



# CARE NEPAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024





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

**All photos** © CARE Nepal





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**You want to make a difference in the world.**

You care. You're not alone.

For nearly a century, CARE has been there  
every day and in times of crisis.  
Working hand in hand. Human to human. From the  
first step to the last mile.

In the face of poverty, conflict, and injustice,  
CARE has been the trusted partner creating sustainable  
solutions for a better life for  
women and families around the world.

Globally connected, locally rooted.  
CARE's reach means community leadership  
has worldwide impact.

You never stop caring, and neither do we.

Whenever it's needed, whatever happens,  
no matter what,

**Together, we are**



**CARE, Always There.**



A CARE Nepal team member assists the Nutrition Group in conducting a self-evaluation of their household nutrition practices from Siraha District.





## ▶ 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 2023, CARE worked in 109 countries, reaching 167 million people through more than 1,600 programs.

### 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.



Mina Pun and her daughter, weathering the harsh winter chill beneath the makeshift tents after the Jajarkot Earthquake.





## ▶ OUR TEAM

**Embracing Flexibility and Balance:** Our team operates with flexibility, allowing staff to work from the field or remotely. This approach boosts both efficiency and effectiveness while reducing stress. We value taking time to rest and recharge to stay energized and committed. Managers and staff are dedicated, empowered and accountable, combining hard work, passion, dedication, skill, and a shared vision for impact to make difference in the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized population.

**Unified Team Effort:** We work as one, unified by shared goals that align across, including partners. Together, we collaborate to achieve our objectives with a focus on collective progress.

**Training and Development:** Professional growth is a top priority. We offer **cross training, exposure to various projects, mentoring, job shadowing, and trainings both in Nepal and Internationally.**

**Talent Mapping and Growth:** CARE Nepal's talent mapping - adapted from succession planning tool - is a strategic approach to identify and foster 'transferable skills' within our team. Through stretch assignments and coaching, we develop staff, and prepare them for future roles, aligning current skills with future needs.

**Learning and Development:** We foster a culture of continuous learning and development which plays

a pivotal role in staying competitive in a rapidly changing business environment. Investing in employee development strengthens engagement, job satisfaction, and talent development, which in turn drives our long-term success.

**Team Skills We Are Prioritizing:** We focus on effective workload management, encourage restful leave, promote staff diversity, and prioritize performance coaching to strengthen our team.

**Values and Zero Tolerance:** We uphold respect, collaboration, and kindness while having **zero tolerance** for fraud, corruption, conflict of interest, harassment or any kind of sexual abuse or exploitation of anyone, especially children or vulnerable adults.

**Digital Ability:** Our team embraces digital innovation using HR technologies, automation, and robust system for MEL, operations, and finance to ensure smooth remote working.

**Diversity for Lasting Impact:** Reflecting Nepal's rich diversity, our team and our partners include talent from all backgrounds, cultures, and abilities. We prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility to amplify impact and sustainability while empowering local leaders and voices to drive change.



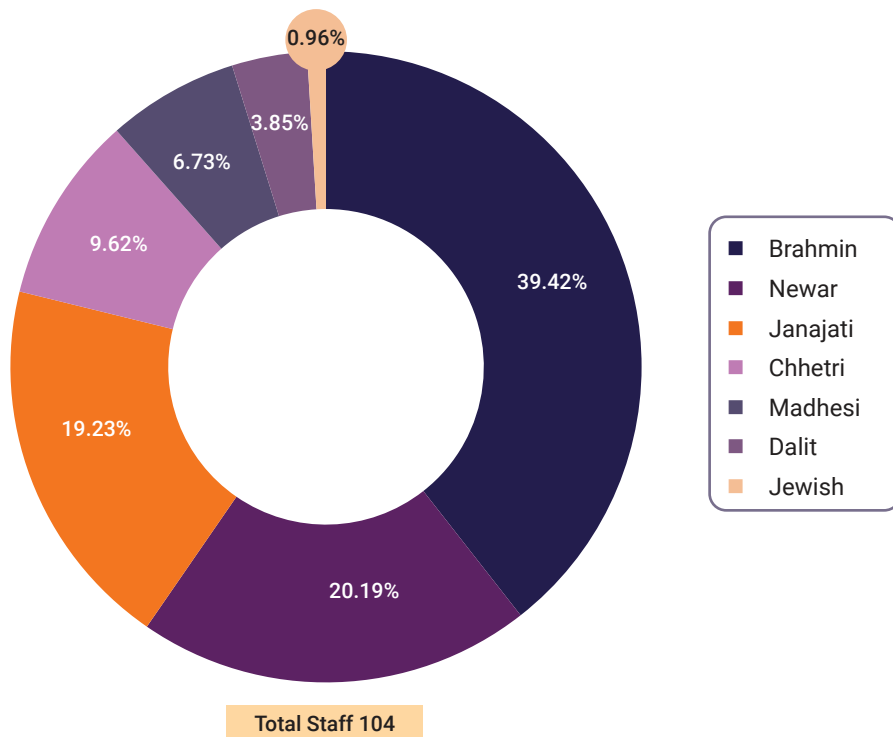


As part of group learning in the Farmers' Field and Business School, a woman farmer utilizes a demonstration plot to enhance her farming skills and knowledge.



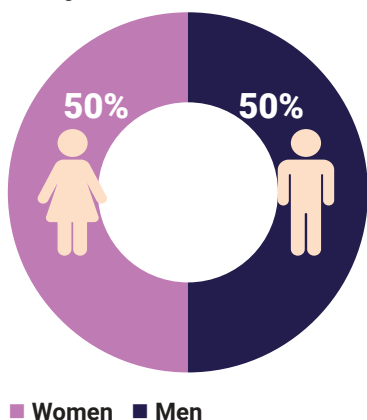
# STAFF COMPOSITION

In Terms of Caste, Ethnicity and Religion

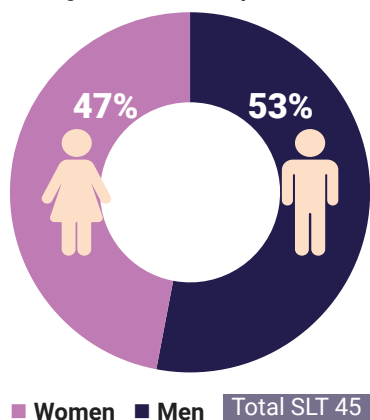


## Gender Distribution

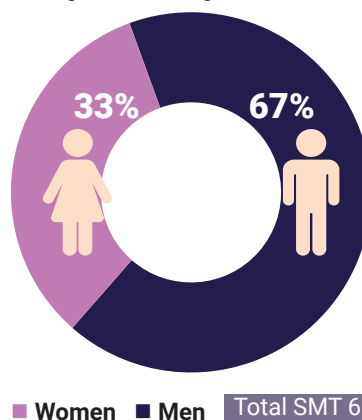
Among All Staff



Among Senior Leadership Team



Among Senior Management Team





Adolescent out-of-school girls from Siraha attending classes at local school after completing an 11-month UDAAN session under CARE Nepal's UDAAN Program.



# 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.



SyAHAR project's Skilled Birth Attendant trainings to auxiliary nurses in Jajarkot District prove crucial in ensuring maternal health.



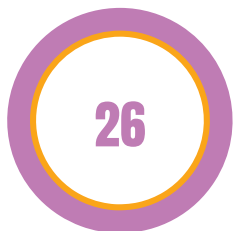


Damage caused by the earthquake that struck Jajarkot on 23 November 2023.

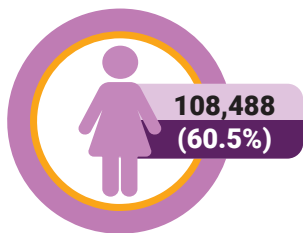


# ▶ REACH IN FY24

Total Number of  
Projects



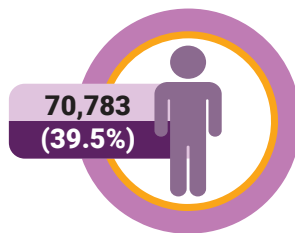
Women



Total Direct  
Reach



Men



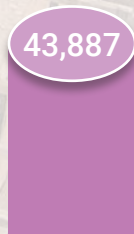
## Total Reach by Impact Areas



Climate  
Justice



Right to Food,  
Water and Nutrition



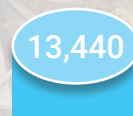
Climate  
Justice



Right to  
Health

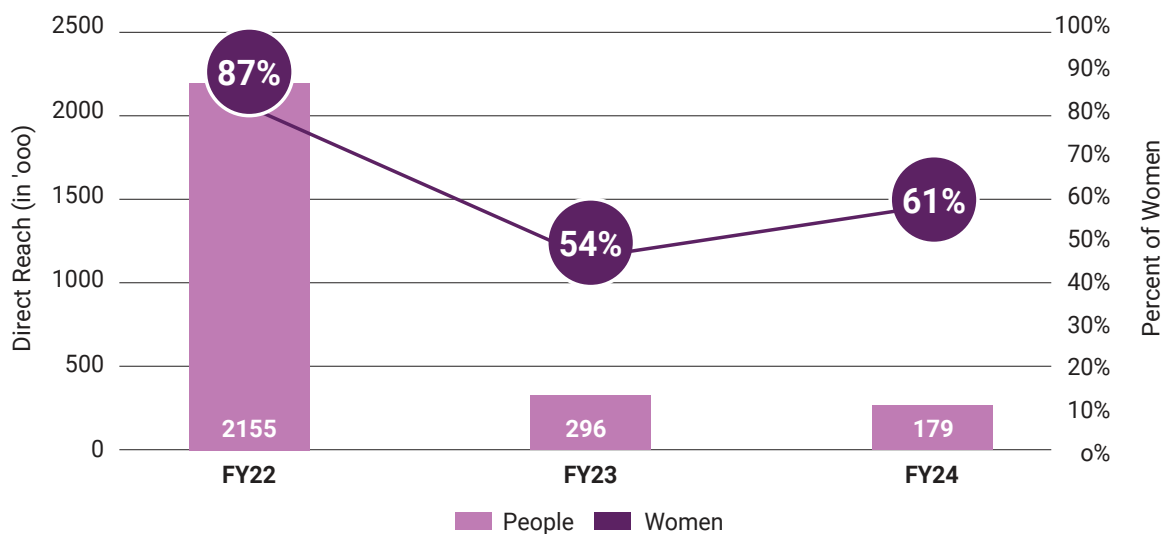


Humanitarian  
Action



Women's  
Economic Justice

## Percentage of Projects Meeting Minimum Program Quality Standards



## Percent of Projects Meeting Program Quality Minimum Standards

Program Quality Drivers	FY24 (N=20)
Gender & Inclusion	95%
Feedback and Accountability	75%
Do No Harm	100%
Partnership	100%
Relevance and Coherence	100%



\*CARE's Gender Marker Guidance



\*\*CARE's Vision 2030

### What does meeting PQ minimum standard mean?

Gender and Inclusion	*Gender Marker Score of at least "Sensitive" for Humanitarian, and at least Responsive for development/nexus projects.
Feedback and Accountability	Project uses and manages Feedback and Accountability Mechanisms (FAM) consistently and in line with up-to-date Standard Operating Procedures developed with at least partial participation of impact population, and making changes during implementation based on feedback received.
Do No Harm	Safeguarding is included in project cycle and budget including risk mitigation measures being carried out regularly as part of the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) process.
Partnership	Either all or most activities implemented with/through partners.
Relevance and Coherence	Contributing to at least one **CARE's Vision 2030 Impact Areas



# GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE



CARE Nepal provided transitional shelters to 235 families affected by the Jajarkot earthquake, offering crucial support to bridge the gap between emergency response and long-term reconstruction.

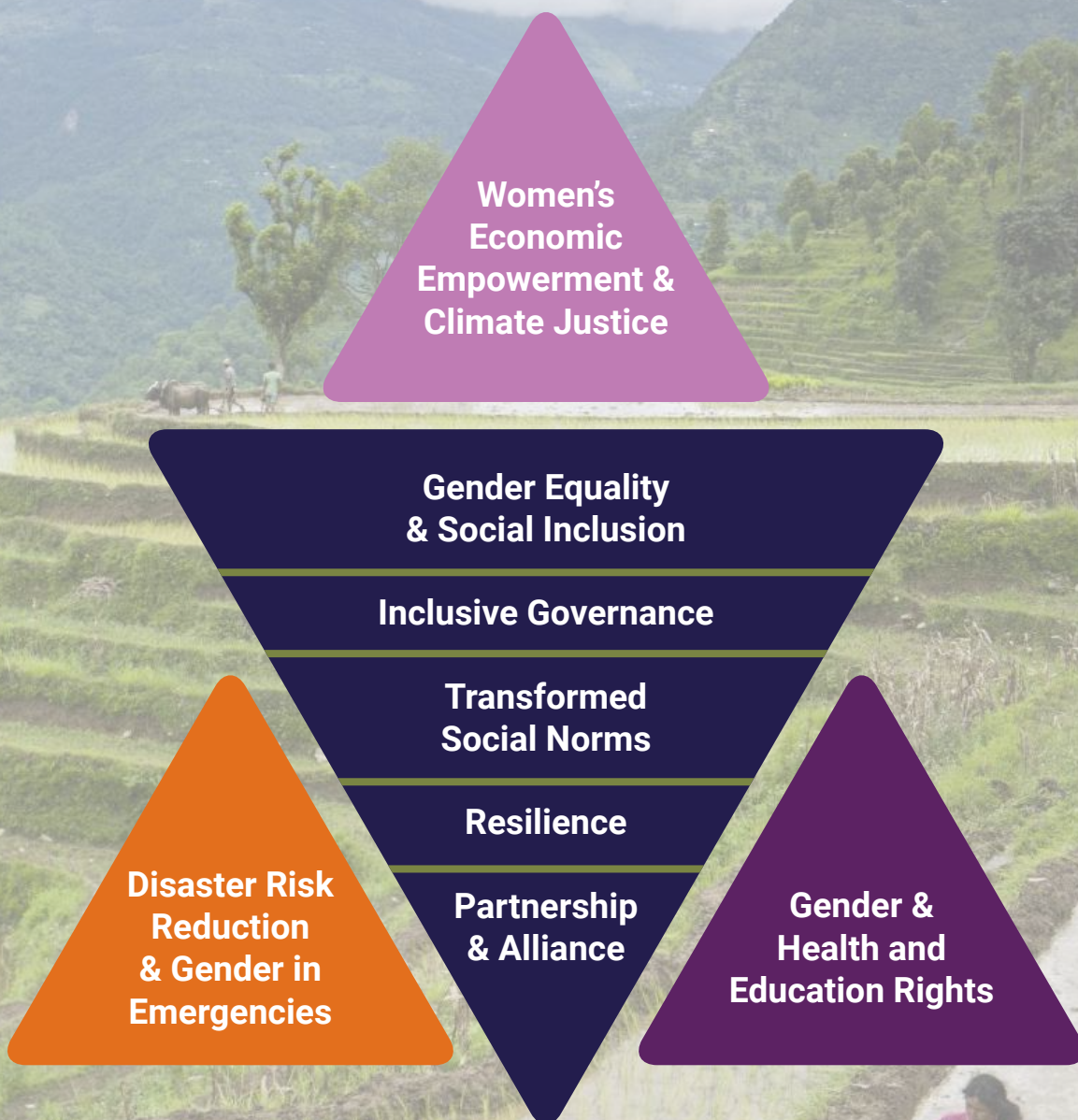




Ramita Kumari Mandal from Saptari District improves her children's health with nutritious food from her organic garden while earning income by selling surplus produce.



# ▶ THEMATIC AREAS







Affordable and flood-resilient housing design in Kailali District built using low-cost Compressed Stabilized Earth Bricks (CSEB).





## GENDER JUSTICE & HEALTH AND EDUCATION RIGHTS (GJ & HER)

CARE Nepal is committed to building a gender-just future where women and girls, particularly those marginalized by unjust systems, have equal access to health, education, and legal services. GJ & HER works to make the fundamental rights of safety, life free from violence, dignified health and quality education for women and girls a reality through just access to equitable quality service whilst promoting their voice and leadership. At the core of this mission lies a dedication to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), which shapes the organization's innovative tools, inclusive partnerships, and coordinated efforts with stakeholders. CARE Nepal actively addresses socio-economic and political barriers, empowering women and girls to lead decision-making processes and advocate for gender-responsive systems and services.

In health, efforts are underway to improve access to quality and equitable maternal, newborn, and sexual

reproductive health services. By strengthening local healthcare systems, challenging harmful social norms, and promoting accountability, women and girls are increasingly able to claim their right to quality health care. Support to construct birthing centers in remote communities along with health workers capacity enhancement is ongoing to prevent maternal and neonatal death. Through the work on enhancing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Rights, adolescent girls now have access to sexual and reproductive health information and quality adolescent friendly services and are supported to adopt healthy reproductive behaviors through social and behavior change interventions. The program has also supported to establish health corners and girl-friendly sanitation facilities in schools. Teachers trained in adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) provide ongoing guidance, ensuring sustained support. Likewise, parental education and engagement with health service providers through

critical dialogues and reflections to change social norms around adolescent reproductive health is a focus for promoting enabling environment. Community based group-based approaches and school-based approaches make up a large part of the demand generation and address various barriers that limit girls' and women's access to health.

As a part of education and adolescent empowerment addressing structural barriers to learning for marginalized girls is a priority. Initiatives focus on access to education, support for alternative pathways for economic empowerment, enhancing skills, amplifying voices and collective girls led activism to combat harmful practices such as early and forced marriage, restrictions on mobility and disparity of education for girls. The UDAAN accelerated learning program offers out-of-school girls' access to condensed, government-approved curricula, life skills, and leadership training as a catch-up opportunity. Girls completing the UDAAN program transition to formal schools Mentorship models and remedial classes to successful school transited UDAAN girls support their retention and academic success, laying a strong foundation for their future. FY24 saw successful transition of **414 UDAAN graduate girls** to formal schools and new enrollment of **750 girls** in new batch of UDAAN across working districts.

The program works with older out of school adolescent girls (16-19 years) on economic empowerment by investing on the development of entrepreneurial skills and business plan through **Entrepreneurship Learning Center (ELC)** module, providing vocational trainings, seed grant to initiate the micro-enterprises and linkages with micro-finance institutions and networks for enterprise growth. The program has been able to support girls led activism and movement for girls' rights to education, mobility, SRHR by bringing them into a network of girls as Girls Right Forum spanning membership of **3,000 girls** from ward, municipal, district to province level. These girls with enhanced agency and voice are working in their communities as agents of change and have been linked and networked with larger feminist movement, CSO platforms and alliances for solidarity and support on their agenda from other intersectional actors.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Improved **family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH)** knowledge of **67,240 adolescents and youth**, fostering engagement and encouraging healthier behaviors.
- Collaborated with **Center for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD) and National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN)** to disseminate curriculum, learning materials, and facilitators guides for grades 1-8 through in a virtual event that reached **216 out of 460 rural municipalities**.
- Collaborated with CEHRD to develop and launch **non-formal and life-long learning operation and management standards-2079**, and is now in the process for endorsement by the **Ministry of Education, Science and Technology**.
- Provided access to education for **13,947 out-of-school children** through condensed curriculum delivered by partners, community learning centers and non-formal schools.
- Supported 29 girls to complete Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) certified short-term entrepreneurship development skill training** with an additional **21 girls completing 390-hour TEVT training** in Siraha District.
- Established **4 Girls Inclusive and Education Network (GIEN)** at the Palika level in Surkhet District.
- Supported **three municipalities** (Bheriganga and Chaukune in Surkhet and Bhagwanpur in Siraha District) to create **Equitable Education Plan** focused on non-formal education, community learning centers, and safe and inclusive school environment for adolescent girls.
- Enabled **17 child clubs across Surkhet, Jajarkot and Siraha to lead community campaigns** against child marriage, dowry system, gender discrimination and child rights.



Parents, community leaders, and religious figures are also intensively engaged through transformative dialogues on child rights, gender equality, family support and the harmful effects of patriarchy and child marriage. These efforts foster community-wide change, ensuring that the voices of women and girls are heard and valued. Support to strengthen education systems entails working in close coordination with education state authorities and actors from local to federal level. **Collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology** has resulted in the development and dissemination of operational standards for non-formal education. Capacity-building initiatives in rural municipalities have equipped local leaders to manage education systems effectively.

Accountability mechanisms such as the **Community Score Card (CSC)** bring citizens and service providers together to evaluate and improve health and education services. In schools and health facilities across several districts, these platforms have enabled collaborative action plans to address systemic challenges.

The vision extends beyond service delivery to create environments where women and girls live free from violence and fully exercise their rights. Initiatives addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) include family-based approaches that tackle harmful norms through intergenerational dialogue, intimate partner



An expectant mother accesses prenatal check-up services at the Bhagwati Birthing Centre in Jajarkot District.

counseling, school-based interventions, child-clubs strengthening, support to social movements and partnerships with local governments to enhance judicial processes. Emergency GBV support mechanisms and strengthening referral pathways further ensure survivors' safety and security. In collaboration with women's rights organizations, our research explores the challenges faced by Nepalese women activists and collective social movements for women and girls rights and investigates how they have sustained their gains in the face of backlash. Longitudinal feminist studies are building a theoretical framework grounded in women's experiences, highlighting their resilience and agency. Through integrated programming in health, education, GBV, leadership, and economic empowerment, systems are being strengthened at local, provincial, and federal levels. Aligning efforts with stakeholders at all levels creates a future where marginalized women and girls overcome systemic barriers, claim their rights, and thrive in equitable communities.

## GJ & HER Reach





Celebrating Menstrual Hygiene Day in Madhesh Province.

## PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Bezos Family Foundation Strengthening Opportunities for Adolescent Resilience (SOAR) Project

Launched in 2022, the Bezos Family Foundation's SOAR project operates in eight rural/municipalities within Surkhet and Siraha district. The project aims to expand CARE's UDAAN/SOAR model to improve access and retention for out-of-school girls and at-risk girls from dropping out. **201 UDAAN graduate girls** transitioned to formal schools, while **303 new girls** joined the program this year. Additionally, **401 girls** benefited from remedial learning support through coaching classes and access to learning materials.

It offers support in literacy, numeracy, life skills, and leadership development, creates an equitable learning environment at home and establishes a safe environment within schools. **1,169 child club members (800 girls, 369 boys)** participated in developing action plans and interventions to address school related GBV and raise awareness on gender equality and girls' education. The project also advocates with the government for policies and mechanisms that support further expansion of accelerated learning programs tailored for out-of-school adolescents. This year the project was able to engage with **1,226 parents through transformative dialogues** to change their outlook and behavior towards their daughters' education and promote an enabling learning environment at home.



Getting married at 13 put an abrupt stop to my education and brought many challenges, but the UDAAN program has given me a second chance. Initially, I struggled to adapt to the learning environment, but the support from CARE Nepal and Aawaaj, along with their effective teaching methods, made all the difference. I now dream of passing my grade 12 exams, pursuing higher education, and developing entrepreneurial skills. Thanks to initiatives like Balika Shabha, I've gained confidence and essential life skills. I am truly grateful for this opportunity to rewrite my story and build a better future for myself and my son."

**Sunita Bista, Surkhet**





I was out of school for two years, but UDAAN classes gave me a second chance I never thought possible.

Thanks to the incredible support from CARE Nepal and Samagra Janautthan Kendra, I am now back in school, proudly enrolled in grade 8. UDAAN not only helped me catch up academically but also empowered me to raise my voice and believe in myself. It gave me the courage to dream again, and I am confident that I will achieve my life's aspirations step by step."

**Radha Kumari Mandal**

## UDAAN V

Funded by Land Vorarlberg, UDAAN V is a 24-months project dedicated to improving access to quality education for out-of-school adolescent girls aged 10-14 from poor and marginalized communities in Siraha District and expanding livelihood opportunities for out-of-school adolescent girls aged 15-19. The project fosters enabling environment within families and local communities, improve governance in community schools, and promotes child-friendly spaces. Additionally, it also supports UDAAN graduates, helping them strengthen their learning and leadership skills to improve school retention. This project contributes towards achieving gender equality and girls' empowerment through increased opportunities for education, and livelihoods development through entrepreneurship trainings, vocational skills, access to finance and business startup. In Siraha, **103 UDAAN graduates transitioned to formal schools**, and **216 schoolgirls**, including these

graduates, received remedial learning support to prevent dropout. To address social norms and strengthen parental involvement in education, **110 parents** participated in transformational dialogues on parenting roles and intergenerational communication.

To economically empower out-of-school girls, weekly Entrepreneurship Learning Centre (ELC) sessions were introduced to build entrepreneurship skills. **Fifty ELC graduates** received incubation support, including business plan development, vocational training, and access to micro-enterprise networks. Of these, **29 girls completed short-term entrepreneurship development training**, while **21 undertook a customized 390-hour Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) course** through Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT).

CARE Nepal also facilitated financial literacy training, seed funding, and linkages with high-performing microfinance institutions to support these young entrepreneurs in launching their microenterprises.

## Tipping Point

The Tipping Point project, funded by the Kendeda Fund, worked to shift inequitable gender and social norms in Kapilvastu and Rupandehi districts, enabling adolescent girls to develop skills, build supportive relationships, and challenge the root causes of **child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM)**. The project focused on four key areas: enhancing **sexual and reproductive health (SRH)** knowledge and access, fostering social norms change, supporting girl-led movements, and providing alternatives to marriage.



Girls from the GRF engage in an interactive meeting to discuss critical issues such as child marriage.



During its closing phase, the project strengthened collaborations by **linking the Girls' Rights Forum (GRF) with larger movements, CSO networks, and issue-based coalitions.** Eight GRF members joined the Sungava Community Development Center in Rupandehi to deliver Social and Financial Skills Packages (SFSP) to adolescents. Two GRFs connected with the provincial girls' network through Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN), paving the way for joining the national girls' network. Additionally, with support from Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN), three GRF campaigners attended a child club graduates' program in Kathmandu, drafting a memorandum for government investment in children.

GRFs also influenced local governance by participating in palika-level planning meetings, securing inclusion of their agendas in local plans. As a result of their advocacy, **Sammarimai Rural Municipality in Kapilvastu allocated NPR 3.2 million (USD 24,000 approx.) for women and girls** and drafted a GESI policy awaiting municipal approval. Kapilvastu Municipality supported 17 GRF members with 3-month basic computer training and 3 members with beautician training. Meanwhile, 45 GRF members attended self-defense training organized by Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality.

## SOAR in Jajarkot

CARE Nepal successfully piloted an accelerated learning program for out-of-school girls in Jajarkot District through mentorship approach that involves 1-10 girls in a community setting, teaching them the SOAR curriculum through local mentors and finally transition to formal schools. This 16-month long SOAR continuation project in Bheri and Nalagad municipalities in Jajarkot District seeks to support the graduate's mentorship accelerated program through remedial and life skill mentorship support and create accountability of schools and local government through community score card and accountability dialogue to promote equitable quality education. **The mentorship model is helping 64 adolescent girls to attend accelerated learning program and 126 in-schoolgirls at risk of dropping out** are supported through remedial learning this year. A total of **171 parents participated in transformational discussion sessions** aimed at addressing critical

social issues. In Jajarkot, six child clubs are actively leading community-based campaigns on topics such as child marriage, the dowry system, gender discrimination, and child rights, fostering awareness and advocacy at the grassroots level.

As part of the emergency education response following the Jajarkot earthquake, 42 school teachers received training in psychosocial first aid to support children coping with trauma. Temporary learning centers were established in three schools, providing a safe and conducive environment for learning. Additionally, **232 schoolchildren received essential learning materials**, including school bags, uniforms, and stationery. The initiative also included community-based awareness-raising orientations on gender-based violence (GBV) during emergencies, promoting safety and resilience among affected populations.



My daughter Kalpana is now in grade 5 after completing the 11-month UDAAN course, which was delivered through a mentorship approach in Bheri Jajarkot with support from CARE Nepal. As her mother, I have made a commitment to support her education. I used the income from selling construction aggregate to buy two she-goats. Once I sell their offspring, I plan to invest the earnings in her education to help her reach her goals. Thank you, CARE Nepal, for giving my daughter a second chance and helping her see her lost dreams come true."

**Mamata B.K**

**Mother of Kalpana B.K**



## Strengthening Systems for Improved Access to Health and Rights (SyAHAR)

A transformative initiative funded by Allison Cornell/ CARE USA is making significant strides in Jajarkot District to improve maternal and reproductive health in remote communities. This project addresses critical gaps in healthcare access, social norms, and infrastructure while fostering and reshaping power relations, and challenging structural barriers that impede progress.

The initiative works closely with women and school adolescents to build consciousness, confidence, and aspirations. It simultaneously develops critical skills



We are profoundly thankful to CARE Nepal and HRDC for their invaluable support in establishing the birthing center at our Bhargaun Basic Health Service Center (BHSC) and addressing the harmful social norms and behaviors that have long hindered health outcomes. Previously, our ward had no maternal health services, compelling pregnant women to travel far from home for care. Today, the new birthing center enables expectant mothers to access quality care within their own community. Moreover, the Skilled Birth Attendant (SBA) training provided to our Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) has not only enhanced the accessibility of maternal and child health services but also elevated their quality, making a lasting impact on the well-being of our ward.”

**Prakash Nepali**

**Health Facility In-charge, Nalgad-6**



A joyful young mother holds her baby after a safe delivery at the birthing center.



and capabilities through targeted interventions. Moreover, it challenges discriminatory social norms and exclusionary practices, advocating for systemic changes in policies, laws, and services.

In collaboration with local partners and the government, **two fully equipped birthing centers and two maternity waiting homes** have been constructed. These facilities aim to reduce home births and prevent maternal and newborn deaths in a district where such outcomes remain a pressing challenge. Healthcare workers have received specialized training, and innovative telemedicine services now connect them with the provincial Surkhet Hospital for emergency consultations, ensuring timely, lifesaving care.

Beyond healthcare, the project targets behavioral change by **promoting institutional childbirth and improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices** among school adolescents. The construction of 4 girl-friendly toilets, adolescent health corners in schools ensures a more inclusive and supportive environment. Efforts to shift social norms address deeply rooted barriers to maternal and reproductive health, enabling women and adolescents to access their rights and resources with greater confidence and dignity. Community-based group interventions using **Social Analysis and Action (SAA)** and **Self-Applied Technique for Quality Health (SATH)** engaged **2,252 participants** in discussion on topics such as gender and social norms, family planning, nutrition and menstruation health hygiene. Recognizing the importance of community engagement to improve the accountability and responsiveness, supported CARE's Community Health Score board (CHSB) at six health facilities of Nalgad Municipality of Jajarkot district. As part of emergency response to Jajarkot earthquake, food packages designed for pregnant and lactating women along with essential items for infants were distributed in the project areas.

### **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,



"The SuPWR reflective workshop with participation from the struggle members from four different countries, including Nepal, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, has been a transformative experience, helping me build capacity and co-construct knowledge to strengthen Girls' Rights Forum's advocacy efforts. The use of innovative participatory and reflective methodologies has been particularly empowering, which we will also replicate in our meetings as well."

**Sadhika, Vice Chairperson, GRF**

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 in collaboration with National Alliances for Women Human Right (Women's human right), Nepal Ekta Mahila Samaj (Land and housing right of women), Jagriti Mahila Maha Sangh, and Girls Right Forum (Child marriage, right to mobility and education) as struggle members. It **examines when, how and why women's power struggles in Nepal have sustained their gains despite various forms of backlash**. Through a longitudinal feminist research, we are building and testing a new interdisciplinary theoretical framework of women's struggles to power, grounded in their own understandings of how these struggles endure or advance in contexts of explicit (e.g. violence) and indirect (e.g. co-option, appropriation and subversion of agendas) forms of backlash.



## Saahash Project

The Saahash Project, a one-year pilot in Siraha District funded internally by CARE Nepal, builds consciousness and aspirations among women, girls, men, and boys to prevent and respond to **gender-based violence (GBV)** while fostering a culture of peace. Through family-based approaches, couples' interventions, and reflective dialogues, the project addresses the power relations shaping daily lives and promotes alternative conflict resolution. Collaborations with women's collectives and networks challenge discriminatory social norms and exclusionary practices, while engagement with local governments ensures the development



In my household, women were never given the freedom to make decisions. However, since participating the SAAHAS Project, our family dynamics have undergone a remarkable transformation. My husband now includes both my daughter-in-law and me in important decisions, fostering mutual respect and understanding. Initially, my relationship with my daughter-in-law was strained; she never called me 'mom,' which deeply hurt me. But through the project's sessions, our perspectives shifted, and we began to build a bond rooted in support and care. My husband has become more supportive, and our family now works together in harmony. These sessions have brought us awareness, unity, and a renewed sense of respect for one another."

**Godawari Sah, Member of the Mother-in-law Group, Siraha District**

of standard operating procedures that hold justice providers accountable. A **Quick Response Team (QRT)** has been created in partnership with the judicial committee of Dhangdhimai, Siraha District, to strengthen the local-level judicial process making it more accessible and effective. CARE also provides emergency support to survivors, addressing their urgent needs and ensuring their safety and security. Through this initiative, 9 GBV survivors have received immediate support.

## USAID Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH)

The USAID ARH Project, a five-year initiative led by CARE Nepal and in partnership with Howard Delafield International (HDI), Jhpiego, Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON), and Nepal CRS Company, empowers Nepali adolescents to make informed decisions about their reproductive health. By collaborating with government agencies, civil society organizations, and private sector partners, USAID ARH aims to improve access to quality family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) services, provide accurate information, and create a supportive environment for adolescents. The project focuses on reaching **marginalized communities in 60 municipalities of 11 districts across Madhesh, Lumbini, and Karnali Provinces**, contributing to the overall well-being and future potential of Nepali adolescents.

The project just completed its second year of operations and through coordinated efforts with national, provincial and local government along with local partners, the project has effectively reached marginalized communities, empowering adolescents to challenge harmful social norms and make informed decisions about their reproductive health and to improve quality and access of the services they seek. Specific outcomes that have been achieved this year include:

- Improved FP/RH knowledge of **67,240 adolescents and youth**, fostering engagement and encouraging healthier behaviors.
- SAA sessions raised awareness on social norms, adolescent-friendly health services, menstrual health and hygiene (MHH), and consequences of child marriage on health, education, and aspirations.



A community-driven Sexual and Reproductive Health meeting, fostering dialogue and awareness to promote informed choices and access to vital services.

- Launched a digital intervention package, including Nepal's first virtual influencer and a dedicated website, complementing face-to-face SAA group interactions.
- Introduced three key innovations: Hub-and-Spoke mentoring; adaptation of Sangini app, and the digital game Girls' Hostel.
- Enabled 110 girls who completed the accelerated learning course through UDAAN centers to enroll in formal education.
- Implemented the Self-applied Technique for Quality Health (SATH) in **128 Health Mothers Groups (HMGs)**, empowering **2,111 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV)** to provide FP information, referrals, and services.
- Strengthened adolescent-responsive contraceptive services by engaging 253 public and **275 private health facilities** and training **670 service providers** through the Hub-and-Spoke mentoring model across three provinces. This model was initiated in 12 hub facilities, four referral hospitals, and 73 public and private spoke facilities.
- Introduced the Youth-led Community Health Scoreboard in 84 health facilities across three provinces to enhance governance and accountability. Thirty-five percent of health facilities have shown improvements in youth-led community health scoreboard scores
- Organized local-level planning workshops in 37 municipalities across three provinces, leading to stronger local commitments to adolescent health.
- Facilitated policy and budgetary support, with **53 municipalities allocating NPR 38.9 million (USD 299,050 approx.) for FP/ARH** in their annual work plans and budgets.





Local women now have access to comprehensive prenatal and postnatal care at the Bhargau Birthing Centre in Jajarkot District.

## LESSONS LEARNED

**G**ender-transformative program designs that invest in shifting societal norms, alongside enhancing girls' individual skills and improving relationships within their households, have proven more effective. This approach required CARE and its partners to embark on their own transformative journey, enabling them to become authentic, reliable change agents. By engaging community leaders, parents, and siblings - particularly men and boys - to reflect on gender relations and the pressures they face, and to take action to promote gender equality, projects not only mitigated backlash but also enhanced their overall impact.

Collaboration and advocacy with government counterparts have been instrumental in leveraging resources and building ownership. For instance,

through persistent efforts, the Center for Education and Human Resource Development under Nepal's Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology fully funded the development of the Level 4 non-formal education (NFE) curriculum after partnering to develop Level 3.

Addressing the needs of married adolescents has posed unique challenges, particularly in ensuring their consistent participation in educational programs. Economic hardships often drive these young women to prioritize income generation over education. To address this, the project shifted its approach, integrating entrepreneurial opportunities tailored to their aspirations, enabling them to earn an income and make informed decisions about their lives while maintaining their dignity.

In remote areas, ensuring access to maternal and child healthcare is hindered by long travel distances and inadequate infrastructure. Pregnant women often arrive at birthing centers at the last moment, increasing risks to both mother and child. In response, we incorporated multipurpose maternity rooms in new birthing centers, following government guidelines. These spaces allow women in early labor to rest under nurse observation and also serve as recovery areas post-delivery, helping mitigate postpartum complications.

Onsite coaching for health workers has significantly improved data quality and understanding of accurate record-keeping. Regular, in-person support has proven to be an effective method for capacity building in health facilities.

Adolescent girls have shown great engagement when reproductive health programs use interactive and co-designed approaches. Involving youth in creating content has led to more relevant and impactful interventions. Youth clubs, when equipped with skills in leadership, advocacy, and campaign management, have emerged as powerful advocates for reproductive health. However, ongoing support and capacity building are critical to sustaining their impact.

Investing in girls' voices and leadership has begun with equipping them with life skills and evolved to creating public advocacy spaces where they can take action on issues that matter to them. Projects have centered on girls' priorities, enabling them to define their vision, connect with allies, and lead efforts to protect against challenges like child marriage. Supporting girl-led movements through civil society collaboration, access to advocacy platforms, and addressing logistical barriers has further amplified their leadership. Intergenerational

dialogues have fostered mentorship and equitable partnerships between women-led civil society actors and younger advocates. These dialogues have aligned efforts across multiple levels to advance girls' and women's rights.

Through engagements like SuPWR research, we have observed that collective action and solidarity among diverse actors and coalitions amplify the impact of women's rights movements. Sustaining the momentum requires CARE to proactively facilitate platforms for these movements, enabling them to reflect on strategies, share insights, and build collective strength for future progress.

Under GBV, addressing policy and structural gaps remains critical, including revisiting the Domestic Violence Act to limit harmful mediation in intimate partner violence cases and strengthening community structures like panchayats to deliver survivor-centered justice.

Comprehensive, long-term support has been provided through trauma-informed approaches, including counseling, mental health services, and reintegration programs, while targeted initiatives address the stigma faced by survivors of rape, teenage mothers, and children born of violence through education, livelihoods, and alternative care options. Recognizing the rise of technology-facilitated GBV, we have advocated for policy reforms and their effective implementation.

In humanitarian settings, GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response are integrated into disaster preparedness and recovery through safe spaces, accessible reporting, and survivor-centered services. Collaborating with social movements and networks has helped identify policy gaps and strengthen culturally sensitive, systemic GBV interventions, reinforcing the need for holistic, survivor-focused approaches.



Photo credit: USAID ARH or USAID Nepal

## The Impact of Srimahakal Youth Club in Haripurba, Sarlahi

Sanju Kumari Yadav's Fight Against Child Marriage and Advocacy for Adolescent Reproductive Health

In the town of Haripurba, Sarlahi an inspiring transformation is unfolding. Leading this change is Sanju Kumari Yadav, a 23 year old serving as the chairperson of **Srimahakal Youth Club**. Launched a year back under the auspices of USAID Adolescent Reproductive Health, the club has emerged as a symbol of optimism and empowerment for the youth.

Comprising 130 members, both young men and women over 16 years old the club convenes every quarter to address pertinent issues affecting adolescents and youth. A key focus area is assessing how adolescent friendly local health facilities are. Through visits they have effectively heightened



Yes, it's a very ambitious dream, but I know it's not unachievable if I keep getting the same support as I am getting now."

awareness about adolescent reproductive health rights among healthcare providers. As a result, youth representatives now attend health post's management meetings alongside disabled and elderly community members.

A standout achievement of the club lies in their efforts to combat child marriages prevalent within the local Muslim community. Sanju's unwavering commitment to this cause shines through in Khushbudha Khatuns story. Forced to leave school and pressured into marriage due to economic hardship, Khushbudha's future seemed bleak. However she discovered a supporter in Sanju, who mentored her for three months and with the backing of the local ward chairperson persuaded Khushbudha's mother to allow her to go back to school. Last April, Khushbudha was re-admitted to class six, a testament to the transformative power of community support and persistent advocacy.

Sanju dreams of a future where child marriage is eradicated from her community. Despite facing personal threats and backlash, her resolve remains unwavering. "Yes, it's a very ambitious dream," she says, "but I know it's not unachievable if I keep getting the same support as I am getting now."

The influence of the Srimahakal Youth Club extends beyond addressing child marriage. It has empowered the youth of Haripurba with knowledge about their reproductive health rights, enabling them to make informed decisions about their futures. Previously voiceless and unaware, the youth now speak out assertively, equipped with the support and direction they need to navigate critical life choices.

The **Srimahakal Youth Club**, led by Sanju serves as an illustration of how local efforts can lead to impactful societal transformations. As we celebrate International Youth Day, Sanju's story reminds us of the incredible potential of empowered youth to shape a brighter, more equitable future.





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

CARE Nepal is committed to ending poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, while empowering communities to adapt to the growing challenges posed by climate change. Society strained by unequal power dynamics, resource disparities, environmental degradation, and economic uncertainties, marginalized communities - particularly women and girls - bear the brunt of these challenges.

To address these challenges, we focus on **advancing improved and diversified food and nutritional security, equitable natural resources management,**

**safe and dignified workplaces, access to production resources, just economic opportunities, and resilience against the impacts of climate change.**

CARE Nepal's WEE & CJ program 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 natural and production resources, and meaningful participation in decision making space to acquire dignified economic opportunities through digital systems like the Kishan Card. The

**Kishan Card** is a financial product that provides cashless financial services and connects farmers digitally with input and output market actors for accessing quality production inputs, extension services, and climate smart technologies. These initiatives empower vulnerable groups, especially women and smallholder farmers, to access vital resources and market, strengthen their resilience to climate impacts, and achieve diversified sustainable livelihoods.

Collaborating with network of producer and users group, particularly farming communities, forest users, water users and land right groups putting women and smallholder producers at center, the **Farmers' Field and Business School (FFBS)** on agriculture and conservation livelihoods continues to transform lives through its hands-on, participatory approach. Smallholder farmers learn innovative agricultural and natural resource management techniques that enhance productivity, diversify nutrition, and watersheds management and biodiversity conservation that promote socio-economic progress. Building on these efforts, we are advancing to establish **Climate Smart Communities (CSCs)**, where proven practices are scaled into holistic models for sustainable agriculture and resilience. These CSCs will eventually form **Climate Smart Villages (CSVs)**, serving as hubs for learning, innovation, and replication across Nepal.

Our **nutrition-sensitive interventions** have also yielded tangible results. This initiative aims to transform nutritional outcomes for women and children in Madhesh Province, where malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies remain widespread challenges. Building on proven practices, innovative tools, and community-centered approaches, this project focuses on **empowering marginalized, landless communities** to combat these issues and foster healthier futures.

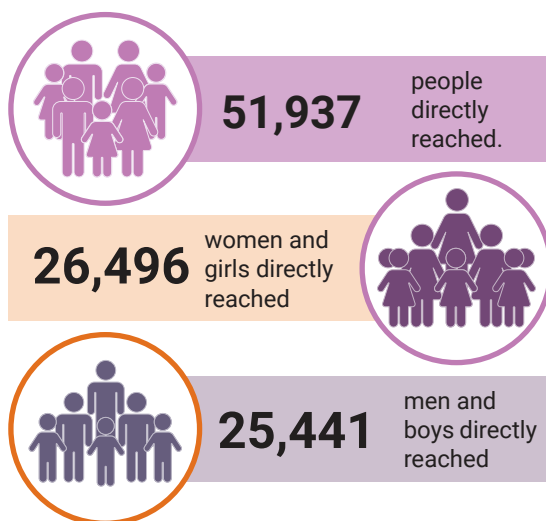
In addition, **community-led efforts in watershed, biodiversity, and forest management, with focus on enhancing livelihoods** while equipping participants with essential skills and knowledge to assert their rights are also underway.

We have also strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders, including National Land Rights Forum (NLRF), National Farmer Groups' Federation (NFGF), Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **6,000 women from marginalized and landless communities** received agricultural inputs, small livestock, and labor-saving equipment through **Kishan Car digital voucher system** to establish nutrition garden under the **Fill the Nutrition Gap project**.
- **2,000 families from marginalized and landless communities** have improved nutrition practices through **411 nutrition behavior change sessions conducted among 90 groups**.
- **17 local governments** adopted **Categorization Based Farmer's Identity Card (FID)**, benefiting **54,362 farmers**. The federal government has incorporated this approach into its food sovereignty and right-to-food regulations to promote equity in agricultural systems.
- **500 farmers groups**, representing 12,500 farmers have prepared and initiated implementation of group level climate adaptation plans.
- **6 Climate Smart Communities** were established by scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices proven effective in Farmer Field School groups.

## WEE & CJ REACH





- **33 FFS groups, representing 876 HHs**, secured long-term livelihoods by accessing leasehold land resources provided by local governments.
- **6 community-based seed producer groups sold 41 ton of wheat seed** to Muktinath Seed Company under the buyback guarantee, along with additional 6 tons sold locally.
- Local governments in 6 municipalities received support to expand **community-led agriculture extension services** through trained local extension agents, lead farmers, and volunteer farmers.
- **12,541 households across 501 FFBS groups and non-FFBS members** increased income by adopting improved practices and achieving yield increase ranging from 25% to 75% in rice, wheat, and garlic.
- Through **Fill the Nutrition Gap project, 10 local government started nutrition screening for children aged 6–59 months**. Caregivers are now bringing children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) to outpatient treatment centers. Children with SAM and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) received nutritional support and micronutrient supplements.

(FECOFUN), Nepal Development Initiative (NEDI), and Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES). 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), Nepal Youth on Climate Action (NYCA), and Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (FWEAN), Nepal Investment Mega Bank (NIMB), and Muktinath Krishi Company Ltd; we aim to amplify the impact and sustainability of our initiatives.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in **advocating for equitable access to production resources for women, landless individuals, and marginalized**. Our focus on integrating proven models into government, market, and civil society systems ensures long-term sustainability. By leveraging partnerships with Nepal Investment Mega Bank (NIMB) and R&D solution for innovations like the **Kishan Card digital system**, we are bridging the gap between **vulnerable communities and the resources they need to thrive and become agro-entrepreneurs in the future**.

Aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Zero Hunger, CARE Nepal will continue its mission to **enhance food security, foster resilience, and advocate for inclusive policies and practices** that uplift the most vulnerable.



Women from the Janaki Farmers Group and Koiralokhola Community Forest Users Group (CFUG) in Lahan Municipality, Siraha District, engage in leaf plate making as part of a forest-based livelihood improvement program.



A woman farmer from a local FFBS group in Saptari District returns home after harvesting from her farm.

## PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Farmers Field Business School (FFBS)

Launched in July 2022, this three-year project operates across **500 FFBS** in six municipalities of Saptari and Siraha districts. The innovative FFBS approach, has become a powerful tool for empowering small-scale farmers, particularly women, to build skills that improve productivity, enhance resilience to climate change, and promote better nutrition. By addressing the structural and relational barriers these farmers face, the FFBS model not only strengthens agricultural practices but also fosters confidence, self-esteem, and aspirations among participants by changing harmful social norms associate with farming and nutrition practices.

This year, In Madhesh Province, as a part of Climate Justice, we supported **500 FFBS groups, comprising of 6,845 households**, to develop and implement climate adaptation plans. These plans, created through participatory hazard assessments and farmer-led evaluations, have led to the adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices. The FFBS groups through collective advocacy are now accessing local government resources to implement these adaptation plans matching with the project resources.



Using the same piece of land, I've nearly doubled my yield compared to conventional tillage, while saving almost 80% in labor. It's truly an amazing technology! This is the second time I've harvested a zero-tillage crop since the technique was introduced in my area, and I can't help but wonder why we were left behind from such a simple yet productive method in the past. All the members of my group, along with 31 neighboring farmers who adopted this practice for the first time this year, are already planning to expand it to even larger areas next year."

**Refali Singh-** A small-scale farmer from Bhagwanpur, Siraha District



CARE is also working to contextualize and integrate the FFBS model into government, creating a pathway for broader adoption and long-term sustainability by instituting the operation mechanisms for agriculture extension system adopting FFBS approach. Through the FFBS approach, CARE is not only enhancing food security and climate adaptation but also **redefining the role of women as leaders and change-makers** in their communities through working collectively against harmful social norms using Social Analysis and Action tools and reflective dialogues with relevant stakeholders. This has helped to ensure a future where they can thrive with dignity and resilience.

### Fill the Nutrition Gap

Launched in January 2023, the two-year project targets **6,000 vulnerable households in Saptari, Siraha, and Udayapur districts**. Key interventions include establishing diversified nutrition gardens, conducting community-based sessions to promote positive nutrition behaviors, and strengthening local nutrition systems.

This holistic approach not only addresses immediate nutritional needs but also builds the capacity of

communities to sustain long-term improvements in health and well-being. Among 6,000 households, dietary diversity improved significantly, with food group consumption increasing from fewer than four groups to over five. This achievement stems from strengthening local food systems, promoting resilient practices, and addressing harmful social norms through community sessions.

An evaluation revealed the adoption of improved farming techniques, nutritionally diverse meals, and better hygiene practices among group members. Many women gained additional income by selling surplus produce from their nutrition gardens. The initiative not only facilitated input support but also **enabled some women to obtain citizenship**. Participation in the project **boosted women's confidence, communication skills, and financial independence**, allowing them to make personal and family purchases without relying on their husbands.

### Categorization Based Farmer's Identity Card

The Categorization-based Farmer ID (FID) card has emerged as a transformative step in providing identity to farmers including marginalized, landless and agriculture laborers in a specific category disaggregated based on their assets, productivity, vulnerability and ensuring access to government resources based on the unique needs of different categories of farmers. It ensures subsidies are planned and provided to those most in need, breaking away from the inequities of treating all farmers as a homogeneous group.

A recent impact evaluation of the FID card system highlighted significant outcomes. System-level changes have driven **policy reform at all tiers of government, from federal to local**. Five provinces - excluding Koshi and Sudurpaschim - have adopted the FID system in their annual policies, with **Karnali Province embedding it in the Right to Food Act and Bagmati Province integrating it into the Agriculture Act**. The federal government now recognizes a **four-category FID card system in its national policy**, an advocacy success led by the National Farmers Group Federation (NFGF) and CARE Nepal. Internationally, the Government of Nepal's Policy Paper for the UN Food Systems Summit 2023 **emphasizes the role of this classification in targeting services to landless, women, and marginalized farmers**.



“My son used to fall ill frequently from consuming market vegetables treated with chemical fertilizers. Thanks to NFGF, I started my own nutrition garden using liquid organic manure. Now, my son is healthy from eating homegrown vegetables. I am grateful to NFGF and CARE Nepal for enhancing my agricultural skills.”

**Ritu Devi Mandal, a mother of two daughters and two sons from Saptari District**

In 2017, CARE Nepal piloted the Leasehold Farming Model in Bhagwanpur, Siraha, engaging **40 marginalized and landless Musahar women**. They leased 80 Katthas (2.6 ha) of land from absentee landlords, providing each member with 2 Katthas (0.06 ha). The model expanded to **8 local governments and 30 communities, benefiting 702 climate-vulnerable tenant women and their families**. By adopting Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices, these women secured 5–10-year land contracts, built resilient livelihoods, and enhanced their social, physical, human, and economic assets. Access to land has improved their health, education, and social standing, creating transformative change in their communities.

At the individual level, the FID card system has significantly empowered women by enhancing their confidence, communication, and negotiation skills. For instance, **48% of women with FID cards** reported being quite confident, and **43%** felt extremely confident in communicating household needs with the household head. In comparison, only **24% of women** in control groups felt quite confident in such discussions. Similarly, 64% of women with FID cards expressed confidence in communicating their desires to local governments, NGOs, CSOs, and other service providers. Remarkably, no women in the control group reported this level of confidence, highlighting the profound impact of the FID card system on women's empowerment.

The FID system has also improved accountability within governance structures. It has enhanced the capacity and motivation of both duty bearers and rights holders, fostering greater trust and ensuring better governance. By defining eligibility and criteria for government services, the system ensures that vulnerable farmers receive the support they deserve, reinforcing trust in public institutions.

Equally transformative has been the shift in social norms and reduced discrimination. The FID card system has empowered women, marginalized communities, and local leaders, fostering a mindset shift toward equity and inclusion. This initiative

not only enhances agricultural livelihoods but also contributes to building healthier, more just societies.

## Poshan

The Poshan Project, led by CARE and funded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with partners iDE and MAP International, is designed to improve the nutrition and health outcomes of vulnerable populations in Nepal, with a particular focus on women and children. The initiative aims to directly benefit **69,540 participants**, including **23,799 women of reproductive age and 5,563 children under five**, along with other marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities, women or child-headed households, and those affected by geographic, ethnic, or social disparities. The project will be implemented across 25 local governments in five districts: Dailekh, Surkhet, Banke, Kailali, and Rautahat.



Despite trying to provide a nutritious diet, my child was identified as malnourished. I felt heartbroken and lost, not knowing what I was doing wrong. That all changed when I joined feeding behavior sessions under the Fill the Nutrition Gap project. I learned how to prepare nutritious Lito (porridge usually made of beans, maize, rice, lentils, ghee, green vegetables, and dry fruits) and adopt better feeding practices. I also received nutritional support through vouchers from National Farmers' Group Federation. Now, I make Lito every day, and my child's health is improving."

**Parbati Rishidev- Chairperson,  
Janchetna Women Farmers Group**



Launched in July 2024 and running for five years, the Poshan project also collaborates closely with local governments to strengthen local health and nutrition service system linking between **Health Mothers groups (HMGs), Inpatient Therapeutic Care (ITC), Outpatient Therapeutic Care (OTC), and Nutrition Rehabilitation Center (NRC)** with a required level of and chain of services to serve communities. It supports the screening of approximately **105,000 children** for **Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)** and **Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)**. In addition to screening, the project will provide recovery support for about **8,000 children** suffering from malnutrition.

To achieve its goals, the project works in close partnership with Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), local health facilities and their staff, agricultural extension agents, lead farmers, community business facilitators, and a multisectoral stakeholders such as health, nutrition, agricultural, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sectors. By strengthening local health, food, and market systems, the project seeks to create a sustainable impact on nutrition outcomes for the most vulnerable communities.

## Samrakshyan

The Samrakshyan project, funded by the Jersey Overseas Aid Cooperation (JOAC), is an initiative designed to empower local and marginalized communities by strengthening their capacity to manage Mutanikhola Watershed effectively. By addressing the needs of women and marginalized populations, the project emphasizes promoting equitable access to natural and financial resources and fostering sustainable livelihoods.

This 42-month project, launched in August 2023, directly supports **750 poor and vulnerable families** in Lahan Municipality, with an extended reach benefiting an additional **10,485 individuals**. Through community-led efforts in watershed, biodiversity, and forest management, Samrakshyan focuses on positive outcomes for livelihoods, equipping participants with essential skills and knowledge to assert their rights. These grassroots initiatives are complemented by collaborations with government stakeholders to ensure project learnings and community initiatives are institutionalized into local policies and practices.

At its core, Samrakshyan tackles discriminatory



Through the Samrakshyan Project, I was able to turn my passion for tailoring into a livelihood. The 45-day training and support like the Kisan Card gave me the tools to start my own shop and earn a steady income. Coming from a marginalized community, this opportunity has transformed not only my life but also my family's future. It shows how skill development can uplift entire communities."

**Suna BK, Lahan, Siraha District**

norms and practices that perpetuate inequality. The project builds confidence and aspirations within marginalized groups while enhancing their technical capabilities on biodiversity conservation, watershed management, and sustainable use of forest resources. It also transforms power relations, enabling community members to engage in collective activism and participate in meaningful citizen negotiations. Simultaneously, it addresses structural barriers like participation of marginalized groups in decision, access to resources and spaces, advocating for equitable laws, policies, and services to dismantle systemic exclusion.

## Climate Smart Villages

Funded by BMK Austria and launched in April 2024, the Climate Smart Villages aims to create sustainable and inclusive communities in Saptari and Siraha districts. The project seeks to enhance the climate adaptation capacities of **12,500 households, focusing on small-scale and landless women farmers, youth, and marginalized groups**.



A women farmer proudly displays her produce, ready for sale at the local market.

Over its four-year duration, it is expected to indirectly benefit **50,000** individuals through various climate adaptation actions, including efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The initiative integrates **gender-responsive approaches into local climate resilience planning, ensuring the voices of marginalized communities are heard.** By mobilizing civil society, the project facilitates dialogues with local government representatives, ensuring community concerns and priorities are reflected in **Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plans (LDCRPs)** as well as in broader local policies and budgets.

The Climate Smart Villages project promotes a multi-dimensional approach to empowerment. It builds the agency of women and marginalized farmers by enhancing their skills and confidence to implement climate-smart agricultural practices. It strengthens relationships by fostering community networks and activism and dismantles structural barriers by advocating for inclusive policies that prioritize sustainability and equity.



I realized that climate change affects women and poorer farmers like us more severely. We have fewer resources to adopt climate-resilient practices and limited access to climate-smart technologies, which makes it harder for us to cope. Hopefully, the climate adaptation plan will support us in overcoming these challenges and better prepare us for future changes.

**Aasha Devi Yadav, a 49-year-old farmer from Sakhuwanankarkatti, Siraha District**





Women farmers participate in the group learning in FFBS demonstration plot.

## LESSONS LEARNED

**T**he Kisan Card has been effective for input distribution but faces obstacles such as time-intensive processes, limited staff, and insufficient bank branches. To address these, we prioritized piloting in smaller areas, leveraging mobile and digital solutions, collaborating with local groups, and providing targeted training. **Engaging local vendors at the municipal level** instead of external providers, and expanding vendor numbers within the open market system, have been key to improving service delivery.

Leasehold farming has significantly improved the **dietary diversity and livelihoods of landless farmers**, enhancing their families' nutrition. However, scaling this approach requires sustained technical and financial support for at least three years. Working closely with local governments to establish policies, allocate budgets, and link these practices to market systems is crucial

for sustainability. Similarly, projects aiming to improve nutrition and WASH outcomes, such as FNGAP, highlight that one-time interventions are insufficient to drive lasting behavioral change. **Continuous follow-up and long-term project designs of 3-5 years** are essential to ensure meaningful transformation.

**Aligning with government-led Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP) efforts** has proven important for sustaining interventions, including growth monitoring and nutrition support. However, functionalizing MSNP committees at the municipal and ward levels has been challenging, requiring greater resource allocation and strategic engagement. In climate-resilient initiatives, gaps in existing CSV models, particularly in addressing Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and social norms, highlight **the need for differential impact and response analysis**.



The Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) tool, which required over 20 years of hazard-related recall, posed challenges for participants, particularly women who had migrated to the area. **Adopting recall and reflection methods and engaging elderly participants** helped address these gaps by drawing on past experiences. Additionally, conservation and climate-friendly practices adopted by landless and smallholder farmers have diversified incomes while fostering governance and accountability among forest user and farmer groups. Local governments have increasingly supported project initiatives by allocating resources, adopting policies, and embracing ownership for sustainability. However, frequent changes in leadership and limited technical human resources in government offices

have delayed some interventions. Building the technical capacity of implementing partners' staff and ensuring regular monitoring by senior staff are essential for timely and effective implementation.

Balancing the expectations of communities and government authorities remains a challenge. Project initiatives alone cannot meet these diverse demands, underscoring the importance of regular follow-ups, advocacy, and collaboration with government agencies. These efforts are crucial for piloting and scaling innovative practices sustainably, ensuring long-term impact and empowerment.

By incorporating these lessons, CARE aims to strengthen its approach, enhance sustainability, and maximize the impact of its initiatives.

Gulaab Devi Khang of Rupani Rural Municipality, Saptari District, carries ducklings provided by CARE Nepal under the Nutrition Gardening Project. Along with 20 women from the Mahalakshmi Women Farmers Group, she now raises livestock and produces eggs to improve her family's nutrition.







## Breaking Barriers: Bhuti Devi's Journey from Survival to Sustainable Farming



Farming was never a part of our identity, but today, it defines my strength and resilience. With access to land and the right knowledge, I've not only grown crops but also hope for my family's future.

In Siraha District's Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality, Bhuti Devi Sadaya has redefined the traditional narrative of her Musahar community by embracing contract farming, a practice that has transformed her life. A mother of five, Bhuti Devi resides in Ward No. 2, Sothiyain Tole, in a modest home on 2-3 Dhur (10.8 sq. ft approx.) of unregistered land. Her husband has been working in India for the past 15 years and hasn't returned home, leaving her to shoulder the responsibilities of raising their children and managing their household alone. Despite these challenges, she successfully married off her three daughters and, with the help of her eldest son, ventured into contract farming, a bold step for someone from a community historically excluded from agricultural practices.

In a village where agriculture is the primary livelihood for many, the Musahar community has long been associated with soil-cutting labor rather than farming. A common stereotype asserts that Musahars do not farm—a narrative Bhuti Devi has shattered through determination and hard work. Without farmland of her own, she relied on manual labor in others' fields to survive, her family subsisting on purchased staples with little access to fresh greens. Unaware of municipal services or agricultural programs, she faced her struggles in isolation, relying solely on traditional knowledge for guidance.

Everything changed in 2020 when the National Farmers' Group Federation of Nepal, supported by CARE Nepal, conducted training sessions on contract farming and modern agricultural practices in her community. Bhuti Devi joined the Ma Bauki Devi Women Farmers Group and attended leadership development, social inclusion, and savings training. For the first time, she learned to articulate her views confidently and develop leadership skills. The habit of saving began modestly, with NPR 100 (0.75 USD approx.) each month, but it marked a significant shift in her financial independence.

Her journey into farming began after reaching a land agreement with landowner Tejnarayan Yadav, who allotted her 2 Kattha of land. Initially, she irrigated her field using water from a neighboring borewell. Recognizing her potential, the Federation installed an electric motor and borewell in her field, enabling her to grow crops more efficiently. In her first harvest, she produced enough rice to feed her family for three months and cultivated vegetables like garlic, onions, and potatoes. These crops provided her with sufficient

produce to sustain her family for six months. She says, "Farming was never a part of our identity, but today, it defines my strength and resilience. With access to land and the right knowledge, I've not only grown crops but also hope for my family's future."

In the following year, Bhuti Devi embraced drought-resistant rice varieties to adapt to erratic rainfall. Her yields improved, and she began leasing additional land, gradually expanding her operations to 16 Kattha (1.34 acres approx.). Her rice harvests now average 80 kg per Kattha, eliminating the need to buy rice from the market. Additionally, her vegetable and spice cultivation ensure her family enjoys nutritious meals year-round, while her savings grow steadily.

Bhuti Devi's participation in the Farmers' School program in September-October 2022, including a 3-day Agriculture Business School, introduced her to advanced techniques like cultivating garlic on paddy fields. She found this approach cost-effective, using primarily local resources, and plans to expand garlic cultivation further.

Today, Bhuti Devi is a skilled and confident farmer. Through her resilience and determination, she has disproved stereotypes and built a sustainable livelihood for her family. However, she hopes for longer-term contract farming agreements to provide greater stability and growth opportunities.

The Ma Bauki Devi Women Farmers Group, now with 19 members, continues to empower women like Bhuti Devi, proving that hands-on experience and collective learning can drive meaningful change. Bhuti Devi's story is a testament to the transformative power of opportunity, community support, and unwavering determination.



Women farmers from Ma Bauki Devi Women Farmers Group.





## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & GENDER IN EMERGENCIES (DRR & GiE)

CARE Nepal's through its Disaster Risk Reduction and Gender in Emergencies program systematically integrates preparedness, response, and recovery actions into long term development program. By working closely with vulnerable communities, particularly women and girls, the program reduces disaster and climate risks by leveraging local knowledge and resources and empowering local institutions and community structures. A central focus is empowering local institutions, Civil Society Organization including **Women-led Organization** and community networks to anticipate, absorb, adapt and transform climatic and disaster vulnerabilities and reduce related risks. In the recent year, DRR&GiE program prioritized localizing humanitarian response through its **Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP)**. This platform collaborates with 16 CSOs representing diverse expertise and communities, with **37% being WLOs and 18% representing intersectional groups**. Governed by an inclusive steering committee chaired by a woman leader from a WLO, HPP has significantly enhanced the institutional and technical capacities of its members. HPP initiative brings together civil society

humanitarian actors representing marginalized populations focusing on those with intersectional vulnerabilities into a common platform for **coordinated and swift response**, ensuring accountability to the affected population.

These advancements encompass **training in humanitarian standards, accountability, Gender in Emergencies (GiE), Rapid Gender Analysis, and Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE)**, alongside advocacy for inclusive and gender-responsive policies. Through collaborative efforts, the HPP focuses on joint preparedness and emergency response planning, fostering collective and coordinated responses by leveraging the capacities of its members. Additionally, HPP actively engages in joint advocacy to strengthen local humanitarian systems, ensuring inclusivity and gender responsiveness at all levels.

CARE's Women led in Emergencies approach is a cornerstone of our commitment to gender-responsive humanitarian action. Gender and Women's issues remain underrepresented, often excluding their specific needs, such as sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence

(GBV), from response plans. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of disasters on women, girls, adolescents, gender and sexual minorities and person with disabilities, the initiative fosters inclusive Women's leadership in disaster risk reduction.

As a part of HPP, WLiE approach empowers women leaders and humanitarian champions to address these gaps. Through capacity building and taking decision making role during emergencies, these leaders gain **confidence, self-esteem, and aspirations** to advocate for inclusive disaster risk reduction and management. Their collective actions have strengthened social networks, enabling them to **challenge discriminatory norms and practices** while ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making spaces.

These empowered women champions work closely with local response mechanisms to **advance inclusive legislation, such as the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act**. They embody CARE's Gender Equality Framework by driving transformative change in agency, relationships, and structural norms, creating a ripple effect across communities.

CARE Nepal has developed **heat wave and cold wave anticipation tool** so as to make humanitarian actors and relevant authorities take early decisions and deploy early action to minimize the heat wave and cold wave impacts. These climate risks, often

## HIGHLIGHTS

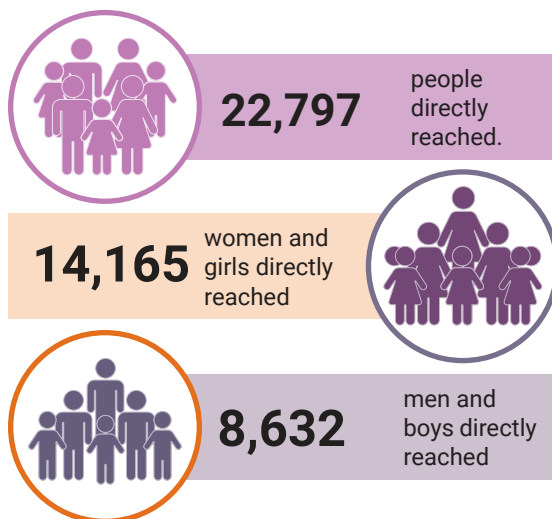
- Established an **MoU with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology** to develop anticipatory tools for heat and cold waves.
- Maintains long-term **MOU with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MOFAGA)**, actively engaging with national humanitarian clusters to enhance disaster response and preparedness.
- Supported **1,653 households (4,826 people)** during the Jajarkot earthquake response.
- Constructed **235 climate-friendly transitional shelters** for Jajarkot earthquake survivors and provided psychosocial support to **958 individuals**.
- Initiated a WASH system strengthening approach in Geruwa Municipality under the Agenda for Change initiative, focusing on sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions.

underestimated due to their gradual onset, require advanced forecasting and proactive intervention. CARE has signed a **MoU with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) for the further advancement of the tool and integration DHM's weather forecasting and alert system** in order to strengthen national Early warning system on heat and cold waves.

This tool helps to establish local thresholds parameters based on the real time weather data correlating with historical trends and helps to predict the potential event of heat wave and cold wave incident empowering local governments and decision-makers to mitigate risks effectively.

By advancing localized solutions, empowering women's leadership, and integrating gender-responsive approaches into disaster preparedness, CARE Nepal is paving the way for **inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities**. These efforts not only address immediate vulnerabilities but also dismantle structural barriers to long-term equality and resilience.

## DRR & GIE REACH







CARE Nepal's Humanitarian Partnership Platform, in collaboration with a local partner, distributes essential relief supplies to communities in Nalagad.

## PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Jajarkot Earthquake Response

On the night of 3 November 2023, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake hit Jajarkot District. The disaster claimed the lives of 154 individuals, including 84 women and girls, and 70 men. In addition to the tragic fatalities, 364 people were injured, and tens of thousands displaced. The earthquake caused severe structural damage, with 61,923 houses affected 35,395 completely destroyed and 26,528 partially damaged. Substandard construction practices contributed to the significant loss of life and property.

CARE Nepal in **partnership with HPP**, responded swiftly, activating its **Rapid Response Team (RRT)** within hours of the disaster. By the second day, relief items from the **HPP warehouse in Nepalgunj**, including **basic shelter kits**, blankets,



Within 72 hours of the Jajarkot Earthquake, CARE Nepal provided lifesaving support to Nalagad, delivering 15-day food baskets, essential shelter kits, and blankets. This rapid response prioritized the needs of pregnant women, lactating mothers, and the elderly, offering crucial relief during a critical time.

**Dammar Bahadur Rawat**  
Mayor, Nalagad Municipality, Jajarkot





A woman explains the various types of natural disasters using a disaster calendar to an elderly community member.

hygiene kits, and dignity kits, were distributed in Nalagad Municipality. A 15-day food package was provided to affected families in Bheri Municipality within the **first 72 hours**. The response prioritized life-saving measures to address **the immediate and intermediate needs** of the earthquake-affected households.

Understanding that disasters disproportionately affect women, girls, and marginalized groups, CARE Nepal and its HPP partners conducted a **Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA)** across Jajarkot, Rukum West, and Salyan districts. This analysis identified specific needs, risks, and vulnerabilities of women, girls, men, boys, and intersectional groups. CARE integrated many of the RGA's recommendations into its early response and recovery efforts. To address immediate shelter needs, CARE constructed **235 gender-and climate-friendly transitional shelters** in Bheri and Nalagad. **Twelve prefabricated temporary learning**

**centers** were established to ensure children could continue their education. **Psychosocial first aid** was provided to **958 individuals**, helping them cope with trauma.

Efforts extended to rebuilding essential infrastructure, including the repair and reconstruction of **145 latrines**, creating safer and more hygienic living conditions. CARE also established safe spaces for children and adolescent girls, providing them with security and support during a critical time. Recognizing the harsh winter conditions, **716 families received winterization support**, which included warm clothing and supplies to protect them from the cold.

In total, CARE Nepal's response efforts reached **1,653 households, benefiting 4,826 individuals**. This comprehensive response not only addressed immediate needs but also laid the foundation for long-term resilience, enabling affected communities to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.





A relieved mother receives warm clothing for her family and children from CARE Nepal following the Jajarkot earthquake.

## LESSONS LEARNED

CARE Nepal has emphasized inclusive humanitarian response by prioritizing women's leadership in disaster preparedness and recovery efforts. Recognizing the critical gap in addressing the needs of women and marginalized groups during crises, CARE has strengthened the **capacities of civil society organizations (CSOs) and women-led organizations (WLOs)** through targeted training programs. These initiatives focus on core humanitarian standards and safeguarding principles, including protection against sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse, ensuring a comprehensive and principled approach to disaster response.

Women and adolescents are disproportionately affected in the aftermath of disasters, with their needs and voices often overlooked during recovery efforts. To address this, CARE Nepal implemented

the **Rapid Gender Assessment (RGA)**, which provided valuable insights into the needs, capacities, and coping strategies of different genders in crisis situations. This data was instrumental in designing recovery programs tailored to these needs. However, further efforts are required to include the perspectives of intersectional groups, ensuring that no affected population is left behind.

Resource availability remains a persistent challenge in effective humanitarian response. The prepositioning of relief items and the establishment of surge funds have enabled CARE Nepal to reach affected populations within **72 hours of a disaster**. These mechanisms have proven critical, but sustaining a robust system for emergency funding and resource management within the organization is vital to ensuring timely and effective responses in



Children having to study out in the open after their school building was destroyed in Jajarkot earthquake.

future emergencies. The **Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP)** has been a cornerstone of CARE Nepal's efforts to empower local leadership and foster collaboration. By promoting the leadership of CSOs, particularly WLOs and women's rights organizations (WROs), the platform has facilitated more inclusive, quality, and effective humanitarian responses. For instance, during the Jajarkot response, HPP members collaborated to strengthen the emergency response capacity of local partners, demonstrating the value of collective action.

Inclusive decision-making has become an integral part of HPP's governance structure, ensuring that women's leadership is not just symbolic but central to shaping humanitarian action. Women leaders, empowered through HPP, have gained confidence in implementing inclusive and effective disaster responses, further reinforcing the importance of their participation in decision-making processes.

Organizational preparedness is another critical area for improvement. Many CSOs and WLOs often lack

robust policies, plans, and programs necessary for efficient humanitarian action, leading to fragmented, slow, and substandard responses. CARE Nepal has actively supported the revision and alignment of key organizational policies, including **procurement, safeguarding, financial and administrative management systems (FAM)**, and emergency preparedness and response plans. These revisions ensure that local organizations can align their actions with global humanitarian standards and deliver more effective responses.

The HPP model has also demonstrated the advantages of local organizations working as networks rather than isolated entities. This approach enhances their legitimacy and credibility, strengthens relationships with local governments and disaster management committees (DDMCs), and improves their ability to influence local policies. Such collaborative frameworks highlight the potential for systemic and sustainable improvements in disaster response and recovery.





## Rebuilding Lives Amidst Ruins: Stories of Hope and Resilience from Jajarkot

Women and children seeking shelter in open areas after their homes were destroyed by the Jajarkot earthquake.

The earthquake that struck Jajarkot District on November 3, 2023, forever changed the lives of countless families, leaving behind a trail of destruction, despair, and uncertainty. Amidst this devastation, the stories of Janaki Rana and Chhabi Pun Magar stand as testaments to human resilience and the hope that emerges even in the darkest times. In the Maide Village of Bheri Municipality in Jajarkot District, Janaki Rana, a 17-year-old, had recently completed her Secondary Education Examination (SEE). Life had been a harmonious symphony of normalcy and contentment, with the family finding joy in their agricultural pursuits. Janaki shared her home with her mother and elder sister, who had embraced the role of a new mother recently. When the tremors struck at 11:45 PM, the family barely managed to escape their crumbling house. "Miraculously, the family survived, but our home was severely damaged and now it is unsafe and uninhabitable. Our family is sleeping beneath the open sky," said Janaki, describing the aftermath.



Janaki Rana, a 17-year-old, from Jajarkot who lost her home to the earthquake on 3 November 2023. Photo credit: CARE Nepal





Temporary shelter of Chhabi Pun.

Relief arrived a day later when CARE Nepal and the Humanitarian Partnership Platform Member-Hilly Region Development Center (HRDC) provided tents, blankets, and food supplies. “We are grateful for the kindness bestowed upon us during this challenging period,” she shared, though the uncertainty of the future weighed heavily on her. “But with winter rapidly approaching, I am anxious about how much longer we can endure in the tents. I’m very worried as to when we can rebuild and secure a safe return to our home.”

A similar story unfolded in Bharkatya, Nalgad Municipality, where 20-year-old Chhabi Pun Magar and his family faced tragedy and hardship. Chhabi, his pregnant wife, and his parents were left homeless when the earthquake reduced their house to rubble. His mother was trapped beneath the debris, and Chhabi, summoning all his strength and determination, managed to pull her to safety. “We were suddenly without a roof over our heads, enduring the freezing nights in the open. It was a time of unimaginable despair,” he said.

A few miles away in Bharkatya, Nalgad Municipality, 20-year-old Chhabi Pun Magar faced similar devastation. The earthquake reduced his family’s house to rubble, trapping his mother under the debris. Chhabi’s determination and quick action saved her,

but the family was left homeless and exposed to the elements. “We were suddenly without a roof over our heads, enduring the freezing nights in the open. It was a time of unimaginable despair,” he said.

Initial relief efforts brought food supplies, but a turning point came when HRDC and CARE Nepal informed them of plans for temporary shelters under the Jajarkot Earthquake Response Project. With materials provided - CGI sheets, roofing nails, windows, toilet pans, and more - Chhabi, with technical support from NSET, built a two-room shelter complete with a kitchen and a toilet. He worked tirelessly to ensure his family’s safety and comfort. “We feel incredibly fortunate to have received a home from the project. It’s a complete package - a living space, a kitchen, and a toilet,” said Chhabi’s mother. His father added, “We are deeply thankful to the organizations for providing us with this home. We remain hopeful for continued support from these organizations in the future.”

For families like Janaki’s and Chhabi’s, the road to recovery is long and fraught with challenges. Yet, the swift response and continued support have rekindled hope and provided a foundation to rebuild their lives. Their voices remind us of the power of resilience and the importance of timely humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of disasters.



# “अर्को विश्व सम्भव छ” “Resisting Systemic Biases”

## Global Feminist Forum



### ▶ LOCALIZATION APPROACHES AND INITIATIVES

#### A Vision for Inclusive Development


CARE Nepal's efforts in FY24 reflect a comprehensive approach to localization, balancing agency, relational power, and structural transformation. By equipping local actors with the skills to lead, fostering meaningful collaborations, and challenging discriminatory norms and systems, CARE continues to advocate for inclusive, community-driven solutions. These initiatives underscore the organization's dedication to creating spaces where local voices are amplified, equity is prioritized, and transformative change is realized.

The organization is deeply committed to shifting power, including resources and decision-making to local actors, advocating for people-centered, locally led initiatives that drive transformative change. Building on the achievements of FY 22-23, the focus in FY24 has been on enhancing **Network of Partners (NoP)**, a pioneering partnership model designed to strengthen local capacities and co-create impactful, locally owned pilot initiatives.

#### Driving Localization with Network of Partners (NoP)

Following extensive dialogue with civil society organizations (CSOs), NoP was established in 2023, representing CARE Nepal's vision of fostering equitable partnerships and locally led development. By convening and strengthening the local and national partners including CSOs, networks, alliances, social movements, academia and media, NoP aims to amplify collective voices, local leadership and advance sustainable programs, aligning with shared objectives. NoP places local leadership at its core, leveraging existing systems, platforms and resources, demonstrating equitable partnership to strengthen institutional capacities. CARE Nepal emphasizes the co-creation of solutions, mutual learning, and feedback mechanisms to ensure local priorities are embedded in decision-making and implementation processes. Through NoP, CARE Nepal demonstrates its commitment to building solidarity within social movements, advancing





The 16<sup>th</sup> World Social Forum 2024 in Kathmandu brought together over 50,000 participants from 98 countries, representing diverse communities and movements. This historic gathering embodied the vision that *'Another World is Possible.'*

advocacy agendas, and addressing structural inequalities. By connecting local actors with a broader spectrum of development collaborators, CARE Nepal fosters inclusive development that prioritizes equity and sustainability.

### **Internalizing Localization: In-house sensemaking**

CARE Nepal recognizes that localization requires a paradigm shift in how organization function, necessitating continuous reflection and dialogue. In-house sensemaking discussions have become a cornerstone of this transformation. These sessions aim to deepen understanding and challenge traditional approaches, ensuring that localization is not only a programmatic goal but also an internalized organizational priority even within the NoPs.

These ongoing discussions have highlighted the need for strategic alignment across all departments and programs. CARE Nepal views this process as an evolving journey that addresses structural discrimination, exclusion, and power imbalances. By fostering collective responsibility, co-creation, and collaboration, the organization

is committed to integrating localization into its culture, practices, and systems. These efforts are critical to achieving sustainable impact and driving systemic change.

### **World Social Forum (WSF) 2024**

In alignment with its spirit of solidarity, CARE supported its members of NoP during WSF in representing local and national priorities. This engagement provided a platform for policy advocacy and issue-based discourses through various events.

CARE Nepal in collaboration with the Nepal Organizing Committee and the CARE Confederation, contributed technical and financial resources to strengthen the forum's thematic discussions and advocacy. By empowering local CSOs and alliances, the organization emphasized addressing climate change vulnerabilities and advancing the rights of marginalized communities. In addition, CARE Nepal, aligning with WSF priorities, CARE Vision 2030, and the Asia roadmap, advanced solidarity in empowering smallholder farmers, women's land rights, climate justice, and gender-responsive







Participating in the REDI training was a transformative experience. The sessions were structured to reflect our own behaviors that we navigate daily, both in the workplace and broader society. I gained profound insights into assessing whether my actions reflect socio-friendly, gender-inclusive, and other moral and ethical principles, further deepening my understanding and internalization of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.”

**Sachin Bhattarai, Program Quality Assurance Coordinator (PQAC), Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)**

action plans. Moving forward, CARE Nepal and its Network of Partners are committed to amplifying marginalized voices and translating thematic declarations into tangible change.

### **Enhancing Agency: Empowering Local Actors and Communities**

CARE Nepal’s commitment to strengthening the Network of Partners (NoP) focused on **building skills, confidence, and capabilities to drive localized change**. A series of targeted capacity-building initiatives empowered local actors to engage effectively in policy formulation and planning processes. Notable among these was a training program facilitated by the National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN), equipping partners from the Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) and Madhesh Province with tools to navigate and influence local governance frameworks.

Recognizing the importance of addressing gender disparities, CARE conducted an orientation on Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE),



bolstering the ability of HPP members to respond to such crises with sensitivity and effectiveness. Furthering the commitment to inclusive leadership, the Reflection on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) session encouraged partners to explore and embrace equitable practices, fostering a culture of diversity and shared leadership.

### **Strengthening Relations: Advocacy and Collaboration**

CARE Nepal actively facilitated relationships between local partners, civil society actors, and decision-makers, fostering collective action and advocacy and the NoPs have discussed strategies to advance inclusive policies that reflect local priorities. These conversations provided a platform for partners to amplify their voices



Local governments can play a vital role in safeguarding the rights of marginalized people, but this is only possible when strong people's organizations exist that can influence decision-making at the local level. Representing Network of Partners, we conducted a study in selected local governments of Madhesh Province with the government, communities, CSOs and citizens' groups. We identified key issues relating to good governance, highlighting the need for continued research which will enhance accountability and foster meaningful change for marginalized communities. Working on activating the citizens' voice could be one of our collaborative agenda in network of partners."

**Jagat Deuja, Executive Director, Community Self Reliance Centre Nepal (CSRC Nepal)**

and align their advocacy agendas with broader, community-driven goals.

Strategic collaborations deepened the connections between grassroots movements and national platforms. CARE supported the National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN) in reviewing the **Unbundling Report**, ensuring federalization efforts were aligned with local government needs. Similarly, a partnership with the National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) enabled a revision of the **Land Movement Strategy**, reinforcing grassroots ownership of land rights advocacy and strengthening local agencies in policy making.

CARE Nepal's advocacy efforts sought to dismantle structural barriers and foster equitable development. In collaboration with the Community Information Network (CIN), CARE produced and broadcast **public service announcements (PSAs)** addressing critical issues, including earthquake-resilient building practices, WASH, and cold-related illness prevention. These PSAs, disseminated through local radio stations in Jajarkot and Rukum districts, ensured that life-saving information reached marginalized and disaster-affected communities.

To align advocacy with CARE's core values and community needs, an advocacy strategy workshop led by Asia Regional Advocacy Advisor Alexandra Matei introduced a decision-making framework. This framework prioritized intersectional and urgent issues affecting vulnerable populations, focusing on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Gender Equality, and Women's Economic Empowerment/Food Security.

### **Strengthening Madhesh Governance Initiative (SMGI)**

To strengthen governance in Madhesh, CARE Nepal, in collaboration with the Network of Partners (NoP), adopted a co-creation approach. This initiative brought together expertise from diverse stakeholders, including a gender expert representing Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj, a leader in social mobilization from the Community Self-Reliance Centre, and a Madhesh Governance Expert. Their joint analysis identified actionable strategies for empowering local governance systems, ensuring that interventions align with the lived realities and aspirations of Madhesh's communities.





# STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR LOCALIZATION AND IMPACT

## Partnership Approach

CARE Nepal prioritizes partnerships that foster sustainable social transformation, aligning with CARE's global policy. Collaborating with civil society organizations, particularly those representing marginalized communities and women-led groups, we ensure local needs and perspectives drive our efforts.

Our 2020–2025 strategy underscores partnerships as vital to addressing poverty and marginalization. Through the **Network of Partners (NoP)**, comprising of **25 allies** which include women-led organizations, networks, and social movements, we amplify advocacy for marginalized populations, focusing on women and girls. Alongside these strategic partners, we work with **implementing partners** to deliver impactful programs.

## Partnership in CARE Nepal

In context of Nepal, the Government recognizes international development agencies like CARE as essential partners, mandating collaboration with local organizations for development projects. Although many civil society organizations (CSOs) in Nepal have grown stronger, governance remains a challenge for many. Aligned with CARE's

framework for Localization, it promotes power shifts to local actors through several approaches, CARE strengthens local partners' capacity to implement sustainable programs, amplifies marginalized voices, and ensures inclusive, accountable governance. It co-creates solutions with local stakeholders, ensuring responses fit the local context and are demand driven. CARE also channels resources to help local actors grow and manage their funding, transitioning key partners to direct donor support. Additionally, CARE enhances networks to facilitate coordination, capacity sharing, and collective action among local communities.

## Partnership Standards

CARE Nepal adheres to the CARE's global partnership standards that shape how we engage with stakeholders, ensuring equitable, collaborative relationships that address power imbalances. These Standards help CARE assess the quality and outcomes of partnerships, fostering mutual respect and understanding. They are introduced early in partnerships and are used for ongoing evaluations. The five key principles are: reciprocity, embracing differences, minimizing unnecessary burdens, respecting autonomy, and promoting responsible stewardship of shared resources.

## Donor Partners

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## Implementing Partners

Madhesh Province		
S.N.	Partners	District Coverage
1	Aasaman Nepal	Dhanusha
2	Bagmati Welfare Society Nepal (BWSN)	Sarlahi
3	Campaign Nepal for Research and Development (CNRD)	Rautahat
4	Divya Development Research Center (DDRC)	Parsa
5	Protection Nepal	Bara
6	Ratauli Yuwa Club (RYC)	Mahottari
7	Samagra Jan Uttan Kendra (APEC)	Siraha

Bagmati Province		
S.N.	Partners	District Coverage
1	Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON)	Kathmandu
2	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)	Kathmandu/All districts
3	Howard Delafield International	Lalitpur
4	Jhpiego	Lalitpur
5	National Farmers Group Federation Nepal (NFGF)	Kathmandu/All districts
6	National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET)	Kathmandu/All districts
7	Nepal CRS Company	Kathmandu
8	Samunnat Nepal	Kathmandu

Lumbini Province		
S.N.	Partners	District Coverage
1	Bheri Environment Excellence (BEE) Group	Banke
2	Mallarani Rural Development Concern Center (MRDCC)	Pyuthan
3	Rural Development and Awareness Society (RUDAS Nepal)	Rolpa

Karnali Province		
S.N.	Partners	District Coverage
1	Aawaaj	Surkhet
2	Dalit Development Society (DDS)	Salyan
3	Everest Club	Dailekh
4	Hilly Region Development Campaign (HRDC)	Jajarkot
5	Social Awareness Center (SAC) Nepal	Surkhet
6	Sundar Nepal	Surkhet

Sudurpachim Province		
S.N.	Partners	District Coverage
1	Youth Acting for Change (YAC) Nepal	Dhangadi
2	National Environment and Equity Development Society (NEEDS)	Kailali, Kanchanpur, Banke, Bardiya, Doti

## Strategic Partners

S.N.	Across Multiple Themes
1	National Association of Rural Municipality Nepal (NARMIN)
2	Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB)/Community
3	Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)
4	Kathmandu University, Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM), Policy Lab
5	Pokhara University – Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
6	Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES)

S.N.	GJ & HER
1	Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)
2	Children as Zone of Peace National Campaign (CZOP)
3	National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defender (NAWHRD)
4	National Campaign for Education (NCE) Nepal
5	Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA)
6	Yuwalaya (Secretariat Girls Not Bride Network (GNB) Nepal)

S.N.	WEE & CJ
1	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)
2	Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (FWEAN)
3	Madhesh Agricultural University (MAU)
4	National Farmers' Group Federation (NFGF)
5	Community Self Reliance Center Nepal (CSRC)
6	National Land rights Forum (NLRF)

DRR & GiE	
S.N.	Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) Member Partners
1.	Bheri Environment Excellence Group (BEE group)
2.	Equity Development Center (EDC), Doti
3.	Community Rural Development Society (CRDS) Nepal, Darchula
4.	Conscious Society for Social Development (CSSD), Kailali
5.	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)
6.	Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)
7.	Hilly Region Development Campaign (HRDC), Jajarkot
8.	Human Welfare & Environment Protection Centre (HWEPC), Dang
9.	Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj, Bardiya
10.	Mahila Shakti Bikash Kendra (MSBK)
11.	Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES)
12.	National Alliance of Women Human Right Defender (NAWHRD) Nepal
13.	National Environment and Equity Development Society (NEEDS), Kanchanpur
14.	National Farmers' Group Federation (NFGF)
15.	National Forum for Women Rights Concern Nepal (NFORWRC)
16.	National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET)





## ▶ SYSTEM LEVEL CHANGE AND IMPACT

**S**ystem level change and impact aims to capture and understand shifts and differences created among individuals, communities, and societies - particularly among women and girls - as a direct result of CARE and CARE's partners' programs and influence. These changes extend beyond our project participants and are driven through six strategic pathways:

1. Advocacy to Influence Policies and Programs
2. Promoting Social Norms Change
3. Supporting Social Movements
4. Systems Strengthening and Social Accountability
5. Inclusive Market-based Approaches
6. Scaling and Adapting Proven Models

### **Advocacy to Influence Policies and Programs**

During FY24, CARE's technical and capacity-building support empowered partners like the National Farmers Group Federation (NFGF) to advocate for inclusive policies. This led to the inclusion of Farmers Identification (FID) Categories in the 2024

Food Sovereignty regulation, based on the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act (2018). The System Level impact (SLI) study of FID conducted in FY24 showed the model being adopted by 17 local governments. As the federal level regulation has also endorsed the model, there are opportunities to expand the model nationwide, impacting marginalized farmers, especially women.

An impact evaluation conducted in FY24 showed CARE's leasehold farming model had played a vital role in strengthening partnerships between NFGF, civil society organizations (CSOs), and local governments, and was instrumental in influencing policies at the local level. Collaborative efforts with organizations like Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LIBIRD), Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS) Nepal and National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) mobilized resources and built momentum for leasehold farming practices, benefiting landless and marginalized farmers. For instance, **Bhagawanpur Rural Municipality allocated NRs. 20 million (Approx. USD 150,000)** for agriculture inputs and appliances

in FY 24/25 - 1.5 times higher benefitting 150 HHs practicing leasehold farming.

In the education sector, CARE Nepal supported Dhangadimai Municipality in Siraha District to develop a model education plan and in disaster risk and response, HPP is continuing to support women-led organizations (WLOs) and women's rights organizations (WROs) to lead locally driven responses.

## Promoting Social Norms Change

CARE Nepal's initiatives in FY24 prioritized dismantling harmful social norms and fostering transformative changes by empowering individuals, strengthening community relationships, and addressing systemic inequities, these efforts created a ripple effect of positive change across communities.

To promote **gender equality**, CARE facilitated **gender-transformational sessions** with parents of UDAAN girls, encouraging equal treatment of both boys and girls at home and in communities. These sessions inspired parents to commit to breaking barriers that hinder girls' education and rights. Model parents trained on Social Analysis and Action (SAA) approach, were equipped to lead reflective, transformational discussions with the parents of vulnerable girls who are likely to drop out from the schools. Furthermore, discussions were conducted with parents, religious leaders, and community influencers at the municipal level, with the goal of developing a common understanding on how to address the harmful religious/social beliefs and norms. Additionally, **22 mentors received training on life skills, adolescent reproductive health, and addressing school-based gender-based violence (SRGBV) and bullying**. These mentors now empower girls through peer-led discussions that foster self-esteem and resilience.

CARE collaborated with parents, religious leaders, and community influencers at the municipal level to address harmful religious and social norms. These dialogues built a common understanding of issues like child marriage, early pregnancy, and substance abuse among youth. Advocacy campaigns in Madhesh, Lumbini, and Karnali provinces amplified these efforts through street dramas, rallies, door-to-door campaigns, and panel discussions. These activities raised awareness of critical issues and

mobilized communities to demand adolescent-responsive family planning (FP) services.

In agriculture, leasehold farming initiatives empowered marginalized women and landless farmers to challenge entrenched social norms. Improved access to food, income, and public forums gave women the confidence to influence decision-making processes and address issues like gender pay gaps, caste discrimination, and early marriage. The leasehold farming model demonstrated how structural changes can disrupt harmful norms. An impact evaluation of leasehold farming model revealed **2.5 times increase** in daily wages for farm laborers, from 5kg of rice (worth NRs 30) to NRs 700–1,000 per day (USD 5-7 approx.). Women, in particular, gained the confidence to negotiate with government officials, as seen in Bhagawanpur, where farmers successfully influenced the **allocation of NRs 600,000 (USD 4,500 approx.)** for leasehold farming in FY24/25.

## Supporting Social Movements

CARE Nepal has continuously supported social movements to address systemic inequalities and empower marginalized communities. Through the Sahaas program, that aims to address intimate partner violence, **18 family sessions and 22 couple sessions under the Social Analysis and Action (SAA)** were conducted. By building the capacity of service providers and linking the SAA groups with social movement actors, we have amplified the voices of the local level campaigns and provided movement to the advocacy. They have already started joint movements and formed quick response teams to support GBV survivors.

Additionally, CARE has played a pivotal role in advancing social movement advocating women's land rights. A cause which has garnered support from peer organizations.

## Systems Strengthening and Social Accountability

In FY24, CARE Nepal's efforts focused on strengthening the service system and improving social accountability across multiple sectors. In a collaboration with Center of Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD), **11 Community**



**Learning Centers (CLC) facilitators (5 women and 6 men) received training in Non-Formal Education – Educational Management Information System (NFE-EMIS).** Representatives from Education Development and Coordination Unit (EDCU), CLC management committees, local government from Saptari, Siraha, Mahottari and Dhanusha districts participated. The training enabled effective reporting and established communication channels between CLCs and government entities, allowing CLCs to secure conditional federal grants and advocate for sustained support.

In Surkhet, training was conducted for **Girls Inclusive Education Network (GIEN)** members, attended by education leaders from Bhaireganga, Gurbakot, Panchpuri municipalities, and Chaukune Rural Municipality, along with participants from Women and Children Development Branch, school principals, and gender focal persons. The sessions covered equality, justice, grievance management, and awareness-raising strategies. Building on this, similar programs are planned for four municipalities and 11 schools in Siraha district next year.

Accelerated education for out-of-school adolescent girls advanced with the finalization of condensed learning materials for **Levels 1 and 2, now accessible on the CEHRD website. Materials for Level 3**, including facilitator guides, were also developed and are being utilized by organizations such as UNICEF and Save the Children in Madhesh and Lumbini provinces.

To enhance accountability, CARE and its partners developed the **Circle of Accountability model and accompanying Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs).** This initiative improved feedback mechanisms, strengthened health service accountability, and promoted the integration of SRHR in disaster response plans.

In WASH governance, CARE and local partner WHH collaborated with Geruwa and Karjanha municipalities, focusing on policy and planning, institutional coordination, and learning. Key achievements include the establishment of municipal WASH units with dedicated focal points, integration of WASH plans into the national database, and the creation of monitoring frameworks. Municipal officials now recognize the need for WASH integration into broader planning and budgeting processes rather than limiting it to infrastructure projects.

## Inclusive Market-based Approaches

CARE Nepal championed inclusive market-based approaches by empowering girls and women entrepreneurs while fostering private sector collaboration. To enhance entrepreneurship skills, **50 entrepreneurial girls** updated their business plans and participated in orientation sessions focused on network-building and accessing local services. **Twenty-nine women received short-term entrepreneurship training (3-7 days)** in trades like bangle-making, bhujia (crispy Indian snack) preparation, detergent (surf) production, and vegetable farming, while **21 undertook long-term technical training (65 days)** in beauty parlor management and tailoring. The entrepreneurs who have completed the course will be supported with seed money to continue their enterprise based on the business plan. Further, the project is in the process of mapping Micro Finance Institutes (MFI) s to establish the linkages between entrepreneurs and MFIs.

To strengthen market linkages, three entrepreneur girls attended a digital literacy and marketing orientation organized by Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (FWEAN). The session highlighted women's leadership and digital marketing strategies while incorporating GESI principles.

In partnership with NFGF and Muktinath Krishi Company, CARE also promoted a local seed model that links farmers to commercial markets. The model ensures technical support, progress monitoring, and a buy-back guarantee for farmers, offering higher-than-market prices for seeds. This initiative enabled the sale of **40 tons of locally produced seeds** last year, benefiting both farmers and private entities. While initial results are encouraging, the model continues to evolve as lessons are learned and adaptations are made to ensure sustainability and scalability.

## Scaling and Adapting Proven Models

CARE Nepal continues to adapt and scale proven models to amplify impact and empower marginalized groups. The UDAAN model, an 11-month Accelerated Learning Course for out-of-school girls aged 10-14, has gained significant traction. In Madhesh Province, USAID ARH has

expanded the UDAAN model across **four districts in Madhesh Province - Parsa, Rautahat, Mahottari, and Dhanusha** and introduced them to Banke District in Lumbini Province. Similarly, mentor-run UDAAN model has extended its reach in Jajarkot of Karnali Province, enrolling an **additional 64 out-of-school girls in Bheri and Nalgad Municipality**.

The FFBS model has also been scaled through projects like Poshan, Samrakshyan, and Climate Smart Village, demonstrating its effectiveness in improving agricultural practices and livelihoods. In FY25, CARE will further accelerate its **System Orchestration and Sustainability (SOS) initiative**, focusing on the FFBS model. This effort aims to integrate best practices into local systems by

instituting a functional mechanism integrated of relevant diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society, private sector actors, and community-based organizations to implement the model.

The SOS initiative is designed to ensure these interventions are locally owned, implemented, and financed for long-term impact. In Madhesh Province, CARE plans to sustain the FFBS model across six focus municipalities and engage federal and provincial governments to create platforms for broader adoption beyond current project areas. By embedding these models into local systems, CARE Nepal is fostering sustainable change and transforming lives at scale.



Leaders of Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES) protest against a forced eviction notice, using their platform to demand justice for landless women. Such protests not only raise public awareness but also pressure local authorities to recognize the rights of landless women and protect them from unjust evictions. Photo credit: NMES





## FEEDBACK AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM (FAM)

The Feedback and Accountability Mechanism (FAM) has been core with CARE's approach and a key driver of **program quality standards** that provides safe and accessible means to everyone to express their satisfaction, lodge their complaints and provide suggestions towards CARE's program performance. FAM facilitates learning from program participants, partners and stakeholders to enhance program implementation quality, efficiency and effectiveness. CARE Nepal recognizes that those we serve are not just program participants but also invaluable experts within their own contexts. Therefore, CARE Nepal has adopted FAM to promote organizational accountability that goes together with enhancing operational excellence, expanding outreach to marginalized communities, and upholding the highest program quality standards.

CARE has placed **robust, safe and accessible** means of FAM to ensure program deliverables are of good quality, equitable, relevant and voice and priorities of project participants particularly marginalized, women and adolescent girls are adequately addressed at each cycle of program management. As an important means of FAM, CARE has established **active and static channels** at its project locations and partner

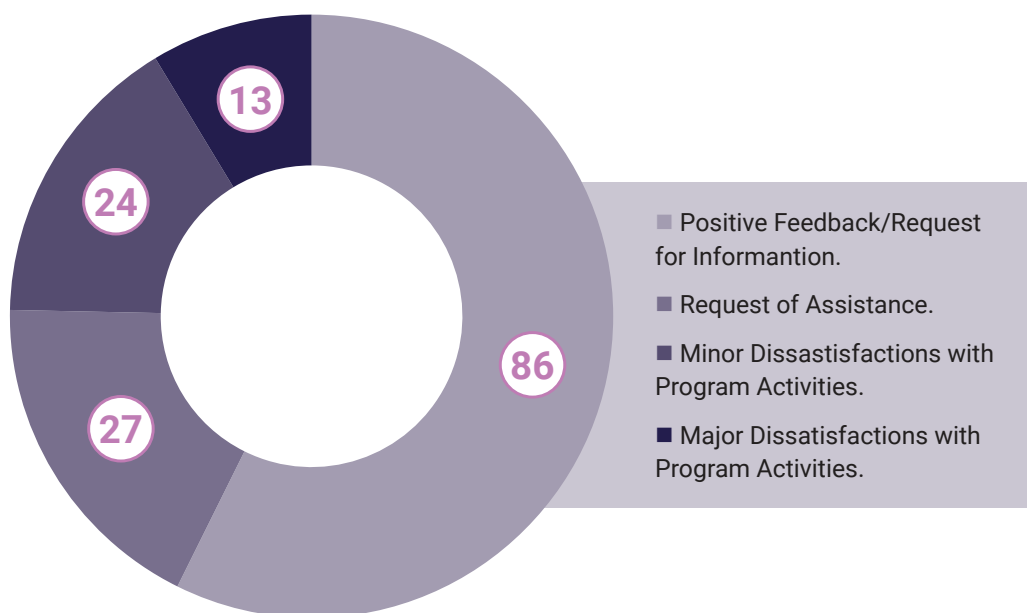
organization. These channels have been further tailored to local community preferences, addressing barriers faced by marginalized women, adolescent girls, and people with disabilities. Static channels include an interactive voice response system (IVR), dedicated hotline telephone number, social media platforms, suggestion boxes whereas periodic reviews, focus group discussions, community meetings, public hearings and feedback surveys are adopted as active channels for FAM.

Together with FAM, CARE Nepal adheres to the CARE International **Humanitarian Accountability Framework (HAF)**, which is aligned with both internal standards and broader interagency codes for humanitarian quality and accountability. These include the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Code of Conduct, the Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards for Disaster Relief, and the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) Standards. The HAF serves as a guiding framework for emergency response and recovery efforts, ensuring accountability to key stakeholders—particularly the **communities and individuals directly impacted by disasters**.

Over the past year, CARE Nepal has collaborated with partners and key stakeholders to enhance the integration of FAM for collecting, and reporting responding and reporting the feedback and complaints across projects, partners, and vendors. The integration of feedback and complaints reporting into the **CARE Nepal Information Management System (CNIMS)** along with partners and vendors has enabled centralized data management, improved accessibility of feedback forms for all stakeholders—including community members, partners, and program teams—and ensured process standardization as well as enhanced security and confidentiality. As a result, **150** programmatic feedback and complaints were reported to CARE Nepal's and its partners FAM systems, all of which were addressed. **47 reports were submitted by women, 75 by men, and 28 were submitted anonymously.** The feedback included requests for information, assistance, and expressions of dissatisfaction (both minor and major) regarding availability, adequacy, relevancy, accessibility and utility of project deliverables to adequately meet need and preference of impact population.

Feedback and Complaints Received in FY24				
Projects	# of Feedback/Complaints	M	F	Undisclosed
ARH	27	17	2	8
BEZOS FF: UDAAN	6	2		4
Doti Earthquake Response Program	53	40	13	
Fill the Nutrition Gap Y2	16	2	7	7
Jajarkot and Rukum Earthquake Response	3			3
RUPANTARAN	20	9	8	3
SAMRAKSHAN JOAC	1			1
SRHR Kailali	15	1	12	2
SyAHAR (previously IAMR)	9	4	5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>28</b>

## Programmatic Feedback and Complaints Grading





A total of **five Community Feedback Surveys** were also conducted in some of the projects, especially following major humanitarian responses in Bajhang, Jajarkot, and Rukum, which led to improvements in the distribution process, better access to information, higher quality assistance, and timely course corrections for any discrepancies. Additionally, the FAM **Feasibility Survey** was also conducted in WEE & CJ working areas in Siraha and Saptari districts. The feasibility survey highlighted the direct participants' preferred channels for communication, and expectations of feedback and complaint resolutions and information dissemination. Following the survey, the preferred channels and methodologies were prioritized for collecting feedback and complaints.

Survey Type	Project	Total Responses	M	F	Undisclosed
Community Feedback Survey	Bajhang Earthquake	14	6	8	0
	Bezos FF: UDAAN	60	0	60	0
	Jajarkot Earthquake Survey I	57	27	30	0
	Jajarkot Earthquake Survey II	20	0	20	0
	Jajarkot Winterization	38	9	29	0
FAM Feasibility Survey	Samrakshan JOA	151	0	0	151
	WEE & CJ Working Areas	343	0	0	343
TOTAL		683	42	147	494

CARE Nepal has also taken steps to foster an engaging, positive, and constructive environment for its vendors, with a strong emphasis on mutual accountability. Vendor orientation sessions were conducted to raise awareness of CARE's non-negotiable policies, enhance understanding of safeguarding measures, anti-fraud mechanisms, and the feedback and complaint reporting processes. These sessions, held in Kathmandu and Janakpur, reached **over 90 vendor staff members**, ensuring they are well-informed and aligned with CARE's standards.



Community Monitors facilitating the Circle of Accountability, part of CARE Nepal's Feedback and Accountability Mechanism (FAM), empowering marginalized voices and enhancing program quality through transparency and community-driven feedback.



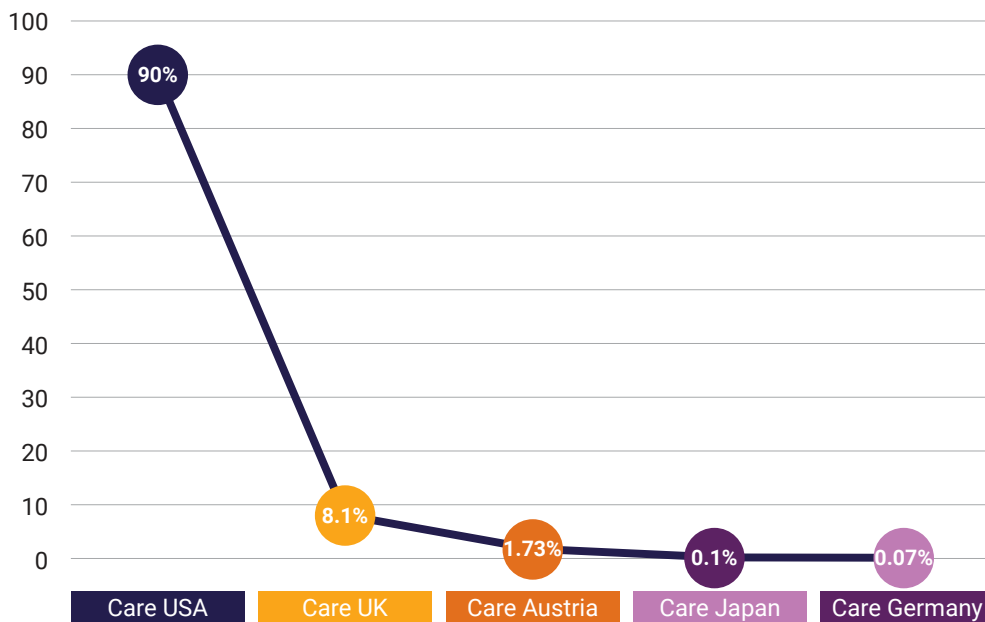


In 2024, heavy monsoon rains caused widespread flooding, landslides, and roadblocks, disrupting transportation, daily life, and overall safety across the country. The Kathmandu Valley in Bagmati Province was among the hardest-hit regions.

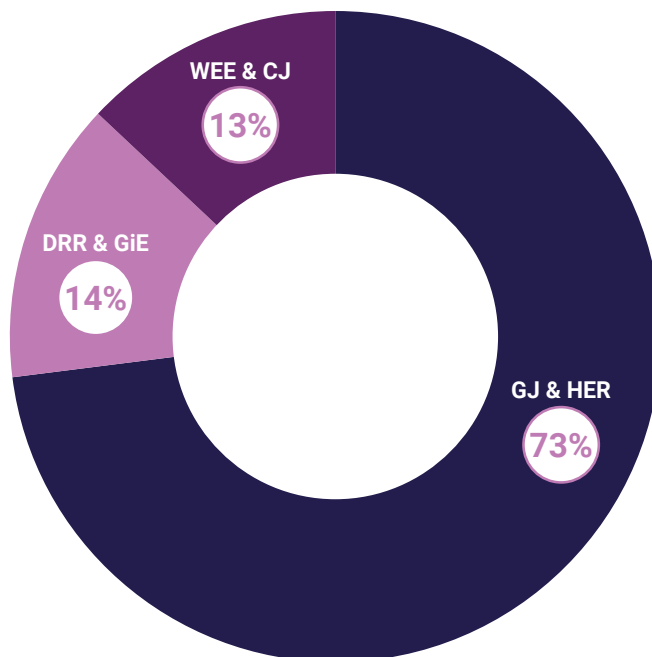


# FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN FY 2024

## Member-wise Resource Contribution



## Theme-wise Resource Utilization



## Donor-wise Resource Contribution

Alison Cornell	3%
BEZOS FAMILY FOUNDATION	3%
BMK Austria	0.26%
CARE Austria	1%
CARE USA	3%
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	2%
Kendada Foundation	2%
Land Voralberg	0.43%
Latter-Day Saint Charities	8%
Margaret A Cargill Foundation	0.45%
Packard Foundation	1%
Peierls Foundation	2%
Sall Family Foundation	3%
START Fund	8%
The Coca Cola Foundation	0.42%
The Global Fund	1%
USAID	61%
Others	1%




**CARE Nepal**  
Ekantakuna, Lalitpur, Nepal

Statement of Income and Expenditure  
For the period ended 31 Ashad 2081  
(corresponding to 17 July 2023 to 15 July 2024)

Particulars	Notes	Current Period NPR	Current Period USD	Previous Period NPR	Previous Period USD
<b>Income</b>					
Incoming Sources	4.7	1,512,540,803	11,233,753	896,486,548	7,078,744
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>1,512,540,803</b>	<b>11,233,753</b>	<b>896,486,548</b>	<b>7,078,744</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Sub-grant Expenses	4.8	857,031,424	6,475,672	417,097,678	3,243,898
Personnel Expenses	4.9	305,647,422	2,323,296	267,528,241	2,085,407
Materials / Services and Consumables	4.10	132,614,778	1,007,887	80,970,435	627,414
Intra Company Grants and Support	4.11	93,534,095	694,797	45,442,846	360,678
Professional Services	4.12	48,443,560	366,492	39,426,583	305,420
Travel and Transportation	4.13	37,303,685	283,331	47,424,075	366,272
Financing / Miscellaneous	4.14	1,432,285	10,776	1,224,432	9,468
Occupancy related Expenses	4.15	19,462,742	148,169	10,135,545	78,604
Currency Translation & Exchange Losses / (Gains)	4.16	17,070,812	(76,667)	(12,763,287)	1,583
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>1,512,540,803</b>	<b>11,233,753</b>	<b>896,486,548</b>	<b>7,078,744</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the period</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements

As per our attached report of even date

  
Birbhadra Lamichhane  
Finance and Operation Director  
CARE-Nepal

  
Mona Sherpa  
Country Director  
CARE-Nepal

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

Place: Lalitpur, Nepal  
Date: 4 October 2024





Santoshi Kumari Mandal Khatwe from Saptari District feeds her 10-month-old son, Anish, an egg. As part of CARE Nepal's Nutrition Gardening Project, the Mahalakshmi Women Farmers Group raises ducks and chickens. The women use the eggs for their families and sell extras to their neighbors.







## Central Office

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