



Quarterly

NEWSLETTER

Children Women in Social Services and Human Rights

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(January -March)

Youth Network Training



A two-day comprehensive training was conducted in Dhading, Dolakha, and Ramechhap between January and March 2025 to enrich youth knowledge on marketing and networking of green enterprise as well as to capacitate, encourage and inspire the youth in disaster communication and Artificial Intelligence (AI). A total of 100 youths from Dhading, Chitwan, Makawanpur, Dolakha, and Ramechhap participated.

Youth Exchange Visit



A series of youth exchange visits was organized to enhance practical knowledge in various sectors. On January 10, 2025, 60 youths from Dhading, Chitwan, and Makawanpur visited the Compost Production Center in Nilkantha Municipality-8, Dhading, to learn about organic waste management and fertilizer production using effective micro-organisms. On February 5, 2025, 20 youths from Dolakha visited an orange farm in Suri, Dolakha, gaining hands-on

experience and knowledge on farming practice. On March 7, 2025, 20 youths from Kathmandu visited the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) in Lalitpur to learn about the alternative method of plastic management i.e. the process of production of fuel from plastic. Similarly, 20 youths from Ramechhap visited Mahalaxmi Krishi Tatha Pashupanchi Firm on March 10, 2025, to explore commercial cow and dragon fruit farming. Lastly, on March 15, 2025, 20 youths from Kavre participated in an ecotourism-focused visit to Deu Pokhari, Kavre.



Youth in Social Action



A workshop titled "Young Voices, Girls for Climate: Leading the Change" was held on January 17, 2025, in Hetauda as part of the Youth in Social Action initiative. A total of 49 participants attended the event. The workshop aimed to empower young girls with knowledge and confidence to become climate leaders in their communities. It provided a platform for young voices to advocate for sustainable

change, engage in climate activism and amplify their roles in the global fight against climate change. The main objective of the workshop was to empower young girls through education on climate change.

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Local Level Advocacy

Local-level advocacy programs were organized in Makawanpur and Chitwan on February with the total participation of 87 to encourage the local government representatives to prioritize the development of environmental/climate plans and policies such as local adaptation plan of action or local disaster and climate resilience plan along promoting meaningful youth participation in local planning and decision-making process as well as the incorporation of climate studies in school curriculum.



On March 3, 2025, a total of 22 participants held an advocacy program in Kathmandu with the officials of the Curriculum Development Center and climate change and disaster risk reduction experts. This session focused on strengthening cross-sectoral integration such as climate change across education and advocating for stronger in the preparation of environmental/climate plans and policies at the local level such as the local adaptation plan of action or the local disaster and climate resilience plan.



Enhancing Child Participation

Child participation was strengthened through the Girls Advocacy Group under the Power Girls Project. They held 25 REFLECT sessions with 804 students in Balephi and Sunkoshi RMs, identifying child protection issues at the local level their causes and impacts and then developed an advocacy plan with students to address the causes so that further issues can be prevented. Based on these plans, 17 awareness events were conducted reaching to 623 community members, covering topics like online safety, sexual harassment, child marriage, domestic violence, and the impact of alcohol and drug consumption etc. Additionally, 54 meetings were held by GAG to plan and reflect on these events. In February, 192 students in Sunkoshi-2 participated in dialogue with local representatives raising issues of sexual harassment, corporal punishment and gender discrimination among others.



Strengthening Local Child Protection System



The local child protection system was strengthened in Balephi and Sunkoshi RMs through improved policies, programs, budgets, and child protection structures. Steering Committees were formed in both RMs in February and March 2025 to strengthen coordination among like-minded agencies working on child protection, develop a common understanding, and avoid duplication. The

chairperson led the 12-member committee in Sunkoshi RM, whereas the Vice Chairperson led the 7-member committee in Balephi RM, including officers of RMs, NGO representatives, to the participation of SAPPROS

Nepal in the workshop led by CWISH for "Policy and Program Evaluation and Analysis" with Balephi RM representatives for joint advocacy on the protection of Children with Disabilities. This workshop, held on March 8-9 with 30 local representatives, discussed in-depth their policies, plan and budget regarding child protection, identified gaps in it and developed ward-wise action plans to mitigate the gaps. Support was also provided to Ward Child Rights Committees to conduct 13 meetings and 15 awareness events, improving accountability and functionality of the child protection system.



Developing Women Leadership



A 4-day Capacity Enhancement Program was held in February for 25 women representatives from Balephi and Sunkoshi RMs, focusing on enhancing their leadership, decision-making capacities, with special focus on child protection. After the capacity enhancement program, Participants have begun applying

their learning by helping identify vulnerable areas, and conducting community meetings and awareness events in those areas. The training showed that empowering women from Dalit and marginalized communities leads to stronger ownership and advocacy for local issues.

Capacity building of child clubs on child-led advocacy



Child-led advocacy training was completed in 17 schools, engaging 204 child club members. Key topics included Child Rights, Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG), Child Abuse, Child Marriage, Labor, Sexual Exploitation, Climate Change, Cyber Safety, and Life Skills. Participants found sessions on Cyber Safety, Life Skills, and Child Sexual Exploitation especially valuable, reflecting their relevance and empowering youth to advocate for children's rights in their communities.

Birth Registration and Disability Screening Camp at the community level

Seven screening camps were held in Manthali in 7 Wards, reaching 200 people, including 19 children with disabilities and vulnerable children who gained access to social security services. Three children also received birth certificates to ensure their eligibility for support. The event's success was made possible through collaboration with Manthali Municipality, medical experts, and community volunteers, with transportation arranged to support persons with disabilities.

"We youths aren't just dreaming of a better world; we plan on building it."



"Inspiring Struggles of a Young Farmer"

In recent years, Subraj Tamang has become a symbol of struggle, working hard in his own country despite many youth seeking opportunities abroad with educational certificates in hand and strength in their arms. He is a 28-year-old local youth from Gaurishankar, Dolakha district. Embracing the agricultural practices passed down through generations by his forefather, Subraj is deeply focused on securing a stable future through his work.



For the past few years, Subraj has been concerned about the changes in his village. Driven by curiosity, he began seeking to understand the causes of these changes. "In the past, the crops grown on our land provided enough food to sustain our lives. But now, even on the same land, crop yields have declined, forcing us to rely on imports," he says. When a non-governmental organization named "CWISH" came to the village, Subraj found an opportunity to get involved. "I felt that my concerns were being addressed when I joined this organization," he recalls. CWISH had launched a climate change and environmental

project in the area, and since the project targeted youth, Subraj was included as part of the target group. As

the organization began conducting programs on climate change, its impacts and solutions, Subraj started to realize that the issue affecting his village was, in fact, climate change. "This is the issue affecting us, and we are

part of the problem," he admits.

The changes in climate, such as irregular rainfall, drying water sources, and untimely floods, were directly affecting his community, which relies entirely on agriculture. Farmers, in an attempt to increase yields, started using chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which only worsened the situation. Subraj is confident that these factors have contributed to the decline in agricultural production.

After participating in awareness programs on climate change, Subraj says, "In a time when every youth is leaving their village and country, I am weaving a dream of possibilities right here on this land and CWISH has been my guide in this journey." After attending training on green business and sustainable agricultural practices organized by the organization, Subraj saw a way forward to address the problems in his community. With the support of CWISH, he began his journey as a modern organic farmer, determined to introduce himself as a model for sustainable farming in his area. Currently, I have established two greenhouses in my village with the help of CWISH and I am engaged in modern agriculture and nursery practices. Every day, I search for information on modern farming techniques online, learn and apply that knowledge to my land," he says.

Subraj has consciously decided to carve out his future in his homeland. "I encourage my friends and siblings not to go abroad but to stay here, work hard with our own hands and build our villages together," he shares. He also shares this message with his community. "There are animals in the barn, and I use their dung and urine to make compost and natural pesticides. I don't use chemical fertilizers. I produce healthy crops and I love this land, this nature, and this environment. I have given up the dream of going abroad because I am committed to staying here, in the embrace of Gaurishankar, with my parents and with the nature around me," Subraj says.

He believes that with hard work, the right information and timely efforts, there is potential in his own country. Subraj's story is an inspiring tale for the youth, showing that possibilities exist right here in the land they call home.

Positive Parenting workshop



The Positive Parenting Workshop helped parents understand effective communication techniques, discipline methods that promote positive behavior, strategies for building strong parent-child relationships, and techniques for managing stress and promoting self-care. Participants reflected on their insights, expressed gratitude, and committed to

practicing and sharing positive parenting methods. The session promoted a nurturing and safe environment for children.

Orientation to community members on child protection issues

An orientation on child protection issues was conducted across 10 communities, reaching 360 members, aimed at raising awareness and fostering dialogue on child protection. Through this session, participants explored various child protection issues, which included recognizing signs of abuse, understanding legal frameworks, and identifying strategies for prevention and intervention. Through interactive dialogue, participants—both men and women—were empowered to advocate for child protection and commit to safeguarding children's rights and well-being.



Strengthen the enabling environment on child protection and rights through mobile information day campaign



In Helambu and Balephi Rural Municipalities, rising rates of child marriage, abuse, and labour, worsened by disasters like the Jure landslide and Melamchi flood, highlight serious child protection concerns. To mark Children's Day, 35 awareness programs were held across the Balephi RM and Sindhupalchok District, organized by the Child Protection Teachers' Network, reaching 3,547 participants. Through mobile formats like drama, songs, and debates led by adolescents, the programs creatively addressed child rights issues. Over 4,000 people, including students, the School Management Committee - SMC, the Parent Teacher Association -

PTA, parents, and the community, directly benefited. Balephi RM identified and provided cash support to 196 most vulnerable children, showing early positive impacts. The municipality also launched child rights awareness radio broadcasts. These initiatives have sensitized communities, especially adolescent girls, to child protection and fostered local commitment to ending harmful practices.



"We have discussed climate change for too long; now it's time for the youth to lead."

Interministerial Meeting for Policy Advocacy



An interministerial dialogue, led by MoLESS in collaboration with CWISH and Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (SAN), was held in January 2025, where 32 participants reviewed the draft Child Labor Prohibition and Regulation Bill. Key stakeholders—including line ministries (MoWCSC, MOLJPA, MoEST, MoF and MoHA), NCRC, Department of Labor and Occupational Safety, Labor Office Teku, Trade Union, civil societies, networks and developmental partners (ILO, UNICEF, FAO) were engaged in detailed discussions and provided recommendations

on the new draft bill.

Public Hearing on child rights issues

A ward-level public hearing event was conducted on March 6, 2025 at Shree Manohar Secondary School, Tokha, where child club members of 5 different schools of ward no 10 of Tokha Municipality to express their queries to government representatives. A total of 50 children attended the program. Representatives from the ward and municipality addressed the queries of children together and have signed the commitment for addressing the issues of children raised during the event, which will later be followed up by the children during monitoring visits.



Reformation of Child Advisory Board (CAB) of CWISH



The Child Advisory Board (CAB) was reformed on February 28, 2025 to welcome its new members as some of the old members have become youth. The CAB was now reformed with the inclusion of members from child club networks from working municipalities, schools, along with working and children with disability. A total of 15 members were elected as the CAB of CWISH with Puspa Magar as Chairperson and Dhirendra Budha as Secretary. CAB will be playing a key role in advocating the issues of children at possible platform.

Engagement with Women representatives of Local level



The women Representatives from all wards of Mahalaxmi, Tokha and Suryabinayak Municipality were engaged in a 2-days workshop conducted from March 27-28, 2025. A total of 27 women representatives participated in the capacity building workshop where they were oriented regarding their policy-based roles and responsibilities, the child protection structures and mechanisms at local level and importance of monitoring and supervision for effective implementation. At the end, the women representatives committed for supporting smooth functioning of the mechanisms (child

fund mobilization, child help desk), lobby to formulate required guidelines and allocate budget for children and contribute to foster meaningful child participation at local level respectively.

Life as a Child Domestic Workers in Kathmandu

Child domestic work is a significant issue in Nepal, with many children employed in various domestic roles. Despite laws such as the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 2056 (2000), the 2015 Constitution, the Labour Act 2074 (2017), and the Act Relating to Children 2075 (2018), child labor persists, especially in domestic settings. The domestic sector is one of the 17 areas with a high prevalence of child labor. Reports from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Government of Nepal indicate that many children work in private households, highlighting the seriousness of child domestic labor.



In response, Free the Slaves (USA), in partnership with CWISH (Nepal), launched a research project, "Life as a Child Domestic Worker in Kathmandu," in April 2024. This study aimed to understand the reality of child domestic work in Nepal and to contribute to the knowledge base, providing evidence that can inform the development and implementation of effective programs to protect children in the domestic sector. Data was gathered from 45 participants through interviews, workshops with child workers, key informant interviews (KII), and focus group discussions with employers. Participatory tools like the River of Life, Chapati diagram, and vignette were used during data collection, which was then analyzed with qualitative software to explore the experiences and drivers of child domestic workers. A comprehensive report is being developed to share findings with stakeholders, advocating for sustainable actions to address child domestic labor.

CASE STUDY

"Empowered Resistance: A Girl's Stand Against Teacher's Unfair Punishment"

A girl, a member of the Girls Advocacy Group (GAG) at the School of Sunkoshi RM, resisted unfair punishment from her teacher. "I was able to resist because I have learned that abuse should not be tolerated through GAG. I am very grateful to be a member of GAG, which has strengthened my self-confidence," she said at a GAG meeting.

The incident occurred in January when she came to school without having completed her homework. She explained that the school had taken students on an observation tour the day before, and after walking a lot, she was having physical discomfort.

"Let's advocate for child-sensitive social protection."

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To make matters worse, she was also experiencing dysmenorrhea, which made it difficult for her to finish her homework. When her first-period teacher asked for homework, she told him she hadn't completed it because she was unwell. The teacher dismissed her excuse, stating it was just an excuse, and gave her the punishment of doing 25 squats.

At first, she refused to do the squats because she was not feeling well and was on her period. The teacher did not agree, so she reluctantly completed the 25 squats.

However, the teacher claimed she had not done all 25 and instructed her to do it again. She insisted that she had completed the full 25 and suggested she verify it through the CCTV cameras, but the teacher refused and insisted she do it again. She stood her ground, demanding that the CCTV footage be checked.

The teacher became even angrier and asked her to leave the class, starting to scold her, stating that she would not receive her practical marks. "Why not? I completed the punishment you gave me," she responded, but the teacher refused and continued scolding her. She stayed in the class without leaving.

After the teacher finished his lesson, she went to the canteen, asked for a mobile phone, and called her father to explain everything that had happened. Her father arrived at the school immediately and spoke to the principal. The principal called the teacher, and they discussed the matter together with the girl and her father. The teacher admitted his mistake and apologized, promising not to make such a mistake again.

The girl says that the teacher is now behaving well. CWISH has been running the Power Girl project in the school for the past two years. As part of the project, the Girls Advocacy Group was formed and empowered through regular training and meetings to advocate for their rights.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Regional Workshop on Climate Justice
2. Campaign on child rights and Climate Justice
3. Public Hearing on Child Rights Issues
4. Training for teachers and SMC/PTA on Child Protection
5. Planning and Evaluation Workshop on Adapting Existing CFLG Guidelines
6. National Level Advocacy Initiatives on Child Protection



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