staffs and committee members of the BASE Organization (Backward Society Education) date on July 28, 2024 to equip them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and organizational information for the Transforming Lives through Nutrition project. The Executive Committee actively participated in the session, where staffs were briefed on key organizational policies, including the Code of Conduct, Gender, Child Protection, Staff Policy, Fringe & Benefits, and Job Descriptions. Appointment letters were also distributed. The project's objectives, planned activities, coordination with local stakeholders, report formats, budget, and other essential details were discussed by Project Coordinator Bharat Sharma, Executive Director Churna Bahadur Chaudhary, and Program Director Mrs. Pinky Dangi. After the orientation, each staff member developed an activity plan tailored to their designated working areas, facilitating smooth project implementation. Additional activities included coordination with health personnel and FCHVs, along with the collection and verification of baseline health demographic data for program planning and MUAC screening campaigns. These efforts are aligned with the organization's commitment to improving nutritional health and fostering sustainable development in the target communities.

Outcome: Program Orientation

Key Accomplishment

- Staffs were equipped with essential skills, knowledge, and organizational information to effectively implement the TLTN project.

- Staff were thoroughly briefed on the organization's policies, including the Code of Conduct, Gender, Child Protection, Staff Policy, and Job Descriptions, ensuring alignment with organizational standards and ethics.
- The project's objectives, planned activities, and coordination strategies with local stakeholders were clearly communicated, fostering a shared understanding among all staff.
- Each staff member developed a tailored activity plan for their respective working areas, facilitating organized and efficient project execution.
- Coordination with local health personnel and FCHVs was established, ensuring community-based health initiatives were integrated into the project.
- The collection and verification of baseline health demographic information were initiated to guide program planning and monitor nutritional health outcomes.

Challenges:

- Effective collaboration with local stakeholders can be hindered by logistical or cultural barriers.
- Gaps in staff skills and experience may challenge implementation, especially in remote areas.
- Collecting and verifying baseline health data may be difficult due to inconsistencies or reluctance from the community.

Opportunities:

- Continuous learning and mentorship can enhance staff skills.
- Strengthening relationships with communities fosters trust and collaboration.
- Baseline data enable informed adjustments and progress tracking.
- Collaboration with local health personnel and FCHVs facilitates smooth implementation.

Lessons learned

- Ensuring staff fully understand project objectives and policies are essential for successful implementation.
- Continuous training and mentorship improve staff performance and project outcomes.
- Building trust with local stakeholders and communities is critical for the project's success.

Activity 2.2 Capacity Building Training to staffs:

A three-day capacity-building training, organized by BASE Organization with technical support from Helen Keller International, took place from September 15th to 17th, 2024, at Metro Hospitality, Tulsipur-9, Doghare, and Dang District. The training aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of project orientation, Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), data entry into DHIS2, and proper use of forms and reporting formats, while also emphasizing mass screening activities for early malnutrition detection. Through interactive presentations, group discussions, and hands-on practice, participants, including Project Coordinators, Data Management Officer, Finance and Admin Officer, all 20 Community Mobilizers, and Executive board members along with senior management team of BASE Organization, gained practical skills and knowledge essential for effective program implementation. The training successfully enhanced data management capabilities, improved understanding of malnutrition management, and equipped participants to conduct efficient mass screening activities, contributing to better community health outcomes.

Outcome: Capacity Building Training to staffs

Key Accomplishments:

- Participants gained a clearer understanding of the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) approach for better malnutrition detection and management.
- The team developed practical skills in using DHIS2, ensuring more accurate and timely data reporting.

- Participants were trained on planning and conducting mass screenings, leading to earlier identification of malnutrition cases.
- Field staff became familiar with standardized forms and reporting formats, promoting consistency in data collection and program documentation.
- The interactive and hands-on approach increased participants' confidence and encouraged teamwork for more effective project implementation.

Challenges:

- **Limited Knowledge of DHIS2:** Some participants had little to no prior experience with the DHIS2 platform, making data entry a steep learning curve.
- **Language Barriers:** Technical terms and instructions presented in English created difficulties for participants more comfortable with the local language.
- **Time Constraints:** The extensive content, including IMAM, data entry, and reporting formats, was challenging to cover thoroughly within three days.
- **Varying Skill Levels:** The diverse background of participants meant differing levels of familiarity with nutrition programs and data management systems.

Opportunities:

- **Capacity Strengthening:** The training laid a foundation for future skill-building sessions, creating an opportunity for continuous learning and performance improvement.
- **Improved Data Accuracy:** With practical knowledge of DHIS2, staff can now ensure more accurate and timely data entry and reporting, leading to better program monitoring and evaluation.
- **Community Health Impact:** Strengthened mass screening skills empower staff to identify malnutrition cases earlier, contributing to improved nutrition outcomes in the community.
- **Enhanced Collaboration:** The interactive nature of the training fostered teamwork and knowledge sharing, encouraging a more connected and efficient field team.
- **Future Refresher Trainings:** The gaps identified in knowledge and skills open doors for targeted follow-up trainings, ensuring long-term competency and sustainability.

Lessons Learned:

- **Hands-On Practice is Essential:** Practical, interactive sessions especially for DHIS2 data entry proved far more effective than theoretical explanations alone, highlighting the importance of experience-based learning.
- **Local Language Support Enhances Understanding:** Explaining complex topics like IMAM and data management in the local language significantly improved comprehension and engagement among participants.
- **Tailored Content for Diverse Skill Levels:** The training showed that future sessions should be designed to accommodate varying skill levels, ensuring both beginners and experienced staff can benefit.
- **Time Management is Crucial:** Balancing comprehensive content delivery with practical exercises requires better time planning to avoid rushing through key topics.
- **Regular Follow-Up Strengthens Retention:** Periodic refresher training and on-the-job support are necessary to reinforce learning, ensuring long-term application of skills and improved program performance.

3. INTERMEDIATE RESULTS: Project orientation and Capacity Buildup for FCHVs and health worker.

Activity 3.1 District Project Advisory Committee (DPAC) Meeting:

The inception meeting for the Transforming Lives Through Nutrition (TLTN) project was held on August 16th, 2024, at City Plaza, Ghorahi, marking a significant milestone in the initiative aimed at improving

community nutrition in Dang District. The meeting, organized by the BASE Organization with support from Helen Keller International (HKI) and iDE, brought together key stakeholders to align on the project's vision and goals. The event featured presentations from the BASE Organization, HKI, and iDE, detailing their roles and interventions, fostering a shared understanding among participants. Mr. Nityananda Sharma, Chief of the Dang District Coordination Committee, chaired the meeting, emphasizing the local government's commitment to tackling malnutrition through collaborative efforts.

The meeting was attended by 50 participants, including project staff, government representatives, and members from HKI and iDE. Key discussion topics included ensuring the proper functioning of Inpatient Therapeutic Centers (ITC) for malnourished children, improving referral systems, addressing low birth weight in pregnant women, conducting radio programs to promote nutrition, and scaling up iron supplementation for adolescents to combat anemia. The meeting successfully oriented participants, set the foundation for effective implementation, and reinforced the collaborative spirit needed to achieve the project's mission of transforming lives through improved nutrition.

Outcome: District Project Advisory Committee (DPAC) meeting.

Key Accomplishments

- The meeting gathered 50 participants, ensuring alignment on the TLTN project's goals and fostering a shared commitment to its success.
- The presence of Mr. Nityananda Sharma, Chief of the Dang District Coordination Committee, reinforced the local government's commitment to the project.
- Critical topics such as ITC functionality, referral systems, maternal nutrition, and adolescent iron supplementation were thoroughly discussed.
- The meeting strengthened collaboration among diverse stakeholders, ensuring unified action for the project's success.
- Specific focus areas were established, including malnutrition treatment, low birth weight prevention, and anemia control among adolescents.

Challenges:

- Ensuring seamless collaboration among diverse organizations, government bodies, and local communities can be challenging.
- Limited availability of resources and infrastructure could hinder the effective implementation of nutrition interventions.
- Addressing traditional dietary practices and overcoming resistance to nutritional changes within the community may be difficult.

Opportunities:

- Strong community involvement can lead to better acceptance and sustainability of nutrition programs.
- Local government backing provides a valuable opportunity to integrate the project into broader health and development strategies.
- Leveraging mass media (like radio programs) to raise awareness about nutrition can drive significant behavioral change in the community.

Lessons learned

- A successful project requires clear communication and alignment among all stakeholders from the start, ensuring everyone is on the same page regarding goals, roles, and expectations.
- Strong partnerships between organizations, local government, and the community are essential for addressing complex issues like malnutrition. Collaboration fosters shared responsibility and accountability.
- The discussions highlighted the need for flexibility in adjusting strategies to fit local realities, whether in addressing cultural barriers or overcoming logistical challenges.
- Engaging local government leaders early in the process helps secure political and administrative support, which is crucial for project sustainability and long-term success.
- Ensuring community involvement throughout the project enhances acceptance and fosters a sense of ownership, making it more likely to succeed in the long term.

Activity 3.2 Municipal Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting

From 1st September to 22nd September 2024, the Municipal Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) meetings were held across seven rural municipalities (Rapti, Gadhawa, Rajpur, Banglachuli, Babai, Shantinagar, and Dangisarn), Lamahi Municipality, and two sub-metropolitan cities (Tulsipur and Ghorahi) in Dang district, with the technical and financial support of the BASE Organization. The meetings aimed to build a supportive environment among local stakeholders by securing their commitment to the effective implementation of the project. The diverse group of participants included Mayors, Deputy Mayors, municipal department heads, ward chairpersons, and health facility in-charges. 230 males and 77 females from different sectors were participated in the program. All stakeholders pledged their full cooperation and support, ensuring alignment with government objectives and promising their active involvement in the successful execution of the project for the benefit of the local community.

<u>Outcome:</u> Orientation/meeting with Municipal Project Advisory Committee (MPAC)

Key Accomplishments

- **Successful Coordination Meetings**: Completed meetings with participation from key local leaders, including mayors, deputy mayors, and health section heads from all 10 local levels.
- **Enthusiastic Support**: Local leaders expressed excitement about the project and committed to making their areas nutrient-friendly, recognizing its significance for the community.
- **Strong Support for SAM and MAM Focus**: Participants showed strong support for addressing Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in children aged 6-59 months, pledging to assist with the initiative.
- **Leadership Dedication**: Local leaders, including mayors, deputy mayors, and ward chairpersons, showcased their commitment to the project's success and pledged ongoing support.
- **Health Sector Engagement**: Health section teams and health post in-charges expressed strong support, ensuring their involvement in all stages of SAM and MAM case management.

Challenges:

- **Resource Constraints**: Limited resources and infrastructure may hinder the full implementation of nutrition programs at the local level.

- **Coordination across Multiple Levels**: Ensuring smooth coordination between local leaders, health sectors, and community members can be complex.
- **Cultural Barriers**: Overcoming traditional practices and beliefs around nutrition may be challenging for effective program adoption.

Opportunities:

- **Community Support**: Strong enthusiasm from local leaders and health workers creates an opportunity for successful program implementation.
- **Government Alignment**: The project's alignment with local government objectives provides a foundation for sustained support and integration.
- **Capacity Building**: The involvement of health post in-charges and local leaders presents an opportunity to build long-term capacity in managing nutrition-related issues.

Lessons learned

- Engaging local leaders and health sector representatives from the outset fosters commitment and creates a strong foundation for project success.
- Effective coordination between local government officials, health workers, and community leaders is crucial for seamless project execution.
- Strong community support and enthusiasm ensure the project is well-received and increases its chances of sustainability and impact.
- Involving local leaders and health post in-charges at every stage ensures the project aligns with local needs and promotes long-term success.

- Acknowledging and addressing local beliefs and practices around nutrition is essential for ensuring program acceptance and effectiveness.

4. INTERMEDIATE RESULTS: Capacity Buildup for FCHV and health worker

Activity 4.1 IMAM training to healthcare workers on early detection of malnutrition

A one-day refresher training on the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) was successfully conducted in Tulsipur, Ghorahi Sub-metropolitan City, Lamahi Municipality, and seven Rural Municipalities in Dang District, reaching 555 health workers across 30 batches. The primary aim was to enhance health workers' knowledge and skills in effectively managing acute malnutrition in children aged 6 to 59 months. The training covered key topics such as screening and diagnosis using tools like MUAC and weight-for-height, nutrition assessment, therapeutic feeding programs, management of complications, and referral mechanisms.

A participatory approach, involving presentations, group discussions, role-playing, and case studies, ensured that participants could apply the knowledge to real-world situations and improve their capacity to address malnutrition in their communities.

Participants Details:

The data on IMAM training participants shows that there are a total of 555 health workers across various localities in Dang District, with a majority being female (63.6%) and representing roles such as Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Health Assistants (HAs), and Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs). The number of doctors and nurses is relatively small, with just 7 doctors and 13 nurses. The training

participants are mostly concentrated in community health roles, with the largest numbers found in municipalities like Tulsipur SMC and Ghorahi SMC, which also have a higher proportion of female participants. The distribution indicates a strong community-based approach to managing malnutrition, with a clear emphasis on involving local health workers to address acute malnutrition.

SN	Local Level	Total	Gender		Health Workers Details						
			Male	Female	Dr.	Nurse	HA	ANM	AHW	FCHVs	Others
1	Babai RM	38	13	25	1	2	0	17	13	0	5
2	Banglachuli RM	43	17	26	2	1	0	18	15	0	7
3	Dangisharan RM	39	15	24	0	3	0	17	11	0	8
4	Gadhawa RM	62	22	40	2	0	0	19	25	0	16
5	Ghorahi SMC	96	36	60	0	2	0	45	27	0	22
6	Lamahi Municipality	38	11	27	0	0	0	17	10	0	11
7	Rajpur RM	31	8	23	0	0	1	17	10	0	3
8	Rapti RM	57	24	33	2	2	1	16	21	0	17
9	Shantinagar RM	35	11	24	0	2	0	14	10	0	9
10	Tulsipur SMC	116	45	71	0	1	2	46	39	0	28
	Grand Total	**555**	**202**	**353**	**7**	**13**	**4**	**226**	**181**	**0**	**126**

Table 2 Participants details of IMAM training to health workers

Outcome: IMAM training to healthcare workers on early detection of malnutrition

Key Accomplishments

- Successfully trained 555 health workers across 29 batches in Dang District on IMAM.
- Enhanced participants' skills in screening, diagnosing, and treating acute malnutrition in children aged 6 to 59 months.
- Improved knowledge on managing complications associated with malnutrition, including infections and dehydration.
- Provided hands-on training using practical tools like MUAC and weight-for-height for nutrition assessment.
- Fostered a participatory learning environment through group discussions, role-playing, and case studies.

Challenges:

- The diverse and remote locations of the municipalities made it difficult to ensure timely participation and access to training.
- Some health facilities faced shortages of essential therapeutic foods and tools required for effective IMAM implementation.
- Health workers had differing levels of prior knowledge and experience, which required tailored approaches during training.
- Ensuring consistent follow-up with trained health workers to assess the long-term effectiveness of the training proved challenging due to limited resources and time.

Opportunities:

- The training strengthened the ability of local health workers to manage malnutrition, improving community health outcomes.
- Increased interaction and sharing of experiences among health workers can lead to better coordination in managing malnutrition across municipalities.
- There is an opportunity to expand the IMAM program to more remote areas, further reducing malnutrition rates in the region.
- The training created awareness among health workers, who can now educate and engage communities on the importance of proper nutrition and early malnutrition detection.
- This initiative offers a chance to integrate IMAM more deeply into the health system, ensuring sustainability and long-term impact in combating malnutrition.

Lesson learnt:

- Customizing content to different knowledge levels enhances understanding and retention.
- Adequate therapeutic foods and screening tools are essential for effective IMAM implementation.
- Participatory approaches like group discussions and role-playing improve learning and real-world application.
- Regular monitoring ensures the long-term impact and effective application of knowledge.
- Engaging local communities and health systems strengthens the program's sustainability and integration.

Activity 4.2 IMAM training to FCHV on early detection of malnutrition

The Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) training was conducted for 844 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) across Dang District to enhance their capacity in identifying, managing, and preventing acute malnutrition at the community level. The training aimed to equip FCHVs with skills to screen children aged between 6 months to 59 months, counsel caregivers and parents on proper nutrition, and establish a functional referral system for severe and moderate acute malnutrition (SAM and MAM). Through participatory learning methods such as lectures, practical demonstrations, group discussions, and case studies, the training covered key topics like malnutrition types, screening techniques, management strategies, nutrition counseling, and monitoring. The training was organized in collaboration with local health offices and supported by BASE Organization.

Participants Details:

The IMAM training in Dang District saw a total of 844 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) from diverse ethnic backgrounds across 10 local levels. The majority of participants were from the Brahmin (452) and Janajati (328) communities, with a smaller representation from Dalit (43), Madhesi (17), Muslim (3), and Other (1) groups. The highest number of participants was in Ghorahi SMC (186) and Tulsipur SMC (194), which are major urban centers, while other rural areas like Gadhawa R.M (81) and Banglachuli R.M (51) also had significant participation. This ethnic and geographical diversity in the training ensures that the program is inclusive and can address the nutritional needs of various community groups across Dang District. The broad representation also highlights the potential for reaching different social segments with tailored health interventions.

Local Level	Brahmin	Janajati	Dalit	Madhesi	Muslim	Others	Total
Babai R.M	41	8	4	0	0	0	53
Banglachuli R.M	19	26	6	0	0	0	51
Dangisharan R.M	23	27	0	0	0	0	50
Gadhawa R.M	30	36	5	6	3	1	81

Ghorahi SMC	114	64	8	0	0	0	186
Lamahi Municipality	18	45	3	0	0	0	66
Rajpur R.M	21	16	6	9	0	0	52
Rapti R.M	20	42	0	2	0	0	64
Shantinagar R.M	34	10	3	0	0	0	47
Tulsipur SMC	132	54	8	0	0	0	194
Grand Total	**452**	**328**	**43**	**17**	**3**	**1**	**844**

Table 3 Participants details of IMAM training to FCHVs

Outcome: IMAM training to FCHVs workers on early detection of malnutrition

Key Accomplishments

- Successfully trained 844 FCHVs from all 10 local levels of Dang District, equipping them with essential skills to identify, manage, and prevent acute malnutrition in the community.
- FCHVs gained a deeper understanding of the causes, consequences, and management of acute malnutrition, including practical skills in screening and identifying malnourished children using MUAC tapes and weight-for-height assessment.
- Participants were trained on effective counseling techniques to advise caregivers on exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and dietary diversity, thus strengthening community-level nutrition practices.
- A structured referral system for managing severe and moderate acute malnutrition (SAM and MAM) was established, ensuring proper case management and referral to health facilities when necessary.
- The training improved FCHVs' ability to engage and communicate effectively with the community, thereby strengthening their role in promoting better nutritional practices and early detection of malnutrition.
- The training fostered closer collaboration between FCHVs, local health offices, and BASE Organization, ensuring ongoing support and follow-up in the fight against acute malnutrition.

Challenges:

- Insufficient equipment and infrastructure for effective malnutrition management.
- Difficulty reaching remote areas due to logistical challenges.
- Maintaining consistent engagement and tracking progress.
- Overcoming cultural barriers and lack of awareness about nutrition practices.
- Challenges in maintaining accurate records and timely reports.

Opportunities:

- Enhancing integration of FCHVs with health facilities for better referral systems.
- Empowering local communities through well-trained FCHVs.
- Utilizing mobile platforms for better reporting and case monitoring.
- Expanding collaborations with other organizations and agencies.
- Extending training to other community workers and local leaders.
- Launching awareness campaigns to promote better nutrition practices.

Lessons Learned:

- Effective community-based interventions require strong relationships between FCHVs and the communities they serve. Active community involvement enhances the success of malnutrition management programs.
- Practical demonstrations, role-plays, and real-life case studies are vital for ensuring that FCHVs not only understand the theory but can also apply their knowledge in real-world settings.

- Successful programs depend on strong partnerships between local health offices, organizations like BASE, and the community. Cross-sectoral collaboration ensures better resource sharing and support.
- Training alone is not enough; continuous follow-up, mentorship, and refresher courses are necessary to maintain FCHVs' engagement and effectiveness over time.
- Accurate reporting and monitoring are critical for tracking progress, yet many FCHVs faced challenges in maintaining proper records. Simple, accessible tools and better training on data management can improve this.
- Nutrition programs must consider local customs and beliefs. Tailoring messaging to respect cultural practices while promoting healthy behaviors helps in gaining community acceptance.
- Mobile technology and digital tools can greatly improve reporting, monitoring, and communication, extending the program's reach and efficiency in rural areas.

Recommendations

- Regular refresher training sessions should be conducted to reinforce knowledge and skills.
- Provide FCHVs with adequate supplies of MUAC tapes and counseling materials for effective fieldwork.
- Establish a monitoring mechanism to track the performance of FCHVs in identifying and managing malnutrition cases.

Activity 4.4 Support health workers through onsite coaching to improve capacity of health workers for OTCs:

The onsite coaching on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), conducted by BASE Organization with support from Helen Keller International, took place across 18 health facilities providing outpatient therapeutic care (OTC) services. A total of 112 health workers participated, with 34 males and 78 females, representing various roles such as Health Assistants, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, and Animal Health Workers. The training aimed to enhance the capacity of health workers in managing acute malnutrition through practical coaching, with a significant focus on local participation. The program successfully engaged a diverse group of health professionals, highlighting the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in tackling malnutrition at the community level.

The majority of attendees were female (69.6%), with Health Assistants (HA) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) comprising the largest groups, reflecting their key roles in community-based malnutrition management. Males, primarily Animal Health Workers (AHW), made up 30.4% of the participants. The training reached a broad spectrum of health workers, with a focus on frontline staff rather than high-level specialists, such as doctors or nurses, who were underrepresented. Participation varied across 18 health facilities, with larger facilities like Gadhawa Health Post and Bagar Primary Hospital having more participants, while smaller posts had fewer attendees. The training successfully engaged health workers from both rural and urban areas, ensuring a wide-reaching impact on local health systems and emphasizing the importance of gender-responsive approaches in community healthcare.

S. N.	Health Facilities	Total	Gender		Health Workers Details					
			Male	Female	Dr.	Nurse	HA	ANM	AHW	Others
1	Hasipur HP	4	0	4	0	0	0	2	1	1

S. N.	Health Facilities	Total	Gender		Health Workers Details					
			Male	Female	Dr.	Nurse	HA	ANM	AHW	Others
2	Bagar Primary Hospital	11	7	4	1	1	0	1	1	7
3	Bagmare HP	6	2	4	0	0	0	2	2	2
4	Banglachuli Hospital	9	4	5	1	0	0	4	3	1
5	Bela HP	7	1	6	0	0	0	4	2	1
6	Dabar BHU	4	1	3	0	0	0	3	0	1
7	Dhanauri H.P	5	1	4	0	0	0	3	1	1
8	Gadhawa H.P	12	4	8	1	0	0	4	5	2
9	Gobardiya BHSC	4	1	3	0	0	0	3	1	0
10	Gobardiya H.P	7	3	4	0	0	0	3	2	2
11	Hekuli H.P	5	3	2	0	0	0	1	2	2
12	Khangrahanaka CHU	3	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	0
13	Kolahi UHC	4	1	3	0	0	0	3	0	1
14	Panchakule H.P	9	0	9	0	0	0	6	3	0
15	Purandhara H.P	4	1	3	0	0	0	3	0	0
16	Satbariya H.P	6	1	5	0	0	0	5	0	1
17	Shantinagar HP	6	2	4	0	0	0	3	1	2
18	Sonpur H.P	6	1	5	0	0	0	4	1	1
Grand Total			**112**	**34**	**78**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**56**	**26**

Table 4 Participants details of onsite coaching at OTC

Key Accomplishment

- Trained 112 health workers from 18 health facilities on practical skills for managing acute malnutrition.
- Engaged a multidisciplinary group, including Health Assistants (HA), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), and Animal Health Workers (AHW).
- Ensured 69.6% female participation, reflecting the vital role of women in community healthcare.
- Strengthened partnerships between BASE Organization, local health facilities, and Helen Keller International for technical support and sustainability.
- Extended knowledge and skills to both urban and rural health facilities, enhancing malnutrition management services in remote areas.

Challenges:

- Some smaller health facilities had fewer participants, likely due to staff shortages, limiting the reach of the training.
- Low participation of doctors and nurses may hinder comprehensive medical oversight in severe malnutrition cases.
- Health workers balancing routine services alongside the training may face difficulty applying new skills consistently.
- Facilities may lack essential supplies, equipment, or follow-up support to fully implement IMAM protocols after the coaching.

Opportunities:

- Strengthened knowledge among Health Assistants (HA) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) ensures better early detection and management of malnutrition at the community level.

- High female participation fosters more inclusive, community-trusted healthcare delivery, especially for maternal and child nutrition services.
- The partnership with Helen Keller International and local health bodies creates opportunities for continued technical support, supervision, and resource mobilization.
- The coaching model can be expanded to more remote facilities, ensuring wider coverage and improved management of malnutrition across the region.
- Engaging local governments and health facilities paves the way for sustained capacity building, policy support, and integration of IMAM into routine health services.

Lesson Learned

- Health Assistants (HA) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) are crucial for effective malnutrition management.
- High female participation highlights the importance of empowering women in community healthcare.
- Partnerships with local facilities and local government ensured better support and sustainability.
- Onsite, facility-based coaching improved learning and immediate application of skills.
- Skill-building must be paired with adequate supplies and equipment for full implementation.
- Regular follow-up and refresher training are essential for lasting impact.

5. INTERMEDIATE RESULTS: Mobilization of staff, FCHVs and Health Worker for the screening

Activity 5.1 Conduct mass screening camps for early detection and management of acute malnutrition

The mass screening campaign was organized by BASE Organization, in collaboration with local health sectors and other stakeholders, with technical support from Helen Keller International under the Transforming Lives Through Nutrition (TLTN) program, is a significant step toward combating malnutrition in Dang District, Nepal. The campaign focuses on the early detection and identification of malnutrition in children aged 6 to 59 months, a particularly vulnerable group. By utilizing MUAC (Mid-Upper Arm Circumference) tapes, the screening identifies children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), both of which are critical health conditions requiring urgent attention. SAM and MAM are key indicators of under nutrition, and early identification is vital for timely intervention, which can significantly reduce mortality and morbidity rates among children.

The comprehensive nature of this campaign, involving the mobilization of Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), health workers, and community mobilizers, ensures that the screening is wide-reaching and inclusive. These community-based health professionals are key assets in ensuring that the campaign reaches all 10 local levels of Dang District, which is essential for covering the entire target population. Their involvement also promotes local ownership of the program, empowering communities to take part in tackling malnutrition.

The collaboration with Helen Keller International adds a layer of technical expertise, ensuring that the screening tools and methods are applied correctly and that the data collected can be used effectively for further intervention and monitoring. Such technical support also strengthens the capacity of local health systems, making the intervention more sustainable in the long run.

The campaign not only identifies children at risk but also serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about malnutrition and its long-term effects. It acts as a gateway for families to access essential nutrition services, including therapeutic feeding and nutrition education. Moreover, the involvement of various stakeholders in the campaign, including local authorities, health workers, and community leaders, underscores the importance of a multi-sectorial approach to tackling malnutrition. This approach is essential for creating a more integrated and comprehensive response to nutrition-related challenges in the community.

Overall, this mass screening campaign is a vital initiative in Dang District that contributes to the broader goal of improving nutrition outcomes for children in Nepal, reducing malnutrition, and ultimately transforming lives through better health and nutrition. The ongoing commitment of the involved stakeholders will likely lead to sustainable improvements in child health and nutrition in the region.

<u>Outcome:</u> Conduct mass screening camps for early detection and management of acute malnutrition

Within the period we have successfully screened 25103 children in Dang District which reveal that the majority of children aged 6 to 59 months across the 10 local levels are categorized as having normal nutritional status, with a total of 24,091 children in this group. However, there are notable cases of malnutrition, with 32 children identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 980 children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), signaling areas of concern in child nutrition. The distribution of malnutrition cases shows a slightly higher prevalence of MAM in males compared to females, while SAM cases are equally distributed between genders. The screening highlights that while severe malnutrition is relatively rare, there is still a significant portion of the child population in Dang District facing moderate malnutrition, indicating a need for targeted interventions to address MAM and prevent the progression to SAM. The collaboration between various local health sectors, community mobilizers, and stakeholders has facilitated a wide-reaching campaign, ensuring that vulnerable populations are identified and can receive timely nutrition support.

Summary of Mass Screening Result:

- The majority of children screened (over 46%) have normal nutritional status, with a slightly higher number of females than males.
- Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) affects both genders equally, with no gender disparity in this critical condition.
- Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is more prevalent in males, with 61.5% of MAM cases identified in male children compared to 38.5% in females. This suggests that male children in Dang District are more likely to suffer from moderate malnutrition.

	Normal			**SAM**			**MAM**		
Local Level	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Babai RM	845	1040	1885	1	2	3	96	52	148
Banglachuli RM	686	772	1458	1		1	29	20	49
Dangisaran RM	462	575	1037	3		3	68	38	106
Gadhawa	1117	1207	2324	6	2	8	57	43	100

RM									
Ghorahi SMC	2231	2514	4745		1	1	82	69	151
Lamahi Municipality	1338	1545	2883		1	1	32	19	51
Rajpur RM	597	699	1296	2	3	5	37	21	58
Rapti RM	1043	1198	2241	2	4	6	68	35	103
Shantinagar RM	641	756	1397		1	1	37	27	64
Tulsipur SMC	2201	2624	4825	1	2	3	96	54	150
Grand Total	11161	12930	24091	16	16	32	602	378	980

Table 5 Mass Screening camping result:

Key Achievements

- The campaign successfully screened children aged 6 to 59 months across all 10 local levels of Dang District, identifying a total of 24,091 children with normal nutritional status, 32 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), and 980 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).
- The data revealed gender-specific trends in malnutrition, with slightly more females identified with normal nutritional status, while male children were more likely to suffer from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), representing 61.5% of the total MAM cases.
- SAM was equally distributed between male and female children, with 50% of the SAM cases affecting each gender, highlighting that both genders are equally vulnerable to severe malnutrition in the district.
- The screening involved a wide range of community health workers, including Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and local health workers, ensuring effective community-based participation and ownership of the campaign.
- The campaign's findings will allow for targeted interventions, such as nutrition support and educational programs, especially for male children who were more affected by moderate malnutrition, thereby contributing to improved child health outcomes in the district.

Challenges:

- The higher prevalence of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in males suggests that targeted interventions may be required to address this gender-specific issue.
- While SAM cases were low, identifying and addressing severe malnutrition early remains a challenge due to the risk of it progressing unnoticed.
- Ensuring the proper use of screening data for effective, timely interventions at the community level can be a logistical challenge.

Opportunities:

- The identification of MAM cases in males presents an opportunity to develop specific nutritional support and education programs for this group.
- The active involvement of local health workers and FCHVs can be leveraged for sustained, community-based nutrition interventions.
- The data from this campaign can inform future health policies and strategies aimed at reducing malnutrition in Dang District, particularly through continued monitoring and follow-up programs.

Lesson learned:

- Active involvement of Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), health workers, and community mobilizers significantly improved outreach and participation. The success of the

campaign highlighted the importance of engaging local communities in health interventions to ensure broad coverage and trust.

- The higher prevalence of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in males emphasizes the need for gender-specific nutrition programs. Tailoring interventions based on gender and local needs can lead to more effective outcomes in addressing malnutrition.
- While the number of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases was low, early identification of SAM is vital to prevent further complications. Timely screening and interventions can help reduce the risk of severe malnutrition progressing.
- The screening data provided valuable insights into the nutritional status of children, underscoring the importance of collecting and analyzing data for informed decision-making. The data will be useful for future health interventions and policy formulation.
- Strengthening the capacity of local health workers and community-based resources during the campaign ensures long-term sustainability. Continued training and support for these individuals are essential for maintaining nutrition programs in the future.

6. INTERMEDIATE RESULTS: Mother Baby Friendly Hospital initiative (MBFHI):-

Activity 6.1 Provide technical support to scale up MBFHI Standard

The implementation of the Mother and Baby Friendly Health Initiative (MBFHI) under the Transforming Lives Through Nutrition (TLTN) project in Dang district was a significant step toward enhancing the quality of maternal and child healthcare in the region. The orientation programs conducted at the four basic hospitals; Banglachuli Basic Hospital, Gadhawa Health Post (proposed to be Gadhawa Basic Hospital), Rapti Basic Hospital, and Hapure Primary Hospital; were crucial in equipping healthcare workers with the necessary knowledge and skills for the successful implementation of MBFHI.

These orientations, organized by BASE Organization in collaboration with local authorities and hospital management committees, took place over two days at each hospital. The schedule for these programs was as follows:

- Banglachuli Basic Hospital: December 17-18, 2024
- Rapti Basic Hospital: January 30-31, 2025
- Gadhawa Health Post: February 11-12, 2025
- Hapure Basic Hospital: February 13-14, 2025

The technical support provided by Helen Keller International added significant value to the program, ensuring that the health workers were trained in the latest techniques and strategies related to infant and maternal health. This collaboration between local health authorities, BASE Organization, and Helen Keller International reflects a strong, multi-stakeholder approach to improving healthcare services and ensuring sustainability in the long term.

By enhancing the capacities of healthcare workers in these hospitals, the MBFHI orientation programs aim to improve the overall healthcare environment for mothers and babies, promoting better practices in breastfeeding, nutrition, and infant care. Such initiatives are critical to

achieving better health outcomes in communities, particularly in remote districts like Dang, where healthcare resources and training opportunities may be limited.

Moving forward, it will be essential to monitor the progress of MBFHI implementation, assess the effectiveness of these orientations, and ensure continuous support and training for health workers to uphold the standards established during the orientation sessions. Through these efforts, the TLTN project can contribute to lasting improvements in maternal and child nutrition and health in Dang district.

The below is a detailed table summarizing the participants in the MBFHI training across various municipalities in Dang District:

S.N	Municipality Name	Venue	Total	Gender		Health Workers Details					
				Male	Female	Dr	Nurse	HA	ANM	AHW	Others
1	Banglachuli Rural Municipality	Kamirechaur Hospital (Kavra HP)	17	8	9	0	2	1	1	5	6
2	Rapti Rural Municipality	Rapti Basic Hospital, Sishaniya	13	6	7	0	3	0	1	5	3
3	Gadhawa Rural Municipality	Gadhawa Health Post	12	5	7	0	2	0	0	4	3
4	Babai Rural Municipality	Hapure Primary Hospital	11	1	10	0	0	2	1	6	2
Grand Total					53	20	33	0	7	3	3

Table 6 Participants details of MBFHI Implementation at basic hospital

Outcome: Provide technical support to scale up MBFHI Standard

Key Accomplishment

- Four orientation sessions were conducted for healthcare workers across Dang District, covering key health facilities and training professionals in MBFHI standards.
- A total of 53 healthcare workers, including doctors, nurses, and other health professionals, were trained in maternal and child health practices, ensuring broad participation from key health sectors.
- BASE Organization, local authorities, and hospital management committees collaborated closely to ensure the orientations were relevant, well-organized, and impactful.
- Helen Keller International provided essential technical support, enhancing the quality and accuracy of the training, ensuring alignment with international standards.
- The training laid the foundation for sustainable improvements in maternal and child healthcare, equipping facilities to implement MBFHI standards and create supportive environments for mothers and babies.

Challenges:

- Many health facilities in Dang District face constraints in terms of infrastructure, equipment, and resources, which may hinder the effective implementation of MBFHI standards.
- The remote location of some health facilities makes it challenging to provide consistent training and follow-up support, leading to difficulties in maintaining quality practices over time.

- Insufficient healthcare staff, particularly in rural and remote areas, can limit the capacity to implement the MBFHI standards effectively, especially if the trained professionals are overburdened with other responsibilities.
- Socio-cultural beliefs and practices around maternal and child health may hinder the acceptance of new practices like breastfeeding and nutrition, requiring continued community sensitization.
- Ensuring long-term adherence to MBFHI standards and continuous monitoring can be challenging without a structured follow-up system and adequate resources for regular assessments.

Opportunities:

- By implementing MBFHI, there is a significant opportunity to improve maternal and child health outcomes, reducing malnutrition and promoting optimal breastfeeding practices.
- The training of healthcare workers presents an opportunity to build long-term capacity in the local health system, fostering a skilled workforce capable of delivering high-quality healthcare services.
- Engaging local communities and health workers in the MBFHI initiative provides an opportunity to raise awareness and shift cultural norms towards more supportive practices for mothers and infants.
- Continued collaboration with organizations like Helen Keller International and local stakeholders can create a sustainable model for healthcare improvement, leveraging additional expertise and resources.
- The MBFHI program presents an opportunity to strengthen the overall health system, contributing to more resilient and self-sufficient healthcare facilities capable of providing high-quality maternal and child care over time.

Lessons Learned

- Effective partnerships with local authorities and hospital committees are vital for sustainable implementation.
- Adapting training to the local context and needs ensures better engagement and practical application.
- Identifying and addressing resource limitations early helps ensure smoother implementation, especially in remote areas.
- Continuous follow-up and monitoring are necessary to maintain MBFHI standards and support long-term adherence.
- Raising awareness within local communities is essential for shifting cultural attitudes and ensuring the acceptance of new health practices.

Recommendations

- Scale up training programs to include all hospital staff and extend to peripheral healthcare facilities.
- Establish a robust system for monitoring breastfeeding practices and maternal and newborn health outcomes.
- Strengthen partnerships with local stakeholders to expand community outreach and support systems.
- Allocate additional resources for infrastructure development, such as more breastfeeding corners and lactation consultants.

7. INTERMEDIATE RESULTS: Develop and disseminate TV and radio PSA and other IEC for BMS awareness

7.1 Activity PSA Broadcasting through local FM/radios:

सामुदायिक रेडियो हापुरे ९४.४ मेगाहर्ज
COMMUNITY RADIO HAPURE 89.4 MHz.

A targeted campaign was launched to address challenges to optimal breastfeeding practices, such as misconceptions, aggressive BMS marketing, and lack of awareness among caregivers. The initiative aimed to increase public awareness about the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, educate communities on the risks of BMS, and promote compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. Helen Keller International developed key messages and Public Service Announcements (PSAs), which were broadcasted in collaboration with four radio stations in Dang District (Hapur FM, Radio Tulsipur, Madhyepaschim FM, and Radio Sajha Aawaj). The PSAs highlighted the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding, risks of BMS use, and encouraged seeking professional advice, airing multiple times daily to reach a broad audience.

Name of Radio	Broadcasting times per day	Broadcasting schedule
Hapur FM	8 times	Morning, Day and Evening
Radio Tulsipur	8 times	Morning, Day and Evening
Radio Sajhaawaj	10 times	Morning, Day and Evening
Madhyepaschim FM	6 times	Morning, Day and Evening

Key Accomplishment

- Successfully raised awareness about the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, emphasizing its benefits for infant health.
- Collaborated with four radio stations in Dang District to broadcast PSAs, ensuring broad outreach across multiple communities.
- Educated caregivers and communities about the risks associated with BMS use, such as malnutrition, infections, and poor development.
- Highlighted the legal provisions and penalties related to unethical marketing of breast-milk substitutes, encouraging adherence to the International Code of Marketing.
- Fostered a successful partnership between BASE Organization and Helen Keller International, enabling the production and dissemination of impactful IEC materials through radio broadcasts.

Challenges:

- Misconceptions and cultural barriers make changing breastfeeding practices difficult.
- Aggressive BMS marketing undermines exclusive breastfeeding efforts.
- Limited access to healthcare professionals for proper breastfeeding support.
- Lack of awareness about legal protections against unethical BMS marketing.
- Financial constraints limit the scope of educational campaigns.

Opportunities:

- Community engagement can shift attitudes and promote breastfeeding.
- Collaboration with local media amplifies campaign outreach.
- Policy advocacy can strengthen BMS marketing regulations.
- Expanding healthcare support provides caregivers with better breastfeeding advice.
- Leveraging technology could reach a broader, tech-savvy audience.

Lesson Learned

- Partnering with local radio stations proved to be an effective way to reach a broad audience, especially in rural and remote areas, where access to other forms of media may be limited.
- Repeated, clear, and consistent messaging about the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding and the risks of BMS use is essential for changing behaviors and dispelling misconceptions.
- Engaging with local communities and caregivers helps address cultural barriers and misunderstandings, fostering a more supportive environment for breastfeeding.
- Educating the public about the legal framework surrounding BMS marketing can empower communities to challenge unethical practices and advocate for better breastfeeding support.

- Limited resources necessitate creative approaches, such as utilizing local radio and digital platforms, to maximize impact within budget constraints.

2.10 ENHANCE ECONOMIC RESILIENCE OF TARGETED VULNERABLE INDIGENOUS GROUPS:

2.10.1 INTRODUCTION:

BASE Organization (Backward Society Education) implemented the project **'Enhance Economic Resilience of targeted vulnerable indigenous groups**' in both (Godawari Municipality and Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City) municipalities from April 15, 2024 to September 15, 2024 to address the livelihood issues of the key identified indigenous and vulnerable groups such Dalit, Tharu, Janajati in both municipalities that face challenges due to natural and human created disasters; like floods, landslides, hailstorms, hurricanes, droughts and also because of a lack of business and coordination skills. Moreover, those people are also the most vulnerable due to access to limited resources and other factors. These poor and marginalized people are dependent on the agriculture sector for their livelihoods, and the challenges that come from climate change are significant for them and their way of life. Consequently, the primary approach is to increase the vulnerable populations' income sources in the municipalities. The number of marginalized people who need to develop economic resilience from income generation has been decided through consultations and discussions with the local governments. The project aims to empower these communities through capacity-building training and demonstrations of farm and off-farm enterprises, including mushroom cultivation, organic fertilizer and pesticide production, pickle preparation and plantation of fruits (Citrus/Banana). By enhancing the livelihoods of these communities, the project seeks to build resilience and promote prosperity among the vulnerable populations of Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City and Godawari Municipality.

2.10.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- To promote economically resilient farm and off-farm enterprises in collaboration with the public and private sectors.
- Establish linkage with municipalities and key market actors for the sustainability of proposed enterprises in two municipalities.

Highlights of the Year

- A total of 42 participants attended the inception meeting at Godawari Municipality, while 27 participants joined the meeting at Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City. The meeting established coordination and collaboration, creating a conducive environment for the successful implementation of the project.
- BASE Organization conducted comprehensive mushroom production training at Godawari Municipality, Kailali and Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City, Dang where 25 participants in Godawari Municipality and 30 participants in Tulsipur. The training was divided into three days, blending theory and practice.
- Training on vermi-compost production and organic pesticides (Jholmol 2 and 3) was held in Godawari Municipality Kailali where 30 farmers attended and similarly in Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City with 25 farmers. Participants received hands-on support and feedback, concluding with positive responses and confidence in using the new methods.
- Pickle-making training took place at Godawari Municipality, and at Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan Municipality. The training aimed to teach farmers how to produce value-added products from locally available fruits and vegetables, helping them to generate a sustainable income. There were 25 females in Godawari Municipality and 27 participants in Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City.
- Training on hygienic cooking business was conducted with a total of 38 participants attending the training sessions in both Godawari and Tulsipur.
- BASE has delivered short-duration fruit crop training focusing on citrus and banana and has supported 250 citrus saplings in Godawari, and 192 citrus saplings and 390 banana suckers in Tulsipur, covering over 1 hectare of land across both locations.

- BASE conducted "Start and Improve Your Business" (SYIB) training 2024, in Godawari and Tulsipur, with a total of 50 participants.
- BASE organized training on enhancing post-harvest practices for better pricing and market linkage. A total of 40 participants attended the sessions.
- BASE organized an interactive meeting in Godawari and Tulsipur to promote private sector engagement in enterprise development, climate change adaptation, branding, and marketing of organic products. The event was attended by 49 participants (24 female), including 7 municipal representatives, 9 traders, 4 entrepreneurs, and 29 farmers.
- BASE Organization organized a one-day observation visit for farmers in Godawari and Tulsipur. Participants explored demonstrated practical vermicomposting techniques where 44 participants attended the observation.
- A joint monitoring visit was conducted with officials from Godawari municipalities led by the Deputy Mayor of Godawari and in Tulsipur led by the Mayor. The visit aimed to assess the progress of agricultural projects and the impact of farmer training. Farmers shared their experiences, and the municipality discussed further support, including distributing mushroom seeds.
- BASE organized learning and sharing workshops in Godawari Municipality and Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City with 39 participants.

2.10.3 PROGRAM PROGRESS:

1. **Project Inception Meeting**: The inception meeting of the project "Enhance the Economic Resilience of targeted vulnerable indigenous groups" was held on 29 April 2024 in Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City Dang and on May 2, 2025 in Godawari Municipality. The participants included the Mayor, Deputy Mayors, and Chief Administrative Officers, ward chair persons, sectorial officers and BASE level wise committee members. The presentation included objectives and discussed budgets along with expected results of the project. It was also shared that the project will benefit 200 vulnerable indigenous group members. 25 participants (14 from palika, 8 from BASE and 3 from USAID's Tayar Nepal) in Tulsipur and in Godawari 41 participants (28 from palika, 5 from BASE and 4 from Tayar Nepal and 3 from Rupantaran Nepal) have been oriented on the project detail information including budgets and beneficiaries.

Tika Ram Khadka, Mayor of Tulsipur SMC giving his remarks

Mushroom training in Godavari

2. **Mushroom production in plastic house enterprise**

The training on off-season mushroom production in a plastic house in Godawari Municipality and Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City achieved several key milestones. Participants were successfully educated on constructing and managing a plastic house, preparing substrates, and handling the inoculation, incubation, and harvesting processes. The practical sessions significantly enhanced their technical skills and confidence in adopting the new technique. Analysis of participant reactions revealed a positive reception, with farmers appreciating the hands-on approach and the detailed

Mushroom training in Tulsipur

guidance provided throughout the training. The pre-test scores indicated a limited understanding of mushroom cultivation techniques among the participants. However, post-test results demonstrated substantial knowledge gains, reflecting the effectiveness of the training. Overall satisfaction was high, with participants expressing enthusiasm for implementing the techniques learned and recognizing the potential for increased income and productivity. The training not only empowered farmers with new skills but also fostered a community of practice eager to explore sustainable agricultural innovations. The training in Godawari Municipality-6 Fakalpur was organized on June 6 to 8, 2024 where 25 (24 female and 1 male) attended. Similarly the training in Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City-10 Paddha was conducted on June 16 to 18, 2024 with 30 female participants.

3. **Production of organic fertilizer (vermi-compost, composting technologies), organic pesticides (Jholmol) enterprise.**

The training on vermi-compost and organic pesticides (Jholmol) preparation achieved significant milestones in enhancing agricultural practices among participants. The course comprehensively covered the biological processes of vermicomposting, including substrate selection, earthworm management, and compost harvesting techniques. Participants demonstrated a notable improvement in their understanding and application of vermicomposting principles, evidenced by their ability to set up effective vermicomposting systems and produce nutrient-rich compost. Similarly, the training on Jholmol preparation emphasized sustainable pest management strategies using locally sourced materials like cow urine and organic additives. Pre-test assessments indicated a baseline understanding, while post-test results revealed substantial knowledge gains and practical skills development. Participant satisfaction was high, with positive feedback highlighting the practical relevance and hands-on approach of the training. Farmers expressed enthusiasm for integrating these organic farming techniques into their practices to improve soil health, reduce chemical dependency, and enhance crop productivity. Overall, the training not only empowered participants with valuable skills but also fostered a positive outlook towards sustainable agriculture, paving the way for broader adoption of eco-friendly farming practices in the community. The training in Godawari-7 was conducted on June 10, 2024 with 30 (19 female and 11 male) participants. Similarly the training in Tulsipur-15 was conducted on June 6, 2024 with 25 (7 female and 18 male) participants.

Vermi compost training in Godawari

4 Pickle businesses (Mango, Amla, Vegetables etc.):

BASE Organization conducted an extensive training and demonstration session on pickle preparation on 14th and 15th June 2024 at Godawari Municipality, Ward No. 9, Sehari and 27th and 28th June 2024 at Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan, Ward No. 13, and Fulbari. The event aimed to empower local farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to create and utilize pickles effectively. 52 farmers gained in-depth understanding of pickle preparation using locally available materials. Detailed information was provided about various types of pickles, their preparation methods, and the importance of maintaining hygiene throughout the process. Farmers participated in hands-on sessions where they prepared pickles under the guidance of an expert trainer. Participants learned

Organic pesticides (Jholmol) training Tulsipur

techniques for cutting, salting, dehydrating, mixing spices, and jarring pickles, ensuring they could replicate the process independently. The training highlighted the economic potential of pickle making, encouraging farmers to consider it as a viable small-scale business. Farmers were educated on proper hygiene and safety practices to prevent contamination and ensure high-quality products. Before the training, many participants were unaware of the detailed process and potential benefits of pickle preparation. They expressed curiosity and eagerness to learn new techniques that could improve their livelihoods. After the training, participants showed a significant increase in confidence and knowledge about pickle making. They appreciated the practical, hands-on approach and the comprehensive coverage of both technical and business aspects. In Godawari 25 female and in Tulsipur 27 female participants attended the training.

5 Hygienic Cooking Business (Bistro services) enterprises

BASE Organization conducted an extensive training and demonstration session on hygienic cooking business on July 17th and 18th, 2024, at Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City Ward No. 2, and on July 10th and 1th, 2024, at Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan, Ward No. 6. The training aimed to equip local entrepreneurs and aspiring cooks with the necessary knowledge and skills to establish and maintain a successful hygienic cooking business.

Pickle making training in Godawari

The training achieved several key milestones. First, it significantly enhanced the participants' understanding of hygienic cooking practices. They received detailed information on the importance of cleanliness in food preparation, proper food handling, and storage techniques to prevent contamination. Additionally, participants learned various cooking techniques that prioritize hygiene, including the use of safe food ingredients, maintaining a clean cooking environment, and adhering to health and safety standards. Participant reactions were overwhelmingly positive and highlighted areas for training improvement. During the training, participants were highly engaged, asking questions and actively participating in discussions. Overall, feedback from the participants indicated a high level of satisfaction with the training. Many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn new skills and improve their existing practices.

6. Saplings and planting material support for commercial Plantation of fruit crops (citrus/banana)

BASE Organization conducted an extensive training and demonstration session on citrus and banana cultivation on June 15, 2024 at Godawari Municipality, Ward No. 10, and Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan, Ward No. 1 on July 7 , 2024 Banana and ward 19 on July 22, 2024. The event aimed to empower local farmers with the knowledge and skills needed for effective cultivation of citrus and banana crops. 50 (25 Tulsipur & 25 Godawari) farmers gained comprehensive knowledge on citrus and banana cultivation, including planting, irrigation, fertilization, and pest management. Detailed information was provided on the selection of citrus varieties, soil preparation, and the ideal climate

Citrus training and plant distribution

conditions for optimal growth. Before the training, many participants were unaware of the detailed processes involved in citrus and banana cultivation. After the training, participants showed a significant increase in confidence and knowledge about citrus and banana cultivation. Participants expressed satisfaction with the training, highlighting the value of practical demonstrations and expert guidance. The positive feedback and increased confidence among participants suggest that the practical, hands-on approach was highly effective.

7. Start and Improve business of Indigenous groups.

BASE Organization conducted an extensive training session on 'Start and Improve Your Business' on July 22 & 23, 2024 at Godawari Municipality, Ward No. 2, and July 24 & 25, 2024 at Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan, Ward No. 6, Dang. The event aimed to empower local entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills needed to start and improve their businesses. Key achievements included a comprehensive understanding of business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, and customer relationship management. The training aimed to address the knowledge gaps and uncertainties participants had regarding starting or expanding their businesses. Participants learned to create detailed and feasible business plans, which are crucial for guiding business growth and securing funding. Before the training, many participants reported feeling unsure about how to structure their business plans, manage finances, and market their products or services. The pre-test revealed a general lack of confidence and practical knowledge in these areas. After completing the training, participants showed a marked increase in confidence and understanding of key business concepts. Participants expressed high levels of satisfaction with the training, particularly appreciating the practical, hands-on approach. In total 50 (25 Godawari & 25 Tulsipur) small entrepreneurs attended the training.

8. Establish linkage with stakeholders and market for sustainability of Enterprises in Godawari and Tulsipur municipalities.

BASE organized an interactive meeting in Godawari to promote private sector engagement in enterprise development, climate change adaptation, branding, and marketing of organic products. The event was attended by 49 participants (24 female), including 7 municipal representatives, 9 traders, 4 entrepreneurs, and 29 farmers. During the meeting, traders highlighted the need to focus on increasing production volume rather than marketing efforts, as the region currently relies heavily on agricultural imports from outside areas, particularly from the Godawari and Tulsipur market. They emphasized that local production must be boosted to meet demand, suggesting that marketing concerns should be secondary at this stage. Traders also encouraged farmers to reach out to them directly when they have agricultural products to sell.

Start and Improve Your Business Training group photo

9. Promote private sector engagement in the above business, climate change adaptation, branding, and marketing of organic products.

On August 3, 2024, BASE Organization held a dynamic program at Hotel Suvidha, Godawari 2 and similarly the program conducted on August 15, 2024 aimed at promoting private sector engagement in key agricultural sectors, including mushroom production, organic fertilizers (vermicomposting), organic pesticides (Jholmol), pickle making, citrus plantation, climate change adaptation, branding and marketing of organic products. The event was attended by 18

Mr. Bharat Kunwar, a vermicomposting specialist, offering valuable insights into the opportunities in organic fertilizer production at Godawari-2. Kailali

dedicated participants in Godawari and 11 in Tulsipur from the fields of mushroom cultivation, vermicomposting, pickle making, and citrus plantation, along with distinguished guest experts who shared their knowledge and experiences.

The program featured a dynamic interactive session where participants engaged directly with the experts, posing questions on market opportunities, production hurdles, and local support resources. This vibrant exchange of ideas was crucial for addressing specific issues and offering practical, tailored solutions. The event effectively encouraged collaboration between farmers and entrepreneurs, boosting participants' knowledge and passion for their fields. Through expert insights and meaningful discussions, attendees gained valuable strategies to enhance their businesses and navigate evolving market demands.

10. Observation and learning sharing visit for beneficiaries.

On August 6, 2024, in Godawari and on August 12, 2024 in Tulsipur, BASE Organization facilitated an enriching observation and learning visit in Tulsipur, providing participants with valuable insights into various agricultural practices. Participants explored the pickle center, banana farming, mushroom farming, citrus farming and vermin-composting production. This visit was a remarkable opportunity for participants to gain hands-on experience and expert knowledge across multiple agricultural domains, enhancing their understanding and enthusiasm for their respective field. In total 22 (19 female and 3 male) in Godawari and 22 (16 female and 6 male) participants attended the observation visit.

Farmers getting valuable knowledge on vermicomposting techniques during visit at Tulsipur-3,

11. Support Post-harvest for better price and market linkage.

BASE Organization conducted a one-day training session on post-harvest management for better price and market linkage on August 2, 2024, in Godawari Municipality and on August 5, 2024, in Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City. The primary goal of the training was to enhance participants' understanding of effective post-harvest practices to reduce losses, maintain product quality, and improve market connections. The training achieved several key milestones. Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of post-harvest management techniques, including optimal harvesting, handling, storage, and quality control. This knowledge is crucial for extending the shelf life of produce and minimizing post-harvest losses. Additionally, the training provided valuable insights into market linkage strategies, helping participants identify potential buyers, set competitive prices, and negotiate effectively. Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees appreciated the clarity and relevance of the theoretical content, which they found applicable to their own agricultural practices. Many participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn new techniques and strategies that they believe will enhance their market position and overall profitability. However, some participants suggested that future sessions could be further enriched by incorporating practical demonstrations to complement the theoretical knowledge. A total of 20 (17 female and 3 male) in Godawari and 21 (15 female and 5 male) participants attended the meeting.

Post-Harvest for Better Price and Market Linkage in Godawari

12. Organize Joint monitoring visit with Municipalities.

On September 10, 2024, a joint monitoring visit was conducted with officials from Godawari municipalities, led by the Deputy Mayor of Godawari. The visit aimed to assess the progress of agricultural projects and the impact of farmer training. Farmers shared their experiences, and the

municipality discussed further support, including distributing mushroom seeds. The team visited a mushroom demonstration house, where participants showcased their knowledge, and later visited Sheri to observe pickle production activities. The municipality committed to assisting with business registration and scaling efforts, even purchasing pickles to encourage the participants' work. On September 14, 2024, a joint monitoring visit was held, led by the Mayor of Tulsipur. The team visited a mushroom demonstration house in Paddha and a vermicomposting site, where farmers displayed their expertise. Discussions focused on expanding mushroom cultivation and vermicomposting, with the municipality pledging to provide resources for scaling these initiatives. The visit highlighted the positive impact of the training, and the municipality expressed a commitment to further supporting these profitable and sustainable agricultural ventures. 16 (3 female and 13 male) in Godawari and 15 (11 female and 4 male) participants attended the joint monitoring visit.

13. Municipality-level learning sharing workshop

On September 11, BASE organized a learning and sharing workshop in Godawari Municipality with 24 participants, including the deputy mayor, ward members, and beneficiaries from mushroom, vermicomposting, pickle, and fruit plantation groups. The deputy mayor emphasized the municipality's commitment to continuing the program post-USAID Tayar Nepal project, despite resource challenges. Success stories were shared, such as Mrs. Raj Kumari Chaudhary, who sold over 20 kg of mushrooms for Rs. 8,000. However, concerns were raised about sustainability, particularly regarding group registration, product branding, and marketing. On September 14, a similar workshop was held in Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City with 29 participants, including the Mayor, ward officials, and group beneficiaries. The Mayor pledged continued collaboration for economic resilience after the Tayar Nepal project phases out. Mrs. Sabita Chaudhary shared her success, having sold over 10 kg of mushrooms for Rs. 3,000. Despite these achievements, participants raised concerns about sustainability, highlighting challenges in group registration, branding, and marketing, especially for pickle products.

Discussing with community after visiting the mushroom demo in Tulsipur -10 Paddha

Challenges

- Maintaining an optimal temperature for mushroom growth was difficult, as the extreme heat of 45°C created an environment that was too hot for the mushrooms to thrive.
- The high temperatures caused rapid evaporation, leading to challenges in maintaining the necessary humidity levels within the plastic house.
- Due to limited training sessions, most of the group's members have not fully acquired the knowledge and skills to start commercial production and create a business.

Learning sharing workshop in Godawari

Lessons Learnt

- Implementing better shading techniques, such as using additional layers of shade nets, helped in reducing the internal temperature of the plastic house.
- Installing ventilation systems improved airflow, helping to regulate temperature and humidity levels more effectively.
- Frequent monitoring of temperature, humidity, and potential contaminants allowed for quicker responses to adverse conditions, reducing the risk of crop loss.

Success Story of a Successful Pickle Entrepreneur: Dropati Roka

My name is Dropati Roka, and I live in Damar Village, Ward No. 13 of Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City. My life took a difficult turn when my husband tragically passed away in a vehicle accident in 2015 B.S. Since then, I have struggled to raise my two children and meet their daily needs and educational expenses due to my challenging financial situation.

I initially worked as an office helper at a nearby school, earning a monthly salary of approximately NPR 6,000. This income allowed me to cover my children's basic educational costs. However, as they advanced to higher grades, the school fees increased, and my salary was no longer sufficient. Consequently, I had to leave the job.

During this period of unemployment, I learned about the USAID Tayar Nepal Project, which was organized by the Base Organization in collaboration with Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City, under the program *"Enhance Economic Resilience of Targeted Vulnerable Indigenous Groups."* I attended a pickle-making training session in Ward No. 13, Ambapur, facilitated by Base Organization. Alongside 27 other participants, I received extensive training from our instructor, Bishnu Thapa, on making various types of pickles, including mango, lemon, radish, carrot, fish, and meat pickles. I was also honored to be chosen as the group leader.

In addition to the pickle-making training, I participated in other valuable sessions offered by the USAID Tayar Nepal Project and Base Organization, including start and improve your business, post-harvest training and observation visits. Since completing the pickle-making training, our group has successfully produced 15 to 55 kg of different types of pickles, generating an income of NPR 15,000. We still have stock remaining, including fish, meat, and mixed vegetable pickles.

Looking ahead, our goal is to legally register our group and expand the pickle business to a commercial scale, enabling us to become fully self-employed. We also hope to receive support from the local government to help us achieve this vision.

For women like myself, who were once limited to household chores and gathering firewood, this project has been life- changing. We are deeply thankful to the USAID Tayar Nepal Project for their financial support, to Base Organization for their training and guidance, and to Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City for giving us this opportunity to become independent and self-sufficient. We sincerely hope for continued support as we move forward.

Success Story of a Successful Pickle Entrepreneur: Bimala Kumari Chaudhary

My name is Bimala Kumari Chaudhary, and I live in Sheri, Godawari Municipality, and Ward No. 9. In the year 2070 B.S., my father left for India with another woman, leaving my mother to raise us. She worked as a cleaner in a hotel to support us. When I turned five, I was sent to another house in the village, where I began taking care of cows for a living.

At around 8 or 9 years old, I moved to Chaumala Bazar, Mahendranagar, Dhangadhi, where I worked as a bonded laborer, or *Kamlari*, in someone else's house. Fortunately, in Baishakh 2075 B.S., an organization called Mukta Kamaiya Mahila Bikas Manch rescued me. They enrolled me in a hostel at Shree Saraswati Madhyamik Vidyalaya, allowing me to escape bonded labor.

Though my childhood was spent working instead of studying, I was given the opportunity to attend school, but I was only able to complete up to grade 8 before getting married in 2061 B.S. in Sehan. Now, I live in a joint family, and my husband works at a private shop in Gandaki.

Recently, I have learned a lot through various observation tours and training programs, including pickle-making training. With a group of 25 women, we have produced 40 to 50 types of pickles, selling up to

NPR 35,000 worth of products. We now have a stock of 50 to 60 different raw materials, and in the future, we plan to register our organization and expand it to a larger scale.

Before this, many of us were confined to household chores and had no employment opportunities. Thanks to the USAID Tayar Nepal project, BASE Organization, and Godawari Municipality, we were able to gain valuable skills, financial support, and business opportunities. I am deeply grateful for this support and hope to continue receiving your guidance and love in the future.

2.11. STRENGTHENING THE MARKET DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM FOR CLEAN COOKING IN NEPAL:

2.11.1 INTRODUCTION:

BASE Organization has been implementing the Strengthening the Market Development System for Clean Cooking project in five districts (Dang, Banke, Kapilvastu, Rupandehi, and Nawalparashi) of Lumbini province. The project is funded by SNV/EnDev. The project duration is 11 months (Aug 2024 to Sep 2025). The project is supporting for easy access in clean (electric) cooking to the urban and rural communities. This project is supporting to prevent environment pollution through protection of firewood from the jungle. The project is also contribute the targets of SDG 7 that include reduction to 30 percent from nearly 54 percent the households who primarily use firewood for cooking and limiting the use of LPG to less than 40 percent of the households.

2.11.2 THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROGRAM:

1. Environment protection by reducing the use of firewood from jungle for cooking.
2. Easy access for clean (Electric) cooking for making clean kitchen and healthy food.
3. Support to increase consumption of electricity that is produced in Nepal.
4. Support to decrease the import of LPG and save Nepalese rupees, that is being export.

2.11.3 KEY INTERVENTIONS OF THE PROGRAM:

Procurement of Clean Cooking sets for demonstration and awareness purpose:

SN	District	Date	Local Level	Participants		
				M.	F.	Total
1	Banke	17-Dec-2024	Khajura RM	22	19	41
2	Dang	24-Oct-2024	Dangisharan RM	27	13	40
3	Dang	17-Dec-2024	Babai RM	19	20	39
4	Dang	19-Dec-2024	Shantinagar RM	26	12	38
5	Kapilvastu	22-Sep-2024	Yashodhara RM	38	14	52
6	Kapilvastu	19-Dec-2024	Suddodhan RM	31	7	38
7	Kapilvastu	22-Dec-2024	Mayadevi RM	32	20	52
8	Nawalparasi (West)	23-Sep-2024	Bardaghat Mun.	29	14	43

9	Nawalparasi (West)	26-Sep-2024	Ramgram Mun.	23	12	35
10	Nawalparasi (West)	20-Dec-2024	Sarawal RM	32	9	41
11	Rupandehi	27-Sep-2024	Sainamaina Mun.	24	9	33
12	Rupandehi	27-Dec-2024	Kanchan RM	26	13	39
Grand Total				**329**	**162**	**491**

Five sets of clean cooking sets (Induction cooktops BALTRA Lunar BIC-149, Presser Cooker 3 liter and Kadai 24 CM/2 liter) has purchased. These five sets cooking material are hand over to project working all District Market Development Officers. The cooking set are using for demonstration and awareness purpose at palika and community level. The demonstration during palika level inception meetings and community level awareness has been done that has made the stakeholders understand about its functions and efficiency as well as its safety at the time of use in the kitchen.

Printing of installation forms, materials, and safety manuals (IEC Materials):

Cooktops installation forms are required for Result Based Financing (RBF). Costumer details including the copy of citizenship need to be kept for the record and incentive payment. So for this record keeping purpose, five thousand copies of installation forms have been printed. The forms are delivered project working districts to the Market Development Officers (MDOs) to provide to the Last Mile Distributers (LMDs).

Along with the installation forms, Safety manuals (IEC Materials) also required for community awareness and safety audits in the community. SNV/EdDev has provided five thousand safety manuals (IEC Materials). Beside this BASE also printed two thousands safety manuals (IEC Materials) and provided to the MDOs to the respective districts.

Inception meeting in Babai RM Dang

Inception Meeting at the Potential Palikas:

Twelve events of the Project Inception meeting has been carried out. Out of 12 inception meetings, Banke has 1 event, Dang 3 events, Kapilvastu 3 vents Nawalparashi (Bardaghat Susta Paschim) 3 events and Rupandehi district has 2 events. The objectives of the palika level meeting was to introduce to the local governments about the project, its objectives and modality along with the importance of electric cooking cooktops for house household usage. Power point presentation was made during the orientation program. During the inception meetings, demonstrations of electric cooking were also undertaken.

S.N.	District	# of events	Participants		
			M	F	Total
1	Banke	9	266	312	578
2	Dang	8	67	137	204
3	Kapilvastu	10	136	201	337
4	Nawalparasi (West)	8	116	117	233
5	Rupandehi	3	78	51	129
	Grand Total	**38**	**663**	**818**	**1481**

The participants of the meeting included Mayor/chairpersons, Deputy Mayors/vice-chairpersons, ward Chairpersons, executive members and chief administrative officers, and officials of local governments as well as representatives of Federation of Forest User Groups, representatives of community forest user groups, cooperatives. In total 491 (male 329 and female-162) participants attended in the meetings.

Overall impression of the inception meeting remained good and fruitful. The local governments particularly Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chairpersons, ward chairpersons, Chief Administrative Officers, Federation of Community Forest User Groups, Cooperatives have taken the program positively and made their commitments to allocate some budget for the program and collaborate.

Demonstration and BCC events, Safety Audits and other community level events:

In order to promote and introduce about the E-cooking solutions as well as create the enabling environment for electric cooktop and for behavior change, demonstrations at community level has been conducted. Introduction of the project, status of E-cooking in Nepal in Nepal and cost effectiveness as well as interaction was under taken during the demonstration. It was also shared about the use of induction cooktops. Till Dec 2024, total 38 events of demonstration were carried out in the project working districts where 1481 people (male 663 and female 818) attended in the demonstration events.

Before the demonstration, there were dilema to the community people about the risk of using e-cooktops and it has been cleared to the community people after the demonstration. The participants of the demonstration included government officials, community people and cooperative members.

Installation of clean (Electric) cooking for access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services:

Retailor	Total
Siru Vai I.C.T. Pvt. Ltd, Nawalparasi	100
Clean Engery and Environment Development Center , Tulsipur Dang	150
KP Byabasayik Sewa Pvt. Ltd, Surkhet	99
Nepal Store Banke	348
Sushant Bijuli Bhandar	85
New Nava Durga General Store Kapilvastu	12
Belbase Bhanda Pasal Kapilvastu	100
Sarita Electricals Kapilvastu	88
Lamsal Electronics Kitchen and Multi-Traders Rupandehi	402
Sathi International Rupandehi	333
Grand Total	**1717**

Till December 2024, total 1717 Households has installed Induction stove. The most number (735 households) of cooktops are installed in Rupandehi District. Induction cooktops 2nd large number installed in Banke-532 HHs. Like this Kapilvastu district has supported to installed 200 HHs. Dang district has supported to installed 150 HHs cooktops and Nawalparashi Bardaghat Susta West district has supported to installed 100 HHs cooktops. Supplier wise cooktops installation information is as follows in the table-

Co-financing with Local levels and Community Forestry User Groups (CFUGs):

The project always focused for co-financing with other stakeholders and line agencies. The project has succeeded for co-financing NPR. 8949000.00. 9 CFUGs contributed NPR. 4749000.00 and Local level governments contributed NPR. 4200000.00. During the working period most of the CFUGs are interested for co-financing for supporting to install the clean (Electric) cooking stove. The CFUG were interested for invest the fund for protecting the jungle firewood for cooking. In previous time, CFUGs have experience for investing improved cooking stoves, wind fan cooking stoves and bio-gas installation. After launching the Strengthening the Market Development System for Clean Cooking project, CFUGs and Local government showed interest for co-financing for supporting to install clean (Electric) cooking

District	Contribution
Nawalparasi (West)	1700000.00
Rupandehi	788500.00
Kapilvastu	1000000.00
Banke	5460500.00
Grand Total	**8949000.00**

for their consumers. Fifteen line agencies {9 CFUGs, 2 Palikas (Khajura RM Banke and Yashodhara RM Kapilvastu) 1 Kachanapur Gramin Budhutiya Upabhokta Samuha, Rapisonari RM-3 Banke, and Ramgram Mun. ward- 1, 2, and 3) have co financed in this project.

2.12 SMILING CHILDREN SCHOOL FEEDING PROJECT:

2.12.1 INTRODUCTION OF PROJECT:

Nepal is one of the developing country where majority of the people are from poor economic background. Mostly high mountainous and hilly regions are mostly affected due to low production. Also there is high poverty rate in plain lands due to monsoon rain and natural disasters. Due to lack of nutritional food Nepalese people are suffering from malnutrition and food insecurity. Likewise, school reading children in mostly community schools suffer of hunger as they lack money for buying tiffin and attend class without having lunch thus rate of under-weight rate of school children below 12 years is high.

Smiling Children School Feeding Program in Nepal is being implemented in 13 schools of Dang district of Lumbini Province from the academic year 2079 BS (2022-2023 AD) by BASE organization through the financial support of China Foundation for Rural Development.

The project has targeted students of the community schools from ECD to grade 6 in line with the Nepal government. This project is focused to support the day meal program being implemented by the government in community schools. With the support of the program in those schools direct beneficiary are getting nutritious and healthy food, also the indirect beneficiary like schools also has increment of students and there will be no more dropout numbers, parents no more have to face economic burden, mothers don't need to spend time preparing meals for their children, meal preparing mothers are paid daily wages that has been support for their family income as a whole all have been directly or indirectly benefitted. As a result the community schools have better students' attendance and education too.

2.12.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

With the long term goal of hunger reduction for school children, enhancing quality education the project specially aims to;

- Reduce child hunger and promote nutrition and health of school reading children.
- Improve learning ability of school children by promotion of their physical and mental well-being.
- Increase the attendance rate and reduce dropouts.
- Job opportunity for financially weak local women to earn their livelihood
- Give education to parents, school committee, community, local entity regarding the importance of child nutrition, good health, sanitation and quality education.

2.12.3 KEY INTERVENTIONS OF THE PROJECT:

Financial orientation meeting: On 19 April, 2024 BASE Organization conducted a Financial Orientation and review meeting among the teachers of beneficiary schools. There were total 25 participants including principals and focal teachers. Mr. Cham Bahadur Chaudhary, Finance Officer of BASE Organization facilitated and oriented about financial reporting systems, timelines formats as well as documentation for the financial management. Similarly, each schools shared the updates status that were discussed together among the team to make common understanding.

Project Management Orientation: BASE team received an orientation on financial management and documentation from CFRD country office on 22 April, 2024 that was facilitated by Mr. Utsarg Sapkota. It was an online session for staff who have learnt about documentation of both program and finance.

Project Review meetings: On 31st May, 2024 BASE Organization invited School Management Committee Chairpersons and Principals of 13 beneficiary schools with an aim to review about daily meal

status in the schools. Total 29 participants including SMC Chairpersons, Principals, and BASE team attended the meeting. During the meeting BASE team shared each school's financial expenses status and students' data. We provided case story collection format and asked schools to provide every month. The school team shared that students prefer haluwa very less than other meals so they suggested to change it from daily meal. In addition to that BMI of student's collection was also discussed and then staff visited schools to collect them.

Project sharing and discussion meetings: A team from CFRD Headquarter, Beijing and Nepal Country office visited Dang and monitored the beneficiary schools. After their schools observation, on 4 July, 2024 we had a joint sharing and discussion meeting regarding the projects funded by CFRD. The meeting was joined by CFRD Nepal Program Manager Mr. Deepak Regami, Program Officer Mr. Brijesh Shrestha, CFRD China Program Manager Mr. Zhang Shongue and Ms. Dai Ling. During the meeting, BASE Organization Program Director Ms. Pinky Dangi updates about the project activities as well as admin cost that was managed only until August 2024 within the grant whereas the project period is up to March 2025.

CFRD team recommended adjusting admin cost on the other grant agreement with CFRD. We discussed about the Kitchen Facility Support Program too. This support is intended to provide to Shree Janashramik Primary School of Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city ward no. 5 Dang as pilot and this was agreed by all the team. During this meeting, we kept the suggestion on revision of meal menu that was kept by schools but haluwa is among the nutritious meal so BASE and CFRD discussed to keep it on the meal schedule for the time being.

Review meeting: There was a review meeting called on 22 August, 2024 to discuss about the issues related to daily attendance record, meal record, quality photo, documentation of meal with the schools. The meeting was joined by BASE's ED, PD and FO too. Total 31 participants including SMC Chair and Principal were in the meeting. SMC chairpersons asked to join them on the messenger groups and it was done. We reviewed meal menu and among the team and shared to CFRD for approval.

Monitoring review: A team of funding organization CFRD visited Dang district to monitor the beneficiary schools and daily meal. After their observation, we had a monitoring review meeting on 13 September, 2024 at BASE office. The meeting was joined by BASE's PD Ms. Pinky Dangi, PC, Mr. Nar Bahadur Chaudhary, along with CFRD PO, Mr. Brijesh Shrestha, PO, Mr. Asif Hasan and FO, Ms. Reji Mananadhar. CFRD team shared their opinions from their visits that there was satisfactory daily meal management in all schools. They found that the meals were served smoothly and orderly. Schools were in a good track.

In addition to their positive comments they also asked BASE team to prepare the proposal of Youth Vocational Training Program and Kitchen Facility Support Program and send to CFRD for approval.

2.12.4 LESSONS LEARNT:

- Daily meal in the community schools has fed many of the hungry students stomachs as most of the children in such schools come from poor economic backgrounds
- School meal has contributed to bring students regular and concentrate on the studies than before
- Parents have less financial burden to manage daily school meals money for their children
- It has contributed to improve nutrition conditions of the children
- Knowledge and skills of schools team has improved on financial management, reporting and documentation
- Mothers engaged in daily meal preparation have got income generation opportunities as well as utilize their time and skills. If this support does not continue most of the mothers are going to face economic challenges whereas some of the mothers would be able to utilize their cooking skills further by operating small food shops
- Parents expect to continue the school meal for their children
- Schools feel that it will be challenging to manage daily meal within government's fund (NPR 15) which is too less to maintain hygiene and nutritious meals every day

- Local government expects to continue the meal support from CFRD until government provisions better funds for daily school meals. Daily meal support has developed ownership of the local government as they have contributed funds to cover grade six into daily meal support with their own funds
- Discontinuation of meal support from CFRD may effect to students numbers and daily attendance of students into community schools.

Case Studies/ Success Story

Story 1; Siblings from different mothers do not have to stay hungry due to daily school meals
Riya Bhusal, Dangisharan rural municipality-6, Dang

Riya Bhusal is 13 years old student of grade six in Shree Bhanu Secondary School of Dangisharan 6, Prasadhuwa Dang. She is a daughter of Mr. Keshav Bhusal and Mrs. Kamal Bhusal. But her mother has left her husband and married to another person. Her father is a driver in Nepalgunj, Banke. Riya has younger brother Dipsan Bhusal from second (step) mother who lives with her and studies in the same school at grade five.

Currently both of the children are living in Prasadhuwa with their father who usually comes to see them from Nepalgunj because the second mother is also not with them neither they know where she currently is. Riya used to study in Salyan staying at her maternal uncle's home before. She then came back to Dang with her father and started studying in Bhanu School from grade four. She shared, "While I was studying in previous school in Salyan there was very little meal served in the school. Milk was not there in the meal neither fruits. In this school we have varieties of foods and milk every day. It's much better here. Among daily meals I love Chana (chickpeas) and egg most. Other foods are also tasty and good for us. I feel so good to be in this school because we don't have to stay hungry in the school. If here was not this meal then I and my brother would be appetizing because we would not be able to bring anything from home. Our father stays away and mothers are not with us to prepare food for us."

Riya is attempting her final exams of grade six and planning to visit her mother during school holidays after exams. Her mother lives in Ghorahi with her second husband. She feels bad for herself and friends as they will not get school meal from grade seven. She also said that if BASE and CFRD stop funding their school then her brother and other children will not such good meals in the school. Riya wants to get engaged in good job and her brother wants to become an army in future. We wish their aims come true.

Story 2; Grateful for school meal support that has let an earning opportunity
Mrs. Indira Sharma, Shantinagar rural municipality-7, Dang

Mrs. Indira Sharma, 29 years, is a mother of two kids studying in Shree Madhyamik School in Shantinagar -7, Dang. Her daughter studies in grade two and son in nursery. Her husband Mr. Dambar Sharma lives in home as he is a disable person and can't work. Indira has been one of the mothers engaged in preparing meals in Shree Madhyamik School from the beginning of school meal support from BASE and CFRD. She is from Salyan district and her parents married her to Dambar in Dang.

Indira's in laws separated them from family so they are living in Duvichaur village in a different home. She has responsibility of three (husband and two kids) so she is engaged as cook mother in the school. This is the only income for her family. She said, "I am grateful to both organizations and this school for letting me make daily meal for students. This is the only income from which I fulfill the needs of my husband and kids. Husband is unable to earn. My parents got me married to such disable person and now

I have two kids for whom I am the only person to earn. School pays us NPR 400 every day which is like NPR 4000 to us. Before I got this work, I used to stay at home and worry so much about my family. Since I have started making this earning, it has helped to manage our basic livelihood."

Indira and other mothers have learnt making varieties of meals which they cook and serve students every day. According to her, children love chowmein and egg the most and haluwa the least. At the beginning some of the students did not drink milk but now all of them do. She also feels that since students have started taking meals in school they fall less sick than before. She shares; parents of the students are very pleased to see their children getting fed at schools. They are worried hearing that CFRD may not fund for meal onwards. Parents are afraid that their children would leave schools if they don't get meals as now.

She added, "We have heard that this meal program may not continue and we are very sad. We are worried for students and ourselves too. Some of the students come hungry for they get meal here and no one is there to feed them at home. Those children will be in very miserable condition. I will also lose my earning. I am going to face many challenges if this job is continued. I can't go away for earning because my husband can't do anything by himself and mu kids are too young. Neither I have savings to start own business. I am completely blank how my life will be if this program does not continue."

2.13 Market-led Enterprise Promotion through Access to Finance and Partnership with Private Sector (Uddhyami Project.

Background:

BASE has successfully implemented Market-led Enterprise Promotion through Access to Finance and Partnership with Private Sector (Uddhyami Project in Bardiya (Thakurbaba and Bara Bardiya Municipality of Lumbini province. The project was technically and financially support by Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LWR). The project was started from 1st Feb 2024 to 30 Sep 2024. The project has been run with a total budget of NPR NPR.5943396.99, aims to access and engagement to youth in the sector of agriculture, food security and livelihood through strengthening employment generating sustainable enterprises incubating small businesses and established linkage of the entrepreneurs to service providers, market actors, financial institution and regulating agencies. This will support to overcome the problems of 60 % of the population in Nepal still dependent on agriculture as primary source of their livelihood; despite lots of effort to modernize it, agriculture. There is limited improved technologies have been adopted and only few sectors have been commercialized. The major push factor in migrating abroad for low paying unskilled jobs. Only 46 % of the population has access to functional financial services. Lack of financial literacy among the aspirant entrepreneurs hinders their capacity to access the loan from the banks and education system itself is very theoretical and doesn't impart any employable skill to the children while graduating the school forces youths to get engaged into unskilled occupation after high school graduation if the parents are not able to afford expensive higher education.

Highlight:

- Conducted Entrepreneurship Development Training for 150 youths.
- Build Technical Skills on Different Enterprises for 150 youths.
- Conduct Training on Marketing for 150 youths.
- Provide business incubation support for 150 youths.
- Support in Preparation of Business Plan for 150 youth.
- Direct participants of the project are those participating in the key project activities such as training and inputs support. So far 150 participants are directly involved in training activities of which 107 are women and 43 are men. Indirect beneficiaries are 975 people from the family of the direct beneficiaries.

- Throughout the coordination and collaboration, we observed several unexpected results, our project's entrepreneurship development approach and combination of activities are liked by local governments representatives and has been adopted the approach while finalizing their annual programs, which supported entrepreneurs holistically (strengthen technical skills, support inputs, access to finance and market.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT:

The major objectives of the project are:

- Strengthened employment generating sustainable enterprises incubating small businesses.
- Established linkage of the entrepreneurs to service providers, market actors, financial institution and regulating agencies

TARGET GROUPS:

The project has directly focused on the youth of 16 to 40 age as the directly beneficiaries. The indirect participants of the project are considered as the family members of direct participants, who actively participate in the project, which is roughly multiplied by 5 as average size of households given an average household size of 5. There would be around 975 indirect participants.

Interventions:

Activities Detail

1. **Kick Up meeting;** After signing an agreement between Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and BASE organization on 7th March, 2024, conducted Kick-off meeting, on boarded all the staffs, prepared detailed project implementation plan, coordinated with local governments, finalized project participants and entrepreneurs, conducted entrepreneurship development training and conducted marketing training, financial literacy training, business plan workshop, technical training on different enterprises, provide incubation support, MPAC and joint monitoring, Social audit during this project period.
2. **Beneficiaries Selection;** Before implementing the project intervention beneficiaries selection has been done with the close coordination with local level governments. The beneficiaries' selection has been done from Thakurbaba and Barabardiya municipalities of Bardiya District and has been enroll in the project activities. The selection process was started in April 2024 and completed with in May 2024. To finalize participants following step were taken-

- **For the beneficiaries selection project team has visited and organized Coordination meeting with municipalities** and shared about the project's goal, objective, working modality and project activities. **Coordination meeting has been organized with BASE municipality level committee:** The informal meeting with the committee was conducted and shared about the project objectives. During the meeting it is discussed that we need to track to existing participants at proposed working area and suggested to track the status of the existing entrepreneurs by reaching at household level. After that the project team **tracked the status of existing participants** visiting to individual participants at their home. While visiting them it is found that most of participants were engaged in different groups of other I/NGOs and some are doing business themselves.
- **Moreover the coordination meeting has been done with Municipality office**: The district team (PC and field staffs) visited the office of municipality and again shared about the project. Also shared about status of existing beneficiaries and discuss about the planning to conduct RM level interaction and orientation at both municipalities. After that the project team **conducted RM level interaction and orientation meetings**: The RM level interaction meeting at both municipalities has been conducted. In the meeting shared about the all aspects of the projects, including donor, project goals and objectives, start and end dates, budget, working area, key components, activities, and targeted participants. Also discussed about working area and entrepreneur selection criteria. The meeting suggested us to explore potential wards for the project implementation, accordingly moved towards those areas for detailed survey.
- **Provided list of beneficiaries to ward office for the approval:** After conducting survey the list of entrepreneurs including status of their enterprise was analysed and shared with ward for their

information and review, accordingly the final name list of enterprises were approved. Form where **a** total of 150 entrepreneurs have been selected as project beneficiaries.

- 5 wards (1,2,3,9 and 10) from Barabardiya and 5 wards (2,6,7,8 and 9) from Thakurbaba have been selected as a project working area. Different enterprises like; Vegetable-44, poultry firm -28, pig farming-27, fish farming-5, Buffalo farming-8, Goat farming-7, homestay- 15, dairy-2, capacity building of cooperative-2 (commercial agriculture), tailoring training centre-12 has been selected.

3. Conduct Entrepreneurship Development Training:

BASE has conducted entrepreneurship Development training to the youth with the objective to provide beneficiaries with a comprehensive understanding of entrepreneurship and enhance participants' entrepreneurial skills, including business planning, financial management, marketing, and networking a total of 6 events of training was held in Thakurbaba and Barabardiya municipality from 26th May to 10th June 2024. A total of 150 (Men-41 and Women-107) participants were participated in the training. Participants including different entrepreneurs like; home stay, vegetable farming, buffalo farming, pig farming, poultry firm were attended at the training. The trainer for the training was selected through a quotation process. After reviewing all quotations and the trainer profiles, Raj Bahadur Chaudhary was chosen as the facilitator

The training was formally inaugurated by BASE district chairperson, other committee members attended the training as guest. The proceedings were initiated by the field staff and welcomed by the sub-secretary of the BASE board committee. Following the inauguration, Mr. Hasta Bahadur B.K, the project coordinator, presented all aspects of the projects, including project goals and objectives, start and end dates, budget, working area, key components, activities, and targeted participants. Also shared the participants selection criteria and field visit findings as well.

After the introduction of all participants prepared training rule and expectation collected with participants. Then training session was started. The training was facilitated by Raj Bahadur Chaudhary. During the training session facilitators applied different types of interactive methods to make training effectively.

The training have contents the concept of entrepreneurship, importance and process of entrepreneurship development, Business awareness rising (why to start enterprises, who is entrepreneur, type of enterprises, what prevents being successful entrepreneurs, successful enterprises cases etc.), income generation, self-employment, concept of business, Benefits and importance of business, type of business, risk in business and ways to minimize risk, box making game and discussion on production practice and its lessons, characteristics of successful entrepreneurs and stories of successful entrepreneurs, introduction to business planning, benefits of preparing a business plan, components of business plan, concepts of markets and marketing, meaning of accounting, basic of bookkeeping, accounting (what, why) and enterprise registration process, documents required for registration and benefits of registration.

Training methodology:

The project has organized with different methodology during the training session like lecture method, group discussion, groups work, interaction, learning sharing storytelling and game playing.

Outcome:

- Six events of entrepreneurship development trainings in Barabardiya and Thakurbaba municipality have been successfully completed with the participation of entrepreneurs from both Municipalities. Participants are able to understand in detail about the concept of entrepreneurship, launching business venture, managing business, business risk, and business plan and business registration. As per the reflection of participants they got good opportunity to learn new things about the entrepreneurship.

- Total of 150 entrepreneurs take part in the entrepreneurship development training and got clarification of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs. They have got evaluate their enterprise and motivated to increment the enterprise.

4. Conduct Training on Marketing:

To provide core concepts of market and marketing, including market segmentation and target customer identification and develop skills in conducting market sampling exercises to analyze customer behavior, purchase intentions, and purchasing power, a total of six events of marketing training was conducted in Barabardiya and Thakurbaba municipality from 20 to 25 June 2024 at Barabardiya and Thakurbaba. A total of 150 participants (Men-41, Women-109) were participated in the training. Participants included different entrepreneurs like; home stay, vegetable farming, buffalo farming, pig farming, poultry firm were attended in the training.

Although Mr. Raj Bahadur Chaudhary was already selected as a trainer, to facilitate additional three trainings *(training on marketing, financial literacy training, and the business plan workshop),* we have collected more CVs and quotations from six additional candidates. After analyzing the quotations and reviewing the profiles, two more facilitators: Bashant Kumar BC and Toplal B.K. have selected as a facilitator. Consequently, Mr. Raj Bahadur Chaudhary and Mr. Bashant Kumar BC have been assigned to facilitate this training.

The trainings were conducted formally, with BASE district committee members were chairing the session and ward chairpersons attending as guests. The proceedings were initiated by the field staff and welcome and objective sharing by project coordinator Mr. Hasta Bahadur B.K.

The training facilitators facilitated the training starting with introduction to all participants, preparing training rule and expectation collected. Content the subject of concept on market and marketing, market segmentation and target customer identification, market sampling exercise (type of customer, customer purchase intention, consumer behavior, identification of customer purchasing power, product promotion, market share discussion), marketing mix strategy (product strategy, pricing strategy, place and distribution channel strategy, promotion strategy) and marketing research.

Methodology:

During the training facilitators applied different types of interactive methods to make training effective and effeciency. The training session has been applied like lecture method, group discussion, groups work, interaction, learning sharing storytelling and game playing.

Outcome:

A total of 150 entrepreneurs take part in the marketing training and got clarification of marketing, knowledge on identify and motivate costumers, market share strategies and business registration process and importance.

A total of six trainings of marketing trainings in Barabardiya and Thakurbaba municipality have been successfully completed with the participation of 150 entrepreneurs from both Municipality. Participants are able to understand in detail about the marketing research, marketing management, marketing strategy, product pricing, product promotion, product distribution, marketing channels, consumer behavior etc.

5. RM level orientation and interaction:

With the objective to orient about all aspects of the projects among municipality level stakeholders and discuss about the working area and beneficiary of the project implementation the RM level orientation and interaction meetings were held in Barabardiya municipality on April 25th and Thakurbaba municipality on April 29th, 2024. A total of 33 participants attended these meetings, with 12 (10 men, 2 women) in Barabardiya and 21 (18 men, 3 women) in Thakurbaba. The participants included the chairperson, vice-chairperson, spoke person, Chief Administrative Officer, Economic Development section, Livestock and Fisheries Development Sub-Department, Agriculture development department, Employment Service Center, Head of Administration, Planning and Monitoring, Warehouse Sub-Division, BASE board, and municipality level committee.

The meetings were conducted formally, with Bisatiya Tharu (Bishnu) chairing the session and municipality officials, along with heads of departments, attending as guests. The proceedings were initiated by the field staff and welcomed by the sub-secretary of the BASE board committee. Following

the inauguration, Mr. Hasta Bahadur B.K, the project coordinator, presented all aspects of the projects, including the donor's detail, project goals and objectives, start and end dates, budget, working area, key components, activities, and targeted participants. Also shared the participants selection criteria and field visit findings as well. An open discussion was held followed the presentation.

Outcomes:

The RM level orientation meetings in Barabardiya and Thakurbaba Municipalities convened stakeholders, including officials and department heads, totaling 33 participants. Led by Bisatiya Tharu (Bishnu), the meetings were formal and productive. Mr. Hasta Bahadur B.K presented project details comprehensively, including donor information, goals, and selection criteria. Valuable recommendations emerged during the open discussion, such as prioritizing wards with fewer NGOs and considering spices cultivation. These meetings laid a robust foundation for collaboration and understanding among stakeholders, fostering a commitment to project success and sustainable development.

Due to the work duplication in ward 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 we also need to find out the beneficiaries from the ward No 8,9,10 and 11 (Parbati Gautam-Entrepreneurship Development Section)

6. **Enhance financial literacy through training and mentoring:**

To enhance knowledge of entrepreneurs on financial literacy a two day's financial literacy training has been conducted at both municipalities. Trainings are started from 20 Aug and ended on 31 Aug 2024. A total of 150 participants from two Municipalities have participated in the training. There were entrepreneurs from diverse sectors (On-farm/Off farm, service etc.) The workshops have been conducted in six events, organized in clusters. The trainings facilitated by the expert consultants. The project staffs also participated in the workshop for management all aspect of the workshop and take some sessions as per required. By participating in the training participant able to be clear understanding of financial services offered by financial institutions, loan schemes and provisions, bank's documentation requirement, credit worthiness, associated fees and tax structures.

As take part of the local representatives' trainings were conducted formally, with BASE district committee chairing the session and ward chairperson along with BASE district committee members attending as guests. The proceedings were initiated by the field staff and welcomed by the sub-secretary of the BASE board committee.

The training facilitators facilitated the training by starting with introduction of all participant, prepared training rule and expectation collected with participants. Then training session has been started. Mr. Raj Bahadur Chaudhary, Mr. Bashant Kumar BC and Mr. Toplal B.K. have been assigned to facilitate this training. During the trainings sessions facilitators applied different types of interactive methods to make effective training.

The two days training content the concept and understanding of the financial literacy, Budget and Family Budget Plan – Income sources, and expenses areas – assets, and liability, loan – vicious cycle of loan, and utilization of loan, saving, investment, understanding of financial services offered by financial institutions, loan schemes and provisions, bank's documentation requirement, credit worthiness, associated fees and tax structures and account keeping.

During the training time the facilitators applied different Methodologies like lecture method, Group Discussion, power-point presentation, group work, interaction, learning sharing storytelling and game playing.

Outcome:

- Six events of financial literacy trainings in Barabardiya and Thakurbaba municipality have been successfully completed with the participation of entrepreneurs from both Municipalities.
- Major agendas, and contents covered by training were financial Literacy, budget and Family Budget Plan, Income sources, and expenses areas, and liability, vicious cycle of loan, and utilization of loan, saving, Investment and financial Services.
- Participant able to be clear understanding of financial services offered by financial institutions, loan schemes and provisions, bank's documentation requirement, credit worthiness, associated fees and tax structures.
- The Participants got good opportunity to learn new things about the entrepreneurship.

7. **Support in Preparation of Business Plan:**

To promote long-term sustainability for entrepreneurs, participants were supported in preparing their business plans through workshops held in both municipalities. These workshops, conducted from 22 August to 4 September 2024, involved 150 participants from diverse sectors, including on-farm, off-farm, and service enterprises. The workshops were organized in six events, arranged in clusters to accommodate the participants. During the two-day sessions, the importance of having a business plan for running a successful business was discussed, and the components of a business plan were explained in detail. Expert facilitators Mr. Raj Bahadur Chaudhary, Mr. Bashant Kumar BC, and Mr. Toplal B.K. have been assigned to facilitate this workshop, while project staff managed various aspects and contributed to specific sessions as needed.

At the end of the workshop, each participant prepared a draft business plan for their respective enterprise. These drafts were later transcribed digitally by a consultant, verified, fine-tuned, and printed for distribution to the 150 participants. Each business plan included a detailed outline with goals, growth strategies, stakeholder and competitor analysis, annual targets, and planned activities. The facilitators used interactive methods to ensure an engaging learning experience. After introductions, participants set ground rules and shared their expectations, followed by content-rich sessions. The training included various important topics, delivered through effective methodologies to maximize the participants' learning.

The training has content of understanding the business and business plan, major components of Business Plan (Goal, Business growth strategy, stakeholders and competitor's analysis, Annual targets and activities, financial plan and financing sources. During the training time the facilitators applied different

- Methodologies like lecture method, Group Discussion, power-point presentation, group work, interaction, learning sharing storytelling and game playing.

Outcome:

- Six events of business plan workshop of 2 day in Barabardiya and Thakurbaba municipality have been successfully completed with the 150 participants of entrepreneurs from both Municipalities.
- Participants have basic understanding, and knowledge on business plan and it's important to expansion and run the business smoothly.
- Participants are able to understand the components of the business plan.
- Some of the participants are able to prepare business plan themselves.
- They are got a good business plan for business expansion.

8. **Provide business incubation support:**

The Uddhyami project was an assessment based project to collect the specific needs of participants from various enterprises. The objective was to identify and provide essential materials that would support the growth and expansion of these businesses. The project covered two municipalities: Barabardiya and Thakurbaba in Bardiya district. A total of 148 individual participants and 2 cooperatives were supported the materials.

Demand Collection and Goods Finalization: To understand the needs of participants, an assessment was conducted by project team, where they provided their most critical business requirements. The project team, along with executive board members, evaluated these demands, prioritizing them based on necessity and budget constraints. The final list of materials was shared with both municipality and ward offices, who provided input on the distribution process. Local government representatives agreed on the list and advised that distribution should take place in their presence.

Procurement Process: A notice for suppliers was published on JobsNepal.com, and quotations from six suppliers were received. After evaluation, Santoshi Ma Suppliers from Chabahil, Kathmandu, and Tripura

Suppliers from Gulariya, Bardiya, were selected. Both suppliers were tasked with delivering the materials in phases. The demand of materails were collected with the consultation of direct beneficiaries.

Coordination with Local Government: The project team coordinated with local government representatives before distribution to ensure their availability. The presence of local representatives added credibility to the process and strengthened the partnership between the project and the local authorities.

Distribution of Materials: The distribution of materials took place as planned on 23rd September 2024 in Barabardiya and 24th September 2024 in Thakurbaba. In Barabardiya, materials were distributed at three locations: Ward No. 3, Ward No. 9, and Ward No. 10. In Thakurbaba, distribution occurred at one location in Ward No. 9. The distribution process was smooth, with local representatives present to witness the event.

Summary of Distributed Materials: The materials provided were specific to the needs of various enterprises, including buffalo farming, fashion design, fish farming, home stays, pig farming, vegetable farming, goat farming, dairy and poultry farming. Each participant received **items essential** for their respective businesses, such as water pumps, sewing machines, drip irrigation systems, and solar panels and others. The list of materials has mentioned below;

Conclusion: The material distribution under the Uddhyami project was successfully completed, benefiting 150 participants, including 148 individuals and 2 cooperatives. The process was carried out in close collaboration with local government officials, ensuring transparency and accountability. The provided materials will contribute to the sustainability and growth of the participants' businesses, helping them expand and improve their operations.This initiative marks an important step in promoting market-led enterprises in Barabardiya and Thakurbaba municipalities.

9. **Build Technical Skills on Different Enterprises:**

Under the Uddhyami project, sector-specific technical trainings were conducted to build the skills of 148 individual participants from farming and off-farming enterprises across Barabardiya and Thakurbaba municipalities. These trainings aimed to equip participants with essential skills to run their businesses more effectively, reduce dependency on external technical experts, and overcome challenges. However it should be followed up periodic basis by local government after the project phase over.

Training Process:

i. **Preparation and Assessment:**

The training initiative began in the first week of June 2024. Before providing technical training, a quick assessment of participants' enterprises was conducted to identify strengths and weaknesses. This assessment informed the training content and structure, ensuring that it was relevant and tailored to participants' needs.

ii. **Institute Finalization and Contract Process:**

A notice was published in a local newspaper to solicit quotations from CTEVT-certified training institutes. Three quotations were received, and after thorough analysis, TRACE PVT. LTD. was selected as the training provider based on their competitive pricing.

iii. **Orientation to Training Institute:**

An orientation session was organized on 15 July 2024 for the selected training institute, attended by 16 participants. This session covered the nature and working modalities of the project, including goals, objectives, budget, activities, and types of enterprises involved. Participants were also briefed on the training curriculum, duration, locations, and BASE organization's safeguarding policies.

iv. **Field-Level Preparation:**

Participants were clustered based on their enterprise types to manage logistics effectively. Training venues and accommodations were arranged, resulting in 10 groups in Barabardiya (3

clusters) and 6 groups in Thakurbaba (3 clusters). All necessary training materials were prepared and managed prior to the training sessions.

v. **Training Implementation:**

The technical training commenced on 21 July 2024 in Barabardiya and on 22 July 2024 in Thakurbaba. A total of 16 groups were enrolled in the training sessions, which were conducted by technical experts. Follow-up support, coaching, and mentoring were provided by enterprise experts throughout the training. The sessions covered 9 different enterprise types, including Buffalo Farming, Dairy Item Production, Fashion Designing, Goat Farming, Homestay, Pig and Fish Farming, Pig Farming, Poultry Farming, and Vegetable Farming.

vi. **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

The training quality was monitored by project staff, the BASE executive board, TRACE, and local government officials. Continuous feedback and suggestions were gathered to improve various aspects of the training. At the end of the training, participants filled out evaluation forms to assess its effectiveness.

vii. **Certification:**

Upon successful completion of the training, certificates were awarded to all 148 participants, recognizing their newly acquired skills.

Outputs: The trainings resulted in 148 entrepreneurs gaining technical skills relevant to their businesses. Participants reported increased confidence in running their enterprises, improved capacity to overcome challenges, and reduced dependency on technical assistance.

Conclusion: The sector-specific technical trainings under the Uddhyami project effectively equipped participants with the skills needed to manage their enterprises. The structured approach, beginning with an enterprise assessment, ensured tailored training that prepared participants to confidently address their business challenges and achieve sustainable growth.

10. **MPAC and Joint monitoring Visit:**

To track progress and measure changes among project participants, the MPAC (Municipal Project Advisory Committee) and joint monitoring visits were conducted in both municipalities: Barabardiya on 25 September and Thakurbaba on 27 September 2024. A total of 22 participants took part in Barabardiya and 23 in Thakurbaba. The monitoring teams included key stakeholders such as the vice-chairperson, ward chairpersons, chiefs of the agriculture and livestock development sections, the chief of administration, representatives from the entrepreneurship development section, the employment service center, and members of the BASE executive committee.

The monitoring process began with a meeting at the respective municipal offices, where the project's progress was presented, and the monitoring schedule was shared. All participants received a copy of the project progress report and the monitoring form. The route for field monitoring was discussed, after which the team proceeded to visit the project sites.

Key points for the monitoring visit included:

- Assessing the overall impact of the trainings provided to the entrepreneurs.
- Identifying any challenges faced by the participants in implementing their learnings.
- Engaging with entrepreneurs to collect feedback on the effectiveness of the support received.
- Ensuring that the enterprises are progressing in line with the project's objectives.
- Evaluating the current needs and exploring further areas for intervention, such as access to markets, supply chain issues, and value addition opportunities.

The monitoring visit provided valuable insights to the progress made, areas for improvement, and the ongoing support required to sustain the momentum of the project.

Feedbacks and suggestion of the Stakeholders :

- Additional long days training is required for homestay management

- Need to manage the marketing for dairy, fish and vegetable farming.
- Project need to extension for long time and add new participants and provide trainings, materials and market management
- Regular Follow up and monitoring to participant is necessary.
- It would be good to do economic support to expansion the business.
- Shed management is need to improvement.
- Upskilling participants is often challenging in terms of identification, retention, and delivering relevant skills. However, achieving 100% participation in this project is a significant accomplishment.
- There is a need to focus on supply chain management and value addition.
- The skill development component of the project has been effective.
- Training duration was short; extending it would be beneficial.
- Local governments should regularly monitor such training programs.
- While there were some initial shortcomings in the fashion design training, improvements have been made.
- All provided trainings were well-received. If the project is extended, new enterprises such as bed production, gift houses, and handicrafts should be included.
- The trainings provided participants with additional motivation and energy.
- Support is needed for participant registration and insurance processes.
- Involving government staff in facilitating technical training, considering
- the local context, would be beneficial for sustainability and ongoing support.
- There is potential to expand into other enterprises like food processing, dairy, local chicken production, fruit farming, and mushroom farming.
- Establishing seed money funds is essential for future growth.

Conclusion

The Uddhyami project has achieved notable success in enhancing the skills and capacities of entrepreneurs in Barabardiya and Thakurbaba municipalities, with 100% participation in the training programs. The joint monitoring visits, conducted in September 2024, involved key municipal stakeholders and provided valuable insights into the project's impact.

Key achievements include improved technical skills, increased motivation among participants, and progress toward sustainable enterprises. However, challenges such as short training durations, the need for ongoing government monitoring, and support for registration and insurance were identified. Opportunities to expand into new enterprises and enhance supply chains were also highlighted. In summary, the project has laid a strong foundation for local entrepreneurship, and continued support from local governments will be essential for sustaining these positive outcomes.

11. **Social Audit/Public hearing:**

To ensure transparency in the financial and operational management of the Uddhyami project the social audits/public hearings were conducted to ensure transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement. These audits were held on 26 September 2024 in Thakurbaba Municipality and 28 September 2024 in Barabardiya Municipality. The audits provided a platform for participants, local authorities, and stakeholders to review the project’s financial and operational aspects, fostering a culture of openness and community involvement. During the audit a detailed account of expenditures, project progress, learnings, best practices and challenges faced has been presented. Gather feedbacks from the participants on the project’s impact and areas for improvement.

The social audits were conducted in the presence of key municipal representatives, including: Vice-chairpersons and ward chairpersons of both municipalities, Chiefs of agriculture and livestock

development sections, Members of the entrepreneurship development section, BASE executive committee, and other relevant stakeholders.

Each session began with a detailed presentation of the project's financial reports, outlining the allocation and use of funds for the various activities, including trainings, technical support, and participant assistance. Additionally, the project progress report, monitoring outcomes, and key achievements were shared.

Feedbacks and Suggestions.

- There is an expectation for regular support and monitoring to ensure the sustainability of the enterprises.
- Due to the short time frame of the project, we were unable to receive more comprehensive support.
- Additional materials and training are required to enhance the outcomes further.
- The project should focus more on market management to help sell all the products effectively.
- Coordination with the government is necessary for the establishment of cold storage facilities.
- Training alone is not enough to bring significant changes; the application of the knowledge gained is crucial.
- There should be a focus on off-season vegetable farming instead of seasonal farming to improve profitability.
- Effective market management is essential for vegetable farming.
- Additional materials and training are required to improve performance.
- The project needs to focus more on managing the market to ensure all products are sold.
- There is an expectation of economic or grant support from the project.
- The project has helped build the capacity of entrepreneurs, enabling them to face challenges and overcome problems.
- The duration of the fashion designing training was too short and should be extended.

Conclusion: The social audits in Thakurbaba and Barabardiya provided a clear picture of the Uddhyami project's financial management and operational progress. The high level of community participation, coupled with the transparency of fund utilization, underscored the project's credibility and accountability. While the audits revealed several areas for improvement, such as extending training durations and providing additional support to participants, the overall feedback was positive. The recommendations gathered from these audits will serve as a roadmap for enhancing the project's future phases and ensuring its sustainability.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Conducted Entrepreneurship Development Training for 150 youths.
- Build Technical Skills on Different Enterprises for 150 youths.
- Conduct Training on Marketing for 150 youths.
- Provide business incubation support for 150 youths.
- Support in Preparation of Business Plan for 150 youth.
- Direct participants of the project are those participating in the key project activities such as training and inputs support. So far 150 participants are directly involved in training activities of which 107 are women and 43 are men. Indirect beneficiaries are 975 people from the family of the direct beneficiaries.
- Throughout the coordination and collaboration, we observed several unexpected results, our project's entrepreneurship development approach and combination of activities are liked by local governments representatives and has been adopted the approach while finalizing their annual programs, which supported entrepreneurs holistically (strengthen technical skills, support inputs, access to finance and market.

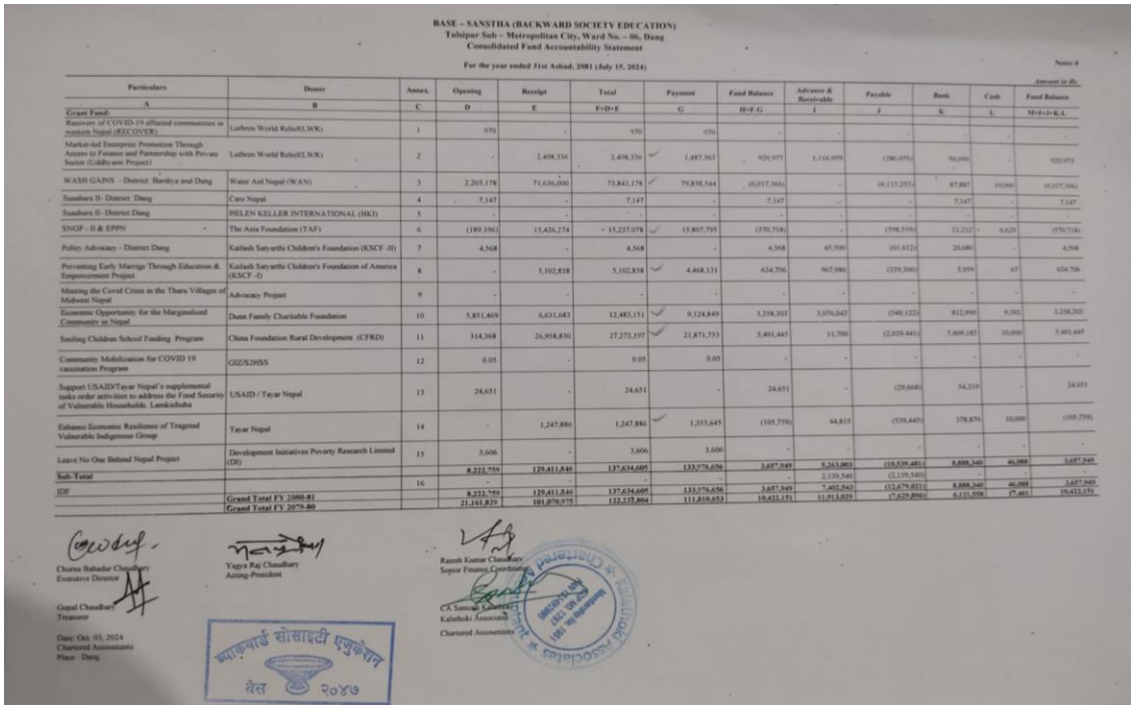
CHALLENGES:

- Project Duplication: There are some NGOs working in the economic development sector across all wards of both palikas, covering more households than we could reach. This made it challenging to find participants who met our criteria.
- Implementation Phase Issues: Due to the rainy season, starting the technical skill development training was very difficult.
- Budget Constraints: Difficulties to manage tools and equipment in technical trainings due to low budget.
- Time Limitations: Difficulties on proper preparation and documentation due to short time period.
- Expectations of Entrepreneurs: Some entrepreneurs expect monetary or in-kind support rather than capacity-building initiatives.
- Participant Exhaustion: Too many intense training sessions can tire participants, leading to decreased engagement and retention
- Local Bodies' Involvement: Local bodies sometimes expect their relatives or preferred individuals to be involved in the project, which can lead to favoritism and undermine the project's integrity.

Lesson Learned:

- Baseline studies and stakeholder mapping support to finalize the working area, beneficiary selection before the project start up with collaboration of local government and all working NGOs.
- Consider local environmental factors, like the rainy season, when scheduling activities to minimize implementation challenges.
- A proper budget that is sufficient to conduct activities supports the effective implementation of project activities.
- The monetary and in-kind support is encouraging participants to enhance their enterprise.
- Explaining the importance of the training can encourage participants to attend various sessions.
- Regular coordination and involvement of local bodies in the different intervention supports to make success the project.

2.14 OVERALL FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSES OF THE ORGANIZATION AS OF FY 2080/81:



BASE – SANSTHA (BACKWARD SOCIETY EDUCATION)
Tulsipur Sub – Metropolitan City, Ward No. – 06, Dang
Consolidated Fund Accountability Statement
For the year ended 31st Ashad, 2081 (July 15, 2024)

Notes 4
Amount in (R)

Particulars	Donor	Annex.	Opening	Receipt	Total	Payment	Fund Balance	Advance & Receivable	Payable	Bank	Cash	Fund Balance
A	B	C	D	E	F=D+E	G	H=F-G	I	J	K	L	M=I+J+K+L
Grant Fund:												
Recovery of COVID-19 affected communities in western Nepal (RECOVER)	Lutheren World Relief(LWR)	1	970	-	970	970	-	-	-	-	-	-
Market-led Enterprise Promotion Through Access to Finance and Partnership with Private Sector (Udhyami Project)	Lutheren World Relief(LWR)	2	-	2,408,336	2,408,336	1,487,363	920,973	1,116,979	(286,076)	50,000	-	920,973
WASH GAINS - District Bardiya and Dang	Water Aid Nepal (WAN)	3	2,205,178	71,636,000	73,841,178	79,858,544	(6,017,366)	-	(6,115,251)	87,885	10,000	(6,017,366)
Susahara II- District Dang	Care Nepal	4	7,147	-	7,147	-	7,147	-	-	7,147	-	7,147
Susahara II- District Dang	HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL (HKI)	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SNGP - II & EPPN	The Asia Foundation (TAF)	6	(189,196)	15,426,274	15,237,078	15,807,795	(570,718)	-	(598,559)	21,212	6,629	(570,718)
Policy Advocacy - District Dang	Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF -II)	7	4,568	-	4,568	-	4,568	65,500	(61,632)	20,680	-	4,568
Preventing Early Marrige Through Education & Empowerment Project	Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation of America (KSCF -2)	8	-	5,102,838	5,102,838	4,468,131	634,706	967,986	(329,306)	5,959	67	634,706
Meeting the Covid Crisis in the Tharu Villages of Midwest Nepal	Advocacy Project	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Economic Opportunity for the Marginalized Community in Nepal	Dunn Family Charitable Foundation	10	5,851,469	6,631,683	12,483,151	9,124,849	3,358,303	3,076,043	(540,122)	812,990	9,392	3,358,303
Smiling Children School Feeding Program	China Foundation Rural Development (CFRD)	11	314,368	26,958,830	27,273,197	21,871,753	5,401,445	11,706	(2,029,441)	7,409,185	10,000	5,401,445
Community Mobilization for COVID 19 vaccination Program	GIZ/SJHSS	12	0.05	-	0.05	0.05	-	-	-	-	-	-
Support USAID/Tayar Nepal's supplemental tasks order activities to address the Food Security of Vulnerable Households Lamkichuha	USAID / Tayar Nepal	13	24,651	-	24,651	-	24,651	-	(29,668)	54,319	-	24,651
Enhance Economic Resilience of Tragetted Vulnerable Indigenous Group	Tayar Nepal	14	-	1,247,886	1,247,886	1,353,645	(105,759)	44,815	(529,445)	378,870	10,000	(105,759)
Leave No One Behind Nepal Project	Development Initiatives Poverty Research Limited (DI)	15	3,606	-	3,606	3,606	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total			8,222,759	129,411,846	137,634,605	133,976,656	3,657,949	5,263,003	(10,539,481)	8,888,340	46,088	3,657,949
IDF		16	-	-	-	-	-	2,139,546	(2,139,546)	-	-	-
	Grand Total FY 2080-81		8,222,759	129,411,846	137,634,605	133,976,656	3,657,949	7,402,543	(12,679,021)	8,888,340	46,088	3,657,949
	Grand Total FY 2079-80		21,161,829	101,070,975	122,232,804	111,810,653	10,422,151	11,913,029	(7,629,896)	6,121,058	17,461	10,422,151

Charra Bahadur Chaudhary
Executive Director

Gopal Chaudhary
Treasurer

Date: Oct. 03, 2024
Chartered Accountants
Place : Dang

Yagya Raj Chaudhary
Acting-President

Rajesh Kumar Chaudhary
Senior Finance Coordinator

CA Santosh Kumar Kalauhaki
Kalauhaki Associates
Chartered Accountants

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