

CHOUTARI

World Vision International Nepal (WVIN) Newsletter

April - September 2016

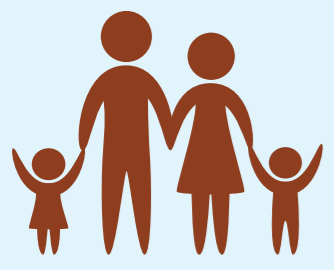


Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness;
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so



18 MONTHS ON NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

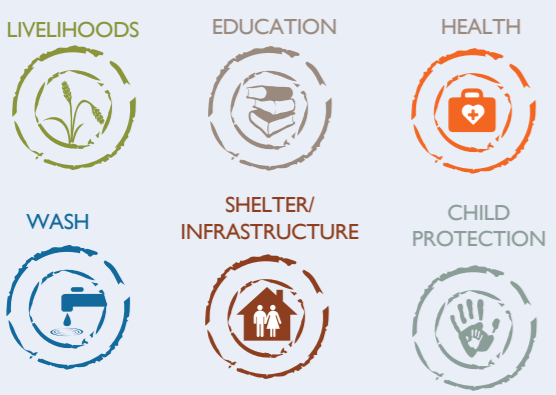
World Vision continues to reach those who are most in need, providing life-saving humanitarian support, and helping Nepal build back better.



521,049
PEOPLE REACHED WITH
WORLD VISION'S EMERGENCY
RESPONSE



INCLUDING
231,430 CHILDREN



RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

SHELTER AND INFRASTRUCTURE

284,515 Corrugated galvanised iron sheets
31,465 Tarpaulins
13,600 Blankets and sleeping mats
4,810 Winter kits for family

EDUCATION AND CHILD PROTECTION

10 Damaged schools repair and rehabilitation
64 TLCs with WASH facilities
10,549 Students kits
4,927 Children provided with psychosocial support

HEALTH

1,603 Women, Adolescent, Youth and Children Spaces sessions
3 Health institutions repair
3,623 Baby hygiene kits

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

118 Water systems construction
9,684 Toilets repair/ construction
17,604 Households reached through WASH awareness activities

LIVELIHOODS

15,961 Households participated in cash for work programmes
8,957 Households benefited from cash transfers
6,523 Households received agriculture inputs

10 RESPONSE DISTRICTS*

Bhaktapur, Dhading, Dolakha, Gorkha, Kathmandu, Lamjung, Lalitpur, Nuwakot, Sindhuli & Sindhupalchowk

*Note: As of November 2016 World Vision will be focusing its rehabilitation phase activities for the response in only few districts.



Relief Phase : April 2015-Sept 2015
Recovery Phase: Oct 2015-Sept 2016
Rehabilitation Phase : Oct 2016-April 2018

25 April 2015 - 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck
12 May 2015 - 7.3 magnitude aftershock

Event



MAKER FAIRE

WHERE IDEAS TRANSFORM INTO REALITY

Kathmandu officially made its stamp on the global Maker Movement with the arrival of the inaugural humanitarian Kathmandu Mini Maker Faire (KMMF) where the very best in Nepali innovation and entrepreneurship was showcased alongside selected international makers. The event was held at Nepal Communitere in Pulchowk on September 24 and 25.

In partnership with World Vision International Nepal (WVIN) Innovation Lab and the US Embassy, the faire brought together technologists, innovators, tinkerers and artisans to showcase an array of innovative projects, cutting edge technologies, arts and crafts, science, and engineering. The KMMF focused on projects that aim to serve as social innovations to help community needs.

During the speaker series, Sebastien Maupas and Suyog Chalise from Nepal Innovation Lab briefed the audience about the platform that the lab has created for fostering humanitarian projects.

The event was successful in drawing attention to the rising Nepali makers and technology sectors which have remained relatively unknown until now.



AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE HYGIENE THROUGH HOUSEHOLD TOILET CONSTRUCTION IN THE AFTERMATH OF DISASTER



14-year-old Sunita was aware about the need to use toilet to maintain proper hygiene from her school. In her class, her teachers have talked many times about necessity to defecate in toilets only, that would help to get rid of many likely diseases. Before the earthquake, Sunita and her family used their own latrine which they always kept clean to prevent the disease outbreak. But, after the earthquake, things took a different turn.

In the Aaampipal Village Development Committee (VDC) of Gorkha, where Sunita lives, many households were forced to defecate in the open, after their houses, including toilets, collapsed. In the aftermath of earthquake, most of the existing household toilets in this locality were damaged. It was no different for Sunita's family who then, had to rely on their neighbour's toilet or the open space.

Sunita says that their family had to use their uncle's toilet reluctantly before they constructed their own. Many times, she also had to tolerate their scolding for using the toilet too often. She says, "My uncle's family was not happy when we used their toilet. They thought that we were making it dirty even though we cleaned it up all the time."

Since Sunita was aware of the hygiene issues that could evoke with open defecation, she preferred to bear the scolding and continued to use her uncle's toilet. But, if she had to use the lavatory at night, it was more uneasy. "I always needed someone to accompany if I had to go toilet at night since it was at distance from our house", she says.

On the other hand, the difficulty of not having a household toilet affected females more than the males. For Asha and her daughter, it was



very inconvenient, especially during that time of the month when she had to use her neighbour's toilet. "It was not very hygienic for us to use other's toilets. Moreover, we could not use it as freely and frequently as required."

35-year-old Asha still remembers those early months of earthquake, where the entire village was affected with foul odour, as a result of open defecation. "My family used to get sick often with diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery in those days."

"Aaampipal was already declared as the Open Defecation Free (ODF) area by the government before the earthquake. And each household had their own toilet. But after the damage incurred, this VDC was again prone to open defecation", says Amrit Bhujel, the WASH coordinator for WVIN's District Office in Gorkha.

To re-establish the 'ODF' status of this VDC, WVIN supported around 450 households in this area to rebuild toilets and limit the potential infectious disease outbreak. WVIN provided the materials needed for toilet construction in addition to the mason wages of Rs 2000 per household.

Both Sunita and Asha's family have now constructed their own toilets. Sunita says that she feels very happy to have her own toilet again. More, because she doesn't have to hear anything from her uncle's family. She is aware that the toilet should be kept clean so that her family doesn't get sick. "I clean our toilet every day. I also wash my hands with soap and water every time I use the toilet", she says.

*by Ankush Chalise,
Emergency Communications Coordinator*



ENHANCING SPONSORSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

Understanding that the use of cellphone and wireless technologies to support the achievement of Transformed Field Environment initiatives has the potential to transform the face of information management, communication, and delivery across the globe, WVIN Child Sponsorship Department pilot tested Horizon Mobile Application to capture all the videos and pictures of beneficiary children and their communities. The main objective of this application is to allow our supporters to connect with their sponsored child, their community, local area, region, and the world around them. The application proved to be very efficient and effective in capturing and delivering the real experiences of the children and the communities where they live. As a result, 100% of the resources collected using this technology met the standards set by the Global Centre. WVIN is also ready to use this application for child monitoring in Fiscal Year (FY) 17.

Similarly, during the reporting period, Child Sponsorship Department collaborated with the Global Centre Sponsorship to produce the Annual Progress Report (APR) of FY16. APR is currently the most important proof of change,

retention and communication in the WVIN Child Sponsorship experience. The APR encouraged child sponsors by specifically showing how their contribution is changing their sponsored child's world, how children in the community are benefitting, while also increasing the sponsor's personal connection with the child. In FY16, for the first time, the APR also consisted of Child Expression Worksheets. These worksheets help each child learn and grow through an engaging, safe and fun environment. They also allow children to express themselves according to "age appropriate" worksheets consisting of questions according to a child's age.



IMPROVING MATERNAL, CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION

WVIN has supported District Health Office and local health institutions declare seven Village Development Committees (VDC) in Udayapur and one VDC in Doti as fully immunised which means, now the children of these areas are prevented against vaccine-preventable diseases such Hepatitis B, Rubella, Japanese Encephalitis, Tetanus, Polio, etc.

WVIN also worked with mothers in the communities to improve the nutritional status of children. In Udayapur, the rate of underweight children under five has reduced from 28.40% to 19.3% and from 30% to 14.8% in Kailali. 100% Ante-Natal Care visits have been done in Kailali.

With a goal to improve health services, eight primary health care outreach clinics were

constructed in Sindhuli, Udayapur, Doti and Achham. Moreover, 57 primary health care outreach clinics were provided with medical equipment. In Sindhuli, Udayapur, and Kailali, a health post and six birthing centres were provided with medical equipment. In Kailali, the rate of institutionalised delivery has increased from 79.7% to 93.5% and from 40% to 48% in Udayapur.

9,000 primary school children in Udayapur have received hygiene kits to promote healthy habits to be practiced from a young age. In Butwal, 97.6% households use soap during handwashing.

In addition, five VDCs of Udayapur are benefitting from the water schemes constructed with the support from World Vision.



IMPROVED LEARNING OUTCOMES IN A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

WVIN has prioritised three models in its education project, namely: Learning Roots (3-5 years), Literacy Boost (6-11 years) and School Safety (3-18 years) in order to improve children's developmental outcomes, functional literacy, and ensure a safe learning environment for them. Parents have been engaged to create an appropriate learning environment at home and in the community. Teachers and local authorities' capacity has been built to see that children are 'Learning with Joy' in a structured learning environment.

As a result, children's learning outcomes have substantially improved. There has been a 43% increase in the number of children who are functionally literate in Kailali where every teacher has been trained in Child-Friendly Teaching Learning methodology. 58.86% of children in Doti and 77.27% in Butwal are now functionally literate.

Following the School Enrolment Campaign and engagement with parents and local authorities, in Doti the enrolment rate at basic level has increased from 79% to 94.6%, in Kailali 96% of

children are attending school on a regular basis and the drop-out rate has decreased to 2%. In Achham, 77 out-of-school children are back at school, in Butwal 75% of schools have improved girl-friendly facilities, including separate toilets for girls and the provision of sanitary items in schools which have resulted in the percentage of girls' attendance increasing to 82.9%.

In Kailali, as a part of good governance, every school has prepared a School Improved Plan (SIP) and is updating it and 97% of schools are practicing the Continuous Assessment System (CAS). In Jumla every child in a sponsorship project has participated in education activities and 11% of them have directly benefited from a scholarship. In Morang, schools have started audio-visual teaching and learning practice which has resulted in increased attendance and improved learning outcomes.

Finally, Bhagwati Higher Secondary School in Doti (supported by WVIN) has been recognised by the Ministry of Education as the best community school of the far western region.



OPERATIONS UPDATE

WVIN has expanded its work in Jumla, establishing a new Area Development Programme (ADP) in Sinja since January 2016. The assessment of Sinja ADP has been successfully completed. During the assessment, WVIN, along with government representatives, community stakeholders and other I/NGOs, conducted site visits. These visits provided information about the education, economic, health condition and issues in the area. Harmful practices such as Chhaupadi, cast-based discrimination, child marriage, and child labour that are still prevalent in the area. The ADP identified 5 Village Development Committees

(VDC), namely Malikathata, Ghodemahadev, Mahabaipatharkhola, Kalikakhetu, and Badki being challenging geographically, and lacking economic opportunities, access to schools and roads.

With the beginning of VDC mapping, the ADP will now move to its project design phase. The ADP plans to design programmes and implement them with the active participation of, and ownership by local people. This ADP is being funded under a village sponsorship model by World Vision Switzerland.



INCREASING LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

WVIN continues to work with community and stakeholders to promote livelihood opportunities for vulnerable families so that they can provide for their children. WVIN has been implementing livelihood projects in nine districts with a major focus on growing high value crops, eco-friendly farming practices, livestock promotion including facilitation of livestock insurance and encouraging savings and small businesses. WVIN has also promoted access to local markets and job skills among youth, and building the capacity of community-based cooperatives in these districts. These interventions have enabled thousands of parents to earn and invest for their children in the areas WVIN works in.

WVIN has also implemented special projects in different districts considering the diverse needs in those communities. In Achham, the Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture project, funded by Jersey Overseas Aid Commission, has been implemented to improve cultivation on less productive land and increase the production of nutritious crops and in turn, income. Similarly, employment and saving projects are being implemented in Kathmandu to equip young people with skills for employment and improve community savings behaviour. The Youth Economic Development Project in Lalitpur enabled teenagers to be better prepared for the job market, and the Market- Led Agriculture Project to enable producers to benefit from the local market, the

Sunsari Economic Empowerment of Producers, in Sunsari, and the Preparing Poor Producers for Market project, in Kailali.

Through market-led projects with a focus on commercial vegetable production, WVIN has been able to increase the production of traditional farmers by more than 90%, with a 78% increase in sales revenue. Through milk collection centres, the sale of milk and milk products has increased, the promotion of livestock insurance has enhanced farmers' capacity to cope with livestock loss in different districts, skills training has enabled youths to start small businesses or obtain work earning about \$4 a day. The participation of marginal families in cooperatives has increased, numeracy classes for women has enabled many female producers to improve their marketing skills and better engage with vendors, small irrigation support has helped improve farmers' access to irrigation.

Additionally, in coordination with other partners WVIN has been actively engaged in planning and facilitating the implementation of local disaster risk management plans as well as working with schools on school safety considering the risk of disaster.

PROTECTING CHILDREN AND THEIR RIGHTS

WVIN is contributing to strengthen child protection systems at the local and district level, and increasing the ability of children and communities to protect themselves from abuse, exploitation and other forms of discrimination which children and communities may be subjected to.

WVIN, together with the inter-agency working group on child protection, and officials from the Ministry of Labour and Employment held a two-day consultation workshop on drafting a national master plan on the elimination of child labour in Nepal. The plan focused on eliminating child labour by identifying and where necessary, amending existing laws or formulating new laws. It also focused on enhancing the capacity of civil and social organisations on process and institutionalisation. Similarly, it stressed the importance of creating a favourable environment to eliminate child labour in Nepal.

In partnership and coordination with the Department of Women and Children, a three-day Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) training was held from 13 to 15 September by the inter agency working group. As a result, 29 government personnel and the inter agency working group have been selected as trained human resources in CPiE. Another outcome was the drafting of six action plans focusing on coordination, human resource, child-friendly spaces, gender-based violence, case management, and community-based child protection mechanisms.

WVIN also supported in the declaration of Manpakadi Village Development Committee (VDC) in Rupandehi as the first child-marriage free VDC in the district.



CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM BUILDING PROJECT



In the past six months, around 6,115 children have participated in capacity-building and awareness-raising activities of the project. It has enabled children to speak out for themselves and stand up against traditional wrongdoings. Hem, a child club member says, "Child marriage both forced and voluntary is a prevailing issue in Udayapur. We are working hard to reduce child marriage, discrimination between boys and girls in the community through peer education and drama at our child clubs and communities."

To increase the protection status of vulnerable groups especially children in Udayapur and Sunsari districts, the Child Protection System Building Project (CPSB) was extended in April 2016 till December 2016. The project is funded by The United Kingdom Department For International Development (DFID) and the extended period aimed at sustaining the previous work of strengthening the child protection system and mechanism in the areas and increasing community accountability towards child protection. It also sought to raise awareness, provide support for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be adopted at community, district, and national level and increase the amount of birth registration. The project mobilises informal groups such as Village Child Protection and Promotion Committee (VCPPC), child clubs, etc that are actively involved in awareness raising through drama, workshops, orientations and interaction on issues such as child marriage.



Dohini Guragain, a Child Protection Committee member at the village level, says, "Children are the preliminary informers which shows that they have built the confidence to protect themselves and others. With the coordination of children and other stakeholders, we are heading towards achieving a child-friendly and safe environment in the community." The community and district-based structures have developed a five year strategic plan for the districts along with an investment plan for children. The villages are able to allocate the budget for the children in order to use that fund for the protection of children. Similarly, the project played a crucial role in strengthening the child protection system to reduce issues like child marriage, child labour, and gender discrimination, and increase birth registration.

Grant Project News

DOTI WEST CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT

Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australia, the Doti West Child Protection Project that started in July 2013 covers seven Village Development Committees (VDC) of Doti with a goal to ensure that children are protected, cared for and participate as individuals at family and community level. The major objective of the project was to strengthen the formal and informal child protection systems such as Village Child Protection and Promotion Committees (VCP), police, District Child Welfare Board (DCWB), child clubs, mother's groups, etc. This was done by building the capacity of such groups in terms of reporting, referring, and managing child protection cases.



Under this project, 2,500 girls and boys have been equipped with life skills and educated on child protection issues like child marriage, chhaupadi (tradition in which girls are kept out of the house and made to live in a cattle shed during their menstruation) and gender-based discrimination. With the support of this project, six villages were able to declare themselves "Chhaupadi-Free". The VCPs are active in raising and referring children's cases to the district. This has helped strengthen the case reporting and referral system. The District Child Welfare Board of Doti has established an emergency fund for managing cases referred to the district. The district has a five-year strategic plan for child-friendly local governance, a plan which was also facilitated by the project. The project has witnessed multi-stakeholder engagement to improve the situation of children by reducing harmful traditional practices.

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Parvati no longer believes that one's fate cannot be changed.

PARTNERING WITH PARVATI

then and now

Born in a poor family, the youngest of nine children, she comes from a village in Udayapur so remote that it's at least seven hours to the nearest bus stop. Child marriage was rampant in her village, which is why her eldest sister got married at the age of 15. She now has a daughter as old as Parvati. Parvati barely escaped child marriage herself. When she was 17, a proposal was made for the sister immediately above her but when the girl said that she wanted to continue studying, Parvati was offered instead. She refused, but the lami (match-maker) did not give up and the boy's family had made up their mind not to go back without a daughter-in-law. Being a member of the child club formed by WVIN in the Village Development Committee in 2004, she had attended orientations where

she had learnt that child marriage is illegal and that a girl is not mature enough to get married before 18. It was not easy to convince her parents and the family of the boy, but she was determined and sought the support of the local Village Child Protection and Promotion Committee (VCP), a committee that WVIN helped form. The others had to give way.

Since then, she has decided to do whatever she can so that no one else should have to go through what she had to go through. She helped in stopping the marriage of Januka, a junior at her school who was 14 years old when her marriage was fixed to a man who was 23. "When I heard about the case, I was quickly taken back to the time when I was forced to get married and I knew I had to do something," she says.

News

WORLD VISION'S WORK IN JUMLA AND RUPANDEHI RECOGNISED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

On the occasion of the 37th National Education Day and 50th International Literacy Day, District Education Office Jumla provided a letter of appreciation to WVIN Jumla Area Development Programme (ADP) for its active contribution, coordination and collaboration towards enhancing the quality of education in Jumla. Similarly, on National Children's Day 2073, Jumla ADP was commended by the District Women and Children's Development Office for its continuous support and contribution towards child protection in the district.



Butwal ADP was recognised by the District Administration Office for its work in child protection and disaster management, and by the District Education Office for its contribution in education. Khadwa Bangai Village Development Committee (VDC) commended Butwal ADP for its contribution to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). Manpakadi VDC commended the ADP for the "End child marriage" campaign it carried out in Rupandehi, before the declaration of the VDC as 'Child Marriage free'.

Although I got married at a young age, I am happy that Parvati was able to do something with her life. When I talk to other women here, they appreciate her efforts in trying to bring change. I am proud of her.

- Kamala



The local VCPPC helped her there too.

Her efforts aside, things are tough at home. Her parents are already in their sixties and dependent on the cattle they rear at home, which hardly suffices for everyday expenses let alone anything extra, but Parvati, working odd jobs, managed to complete her high school education. She then saw a job vacancy at Human Rights and Environment Development Centre (HuRENDEC), a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) working in Udayapur, and applied. Now, HuRENDEC partners with WVIN, in helping to implement stronger child protection systems in Udayapur, and Parvati is an active social mobiliser ensuring this in her community. Her sister, Kamala says, “Although I got married at a young age, I am happy that Parvati was able to do something with her life. When I talk to other women here, they appreciate her efforts in trying to bring change. I am proud of her.”

Parvati may be young but that doesn't stop her from envisioning a community that is child marriage-free. “Child marriage, initiated by parents and relatives, has reduced substantially here, due to the increased awareness following activities such as orientations, street plays, dialogues, etc. The major challenge now is elopement,” she shares.

Looking at her now, she stands as an example of continuous partnership with WVIN, first as a steady child club member and now as a staff of WVIN's implementing partner NGO.

by Nissi Thapa, Communications Officer