



Empowering women
& transforming lives

"Women as an engine for fostering and promoting democracy"

Women for Peace and Democracy-Nepal

Uniting passion for building a Peaceful and Democratic Nepal

Issue V 2017

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SEWAM women practicing micro credit loans, Chispani village, Handikhola, Makwanpur

SEWAM Program in 6th Year



SEWAM women in annual planning meeting, Sauraha, Chitwan

women's leadership skills, strengthening women groups and ensuring their personal security through the enhancement of economic opportunities. The women's participation in income generating activities has been improving with the help of this program. In fact, women have begun to invest funds and loans that are mobilized through the trust funds and micro credit loans.

Socioeconomic Empowerment Program for Women and Marginalized (SEWAM), completed its fifth year as part of the WPD-Nepal program. A project initiated to address the root cause of landlessness, poverty deprivation, economic backwardness and social injustice, SEWAM aims to enhance the economic conditions of deprived and marginalized communities of Nepal such as the Dalits and ethnic minorities.

For the past five years, SEWAM has helped to develop

In year 5, SEWAM worked for the upliftment of women in Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi and Dhanusha, through economic empowerment programs. The program has contributed to bring positive changes in the lives of 418 women of 16 women groups from Sarlahi, Makwanpur, Chitwan and Dhanusa districts of Central Nepal.

financial administration and business management, micro credit loans, constructing bamboo chairs, poultry farming, mushroom cultivation, pig raising soap detergent making bangle making and organic farming.



Bindhi women practicing micro credit loans, Janakpur



Dil Maya Chepang, is off to the market to sell bananas, Chisapani, Makwanpur

The SEWAM program helped the women to become independent and self-reliable. The trainings that they have received combined with the micro credit loans has resulted in the women starting Income Generating Activities like vegetable farming(89), animal raising(137), poultry farming(6), grocery store(20), tailoring(20), bangle business(5), banana plantation(2), duck farming(3), textile store(1), sugar cane farming(2), carpet weaving(3), fish raising(1), hotel business(4), grocery item sold in cart(3), snack shop(3), electric shop(1), butcher shop(1),

incense stick(1). A total of 302 women have started income generating activities through SEWAM. 20 SEWAM women received bicycles and 3 women received fund to buy carts to sell their vegetables and other products. WPD-Nepal also conducted awareness programs on climate change, gender equality, health and sanitation for the women of SEWAM.

Rebuilding Nepal

The earthquake of April 25th, 2015 destroyed many homes and took many lives. Makwanpur and Sindhupalchowk were the worst hit areas where even after two years of the earthquake, houses still remain in ruins, reminding everyone of the fateful day. But it was those people on the bottom of the social ladder who suffered the most. The marginalized ethnic groups were isolated from the society and received rarely any help or support



Khadka Kumari, in rebuilding her house, Sarki Gaun, Sindhupalchowk

So WPD-Nepal in support of International organizations and individual donors had acted immediately after the earthquake to build shelter homes for those that were marginalized. 172 shelter homes were built for the Dalits and other ethnically marginalized families affected by the quake. The families were identified by WPD-Nepal in partnership with community organizations and local leaders.



Mailani Rokka, Sarki, Kuwapani, Sindhupalchowk

The construction of shelter homes continues as this year, 143 temporary shelter homes were built in 5 communities of Sindhupalchowk (Kuwapani, Setopahara, Jyamire, Tindhara and Badegaun) and in Sunkhani of Nuwakot. 29 more houses are still going under construction in Tindhara(9) of Sindhupalchowk and Sunkhani(20) of Nuwakot.

Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP)



The earthquake caused a lot of damages and destroyed many things. But the people have to stand up and move ahead once more, in order to help rehabilitate the victims of the earthquake, WPD-Nepal initiated Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP) for the women of Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot. Women from 90 households, a woman per shelter home were targeted for the program.

NERP focused on rebuilding the affected communities through socio-economic empowerment for women and the marginalized. It seeks to support the poorest of the poor to get back on their feet by enhancing their economic opportunities. Two women groups have been formed in two communities in Sipakhare and



Tindhara of Sindhupalchowk and one in Sunkhani, Nuwakot. These women groups consist of 30 women each and were provided with literacy programs and cornerstone training, followed by micro credit loans. The NERP has inspired the women to stand on their feet. It was encouraging to see that 11 women have initiated income generating activities by taking loans from the trust fund provided by the NERP program.



Also, 40 shelter homes have been built and 20 temporary shelter homes (20 in Sarkigaun, Sindhupalchowk and 20 in Sunkhani, Nuwakot) are under construction in Tindhara, Sindhupalchowk under the NERP program.

Women rebuilding communities Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot



Participating in Cornerstone Training



Women Practicing Micro Credit Loans



Goma B.K in Goat Raising



Participating in Cornerstone Training



Women Practicing Micro Credit Loans



Goma B.K in Goat Raising

Rebuilding Schools

One temporary learning center for the students of Balbalika Sudhar Secondary School, Sipapokhare, Sindhupalchowk has been built with the support of Non Nepalese Residents of Geneva.



Rebuilding Balbalika Sudhar Secondary School, Sipapokhare, Sindhupalchowk



A temporary learning center for students of Kumbeshwor High School is under construction in Sunkhani, Nuwakot supported by Daikichi Anan San, Japan.

Rebuilding Kumbeshwor High School, Sunkhani, Nuwakot

Furniture was provided to Balbalika Sudhar Primary School by Josepha Cantor Borel, Geneva.



Balbalika Sudhar Children with new furniture, Sipapokhare, Sindhupalchowk

Pain Relief Camp in Sindhupalchowk

On March 18, 2016, WPD-Nepal along with two volunteers Priscilla Sullivan and Kim Reid organized a "Free Acupuncture and Acupressure Pain Relief Camp" for 5 weeks in Sipapokhare village of Sindhupalchowk. The main objective of the camp was to treat earthquake affected victims of Sindhupalchowk with traditional style of pain relief treatment. The camp was able to serve 1600 earthquake victims.



Priscilla Sullivan (above) and Kim Reid doing the treatment

Campaigning for Arms Trade Treaty

As an organization targeted towards peace and development, advocating to stop illicit trade of arms is one of the crucial works of WPD Nepal.

During the year the organization lobbied with Parliament members, policy makers, social leaders, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, and Security sectors to ratify arms trade treaty and to stop all kinds of illicit trade of arms and save the lives of the innocents.

Dialogue on Arms Trade Treaty

Trade Treaty and to promote the strict policies for illicit trade of arms, WPD-Nepal organized a National Round Table Dialogue on 20th May, 2016. The Round Table Discussion brought stakeholders together in one forum to hold discussions on relevance and necessity of ATT in Nepal. Ms Shobha Pradhan Shrestha, Executive Chair of WPD-Nepal presented on the human crisis instigated by war, crime and weapons. She also talked about the current status of Nepal on ATT and raised the question, "What can be the way forward in terms of ATT in Nepal?" that triggered the discussion session. 59 distinguished participants including parliamentarians, Government Officials, Civil Society Organizations, Security Personals, Media, Human-rights activists, Activists and Academia working towards achieving peace and security, advocates and political leaders were present at the National Round-table Dialogue.



Arms Trade Treaty Round Table Discussion, Kathmandu



February 28- March 1, 2016, Shobha Pradhan Shrestha, Executive Chair of WPD-Nepal and also the regional coordinator of Control Arms attended the Arms Trade Treaty Extraordinary Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. ATT states parties and signatories met in Geneva to adopt administrative arrangements for the ATT Secretariat, budgets for the Secretariat, and a Secretariat structure.

Advocating for Peace

On June 18, 2016, Executive Chairperson of WPD-Nepal, Shobha Pradhan Shrestha was appointed as the member of the HWPL Peace Advocacy Committee for the Implementation of the International Law on the Cessation of War and Achievement of World Peace. The Peace Advocacy Committee will be focusing on maintaining peace on the earth and to leave peace as a legacy for the future generation by promoting and declaration on cessation of war and achievement of world peace.



Shobha Pradhan Shrestha, WPD Chair, receiving the Peace Award.

Ontario Council for International Cooperation Visits in the Field



Transformations: Stories of Partnership, Resilience and Positive Change in Nepal a photojournalism project on "Transformations" was conducted by Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC) and World Accord to document the work of Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal in partnerships with international partner organizations World Accord and HOPE International Development Agency (HIDA), to empower women and their communities.

The exhibit showed how women in rural Nepal have re-built their homes and lives following the devastating earthquake, and witness ways Nepali women are transforming their communities through long-term socio-economic development program. The "Transformation" was documented by OCIC and Allan Lissner, Praxis Pictures, during a visit to Nepal in December 2015. More at



And on May 11, 2016, in the context of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation's annual conference, the OCIC received a Public Engagement award for their innovative work on "Transformations" – a photojournalism project done in partnership with World Accord and their partner in Nepal, Women for Peace and Democracy (WPD) Nepal. Transformations focus on the work done to empower marginalized women in Nepal and on the partnership that has developed between WPD Nepal and World Accord.



SEWAM HERO



"Today I feel women of our village are no less capable than men. Thank you SEWAM".", says Jurmi Devi Sada.

Jurmi Devi Sada, aged 33 lives in Dhanusha, Central Nepal. Her family consists of five members; husband and three daughters. Before joining SEWAM's women's group, Jurmi was confined to her house. Her husband used to work as a laborer but he did not earn enough money for the family so in the hope of earning more money, he left the country for foreign employment. After that, Jurmi was left to manage all the household expenditures by herself. She was illiterate and did not even know how to write her own name. When she took loans from her villagers during times of need, she was charged a heavy interest of 48%. She also faced a lot of difficulty to send her daughters to school.

When SEWAM program was introduced in Bindhi village, Jurmi was the first woman to be part of the Arati group formed under the program. After being a part of the group, Jurmi Devi took various trainings like cornerstone, animal husbandry, and participated in adult education program.. Jurmi was also a part of awareness programs organized on the issues like Gender Equality, Health and Climate change. Jurmi shares that all the trainings and awareness programs have enhanced her confidence.



After taking trainings, Jurmi first took a loan of Rs. 4,000 from the trust fund and bought a goat. She raised for 10 months and sold it for Rs. 6,000. With the profit that she earned, she paid back the loan with interest and saved the rest of the money. She again took a loan of Rs. 20,000 and bought a buffalo. Today, she is actively involved in buffalo farming. She sells milk and earns a monthly profit of around Rs. 5,000. She has paid back the loan of Rs. 20,000 with interest of Rs. 800.

Today Jurmi sends her daughters to schools and manages basic household requirements with her own money. She saves Rs. 50 every month in the group savings. She thanks WPD-Nepal and World Accord for brining positive changes in her life. Jurmi finally shares, "Today I feel women of our village are no less capable than men. Thank you SEWAM".



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Mandira Thapa did three months internship at WPD Nepal. Thapa an undergraduate student at K and K International College in Kathmandu aims to work with marginalized women in rural parts of Nepal.

WPD-Nepal Celebrates International Women's Day



A day to celebrate women's voices and achievements, the International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8 by WPD-Nepal in a very unique way. Linking violence against women with Arms Trade Treaty, the organization participated in a mass rally to call for the ratifying, strengthening and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. It was to inform the women and stakeholders that effectively governing arms and weapons can reduce the chances of domestic violence-because a great deal of the domestic violence women experience occurs due to arms.

The event was jointly organized by Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and National Women Commission. The rally began at Bhrikutimandap and ended at Shantibatika Ratnapark in Kathmandu. The rally made it all the way in front of City Hall where President Bidhya Devi Bhandari along with the parliamentarians, security personnel and other government officials attended a program organized by Women Ministry.



NERP HERO



Til Kumari Rokka, 46, with her husband, two daughters and a son were living a simple life in Sarkigaun, Sindhupalchok until the earthquake of April 2015 when it destroyed her house along with all her family's property. Her husband worked as a laborer but his job was seasonal and was not sufficient to fulfill the basic necessities of the family. Having no savings and everything else destroyed by the earthquake, Til Kumari thought that her family would now have to spend their entire life homeless and hungry.

Til Kumari had lost all hope until WPD-Nepal came during the time of emergency to distribute relief materials and construct a shelter home for her and her family. She considers the shelter home to be the answer to all her prayers. "I believe what WPD-Nepal has done for us by building shelter homes is a deed of God," she says. Til Kumari had never imagined that her life would change in such a positive way.

a member of Makhmali Women's Group formed under NERP program. This has changed her perspective on life. Through the Women's Group, Til Kumari was enrolled in Adult Education classes and can now read and write her name and do basic calculations. Through the cornerstone training provided under the NERP program, she has gained more confidence and belief in herself. She has also realized the importance of savings. She confesses, "I was an introverted person and never dared to speak in front of others. Today, I am able to speak in front of other women in our village and talk freely about issues like Women Violence and Gender Equality."



Til Kumari saves Rs. 50 in the group savings. She is happy that the women in her village have become united and are working together and helping each other. She believes that the NERP program will help all the women to uplift themselves. "I never thought so much positivity could come in my life after that tragic earthquake incident. Thank You NERP, for making us believe in ourselves," says Til Kumari Rokka, "We look forward to work with you," she adds. Til Kumari extends her gratitude to all the staff of World Accord, Hope International Development Agency and WPD-Nepal for making this possible.