

CARE NEPAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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Cover Photo: Girls from UDAAN continue their formal education. UDAAN is an accelerated learning program for dropout school girls between 10-14 years.

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A young girl at a learning center, supported by CARE Nepal's BEZOS-funded project, which aims to reintegrate girls who have discontinued their education back into the mainstream educational system.



ABOUT CARE

CARE International

CARE International is a 75-year-old global confederation working to fight poverty and social injustice in the world, with a specific focus on the empowerment of women and girls. We work side-by-side with communities to understand the root causes of poverty and find innovative, locally-led solutions. CARE seeks to demonstrate the results and methodologies used in our projects to ensure transparency and accountability and advance the quality of our work. In 2021, CARE worked in 111 countries around the world, implementing 1,631 poverty-fighting development and humanitarian aid projects. We reached 174 million people directly and 205 million people indirectly.

CARE Nepal

CARE started its operations in Nepal in 1978 and is one of the first international aid agencies to work in the country. During the last 4 decades, CARE Nepal has been working with the most vulnerable communities of Nepal to address the issues of poverty and social injustice, along with challenging harmful social practices, building capacities and empowering livelihoods. Today, CARE Nepal works to address systemic and structural causes of poverty and social injustice such as discrimination based on gender, caste, class, ethnicity or geography.

CARE Nepal aims to demonstrate positive and **transformational change in the lives of 2.5 million women and adolescent girls by 2025**. CARE believes that if the most marginalized women and adolescent girl populations in Nepal experience increased **social and economic empowerment**, benefit from **inclusive social structures and changing social norms**, are able to exercise their **social, economic and political rights**, and build **disaster resilience**, then they will not only be able to withstand shocks but also overcome poverty and injustice. This transformational change in the lives of women and girls will in turn promote poverty reduction and inclusive justice for members of their households, immediate communities, and the wider society.



At the inauguration ceremony of the fully equipped Birthing Center in Nalgad Rural Municipality, Jajarkot, constructed with the support from CARE Nepal.



Our staff and teams work from the field, anywhere, at any time, in the manner required to maximize efficiency and effectiveness while reducing stress. We take our time off work to stay healthy and happy. Staff and line managers are fully committed, empowered and accountable for results; hard work along with passion, dedication, mastered skill and belief in collective action to make difference in the lives of impact population is required to be a part of the team.

Unified Team

We are a unified team with shared team objectives and goals collaboratively working across all levels including our partners to achieve them.

Training and Development

We prioritize training and development ensuring cross training for backstopping team with planned exposure, on the job opportunities, mentoring, shadowing, and other formal trainings inside and outside Nepal.

Talent Mapping

This is a growth model being implemented by CARE Nepal which is an exercise (adapted from succession planning tool) to identify “transferrable skills.” We offer various internal stretch assignments and coaching cohorts to develop our staff, leveraging “transferable skills”. Senior Leadership Team/ Senior Management Team apply the mapping exercise as a planning tool for emerging staffing needs and future readiness.

Learning and Development

We prioritize and offer learning and development

opportunities which plays a pivotal role in fostering a culture of continuous learning within an organization essential for staying competitive in a rapidly changing business environment. We prioritize our employee engagement, job satisfaction, and talent development, which are critical factors of our long-term success.

Team Skills We Are Prioritizing

Workload prioritization, facilitating restful leave, improving staff diversity, and performance coaching.

Team Behaviors We Do Not Tolerate

Arrogance, disrespect and discrimination of teammates, unkind attitudes, disinterest in learning or growing.

We have **zero tolerance** for fraud, corruption, conflict of interest, harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment, abuse or exploitation of anyone, especially children or vulnerable adults.

Digitally Savvy

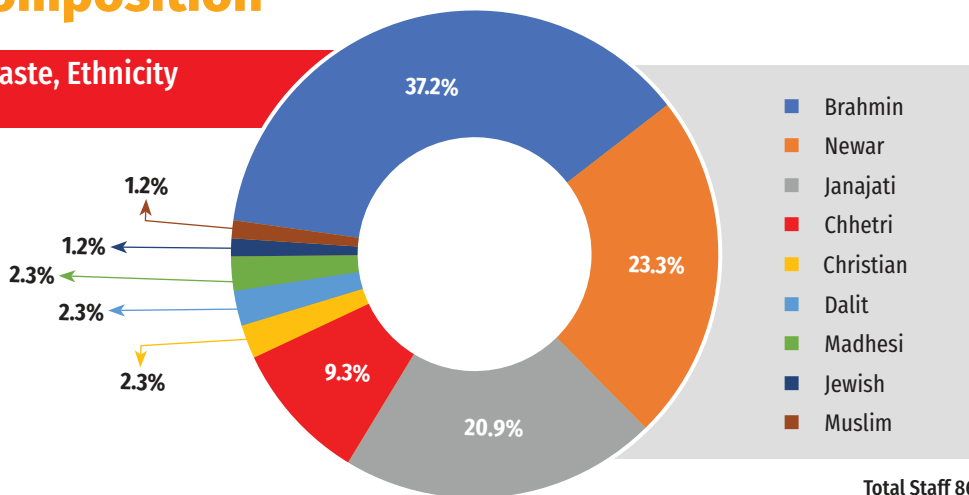
We are a digitally savvy team and have a culture of continuous learning and digital adaptability. We have improved our CARE’s content and visual on the website, HR technologies and automation along with MEL, operations, and finance systems to ensure smooth remote working.

Diversity for Better Impact

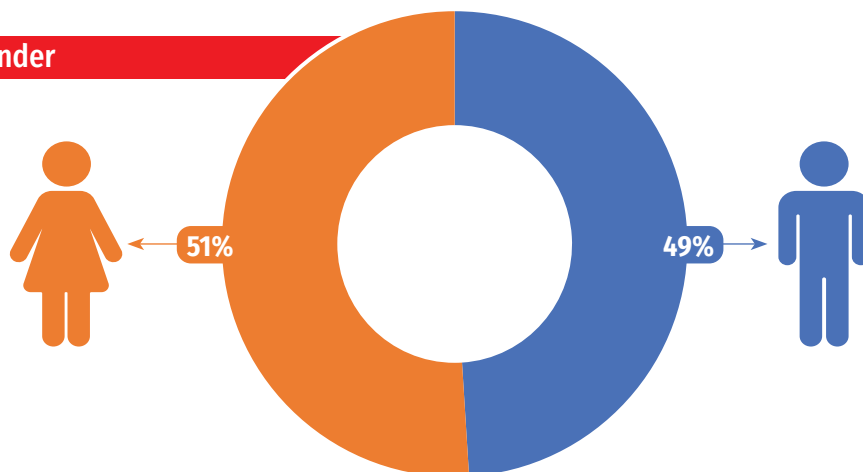
Our team and our partners recruit and maintain top talent that reflect diversity of Nepal’s people, cultures, and abilities. By ensuring diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, we also maximize our impact and sustainability while shifting power to local leaders and local voices.

Staff Composition

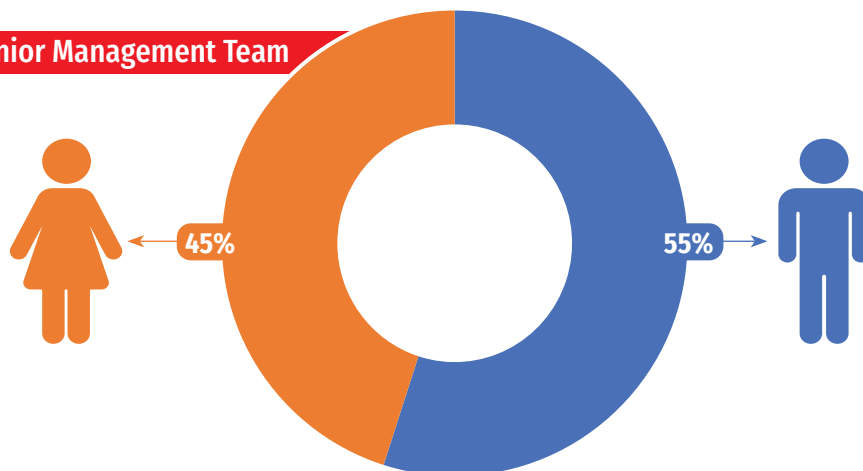
In Terms of Caste, Ethnicity and Religion



In Terms of Gender



In Terms of Senior Management Team





THEORY OF CHANGE

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
 Women and girls attain resilient livelihoods, inclusive assets, and opportunities to exercise economic entitlements and rights.

SOCIAL & POLITICAL POWER
 Women and girls are able to exercise their rights and effectively engage within accountable, gender transformative and inclusive governance spaces at all levels.

Goal
 By 2025, 2.5 million women and girls of Nepal have economic, social and political power and resilience to withstand shocks and overcome poverty and social injustice. They will be able to exercise their rights and effectively engage within accountable, gender-transformative and inclusive governance spaces at all levels.

TRANSFORMED SOCIAL NORMS, BELIEFS AND PRACTICES
 Women and girls lead dignified lives free from violence and all forms of discrimination.

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE
 Women and girls have increased resilience to cope with and mitigate climate and disaster risks.

Impact Population: Women and Girls which comprises of the following four specific groups:

1. Adolescent girls (Ages 10-19)
2. Urban and peri-urban communities
3. Women-headed households
4. Dalit and ethnic minorities in the Terai and Western Hills





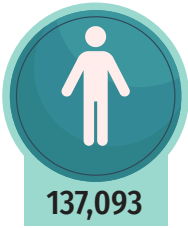
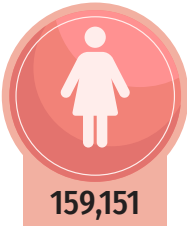
Gulshava Banu, a participant of CARE Nepal's Tipping Point project, looks forward to a future with equal rights for all.



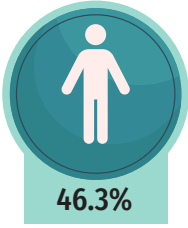
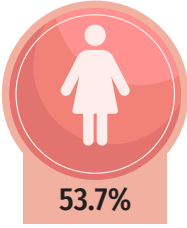
REACH IN FY 2023

Total Direct Reach for FY 2023

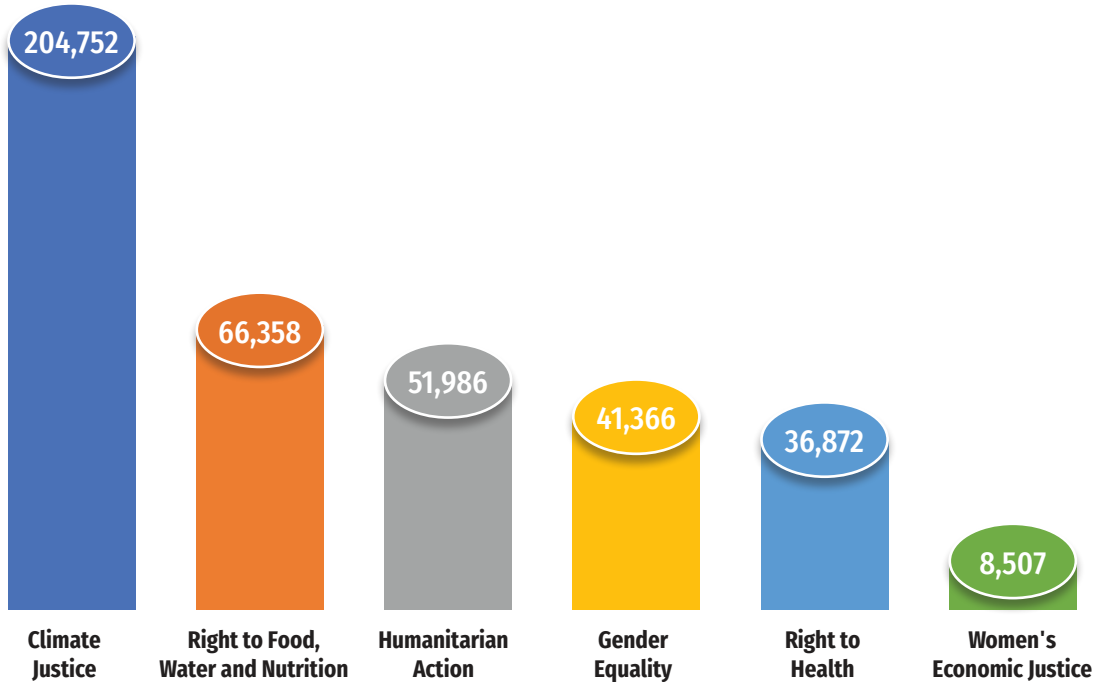
296,244



Proportion Distribution of Direct Reach by Gender in FY 2023

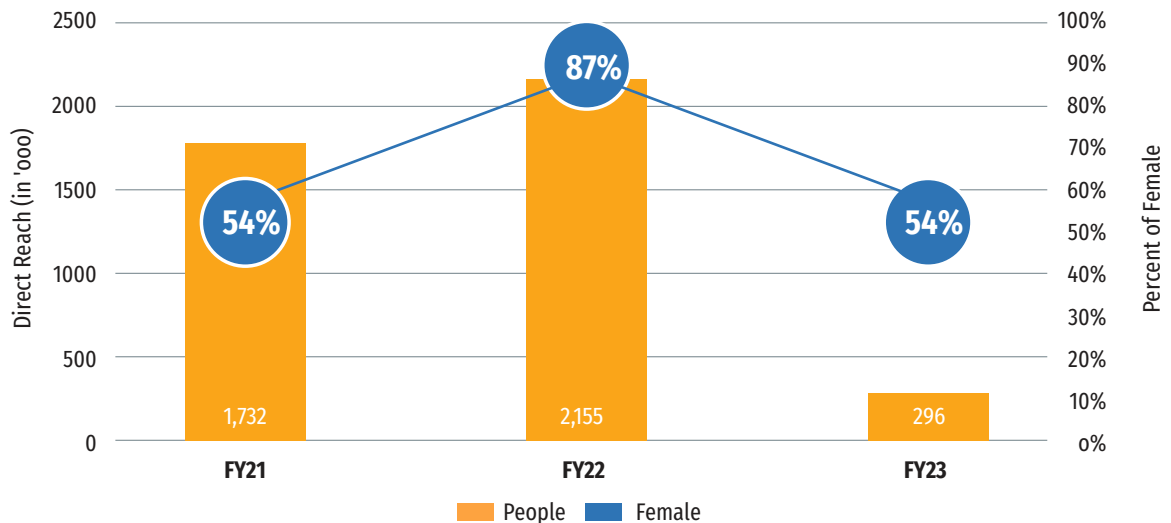


Direct Reach by Impact Areas



***Note:** The impact areas overlap, so the sum of each impact area does not necessarily add up to the total direct reach number.

Direct Reach Trend (since FY 2021) and Percent of Female Among the Participants

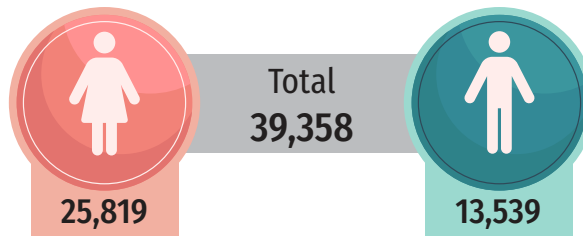


***Note:** In FY23, Suaahara II project ended that had contributed direct reach participation share of 86% in FY22 and 61% in FY21.

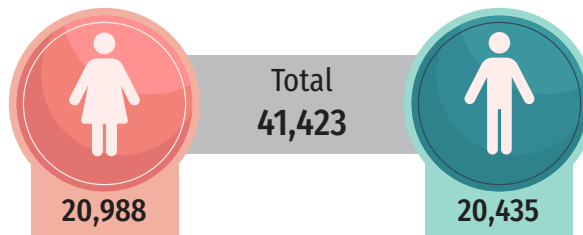


Number of People Reached in Each Thematic Area for FY 2023

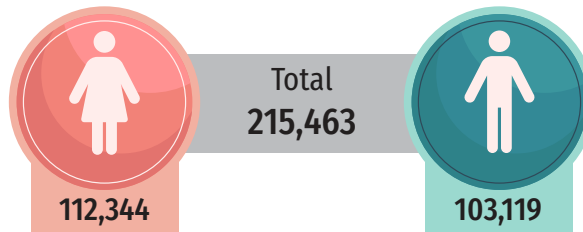
Gender Justice & Health and Education Rights (GJHER)



Women's Economic Empowerment & Climate Justice (WEECJ)



Disaster Risk Reduction & Gender in Emergency (DRR&GiE)





Members of the Girls Rights Forum, empowered by CARE Nepal's Tipping Point project, are dedicated to fostering girl leadership and advocating for the rights of girls.



AREA OF WORK

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE OF CARE NEPAL

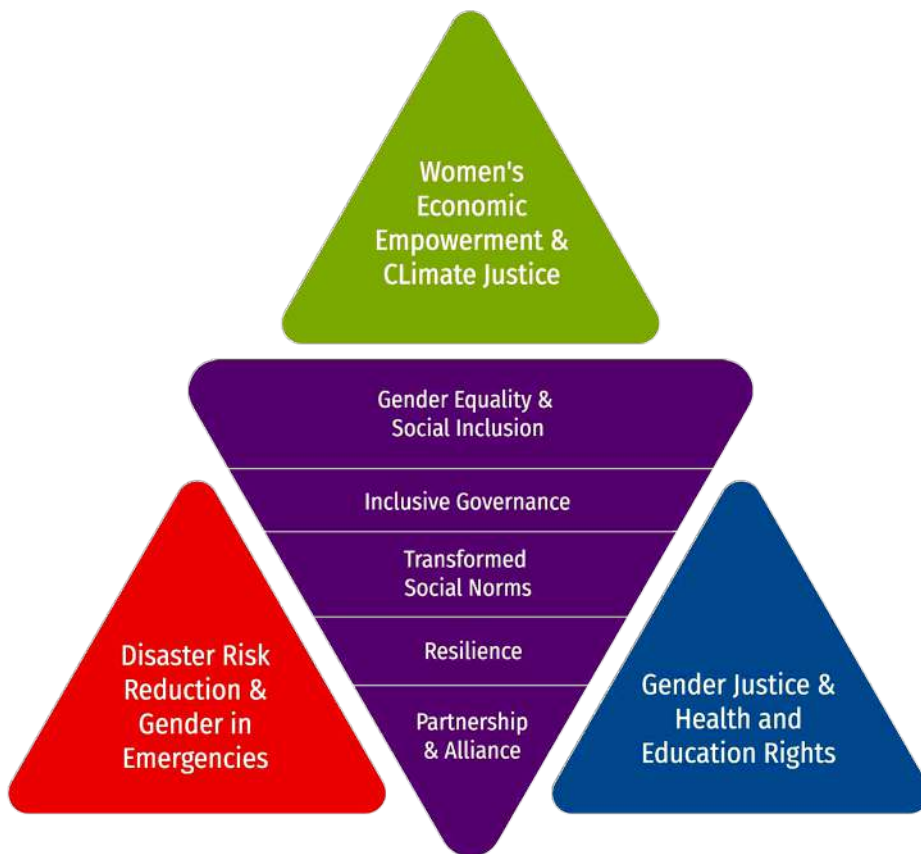




Dedicated Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) in Nepal play a vital role in strengthening the healthcare system. CARE Nepal collaborates with FCHVs to advance community health and well-being



THEMATIC AREAS





GENDER JUSTICE, HEALTH AND EDUCATION RIGHTS

CARE Nepal strives to create a gender just future with equal access to health, education and legal services, while working together with women and girls marginalized and excluded by unjust systems. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) sits at the heart of CARE's programmatic ambitions and targets and is embedded in our work in health, education and justice sectors. With various tools and models, equitable partnerships and proper coordination with stakeholders at all levels, the programs are addressing socio-economic-political barriers, enhancing meaningful participation of women and girls in decision making and contributing to

developing gender responsive service delivery systems and mechanisms.

CARE Nepal is working towards improving access to quality and equitable maternal, newborn and sexual reproductive health services by strengthening local healthcare systems and addressing associated social norms. Two fully equipped birthing centers were constructed in Jajarkot District in collaboration with local government to reduce home deliveries and prevent maternal deaths. We have provided training to healthcare workers while enhancing innovation and technology systems and establishing systems to ensure accountability for quality services.

Additionally, CARE is supporting adolescent girls by improving their access to sexual and reproductive healthcare information and services. Girl-friendly toilets with water, sanitation and menstrual hygiene facilities were built in three schools while adolescent health corners were established in four schools with provision of training on adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) for the teachers. Community-level group-based interventions were carried out with **687** groups through Social Action and Analysis sessions where the adolescents and their influencers came together to discuss and reflect on various topics, such as, ASRH, family planning, relationships, menstruation health hygiene, gender and social norms and mental health among others. CARE is working with 275 registered private health facilities in Karnali, Lumbini and Madhesh Provinces to reinforce positive impact on adolescent reproductive health. We launched training cum orientation materials focused on adolescent reproductive health within FCHV modular package in 48 rural/municipalities and developed modular package on hub-spoke mentoring module to establish effective strategies to address adolescent FP/RH and promote adolescent responsive health service systems. We provided technical assistance in collaboration with municipal health units to operationalize Reproductive Health Coordination Committees (RHCC) at both the provincial and local levels.

CARE Nepal strives to ensure access to education for girls from marginalized communities, enhance their agency, ensure their voice in decision making and combat child

early and forced marriage. Last year, **429 girls of age 10-14** were enrolled in accelerated learning program UDAAN, of which 386 were successfully transitioned into formal schools in Jajarkot and Siraha Districts. Similarly, remedial classes were run for **420 academically struggling girls** in formal schools to improve their learning outcomes. The education and adolescent empowerment projects

GJHER Reach



39,358 people directly reached.

13,539 men and boys directly reached.



25,819 women and girls directly reached.

Highlights

- ◆ A total of 102 youth clubs in 51 municipalities across Lumbini, Karnali and Madhesh provinces successfully formed to work on Adolescent FP/RH.
- ◆ Constructed and handed over 2 fully equipped birthing centers (Bhagwati Birthing Center and Anapani Birthing Center) to the Nalgad Municipality
- ◆ Constructed girl-friendly toilets with water, sanitation and menstrual hygiene facilities in 3 schools.
- ◆ Organized MNH update training to 17 nursing staffs of Nalgad Municipality for their capacity enhancement in the management of obstetric and newborn emergencies.
- ◆ GRF's continuous engagement in the local level planning process led to allocation of Rs. 4,600,000 (4.6 million: Approx. \$350,00) in the Red Book (government's official budget) in 11 Municipalities (Rupandehi and Kapilvastu districts). Out of this GRF have tapped 7,40,000 by submitting proposals and delivered different girls' centric activities.
- ◆ At least 10 Child Marriages stopped in Kapilvastu and Rupandehi Districts.
- ◆ More than 20 girls received vocational training in journalism, cushion making, doll making, tailoring, tourist guide, Community Agricultural Assistance (CAA) and computer training.
- ◆ The accelerated learning curriculum of level 1 (grade 1-3) and level 2 (grade 4-5) and learning materials developed in partnership with Centre for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD) approved by National Curriculum Evaluation Council
- ◆ CARE Nepal has developed a package on parents and community education with focus on using CARE's Social Action Analysis tool for transformation of harmful social norms to create enabling environment for girls.



Nilkantha Dhakal

Director, Non-formal and lifelong learning section under the CEHRD



CARE Nepal worked in partnership with the government of Nepal to fill the gaps in non-formal education (NFE) and lifelong learning, which is one of the priority areas of School Education Sector Plans (SESP). Together, we were able to develop, endorse, disseminate, and implement a condensed curriculum and learning materials for NFE, which focuses specially on the school dropout girls/boys. The Lumbini Provincial government has allocated resources for the use of condensed curriculum through community learning centers and girls' schools. Similarly, few other local governments in Madhesh province also have budgeted resources to adopt and use the condensed curriculum.

intensively worked with the parents of these girls and community and religious leaders through transformative dialogue sessions and awareness raising sessions on child rights, gender and sex, restrictions on girls' mobility, patriarchy, power imbalance and child marriage. A total of 266 girls from Lumbini and Madhesh provinces received smart phones for easy communication with peers and mentors along with training on usage of digital platforms, online safety and online campaigning.

CARE Nepal worked with Centre for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD) for development of **accelerated learning curriculum** for level 1 (grade 1-3) and level 2 (grade 4-5). Dissemination of these curriculums were carried out across the seven provinces jointly with CEHRD and other development partners along with digitization of condensed (accelerated) curriculum,



New mothers cherishing moments with their newborns.

development of facilitators guide and provision of Master trainers of trainers (ToT) to facilitators of Community learning Centres (CLCs).

With an objective to empower the girls economically, 628 adolescent girls were provided with financial literacy training, where they initiated youth saving and loan associations and got practical knowledge on saving and credit. CARE Nepal implemented weekly entrepreneurship learning centre module to enhance the entrepreneurship skills of **383 out of school adolescent girls** of age 15-19 and provided seed money to 100 selected girls for the start-up of their chosen micro-enterprise.

We worked with **2,900 members of Girls Rights Forum (GRF)** by investing in their capacity enhancement and involvement in local planning process, connecting them with movement-based feminist organisations and young women network, supporting them to access vocational training opportunities and supporting girls led campaign on preventing child marriage. In addition, intergenerational learning sharing was carried out with local government, Judiciary committees and WHRDs.

CARE Nepal continues to work with National Alliances for Women Human Rights, Nepal Ekta Mahila Samaj, Jagriti Mahila Maha Sangh and Girls' Right Forum to research on how and why women's power struggles in Nepal have withstood backlashes and succeeded in

holding on to their gains through longitudinal feminist research. We continue to prioritize working with system actors and contribute to strengthening systems in health and education sectors at all three levels of Government with intentional focus on integrated programming by layering health, education, leadership, and economic empowerment components.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

“UDAAN IV” a 13-months project funded by CARE Austria is aimed towards improving access to quality education for adolescent girls from poor and marginalized communities, creating enabling environment for girls in their families and local communities and improving governance and child friendly environment in community schools of project areas in Siraha District.

“Tipping Point” project funded by the Kendeda Fund is an initiative that facilitates shifts in inequitable gender and social norms, enabling adolescent girls to build and practice skills, enhance supportive relationships around them, and challenge the underlying causes of CEFM in their Communities in Kapilavastu and Rupandehi Districts.



A young girl at a learning center, backed by CARE Nepal's BEZOS-funded project, familiarizes herself with the alphabet. The initiative focuses on reintegrating girls who dropped out of school into mainstream education.



Sanjay Kumar Yadav

Ward chair 1, Sakhuwanankarkatti
Rural Municipality, Siraha



I am pleased with the work of CARE Nepal, especially in reintegrating the out-of-school girls into formal education through UDAAN learning centers. The local government has allocated rupees two hundred thousand for out-of-school girls this year with possible of more depending on need. We are seeking technical support from CARE Nepal to mobilize this fund to assist the school dropout girls in continuing their formal education. I hope that CARE Nepal continues its collaboration with us in re-integrating the out-of-school girls into mainstream education.

Working along with the girls and their families the project works on four programmatic pillars: increasing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) knowledge and access, facilitating social norms change, supporting girl-led movement building, and expanding access to alternatives to marriage.

Teleteching for Girls

This Ellis Foundation funded seven-month initiative is aimed at increasing access to information communication technology (ICT) for adolescent girls from marginalized households in Madhesh and Lumbini provinces through distribution of smart phones with internet access, provision of workshop on using digital platforms, training on online safety and cybercrime, workshop on online campaigns as well as orientations to the families and other stakeholders on safe use of mobile phones.



Girls Education and Empowerment Project (GEE)

GEE "SOAR III" is an 18-month initiative being implemented in Siraha district of Madhesh province. The project aims to create an enabling environment for adolescent girls from marginalized communities to pursue their education and life aspirations through educational opportunities and entrepreneurship development.

System Strengthening for Scaling SOAR Program

This program is a twelve-months initiative in Madhesh and Karnali Province, which strives to strengthen Government of Nepal's education systems, mechanisms and capacities through technical assistance, capacity enhancement and advocacy to scale-up the SOAR/UDAAN model sustainably with government-owned Community Learning Centers.

PCTFI UDAAN Scale-up

This is an 18-month initiative with an aim to scale up the UDAAN model to other provinces of Nepal to improve marginalized girls' access to education through collaborative interventions with federal, provincial and local governments through scaling up of updated and approved accelerated learning curriculum targeting out-of-school children in Nepal. This initiative also focuses on piloting the mentorship approach in Jajarkot District for reaching out to the marginalized girls in scattered settlement through accelerated learning program, remedial learning and life skill support.



Saihwa Khatun
UDAAN Graduated Girl



Before UDAAN, I aided my family with daily chores. My parents are elated that I seized the chance to pursue education via UDAAN's rapid learning hubs. Their excitement persists as I transition from UDAAN's center to a formal eighth-grade school. Their unwavering encouragement fuel my school attendance and active engagement. UDAAN enabled me to cultivate language skills and improve my listening, speaking, writing and reading ability alongside fostering good conduct, hygiene, and sanitation. Furthermore, I acquired insights into child marriage and its repercussions. I've committed to refraining from marriage before 20, and I extend this counsel to others. My aspiration? To become a lawyer.



Girls at a learning center interact with their learning facilitator.

Increasing Access to Maternal Health at Remote Communities

This Allison Cornell/CARE USA funded initiative works with women and school adolescents in Jajarkot District of Nepal with an objective of increased institutional childbirth and improved WASH and menstrual hygiene behaviors among school adolescents through the construction of birthing centers and female-friendly toilets as well as social norms change to address the barriers to maternal and reproductive health.



Sadhana Harijan goes beyond merely preventing child marriage, as she emerges as a trailblazer by introducing transformative change with the installation of the first toilet in her home.



Rokaiya Khatoon
Rupandehi



Yes, my family is quite well-educated in society, but they also used to limit my freedom of movement and voice. After I became engaged with Tipping Point, I counselled my parents giving them many instances. I am now able to discuss my rights and bring up issues that affect other girls in a similar way.

USAID Adolescent Reproductive Health Project

This five-year long USAID funded “Adolescent Reproductive Health” project is a youth co-led initiative to empower girls and boys of 10-19 years, including the most marginalized, to attain their reproductive health rights in Karnali, Lumbini and Madhesh Provinces. The goal of the program is to support Nepali adolescents to reach their full potential by choosing and practicing healthy reproductive behaviors together with the support of their community members.

Sustaining Power for Women’s Rights (SuPWR)

SuPWR is a multi-country longitudinal research project funded by Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and led by Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex in four countries of South Asia, including Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan with CARE Nepal leading the Nepal Chapter of the research. The research responds to the contemporary challenges of sustaining the gains made by women’s movements against increasingly vigorous backlash across much of South Asia.

From Shepherd to Scholar Transforming Lives Through Education

Januka BK, hailing from an impoverished family in Dadagaun, Ward No. 6 of Jajarkot Municipality, faced numerous obstacles in her pursuit of education. Her parents had to relocate to India for income, compelling her to discontinue her schooling at grade 2. She then had to live with her grandparents, where she spent most of her time engaged in household chores. The land her family owned was relatively little, extremely barren, and inadequate, further hindering her educational prospects.

Januka's parents' absence led to her involvement in domestic chores, gathering fodder, and herding livestock, sidelining her education. Unfortunately, her relatives did not prioritize her academic aspirations during this period. She watched her peers attend school while she managed the family's cattle, wishing to join them but facing a number of challenges. She tried to convince her grandparents to allow her to attend school, but it was impossible.

In 2022/23, an opportunity emerged for out-of-school girls like Januka. UDAAN accelerated learning centers, with support from CARE Nepal, offered free education in her village. Januka, along with other out-of-school girls, commenced their studies at the UDAAN facility, benefiting from community facilitators and educational resources.

Nirmala, Januka's facilitator at the UDAAN center, devised a plan to enable Januka to continue her formal education after completing her UDAAN course. Through a persuasive video conversation, Nirmala successfully convinced Januka's parents to allow their daughter to attend school. Though initially resistant, her parents eventually agreed, even providing financial support for her education. While still juggling household responsibilities, Januka now dedicates more time to her studies. As a result, there have been steady improvements in her grades.

In 2023, with the assistance of the municipality and the UDAAN program, Januka gained admission to Laxmi Secondary School. She now regularly attends school, which pleases her parents. Januka acknowledges that without the UDAAN courses, she might have continued as a herder. However, she now finds happiness in learning while managing her household tasks and aspires to become a police officer after completing her education.



If it weren't for UDAAN center, I would still be herding my family's livestock, but thanks to the invaluable support I received at the UDAAN center supported by NCE Nepal and CARE Nepal, I could resume my educational journey.

—Januka BK—

Januka reiterates that the UDAAN center rekindled her motivation to further her education. She expresses her aspirations, saying, "I hope to secure a job after graduation to support my family and contribute to my country. I extend my gratitude to the Municipality, School, CARE, NCE Nepal, and the UDAAN Center for their invaluable assistance. I also want to thank facilitator Nirmala Hamal for inspiring me to pursue my studies, which I believe will ultimately resolve all my challenges. I am delighted to continue my studies alongside my friends, and I hope that my dreams will one day become a reality."



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & CLIMATE JUSTICE (WEE&CJ)

CARE Nepal is committed to ending poverty, hunger, malnutrition and empowering the target communities to cope with the deprivation due to adverse impact of climate change. The continuing environmental degradation, climate change, power imbalances, and the rising global economic downturn raised by COVID-19 and Russia-Ukraine War, makes this effort more challenging than ever. To defeat these challenges, we have been working with Program Participants under this theme to achieve improved and diversified food and nutritional security, equitable natural resources management, safe and dignified workplaces, just economic opportunities, and resilience against the impacts of climate change.

CARE Nepal aims to reach **0.44 million** population by 2025 mainly women and people from marginalized communities to improve their food and nutrition security, resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change, and

equitable access to production resources, and meaningful participation in decision making space to acquire dignified economic opportunities. We have contributed on law making process of local governments by helping them draft and endorse climate resilient agriculture acts in **51 local governments, and their implementation in six local governments** of Madhesh Provinces. Additionally, we worked with local governments to increase the use of categorization-based farmer identity cards; agricultural insurance programs; access to land for farming; nutrition gardening; nutrition diversity models; and agro-met advisory services aimed at strengthening the resilience of people vulnerable to climate change.

CARE Nepal is actively addressing the various challenges confronting Nepal's agriculture sector by collaborating with local farming communities, particularly women and smallholder farmers, as well as working with local

governments and various market actors. Through Farmers' Field and Business School (FFBS), CARE employ a learning-by-doing approach, placing emphasis on involving impoverished and smallholder farmers in the process. This strategy revolves around adopting innovative agricultural techniques, ultimately leading to enhanced agricultural productivity, socio-economic progress, improved nutrition, increased participation in the market, and an overall enhancement in the quality of life for women smallholder farmers.

We have achieved significant success in improving the nutritional diversity and food security of landless, land-poor women, and marginalized communities. This nutritional outcome among landless and small holder people has been possible by organizing them

Highlights

- ◆ 2,000 women from marginalized and landless communities have received agricultural input, small livestock and labor-saving equipment for establishing nutrition garden through the Fill in Nutrition Gap project.
- ◆ 2,000 families from marginalized and landless communities have improved nutrition through 411 nutrition behavior change session among conducted among 90 groups.
- ◆ 17 local governments adopted Categorization Based Farmer's Identity Card (FID) 54,362 farmers have receive the FID.
- ◆ 400 adolescent girls have received business and financial literacy package for establishing their enterprises.
- ◆ 556 landless farmers have received 46.5 Ha of lease land from local government for farming activities with support from Farmer's Field and Business School (FFBS). Average annual income of a household from lease farming is NRP 72,000/- (approx. 576/- USD)
- ◆ 51 local governments have endorsed climate resilient agriculture acts and is currently being implemented by six local governments in Madesh province.
- ◆ 300 farmers groups comprising of 7,500 farmers prepared and initiated implementation of group level adaptation plans
- ◆ 6,845 HHs from 304 group were reached with support from FFBS.

WEECJ Reach



41,423

people directly reached.

20,988

women and girls directly reached.



20,435

men and boys directly reached.

in group; capacitate them to develop skill, confidence to voice in various spaces and aspire for better future; support to access with production resources such as land, water sources for irrigation and farming through lease land approach; access to production inputs by using input voucher modality and improve nutrition behavior reducing nutritional malpractices shaped by harmful social norms through community sessions using farmer field school model. In total 2,000 households have increased dietary diversity from food group below 4 in baseline to above 5 in outcome monitoring including improved practices of food nutrition saving in preparation and consumption.

As a part of **Climate Justice**, a total of 304 FFBS groups, comprising 6,845 vulnerable landless and smallholder households, independently crafted group-level climate adaptation plans. During the adaptation planning, members were sensitized to climate change causes, consequences, and potential adaptation measures. The groups conducted assessments of recurring hazards, their impact on agricultural livelihoods, existing farmer-led adaptation practices, and identified unmet needs through participatory approaches. Subsequently, they developed comprehensive group-level adaptation plans. These FFBS groups actively advocated for stakeholder support to implement the identified adaptation options. Consequently, they successfully implemented various climate-smart agriculture practices with support from CARE's FFBS project and other stakeholders.



Tika Laxmi Chaudhari

Srijana Women's Farmers' Group, Agnisaer
Krishnasawaran-3, Nepal



Upon enrolling in the Farmers' Field Business School, I had the opportunity to explore new and cost-effective farming techniques like zero tillage farming. It's gratifying to witness the enthusiasm of fellow farmers within the group who are eager to engage in these activities and collaborate with one another.

We've strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders, including National Land Rights Forum (NLRF), National Farmer Groups' Federation (NFGF), Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Nepal Development Initiative (NEDI), Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES), and Federation of Home-Based Workers. Collaborating with academic institutions, research organizations, government at all levels, and corporate entities such as Kathmandu University School of Management, National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN), and Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (FWEAN), we aim to amplify the impact and sustainability of our initiatives.

We persist in advocating for equitable access to production resources for women, landless individuals, and marginalized communities. Our focus is on fostering economic opportunities, sustainable development, effective natural resource management, and creating dignified workplaces in informal sectors. Addressing climate adaptation needs for vulnerable communities remains a priority. Aligned with the SDG zero hunger objective, CARE Nepal continues efforts to enhance food and nutrition security by boosting production, dietary

diversity, and promoting nutritional behavior change. We prioritize developing and testing a differential impact assessment approach, mainstreaming the FFBS model, supporting women entrepreneurship, improving market and access to finance, and scaling up climate-resilient land and agricultural models.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Farmers Field Business School (FFBS)

CARE's successful FFBS approach, which centers on women, empowers small-scale farmers and producers to enhance their skills to increase production, improve resilience, adaptive capacity to climate change, dietary diversity, and improved nutrition. The FFBS approach also enables farmers to gain access to



Kalpana Kumari Chaudhari

Deputy Chairperson, Agnisaer Krishnasawaran
Rural Municipality Women's Farmers' Group,
Agnisaer Krishnasawaran-3, Nepal



The local government views the nutrition gardening initiative under CARE Nepal's Fill the Nutrition Gap project as an employment opportunity for the local landless communities. We aim to empower our local landless women through entrepreneurship opportunity introduced by the project. We are particularly encouraged by the change in nutritional behaviors and access to balanced diet brought about by the project in locals. As responsible leaders of the community, we are committed to expanding similar programs in future leveraging the learnings and benefits gained by our community through the project.



Engaged program participant cultivating nourishing produce in her nutrition garden as part of CARE Nepal's LDS Nutrition project.

markets, better price, collaborative opportunities, and efficient decision-making. FFBS elevates the status and recognition of women's role and recognition, enabling them to thrive as farmers, producers, entrepreneurs, leaders, and agents of change.

Through FFBS, our primary focus areas encompass sustainable agriculture, gender and social inclusion, nutrition diversification, markets and marketings, access to production resources, participatory monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy for better productivity, income, social transformation, ecosystem and sustainability of agriculture. Crucially, we promote Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices and integrate gender transformative approach at every stage of FFBS implementation.

Fill in Nutrition Gap

Food and nutrition security, and the nutritional well-being of landless and smallholder women farmers and their children in Madhesh province, are in a vulnerable state. This vulnerability is primarily a result of insufficient production of nutrition-rich foods, limited dietary diversity, and harmful nutritional practices resulting from traditional social norms. In addition, marginalized populations face challenges in accessing production

resources like land, water sources, and inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, technology, and tools. The project plays a crucial role in improving nutrition status of landless and smallholder women farmers and their children in



CARE Nepal's LDS Nutrition project participant nourishes her child with a wholesome meal, contributing to the project's goal of improving local nutrition behavior through education and other initiatives.

Madhesh Province. Additionally, it facilitates access to production resources for landless and marginalized women farmers.

Categorization Based Farmer's Identity Card

The Categorization-based Farmer ID (FID) card was introduced with a specific focus on identifying and supporting marginalized groups, including landless, land-poor, and women farmers, as well as agricultural laborers. These often-overlooked individuals struggle to access government resources and services, and the FID card serves to ensure their access to the necessary government services and resources. This innovative approach motivates governments to revise their subsidy provisions, considering the unique needs of different categories of farmers, and ensuring that subsidies reach those who are most in need. This shift away from treating all farmers as a homogeneous group addresses the historical inequality in the distribution of public services, which have traditionally benefited only a select few while neglecting the most vulnerable.

The FID card has been instrumental in assisting local governments in validating crucial information about their constituencies and helping formulate various policies and plans that specifically cater in addressing climate vulnerabilities among marginalized farmers. It ensures equitable treatment and inclusion of women farmers, granting them equal benefits according to their category.



Parbati Bohara

Ward 1, Krishnapur Municipality, Kanchanpur



I am sure that this farmer identification card will help me receive provisions for seeds, agro-input, market access and other facilities. This card will support marginalized farmers like me to improve our economic status and livelihood.

Furthermore, allowing landless, climate-vulnerable, and marginalized farmers to access local government incentives has motivated farmers to adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices, mitigating the risks posed by climatic shocks.



Empowered by CARE Nepal's Tipping Point project, Girls Rights Forum members take a stand for girl leadership, passionately advocating against social ills.



Empowering Women in Agriculture Shivani's Journey to Success

In the serene village of Prasbani, nestled within the Agnisair Krishnasavaran Rural Municipality, Saptari District, resides a remarkable woman named Shivani Kumari Chaudhary. At the age of 40, she gracefully balances her household responsibilities, a loving family consisting of her husband, two sons, and her mother-in-law. Every morning, Shivani rises at the break of dawn to embark on her daily routine. Her day commences with meticulously cleaning the front yard, kitchen, and the animal shed. Tending to her goats, she feeds them fresh grass and then prepares tea and breakfast for her family. After sending her sons off to school, Shivani's day takes on a new dimension. She heads out to gather fodder for her goats, following which, she ventures to the local

school where she serves as the chairman of the school management committee, a role she cherishes deeply. In addition, she actively participates in various programs and meetings organized by the National Farmers Group Federation (NFGF) and local cooperatives, demonstrating her commitment to community development.

Shivani's journey towards empowerment and success was not always this smooth. She says, "Prior to my involvement in the local cooperative group, my life was marred by challenges and turmoil. My husband's drinking habit had cast a dark shadow over her household, resulting in frequent chaos that detrimentally affected their children's well-being and education. Balancing the demands of daily household chores and the role as a mother and wife became



I have gained invaluable knowledge about climate change and adopted climate-smart agricultural practices, such as zero tillage wheat farming and cultivating new varieties of wheat, mung, and rice, as well as using Leaf Color Charts to monitor crop health. The training has boosted my confidence, enabling me to actively participate in various programs and training sessions

—Shivani Kumari Chaudhary—

an arduous struggle." To make ends meet, she had to resort to rearing goats and worked as a daily wage laborer. This life left her deeply dissatisfied and yearning for change.

The turning point in her life came when she became actively involved in the Tharu Mahila Bachaht Krishak Samuha group's monthly meetings. She worked tirelessly to improve her circumstances, and her determination bore

fruit as she saw the number of goats increase from two to five. She also took on additional work in rented fields, sharing the yield with the landowners, which allowed her to increase her income.

Recognized for her dedication and hard work, Shivani was chosen as a volunteer farmer for the Farmer Field Business School (FFBS) project, where training improved her savings and record-keeping skills. "I have gained invaluable knowledge about climate change and adopted climate-smart agricultural practices, such as zero tillage wheat farming and cultivating new varieties of wheat, mung, and rice, as well as using Leaf Color Charts to monitor crop health. The training has boosted my confidence, enabling me to actively participate in various programs and training sessions," says Shivani.

Shivani's life, once fraught with misery, gradually transformed through her participation in the group. Her in-laws and her husband are now content and value her opinions, and she even assists the local facilitator in conducting Community Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) sessions. Her recent appointment as the treasurer of the NFGF municipality committee has added new responsibilities, but she approaches them with confidence and determination.

"Poor and marginalized people from the municipality are suffering from malnutrition. The initiative taken by CARE Nepal and NFGF has proven vital to improve their nutritional habits and their livelihood. The 316 families are now participating in nutrition behavior change session and have started to consume fresh and healthy leafy vegetables from the nutrition garden." says Kalpana Chaudhary, Vice-Chairperson, Agnisair Krishnasavaran Rural Municipality

The FFBS project, implemented in 55 farmers' groups in the rural municipality, uses farmer volunteers like Shivani to connect agricultural extension services with farmers, with a remarkable 80% of these lead farmers now being women. The NFGF Palika Committee actively promotes women in leadership roles, providing them with valuable experience and growth opportunities. Collaboration between NFGF Nepal and the municipality office has expanded the project's impact.

In FY 23/24, the Rural Municipality allocated NRs. 17,00,000 (USD 14,000 approx.) for the FFBS project and other NFGF Nepal and CARE Nepal initiatives, reaffirming their commitment to sustainable development and empowering individuals like Shivani.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & GENDER IN EMERGENCIES

The Disaster Risk Reduction & Gender in Emergencies (DRR&GiE) program of CARE Nepal engages with the communities by leveraging local knowledge, resources, and institutions, blended with integrated and risk-informed programming to reduce disaster and climate risks. In addition, the program has been successful in empowering local institutions, communities, and individuals, especially women and girls, to anticipate and transform climatic and disaster vulnerabilities and reduce related risks. It has effectively adapted and responded to the climatic and disaster-related shocks and stresses through preparedness, immediate response, recovery, reconstruction, and risk informed gender-responsive long-term development. The program has a comprehensive approach for long-term disaster risk reduction that

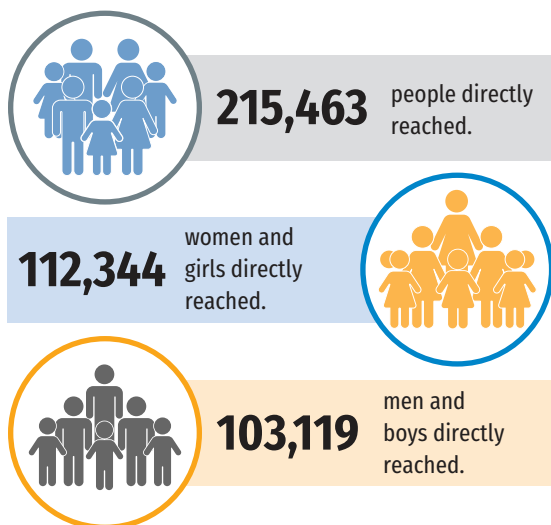
includes gender-responsive preparedness and response planning, community engagement, education, livelihood, and advocacy.

CARE Nepal established and supports the Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) to localize humanitarian response. HPP pilot project promote locally led and gender-responsive emergency preparedness and response, strengthening the capacities of local humanitarian actors, including civil society organizations (CSOs). Platform members have tailored Joint Emergency Preparedness Plans (EPPs) for specific disaster contexts, facilitating swift and efficient emergency responses. CARE Nepal is committed to increasing institutional capacity by transforming an existing CSO platform into

an independent secretariat for localized responses. Since its January 2020 launch, HPP has grown significantly, **with 15 member organizations in 2023, including 7 Women-led organizations (WLOs), 3 intersectional groups** (marginalized women, Dalit women, informal settlers, landless, and marginalized women farmers), and 5 partners with specialized expertise. CARE has also enhanced the governance and technical capacities of HPP member partners on humanitarian standards, accountabilities, GiE, WLiE, and GBViE, resulting in effective, coordinated, principled, and gender-responsive emergency preparedness and response. Collectively, HPP member partners have responded to 12 different disaster incidents, reaching 18,246 program participants.

CARE Nepal collaborated with **Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA)** of Janaki Rural Municipality of Kailali Distict to launch the **Affordable Housing Solution** project. It aimed to offer sustainable, affordable, and safer housing solutions for disaster-affected vulnerable populations in Nepal. The project supported local VSLAs in producing Compressed Stabilized Earth Bricks (CSEB), known for their cost-effectiveness, local material utilization, earthquake resilience, and eco-friendliness. These bricks gained endorsement from the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) and were included in the reconstruction design catalog. CSEB's affordability and quick return on investment make it a valuable income source, especially for small groups like VSLAs and women's organizations.

DRR&GiE Reach



CARE has also initiated the **Women Lead in Emergency (WLiE)** approach in its humanitarian programs to acknowledge the unique impact of disasters on various groups, including women, girls, adolescents, elderly women, gender and sexual minorities, and persons with disabilities. Traditionally, disaster responses have been male dominated, often neglecting women's distinctive needs and perspectives. WLiE empowers women leaders or change makers within communities to highlight previously

Highlights

- ◆ CARE has a long-term MoU with National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MOFAGA) and actively engages with National humanitarian clusters.
- ◆ CARE Nepal is the Co-lead of Government of Nepal's Early Recovery Cluster (ERC) with UNDP Member of Nepal's Humanitarian Country Team Operations group as ERC co-lead.
- ◆ Supported revision of model Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act and model Disaster Management Fund Procedure of local government to make it gender and disability inclusive in partnership with Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA).
- ◆ Promotion of localization efforts along with women's voice and leadership in emergency response.
- ◆ CARE has convened Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) consisting of 15 organizations with diverse competencies to localize DRR and humanitarian response for effective, efficient and coordinated response.
- ◆ Prepared Joint Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan; and Joint Advocacy Plan of HPP
- ◆ Demonstrated collective, effective, and timely humanitarian response by HPP partners to a total of 12 different disaster incidents (18,246 people: women: 9,253; men: 8,993)
- ◆ CARE hosts the FCDO-funded START Fund Nepal, a national platform of the global START Network.
- ◆ Country Collaboration Lead of Agenda for Change in Nepal

overlooked issues and address women's needs and priorities in humanitarian responses. This approach has also been incorporated into the Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP), bolstering its members' capabilities in WLiE. Women humanitarian champions are connected to local response mechanisms, even driving inclusivity in the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act.

Similarly, CARE Nepal is addressing the underestimated hazards of heat and cold waves in Nepal by developing an Anticipatory Action tool in heat and cold wave in partnership with the START Fund. We are also piloting a stakeholder uptake package in local governments to empower them with timely early action strategies. Our model, with real-time data and local factors, can establish accurate thresholds and triggers for specific areas, anticipating these waves in advance. In the future, we plan to collaborate with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology to integrate our Anticipatory Action (AA) toolkit for heat and cold waves into their web portal.



Bhagavati Adhikari

Executive Director of Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj



Each HPP partner brings to the table a unique specialization and access to varied networks. Collectively, they increase representation of stakeholders often overlooked in humanitarian response in Nepal, including the rights of Dalit women, community forest user groups, human rights defenders and farmer groups. NMES is an integral part of this platform, and it prioritizes the inclusion of women, girls, and children in all its activities, ensuring that the specific needs of these vulnerable groups are met during humanitarian crises and in response activities.

CARE, as the lead for Agenda for Change (AfC) country collaboration, conducted a comprehensive **WASH System Study in 8 local governments** in Nepal. This study aimed to assess the strengths and weaknesses across the eight key building blocks of WASH system strengthening. These building blocks, as defined by AfC, include Planning, Financing, Institutional Arrangement and Coordination, Monitoring, Water Resource Management, Regulation and Accountability, Service Delivery Infrastructure, and Learning and Adaptation. The average score across all these building blocks was found to be 1.4 out of 4. The insights and lessons learned from this WASH System Study in the 8 local governments have been recognized as significant and will be integrated into the plans of the Governance Technical Working Group.

In November 2022, two moderate earthquakes struck Doti District, affecting over **62,000** people in five neighboring districts. Subsequently, a January 2023 earthquake in Bajura District caused significant damage. Numerous stone and mud mortar homes and classrooms were severely impacted, emphasizing the urgent need for housing reconstruction. CARE, in collaboration with HPP member partners National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) Nepal and Equality Development Center (EDC) Doti, is actively engaged in providing socio-technical support to potential homeowners in Phurbichau Rural Municipality. The focus is on promoting earthquake-resilient housing construction and enhancing the capacity of local masons in this regard.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP)

The platform is a flagship localization effort to strengthen coordinated and locally led humanitarian actions. This also elevates women leadership among local partners. Currently with 15 partners, CARE has been leaning into its role as a facilitator, convenor, and relationship builder to develop a better model of humanitarian response at local level. HPP is convening and engaging local civil society humanitarian actors to provide a comprehensive, coordinated, and accelerated response based on needs and accountability of the affected population when crises arise. By facilitating the platform, CARE is focusing on Gender in Emergencies (GiE) through effective and efficient preparedness planning, coordination, capacity building, collective action, and resource leveraging.

Anticipatory Action Tool for Heat and Cold Wave

This initiative was funded by START Network. This innovative tool is designed to proactively address the potential crises posed by heat and cold waves, utilizing forecasted information. This system empowers decision-makers with localized, actionable data, enabling them to make informed choices and implement measures to mitigate the risks associated with these weather phenomena. It relies on a three-day lead time, incorporating data from the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) and other open sources for weather forecasting and monitoring.

Socio-Technical Assistance Program for Doti Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction

CARE's Humanitarian Surge Fund is backing this initiative to aid earthquake-affected families in Doti district. The project's aim is to enhance the capabilities of local HPP member partners in responding to localized, small-scale disasters such as earthquakes. It focuses on delivering

door-to-door social-technical assistance for safer building construction to potential homeowners, building the capacity of local governments in managing small-scale disasters, and enhancing the skills of local construction technicians, including masons, in the realm of safer building construction and retrofitting. In the initial quarter of the project, 286 individuals received orientation on secure housing practices, and 26 local masons underwent capacity-building training. Additionally, group orientations on mental health and psychosocial counseling were provided to 100 women in Phurbichauki Rural Municipality.

Multiple Disaster Responses

CARE has responded to 12 disasters mainly Flood, landslide, winterization support and Earthquake early recovery in Kailali, Dang, Banke, Bardiya, kanchanpur, Udayapur, Dharchula, Bajura and Doti districts. These multiple disaster responses was done through HPP initiatives on close coordination with member partners. The HPP member partners were able reach the program participants within 24 hours in Udayapur and the majority of responses were initiated within 48 hours of incidents.



After the Doti earthquake, CARE Nepal offered vital socio-technical aid, including mason training, to raise awareness on protection and gender issues in Purbichauki Rural Municipality.



Rising From Ashes Resilience, Unity, and Hope for a Village

In a small village called Dadagaun Kailashi Gaun, lives Gori Kumari Budha, a resilient woman with a heart as expansive as the challenges she faced. Gori belonged to a family of modest means, comprising her husband, two sons, a daughter-in-law, her own daughter, and a cherished grandchild.

Their home was among 14 others situated in the Madhyawarti forest area. Life there was both tenuous and demanding; the structures, fragile against the elements, held witness to the daily struggles of the residents. Gori, a 'sukumbasi,' had no land to call her own. The community's living situation was perilous due to its proximity to the jungle, vulnerable to human wildlife conflict.

Her role as a caregiver began with the delicate demands of tending to her young granddaughter, crafting nourishing meals and ensuring hygiene took precedence. While her

daughter-in-law prepared food for the family, Gori tended to their buffalo, the provider of a modest income through the sale of its milk.

Life took an abrupt turn one fateful day when a fire ravaged through their dwellings, leaving Gori and her neighbors with nothing but charred remnants of their possessions. In the aftermath, KMJS Nepal and CARE Nepal swiftly offered a lifeline, delivering essential items in a coordinated effort along with the municipality.

"An organization has recently aided us in constructing block houses, yet it was during our direst moment that the assistance from CARE and KMJS in partnership the municipality carried an immeasurable value to me. After a devastating fire that originated in my home and destroyed all our belongings, leaving me with not even a single garment to cover myself and incinerating every

kitchen utensil, the swift response from KMJS and Care was a beacon of hope. Within a mere 48 hours of the catastrophe, they provided us with vital essentials including Dignity Kits, Basic Shelter Kits, mosquito nets, and clothing, offering us not just material support, but a lifeline amidst our darkest hours." says Gori Kumari Budha.

KMJS Nepal and CARE Nepal, with their joint advocacy plan and rigorous standard operating procedures, continued to lend support and guidance. Their mission extended beyond immediate aid, delving into disaster resilience, gender equality, and advocating for social justice and

equity in the face of adversities.

Anita Chaudhary, the Deputy Mayor of Madhuwan Municipality, says "The unity and collaborative effort, emphasizes the importance of a coordinated response to such crises. It highlights the evolving approach of providing not just immediate relief but empowering communities for sustainable recoveries."

For Gori Kumari Budha and her community, these initiatives weren't just acts of charity. They represented a lifeline, a testament to resilience, and a collective endeavor to uplift lives and build a more sustainable future amidst the trials of their existence.



Effective disaster response hinges on preparedness and simulations. These exercises enable officials and responders to refine communication and coordination skills



APPROACHES ON LOCALIZATION AND SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

NETWORK OF PARTNERS

The evolving development landscape, influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis, and limited funding opportunities, has impeded progress towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in poverty reduction and social development. To address this challenge, CARE Nepal has transitioned from traditional award-based partnerships to strategic and non-traditional collaborations. These partnerships extend to credible civil society organizations (CSOs) and informal network partners, promoting collective and collaborative efforts.

CARE Nepal is proactively uniting local and national thematic partners to advance locally led and sustainable programs, aligning with shared objectives. Through the establishment of a Network of Partners (NoP), our goal is to create platforms that nurture local voices, foster

relationships and networks, and champion diversity, equity, and inclusion. The emphasis is on shifting decision-making power to the local level and advocating for people-centered rights and policy changes. Furthermore, NoP aims to amplify the recognition and contributions of local partners by connecting them across different geographies, contexts, and sectors. This approach promotes inclusive development, ensuring that the priorities of local partners receive equal acknowledgment and support from a broad spectrum of development collaborators.

Goals

The NoP is an informal forum designed to promote an integrated approach to advance inclusive development through collaboration and shared learning with organizations that CARE has strategically partnered with. The network aims to foster alliances, amplify collective voices, nurture, and encourage local leadership, leverage



capacity, platforms and resources, demonstrate equitable partnership, and strengthen institutional capacity by utilizing local systems and resources. It places a strong emphasis on locally led and locally owned solutions, building upon existing local systems and harnessing local resources and the capacity of local partners.

Value Propositions of Network of Partners

Partners

- ◆ Enhancing the sustainability and viability of network members.
- ◆ Engage in CARE’s national and global network to bolster the capacity for building coalitions, relationships & networks with diverse and cross-sectional peers for deeper impact.
- ◆ Collaborative advocacy efforts to reinforce partners’ agenda, enhance their impact and experience and amplify local voices in influencing national and global issues.
- ◆ Strengthen legitimacy and effectiveness as civil society leader by affiliating with a broader group of

cross-sectoral and diverse network members.

- ◆ Value addition in adopting and applying diverse approaches through sharing, exchanging best practices.

Donors

- ◆ The NoP will facilitate opportunities to support localization, locally led development and the exchange of experiences through collective and collaborative efforts among local partners, ensuring an effective localization process in Nepal.
- ◆ Provide a centralized hub for connecting with local and grassroots organizations representing the most marginalized and underrepresented populations across geographies, sectors, contexts and issues and for piloting and scaling locally led solutions.
- ◆ Ensures greater inclusion of marginalized and underrepresented communities in localization efforts.
- ◆ Serves as a platform for extending capacity building efforts to wide array of local organizations, including those from some Nepal's most marginalized groups.

CARE

- ◆ To achieve system level changes and impact at scale through support and engagement with local organizations, fostering capacity sharing and mutual learning.
- ◆ Gaining insights from NoP members regarding potential pathways for transitioning towards localization efforts, including necessary organizational adjustments.
- ◆ Revise CARE's partnership system and modality in alignment with localization principles and share these updates widely within the CARE confederation for wider learning and reflection.
- ◆ Strengthening the influence of legitimate voices, conducting holistic analysis and joint advocacy efforts contributing to overall local governance system building processes.
- ◆ By leveraging into this network, CARE can align its programs around local voices, contexts, and priorities, placing a central focus on capacity building, knowledge, skills, and needs of marginalized groups, particularly women and girls.

Key Progress on Network of Partners Approach

- ◆ Consultations are ongoing with strategic partners, including the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES), and Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), to gather insights for refining our partnership approach. We aim to integrate their valuable input into the conceptualization of our expanded network of partners.
- ◆ Soft launch for the Network of Partners on August 10, 2023, synchronizing with the 45th anniversary celebration of Care Nepal's operations in Nepal.
- ◆ Members of Network of Partners participated in comprehensive capacity-building sessions covering diverse topics such as the federal law-making process, advocacy, and movement-building. These sessions were facilitated by subject matter experts.
- ◆ Provided solidarity funding to members of the Network of Partners, including NARMIN, NLRP, FEDO, and WOREC, to support the organization in their strategic events to pursue advocacy initiatives aligned with their agendas.

- ◆ CARE Nepal has taken steps to expand the membership of the Network of to foster inclusivity and diversity. We are extending invitations to potential CSOs and movement-based organizations for strategic partnerships through an open call, ensuring representation from diverse constituents.

SYSTEM ORCHESTRATION INITIATIVE

CARE's System Orchestration Initiative emphasizes the roles of multiple actors, diverse stakeholders, such as government, civil society, private sectors, development partners, and community-based organizations, to ensure a well-functioning system for sustained population impact. In June 2022, CARE-USA Impact at Scale team initiated a country office (CO) model with CARE Nepal, creating "system orchestration blueprints" for scaling Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) programs. The aim was to guide each country team in transitioning from being a mere funder and implementer to achieving full ownership and operation of FFBS programs by local system actors within the country. This approach ensures sustainability and scalability, with local government, civil society, and private sector structures taking responsibility, demonstrating capability, and committing to scaling and evolving these programs over time.

This resulted in the development of a blueprint to establish the foundation for system integration and impactful scale-up of FFBS programs in Nepal over the project's five-year duration, with the enthusiastic commitment of key Nepali institutions secured.

The Major Objectives of the FFBS System Orchestration Initiative I included

- Ensuring macro and meso system structures – i.e., the central and provincial governments, respectively – are (i) enacting and enforcing policies, (ii) establishing and implementing strategies and programs, and (iii) providing resources to promote and support actively local structures – notably, government and its civil society and private sector partners – to sustain and scale FFBS, focusing both on the respective development sectors and the program's integrated operation.
- Identifying, enabling, and securing the authority and influence of one lead institutional structure – e.g., the

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development – that operates at both the macro and meso levels to motivate and mobilize, or orchestrate, the decisions and actions of other critical development structures at the same two levels to play their respective roles related to the system integration and impact at scale of FFBS in a coordinated manner; and

- c. Supporting structures and authorities at the municipality and ward levels to implement FFBS in a fully coordinated way, again identifying, enabling, and motivating one key structure to mobilize and guide stakeholders across the many essential development domains and from government, civil society, and the private sector, to achieve optimal results, serving as a model for other local structures to emulate.

Approaches to System Orchestration

Looking at system orchestration through the lens of the ultimate beneficiaries, the members of the Producer Groups, demands a focus on four critical questions:

1. What are the outcomes, or benefits, that the system wants the members of the producer groups to achieve?
2. Which actors are responsible at the local level to ensure that the Producer Groups have the knowledge, skills, access, & resources to achieve the desired or expected results?
3. Which structures at the local, provincial, & national levels are responsible for the local actors & what do/must they do to enable & expect them to support the Producer Groups?
4. What strategies will serve best to achieve the expected outcomes given the capacity & motivation of the key actors & the resources their structures provide for them?

Expected Outcomes

- ◆ Household Well-Being
- ◆ Access to Markets
- ◆ Gender Transformation
- ◆ Agricultural Productivity

System Orchestration Steps

Step 1 Identify and engage relevant public, civil society, and private structures working in technical and administrative levels in FFBS domains at current and future levels for FFBS operation and scaling.

Step 2 Agree and collaborate with system stakeholders to define precise objectives and strategies, aligning with national and regional priorities, plans and programs.

Step 3 Develop an implementable plan for FFBS that generates a replicable model and strong evidence, involving key structures strategically.

Step 4 Operate FFBS together with key Nepali structures at local, provincial, and national levels, transitioning responsibility deliberately and progressively from CARE-Nepal to these structures.

Way Forward for FFBS System Orchestration

1. Establish a uniform version of the FFBS model to which all implementers & funders will adhere.
2. Validation & introduction of new & improved technical elements—techniques, inputs, products, etc.
3. Produce guides, notes, and other informational materials on the technical aspects of the FFBS model.
4. Consolidation of training delivery & capacity for the respective FFBS technical domains & partners.
5. Strengthen technical support of farmer groups & local agents & trainers.
6. Strengthen, harmonize, and streamline the operational aspects along with monitoring & evaluation in implementing FFBS.
7. Support the creation or identification and operation of institutional structures & strategies for ensuring coordination & accountability.

In order to facilitate the orchestration process, CARE Nepal is currtly reviewing its broad functions as listed below to facilitate System Orchestration process within and outside.

- ◆ Systems analysis, mobilization, & coordination, both sector specific & cross sectoral & both central & decentralized.
- ◆ Logistics planning, coordinating with & supporting system structures.
- ◆ Technical expertise to support system actors' strategic design, planning, training, evaluation, & materials preparation, among other aspects
- ◆ Policy analysis & development, including what is required for system actors & partners (e.g., INGOs) to put policy into practice.
- ◆ Program implementation, including support of system-led design, planning, budgeting, mobilization, oversight/supervision, monitoring/support, etc.

SYSTEM LEVEL CHANGE AND IMPACT

CARE's vision of systems-level change is the shift that occurs by altering underlying structures and supporting mechanisms which make the system operate in a particular way, as a direct result of CARE and CARE's partners' programs and influence. It is a direct outcome of the cumulative effect of working across multiple systems level pathways. Systemic change may include shifts at multiple levels, including at the interpersonal, community, and institutional level. These shifts have real and important impacts on individual people's lives. Through the system level change we understand

- ◆ Which system are we seeking to change?
- ◆ What aspect of the system is working?
- ◆ What about if the system does not work?
- ◆ What aspect or function of those systems are we trying to change?
- ◆ What would it look like for that system to work differently for people?

- ◆ How do these changes to systems impact people's lives?
- ◆ Why System level intervention is important for lasting and sustained change ?

CARE's six systems-level pathways and key progress have been summarized below:

Advocacy to Influence Policies and Programs

CARE Nepal's recent programs have focused on advocating for policy changes and influencing various sectors. We have made significant strides such as submitting comprehensive Position Paper Submission for Policy, Program, Plan and Budget in Agriculture Sector at local, provincial, and federal levels. In addition, with National Farmers Group Federation (NFGF) we have jointly advocated for integration of categorization-based farmer's identity card in national policy, plan, and budget. Similarly, we have organized Policy Dialogue on localization of Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, and Categorization Based Farmer's Identity Card in Madhesh and Karnali Province.



CARE incorporates the Women Lead in Emergency (WLE) approach in its humanitarian programs, addressing the unique impact of disasters on women, girls, adolescents, elderly women, gender and sexual minorities, and persons with disabilities.

Moreover, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Supply, CARE conducted a workshop for Joint Sector Review to highlight strengths and capacity gaps in WASH system strengthening at the local government level, mainly focusing on eight building blocks conducted by CARE. We have been actively advocating for the WASH system governance at the local level and supported drafting the country level profile on WASH governance. Furthermore, through the Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP), there is an ongoing effort to advocate for the adoption of gender-responsive disaster management policies and plans at the provincial level, as well as to support local organizations in executing essential humanitarian responses.

CARE's collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizen, through partners Children as Zone of Peace (CZOP) and Girls Not Brides (GNB) Nepal, resulted in the revision of strategy against child marriage and initiation of endorsement process. CARE along with partner Samunnat Nepal worked with Centre for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD) for the development of accelerated learning curriculum for level 1 (grade 1-3) and level 2 (grade 4-5) and learning materials as well as dissemination in all seven provinces.

Promoting Social Norms Change

CARE works to address discriminatory and harmful social norms in the economic, social and political

Local Government's Strategic Investment: Empowering Adolescent Girls through Budget Allocation

CARE has been working with the adolescent girls since 2015 (Tipping Point Project) to build their capacity, improve awareness and empower them through mentorship and coaching. Last year, GRF's continuous engagement in the local level planning process led to allocation of NPR 4,600,000 (4.6 million: Approx. USD 35,000) in the Red Book (government's official budget) in 11 Municipalities (Rupandehi and Kapilvastu districts) to support activities such as pad making training to adolescent girls, self-defense training, street drama shows, awareness raising campaigns against child marriage and dowry, basic computer training to girls, awareness campaign against gender-based violence and abuse among others.

spheres, through community dialogue, other norms-shifting interventions, as well as broad media campaigns. CARE's Tipping Point Initiative addresses the gender and social norms that are at the root of



A sit-in initiative passionately advocating for equitable land rights.

child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM) and promotes the rights of adolescent girls through community-level programming and evidence generation. As a part of International Day of the Girl Child (IGCD), girls right forum (GRF) has initiated girls' right mobility campaign named "why I cannot go outside?" and continued to expand in various provinces across Nepal. Similarly, Farmers Field Business School and filling nutrition gap projects addresses harmful social norms around agricultural practices and nutrition behavior.

Supporting Social Movements

CARE provides support to social movements and representative organizations of marginalized groups, specifically those dedicated to advancing gender equality, aiming to foster transformation through their collaborative efforts. CARE, together CSOs including WOREC, GNB and GRF, have been actively leading social movements to end CEFM, violence against women, mobility restrictions for girls, and advocating for girls' right to education, through organizing various rallies, programs, social campaigns, partnering with allies and lobbying with the government for policy changes and support. We also support smallholders, marginalized and landless farmers, including women farmers, to advocate for their land rights.

Systems Strengthening and Social Accountability

CARE works with its partners to transform institutions by increasing partner capacity to hold duty bearers accountable for their obligations and supporting institutions to increase their capacities to provide inclusive, effective, and accountable services. For instance, increased access to public services, quality agriculture input, extension service, health services, locally led disaster response and risk reduction market and access to finance leverage with local government for expansion of FID, Nutrition Gardening, FID guideline are ensured under social accountability. Digital Community score Card (DSCs) tool has been adopted as key social accountability process where local government authorities, service providers as duty bearers and program participants as right holders are brought together in an interface at the locality to score the public service quality, availability accessibility. Findings of DSCS is utilized to develop action

plans and execute collective for further improvement on public services. The tool has been practiced particularly at government owned local health facilities, schools as well as UDAN centers jointly run by schools and local partners under the Gender Justice and Health Education Right (GJHER) interventions.

Inclusive Market-based Approaches

CARE's inclusive market-based approaches include improving access to finance for landless, small holders through VSLA, cooperatives, and BFIs. This approach also includes action related to creating various digital and non-digital marketing platforms such as the weekly Haat Bazaar, a self-regulated local farmers' market, and collection centers, Krishipath, developing and mobilizing local business facilitators, production input voucher, collaborating with private companies for source seed supply with buy back guarantee which contributes to fair pricing of agriculture products. Producer groups are linked with service providers or traders through input vouchers.

Scaling and Adapting Proven Models

CARE has been involved in testing innovative approaches and supporting proven models to be taken to scale. Farmers Field Business School concerned on promoting sustainable climate smart agriculture practices, improved production technology, gender and equity, food and nutrition security, group empowerment, market development, access to finance and monitoring and evaluation – to build the knowledge, skills, and practices of women farmers. The contract farming model proven effective to develop sustainable food and nutrition security and livelihoods has been a solution for poverty reduction among Terai landless communities so has scaled to 29 groups of 8 different local government. HPP continues to contribute in locally led and gender responsive emergency preparedness and response by strengthening capacities and devolving power to local civil society humanitarian actors including WLOs, WROs and other legitimate network-based organizations. Likewise, through UDAAN model, which is a 12-month Accelerated Learning Course, we support girls aged 10-14 years who have never been to school or have dropped out of school due to various reasons, to reintegrate into mainstream formal education.



care[®]

Artwork by Akshyat Man Tamrakar and Aditi Sherpa.



PARTNERSHIP

Aligned with CARE's global partnership policy, CARE Nepal actively seeks partnerships to drive enduring social change through the collective efforts of individuals, organizations, and institutions. We prioritize working with civil society partners who genuinely represent marginalized beneficiaries. Our **program strategy (2020-2025)** underscores the significance of partnerships and alliances as essential components of our efforts to tackle the root causes of poverty and marginalization. We've established implementing and strategic partnerships with organizations dedicated to jointly pursuing shared development and humanitarian objectives, with the aim of effecting positive, lasting transformations in the lives of impact populations.

Donor Partners

Alison Cornell	 Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation	
 institute of development studies	Latter Day Saint Charities (LDSC)	 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK <i>Danida</i>	 OPEC FUND for International Development
Patsy Collins Trust Fund Initiative (PCTFI)	START FUND NEPAL START NETWORK	The Global Fund	 THE KENDED A FUND
 TSADIK Foundation	 UKaid from the British people	 USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE	 Vorarlberg unser Land

Implementing Partners

CARE Nepal's implementation partnerships transcend mere subcontracting; they encompass shared vision, mutual capacity building, influence, accountability, and a strong focus on learning. Each implementation partnership is guided by well-defined outcomes, targets, deliverables, budgets, and timelines tailored to specific projects or funding sources. CARE Nepal collaborates with partners, including consortium INGOs and district-based local NGOs, to execute humanitarian and development programs across a number of districts in the country.

Partners

Bagmati Province

Association of Youth Organizations Nepal	Kathmandu
Community Impact Nepal (CIN)	Lalitpur
Howard Delafield International	Lalitpur
Institute of Himalayan Risk Reduction (IHRR)	Lalitpur
Jhpiego	Kathmandu
National Farmers Group Federation Nepal	Kathmandu
National Society for Earthquake Technology NSET	Kathmandu
National Campaign for Education Nepal	Kathmandu
Nepal CRS Company	Kathmandu
Samunnat Nepal	Kathmandu
Tarangini Mahila Adhikar Prashikshan Kendra	Kathmandu
Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)	Kathmandu

Karnali Province

Aawaaj	Surkhet
Dalit Development Society (DDS)	Salyan
Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center (KIRDARC) Nepal	Jumla
Pahadi Kshetra Bikas Avyahan (HRDC)	Jajarkot
Social Awareness Centre Nepal	Surkhet

Madhesh Province

Aasaman Nepal	Dhanusha
Bagmati Welfare Society Nepal	Sarlahi

Campaign Nepal for Research and Development	Rautahat
Dalit Janakalyan Yuba Club, Lahan	Siraha
Diva Yuva Club (DYC)	Parsa
Protection Nepal	Bara
Ratauli Yuwa Club	Mahottari
Samagra Jan Uttan Kendra (APEC)	Siraha

Lumbini Province

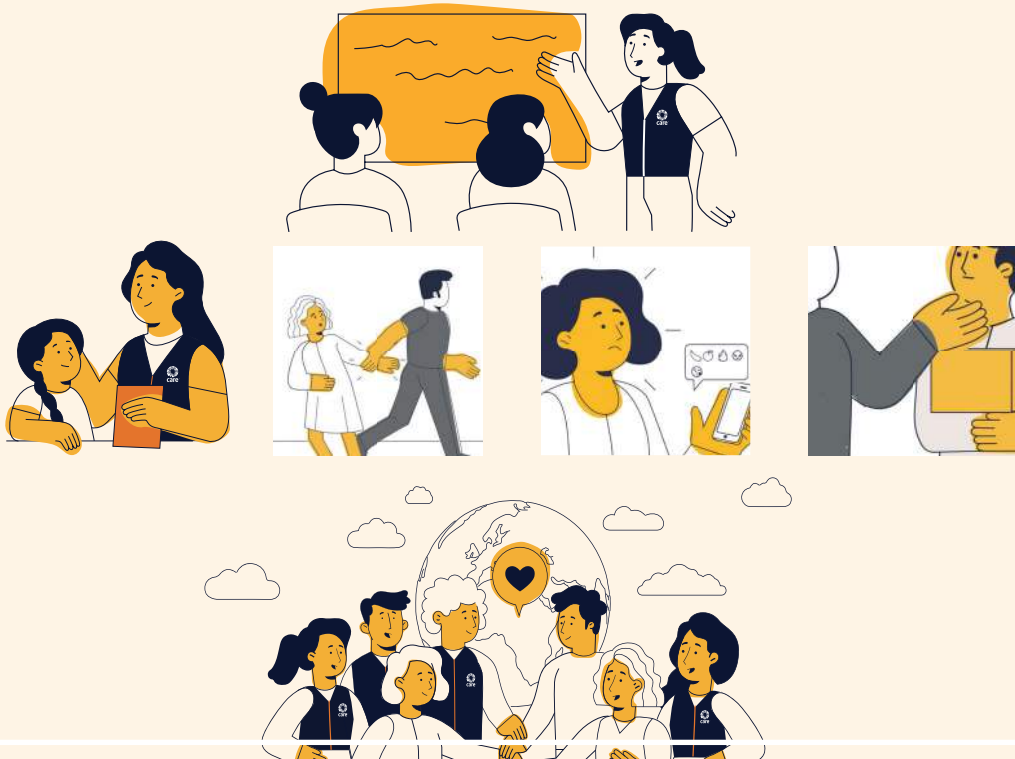
Bheri Environmental Excellence Group (BEE Group)	Banke
Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj (KMJS)	Banke
Rural Development and Awareness Society Nepal (RUDAS)	Rolpa

Strategic Partners (Signed MoU)

CARE Nepal forges strategic partnerships based on shared vision, trust, and mutual complementarity. These partnerships involve shaping each other's strategies, a commitment to collaborative learning, and knowledge sharing. They extend beyond project funding, signifying program-level dedication with an equitable power balance in agenda-setting. Currently, CARE Nepal has **15 strategic partners** across all thematic areas, including Equitable access to quality school education; Access to quality maternal and neonatal health and reproductive health rights; Proportionate representation and leadership of women and gender minorities in state governance structures; Elimination of child early and forced marriage; Right to land and safe settlements; Dignified work for informal sector laborer's; Equitable access and rights of marginalized to natural resource management; Localization of humanitarian action and women led in emergencies; Prevention of sexual and gender based violence; Climate justice; Food sovereignty and nutrition; Women leadership, entrepreneurship and access to finance.

Themes	Full Members (Signed MoU)
Multiple Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Association of Rural Municipality Nepal (NARMIN) Kathmandu University, Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM), Policy Lab Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB)/Community Information Center Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES)
Women Economic Empowerment & Climate Justice (WEE&CJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN) Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (FWEAN) National Farmers' Group Federation (NFGF)

<p>Disaster Risk Reduction & Gender in Emergencies (DRR&GiE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) Member Partners namely (a) Bheri Environment Excellence (BEE) Group, Banke; (b) Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj, Bardiya; (c) Conscious Society for Social Development (CSSD), Kailali; (d) National Environment and Equity Development Society (NEEDS), Kanchanpur (e) Human Welfare & Environment Protection Centre (HWEPC), Dang (f) Community Rural Development Society (CRDS) Nepal, Darchula (g) National Alliance of Women Human Right Defender (NAWHRD) (h) Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES) (i) National Farmers’ Group Federation (NFGF) • National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET)
<p>Gender Justice & Health and Education Rights (GJ&HER)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Rehabilitation Center (WOREC) • National Campaign for Education (NCE) Nepal • Yuwalaya (Secretariat Girls Not Bride Network (GNB) Nepal) • Children as Zone of Peace (CZOP) • Tripartite MoU between CEHRD (Center for Education and Human Resource Development), executing body of Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) and Sammunat Nepal (NGO)



FEEDBACK AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

At CARE Nepal, promoting organizational accountability revolves around enhancing operational excellence, expanding our outreach to marginalized communities, and maintaining the highest program quality standards. We recognize that those we serve are not just program participants but also invaluable experts in their unique contexts and challenges. Their feedback is vital to our continuous improvement, ensuring effectiveness, sustainability, and do-no-harm. CARE welcomes their expertise and views their feedback as an opportunity for continuous improvement.

CARE Nepal strategically implements Feedback and Accountability Mechanisms (FAMs) in all operational areas, guaranteeing that the voices of program participants and community members, including the most marginalized individuals, play an integral role in shaping our initiatives. This commitment stands strong across various intervention types, including humanitarian, developmental, direct implementation, and partnerships.

Objectives of FAM

- 1) To ensure adherence to maintaining program quality standards related to project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation process;
- 2) To empower minorities and marginalized individuals and communities, giving them a sense of ownership and participation in decision-making processes;
- 3) To uphold human rights, safeguarding children, preventing sexual harassment, exploitation, and assault, and preventing fraudulent activities and behaviors;
- 4) To prompt action and exert influence on decision-making at the appropriate level, facilitating course correct as needed and serving the program participants' best interests.

CARE Nepal employs a combination of active and static feedback channels, encompassing both digital and in-person approaches. We meticulously categorize the received feedback and complaints into programmatic, sensitive, or out-of-scope categories. Our dedicated FAM

and PSHEA focal point(s) collect, acknowledge, record, and escalate these concerns to the relevant program leads for thorough analysis, review, and necessary and course corrections. In 2023, we conducted 9 training events to disseminate the FAM mandate and processes within CARE and among our partners. This training reached a total of 73 participants, including representatives from 10 Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) partners and 7 project implementing partners.

The toll-free number is widely communicated to all project locations and partners, and it is fully operational. This number is integrated with an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system, which facilitates sending voice messages on gender-based violence (GBV) risks and FAM, as well as receiving community feedback and complaints. The IVR system records these messages and is consistently monitored by our FAM focal points.

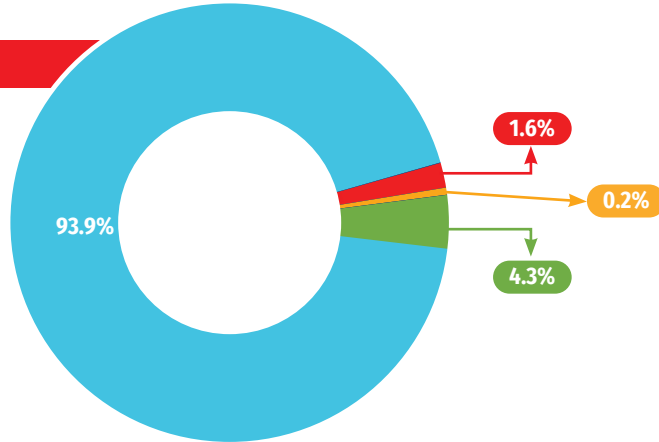
In FY 2023, we received a total of 27 inputs, including 13

complaints and 14 feedback, across four projects: Doti Earthquake Response, IMAR, UDAN-IV, and SOAR-III. These inputs were primarily programmatic in nature and revolved around requests for information, assistance, and expressing minor dissatisfaction with the quality of project deliverables. The feedback encompassed various aspects such as assistance reception, distribution center proximity, construction material quality for birthing centers, and the inclusivity of services and goods concerning age and gender, and suggestions for supporting the enrollment of graduated UDAAN girls in schools. Our key takeaways are the need for improved construction materials, localized distribution centers, enhanced inclusivity in goods and services, and better support during future shelter reconstructions. We collected this feedback through direct phone calls, our toll-free number, and exit interviews. The feedback was promptly escalated, resolved, and utilized for course correction, with effective communication back to the complainants.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN FY 2023

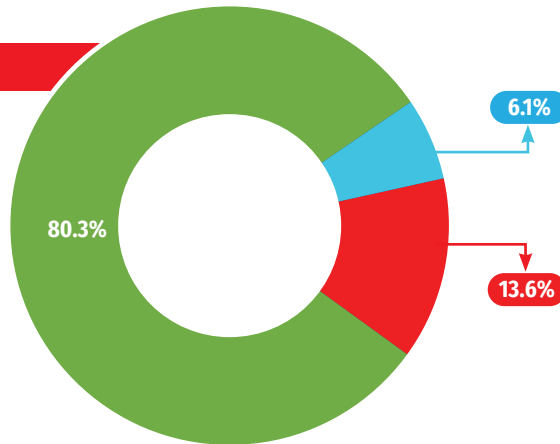
Member-wise Expenses

- Care Austria
- Care Denmark
- Care International UK
- Care USA



Theme-wise Expenses

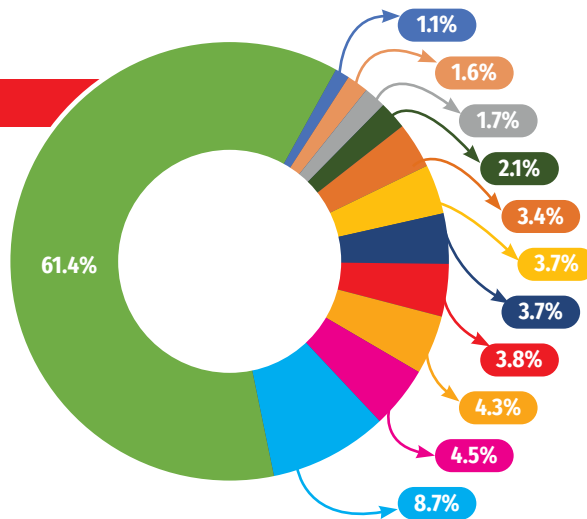
- Gender Justice & Health and Education Rights
- Women's Economic Empowerment & Climate Justice
- Disaster Risk Reduction & Gender in Emergency



Donor-wise Expenses

- The Global Fund
- CARE Austria
- Peierls Foundation
- Latter-Day Saint Charities
- Humanitarian Surge Fund
- PCTFI

- Sall Family Foundation
- Alison Cornell
- START Fund
- The Kendada Fund
- Other Donors
- USAID



CARE Nepal
Income and Expenditure Statement

for the period ended on 31 Ashad 2080
(Corresponding to period ended on 16 July 2023)

Particulars	Sch. no.	Current Year		Previous Year	
		NPR	USD	NPR	USD
Revenue					
Grants & Contracts Direct Revenue	11	671,337,760.68	5,328,430.58	313,219,681.11	2,634,955.31
Intra-Company Grants and Support	12	225,287,142.34	1,751,900.10	221,855,682.78	1,855,247.23
Contributions / Grants from CI Members	13	-	-	122,848.81	1,042.21
Total		896,624,903.02	7,080,330.68	535,198,212.70	4,491,244.75
Less: Expense					
Sub-Grant Expenses	14	417,097,677.22	3,243,897.49	196,359,016.88	1,641,286.71
Personnel Expenses	15	273,784,578.42	2,134,068.33	213,144,742.91	1,791,066.08
Materials / Services and Consumables	16	74,714,099.98	578,749.63	72,316,266.95	608,848.96
Intra Company Grants and Support	17	45,442,844.90	360,677.80	14,477,096.21	121,051.65
Professional Services	18	39,426,582.99	305,419.95	15,915,626.89	132,348.15
Travel and Transportation	19	47,424,075.61	366,271.23	15,629,048.70	130,704.97
Financing / Miscellaneous	20	1,424,526.14	11,055.58	2,360,062.24	19,743.39
Occupancy Related Expenses	21	10,135,545.01	78,603.75	5,617,725.24	47,051.26
Currency Translation & Exchange Gains / Losses	22	(12,825,027.25)	1,586.92	(621,373.32)	(856.42)
Total		896,624,903.02	7,080,330.68	535,198,212.70	4,491,244.75
Surplus/(Deficit)					

Notes to the Accounts 23

Schedules 11 to 22 and 23 form an integral part of this Income and Expenditure Statement

This is the financial statements referred to in our report of even date



Birbhadra Lamichhane
Finance Director
CARE-Nepal



Mona Sherpa
Acting Country Director
CARE-Nepal




Sanjeev Kumar Mishra
Partner
PKF TR Upadhyaya & Co.
Chartered Accountants



Date: 13 October 2023
Place: Kathmandu, Nepal



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