



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Voices of Children, Women and Youth through Community Approach



Website: www.aawaaj.org.np



FOREWORD FROM PRESIDENT

Aawaaj was established in 1999 with joint initiatives of professionals with strong hope to demonstrate capacity against violence and discrimination of women in Karnali Province. Aawaaj has strong presence in Karnali and Lumbini province. It is registered in district administration office, Surkhet with registration number: 180-056-057 and PAN number is 301819051. We are also affiliated to the Social Welfare Council (SWC) and its number is 13616.

Over the 23 years, I have been heartened to see the steady successes of our work toward rights for women and children in holistic way.

We have 50 staff and capacity for a social change. Staffs are very competent to build, maintain networks and to work in collaboration with government authorities, local groups and communities. Aawaaj has always been mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion in its program and keep gender disaggregated data of our beneficiaries and stakeholders. Our organization team has been led by the representation of women, (90%) and 10 % are men.

Community groups are coming together at local levels to address all forms of gender based violence, social taboos on sexual and reproductive health, discrimination, child sexual abuse and strengthening education system at local level. Aawaaj efforts made a huge difference in the lives of children and women by mobilizing and activating the existing forums, local government, and through effective networking. Social mobilization has been proven an effective vehicle to prompt action and to establish social respect and dignity for the children and women.

Despite good work in social field there are great challenges to meet the increasing demand to respond services with limited resources. We urge all the developmental partners to allocate more resources to access justice for vulnerable children, youth and women and seek commitment of concern authorities to ensure that program results will be sustained for children, youth and women.

It is crucial to acknowledge and be grateful to Executive board members, all international, national and local partners, individuals, volunteers, dedicated staff, and general members who supported Aawaaj from the beginning and stand for your solidarity.

Thank you very much for your courage and making a generous year- 2022. Your small support allow us to reach more and for a better and safer future. Hope we learn to grow in strength, resilience, and collectiveness in the year ahead.

With warm wishes and much appreciation!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irada Gautam'.

Irada Gautam
President, Aawaaj 2022

1. WHO WE ARE

Aawaaj was established in 1999 by the Irada Gautam who is the founder chair with joint initiatives of professionals with strong hope to demonstrate capacity against violence and discrimination of women in Midwest, Nepal.

We have strong presence in Mid-West and registered in district administration office, Surkhet with registration number: 180-056-057 (PAN number is 301819051). We are also affiliated to the Social Welfare Council (SWC) and its number is 13616.

It has been addressing all forms of gender based violence through social mobilization, campaigning, establishing community support mechanism, lobbying, advocacy, networking, training, income generation, community mediation, psychosocial counseling services, educational support and operating temporary crisis shelter for severe degree of GBV victims.

We are working with boys and men along with girls and women to prepare better manhood and socialized against such wrong behavior as problems of violence that mostly comes from boys and men at large. It focused on three important aspects of human rights "Safe, Strong and Free." Everyone has these rights and they are indispensable for human life. The basic and the most effective tricky ways of protecting rights are "Say No"; "Go Away" and "Talk to someone". CRC and CEDAW are the guiding principles of Aawaaj for the policies, practices and programs related to fight against the violence.

We are the voices of those women and children who are living with violence, vulnerability and at risk, and who have no access in social and legal justice. We use the concept of resilience to open new paths for the prevention and response against violence and discrimination. Girls and women when faced devastating trauma and adversity how they are able to develop their inner capacity in a harmonious and positive way? This question is at the starting point of work. We facilitate Rural Communities to Combat the Violence and Discrimination of Children and Women. Despite all adversities children and women didn't lose hopes and started fighting with the abuse, violence, discrimination and exploitation. Till date, more than 500 change makers are actively involved in helping others at community.

We have developed a very good relationship with the local stakeholders since last 23 years. The active participation and networking of local groups, stakeholders, and communities are consulted and take consensus before doing any program. These groups are strengthened and their interest are respected and ensured the smooth running of program. We are sensitive with vulnerable group and seek the values of their participation throughout the process while at the same time explain the benefit for them.

The focus will be brought back to the main issue of violence free society where children, girls and women feel peace through positive dialogue with province and local government, police

authorities, National child welfare council, health personnel, legal authorities, municipal body, , political leaders and teachers in non-violent way.

At Karnali Province; we are coordinating women human rights defenders, also played secretarial role for 2nd election of constitutional assembly in Surkhet, and we are members of various human rights alliances. At national level, we are founder member of women NGO Federation, AATWIN, Women security pressure group, girls not bride and education network.

At regional level; we are member of we can campaign of south Asia and globally, Aawaaj is also member of global alliance against trafficking and network member of child sexual abuse.

The decision around strategy and program development is the product of beneficiaries, stakeholders and actually reflected by social audit, general assembly, monitoring visit and program evaluation. Aawaaj acts merely as a facilitator in the process of project implementation and developing the capacity in the management of violence at all levels to effectively monitor and manage the violence (not only identifying cases). We believe that every member of community can be an active change agent in process and encourage them to fulfill their responsibilities on social issues.

We have been focused on education, health, child rights, women rights, child protection, and livelihoods through community empowerment programs. Aawaaj mobilize communities to ensure access justice, and quality of services in package i.e. health, education, and livelihoods. Likewise, Aawaaj ensure that children and women are protected against all forms of discrimination, violence, abuse and harmful practices by creating awareness, strengthening systems and mechanisms at the community level, district level and do advocacy for better policies to protect child rights and women rights.

1.1 Our Vision

Our Vision is a world of hope, resilience and social justice where all people live in dignity and security. We seek an end to all forms of violence against women and children caused by unjust social, political and economic conditions.

1.2 Our Mission

Our Mission is to eradicate all forms sexual, domestic and conflict-based violence through the process of empowerment. Our work will contribute towards creating an enabling environment through establishing community support mechanisms addressing violence against children and women.

1.3 Our goal will lead to Gender equitable and sustainable development, fulfilling the rights and improving the lives of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded groups.

2. SERVICES PROVIDED BY AAWAAJ

Services provided by Aawaaj

1

**Legal,
medical and
economic aid**

2

**Community
support
mechanisms**

3

**Livelihood
support**

4

**Participatory
platforms**

5

**Family
Mediation**

6

**Protection
and
reintrigration**

7

**Educational
support for
needy**

8

**Psychosocial
suppprt**

9

**Shelter
support**

10

**Linkages and
referral**

3. Our target beneficiaries



4. OUR PROGRAM FOCUS

Aawaaj Focused Program

Breaking the silence on sexual abuse and exploitation through social mobilization (working with children, youth and women network)

Establish community support mechanism (CSM) against gender based violence of children and women, working with community groups

Vocational Training, economic empowerment and Micro enterprenureship program for marginalised community

Child Protection- Child help line, Child friendly space (Interim Care, fostering, Social Integration of Children, Play acitvities with children, access health and education)

Temporary emergency shelter support and social integration for women and children that faced violence, abuse and exploitation

Community and family mediation for the minor degree of violence

Counseling, Care and Emergency shelter support (psychosocial, legal, medical, education and economic support)

Advocacy and Campaigning against gender based violence, corporal punishment, child marriage and trafficking

Facilitation of local governence

5. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT

5.1 REPORTED FORMS OF VIOLENCE IN AAWAAJ IN 2022

SN	Forms of Violence	Number of cases
1	Rape	60
2	Domestic Violence/Evicted	234
3	Sexual assault/ Attempt to Rape	6
4	Denial of resources/opportunity / mobility control	17
5	Psychological/emotional abuse	163
6	Polygamy	20
7	Early child marriage	44
8	Human trafficking	2
9	Cyber Crime	1
10	Abandoned by parents	9
11	Separated From Mother	7
12	Without Guardian	26
13	Without Father	14
14	Without Mother	5
Total		608

5.2 Survivors of violence by ethnicity and gender in Aawaaj 2022

Dalit	Women	133
	Boys	31
	Girls	68
	Total	232
Janjati	Women	62
	Boys	10
	Girls	23
	Total	95
Others	Women	172
	Boys	24
	Girls	85
	Total	281
Total	Women	367
	Boys	65
	Girls	176
	Grand Total	608

5.3 Types of services provided by Aawaaj in 2022

SN	Support	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Psychosocial counseling Face to face	367	6	66	439
2	Family Counseling	97	26	91	214
3	Mediation	81	1	3	85
4	Medical support	29	16	45	90
5	Transportation support	27	17	25	69
6	Legal Support	60	0	35	95
7	Shelter Support	127	34	80	241
8	Case preparation (Application writing)	42	2	6	50
9	Referral to Aawaaj	87	16	39	142
10	Referred by Aawaaj	125	25	88	238
11	Reintegration	126	32	78	236
13	Economic Support	15	0	0	15
14	Relief Package support	4	3	3	10
15	Health kit support	109	27	71	207

5.4 Services provided through 1098 helpline by Aawaaj in 2022

SN	Services	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Personal Profile prepared	131	385	516
2	Call by children and parents for service	88	161	249
3	Telephone counseling	22	107	129
4	Family consultation	26	117	143
5	Primary Health service	7	24	31
6	Rescue and re-habitation using ambulance or other modes of transportation	6	31	37
7	Emergency of children hazardous situation	3	0	3
8	Aid provided for emergency rescue during hazardous situation	3	0	3
9	family reunion, reintegration and re-habitation after emergency rescue from hazardous situation	3	0	3
10	Family reunion, reintegration and re-habitation of lost	10	17	27
11	Family reunion, reintegration and re-habitation of children found unaided	10	19	29
12	Conservation of emergency shelter home	34	80	114
13	Field visit and follow-up	14	38	52
14	legal services	0	35	35
15	Education support	33	146	179
16	Rescue and restoration of street children+	0	2	2
17	Rescue and restoration of child labors	0	0	0
18	rescue and restoration of trafficked children	0	5	5
Grand Total		1552		

6. Brief summary of various projects in 2022

SN	Project's Name	Funding Partner
1	Empowering Stakeholders, Raising Awareness and Protecting Children from Early and Forced Marriage in (mid-west) Nepal (SANKALPA)	ECPAT Luxembourg
2	Alliance Formation and Situational Analysis to Address Early Child Marriage in Karnali province	Fasten Action
3	Preventing and Responding to Child Marriage and Early union in Surkhet, Birendranagar	Girls First Fund
4	Empowering women and children, especially girls to secure their rights and access services in 11 wards of Surkhet of Nepal	TDH- Germany
5	Combating Against Child Marriage Project in Karnali province	Fastenaction
6	Strengthening the child helpline 1098, safe house and Psychosocial Support in Karnali Province	UNICEF, NCRC, Shiksha Bikash Nirdeshnanalay, province hospital

Budget Spent in 2022

S.N.	Name of Project	Partner	Budget for 2022
1	Combating Against ECM in Karnali province	Fastenaktion	57,63,950.00
2	Empowering Women and Children especially girls to secure rights	TDHG/Misereor	1,12,55,564.00
3	Combating Early Child Marriage in Bardiya and Dailekh	ECPAT	6,529,000.00
4	Preventing and responding early child marriage Surkhet BNNP	GFF	49,06,800.00
5	Strengthening child helpline 1098 and prevention of GBV	UNICEF	1,25,56,500.00
6	Child Helpline and Psychosocial Support to Karnali Province	NCRC	1,045,906.00
7	Operating child Helpline/Safe House	Shiksha Bikash Nirdeshnanalay	4,11,920.00
8	Emergency Shelter Support	Karnali Pradesh Hospital	1,75,000.00
9	Operating Safe House	Province govt	4,00,000.00

Aawaaj Total budget	4,30,44,640.00
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6.1.1 Project: Empowering women, children, especially girls to access their rights and access services.

Project location: Panchapuri Municipality, Surkhet district of Karnali Province of Nepal.

Partner support agency: TDH Germany/MISEREOR

Objectives of Project:

- Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of girls, women and youth in Surkhet District.
- Strengthened capacities of community to break gender barriers and cultural taboos effectively.
- Survivors of Gender Based Violence develop resilience and confidence to seek services at the service providers in the community.
- Women, girls and survivors of GBV are economically and socially empowered.
- Advocacy and grassroots sensitization enhances women's ability to seek their rights.

Achievements by activities:

A) Community Groups: 93 community groups (groups of women -23, youths-16 and children-21 and 33 networks of them) are active and functional in their respective communities to discuss, and support issues of gender and sexual violence against women and girls.

1) Youth Group:

- The youth groups were prepared and submitted plans for the youth in 11 wards of Panchapuri municipality. Among the plans requested by the youth groups, they have been able to get a budget for program worth Nrs 12,50,000/- from municipality.
- From January to December 2022, the youth group has helped to solve the problems by facilitating, and supporting the violence affected women and girls (2 case- homeless, 8 case-child marriages, 2 case-polygamy, 8 Case-Swearing, fighting, accusing, 9 case-beating, 45 cases-domestic violence, 1 case-unregistered birth, 1 case not made citizenship, 1 case missing and 2 case-disputes with neighbors)
- The members of the youth group are working in the community by involve in consumer committees such as water supply, construction of school fields, construction of irrigation canals and construction of waiting rooms.
- Human empowerment youth group of Panchapuri Municipality ward no. 11 has completed the programme of Public Awareness Deuda Geet Competition in coordination with the Ward Office and other supporting groups. The competition conveyed a good message to many people to reduce child marriage, chhaupadi custom and domestic violence.
- Panchapuri Youth Group of Ward No. 10 of Panchapuri Municipality has organized a ward level football tournament in coordination with the ward which has strengthen youth unity, development of football skills and the ability to organize programs in the community.
- Roshani Giri was beaten and abused by her brother and sister-in-law in ward no. 8, she came to the youth group and informed them. The chairman and members of the youth group went and

reminded Roshni's brother and sister-in-law. Now there is good harmony in the family when the consequences of beating children are discussed.

- Nanda Bhul had a child marriage in ward no. 10 of Panchapuri Municipality and moved to another nearby municipality. Child group told the youth group about this problem. After the incident of child marriage, the youth group along with the public representative went to her house to remind the parents. The parents reached the boy's house and reminded their daughter and brought her to their house. Currently, boys and girls are studying in their own homes.
- 14-year-old Barsha pun from Panchapuri Municipality ward -1 hasegaun, came to Panchapuri Municipality Ward 11 after child marriage, Tatapani Youth Group reminded the boy's parents and entrusted them with guardian.
- While selecting mathematics teachers in Panchapuri Municipality Ward No. 10, the management committee selected them on the basis of political parties. The youth group protested against the action. Currently, the management committee has selected another competent teacher.
- The youth group has started secretly informing the police about the people who produce alcohol in the community, and those who make noise in the community by drinking alcohol. As a result, there has been a decrease in the number of people who drink and fight in the community.
- Young men used to say that when a husband beat his wife after drinking alcohol, it was because her behavior was not good. Currently, as this is a problem in every house, they have started protesting that it is domestic violence, that doing domestic violence is a punishable behavior.
- After understanding about reproductive health and menstrual cycle, the youth have started to discuss about safe menstruation in the family, saying that Chhaupadi practice should be improved. People's representatives are also requested to allocate budget from the wards to minimize such social negative practices.
- Youth group of Panchapuri municipality 11 Tatapani and Dhungibazar youth group organized a school level volleyball tournament. Tatapani youth group won the volleyball competition and got the opportunity to participate in the city level volleyball competition. The Tatapani youth group has also managed to become the first in the city level volleyball competition. The youth group of Panchapuri Municipality Ward No. 2, 3, 4 and 6 coordinated with the ward office and collected the 50,000 which has received sports material.

2) Women Group

- Women's groups had prepared and submitted women-targeted schemes in 11 wards of Panchapuri municipality. Among the schemes requested by women's groups, they have been able to receive a budget of Rs 8,60,000 for the program from municipality
- From January to December 2022, the women group has helped to solve the problems by facilitating, and supporting the 119 children and women which are 14 case-child marriages, 7 case-polygamy, 14 Case-Swearing, fighting, accusing, 1 case-accused of theft, 73 cases-domestic violence, 2 case-Chhaupadi, 2 case-unregistered citizenships, 1 Case-Accused of theft, 1 case-missing and 3 case-disputes with neighbors and 1 rape cases. Previously, people in the community were not aware of the vital registration process, so they did not register any personal incident. Currently, birth registration, marriage registration and death registration have started within 35 days of the incident.
- Members of women's groups have joined the consumer committee and started actively participating in development works.

- When there are incidents of violence against women and children at the community, the members of the women's group listen to victims, support them, go to the relevant agencies and support them as necessary.
- When the stepfather of the girl Khagisara Thapa of Panchapuri Municipality Ward No. 9 did not make her a citizenship, the president of the women's network discussed it several times. At the end, the stepfather made Khagisara Thapa a citizenship certificate.
- The incidents of 8 child marriages were stopped due to the efforts of women's groups. At present, the girls are staying at mother's home and attending school regularly.
- In the year 2022, 100 women involved in income generation, 94 women have earned income by operating businesses. They earned 25,000 to 35,000 Nrs profit in return per times.
- This year's 16-day campaign against violence against women was celebrated in all 11 wards of Panchapuri municipality in coordination with the ward office and the women's and children's branch. Women's group networks organized programs in every ward by organizing rallies, corner meetings, interaction with women and men on reducing gender based violence, speech competitions, street drama performances, door-to-door campaigns and legal awareness programs. The members of the women's group have developed the ability to conduct program, organize, coordinate with the wards and present their talents. In every ward there was a celebration with folk songs and dance competitions, the members of the women's group and the youth group have succeeded in getting the first and second position.
- Women's networks organized the 8th March international women's day in all 11 wards of the municipality with a budget of 1, 88,500 Nrs from the wards and 22,000 Nrs from Aawaaj.
- They identified 10 indicators for changes in the households of all the members who joined in the group. The women's network visited the homes of the members of the group and monitored 10 indicators. On the occasion of the March 8 international women's day, honors and prizes were distributed to female members who completed the best indicators. As a result, other members have also been motivated to complete the indicators.
- Earlier, when women had menstruation, they stayed in a shed far away from home and were restricted from eating milk and curds. At present, the women are allowed to stay in the house, eat milk and curd when they have menstruating, and there has been some improvement in the *Chhaupadi* custom.
- The incidents of domestic violence could not reconcile after discussion by the ward office, but the members of the women's group have successfully reconciled after discussion again.
- In the women's group discussions, when the social mobilizer informed about the free health insurance program, the benefits of insurance and the insurance procedures, women started taking health insurance.
- When a son was born, it was customary to celebrate, cut a goat, Playing the panchebaja and dance, but when a daughter was born, there was no celebration. At present, when it is informed that both sons and daughters are equal, the law has given equal rights to both, it seems that the custom of celebrating the birth of a son has decreased.

3) Children Group:

- The children's group created a program targeting children in all the wards of Panchapuri municipality and submitted to the ward office. In Ward No. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 11, they have been able to get a budget of Rs. 3,80,000 for programs.

- Child group reported 54 cases from where 19 cases of child marriage, 3 abuses, 12 beatings by parents, 9 cases of domestic violence, 1 case of Concealment at first menstruation, 1 case of non-registration of birth, 3 charges of theft, 2 cases of caste discrimination, 1 case of missing, 1 case of rape, 1 case of child labor and 1 case of being beaten by the teacher. The children's group facilitated, and supported the problem-affected to solve the problems.
- If any children get married or any abuse of the children, the children's group immediately informs the teachers, parents, social mobilizers and child helpline.
- If someone bad touches the girls, teachers and parents have started reporting. One girl informed the social mobilizer, girl was being abused by the teacher of Bidhyajoti school. The girls said that there is currently no problem when the social mobilizer shared at the meeting about the legal punishments if the girl is bad touched.
- The children's group have been shared to their school, children's group and their families that have learned through life skills development training, self-defense training and group meeting.
- Bidhyajyoti School of Panchapuri Municipality ward no. 5 organized the speech competition. In the speech contest, a child from the creative children's group won first position.
- In the 4-meter relay race, *Kurchidaud* and long jump competition organized by Bidhyapur school of Panchapuri municipality ward no.9, the children's group were successful in winning the first and third position.
- The children's group has learned how to write meeting attendance, agenda and decisions during monthly meetings.
- Santosh B.K. is a member of the model children's group of Panchapuri Municipality ward no. 8 Dulalathai. He is currently 13 years old and studying in class 7. As a child, his legs were burnt and he could not walk due to his shortness. Social mobilizer Kalpana Nepali recommended from ward office and school coordinated with INF and sent to Kathmandu for operation.
- Lakshmi Budha is a 12-year-old, member of model child group of Panchapuri Municipality ward no. 8 Dulalathai. When she was child, her fingers of right hand were shriveled due to Japanese encephalitis. By coordinating with the INF, she was given physiotherapy, which has resulted in some improvement.

B) Life Skills training:

A three-day life skills training was conducted from 7 to 9 March 2022 in Bidhyapur ward number 7 of Panchpuri Municipality. A total of 20 children (7 Dalits and 13 others) participated in the training. After the training, the adolescents went to the group and worked out an action plan to discuss what they had learned. He said that life skills can be used to make life easier by choosing the best option as there are alternatives to the problems that come in life. The training participants have learned that they need to be successful in moving forward by struggling and there are many options in life. All the participants of the training have determined their life goals.

C) Orientation to community leaders:

There were 26 (3 Dalits, Janajati 1 and 22 others) participants including youths, teachers, members from consumer committees, representatives from political parties and health workers. Orientation also focused on criminalization of GBV cases as per law on May 27, 2022. Criminal cases were reported to Area Police Office of Panchapuri Municipality. Area Police Office registered 134 cases during the reporting period for legal process. Representatives of CBOs facilitated to register the cases in Area Police Office. Social mobilizers from the project team also supported for

registration of cases. Social mobilizers are also involved and responsible to monitor and provide necessary support for GBV cases at local level to access justice.

D) Self Defense training for girls:

Twenty-five adolescents from nine groups of the community had the opportunity to participate in a five-day self-defense training at KC Hotel January 25 to 29, 2023 in Babiyachaur, Ward No. 5 of Panchpuri Municipality. Through the training, the adolescents learned how to protect themselves in the face of sexual abuse, violence and assault. Adolescents say that learning skills could help to overcome fear and increase their self-confidence. "We are very happy to attend these five days training. This is very crucial and really important for us because we are living in Panchapuri ward no. 7, which is a very rural and insecure area. We've learned how to stay safe at home, in crowds, at school, in the community, at night and how to defend ourselves. We used to be very afraid of the incident, but now we believe that we can keep ourselves safe. I thank the organizing team for providing this opportunity, and here we are committed to transfer this learning, knowledge, and skills to our group members, tole members, school friends, and community - Nirmala Sunar, participant, and members of the Ward Child Protection Committee.

E) Health camps for uterine prolapsed screening and STIs cases:

519 women and girls received services from the camps. 36 ring pessary, 1 cervical problem, 4 fistula and 100 STIs were treated. Remaining 378 women and girls received services for other reproductive health. Free medicines were provided during the camps.

F) Training on entrepreneurship for targeted women including youths:

Three days (4 event) entrepreneurship trainings were organized for 54 women and 26 youths. Participants were trained on business registration process, benefits of registration, identification of micro entrepreneurs' agencies, and risk / mitigation measures of running enterprises. They were also trained on local resources, market demand, interest of entrepreneur and legal provisions related to enterprises.

G) Skills Training:

- Nine people operating retail and snack shops, 18 people starting goat farming, 12 people operating boilers and local poultry farming, 4 people operating sewing and cutting shops, 3 people starting vegetable farming business, 3 people started pig farming business and 1 person starting electronic shops. A total of 50 women group members have started businesses after the skill development training. While running the business, the organization has looked for the loan amount and did more investment and 94 percent are running the business well.
- Five agricultural groups of women engaged in agricultural business have been registered. The work of registering 5 animal husbandry groups of the businessmen who rear animals has also been completed. After the registration of the group, the members who are involved in earning have started monthly meeting and accumulating savings. The Agricultural Development and Livestock services sub-branch has provided additional training and seeds to women entrepreneurs.

Monitoring the business of women entrepreneurs and providing suggestions for further improvement has done by the branch.

- The female goat farming participants started with 2 or 3 goats, but now they have increased 7 or 8 goats. The chicken farming participants have been able to raise 6-7 chickens and sell them. Profit is 25000 to 30000 per lot has been earned. As the business women started earning profit, they started to continue the business. When women started earning money by business, their husbands and families also started treating them well and loving them.
- Savitri Tiruva of Panchapuri -11 currently it sold 15 to 20 kg daily boiler chicken. As a result, it is said that there are 700 to 800 profit per day.

H) Signature & Awareness Campaigns:

In the community, women, children and youth days (World environment day, International youth day, Teej festival, children's day, global action month, 16 days campaigning, march 8-Women day) are celebrated by groups in coordination with wards and municipalities. Daily programs to convey the message of reducing gender based violence in every ward have spread good public awareness. The target group has got the opportunity to organize programs and had shown talents.

I) Strengthen women and children Cell:

Women and children cell of Area Police Office is providing services in an equipped office. They were able to maintain confidentiality of survivors. Survivors are also open to share their issues in a comfortable office setting. Two female police are regularly available in Area Police Office. 14 (2 females and 12 male) police personnel were provided trainings on gender justice. Police were trained on sensitivity, maintaining confidentiality, legal provisions, reporting and registration of cases. They were also oriented about referral mechanism for necessary services for survivors.

J) Radio Program:

Monthly radio program 'Juneli's story' developed by children was continuing and broadcasted through community radio. Children of child clubs were actively involved in developing monthly episodes. 8 representatives of different child groups hold monthly meeting to write a story and record the same in radio. It encouraged and enhanced children's creativity. The issues of children in local election, Chhaupadi, human trafficking and child labor were covered during the reporting period. They motivated and encouraged other children to listen the program on a monthly basis to aware community people about children's issues. Child club members regularly received feedback on their program and incorporated the missing elements as per feedback to improve the programs.

K) Publication of IEC Materials:

The project has used 3 types of posters, 4 types of hoarding boards, leaflets, books, and radio jingles for the purpose of providing public awareness and discussion on issues related to GBV in the community. Which provided information about the effect, impact, process and agencies support of GBV case in the public.

L) Video documentary:

A short video on protection of girls and women on gender based violence was developed and produced as a sensitization tool. The program has been effective by showing the video before discussing it in the

community. The message was how to build a violence-free home has been conveyed the messages about how to build a violence-free home has been conveyed and keep the video on the mobile phones of the group members and shared among friends.

6.1.2 Preventing and Responding Early Child Marriage.

Project Partner: Girls First Fund (GFF)

Background

With the envision of which every girl has access to the information, services, resources, skills, and support necessary to decide when, if, and whom to marry so that she can live a healthy and equal life and have a brighter future, Aawaaj is implementing "Preventing and Responding Early Child Marriage Project" with the support of Girls First Fund. The project is implementing at Birendranagar Municipality ward number 2, Surkhet, Karnali Province Nepal. In the project area; there are 35 colonies and each colony has 40 to 100 HHs. Among 35 colonies, 20 are vulnerable as resident of Dalit, Migrant Families and Ethnic Community. Due to domestic violence, children do not want to stay at home, drop out from school, and get early marriage which increases sexual abuse and internal trafficking.

The main objective of the project is strengthen capacities of young girls to take leadership and end child marriage through educational, social and economic empowerment to vulnerable girls and their families, peers and survivors. To obtaining this objective project is implementing different capacity building, training, empowerment and IGA support events at the project area.

Progress Overview

A.1: District and province level

A.1.1: Conduct introduction sessions with municipality and ward level stakeholders. Project introduction, coordination and monitoring interaction program.

District level project induction program was conducted in coordination In Birendranagar municipality's hall. There were 50 participants from government, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, social development committee members, representatives of women/children, agriculture, health departments, district Police, community health workers, volunteers, political/social leaders, religious person, mother groups and community leaders participated in the program. Its main objective is to introduce of programs as well collection suggestion and commitments for furthers support and well coordination to run project in target area. Feedback and recommendations from the stakeholders has been noted and addressing if applicable in the planning of the project interventions. As the result mayor and deputy mayor committed to do full support to implements of project and provide service if needed of target areas. Among 50 participants ,25 male and 25 female, dalit 11 (male 1 female 10) and ethnicity 7 male 4, female 3)

A.2.1 Ward level meeting with ward representative; collaboration, coordination meeting will be held to make police, allocate budget and solidarity.

One event in ward level meeting organized with ward representative and stakeholders. Objectives of meetings are provide information about the project interventions, collaborative support from ward and ward committee shared information about their policies, budgets and programs planned by the Ward Office on the issue of children, against child marriage to make sensitive community towards the issue of

ECM. Similarly the project and other stakeholders also shared their programs and plans. There were 18 participants (Male- 13 , Female-5 , Dalit-3 , Janajati-3 , others- 12) participated from Ward committee, staff, school teachers, FCHV, social workers, health post, tole association, and local NGO's facilitators participated in the meeting. Participants expressed their commitment for coordination and facilitator of others organizations who work in ward on the issues of prevention and response of child marriage.

A.2.2 Make responsible and accountable for the ward child protection committee meeting; strengthen child protection committee.

In this reporting period two meetings of child protection committee in ward level has been organized. The meetings were mainly focused on sharing the issues & problems of children of the ward, and reformation of the structure of the ward child protection committee. The protection committee had reformed with the coordinator of ward chairperson with 9 members of committee. Among the 9 members 1 representative female from ward committee, one from schoolteacher, one female health worker, one of CSO working in the ward, one girl and one boy from child network, one from ward police station, one representative from toll development committee and the secretary of ward committee play the secretarial role of the child protection ward committee.

The decision made on the meeting is follows;

1. Providing emergency relief to 40 household that were destroyed due to floods and earthquakes
2. Planed of 16-day campaign against gender violence and organizing village-to-village orientation programs to prevent violence against children and child marriage.
3. Described on child marriage and birth registration of children process etc.

Output B: Build community level support mechanism and ownership on these issues.

B.1.1 Mobilize religious/cultural gatekeepers' Conduct interaction sessions with religious/cultural gatekeepers in ward. Still early marriage is accepting as the custom and culture in community so religious group can pay vital role to presentation ECM.

B.1.2 Meeting with women and mother groups in that community where formulate girls groups catchment area.

Mothers group meetings: Seven meeting of mother group has been conducted with the participants of 134 mothers (Janajati-6, Dalit-103, Others-25) from six mother group. Formed 2 new Falate and Janamilan mothers groups in Falate and Janamilan tole. In the meeting there was discussed and provide knowledge about how to maintain self-confidence, self-protection, role and behavior of the parents towards the children and importance of groups. There was reviewed and discussed about lesson learned by being the member of the group in one year and prepared plan for strengthening the group for further. The group members are agreed and planned for processing being members of cooperative and saving regularly.

Survivors group: six meetings of survivor group have been conducted with the participation of 66 members (Dalit-47 & Others-19). There was regularly discussion on maintaining self-confidence, self-protection and other incidents that could be happened in accidentally for the increasing purpose of their confidence. There was also reviewed and discussed about what has been learned by being the member of the group in one year and prepared plan how the group can be strengthened for further. From the meeting it has been concluded that all the members become a member of the cooperative and savings regularly at cooperative. Their husband behavior have changed, husband supported in

household work and in family reduce quarreling and fighting at home.

B.2: School Level Activities (Working with the school management, teacher association, parents committee for creating girl friendly environment, free pad distribution, early child marriage prevention and respond and support to girls groups to encourage doing different activities in school to submit others girls and also create girl friendly environment in school.)

B.2.1 Meeting with SMC/PTA

One meeting jointly meeting of School Management Committee and Teacher Parents Association has been conducted with the 14 participants (Janajati Female- 4, Janajati Male-2, Dalit Female-1, Others Female-2 & Others Male-5) after meetings the following decision had been done ;

- Their role and responsibility in SMC/PTA and realized to do regular meeting and try to solve the problem of school that are facing.
- They decided no one children and teacher to involve in election activities in community
- They find risk children who have no parents, live with relatives and explore for support to them.
- They regarding the payment of transportation allowance to be provided to the participants of this meeting will use to purchase soap, harp and brush for school cleaning.

With the support of the ward office, water boring have managed for drinking water in the school. Now enough water has been arranged in toilet , soap and water have also been arranged in the school toilet. There are separate toilets have been arranged for boys and girls and teachers. A suggestion box has been arranged for the complaints of the students and an information board has also been arranged.

B.2.2 Interaction, dialogue, discussion with school teachers and class teachers at the same school both female and male to support girls and empower them.

B.3: Empowerment girls

B.3.1 Intergenerational dialogue with parent and sister from same girls groups to create supportive environment in family and discuss why ECM happened and how we can stop it.

One events of Intergenerational dialogue with parent and sister as the same girls groups has been organized with the participation of 121 (Janajati F-4, Dalit F-92, Others F-25) parents and sisters with the objectives of creating supportive environment for girls in their family. It was discussion on how to make friendly environment in family. As the result of discussion parents were realized to provide time to children and listen sensitively their shrining problem and suggestion and they did commitment to educate son also to support house work not only girls , give attention to boys also what they are doing how side , visit school to follow up their children for regular school. Mother also sharing their experience what they are facing to do early marriage in their life where daughter can learn from mother's sharing experience.

B.3.2 Meeting girls groups , 11 to 13yrs and 14 to 18yrs

Group meetings; every month of 6 girls group organized meetings to discuss in different subject matters and sharing the problems that group members are facing. It was discussed about child

marriage, child right, sexual abuse exploitation, good touch and bad touch. Due to regular meetings they are able to report if parents are doing quarreling, fighting and beating. They also reminding to parents if they quarreling and fighting they report to police and Aawaaj. Groups themselves organized child day activities like candle lighting and collection of signature of ward child protection committee, community leaders and parents for the commitments and do not involve in child marriage function and not accept of child marriage as social acceptance . They actively engaged in school extra activities.

4 times joint meetings of groups have been organized with the participation of 100 girls. Main objectives of meetings to introduce of new social mobilizer, to discuss for playing Deusi Bhailo and making plan for orientation of reproductive health, how to use hygiene pad ,sex education and HIV /AIDS. As the result girls groups had introduced to each other and UNITED for doing joint activities. Sandhya b.k told that in her school life she never discussed and shared these types of issues with friends. They couldn't share openly because there is restriction in school, community and home also. They also said that it was happy moment when the boys and girls all together could read and discuss these issues in same class-room.

B.4: Working with same girls to build their leadership skills, education support - via CFS, scholarship, life skills, awareness on SRHR- safe, sex education , reproductive health, HIV\AIDS, child rights , early child marriage cause and consequences, impact on health awareness on laws, how to reporting, goal setting training

B.4.1 3 Days Life skills and self- defense, training for 4 group of girls/boys.

(a) **Self-defense training:** Two days of self-defense training was organized for the 22 girls and boys). The main objectives of training are to build self-confidence for self-protects, self –defense skills and knowledge. The training was also given to identify the incident of violence at community and to be aware of their rights and responsibility with legal knowledge. After the training they realized that the training will help to become physically and emotionally fit having the ability to defend and increase their self-esteem and confidence. During the training all participants expressed really it was great useful for them in life , one boy Haris b.k shared that before he thought only girls need to self-protect but he was wrong this training made realized to need self-defiance to boy also .

(b) **Life Skill Training:** 3 days life skills training has been organized for girls age between 14 to 18 years with the objectives of:

- Girls to self-evaluate themselves and the importance of their lives.
- Girls to find their strengths and weaknesses.
- To set your own goals and inspire them to be responsible for their goals.
- To teach the skill of changing negative thinking into positive thinking.

In the training 21 girls and boy of groups actively participated in the training for two days .During first day of training the participants set their goals for 5 years of their lives. After two days training, all the participants cried and said that they were on the wrong path and hurt their parents and wanted to improve. The training support them to choose and focused to translate the skills and good practices learned in the training and shared to their peers and families.

B.4.2 New 4 group formation - 2 girls group and 2 boys group and 25 children from each group.

Organized Group orientation and formed 4 new groups. One of Falate and Jana Milan Girls Group, Ram Nagar and jana Milan Boys Group. About to 97 members and their parents, FCHV and political leaders were participated in the meeting. Girls and Boys between the ages of 11 and 18 are in the group

member. Information was also given about the purpose of formation of the group, the services provided by the organization, the policy and code of conduct of the organization too.

B.4.2 Group organized extra activities together by 10 groups.

On the occasion of dignified menstruation day women and girls group jointly organized interaction about freedom kits and dignified menstruation with women and girls groups members. Total 100 were participated in program. With coordination and collaboration of CREATIVE INSTITUTE NEPAL (CIN), Lumbini Province it was distributing Freedom kit bag . 80 women and girls are also oriented on how to use kit bag and impact of sanitary pad. 80 girls and women benefitted from freedom kit and method of use. In the program ward chairperson, health post in charge and women and children branch chairperson were also present. The male participants said that they have not openly talked about menstruation in the family and they said that menstruation is a matter of shame and only for women, but now they understood menstruation is a social and family problem and shared domestic work during menstruation and manage pads for women and girls.

The boys and girls group of the working area decided to play deusi and Bailo in the occasion of Tihar with applying code of conduct. After the Deushi–Bhailo program they decided to organize exposure visit by managing cost collected through deusi-bhailo. They selected Tikapur Park, Karnali River and Bardia National Park outside the district for exposure. 30 girls, 20 boys and 5 parents has been travelled the places by enjoying the visit. The Social mobilizer Samjhana Sunar guided and facilitated the visit.

B.4.3 Interaction between organization and neighbors.

One event of interaction between Staff, board member and neighbors has been organized with the participation of 45 out of 41 female and 4 male. The main objectives of the interaction were; a) Providing information about the services provided by Aawaaj organization b) To raise awareness in the community against child marriage and gender violence and c) To provide information about human rights and women human rights defenders and to discuss their role for gender equality.

In the interaction meeting, the staff, Board Members and neighbor and neighbors were actively participated in the discussion and openly discussed shared their experienced incidents of gender based violence. They shared that they know about aawaaj from outside to saw the board but did not know actually what aawaaj is doing? Now they knew the working area and Aawaaj issues. Since today it became easier to come aawaaj and report if something happened in their community and also they said that to discuss in their toll about gender based valance. Committee

B.4.4 Working with boys (brothers of same girls or relatives) where they can break gender norms/ social norms such as workload, menstrual hygiene, mobility restriction and help to achieve gender equality of SDG goal -5 two groups each group 20 to 25 members in each group.

(a) Group meeting with boys group, 11 to 13 yrs and 14 to 18 yrs

In this year total 18 boys group meetings were conducted in total of 4 boys group under this project. Each month held meeting with them. There was discussed and provided knowledge about good touch and bad touch, to give information suicide prevention day celebration. There were also discussed feelings about children related to experience of SEE examination and future plan like; tuition for quality marks in next level. They requested for management of tuition fee from project side. Stationary and register for 6 groupshas been distributed for the group management. It was also discussed on how to support mother and sister for household work. The boys groups are sensitive to talk with girls in school and try to change their bad behavior while talking with girls.

B.4.5 Materials and Tuition fee support (50 girls and 100 boys):

As per demand form the girls group and boys group regarding the Materials and Tuition fee support to 10 girls and 1 boy has been supported for the educational support. After receiving the support they have able to study SEE chance examination and will plan to distribute rest boys and girls in next phase.

B.4.6 2 days Goal Setting training for 4 groups.

2 days Positive goal setting training organized for 21 adolescent girls and boys group members (Janajati girl-2, boy-1, Dalit girl-6, boy-6 and other girls-3, boy-3) participated in the training. The main objectives of the training were a) Girls to self-evaluate themselves and the importance of their lives. b) Girls to discover their strengths and weaknesses. c) To set your own goals and inspire them to be responsible for their goals and d) to learn the skill of changing negative thinking into positive thinking. Participants for the realization of importance of their lives, increase in knowledge on life skill, and its use in real life. Another objective of the training was developing the skill to change negative thinking into positive thinking of girls and boys. The training was facilitated by facilitator Uma Shankar Acharya. After the training they have committed to change themselves 100 percent positively. After the training all the participants of the training were told that they are able to say about way of plan and chain of success. During this program they planned their 5 years goals too.

B.4.7 Ward level school competitive programProgress Description:

As part of the 16-day campaign against Gender based violence, an Art competition was held among secondary schools level in Birendranagar Municipality on the occasion of the 4th International Menstruation Day. About 20 students (Girls- 8. & Boy-12) participated. This event was carried out in collaboration with the Kopila Valley Sewa Samaj and in coordination with the Ministry of Social Development. In this contest, the first prize was given about the amount of 10,000, 8,000 to the second and 5,000 to the third position respectively.

B.4.8 Working with families of same girls for income generation to sustain their livelihood first year 33 to identify most needed.

In this year 10 families were identify for IGA support. The process of identify selection by women groups, home visit for family assessment and completed to prepare their profile. It was provide 3 days entrepreneurs training to develop skills and knowledge for identify business with business plan. After providing training they abled to identify to do following business;

Goat rising 4, poultry farm 1, fruits selling 1, tailor 1, grocery selling 2, and fresh house 1.

Output C: Capacitate and Empowering Survivor

C.1: Meeting and series of discussion on Leadership skills, life skill awareness on SRHR sharing to others about early child marriage cause and consequences build up self-confidence, psychosocial problem, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, child right, legal provision, linkage and connect to social and economic activities in ward.

3 groups of Survivors had discussed and oriented on various topics in a series of monthly meetings. The topics discussed and oriented to groups are; Child rights, child marriage and its effects, services provided by child helpline 1098, birth registration, citizenship and marriage registration, importance of death registration, information about the importance of education, what is child labor, information about voter education, good touch And providing information, good governance, corruption, right to information, what are fundamental rights, sexual violence, domestic violence, importance of 16-day

campaign against sexual violence, psycho-social problems, causes, symptoms , Providing information on family planning , importance of family, health, reproductive health, sex education, chaupadi, proper menstruation and how to use safe pads, family planning.

C.2: Provide IGA and vocational training, for the better and sustain their livelihood

Regular follow up have been done previously IGA supported survivor women, total 45 women survivor were getting support, after follow up we found 80 % were doing very well and are role model for business. Those who were getting 2 goats now they have 5 to 8 goat within 8 months, those who got pig they earned NRS 30000 to 80000 thousand by selling pig meat. Who are doing daily business activities they are earning daily Nrs 500 to 1000. Each woman has done saving per month Rs. 500. Kamal sunar are doing grocery selling business within one year she abled to pay one lakh loan from the income of that business.

During this reporting period 20 new survivors identified, after recommended by group home visit have been done to see the family situations. It was provided enterprise training to explore local market, local resource and identified daily income business with making business plan.

C.3: Working with their bother, husband and family (brothers of same girls or relatives) where they can break gender norms/ social norms such as workload, menstrual hygiene, psychosocial issues, SGBV, Child right, reproductive health mobility restriction and help to achieve gender equality of SDG goal -5

One time discussion with husband and father in-laws was organized. Total 13 were participated. After discussion they realized their bad habit with wife and children. They realized to be responsible to make good family environment. The fathers of 3 girls were also discussed about why it is necessary to create a good environment in their family.

C.4: Legal, counseling and medical support as per the needed to those girls who are suffering from different problem and awareness on laws, how to reporting Pls see detail number in chapter 5

C.4.1 Legal counseling and process support:

C.4.2 Emergency Support, Safe house, Rescue and Reintegrate.

C.4.3 Home Visit of legal support and reintegrated survivors:

It had been following up those who were getting service of legal aid, counseling, and safe house. Follow up was doing to do home visit and phone follow. After follow up domestic violence case registered women withdraw case after pressure of family and relatives. During this period, 10 women who received legal services and family counseling services were visited and observed. The rehabilitations are done only after the family members come to the institution and take counseling services.

Output D: Mass awareness

D.1: Different days celebration (Teej, women's day, child day, 16 days)Progress Description:

a) Teej special program celebration:

b) Children's Day Celebration:

c) 16 Days campaign violence against women :

From November 25 to December 10, 2022; 16 days campaign has been organized with the cote of "Unite: Activities to end violence against women and girl". In the first day of the campaign interaction session with religious/cultural gatekeepers in ward 2, was conducted an interaction program between organization and neighbors on the occasion of Women's Human Rights Defenders Day. Also groups organized extra activities Homemade Pad distribution and orientation program.

d) World suicide prevention day:

Suicide Prevention Day has been celebrated in 18th Sep, 2022 due to the death of British Queen although the day was in 10th Sep, 2022. The day has been celebrated by organizing rally and group discussion has been carried out about suicide, causes, consequences, and coping skills. Also, on the occasion of National Children's Day, 2 girls from our group participated in the school-level debate program with the subject of Internet is a boon or curse for children organized by American corner. The girls did not get any position in the competition.

e) International Youth Day:

One event of international youth day has been celebrated in coordination with various youth groups in Birendranagar ward 1 and 2. Slogan was Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages. About 50 youth were participated in the program with Motivational success stories telling and brainstorming talks for youth by youth. The event organized by Aawaaj and AIDA- Nepal to collaboration the freedom fund, Birendranagar municipality, mid-west university.

Lesson Learned:

- If the government mechanism are strengthened, it will be easy to take action against child marriage and gender discrimination of community.
- It is easy to convince the group members with providing trainings and inputs support together which leads in support to obtain projects goal.
- It seems that it will be more effective if we can conduct various programs by activating the members of the community and the group.
- Regular meetings of all the groups formed by this project should be held at the specified time as per community's decision of the date, time and place of the meeting.
- Regular monitoring from group members is effective to monitor entrepreneurs' business and increase ownership of the groups and entrepreneurs both.
- Combine group (Boys and Girls) is effective and best platform for the discussion and raising awareness about sexual education, family planning, reproductive health.
- It observed that it is a safe plan and mitigation form risk of goat and pig husbandry if we could integrate insurance policies of goat and pigs in our project site.
- Education materials support vulnerable girls, creating regular attendance at school and improved in learning attitude of the girls.
- Linkages with livestock units of local government and insurance for the security from risk of death of pig and goats is necessary.

Best Practices:

- Palika and ward started discussion on child marriage in tole association and mobilize them to raise awareness on child marriage in community.
- Positive thinking development and goal setting training as well as self-defense training is very crucial and practical to learn which supported teenagers for setting their 5 years goal and increasing self-confidence.
- Extra curriculum activities like song and dance, drawing, speech competition and day ceremony create a positive vibe among community, school and households which supported to increase participation of community members, girls and boys for the raising awareness related to child marriage, GBV, SRHR, Chhaupadi, good and bad touch, child rights, human trafficking, cyber abuse etc.
- Boys, girls, and community started to inform cases of child marriage, GBV, abuse, discrimination, cyber abuse, domestic violence at police and Bal Helpline 1098 after providing the information regarding the Bal Helpline 1098, policies, provisions of Nepal government against these cases.
- Gate keepers, religious leader started to avoid child marriage in the community and review the citizenship card of the boy and girl before involving in marriage.
- Started combine group (Boys and Girls) meeting and discussion to raise awareness about sexual education, family planning, reproductive health, GBV, discrimination, SRHR, good and bad touch, Chhaupadi etc.
- Schools have started to organize meeting and response of complain after installing the complaint box in the school.

6.1.3 Strengthening Child Protection and Gender Based Violence Services in Karnali Province

Partner UNICEF Country Office

Project Area: Six districts of Karnali province

Achievements

- Total 1457 calls were received from child helpline. Where 811 were women, 405 were men, 114 were girls 127 were boys and 564 were missed call
- 825 women, adolescents, children and family including those victims and vulnerable population received early crisis counseling, psychological first aid, psycho-education, and pre-evacuation assistance psychosocial support
- 179 people were referred to social protection and livelihood scheme with coordination of Local Government
- 229-Women, adolescents, children and families including those victims and vulnerable population received psychosocial support
- 163 Health (85 were female,78 were male) CPSWs & Education Officials including frontline service providers (Police, OCMCs, shelters) trained on GBV risk mitigation, prevention, response including child marriage and mandatory reporting of violence against children ,
- 141- Women and adolescent were able to understand the issues of GBV, child marriage including legal provisions on child rights violation

- 6 adolescent's and 6 parents' groups formed in six districts. 742 adolescent and their parents are in the group members
- Social and Financial package (Rupantaran) training has started for adolescents and their parents.
- Total 254 participants were participated and gained knowledge and skills on intergenerational issues such as gender roles, patriarchy, power relations, child marriage and other related harmful social norms.
- 134 Ward secretaries were participated on CRVS orientation and increased knowledge and skills on CRVS system
- 310 children were identified by CPSW at six districts- 158 boys and 152 girls
- 1469 participants were participated in birth registration campaign
- 21 children identified as without parental care
- 336 children's and women received rescue and emergency support. Whereas, 38 children received education support, 7 children and women received rescue and referral services, 171 children and women received shelter with food and accommodation services, 35 children & women received legal counseling and 15 women received IGA support

Challenges:

- Men of some communities have been telling the social mobilizer that women have more rights and have exercise more rights.
- When there is an incident of rape or sexual abuse from the community, the problem goes to the district for legal process for justice and the police arrest the person who commits violence in the community. After that, the social mobilizer in the field are threatened by the supporter of arrested person and said that it's because of the social mobilizer.
- Even though men are informed to participate in the different day's celebration in the community, men do not participate in the program because they think gender is a subject related to women.
- When women and children are at risk of violence they go to the office of the ward and municipality to seek services, the people's representatives do not take responsibility, rather they want Aawaaj to help solve the problem.
- When there are sexual violence incidents, some people try to bribe with money so that they should not tell anyone outside.
- CPSWs left the job during the implementation of planned activities affected for the implementation of program smoothly
- Due to the merging of bank, new vendor created in UNICEF system therefore, it was also affected to release fund in timely therefore, Implementation of the programme delayed
- High expectation of beneficiaries

6.1.4 Sankalpa Project

1. **Project Title:** “SANKALPA - Empowering Stakeholders, Raising Awareness and Protecting Children from Early and Forced Marriage in (Karnali and Lumbini province) Nepal”
2. **Project Area:** Dullu municipality Dailekh and Badhaiyataal Rural Municipality Bardiya
3. **Project Partner:** ECPAT Luxembourg
4. **Project Goal:** To reduce the incidences of Early and Forced Marriage in rural and marginalized communities in Dailkeh and Bardiya district (Karnali and Lumbini province) Nepal.
5. **Objective of the Project :**
 - i) Evidences of key stakeholders taking initiations to actively address early and forced marriage in project area.
 - ii) Public and private sector duty-bearers develop improved mechanism / policies for the prevention of early and forced marriage and introduce services that benefit married girls
 - iii) Project beneficiaries benefit from support of competent front line workers
 - iv) Number/cases of possible early and forced marriage halted and beneficiaries reintegrated

6. Achievements

- i. In project area there is mandatory to obtain age verification certificate and pre-consent letter to conduct marriage ceremony. The 3 ward nos. 1, 4 and 5 of Bardiya district, where the project is currently running, has made it mandatory to obtain these documents. Marriages are not registered in the absence of these documents.
- ii. Verifying the age of groom and bride by religious leaders. And in case they are minors or either one is a minor, the cases are reported to the project and the local police.
- iii. Even the community people have started inquiring about the age of the groom and bride before attending a wedding.
- iv. A member of a survivors’ group in Dailekh registered a case of child marriage in the district police office, Dailekh on behalf of the victim.
- v. The community-based groups are actively engaged in raising awareness against EFM as well as monitoring and reporting the EFM cases.
- vi. The children of CFS have started to claim their rights with the ward offices and teachers for education materials and CFS management. Furthermore, they are attending school regularly and are participating in extra-curricular activities reflecting their increasing self - esteem and confidence. They have more understanding on EFM, gender discrimination,

domestic violence and sexual abuse. They are even winning community level competitions held by the project in collaboration with the local government and organizations.

- vii. During this reporting period total 296 cases were reported; child marriage 44, Rape/attempt to rape 3, domestic violence 103, psychosocial problem 17, polygamy 7, children with food insecurity 7, and missing children 3 to Aawaaj Dailekh and Bardiya; where rescued to 54 cases, provide psychosocial counseling to 165 people person, family counseling to 99 family, mediation services to 51 cases, Emergency support to 37, legal counseling to 86 children and women and legal process assistance to 33 persons and reintegrate to 55 cases.

7. Key lessons learnt.

1. Need peer counseling to high risk of child marriage and survivors of ECM to reduce ECM.
2. We need more focus to children, child can't express/share own problem than young people.
3. Need to give roles to youth groups to mobilize other groups; brother groups and child club. Within groups they can share own experiences, learning and challenges. Also, youth groups can be motivated more.
4. Need to cover the media to progress of the project to motivate to the change makers.
5. Need to conduct activity as per local people time and situation.
6. Impact of conducted activities of community people's/change makers is more strong than Aawaaj staffs.

6.1.5 Combating Against Child Marriage Project in Karnali province

Project Area: 10 District of Karnali Province

Project Partner: Fastenaktion

Objective of the Project :

- v) Capacity of alliance and its 80 members are strengthened so they have successfully conducted 200 number of advocacy campaigns against child marriage until 2024.
- vi) Karnali's provincial government and 15 local governments policy and strategic plans and allocated at least 500000 amount in their budgets on work against child marriage.

Achievements

- i. Conducted 10 orientation program on project, child marriage and alliance to district alliance members total 115 are benefited
- ii. Province alliance members and secret rate staff total 21 are benefited from capacity building training on lobby and advocacy training.
- iii. CACMA is gradually known in Karnali province as local strong networks specially works on child marriage issue, which is fighting against child marriage. CACMA has been inviting in program of province governments; ministry of social development, province police, National Child Rights council, Palika, local partner agencies and CBOs.
- iv. 10 district alliance are formed. Total 105 NGOs/CBOs are members of campaign against child marriage alliance.
- v. Our member organization organized 55 events (Sensitization program in community, legal orientation, dialogue with duty bearers, coordination meetings, community base group mobilize) to address ECM in own contribution.
- vi. First time governments of Karnali province mentioned to child marriage issues in annual plan red book and allocated budget.
- vii. Dullu municipality developed a 5-year strategic plan to eradicate ECM.
- viii. Karnali province governments have draft of strategic plan. Ministry of social development, Karnali province is taking initiation to develop provincial strategic plan to end ECM and Campaign Against Child Marriage Alliance collaborated with ministry of social development, Karnali province to conducted first workshop in order to collect information, ideas and community base issues of child marriage, which was supportive to develop draft

provincial strategy plan to end ECM of Karnali. Ministry of social development contributed Nrs. 350000 NRs in strategy development process.

- ix. Sarada municipality 300000, Kapurkot rural municipality 1500000, Birendranagar municipality allocated 150000 and Tribeni rural municipality 540,000 allocate the budget.
- x. Province alliance got support from ministry of social development to developed IEC materials 240,000 NRs and strategy plan of Dullu and Karnali province, video compilation and days celebration.
- xi. CACMA Kalikot get support by Save the children NRs 100000 to conduct joint meeting with municipality at Kalikot.

Lesson Learnt

- Could be reduced conflict of interest by using Campaign Against Child Marriage Alliance's logo instead of member organization logo.
- Need to make involvement of two persons from one organization in alliance.
- In order to close coordination and collaboration with stakeholders we need to make more focus on alliance visibility.
- Local person can play more vital role in alliance activities.
- Regular meetings with alliance member would be more supportive.
- Helping hands and supportive partners/persons are in our society, we should explore and coordinate to find out.
- Alliance should be more focus on advocacy campaign and enhance capacity of alliance members.
- Need organized action plan as per convenient time of stakeholders'/communities' people for proper implementation.
- Need regular field visit/monitoring secretariat staff to make active alliance and get report in time.
- Close collaboration and coordination with government authority could be more supportive to sustainability, and co-work on the issue.
- Make sure of all project activities are conducting as per project guideline.

8. Success Stories

Story One: Thankful the survivors' group and the Aawaaj for empowering me

Sarala Khatri is a popular name of Dailekh, Dullu municipality. She actively advocates against child marriages and Violence Against Women (VAW) in her community. She is the President of the Duleshwor survivors' group, whose slogan on the wall went viral. She got married when she was 16 years old to a 25-year-old man. At that time, she was studying in the 10th grade and thought that she would continue her education after marriage. Little did she know that child marriage was illegal and what it entailed. Nobody told her about it. She dropped out from school after her marriage as she got busy with the household chores. She gave birth to a child after a year of marriage. Gradually, her husband started beating her and her inlaws started abusing her. She was accused of being a witch and having evil intentions to destroy the family. The family started disliking her. At times, she did not get to eat properly and for 2 years, she lived in misery. One day, she was kicked out of the house. She went to the forest to commit suicide. Luckily, her neighbour found and rescued her. Sarala told her that her own parents had not yet accepted her marriage with her abusive husband, so she had nowhere to go. Sarala's parents were disappointed to know about her situation, through her neighbour and they wholeheartedly accepted their daughter back into their lives. After sometime, her mother passed away and she alone had to look after her father who was old and her son who got sick often. These circumstances including the hatred from the society and weak financial conditions led to mental problems in Sarala. She had to deal with many problems at a young age. One day, she attended a meeting of the EFM survivor's group in her village. She showed interest to join the group and was willing to spread awareness against child marriage so that no other girl/adolescent would have to go through the pains as she did. Once she joined the group, she got to participate in various trainings and received counselling support as needed. She soon became the President of Duleshwor survivors' group with the support from the group members. She actively engaged in advocating against child marriages and for the rights of women. Now Sarala has become the voice of the voiceless. She also coordinates with the ward office, Nepal police and local organizations to conduct programs against child marriages and domestic violence in schools and in her community. She is actively involved in rescuing victims of child marriages along with the related authorities. In one instance of child marriage, she did not receive enough support from the ward office, Nepal police or the judicial committee. So, she herself registered the case with the district police office. She received many threats and accusations, but she did not withdraw the case. She remarks, "I vividly remember the pain I went through after marrying at a young age. So, I will do whatever it takes to help the girls/adolescents, to prevent them from getting married early and to complete their education for their bright future. I would like to thank the survivors' group and the Aawaaj for empowering me. Since my neighbor saved me when I was suffering, I now have the responsibility to save the lives of hundreds of girls in my community."

Story 2: Sita is feeling better and happy

Sita (Changed name), a girl, 15 years old, student of class 10, belongs to lower class family. There are 5 members in her family. Her father is mentally retarded from long time as well as her mother is suffering from uterus prolapse. Also her younger sister has been suffering from kidney problem. Her family economy is based on small street fruit shop. But that income is not enough for the check up and for household provision too.

Due to lack of money she had not separate copy for separate subjects, she had been using one copy for all subject. Her school dress is so old, she had been wearing the same dress from grade seven. She had been going to school without school bag and shoes. She couldn't able to concentrate on teachers' session at school. She used to stay alone without speaking with her friends at school.

Aawaaj has been giving them the counseling service, and provided them psychological education about uterus problem and recommend her for the further medical services in P.O.P. screen camp, and Physical therapy was also provided by Aawaaj. Furthermore, Aawaaj has provided the scholarship to Sita for her studies too.

Now, Sita is feeling better and happy. She started to wear new school dress. She goes to school with new bag and separate copies for separate subjects. Nowadays, she is saying that she and her family is not alone, there is Aawaaj for them to know and support them. In the beginning, she was so shy to talk and have breakfast with us but nowadays she can join us in breakfast and freely she can share her feeling.

Story 3: Anything is possible

Sandhya's family has enacted the idea that sons and daughters should be equal. Sandhya is currently studying in class 10, she is 15 years old and has 1 brother and mother, and it has been 5 years since her dad left home after his second marriage. They are waiting for the father to come. Her mother used to work as a wage laborer to educate her son and daughter, but on day when she did not work, she used to sew clothes at home and cover the household expenses.

Sandhya's family also came within the working area of this project. Facilitators of the organization used to create separate groups of girls and boys and let them discuss the topics they were interested in. In the beginning, Sandhya did attend the meetings regularly, but her mother did not think it was good for her daughter to go out like this. Due to which they started to become irregular.

As Sandhya was busy with household chores and did not attend the meetings, the facilitator explained to her and her family about the importance of the group. They did not send their daughters due to fear of insecurity because there was no father at home. The organization conducted training on self-defense, child rights, protection issues, sexual and reproductive health and useful life skills development in every teenage group meeting and also discussed the topics of their interest.

In the group meeting, she started openly discussing her changes. After that, Sandhya's mother and brother also joined the group formed by Aawaaj and realized that each other's supporting role is necessary. When Sandhya was studying in class 9, she got more encouragement to study after she

received school house dress, bag, cup and pen from Aawaaj and she went to class 10 with good marks in class 9.

Along with studies, in extracurricular activities as well, in group meetings, she learned that one should not get married before the age of 20, and learn that there should be no discrimination between sons and daughters. She would also go to the meetings and teach the learned things at home. The family of three became hardworking and friendly. After telling her that interlock machine was necessary as she only had a sewing machine in her house, Aawaaj bought an interlock machine to facilitate income generation.

When the number of people sewing clothes started increasing, Sandhya's brother started helping her with the housework, and started using one of the rooms in the house for sewing clothes. Sandhya's brother used to work in a garage shop in the market, when there was no cloth season.

Sandhya's mother Virma Kumari said when she met us, "I want my son and daughter to be good people, my husband didn't come back, my relatives used to say what are you waiting for after getting married, but I didn't think it was right to get married. I bought a sewing machine, otherwise, people who say that women can't do anything are shocked when they see that I manage my expenses with my own efforts and my sons and daughters are also studying well.

Story 4: **"Aawaaj did an essential work for my daughter, we are grateful."**

Rinu Tarami is now 15 years old. Rinu has a family of 5 living in Birendranagar Municipality Ward No. 2 Sagarmatha Tole. Her Father works as a mason, mother works at home and also runs a retail shop. Her brother is only 8 years old and her mother also helps her in the housework, so with the help of Aawaaj, she has also reared 3 goats. When Rinu was studying in class 9, she met with Sapana who was studying in class 7 in the same school whose behavior and personality was like of the boy. Because of this, the family did not allow Rinu to associate with Sapna. They started to talk when there was no one around them. All of them started discussing about them because of this behavior of others, she thought like a man and sapana named herself Raja.

One day they ran away from home and went to Nepalganj to stay with their relatives. With the help of police and 1098 Child Helpline Surkhet, she was rescued from Nepalganj after 5 days and after a week of counseling, Rinu went to her family but Sapna did not feel comfortable going to that society and after 1 month she went with her mother.

Now Rinu is studying in class 10th but in the family, her father drinks alcohol and talks indiscriminately, often talks about her relationship with Sapna and beats her if she says anything. So the psychiatrist has been providing continuous family counseling services to Rinu and her family.

Rinu took the help of the child helpline service when she was fed up with some of the family. Rinu, who has learned various skill development trainings and positive thinking skills, aims to become a nurse and also participates in extracurricular activities at school, and is busy preparing for SEE.

Aawaaj counselor discussed Rinu's studies and her future with her father and mother as per the need. Now their family is happy.

During the consultation, Rinu's father said, "I am very worried about my daughter's future. When I hear about the incidents that has happened to women and girls in the society, I don't want to leave the children even for a moment, but what can I do without earning enough to eat. Even at work, I like to call her two or three times a day, but to my daughter I am not able to explain my point. The Aawaaj did a significant job, thank you very much."

Story 5: **My Happiness**

Sita B.K (changed name) is living at Bheri municipality ward no 1, Rawat Gaun at Jajarkot district. She was born in 2038 BS. She has a father named Dumber Bahadur Sarki and mother Suntali Sarki at Surkhet district. Sita is now 41 years old. She is the eldest daughter of the family. Sita was straightforward. Her childhood had spent very happily. In the year 2063, Dal Bahadur Vishwakarma, a resident of Bheri Municipality 1, Rawat Village, Jajarkot District, met and fell in love with her and got married. Time passed and after about 3 years of marriage, she became pregnant and gave birth to a daughter who was her first child. She was very happy with her marital life. When she gave birth to a second daughter, her happiness faded away. The reason was that from the day her daughter was born, she started howling a lot. Sita told that "the society, which does not see a daughter as a child, makes difficult for mother role and also as a housewife."



She got married due to the family's economic condition. After marriage her husband and family member gave her a lot of torture and was beaten due to giving birth to a daughter. Sita became pregnant for the third time and gave birth to a son, after which the radiance of her face changed. As if the lost thing had been found, the burden of pain that was being experienced lastly began to bring happiness in her life. Her husband also started to love her more and more that the wounds of pain in her heart were drying up. The financial condition of the house was not good. A family member of 10 to 12, with no land except a small house with 4 rooms was a situation where it was impossible to wake up in the morning without any daily wages. Sita's family went to India to earn money and fulfill their family basic needs. Their family lived there by doing daily wages. Later she told that her family was very happy, but that happiness did not last for long.

Sita lose her vision power of both eyes in 2076 and was totally blind. The children were small and husband used to work for others. She takes care of little children. There was no such thing as strange place, strange people, support and help even though three years passed like that. Life went on regardless of the pain and happiness. One day in the month of Shravan in the year 2079, her husband suddenly fell ill so he was taken to the hospital for treatment but he couldn't be saved during the treatment.

After her husband death, she was very sad and was in heavy pain. Those happy moments that were shared, even though they were little, were scattered like pieces, and the bright days turned into dark nights.

After returning from India to Nepal Sita went to the ward office to get a single woman's identity card but she faced many obstacles. Sometimes some documents were not received and sometimes they were returned as nothing was received. Even after 2-3 months later, her identity card couldn't be made due to confusion as to which one would make disability card or single woman. During this confusion, when the CPSW (Community Psychosocial Counseling Center) visit Sita's community, at the same time she shared her all obstacle and experiences of her life. During that time Sita was fighting with mental and physical stress. Sita received emotional sympathy as well as psychosocial first aid services. She said that her heart was lightened and taught her a basis for living. She told that "I am so happy for getting a single women card and connect on to get social security allowance for a single woman. She thanked for the coordination and cooperation of the ward president and ward secretary who has helped her to have her own self-identity .

Media Coverage

दैलेखको दुल्लुमा बालविवाहविरुद्ध वाकाथन



दैलेखको दुल्लुमा बालविवाहविरुद्धको वाकाथन । ● हिक्मतवहादुर नेपाली

दैलेख (अन्नपूर्ण) : दैलेखको दुल्लु नगरपालिकाले बालविवाहविरुद्ध वाकाथन (पैदल म्याराथन) आयोजना गरेको छ। दुल्लु नगरपालिका, बालविवाहविरुद्ध सभा अभियानसँगको समन्वयमा आजवा संस्थाले वाकाथन आयोजना गरेको हो। दुल्लुस्थित द्रोणाचल क्याम्पसदेखि भएरै तीन किलोमिटरको वाकाथनमा २४ पुरुष र ६ महिला गरि ३० जना सहभागी थिए। वाकाथनमा पुरवर्तर्फ सन्धिप

भण्डारी, भरतप्रसाद लम्साल, टीकाराम खनाल क्रमशः प्रथम दोस्रो र तेस्रो भए। यस्तै महिलातर्फ कमलाकुमारी रावत, भगवती खड्का र पुष्पिमा चोलागाई क्रमशः प्रथम, दोस्रो र तेस्रो भएका थिए। दुल्लु नगरपालिकाका नगर प्रमुख भरतप्रसाद रिजालले वाकाथनका विजेतालाई मेडल र प्रमाणपत्र प्रदान गर्दै बालविवाह अन्त्य गर्ने अभियानमा ऐक्यबद्धता जनाउने सबैलाई धन्यवाद दिएका थिए।



उमेर पुगेर विवाह गर्ने १० हजार नगद पाउ



मानबहादुर विश्वकर्मा हिटा कास्कीकोट, १ कास्की

१० हजार नगद विने निर्णय बढाउने गरेको बताउनुभयो ।

कानिक्टको खाँडाचक नगरपालिका-१ मा शनिवार दिउँवा सभामाकाे माहलामे उमेर पुगेर विवाह गरेका बच्चा सभैकोरहे १० हजार नगद दिने भएको छ । आर्थिक रूप २०७९/८० मा कानिक्टमा न्युनीकरण गर्ने बढाउने गरी निर्णय गरेको हो । बालविवाह विरुद्धको सामाजिक अभियान अन्तर्गत, खाँडाचक नगरपालिकाका उपप्रमुख मणिबहादुर शाहीको प्रमुख अतिथ्यतामा भएको एक कार्यक्रममा बडाअध्यक्ष उमरराज तामाकारले अन्तिम समुदायका उमेर पुगेर विवाह गर्ने महिलालाई

खाँडाचक नगरपालिकाका जनप्रतिनिधिहरूसँग बालविवाह न्युनीकरणका लागि गरिएको अन्तरांगीय कार्यक्रममा नगरपालिकाकाले विभिन्न वित्तियन वित्तियन बालविवाह न्युनीकरण गर्ने निष्कासन गरी १० हजार नगद दिने निर्णय गरिने भएको छ । उमेर पुगेर विवाह गर्ने बालबच्चाको विरुद्ध कानिक्टमा न्युनीकरण गर्ने निर्णय गरिने भएको छ ।

छायानाथ सारा नगरपालिकालाई बालविवाहमुक्त बनाईदैं

० १८ पुष २०७९, सोमबार १६:२७ मा प्रकाशित 28 views

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बालविवाहका कारण वैवाहिक जीवन दिगो नहुने, परिपक्व नभई सन्तान जन्माउदा स्वास्थ्यसम्बन्धी गम्भीर समस्या देखिने, मातृ तथा बाल मृत्यु, लैंगिक हिंसा, यौनजन्य हिंसा, बालश्रम, बेचबिचनसस्ता हिंसाबाट बालबालिका पीडित छन् ।

बालिका बलान्कार आरोपीमाथि कारवाहीको माग

बालविवाह रोक्न ध्यानाकर्षण

बालविवाह रोक्न ध्यानाकर्षण

बालविवाह रोक्न ध्यानाकर्षण



सन्त हमाल /पौष १६, मुगु । मुगु । सोमबार बालविवाह विरुद्धको साझा अभियान सञ्चालन मुगुको सहयोगी पत्रकार महासंघ शाखा मुगुको समन्वय, जनसमुदाय सेवाकेन्द्र र कर्णाली ग्रामीण उत्थान तथा समाज विकास केन्द्र मुगुको आयोजनामा बालविवाह न्युनीकरणका लागि स्थानीय सरकारको भूमिका विषयक पत्रकार सम्मेलनमा नगरप्रमुख तिष्णकुमार भामले पत्रकारहरूले सोधेका प्रश्नहरूको जवाफ दिँदै नगरपालिकाले आफ्नो क्षेत्रमा बालविवाह अन्त्यका लागि रणनीतिक योजना बनाउने बताएका छन् ।

कार्यक्रममा नगरप्रमुख भामले नगरमा रहेका सबै वडामा आगामी दिनहरूमा नगरपालिकाले बालविवाह अन्त्यका लागि योजना बनाई कार्यक्रम काडाइका साथ लागू गर्ने बताए । उनका अनुसार बालविवाह न्युनीकरण गर्ने रणनीतिक योजना बनाउँदा बालविवाहसँग जानकारी दिइने विज्ञाहरु, गैसस, पत्रकार र नागरिक समाजका प्रतिनिधिसहितको मसौदा समिति बनाइनेछ । रणनीतिक योजनामा कार्यक्रम लागत, लक्ष्य, उपलब्धी, स्रोतको सुनिश्चता, जिम्मेवार तिकाय, जिम्मेवार व्यक्ति, सूचकहरु समेटिने छन् ।