



**Women for Peace and  
Democracy – Nepal  
(WPD - Nepal)  
Kathmandu, Nepal**

# WOMEN FOR PEACE & DEMOCRACY

Uniting Passion for Building Peaceful and Democratic Nepal

The Women for Peace and Democracy – Nepal (WPD – Nepal) is an independent, non profit, non governmental, non political, non commercial, non religious, women-led organization. WPD –Nepal strives to empower women and unite their passion for building a peaceful and democratic in Nepal. WPD-Nepal is an organization working on building the capacities of women and marginalized initiating dialogues and discussions; organizing training courses to reinforce the ideology, culture and values of democracy and genuine peace; empowering women; building the capacities of local organizations and community activists; reviving voluntary work and community participation to liberate the rural communities from occupation and marginalization. Respect for human rights, tolerance, participation, accountability and rule of law are the pillars of the organization's work.

WPD –Nepal campaigns for empowerment of women to end the discrimination, injustice and establish peace and harmony so that everyone can live a dignified life. WPD-Nepal has on-the-ground experience and a reputation for hard work at the community level. WPD-Nepal is committed in working together and with all interested groups to build peace in our communities so that everyone lives in peace and harmony, with respect for dignity and human rights.

## **Objectives**

- Enhance the capacity of women and marginalized and facilitate their role in the process of socioeconomic and political change.
- Improve coordination and networking between the women organizations / groups.
- Promote social awareness on women's issues and their rights.
- Develop the skills and competencies of women to reach decision-making levels in all spheres.
- Involve women fully in peacemaking, peace building and disarmament.

## **Approach**

WPD –Nepal works in partnership with local organizations resided in rural communities. We include several small women groups who work on the very large task of building peace in Nepal. WPD-Nepal believes in women empowerment by creating a favorable environment where women learn, understand and discuss about their issues, needs and locally available services, local resources and opportunities. WPD-Nepal works with the women binding them in a group and supports their institutionalization process through different trainings and inputs. WPD –Nepal facilitates to create an environment where these women groups coordinates, collaborates and builds synergy with the like minded organizations, local governance and other development partners. A right based approach has been adopted for the meaningful development of women and socially excluded groups that not only secures their rights but ensures their participation in decision making on multifaceted issues from local to national level. The women groups are the building blocks of WPD-Nepal's development model, where rural women and socially excluded groups are partners rather than the subjects and or objects of development.



*Shobha Shrestha with Women Political Leaders Sita Mahat, Sarita Maharjan and Former Chairman, Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Mr. Hiranyal Shrestha at "Impact of misuse and proliferation of Small Arms and light weapons on women and children" June 19, 2011.*

**Vision:** Peaceful and democratic Nepal

**Mission:** Society with gender equity and equality based development

**Goal:** To enhance practice of democracy and promote the culture of just and equitable peace.

## **Strategies**

- Enhance opportunities for economic development of the women.
- Political representation of women in local governance.
- Awareness and Advocacy.



*Parijat Women Group, Basamadi, Makwanpur*

# EMPOWERING WOMEN AND MARGINALIZED

## Socioeconomic Empowerment Program for Women and Marginalized (SEWAM) 2011-2013

Economic empowerment has been focused on women and marginalized people of rural Nepal. Agriculture being the mainstay of the country's economy development, WPD-Nepal has focused more on this sector for the economic empowerment of the women and marginalized from rural parts of the country.

Women farmers despite having traditional skills need new expertise and knowledge for increasing production both in quantitative and qualitative terms. Moreover, they need an efficient and effective marketing mechanism to optimize the benefits of their products. WPD-Nepal merges micro credit interventions with agro based entrepreneurship through the Socioeconomic Empowerment Program for Women and Marginalized Program (SEWAM). The project which is supported by **World Accord, Canada** has been implemented in 12 Villages of three districts (Sarlahi, Makwanpur and Chitwan) of Central Development Region.



*Durga Samuha Women Group of Hariyon, Sarlahi*



*Organic Farming Training, Haripur, Sarlahi*



*SEWAM Program First Annual Meeting*



*Experience sharing meeting, Kumroj, Chitwan*

## Political Empowerment of Women leaders (Political, civil society and Media) at National Level

WPD-Nepal strategizes on to mobilize women for their rights and social justice. Empower women for leadership for the positive change of society and for peace building. WPD-Nepal has been organizing capacity building programs (Communication and Negotiation Skills, 1325 & 1820, Mediation, Advocacy) for women political leaders, women and marginalized groups, women representatives from civil society organizations and the media in collaboration with Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ), University of San Diego, CA.

## Education & Awareness

WPD-Nepal has been working on control arms campaign to educate and create awareness about illegal possession and trade of small arms and other portable lethal weapons in Nepal and its impact of proliferation and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Women and girls. WPD-Nepal is one of the members of IANSA and Nepal Working Group on Armed Violence.



*Women Political Leaders, Sarita Maharjan & Sita Mahat participating "Women Collaborating for Security & Peace"*



*Shobha Shrestha representing Nepal at United Nations*

## NETWORKS/COALITIONS

WPD- Nepal is a member of Women Peacemakers Asia Regional Network, member of NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security and Nepal Working Group on Armed Violence. As a network member WPD- Nepal has been hosting / organizing Peace Building and Control Arms Campaign in Nepal.

**Launching of Peace Makers Regional Network:** In 2011, building on the experience and recommendations of nearly a decade of Women Peace Makers, the Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) launched Women Peace Makers Regional Networks in Nepal from January 26 to February 2. The network provided opportunities for the Women Peace Makers to exchange strategies on peace, security and justice issues specific to their region. The launching program was hosted by IPJ partner Women for Peace & Democracy - Nepal.

**United Nations Regional Best and Promising Practices Seminar:** Armed Violence Reduction and Prevention in South and Southeast Asia was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 15 – 18 March 2011. The seminar was organized by Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva was jointly hosted by WPD- Nepal and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD).

## FOCUS AREA

- Central Development Region ( Sarlahi, Makwanpur, Chitwan, Dhanusa)
- Western Development Region (Kaski)

## WPD-NEPAL PARTNERS

### Local Partners

- Tharu Sanskritik Sanghralaya, Bachhauli, Chitwan
- Manakamana Aapasi Bikas Kendra, Kumroj, Chitwan
- Narihith Aapasi Bikas Kendra, Handikhola, Makwanpur
- Darpan Aapasi Bikas Kendra, Basamadi, Makwanpur
- Janauthhan Aapasi Bikas Kendra, Hariपुर, Sarlahi
- Manav Chahari Sangh, Hariyon Sarlahi
- Yekta Samudayik Bikas Sangh, Begnastal, Kaski

### Regional Partners

- Manabiya Srot Bikas Kendra, Pokhara
- Nariship Srijana Kendra, Makwanpur
- Rural Development Nepal, Janakpur

### National Partners

- Raksha Nepal
- Rural Women Network Nepal

### International Partners

- World Accord, Canada
- Institute for Peace and Justice, San Diego, USA
- International Action Network for Small Arms Control, UK
- Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva



Launching of South Asia Peace Makers Regional Network



Launching of South Asia Peace Makers Regional Network



Peacemakers visit to Makwanpur community



WPD Nepal hosting United Nation's Regional Seminar, 2011

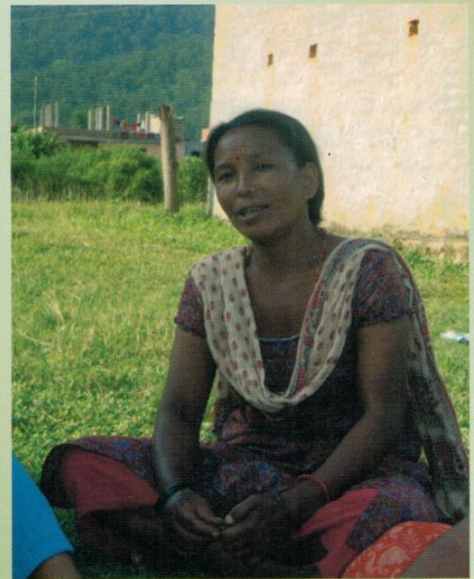
## SEWAM HERO

Santa Maya Chepang age 39, lives in Chepang community of Newarpani village of Basamadi, Makwanpur. Makwanpur is in Central Development Region of Nepal. Born in a Chepang community, one of the most marginalized communities of Nepal, Santa Maya had a very miserable life. She suffered not only from poverty and marginalization but also was a victim of domestic / gender based violence. Mentally and physically tortured Santa Maya had no confidence even to say her name or introduce herself to others.

Santa Maya joined Newarpani Women Group formed under SEWAM Project supported by World Accord in March 2011. SEWAM project motivator, Sita Subedi encouraged Santa Maya to join the group. After joining the group Santa Maya participated in trainings and awareness / education programs. After the trainings, Santa Maya took loan from the SEWAM Trust fund and started her own vegetable farm which is doing good business today.

Today Santa Maya lives a healthy and dignified life. She can feed her family and send her children to school. Her family respects her. She has become not only independent but confident to raise awareness to fight against injustice and torture. She has been assisting marginalized women (financially and socially) in the community. Santa Maya is respected by Newarpani community as their leader.

***"SEWAM project has been a great support for us to become financially better and socially confident" says Santa Maya***



*Santa Maya Chepang sharing her experience*

## Contact Details:



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