



CARE NEPAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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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.

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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



Humanitarian Partnership Platform and CARE Nepal deliver vital relief package to families affected by the Bardiya floods, standing together in support and recovery.



ABOUT CARE

CARE International

CARE International is a 75-year-old global confederation working to fight poverty and social inequality 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. This year, CARE and its partners worked in 121 countries and helped 58.7 million people through 1,467 development and humanitarian projects. Over half of those reached – 57% – were women and girls.

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 inequality**, 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 inequality such as discrimination against women and girls as well as discrimination based on 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 inequality**. This transformational change in the lives of women and girls will in turn promote poverty reduction and inclusive equality for members of their households, immediate communities, and the wider society.



Through CARE Nepal's Fill the Nutrition Gap project, a local program participant and her children learn about nutrition and healthy practices.



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 a 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 enhance **'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 encourage 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

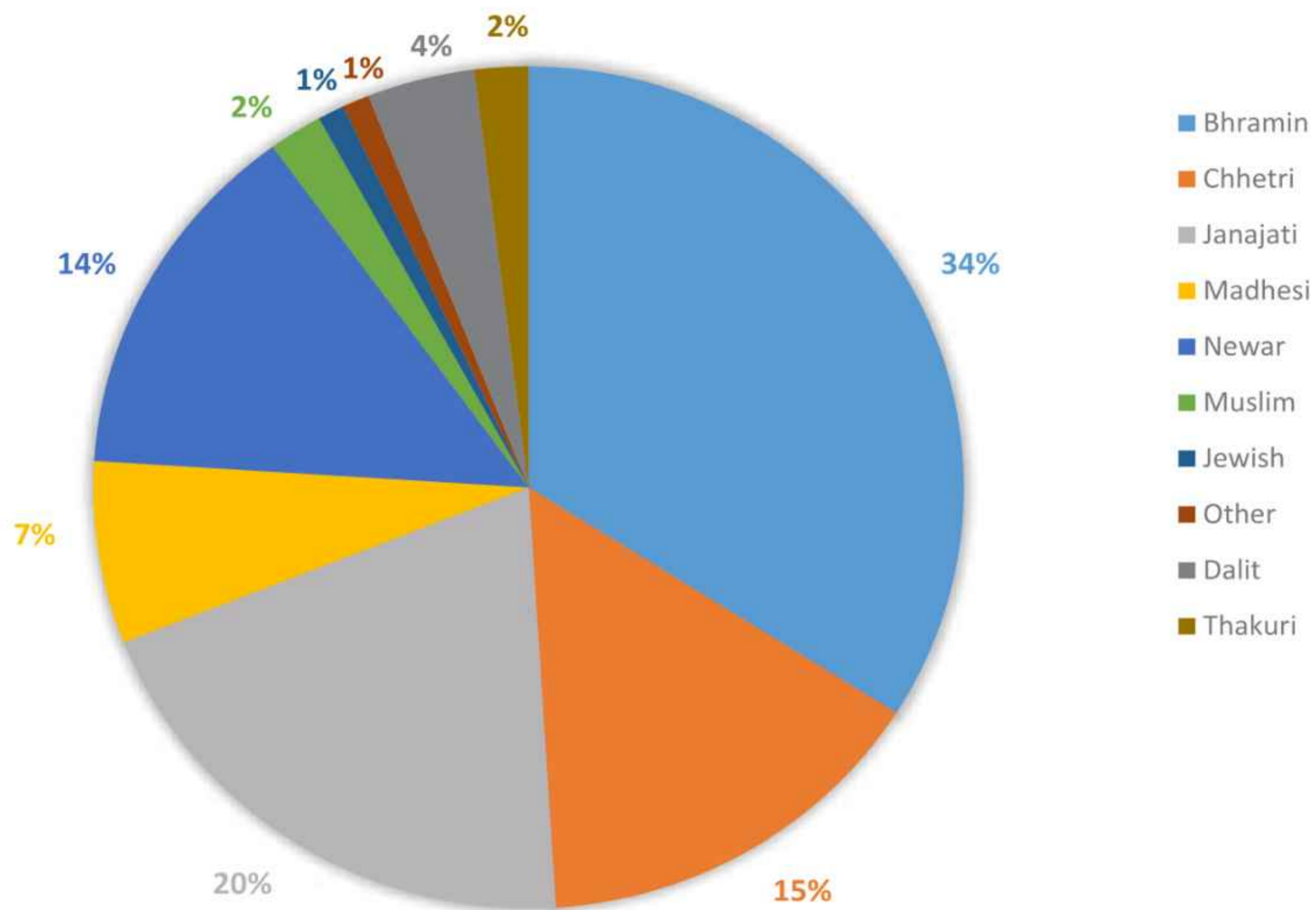
Reflecting Nepal's rich diversity, our team and our partners include talent from all backgrounds, cultures, and abilities. We prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility to amplify impact and sustainability while empowering local leaders and voices to drive change.



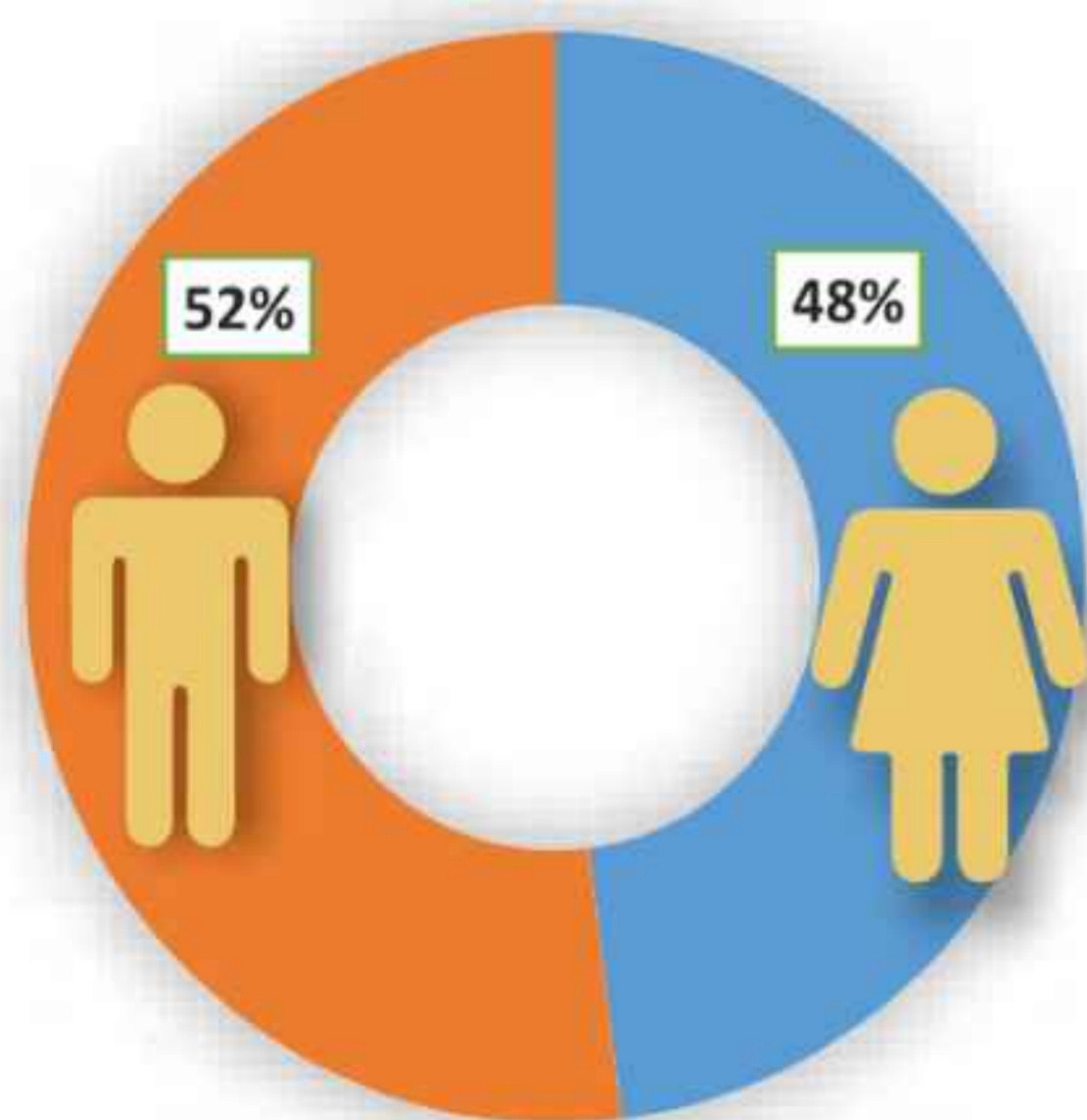
Birmi Khatri from Jajarkot District transforms her life through resilient vegetable farming, proving how women's collective strength can turn opportunity into empowerment.

STAFF COMPOSITION

In Terms of Caste, Ethnicity and Religion

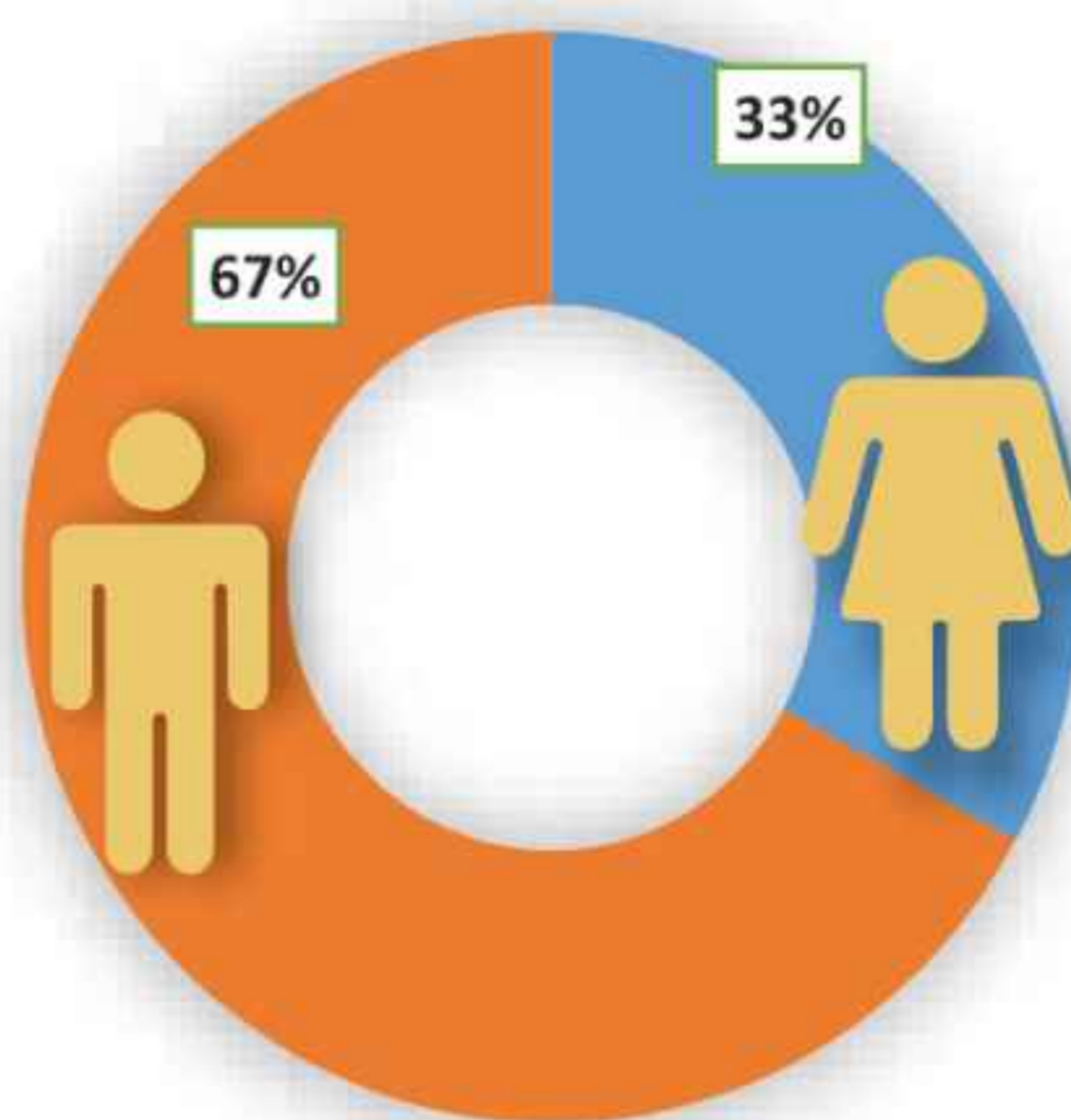


Among All Staff



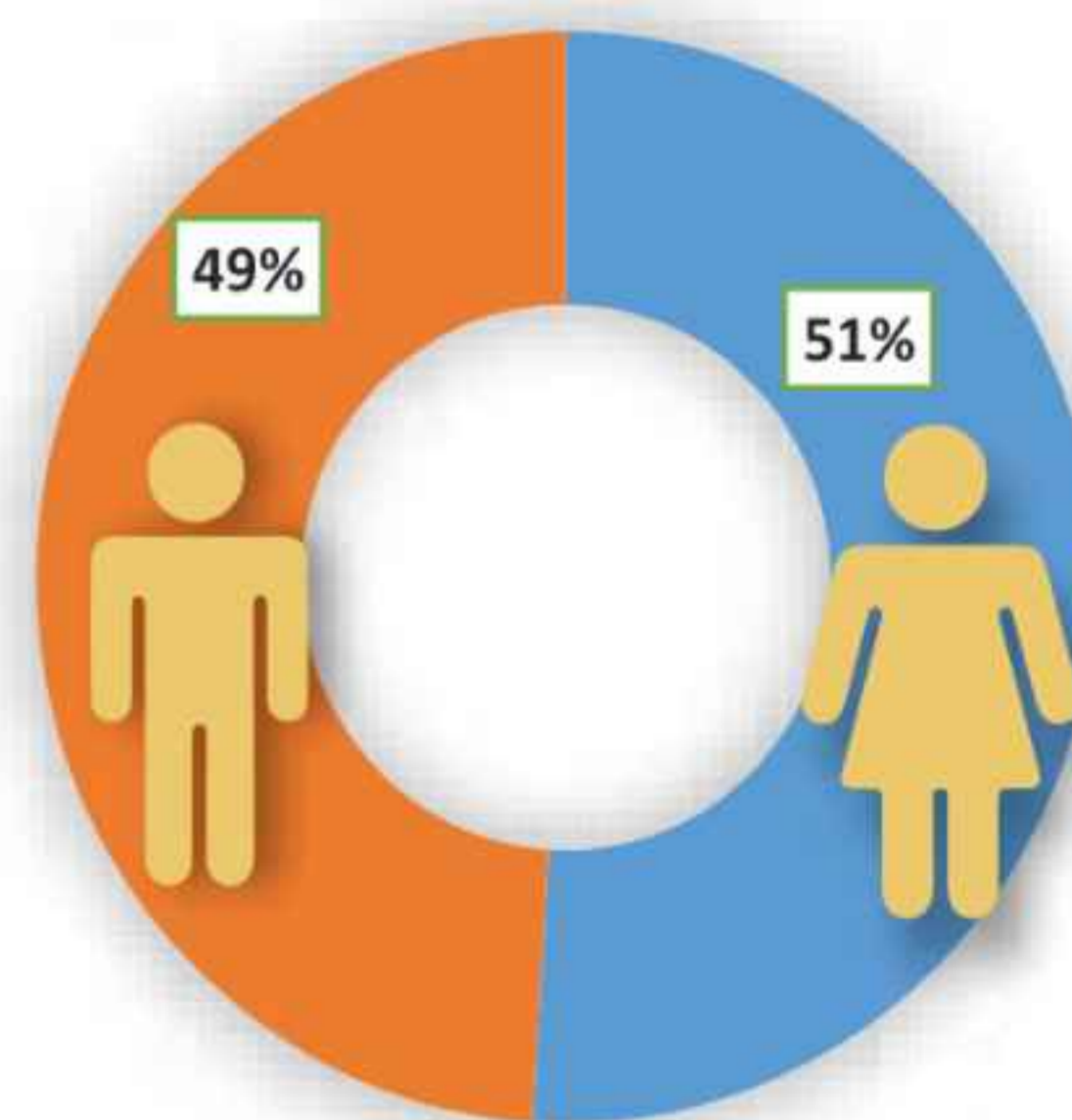
Women Men

Among Senior Management Team



Women Men

Among Senior Leadership Team

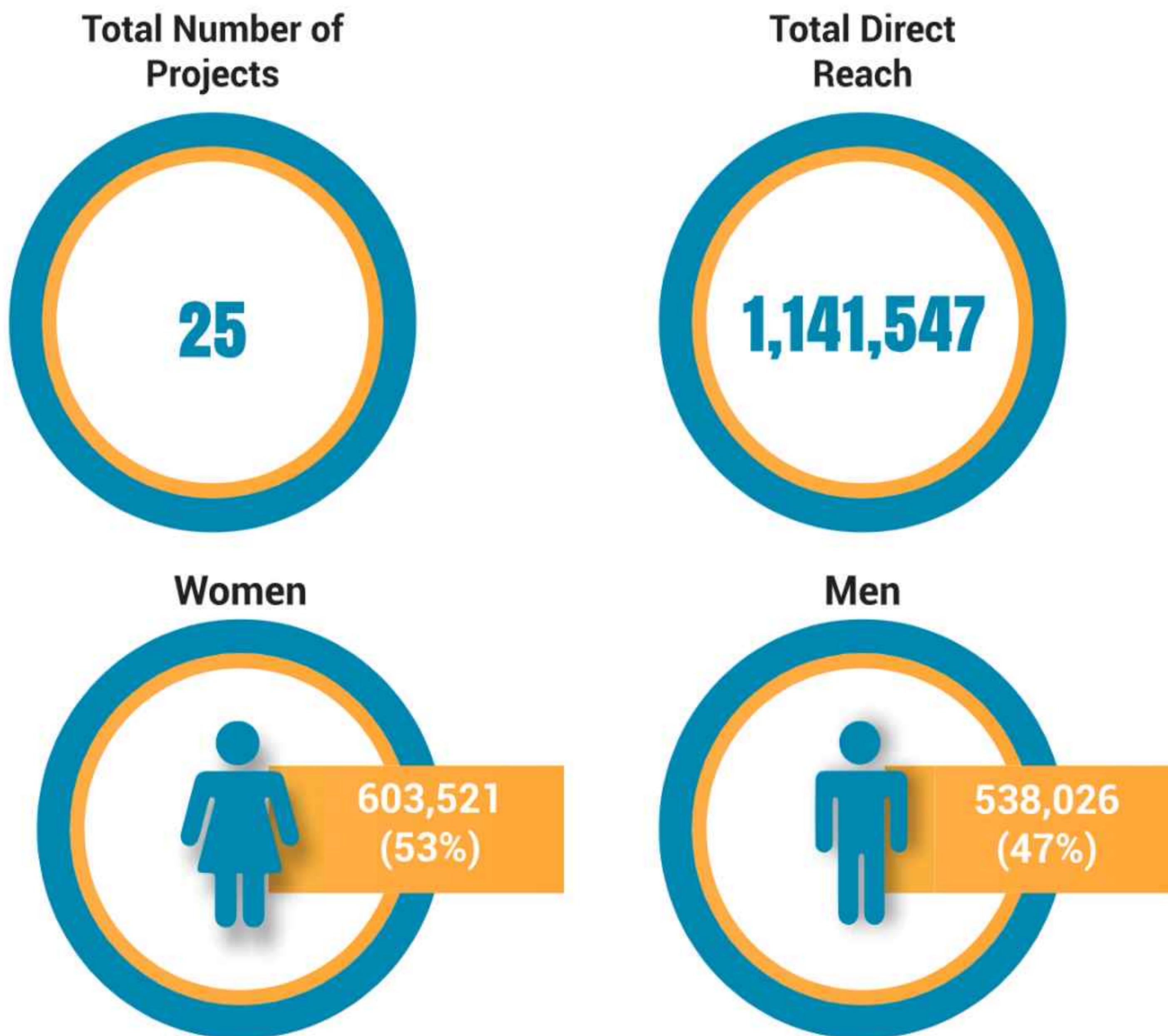


Women Men

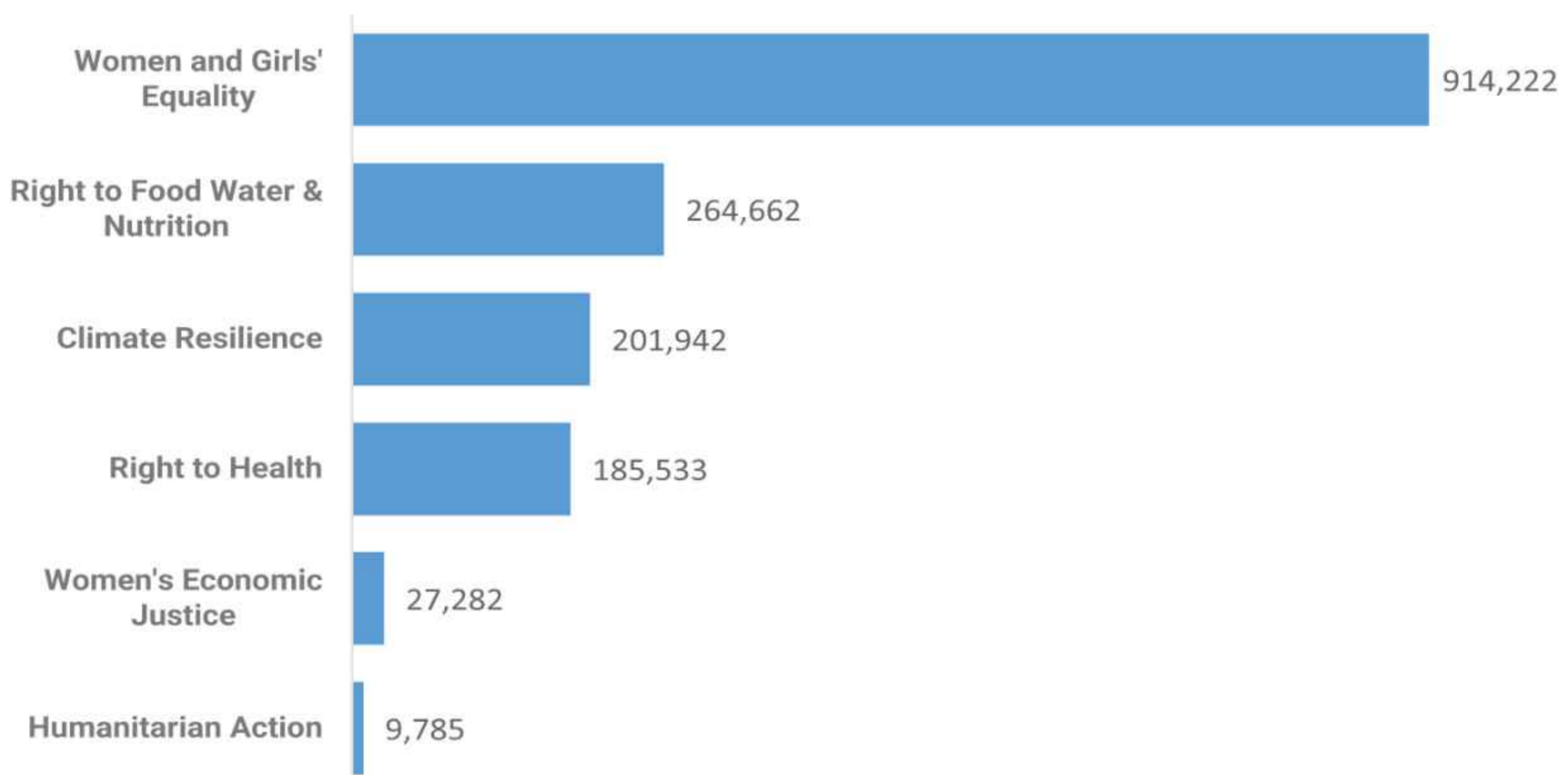


UDAAN girls share a joyful moment on their way to the learning center, reflecting the enthusiasm and sisterhood forged through their educational journey.

Participants Reached in FY 25

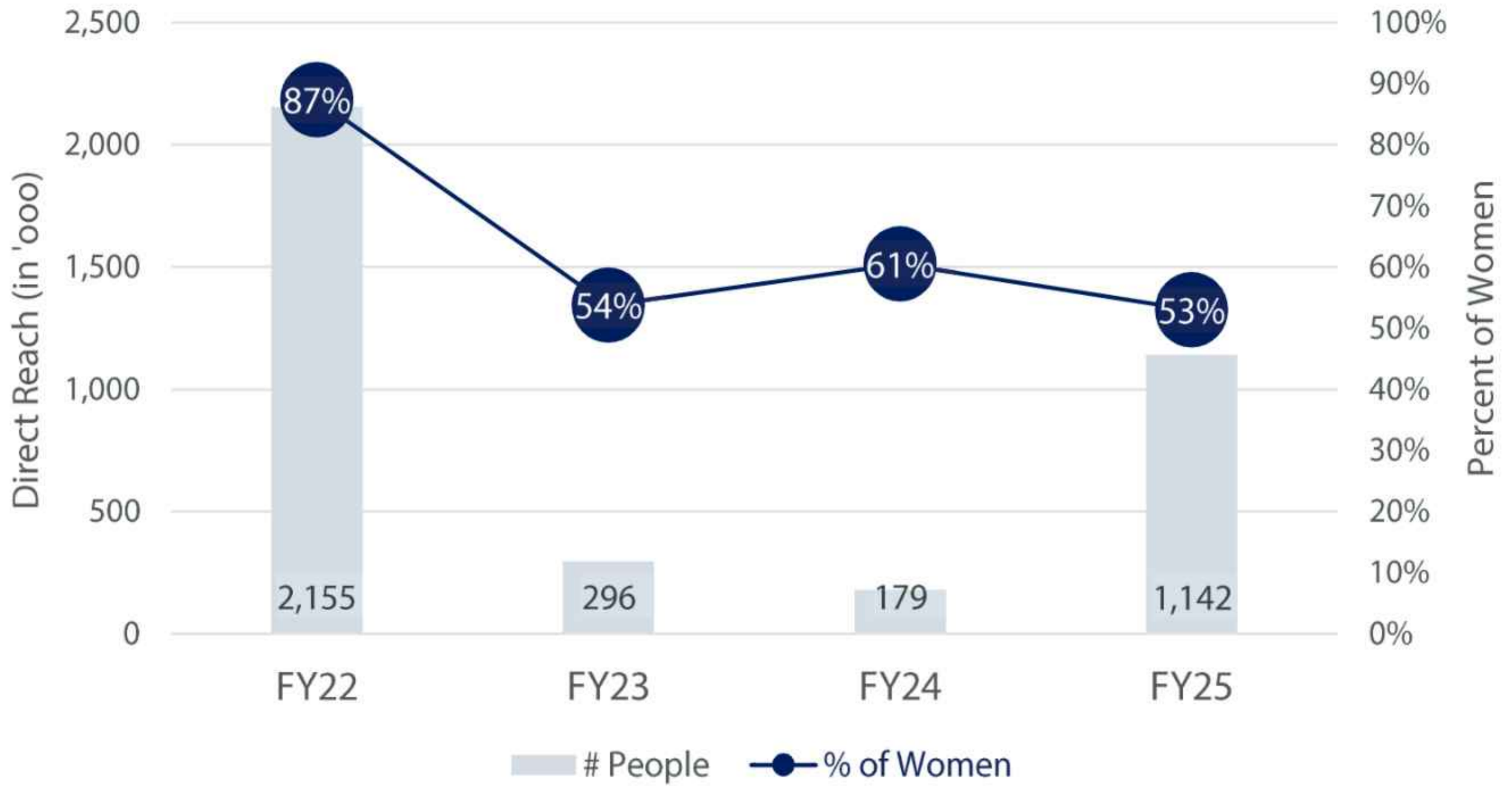


Total Reach by Impact Areas

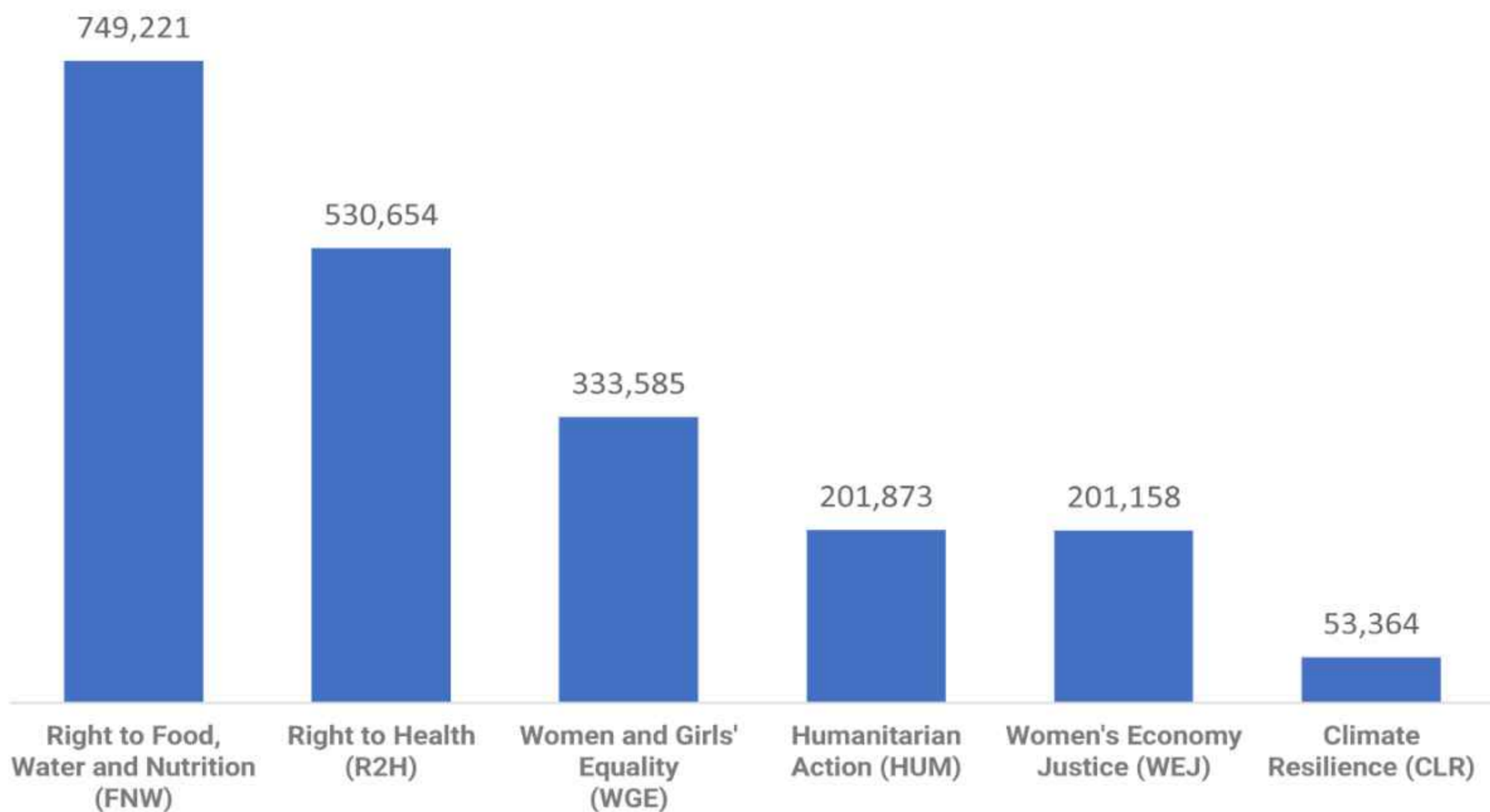


Note: The sum of different impact areas do not add up to the total as the sectors overlap and duplications are adjusted as well.

Direct Reach Trend and Percent of Women Among the Participants

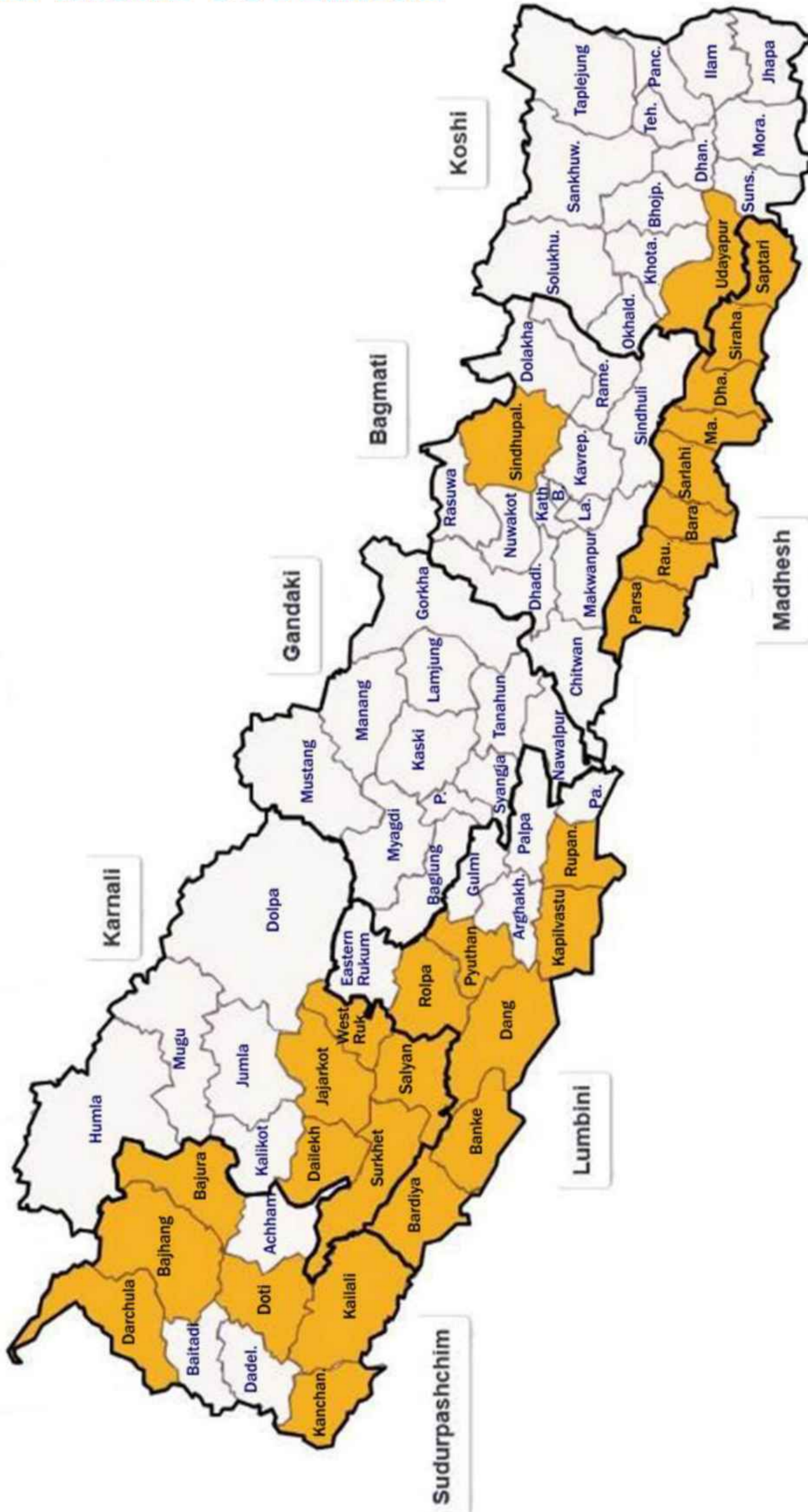


Total Impact* contributed by CARE and its partners



*Impact: People who have experienced one or more positive, lasting changes in their lives

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE





A local woman in Jajarkot supported with relief materials through CARE Nepal's earthquake response, implemented in coordination with the Humanitarian Partnership Platform.

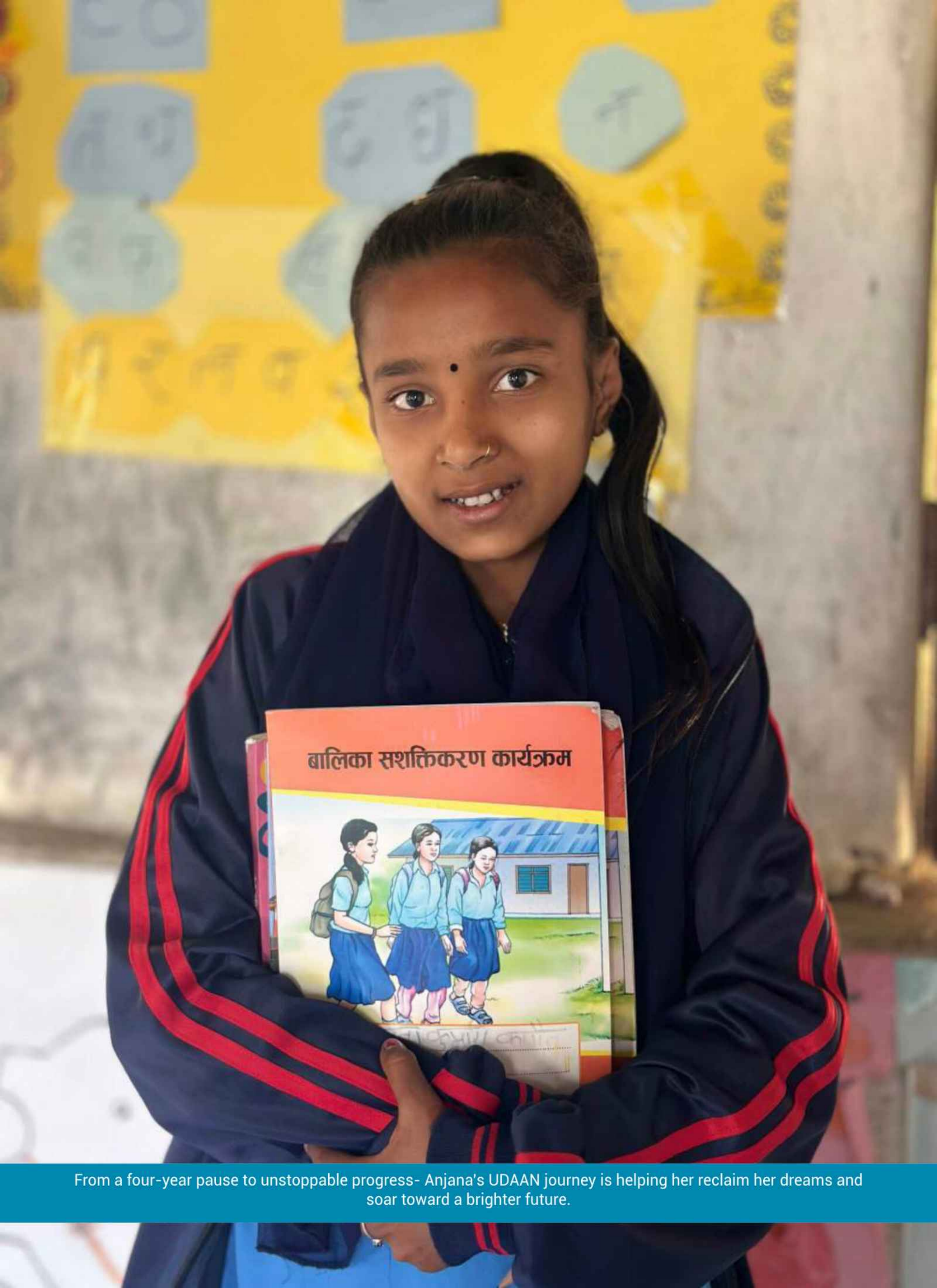
PROGRAM QUALITY

Percent of projects meeting Program Quality minimum standards

Fiscal Year	Women and Girls' Equality	Feedback and Accountability	Do No Harm	Partnership	Relevance and Coherence	Number of projects implemented
FY21	58.8%	-	94.1%	94.1%	100%	34
FY22	78.9%	-	94.7%	100%	100%	19
FY23	100%	29.4%	100%	100%	100%	18
FY24	95%	75%	100%	100%	100%	20
FY25	86.4%	45.5%	95.5%	95.5%	100%	25

What does meeting PQ minimum standard mean?

Women and Girls' Equality	Women and Girls Impact Assessment score of at least "Sensitive" for Humanitarian, and at least Responsive for development/nexus projects
Feedback and Accountability	Accountability Feedback and Accountability Mechanisms in place
Do No Harm	Safeguarding at least partially integrated into project activities, budget & MEAL
Partnership	Either all or most activities implemented with/through partners
Relevance and Coherence	Contributing to at least one impact area



From a four-year pause to unstoppable progress- Anjana's UDAAN journey is helping her reclaim her dreams and soar toward a brighter future.



WOMEN AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT & HEALTH AND EDUCATION RIGHTS (WGE & HER)

CARE Nepal is committed to building a future where women and girls, particularly those marginalized by unequal social and economic systems, enjoy equal access to health, education, protection, and legal services. Through the Women and Girls' Empowerment & Health and Education Rights (WGE&HER) initiative, the organization works to ensure that fundamental rights become a lived reality. These rights include safety, freedom from violence, dignified health care, and access to quality learning for every woman and girl. This commitment is guided by a strong focus on women and girls' equality and social inclusion, which shapes CARE Nepal's programming, partnerships, and advocacy. By addressing structural barriers and amplifying the voices and leadership of women and girls, the organization enables them to participate in decision making and influence systems and services responsive to women and girls.

In health, CARE Nepal strengthens access to equitable maternal, newborn, and sexual and reproductive health services. The organization enhances local health systems, challenges harmful social norms and promotes accountability in service delivery. Investments in fully equipped birthing centers and ongoing capacity building for health workers are helping prevent maternal and

neonatal deaths in remote communities. Interventions focused on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights provide girls and boys with reliable information, adolescent-friendly services, and social and behavior change activities that support healthy choices. Schools are increasingly equipped with health information corners and girl-friendly sanitation facilities that promote menstrual health and hygiene. Teachers trained in adolescent reproductive health pedagogy are better prepared to deliver inclusive and accurate reproductive health education.

Education and adolescent empowerment efforts focus on removing structural barriers that hinder marginalized girls' learning and future opportunities. CARE Nepal promotes access to education, alternative economic pathways, skill development, and collective activism to challenge harmful practices such as early marriage and restrictions on girls' mobility. The UDAAN accelerated learning program offers out-of-school girls an opportunity to study a condensed, government-endorsed curriculum along with life skills and leadership training to support re-entry into formal education. In fiscal year 2025 UDAAN girls share a joyful moment on their way to the learning center, reflecting the enthusiasm and sisterhood forged through their educational journey., 607

HIGHLIGHTS

- Handed over **two fully equipped birthing centers and one maternity waiting home cum nursing quarter** to Nalgad Municipality.
- Constructed **girl-friendly toilets** in three schools of Nalgad Municipality to promote menstrual health and hygiene among adolescent girls.
- Initiated **Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) services** at eight health facilities.
- Trained **six nursing staff** from six health facilities in Jajarkot District on **Rural Obstetric Ultrasound**.
- Constructed and handed over a two-roomed, semi-permanent, earthquake-resilient school with improved sanitation at Indradhanush Primary School, Nalagad-5, Jajarkot.
- Successfully developed and endorsed the **Municipal Education Plan (MEP)** in Naraha.
- Revitalized **five Community Learning Centers (CLCs)**, now registered with local and federal governments, enabling access to conditional grants.
- Provided **advanced vocational training**: 21 girls trained in tailoring and beauty parlors, alongside refresher training for vegetable farmers and advanced training for 7 bangle makers.
- Engaged **40 couples** in addressing violence and social roles, leading to positive shifts in household behaviors.
- Directly supported **25 survivors** with counseling and access to justice systems.
- Formed **2,078 adolescent groups** across 360 wards for SAA sessions, reaching **47,799 adolescents**, including 248 persons with disabilities.
- The **SATH program** facilitated enrollment of young mothers and strengthened **280 Health Mother Groups (HMGs)**, reaching 9,863 mothers with reproductive health services.
- Engaged **528 health facilities** through QA/QI and Hub-and-Spoke mentoring, improving adolescent-responsive services; **87 facilities** achieved $\geq 80\%$ self-assessment score, 32 received **AFHS certification**.
- Implemented **Youth-led Community Health Scoreboard (YLCHSB)** in 137 facilities; supported municipalities to develop **17 laws, policies, and ARH plans**.
- **Twenty-five violence survivors** received counseling, emergency support, and justice linkage; one survivor earned about **USD 1,080 from a bangle business**, gaining confidence and breaking the cycle of family violence.



UDAAN graduates transitioned to formal schools, and 307 new learners were enrolled across program districts. Mentorship and remedial support help sustain academic progress and retention.

For older out-of-school adolescent girls, the program promotes economic empowerment through Entrepreneurship Learning Centers, vocational training, business planning, and seed grants for microenterprises. Partnerships with microfinance institutions enhance opportunities to grow youth-led businesses. The Girls' Rights Forum, with over 3,000 members, serves as a platform for activism on education, mobility, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Parents, community leaders, and religious figures engage in transformative dialogues that advance women and girls' equality and challenge harmful norms, including child marriage.

Through integrated programming in health, education, leadership, violence prevention, and economic empowerment, CARE Nepal strengthens systems across local, provincial, and federal levels. These efforts contribute to a future where marginalized women and girls overcome systemic barriers, exercise their rights, and thrive in equitable and supportive communities.



“The Udaan class has given a new direction to my life. I am now back in school, studying in Grade 7 at Shree Secondary School, Mahadeba, Portaha. I dream of becoming a teacher so I can help others learn. I am truly grateful to CARE Nepal and APEC for supporting me through this journey.”

Bhumika Kumari Saday
Sakhuwanankarkatti, Siraha

WGE & HER Reach



864,511 directly reached

460,858

women and girls directly reached



403,653 men and boys directly reached



“Previously, women and adolescent girls endured violence silently or avoided reporting due to fear. Now, more women speak out and file complaints, and adolescent girls raise their voices against discrimination. For example, a girl recently reported sexual abuse by a teacher, which would have been hidden in the past. Support from local women's groups has made reporting easier, ensuring survivors receive timely assistance and justice.”

Sarada Shangkar Shah,
Nepal Police, Dhanagadhimai, Siraha

श्री माध्यमिक विद्यालय महदेवा पोर्ताहा



PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

School Facility Improvement Project-II

Following the 2023 Jajarkot earthquake, which caused 154 deaths and severely damaged 898 schools, the education of nearly 134,000 children was severely disrupted. With support from CARE Japan, CARE Nepal and its partner Hilly Region Development Campaign (HRDC) implemented the School Facility Improvement Project II to help restore safe learning spaces. The project resulted in the construction and handover of a two-roomed, semi-permanent, earthquake-resilient school structure, along with upgraded sanitation facilities, at Indradhanush Primary School in Nalagad 5, Jajarkot. Led by the School Management Committee, the initiative has created a safer, healthier, and more supportive teaching and learning environment. The improved facilities now directly benefit 80 students, including 45 boys and 35 girls, as well as 4 staff members.

Advancing Ambitions and Well-being Through sustained Academic Journeys (AAWAJ) Project

The AAWAJ Project empowers marginalized adolescent girls by enhancing access to education, promoting leadership in advocating for girls' rights, and strengthening their economic stability and families



“ I had to leave school after grade five due to household responsibilities, after UDAAN I have rejoined school and am studying in grade seven. I was also elected as president for Girls Rights Forum (GRF) in my rural municipality. I am advocating for girls' rights, leading peer discussions, and engaging parents and community stakeholders to promote girl's education and prevent child marriage. As I have taken part in various life skills sessions, I aspire to become a lawyer when I grow up.”

– Puja Sadaya, Siraha

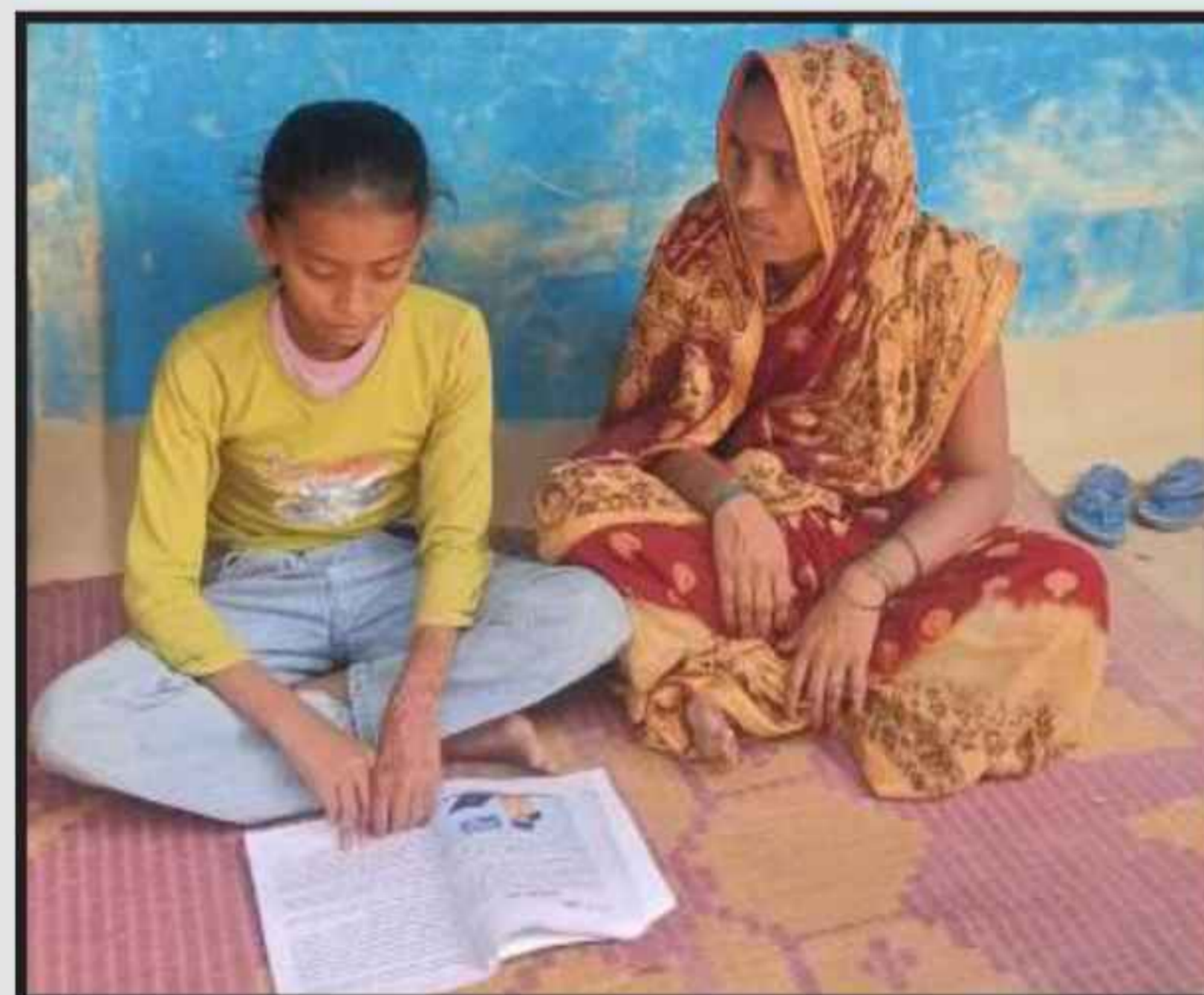
through livelihood support. This year, six Community Learning Centers (CLCs) were supported in management, resource mobilization from local governments, and institutionalization of the Non-Formal Education Management Information System (NFE EMIS). The project successfully established Palika-level Girls' Rights Forums (GRFs) in four municipalities, building on 19 ward-level GRFs that engaged 407 adolescent girls. GRFs serve as platforms for leadership and advocacy on child marriage and harmful social norms. Forty-five girls were selected for municipal executives. Capacity-building training addressed gender, leadership, power dynamics, and harmful norms. Participants identified child marriage as a priority issue and developed municipality-specific action plans to advocate for change at the local level. It strengthened economic stability for 17 GRF girls and 15 SOAR parents in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu through targeted livelihood and entrepreneurship support, promoting sustainable education and incomes.

Bezos Family Foundation SOAR Project

Launched in 2022, the Bezos Family Foundation SOAR Project operates in ten municipalities across Surkhet, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, and Siraha districts. The project expands CARE's UDAAN/SOAR model to improve access and retention for out-of-school and at-risk girls. In Siraha, 259 of 278 enrolled girls (93%) completed their SOAR classes and successfully transitioned into formal schools. In Surkhet, 22 of 25 girls (88%) completed the two-year SOAR Level 3 classes, with 9 passing Grade 8 and 3 progressing to Grade 9. This year, 309 out-of-school girls across Madhesh (209 in Siraha) and Lumbini (100 in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu) joined the program, and 401 girls benefited from remedial learning support. The project strengthens literacy, numeracy, life skills, and leadership while creating safe, equitable learning environments at home and in schools. It developed four School Improvement Plans and eight Disaster Risk Reduction plans, trained teachers through GESI-focused sessions, and engaged 239 child club members and 794 parents in agency-building interventions.

UDAAN V

Funded by Land Vorarlberg, UDAAN V is a 24-month project improving education access for out-of-school girls aged 10–14 and expanding livelihood opportunities for girls aged 15–19 in Siraha District. The project strengthens family and community support, enhances governance in community schools, and contributes to women and girls' equality through education and



“I never imagined I would be back in school, but now I can read, write, and speak confidently, and I'm proud of what I've achieved, thank you CARE Nepal for this incredible support.”

Radhika Kumari Yadav

Mithila bihari Municipality-6 sirsiya.

livelihood initiatives. This year, 29 girls completed foundational entrepreneurship training, 21 received 65-day CTEVT-standardized training in tailoring and beauty parlors, and 21 received advanced two-month training. Business start-up support, equipment, and materials facilitated enterprise growth, generating an average monthly income of USD 96.57 per girl. School Improvement Plans and WASH facility renovations benefited over 700 students. Non-functional CLCs were revitalized and UDAAN centers were registered with local and federal governments, enabling conditional grants and long-term sustainability.

SOAR in Jajarkot

CARE Nepal implemented a 16-month accelerated learning SOAR program in Bheri and Nalagad municipalities for out-of-school girls. The mentorship-based approach, supporting 1–10 girls per mentor, facilitated transition into formal schools. This year, 62 adolescent girls successfully transitioned, while 126 in-school girls at risk of dropping out received remedial support. Community engagement included transformational discussions with 144 parents and six child clubs leading awareness campaigns on child marriage, dowry, discrimination against women and girls, and child rights. The program strengthened local



accountability and promoted equitable quality education through community scorecards and mentorship interventions.

UDAAN- Empowering Girls Through Education (a follow-up on USAID ARH run UDAAN initiative)

Following the termination of the USAID Adolescent Reproductive Health Project, the 11-month accelerated learning program had come to an abrupt halt. This sudden disruption shattered the hopes of 307 girls who had joined the program to continue their studies. It also exposed them to increased risks of child, early or forced marriage, violence, and a future with limited opportunities and lifelong dependency. Through rigorous fundraising and outreach to private donors, CARE Nepal re-operated 13 centers where girls completed a two-month UDAAN course and then transitioned to formal schools. Out of 307 girls, 282 successfully completed the course and joined 16 neighboring schools to continue their education. In close coordination with local governments and community schools, the project organized training



“ I would like to thank CARE Nepal and HRDC for providing me with the opportunity to receive Implant training. This training is invaluable to me and with this training I am motivated to provide quality family planning service to the women of this ward who are left behind from receiving long-acting family planning.”

Rupkala Rana,

Nurse, Bhargaun Birthing Center, Nalgad-6

on remedial learning to equip teachers with skills to identify learning gaps and apply child-centered, activity-based teaching methodologies.

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

Funded by Allison Cornell/CARE USA, SyAHAR II improves maternal and reproductive health in Jajarkot District by addressing healthcare access, infrastructure gaps, social norms, and systemic barriers. The project engages women and adolescents to build skills, confidence, and agency while advocating for systemic changes in policies and services.

Two birthing centers and one maternity waiting home were constructed, and healthcare workers received training on long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) and rural obstetric ultrasound. The project promoted institutional childbirth, WASH practices, and adolescent-friendly facilities, while engaging communities through Social Analysis and Action (SAA) and Self-Applied Technique for Quality Health (SATH) to discuss gender, family planning, nutrition, and menstrual hygiene. Community Health Scoreboards strengthened accountability in six health facilities, ensuring improved maternal and reproductive health outcomes.

Sustaining Power for Women's Rights (SuPWR)

SuPWR is a multi-country longitudinal research project led by IDS Sussex with CARE Nepal leading the Nepal chapter. It explores how women's movements in South Asia sustain gains against backlash. This year, the project focused on building collective care among feminist actors, enabling continued engagement in women's rights advocacy. SuPWR members participated



in AWID 2025 in Bangkok to network, share strategies, and amplify advocacy agendas. The final dissemination and photovoice exhibition at the British Embassy in Kathmandu showcased artwork, research findings, and audiovisual outputs, highlighting the resilience and agency of women's movements and fostering cross-country learning and alliance-building.

SAHASH Project

Funded internally by CARE Nepal, SAAHASH addresses root causes of VAWG in Siraha District through family-based approaches, reflective dialogues, and skills-building in conflict transformation. The project challenges discriminatory social norms, fosters peace, and strengthens judicial accountability.

A Quick Response Team (QRT) has been established with the judicial committee of Dhangadhimai to improve access to justice. CARE provides emergency support to survivors and collaborates with women's collectives and local governments to ensure standards



“ Before the sessions, we had trouble talking openly, which led to misunderstandings in our relationship. Since we started setting aside time to talk before sleeping, our connection has grown stronger, trust has increased, and we understand each other better, making our household more peaceful.”

Rabindra Chaudhary

Couple Group Member, Siraha



and accountability mechanisms for justice providers, ensuring safety, security, and systemic change in responding to violence against women and girls.

USAID Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH)

The USAID ARH Project was planned as 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, empowered adolescents in 60 municipalities across Madhesh, Lumbini, and Karnali Provinces to claim reproductive health rights. Despite ending on January 24, 2025, the project successfully engaged 94,471 individuals across 4,306 groups, raising awareness on family planning, social norms, and adolescent health. Youth-led community health scoreboards and remedial training improved service delivery in health facilities, while girls actively participated in ending child marriage activism. The project integrated adolescent-focused reproductive health priorities into government planning, strengthened municipal policies, and enhanced private sector involvement, contributing to long-term adolescent

health outcomes. The project was halted in its 3rd year of implementation due to the stop work order of USAID funded projects.

Local Infrastructure Support Programme (LISP)

Implemented by DT Global with CARE Nepal as sub-partner, LISP strengthens local and provincial government capacities to deliver inclusive, accountable, and climate-resilient infrastructure in 50 local governments across Karnali and Lumbini.

CARE leads GEDSI and climate resilience technical assistance, supporting planning, design, procurement, construction, and maintenance. Inclusive community consultations, evidence generation, and validation of 35 local government capacity assessments ensured integrated approaches. CARE's technical support incorporates GEDSI, climate resilience, and safeguarding features into infrastructure projects, stimulating green recovery jobs, building climate resilience, and improving governance of local infrastructure services.



LESSONS LEARNED

Programs that advance capacity of women and girls to meet their own needs and reach their full potential that combine efforts to shift societal norms with enhancing girls' skills and improving household relationships have proven highly effective. CARE and its partners underwent their own transformative journeys, enabling them to act as authentic change agents. Engaging community leaders, parents, and siblings, particularly men and boys, to reflect on social relations and promote equality mitigated backlash and strengthened project impact.

Economic hardship often poses a greater barrier to girls' education than awareness. Enabling parents to engage in income-generating activities empowered

them financially, allowing investment in their daughters' schooling. Strengthening Community Learning Center (CLC) management committees and equipping facilitators with child-friendly pedagogy and accelerated learning materials, combined with advocacy for official registration, fostered well-functioning CLCs that improved educational outcomes for out-of-school girls.

Addressing the needs of married adolescents requires integrating entrepreneurial opportunities, enabling income generation alongside continued learning. In remote areas, maternal and child healthcare access remains constrained by long travel distances, limited infrastructure, and financial barriers. Incorporating Rural Obstetric Ultrasound programs and deploying clinical

mentors strengthened peripheral health facilities, improved prenatal care, and enabled early detection of high-risk pregnancies.

Empowering youth in adolescent reproductive health (ARH) through policy advocacy, social accountability, and social norms transformation effectively shaped adolescent-responsive policies and health systems. Structured ARH training for teachers improved delivery of reproductive health education.

Investing in girls' leadership evolved from life skills development to public advocacy, enabling girls to define priorities, connect with allies, and act against challenges like child marriage. Expanding networks and sharing experiences among adolescent leaders emerged as a best practice.

SuPWR research emphasized centering women's experiences of backlash and the need for collective care within movements. Sustaining feminist movements requires safe spaces, emotional support, intersectional alliances, and transparent, shared leadership to prevent burnout and reinforce solidarity.

GBV programming revealed the importance of addressing policy gaps, strengthening community justice structures, and engaging men and boys in reflective dialogue. Quick Response Teams facilitated survivor-centered, timely support, while continued collaboration with social movement actors ensured sustained action on complex cases.

Local government engagement proved essential for sustainability, enabling adaptation of national policies into local frameworks aligned with provincial governance needs.

Participatory planning at settlement and ward levels amplifies marginalized voices; inclusive community consultations improve infrastructure design and resolve conflicts; joint QA of DPRs ensures GEDSI and climate resilience integration; and government-aligned budgeting and fiscal transfers enhance ownership and intergovernmental cooperation.

From wage labor to entrepreneurship, Sahena Khatun transformed her life through CARE Nepal's UDAAN V project. Today, she runs her own Dalmoth Bhujija business, supports her family, and builds a secure future for her daughter.





Exploring Dreams: Janaki's Journey to Entrepreneurship and Empowerment

At just 19 years old, Janaki Kumari Ram from Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality-5 in Siraha District is already rewriting what's possible for young women in her community.

As the eldest daughter in a low-income farming family, Janaki grew up with dreams larger than her circumstances. After completing her Secondary Education Examination (SEE), she had to step away from school to care for her siblings and support her parents in the fields. Her ambition to continue her education was set aside, another casualty of economic hardship and gendered expectations.

But Janaki never stopped dreaming.

In 2023, a turning point came when she joined Enterprise Learning Classes (ELC). This was part of CARE Nepal's broader initiative to strengthen women's economic empowerment in partnership with the National Farmer's Group Federation (NFGF). These sessions didn't just

teach her about business; they ignited something inside her.

"I learned how to see myself as more than just a helper at home. I started imagining myself as a businesswoman," Janaki shares.

With no tailoring center in her village and a clear gap in the market, Janaki saw an opportunity. Supported by seed money from CARE Nepal and NFGF, she purchased a sewing machine and materials to launch her own tailoring enterprise. From her modest setup at home, she began sewing clothes for women in the neighborhood, offering them not just products, but personalized service, quality, and convenience.

"I maintain my account book. I know how much I earn, how much I spend. This income supports our household expenses, and my parents encourage me to grow," she says with pride.

But Janaki's story didn't stop there.

As she became more confident in her business skills, she noticed yet another unmet need in her community: a beauty parlor. With CARE's support under the UDAAN program, implemented in collaboration with Samagra Janutthan Kendra, Janaki enrolled in a beauty parlor training course. She also participated in a two-day session to revise her business plan and continued attending monthly meetings where she learned from peers and mentors.

"Combining tailoring and beauty services allows me to offer more to the community and earn more too," she says.

Janaki now dreams of expanding both enterprises. She envisions opening a storefront where women can come for tailoring, beauty services, and even mentorship. "I want to help other girls who were like me, stuck at home, unsure of their worth. If I can change, they can too," she adds.

Janaki's journey reflects the impact of targeted interventions that go beyond training. These programs foster self-confidence, financial independence, and

social inclusion. Through CARE's integrated approach, thousands of young women like Janaki are discovering their potential not only as earners but also as changemakers in their communities.

"I am deeply thankful to CARE Nepal and all the partners who supported me. Because of them, I can now dream and work to make those dreams real."



I learned how to see myself as more than just a helper at home. I started imagining myself as a businesswoman,"

Janaki sharpens her skills during a beauty parlor training session, part of her journey to build a thriving, women-led enterprise.





GREEN GROWTH AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RESILIENCE (GG & WER)

CARE Nepal is committed to ending poverty, hunger, and malnutrition while empowering communities to adapt to the growing challenges of climate change. Marginalized populations, particularly women and girls, face disproportionate impacts due to unequal power dynamics, limited access to resources, environmental degradation, and economic uncertainties. CARE Nepal addresses these systemic barriers through inclusive, responsive to women and girls, and climate-resilient approaches, transforming challenges into opportunities for equitable growth, resilience, and sustainable wellbeing.

Our work focuses on advancing diversified and resilient food and nutrition security, promoting equitable natural resource management, ensuring safe and dignified workplaces, expanding access to production resources, fostering just economic opportunities, and building resilience against climate shocks.

The Green Growth and Women's Economic Resilience (GG&WER) program aims to reach 440,000 people by 2025, with a focus on women and marginalized communities. The program supports improved food

and nutrition security, equitable access to natural and productive resources, and active participation in decision-making processes. It also enhances dignified economic opportunities women through access to finance, women-led entrepreneurship, business incubation and acceleration, market access, and the promotion of green enterprises.

A flagship initiative under this program is the Kishan Card, a financial product in collaboration with Nepal Investment Mega Bank Limited that connects farmers digitally with input and output market actors, enabling cashless transactions for high-quality production inputs, extension services, and climate-smart technologies. By leveraging such innovations, CARE Nepal strengthens the capacities of vulnerable groups, particularly women and smallholder farmers, enabling them to build resilient, diversified livelihoods.

Through these integrated efforts, CARE Nepal fosters inclusive green growth and supports the transition toward a more equitable, climate-resilient rural economy, where women and marginalized communities can participate fully, access resources fairly, and thrive sustainably.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Volunteer farmer mobilization via FFBS strengthened extension services, engaging **1,200 women farmers** in Madhesh.
- **19,000** mothers and women farmers opened bank accounts and received **digital input vouchers** to establish nutrition gardens.
- **400 forest-dependent communities and smallholder farmers** received seed capital, entrepreneurship, and technical support.
- **113,388** children aged **6–59 months** were screened for **malnutrition** across **35** local governments in Kailali, Banke, Surkhet, Rautahat, Saptari, Siraha, and Dailekh districts.
- **635 severely acute malnourished children** were connected with health system services and provided food voucher assistance post-treatment.
- **5,004 moderately acute malnourished children** received food vouchers to support recovery from mal-nutrition.
- **233 health facilities** received essential equipment for nutrition assessment and management of birthing centers.
- Capacity building training and support was provided to **783 health workers** and **3,489 FCHVs** on **Comprehensive Nutrition-Specific Interventions (CNSI)** and the **Community Health Scoreboard (CHSB)**.
- **100 community business facilitators** were developed and mobilized to provide extension services and ensure the supply of quality inputs.
- **2 cooperatives** supported to strengthen local seed systems and promote commercial seed production.
- **25 local governments** received capacity strengthening for Nutrition and Food Security Coordination Committees at local level.
- **1,236** farming households (**6,500** individuals) were reached through **climate-smart interventions** in Siraha and Saptari districts.
- **553** households adopted **nature-based** and **low-emission agricultural practices**.
- **450** farmers, **65%** of whom were women, participated in the **Empowering Local Champions (ELC)** initiative for climate-resilient community action.





KEY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Climate Smart village Nepal

The project establishes climate-smart villages responsive to women and girls in Madhesh Province, benefiting 12,500 small-scale, landless women, youth, and marginalized farmers. It promotes climate-smart practices to enhance adaptation capacities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By engaging civil society and local government representatives, the project integrates community priorities into disaster and climate-resilient plans and sectoral policies, ensuring sustainability. CARE Nepal introduces innovative technologies such as vermi wash, an organic liquid bio-fertilizer, and soil-cement ponds for rainwater harvesting to improve soil health, conserve water, and enhance drought resilience. Youth- and women-led advocacy, localized agro-met services, and climate-smart techniques create models for replication. Communities adopt these proven practices, while local governments plan, budget, and implement relevant policies. These integrated approaches empower smallholder farmers, especially women, to proactively adapt to climate change and build sustainable, resilient livelihoods.



“ We used to rely on chemical pesticides, not knowing the harm they caused to our health and the environment. Through the CSVN project, we've learned to grow healthy vegetables using natural and sustainable methods. Now, our whole family is involved in farming, and we feel proud to be part of this climate-smart change.”

— Ramanand and Bhola Chaudhary, Siraha

Farmers Field Business School

The FFBS Scaling in Nepal project aims to enhance agricultural productivity, nutrition, income, social inclusion, market participation, participatory learning by doing and overall economic empowerment for smallholder and landless women farmers. It builds their agency by organizing them into FFBS groups, enabling collective discussion of challenges and influencing decision-making at different government levels. The project empowers groups through capacity building on climate-smart agriculture, financial literacy, market participation, nutrition, and group management, while supporting VSLA activities and the development of Group Level Climate Adaptation Plans. FFBS groups are also linked with larger civil society organization networks to strengthen their advocacy skills and access resources.

Fill the Nutrition Gap

This project addresses malnutrition through a multi-sectoral approach, tackling behavioral and structural determinants. Women of reproductive age and children under two are prioritized to improve long-term health, cognitive development, and intergenerational wellbeing. Interventions combine homestead food production, nutrition gardens, and dietary diversity with behavior change communication, community engagement, and social support. Marginalized groups, including Dalit communities, are integrated to ensure equity. Women are organized into groups and linked to VSLAs, enhancing social capital and economic resilience. By combining behavioral interventions with livelihood support, the project improves maternal and child nutrition, strengthens community systems, and fosters sustainable nutrition-sensitive behaviors.



Through the Farmer Field Business School, I learned how simple changes can transform my farm and my family's health. With support from NFGF and CARE Nepal, I improved my cowshed, built a compost pit, and started using fully decomposed manure and liquid fertilizers. Now I grow bottle gourd, brinjal, beans, okra, and leafy greens without chemicals. My vegetables taste better, my soil is healthier, and I even earned some income from my surplus. I feel proud and confident in my farming,"

- **Shyamwati Sardar, Siraha**



Women farmers of Siraha are adopting green grow bags to cultivate fresh organic vegetables, promoting sustainable farming despite being landless.

Nurture Every Future - Poshan Nepal

The Nurture Every Future/ Poshan Nepal Program is a part of the broader Mother Child Wellbeing Initiative. In Nepal, the consortium program jointly implemented by CARE and iDE draws on their extensive global expertise in health, nutrition, food, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), market systems, and Women and Girls' Equality and Social Inclusion initiatives. This program addresses nutrition challenges at individual, household, and community levels. By integrating health systems, food systems, market systems, and women's empowerment, the program strengthens care and feeding practices, improves household food security, promotes food



“When my daughter was found acutely malnourished, I was scared and unsure what to do. Through Poshan Project, I learned how to prepare nutritious food, keep good hygiene, and seek health services on time. My daughter recovered, and I gained the confidence to take care of my family's health. Today, I share what I have learned with other women so that no child in our community suffers the way mine did. This change has given me a voice and I want to inspire more mothers to take charge of their children's well-being.”

- Sanab Bano Mukeri
Bajjnath RM, Banke District

safety and hygiene, and fosters women's leadership. Collaborating with all three tiers of government, market actors, and local partners, the program ensures sustainable impact for children under five and their mothers, enhancing nutrition outcomes and community wellbeing. This program is implemented in 37 local governments across Saptari, Siraha, Rautahat, Banke, Kailali, Surkhet, and Dailekh, supporting Nepal's Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan III and Nutrition-Friendly Local Governance.

Samrakshyan

Funded by Jersey Overseas Aid Cooperation (JOAC), the Samrakshyan initiative promotes conservation livelihoods and watershed management. It introduces alternative, net-positive livelihood options, reducing pressure on natural resources while empowering marginalized communities to assert their rights to financial and natural resources. The project strengthens local capacities and collaborates with government bodies to integrate lessons into downstream watershed policy and practice, ensuring sustainable environmental and economic impact.



267,767 Total Reach

136,965

Women and
Girls



130,802 Men and Boys



Before, we were terrified the river would wash away the only community school, located in the riverbanks near Shree Bichari Community Forest, and our children with it. The Samrakshyan Project, together with our Community Forest User Group, built a sturdy gabion wall at the river's toe, installed bamboo crib structures to hold the slope, and planted fast-growing grasses and fodder plants to bind the soil. Now the school is safe and we can finally send our children to class without fear."

— Kabita Tamang, Parent, Siraha



A Climate Smart Village Nepal program participant displays nutrient-rich vermicompost, a climate-smart solution that boosts crop growth and promotes eco-friendly farming.





Street Drama raising awareness on harmful agriculture practices under CSVN project in Siraha district.

LESSONS LEARNED

Evidence-based data is critical for identifying community needs and designing interventions that are responsive, sustainable, and scalable. Small-scale, context-specific innovations work best. Low-cost, easily replicable technologies such as soil-cement ponds, vermi wash units, and kitchen gardens have proven highly effective in enhancing resilience in smallholder farming systems.

Digital and business literacy remain low in marginalized communities. Integrated interventions using reflective

and participatory methods are essential to strengthen women's business and financial skills. Social behavior change interventions grounded in need assessments, empirical evidence, and formative research are more effective in addressing harmful social norms and promoting positive behaviors.

These lessons highlight the importance of combining evidence-driven programming with practical, community-centered solutions to achieve sustainable impact in agriculture, nutrition, and women's empowerment.



Sarita holding her citizenship card with pride, she's no longer invisible - her journey to dignity has begun.

Rooted at Last: A Mother's Path to Dignity and Health



A radiant symbol of hope, Sarita's citizenship card shines as a testament to her newfound dignity and the transformative power of community support in Rautahat!

In the heart of Rautahat District, Nepal, Sarita Kumari lived a life unseen. At 22, she was a mother cradling her 8-month-old daughter, a wife building a home, yet to the world, she was a ghost - no citizenship, no rights, no name.

Born in India, Sarita crossed the border to marry Bablu Mandal, an 18-year-old from Ishnath Municipality. They settled in Rautahat, one of Nepal's most marginalized districts, dreaming of a simple life. But statelessness cast a long shadow. Neither Sarita nor Bablu had Nepali citizenship because she was an Indian, and Bablu was still a minor. Without citizenship, Sarita couldn't open a bank account and avail of services only possible with

it. Barred from social protection like the Poshan Bhatta (allowance), her dreams felt like whispers in the wind.

In 2024, the **Mother and Child Wellbeing Partnership Program (MCWPP)**, better known locally as the **Poshan Project** was launched, promising nutrition through Kisan Cards - digital cards with funds for women to buy seeds for nutrition gardens.

But for Sarita, holding only an Indian Aadhaar card, the card revealed a deeper barrier: she was one of over 500 women in Rautahat without a Nepali citizenship. Stateless, they were locked out of opportunities. The project, though, was more than seeds and gardens. It was a beacon of empowerment. Through community sessions, Sarita and Bablu discovered their right to citizenship. With the ward office's recommendation, Sarita opened a bank account using her Indian Citizenship – a small victory. But the real spark came when Bablu claimed his Nepali citizenship, lighting a path for Sarita.

Under Nepal's Constitution (2072, Article 11), Sarita secured naturalized citizenship through Bablu's status. They registered their marriage, a milestone that unlocked social protection's.

Their daughter now receives the Poshan Bhatta (allowance), and Sarita accesses services she once thought were for others. Her Kisan Card funded a vibrant nutrition garden, bursting with organic vegetables that nourish her family. But citizenship gave her something greater: dignity.

In seven months, over 150 women in Rautahat followed, claiming citizenship and rewriting their stories.

The impact runs deeper. Bablu, once stateless, now shares household chores and dreams with Sarita. Their home hums with laughter, fresh greens on the table, and plans for their daughter's education. Sarita's confidence has grown, she speaks up in community meetings, inspiring others.

Across five Municipalities in Rautahat, the Poshan project identified over 500 stateless women. In seven months, over 150 have gained citizenship, and many registered marriages.

Sarita's garden yields diverse crops, ensuring her family's nutrition. Her story echoes in other women like Sakina Khatun, Gudiya Kumari, and Puja Devi, each stepping into their rights.

Sarita's triumph is a testament to the Poshan Project's unexpected power. Designed for nutrition, it became a catalyst for legal recognition and equal rights for women and girls. By giving women like Sarita a name, CARE Nepal and its partners are rewriting family legacies and sparking hope across Rautahat. As Sarita's courage inspires her neighbors, it proves a timeless truth: when a woman rises, she lifts her family, her community, and beyond. Rautahat is stirring, and the change is just beginning.



Poshan Project participant turning surplus vegetables from her field into income, empowering her livelihood and promoting nutrition.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & WOMEN AND GIRLS LEAD IN EMERGENCIES (DRR & WGLiE)

CARE Nepal integrates disaster preparedness, response, and recovery into long-term development programming through its Disaster Risk Reduction & Women and Girls Lead in Emergencies (DRR&WGLiE) program. By working closely with vulnerable communities, particularly women and girls, the program reduces disaster and climate risks by leveraging local knowledge, empowering community structures, and strengthening local institutions, including civil society organizations and women-led groups. These efforts enable communities to anticipate, absorb, adapt, and transform vulnerabilities while minimizing disaster-related risks.

In 2025, CARE Nepal introduced the Anticipatory Action (AA) approach to support communities in acting before disasters occur, reducing losses and protecting lives and livelihoods. By strengthening early warning systems, defining local triggers, and building institutional and community capacity, the initiative enables timely, risk-informed actions such as early evacuation, asset

protection, and safeguarding vulnerable groups. The approach complements CARE's broader DRR&WGLiE work and emphasizes the leadership of women, marginalized groups, and local organizations in decision-making. CARE collaborates closely with NDRRMA, DHM, provincial authorities, and local governments in implementing this approach.

CARE prioritizes the localization of humanitarian response by positioning local CSOs, especially Women-Led Organizations (WLOs) and Women's Rights Organizations (WROs), as primary responders. The Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) strengthens these organizations' capacity for effective, timely, and coordinated community-led responses. HPP currently engages 16 CSOs, including 37% WLOs and 18% representing intersectional groups. Guided by an inclusive steering committee chaired by a woman leader from a WLO, HPP members received training in humanitarian standards, accountability, Women and Girls in Emergencies (WGiE), Rapid Humanitarian Analysis,

HIGHLIGHTS

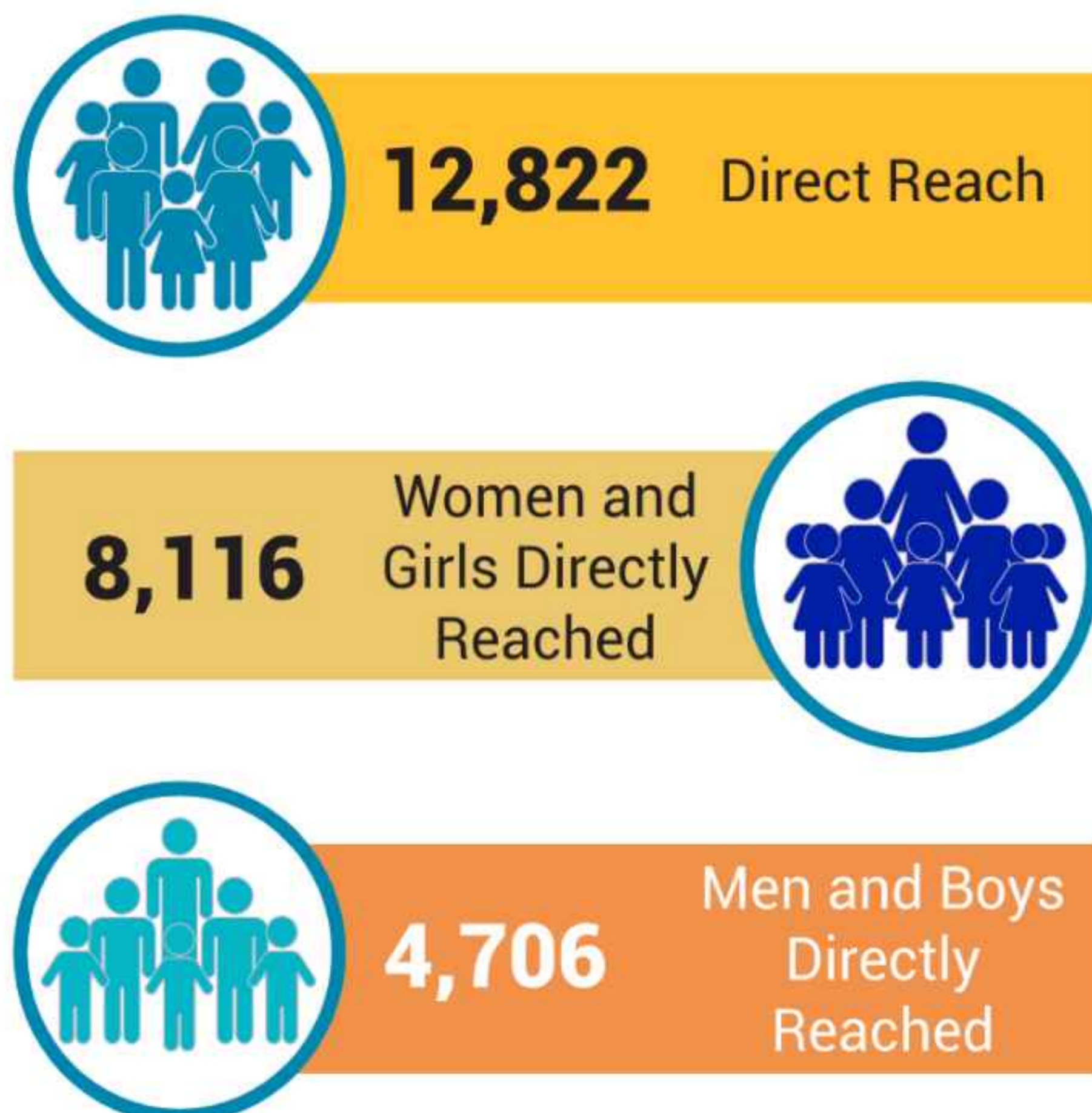
- Provided technical inputs to the Protection Cluster and NDRRMA, strengthening national protection frameworks.
- Formed eight Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs) in Rautahat and Bardiya, six led by women, enhancing leadership and advocacy in disaster governance.
- Under Monsoon Flood Response, CARE supported **328 families** with bedding and blankets, **231 families** with kitchen utensils, **410 individuals** with psychosocial support and **674 students** with warm clothing and repaired **18 latrines**.
- Under Jajarkot Earthquake Response, CARE supported Detailed Damage Assessments of **1,785 houses** in Nalgad Municipality, enabling households to access official reconstruction grants.
- The **SRHR Act** was drafted, validated, and formally endorsed in Godawari Municipality, Kailali.
- Enhanced disaster preparedness by training women volunteers, first responders, and CPSWs, supporting women-led CDMCs for anticipatory community actions.
- Risks specific to women and girls, including caregiving burdens and exposure to VAWG, were systematically mapped and incorporated into preparedness planning.
- Tailored risk messages and communication mediums were identified based on consultations with the community and CDMC teams.
- Social norms, risk profiling, and risk mapping (risk polygon) were developed for the intervention.
- Strengthened women's voices and leadership across disaster mechanisms.

and Violence against Women and Girls in Emergencies (VAWGiE).

CARE's Women-Led in Emergencies (WLiE) approach promotes humanitarian action responsive to women and girls by empowering women leaders to address issues such as sexual and reproductive health, violence against women and girls, and inclusive disaster planning. Through capacity building, decision-making roles, and advocacy, women champions strengthen social networks, challenge discriminatory norms, and ensure their leadership is recognized within humanitarian mechanisms.

During this period, CARE conducted a social and livelihood assessment to identify disaster-affected women's most suitable livelihood options, informing programs in Nalagadh and Bheri municipalities. CARE also organized vendor orientations on VAWGiE and PSHEA in Jajarkot to create safer market environments and shared findings from the RGA and other interventions across national and regional platforms.

DRR & WGLiE REACH



PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Monsoon Flood Response

Between September 26–28, 2024, heavy monsoon rainfall caused widespread flooding and landslides across 23 districts of Nepal, displacing over **30,000 households** and causing severe damage, particularly in Bagmati and Madhesh Provinces, including Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchowk, Sindhuli, and Saptari. CARE Nepal, in partnership with Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES) and Shanti Jana Adarsha Sewa Kendra (SJASK), provided emergency relief to **6,959 individuals** across these areas.

The response delivered life-saving support, including food baskets, community kitchens, dignity kits, baby kits, shelter kits, utensils, school uniforms, winterization packages, and hygiene assistance. Temporary bathing spaces, safe spaces, and psychosocial first aid were provided, while radio messaging reached thousands more with information on protection, GBV prevention, and health and hygiene. Through the Rapid Humanitarian Assessment, CARE and HPP partners identified urgent and differential needs of women, girls, and intersectional groups with recommendations for immediate shelter, safe WASH facilities, psychosocial support, and winterization measures integrated into early recovery



“ I would like to thank CARE for supporting sleeping mattress, pillows and blankets. This is our real need in this winter. Now, my family can sleep well in this winter.”

-Sarita Tamang

Kamidada Ward # 5, Bethanchowk

Jajarkot Earthquake Recovery Program

CARE Nepal continued recovery efforts through the Reviving Livelihoods of Socially and Economically Marginalized Households Affected by the Earthquake in Jajarkot and Rukum West project, supporting affected households to rebuild with dignity and resilience. The project reached **641 individuals**, with over **150 people** engaged in cash-for-work activities restoring critical community infrastructure, including irrigation canals, foot trails, and slope protection, providing much-needed income. Skills training enabled **28 individuals** to enter

masonry and electrical trades, and **12 farmers** began modern beekeeping. To accelerate economic recovery, **100 households** received seed grants of NPR 40,000 (USD 292) to establish small enterprises, all operational, within six months. A women-led vegetable collection center connected rural farmers to markets, ensuring fair prices and reduced losses, while Enterprise Learning Centers trained **100 farmers**, with 90% reporting improved entrepreneurship skills.

Additionally, project emphasized women and girls equality and social inclusion through three strategies: building agency by forming women and girls' micro-entrepreneur groups with mentorship, skills, and safe spaces; changing relations by engaging men, boys, and community leaders to promote shared responsibilities and safe environments; and transforming structures by working with local governments and market actors to integrate women's priorities into policies, budgets, and community planning. In total, CARE Nepal's recovery efforts reached **876 households**, benefiting **8,679 individuals**.

Piloting of CARE PACKAGE® for Emergencies

CARE Nepal piloted the CARE PACKAGE® for Emergencies to introduce a compact and logistically efficient approach to humanitarian response sensitive to women and girls' specific needs. Each package integrates a Basic Shelter Kit, Hygiene Kit, Kitchen Utensils, Water Kit, and Solar Set. The **24-kg package**, divided into a backpack and

two side bags, allows women, girls, and other vulnerable groups to carry it safely across Nepal's challenging terrain. It is designed to meet the immediate and early recovery needs of a family of four, with hygiene supplies lasting one month and other items supporting longer-term use.

The pilot strengthened preparedness by prepositioning CARE PACKAGE® for Emergencies in Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) warehouses and building the capacity of CARE Nepal and HPP members on assembly, storage, and deployment procedures. CARE USA and T-Works collaborated on design refinement, item testing, and optimized packing methods. A total of **500 CARE PACKAGE® for Emergencies** were prepared and strategically stored in Nepalgunj and Lahan, enabling rapid deployment in medium to large-scale disasters within 48 hours. The CARE PACKAGE® for Emergencies demonstrates CARE Nepal's commitment to innovative, inclusive, rapid and dignified humanitarian response.



In the Anticipatory Action training, I learned how acting before disasters can save lives and protect livelihoods. Early measures like providing cash to vulnerable families, reinforcing weak houses, relocating people to safer areas, and stockpiling essential supplies reduce losses and suffering during floods, fires, or storms. The training strengthened our skills and confidence to prepare our communities, especially women, children, and marginalized groups. Proactive planning ensures safety and builds resilience for future disasters."

Ms. Mina Devi Ram,

CDMC chairperson,
Rajdevi Rural Municipality-8, Rautahat



Improving Access to Rights-Based Reproductive Health Services in Disaster Settings

This project strengthens equitable, timely, and quality Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services for women, girls, and marginalized groups during emergencies. Central to the project is the **Community Circle of Accountability (CoA)** model, a rights-based mechanism that fosters dialogue between duty bearers and right holders. Through participatory and confidential processes, communities can raise SRHR concerns, access remedies, and monitor service delivery. Implemented across **21 communities** in Godawari Rural Municipality, the CoA has increased awareness of SRHR during disasters, improved feedback and complaint handling, shifted harmful norms, and strengthened accountability among local government and health systems.

To sustain progress, the project supported the review and updating of key governance instruments, including the local disaster response plan, health emergency contingency plan, and integration of social accountability approaches into the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan. Capacity strengthening included training **59 health professionals** on Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for crisis settings and training **23 health workers** and Rapid Response Team members on emergency response.

Humanitarian Partnership Platform-HPP

From June 2024 to May 2025, the Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) strengthened localized disaster preparedness and response across Nepal. During this period, HPP members provided timely relief to flood-affected communities in Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchowk, and Saptari, as well as fire-affected families in Rautahat. To enhance readiness, **500 CARE relief packs** containing shelter, kitchen, water, and sanitation items were pre-positioned in Nepalgunj and Siraha, while **15 virtual coordination meetings** facilitated learning sharing, disaster responses, and preparedness planning.

Capacity building and knowledge sharing were central to HPP's work. CARE Nepal conducted **four specialized trainings** on Rapid Humanitarian Analysis, Social Analysis and Action, Heat and Cold wave action tools, and Women-Led in Emergencies, strengthening programming that is responsive to women and girls among **16 member organizations**. Members also participated in national and regional platforms, including the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week in Bangkok and the National Conference on DRR, positioning HPP as a leading localized humanitarian actor.



Heat Wave and Cold Wave Anticipation Tool

CARE Nepal has developed an innovative Heat Wave and Cold Wave Anticipation Tool to support timely decision-making and early action by humanitarian actors and relevant authorities, minimizing the impacts of these slow-onset climate hazards. Recognizing that heat and cold waves are often underestimated, the tool combines real-time weather data with historical trends to establish local threshold parameters, enabling accurate forecasting and risk mitigation. CARE Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) to integrate the tool with DHM's weather forecasting and alert system, strengthening the national early warning system. Fully operational on the DHM web portal and linked with meteorological stations for real-time monitoring, the tool empowers local governments and decision-makers to act proactively. DHM plans to pilot the tool during the upcoming winter season to assess its effectiveness in cold wave preparedness.

Community Circle of Accountability (CoA)

The Community Circle of Accountability emerged as a highly effective rights-based approach for improving SRHR access in disaster-affected communities. The model demonstrated that structured dialogue between duty bearers and right holders, facilitated by



“In my three decades with CARE, I have rarely seen such a well-organized and thoughtfully assembled CARE PACKAGE® for Emergencies that so effectively meets the essential needs of families. I had the privilege of working closely with our dedicated team throughout the entire process - from quality verification and procurement to assembly, transport, and stockpiling. Being part of this initiative has been deeply fulfilling and provided a profound sense of personal and professional satisfaction.”

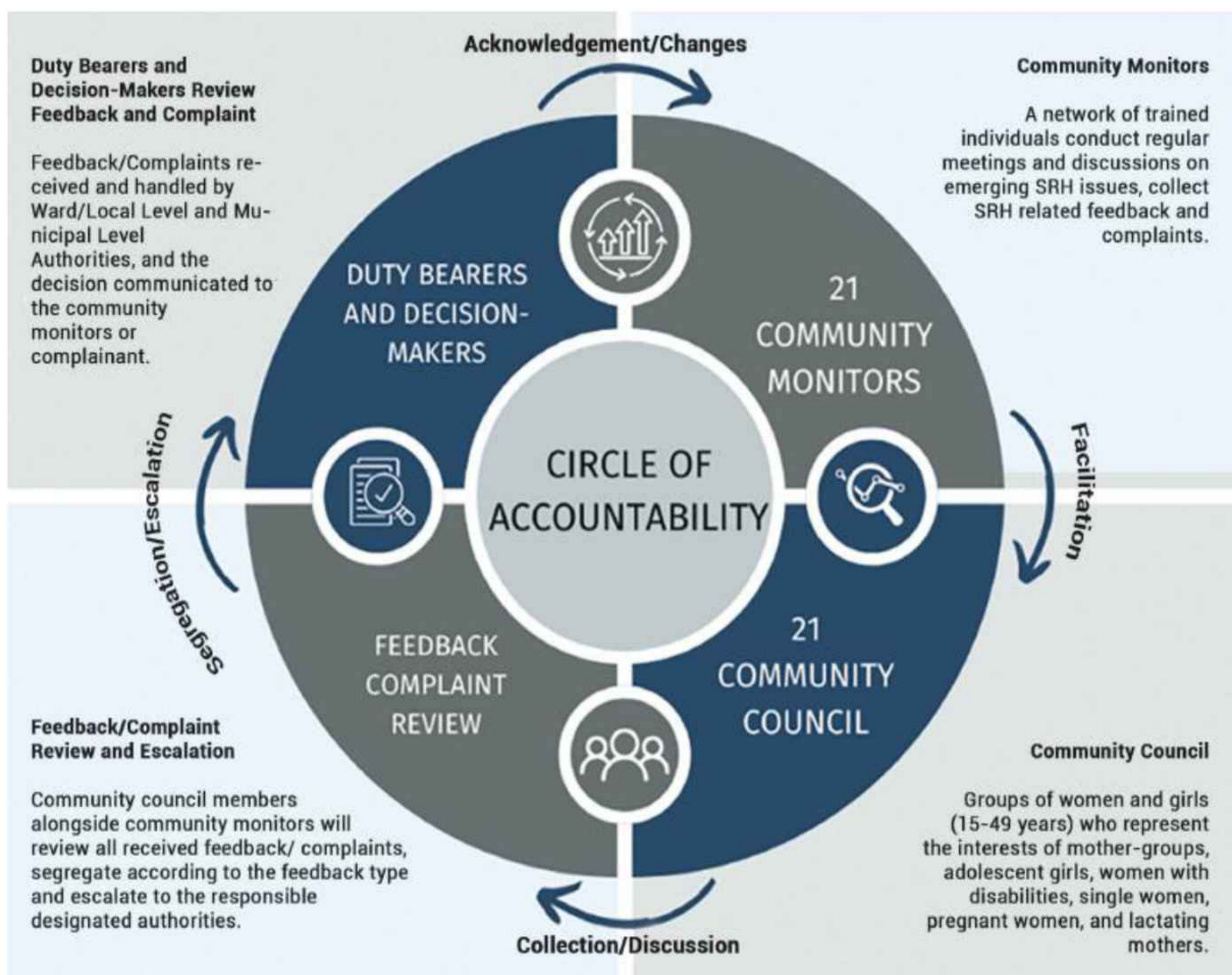
-Shyam Karki,
Head Driver/Logistic and Warehouse Associate,
CARE Nepal



trained Community-Based Monitors, can strengthen accountability, enhance service quality, and make health systems more responsive to the needs of women, girls, and marginalized groups. Through regular community council meetings, confidential complaint handling, and coordinated referral pathways, communities were empowered to voice SRHR concerns, challenge harmful norms, and advocate for fair and timely services. Implemented across 21 communities, the CoA model increased awareness of SRHR in emergencies, improved access to services, strengthened feedback mechanisms, and fostered stronger collaboration between communities, health facilities, and local government. Overall, CoA proved to be a scalable and impactful mechanism for promoting inclusive, rights-based SRHR governance in disaster settings.

SUDHAR Project

The SUDHAR project strengthened the capacity, coordination, and inclusivity of local CSOs engaged in DRR and Management across Nepal, with a strong emphasis on women-led and women's rights organizations. Working with 40 CSOs and 30 municipalities in 15 districts, the project addressed critical preparedness gaps through baseline studies, mapping, and targeted trainings on humanitarian standards, protection, and women- and girl-responsive action. SUDHAR enhanced collaboration between local actors and government institutions, elevated WLO leadership in Sudurpaschim and Lumbini, and strengthened networking, evidence-based advocacy, and locally led humanitarian responses responsive to women, girls, and marginalized groups.





Lessons Learned

CARE Nepal's experience in disaster preparedness and response highlights the critical importance of inclusive humanitarian action that centers women's leadership. Women and marginalized groups are often disproportionately affected by crises, yet their needs and voices are frequently overlooked in recovery efforts. Targeted capacity-building for civil society organizations (CSOs) and women-led organizations (WLOs) has proven essential, focusing on core humanitarian standards, safeguarding principles, and protection against sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse. These efforts ensure a principled, responsive to women and girls approach to disaster response.

The Rapid Humanitarian Assessment (RHA) has been instrumental in identifying the specific needs, capacities, and coping strategies of women, men, girls, boys, and

intersectional groups. Using these insights, CARE has designed recovery programs tailored to diverse community needs, though continued attention is required to fully include intersectional perspectives and ensure no group is left behind.

Resource readiness remains a key challenge. Prepositioning relief items and maintaining surge funds enabled CARE to reach affected populations within 72 hours of disasters. These mechanisms have proven critical, yet sustaining robust emergency funding and resource management system is vital for future responses.

The Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) has demonstrated the value of collaboration and local leadership. By empowering CSOs, WLOs, and women's rights organizations (WROs), HPP has strengthened local

response capacity and fostered collective action, as seen during the Jajarkot response. Inclusive decision-making within HPP ensures women leaders are not symbolic but central to shaping disaster responses, building their confidence and ability to implement interventions responsive to women and girls.

In humanitarian contexts, integrating GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response into disaster preparedness strengthened safe spaces, reporting mechanisms, and survivor-centered services.

Additionally, strong leadership of Women-Led Organizations (WLOs), supported by rapid communication platforms and sustained investment, is essential for delivering inclusive, timely humanitarian actions that are responsive to women and girls' specific needs, enabling vulnerable groups to influence decision-making, provide technical inputs, and drive locally led, power-shifting

responses during emergencies.

Organizational preparedness is another priority. Many local partners lacked robust policies, plans, and systems, resulting in fragmented or slow responses. CARE's support in revising procurement, safeguarding, financial and administrative management, and emergency preparedness plans has enabled local organizations to align with global humanitarian standards and deliver more effective responses.

Finally, HPP has shown that local organizations working as networks rather than isolated entities can enhance legitimacy, strengthen relationships with local governments and disaster management committees, and influence policy. This collaborative model underscores the potential for systemic and sustainable improvements in disaster response, recovery, and resilience.



Materials being transported for Mahottari fire response through CARE Nepal's Humanitarian Partnership Platform, supporting timely support to the affected.



Empowered Through Agriculture: Birmi's Inspiring Story

Birmi Khatri Khadka from Pipalchautari, Bheri Municipality-01, Jajarkot, began her journey into vegetable farming in 2022 with the goal of improving her family's livelihood. Initially, she faced challenges such as limited knowledge of modern farming techniques, resource constraints, and difficulty accessing markets. Her determination to succeed kept her moving forward. In August 2024, she joined the Pipalchautari Women Farmer Group, formed under the Livelihood Reviving Project implemented by Hilly Region Development Campaign (HRDC) with support from the Coca-Cola Foundation and CARE Nepal. Through this initiative, Birmi received training, technical support, and resources to strengthen her agricultural practices. With guidance from HRDC, she selected vegetable farming as her primary livelihood option, developed a business plan, and received a grant of NPR 40,000 (Approx. USD 275) to start winter vegetable farming.

The initial phase was challenging due to unpredictable weather, pest infestations, and inadequate irrigation systems. However, the collective support of the

Women Farmer Group helped her adopt improved pest management and water-efficient irrigation techniques. In her second year, she scaled up production and leveraged group networks to access larger markets beyond her village. Her efforts paid off when she earned a total of NPR 18,950 (approximately USD 142) from selling tomatoes and cabbage in nearby markets. By connecting with traders in nearby towns, she secured better prices compared to local rates, significantly increasing her income.

Looking ahead, Birmi plans to diversify her crops by adding herbs and high-value vegetables, invest in modern irrigation systems, and establish storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses. Her goal is to expand market reach and ensure sustainable income for her family. Birmi's transformation from a small-scale farmer to a successful entrepreneur demonstrates the power of women's collective action and targeted support. Her story reflects how CARE Nepal's partnership with HRDC and local communities is creating pathways for economic empowerment and resilience in rural Nepal.



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 **24 strategic allies**, including 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 **32 implementing partners** to deliver impactful programs.

Partnership in CARE Nepal

In Nepal, the Government recognizes international development agencies like CARE as essential partners, requiring collaboration with local organizations. Aligned with CARE's Localization framework, CARE strengthens the capacity of local partners to deliver sustainable

programs, amplifies marginalized voices, and promotes inclusive and accountable governance. It co-creates solutions with communities to ensure interventions are context-specific and demand-driven. CARE also channels resources to help local actors manage funding and transition to direct donor support. In addition, it fosters networks for coordination, knowledge sharing, and collective action, enhancing local ownership and long-term impact.

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



Implementing Partners

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

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	Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)	Kathmandu
4	Howard Delafield International (HDI)	Lalitpur
5	Jhpiego	Lalitpur
6	Institute of Himalayan Risk Reduction (IHRR)	Rautahat and Bardiya
7	National Farmers Group Federation Nepal (NFGF)	Kathmandu/All districts
8	National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET)	Kathmandu/All districts
9	Nepal CRS Company	Kathmandu
10	Nepal Mahila Ekata Samaj (NMES)	Kathmandu
11	Samunnat Nepal (SN)	Kathmandu
12	Shanti Jana Adarsha Sewa Kendra (SJASK)	Kavrepalanchok
13	Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC)	Kathmandu

Lumbini Province		
S.N.	Partners	District Coverage
1	Bheri Environment Excellence (BEE) Group	Banke
2	Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj (KMJS) Nepal	Bardiya
3	Mallarani Rural Development Concern Center (MRDCC)	Pyuthan
4	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 (EC)	Dailekh
4	Hilly Region Development Campaign (HRDC)	Jajarkot
5	Social Awareness Center (SAC) Nepal	Surkhet
6	Sundar Nepal	Surkhet

Sudurpaschim 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

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

Women and Girls' Empowerment & Health and Education Rights	
S.N.	Partners
1	Children as Zone of Peace National Campaign (CZOP)
2	Girls Not Bride Network (GNB) Nepal
3	National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defender (NAWHRD)
4	National Campaign for Education (NCE) Nepal
5	Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC)

Green Growth & Women's Economic Resilience

S.N.	Partners
1	Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU)
2	Community Self Reliance Center (CSRC)
3	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)
4	Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (FWEAN)
5	National Farmers' Group Federation (NFGF) Nepal

Disaster Risk Reduction & Women and Girls Lead in Emergencies

S.N.	Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) Member Partners:
1	Bheri Environment Excellence (BEE) Group
2	Community Rural Development Society (CRDS) Nepal, Darchula
3	Conscious Society for Social Development (CSSD), Kailali
4	Equity Development Center (EDC), Doti
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 (KMJS) Nepal, 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) Nepal
15	National Forum for Women Rights Concern Nepal (NFORWRC)
16	National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET)



Reclaiming power. Locally led movements for justice and social transformation

In a time of rising inequality, shrinking civic space, and entrenched patriarchal and capitalist systems that exclude marginalized voices from decision-making, CARE Nepal stands with communities challenging the status quo. The organization is committed to shifting power to local organizations, social movements, and communities, particularly women, Dalits, indigenous people, and minorities, who are reclaiming their rights and shaping the future. CARE invests in long-term, equitable alliances that center justice, inclusion, and local leadership, recognizing that sustainable development requires political will, shared purpose, and strategic collaboration.

Enhancing Agency: Empowering Local Actors and Communities

The Network of Partners (NoP) comprises 24 members with expertise spanning grassroots to national-level organizations. A comprehensive assessment mapped members' strengths, challenges, needs, and collaboration opportunities. Based on the findings, targeted capacity-strengthening trainings and learning exchanges were organized. Reflection on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) sessions encouraged partners to examine internal biases and adopt equitable practices. In-house

sensemaking discussions reinforced localization as an organizational priority. Structured policy dialogues, beginning with land rights and knowledge sharing on the Farmer Field Business School (FFBS) approach, strengthened collective understanding and action.

NoP members, including the National Association of Rural Municipalities (NARMIN) and CARE Nepal, conducted a field study in 17 rural municipalities of Madhesh Province to identify challenges in policy and budget approvals. Delays, or "budget holidays," prevent local governments from mobilizing resources or delivering services. Through NoP facilitation, municipalities expedited annual program and budget endorsements, enhancing governance and service delivery.

Empowered Citizens for Good Governance: Strengthening Madhesh Governance Initiative (SMGI)

CARE and NoP, in partnership with NMES and CSRC, implemented community, local government, and provincial initiatives for citizen-led governance, with special attention to landless and Dalit women and farmers. A strategic meeting with the Provincial Policy and Planning Commission Madhesh (PPPCM) laid the groundwork for long-term provincial dialogue in fiscal year 26. REFLECT training in Udayapur engaged 83% women and 56% Dalit community leaders from two

municipalities, enabling them to map governance issues, analyze power dynamics, and develop advocacy action plans. Participants submitted memoranda to municipal authorities, securing commitments on land rights, basic services, and inclusive planning.

Memorandum of Understanding with Diverse Strategic Partners

CARE Nepal strengthened partnerships with the Community Self-Reliance Center (CSRC) and Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) to enhance stakeholder engagement, institutional capacity, policy influence, and knowledge generation. CSRC focuses on land access, women's land rights, and community resilience, while AFU supports extension services and scaling the FFBS approach.

Statistical Report on Dalit Populations and Dalit Women Demographics in Nepal

In partnership with the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), CARE supported the development of a statistical report based on the 2021 National Population Census, guiding future research, advocacy, and programming for Dalit women.

Through these initiatives, locally led movements are gaining momentum. As NoP enters its next phase, it will deepen advocacy strategies, expand inclusion, and institutionalize equitable, locally led governance across provinces. The direction is clear: from the margins to the center, from solidarity to action, and from collaboration to collective power.

Governance and Advocacy

CARE Nepal continues to advance evidence-based advocacy, strengthening local and national systems while amplifying marginalized voices. The Farmers Field and Business School (FFBS) approach and recent advocacy successes were shared with the Agricultural Innovation Network (AIN), highlighting pathways to impact. This case study will be published on the AIN website to further promote farmers' rights. Engagement with the NGO Federation was reinforced to support coordinated advocacy in response to Nepal's evolving development and aid landscape.

CARE Nepal celebrated International Women's Day through the Bellamy Young podcast series, featuring

activist Bhagavati Adhikari, joining a global platform to amplify women's voices. In humanitarian response, the Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) updated its Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), revised operational guidelines, and provided relief to flood- and fire-affected communities. A workshop was conducted to assess the sustainability, financial viability, and scalability of the HPP model in Nepal.

The Sustaining Power: Women's Struggles against Contemporary Backlash in South Asia (SuPWR) project partnered with the British Embassy in Kathmandu to disseminate national research findings, highlighting achievements and learnings for stakeholders. In agriculture, the farmer classification system, first proposed by the National Farmers' Group Federation in 2013 and advanced through CARE's collaboration, was fully institutionalized under the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act (2018) and its Regulation (2023). The revised Farmer Profiling System Guidelines (2081 BS/2024-25) now ensure formal recognition of farmers' identity, classification, and entitlements, reflecting years of grassroots advocacy and strategic collaboration.

CARE Nepal also renewed its General Agreement with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) through 2030, strengthening collaboration with the Government of Nepal across women's economic resilience, green growth, disaster risk reduction, health and education rights, and youth and women's leadership. Project Agreements on Women and Girls & Health and Education Rights (WGE&HER) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Women and Girls Lead in Emergencies were extended through 2029 and 2027, respectively.

At national and international forums such as AWID and the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW), CARE and its partners presented advocacy messages, developed materials, and engaged strategically to ensure grassroots voices are represented, values-driven messages reach decision-makers, and policy influence is sustained.

Joint Partners Review Reflection Meeting (JPRR)

What it is?

Over the past forty years, CARE Nepal has worked with vulnerable communities to combat poverty and social injustice. Rather than acting alone, CARE Nepal collaborates with local organizations, embracing localization and locally led principles to drive sustainable change. In 2024, for the first time in since its existence in Nepal, CARE Nepal envisioned a platform to unite partners for learning exchange, solidarity, and shared goals toward a just society. This culminated in a successful event in June 2025, fostering reflection, partnership-building, and collective action to strengthen civil society and advance locally led development.

To critically assess the successes and challenges encountered during implementation, extracting key lessons by examining what worked well and why

To strengthen and revitalize partnerships, ensuring strategic alignment to enhance collective impact

To explore and analyze future pathways in Nepal's evolving development sector

Who attended?

100

Participants (Program, Finance/Operations, MEL focal person, Executive Directors/Chairperson and more)

28

Organizations (NGO, INGO, Academia, Private sector, Media)

Participants



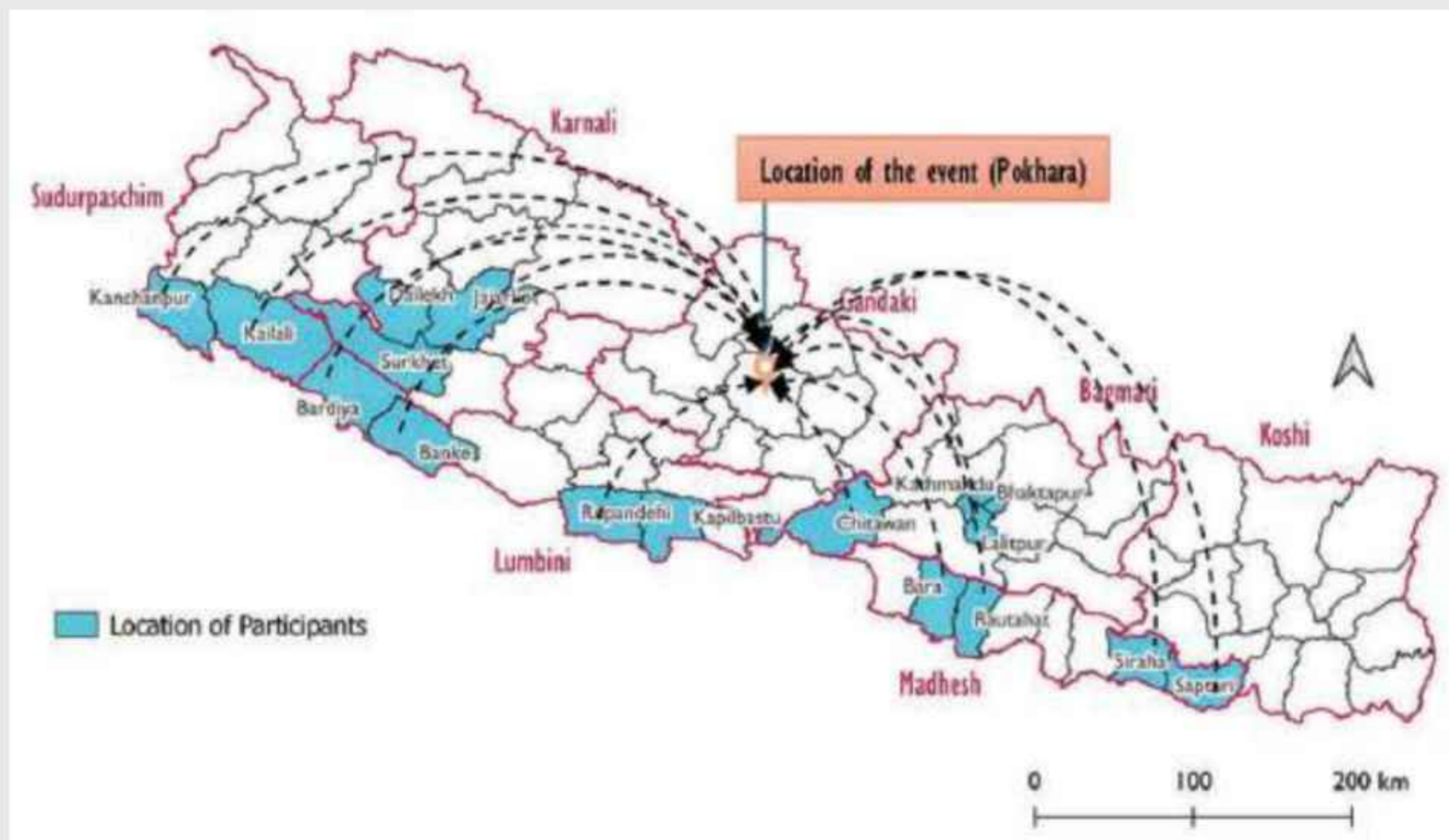
46%

Women



54%

Men



What was learned?

Localization and Networked Operated Models

Localization is a Process, Not a Destination. It involves shifting power, resources, and leadership to local actors. True localization requires context-specific adaptation, not a one-size-fits-all mode

System Strengthening is Key.

Localization must be supported by institutional memory, system orchestration, and adaptive programming..

NoP is a Movement, Not Just a Mechanism. It is built on shared values, mutual respect, and solidarity, not transactional relationships.

Diversity Strengthens the Network. NoP includes feminist organizations, farmer groups, Dalit-led organizations, and youth networks. Each partner brings unique expertise, enhancing collective impact.

Evidence-Based Advocacy is Powerful. Partners use data and lived experiences to influence policy and planning. Examples include GRF's work on adolescent girls' rights and NMES's advocacy for landless populations.

Shared Platforms Foster Innovation. Platforms like the Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) enable co-creation, co-implementation, and co-evaluation. These platforms help scale successful models and amplify marginalized voices.

Future Development Pathway

Development Must Be Context-Aware and Inclusive. Nepal's development discourse lacks deep public understanding of its own historical and political trajectory. There is a need to decolonize development systems and ensure that youth, women, and marginalized communities are meaningfully included in agenda-setting and governance.

Role of Government and Institutions. Local governments are strong and capable, and should be treated as equitable partners in development.

Civic Engagement and Youth Leadership. Youth are increasingly aware of their rights but need structured pathways to action. Institutionalizing civic education and embedding critical thinking in both formal and informal learning spaces is essential. Youth must be empowered to claim leadership roles, not just be invited to participate.

Private Sector Engagement. The private sector has potential to support women-led startups, scale innovations, and build resilient value chains. However, trust and collaboration between CSOs and private actors remain limited.

Continuous self-reflection, flexibility, and knowledge sharing are essential to remain relevant in a changing aid and policy landscape.

Program Implementation

Iterative and Adaptive Programming Works. Programs that adopt iterative learning cycles—reviewing and adjusting based on feedback—are more responsive to risks and emergencies. Flexibility in implementation allows for better alignment with emerging needs, such as climate risks or post-COVID realities.

Feedback Loops Must Be Strengthened. Functional Feedback and Accountability Mechanisms (FAM) exist, but follow-up and closing the feedback loop remain weak. Real-time feedback integration improves trust and program relevance but requires capacity and funding.

Learning from Past Projects is Inconsistent. Many programs fail to document or apply lessons learned from previous initiatives. There is a need for systematic documentation and sharing of experiences across teams and partners.

Local Knowledge is Valuable but Underused. Insights from home visits, personal assessments, and community reflections are often not fully utilized in shaping future programming. Programs benefit when they embed local knowledge into design and implementation.



Growing nutritious food at home through her kitchen garden, a Fill the Nutrition Gap participant learns practical lessons on nutrition and family health.



SYSTEM LEVEL CHANGE AND IMPACT

System level change and impact aim 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

FY25 marks a major milestone in Nepal's agricultural governance with the full institutionalization of the Farmers' Identity Card (FID). This achievement reflects

decades of persistent, evidence-based advocacy led by CARE Nepal and the National Farmers Group Federation (NFGF) to advance farmer rights and recognition. Grounded in constitutional commitments and national policies, including the Agriculture Development Strategy (2015–2035) and the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act (2018), the movement began when NFGF first advocated for farmer classification in 2013, supported by CARE's long-standing technical and strategic partnership.

While policy provisions were in place, implementation remained slow until the Samarthya Project (2020–2022) piloted the FID to operationalize farmer categorization. This pilot ensured formal recognition of landless, land-poor, women farmers, and agricultural laborers. Building on its success, the initiative expanded in 2023 across 17 local governments, registering more than 104,000 farmers and issuing over 54,000 FIDs. Federal-level advocacy intensified alongside this expansion, pushing for national integration of the system.

These efforts culminated in the revision and reissuance of the Farmers' Registration System Management and Operation Guidelines in 2081 BS (2024/25). The guidelines align with the Food Sovereignty Regulation and institutionalize farmer identity, classification, and entitlements across all government tiers. They establish structured committees, mandate accountability at the local level, and link FID with the National Identity Card system to ensure farmers have access to subsidies and services. By replacing a uniform approach with an equity-focused system, FID strengthens inclusive policymaking and supports climate-resilient livelihoods.

In addition, across six municipalities in Madhesh Province, CARE Nepal and NFGF supported the integration of FFBS SOS guidelines into local policies. CARE and NFGF will now assist municipalities to develop implementation frameworks that further localize and institutionalize the FFBS model.

Promoting Social Norms Change

Addressing harmful social norms remains a central pillar of CARE Nepal's programming. Throughout FY25, multiple initiatives focused on transforming attitudes, behaviors, and power dynamics within households and communities to promote dignity, safety, and equality.

Under the Saahas Project, three baseline and midline studies were conducted to assess the realities of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and community perceptions surrounding it. Findings showed that women are increasingly willing to disclose violence and seek support. The project focuses on violence prevention and risk mitigation and works closely with women, men, and couples, as well as community stakeholders. Using CARE's Social Analysis and Action (SAA) approach and the Couple Curriculum, regular dialogue and reflection sessions have helped shift deep-rooted norms.

Positive changes are emerging across communities. Women and girls are speaking out against discrimination, taking part in household and community decision-making, and accessing legal aid, health services, and skills training. Harmful practices such as child marriage, dowry, and domestic violence are more widely recognized as crimes, and many women are using social media to amplify their voices. Men and boys are also beginning to adopt more equitable behaviors. Some are sharing household responsibilities, communicating respectfully,

supporting girls' education, and intervening against violence.

These shifts are contributing to more harmonious family relationships. Conflicts between daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law have reduced, domestic disputes have declined, and collective awareness of women and girls equality is growing. Schools, parents, and local bodies are collaborating more closely to prevent harmful practices such as child marriage. As noted by Gita Shah, a Women Human Rights Defender from Siraha, women now feel more confident and included in household decisions, although social resistance and deeply embedded norms still create barriers to change.

Through the Nurture Every Future: Poshan Nepal Project, CARE is addressing social norms influencing maternal and child nutrition across 25 municipalities. Using the Social Norms Analysis Plot (SNAP) framework, the project identified key normative and empirical expectations shaping nutritional practices. These insights informed a comprehensive Strategic Behavior Change Communication strategy. Changes are being pursued through behavior change sessions, SAA facilitation, media outreach, and engagement of men and boys. Progress will be monitored using the SNAP framework, supported by participatory tools such as vignettes to assess shifts in norms over time.

Supporting Social Movements

During FY25, CARE Nepal continued its role as a convener, an ally, a resource partner, and an amplifier engaging together with diverse entities, including local organizations, social movements, feminist networks, academia, media, and private institutions. Through dialogues, policy discourses, and joint initiatives, CARE created spaces for strategic alliances that challenge systemic inequalities and promote locally led solutions. CARE supported NoP platform to make further strides to enhance collaboration, shared leadership, and mutual accountability. CARE also supported local institutions to strengthen their institutional capacities and knowledge systems through tailored training, facilitating learning exchanges to build confidence and leadership, and engaging with strategic partners like CSRC and AFU to advance land rights, improve agricultural extension services, and scale innovative approaches such as Farmers Field Business School (FFBS), bridging theory and practice for resilient community development.

During FY25, CARE facilitated policy discourses on land rights and organized sensemaking discussions on localization, ensuring joint leadership and risk-sharing among 24 NoP members. Additionally, CARE amplified the voices and priorities of marginalized groups by promoting citizen-led governance and inclusive policy processes. Through initiatives like the Strengthening Madhesh Governance Initiative and **REFLECT** training, CARE helps communities' articulate demands and secure commitments from local governments. Additionally, CARE supports research and data generation, such as the statistical report on Dalit populations in partnership with **FEDO**, ensuring that advocacy and programming are informed by robust evidence.

Systems Strengthening and Social Accountability

CARE Nepal continues to strengthen public systems across all three tiers of government, ensuring that services are accountable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of communities. This work remains central to CARE's mission of improving access to quality health, nutrition, and education services for women, children, and marginalized groups.

Through the Nurture Every Future project, CARE Nepal supports local governments and partners in 25 municipalities to reinforce interconnected health, nutrition, food, and market systems. By working closely with health facilities, Health Facility and Operations Committees, and municipal bodies, the project enhances service readiness and accountability for quality health and nutrition services. CARE also advances Nutrition Friendly Local Governance, helping municipalities embed nutrition priorities into local planning, budgeting, and monitoring. These integrated efforts are expected to drive system-wide improvements that sustain long-term maternal and child nutrition outcomes.

CARE collaborates with all three government tiers to strengthen capacity, systems, and structures in the education sector. By identifying policy gaps and engaging with CEHRD under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, CARE contributed to developing the "Non-Formal Education and Lifelong Learning Operation and Management Standard." CARE also identified gaps in the Accelerated Learning Program curriculum and successfully influenced the federal government to endorse a revised curriculum, later disseminated across all seven provinces with support from **NARMIN and MuAN**.

At the provincial and local levels, CARE works with governments and **Community Learning Centers (CLCs)** to build institutional capacity through NFE-EMIS training, proposal development support, and advocacy for EMIS registration. CARE has also supported municipal education plans, School Improvement Plans, school DRR plans, pedagogy training responsive to women and girls, and strengthening of CLC platforms in Karnali and Madhesh.

Inclusive Market-based Approaches

During FY25, there were a number of initiatives to strengthen inclusive market-based approaches through enterprise-based interventions, linking households to market, collaborating with private sectors among others.

Through the Didi Bahini project, a targeted and integrated support package was launched to enhance the economic and advocacy capacities of Girls' Rights Forum (GRF) members and UDAAN parents from existing UDAAN centers, including GBV survivors. The project provides tailored business development services, improved access to markets and finance, and job-oriented skills training for GRF members, parents of UDAAN girls, and out-of-school adolescent micro-entrepreneurs pursuing entrepreneurship as an alternative livelihood pathway.

Under UDAAN V, 50 adolescent girls were capacitated to strengthen their entrepreneurial and enterprise management skills. Participants updated their business plans and received coaching on networking, accessing local government services, and expanding their digital literacy to support their enterprises.

Through FFBS, 107 women and smallholder farmers engaged in rice, wheat, fishery, moong, seed, and garlic field schools have initiated commercial production, setting a foundation for future agribusiness ventures. In addition, 507 FFBS groups with approximately 11,000 farmers participated in VSLA activities, accumulating savings of NPR 16.2 million. These savings are being mobilized as seed capital within groups to support members in starting commercial production and agribusiness initiatives.

CARE continued its partnerships with private sector actors including Muktinath Krishi Company, R&D

Innovative Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Nepal Investment Mega Bank Ltd., and around 50 input suppliers. These collaborations have been instrumental in fostering an enabling ecosystem for entrepreneurship development and linking local products to markets. The project also supported the business growth of two local cooperatives engaged in various agricultural products.

Scaling and Adapting Proven Models

Phase III of the FFBS-SOS initiative made significant progress in institutionalizing the Farmer Field Business School model through system orchestration. Four of the six target municipalities formally endorsed FFBS implementation guidelines, enabling functional SOS committees to coordinate activities and integrate FFBS into local planning and budgeting. At the provincial level, Madhesh Province committed to mobilizing women volunteer farmers and embedding FFBS within its

development framework, while the federal government advanced a draft Farmers' School Coordination and Management Strategy to ensure national consistency.

Capacity building remained central, with 157 volunteer farmers (64% women) trained on local planning and advocacy, alongside orientations for SOS committees and NFGF teams. Financial sustainability advanced through a draft fund mobilization procedure and municipal budget allocations, supported by scaling efforts through NARMIN and NFGF networks. Field visits showcased climate-smart practices and inclusive empowerment. Persistent challenges include coordination gaps, resource limitations, and uneven ownership, underscoring the need for continued engagement and strong advocacy for long-term scale-up.



On International Women's Day, local women program participants reaffirm their shared commitment to equality and empowerment; celebrating women's strength, leadership, and resilience while advancing collective action for a more just and inclusive future.







FEEDBACK AND ACCOUNTABILITY (FAM)



The Feedback and Accountability Mechanism (FAM) is central to CARE's approach and a key driver of program quality standards. It provides safe and accessible channels for community members to express their satisfaction, raise complaints and provide suggestions towards CARE's program performance. CARE has placed robust, safe and accessible means of FAM to ensure program deliverables are of good quality, equitable and relevant. This approach guarantees that the voices and priorities of project participants, particularly marginalized, women and adolescent girls, are heard and adequately addressed throughout each cycle of program management.

At CARE, we promote two feedback channels, namely Static and Active, to provide multiple feedback registration options for the project participants, vendors and staff members.

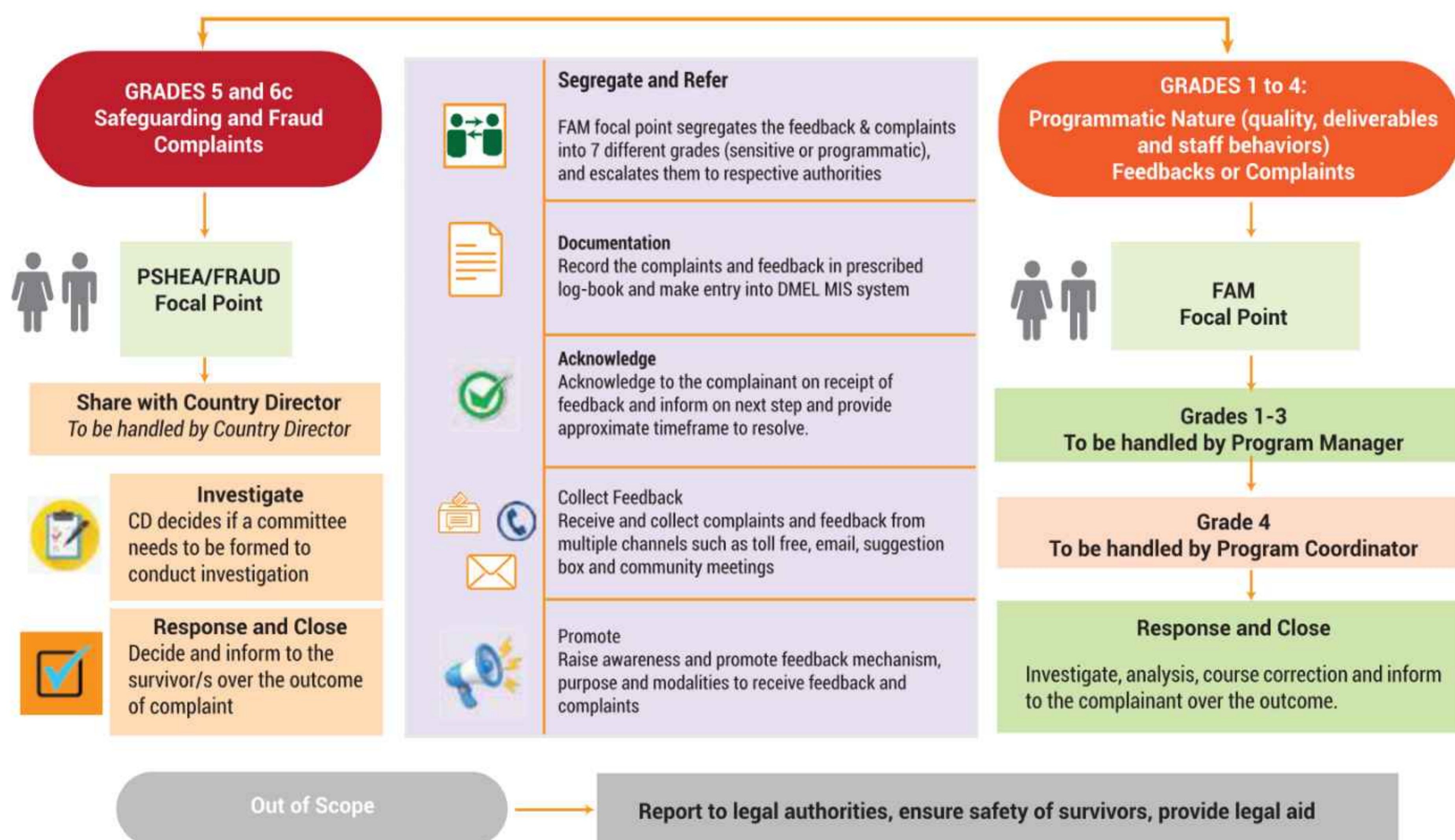
Static Channels

	<p>Email and Web NPL.Complaints@care.org www.care.ethicspoint.com</p>
	<p>Hotline and Toll-free number 24/7 Toll-free: 16600170017 PSHEA Hotline: 9801970870 *FAM Number: 981875277 *Only for programmatic</p>
	<p>Suggestion Boxes Located at safe and accessible place in CARE CO, and Partner offices</p>
	<p>Program Wise QR - CNIMS Fill up feedback form integrated to CNIMS</p>

Active Channels

	<p>FAM Feasibility Study FAM Assessment and Integration in new projects</p>
	<p>Community Feedback Survey Digital and non-digital means is used to collect direct community feedback on project services (twice a year)</p>
	<p>Public Hearing and Social Audits Collect solicited feedbacks on services related to Infrastructure building and emergency response (as per need)</p>

Feedback Processing Mechanism



With the adoption of these different channels and mechanisms, a total of **197 cases** have been registered and processed further in FY 25.

a. Type of complaints and feedback

Feedback and complaint type	No of cases
G-1 Positive Feedback	72
G-1 Requests for information	15
G-1 Suggestions	46
G-2 Requests for assistance	20
G-3 Minor dissatisfaction with program activities	19
G-4 Major dissatisfaction with program activities or the behavior of CARE/Partner team	14
Not categorized	11
Total	197

b) Types of channels used for complaint registration

Complaints channels	No of cases
Community Meetings	11
Direct to CO - Email, SMS, direct Visit	3
Direct to Partner - Email, SMS, direct Visit	10
Direct to Province - Email, SMS, direct Visit	2
Hotline number	53
IVR	3
QR	29
Review Meetings	9
Suggestion Box	7
Through staffs	70
Total	197

c) Status of feedback and complaints

Status of Feedback and complaints	No of cases
Forwarded	24
Handled on spot	8
Investigating	1
Registered	12
Resolved	152
Total	197

In addition to this, a community feedback survey was also conducted with **3,265 core participants** (women from Health Mother Groups) to understand the needs and preferences for communication, feedback and participation in CARE Nepal and partners' activities. Most participants reported preferring receiving information and providing feedback in their local languages, followed by Nepali and English. Participants preferred to provide programmatic feedback/complaints through direct conversation with program staff (CARE and partner organization) and sensitive (safeguarding) complaints through phone/hotline numbers. Participants expected feedback and complaint collection at least once a month. Additionally, they expected complaints to be resolved immediately or within a week. The preferred methods for receiving program updates include community meetings and phone calls.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN FY 25

Theme	Expenditure FY 25	Theme-wise Expenses
WGE & HER	7,913,149	62%
GG & WER	4,006,578	31%
DRR & WGE	846,066	7%



Donors interact with UDAAN program participants to witness how the program is transforming girls' education and empowerment.

Donor-wise Resource Contribution

Alison Cornell	2.89%
Bezos Family Foundation	2.87%
BMK Austria	2.96%
CARE International Japan	0.10%
CARE USA	0.92%
Early Action Fund	0.13%
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	2.18%
Land Vorarlberg	0.66%
Latter-Day Saint Charities	24.53%
Margaret A Cargill Foundation	0.38%
Met Life Foundation	0.34%
Packard Foundation	0.68%
Peierls Foundation	1.14%
Sall Family Foundation	1.43%
START Fund	1.48%
The Coca Cola Foundation	1.61%
The Global Fund	0.57%
USAID	52.89%
Yates Family	0.27%
Luxury Brand	0.55%
DT Global via FCDO	1.18%
Institute of Development Studies	0.25%

Member-wise Resource Contribution

Member	Memberwise
CARE Austria	4%
CARE International Japan	0.10%
CARE International UK	5.51%
CARE USA	90%
Other	0.82%




CARE Nepal
Ekantakuna, Lalitpur, Nepal

Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the period ended 32 Ashad 2082
(corresponding to 16 July 2024 to 16 July 2025)

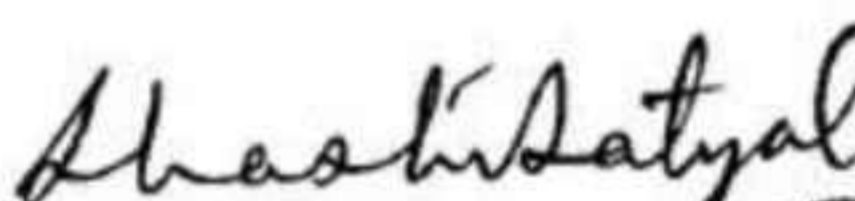
Particulars	Notes	Current Period NPR	Current Period USD	Previous Period NPR	Previous Period USD
Income					
Incoming Sources	4.7	1,717,867,759	12,817,505	1,512,540,803	11,233,753
Total Income		1,717,867,759	12,817,505	1,512,540,803	11,233,753
Expenditure					
Sub-Grant Expenses	4.8	1,080,235,753	8,021,504	857,031,424	6,475,672
Personnel expenses	4.9	363,983,227	2,691,186	305,647,422	2,323,296
Materials / Serviced and Consumables	4.10	79,068,996	587,239	132,614,778	1,007,887
Intra Company Grants and support	4.11	79,004,028	587,696	93,534,095	694,797
Professional Services	4.12	60,526,146	447,947	48,443,560	366,492
Travel and Transportation	4.13	43,475,705	322,157	37,303,685	283,331
Financing/Miscellaneous	4.14	10,867,035	83,881	1,432,285	10,776
Occupancy related expenses	4.15	16,774,694	124,748	19,462,742	148,169
Realized exchange gains/losses	4.16	(16,067,825)	(48,853)	17,070,812	(76,667)
Total Expenditure		1,717,867,759	12,817,505	1,512,540,803	11,233,753
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		-	-	-	-


The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements

As per our attached report of even date


Birbhadra Lamichhane
Finance and Program Support Director
CARE-Nepal


Mona Sherpa
Country Director
CARE-Nepal


Shashi Satyal
Partner
PKF T. R. Upadhy & Co
Chartered Accountants



Place: Lalitpur, Nepal
Date: 15 October 2025





UDAAN girls shaping their futures, one class at a time.



Central office

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