

# OUR STORIES

(Collection of stories from Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction project implementation area)





## WORLD VISION IN NEPAL

World Vision is a child focused relief, development and advocacy organisation that has contributed to transformation in the lives of millions of children around the world in vulnerable situations. We put the children and community at the center of choosing what is appropriate for them. As one of the world's leading child focused organisation, we understand that children are particularly vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and coercion. We support to change a child's life over time by partnering with their family and community to address the causes of children's vulnerability and poverty.

World Vision International Nepal (WVI Nepal) is a part of the World Vision International global partnership operating in more than 100 countries. World Vision started its long-term development programme in Nepal since 2001 to contribute for well-being of children. At present, WVI Nepal has long-term development programmes in Morang, Sunsari, Udayapur, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Rautahat, Sindhuli, Kathmandu, Lamjung, Jumla, Kailali, Achham, Doti and Bajhang across six provinces of Nepal.

# COMMUNITY/SCHOOL/WARD LEVEL

## DOTI

### 1. Wish Came True: Small Scale Mitigation Scheme in Saltada

Jagu Devi Nayak, 65, is a widow residing in Saltada Community of Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality 3 in Doti. She remembers her difficulties in the past to fetch water from the Sayali Gaad River. "I had to wake up in the early morning and walk for half an hour to fill a pot with drinking water. But even worse, the 'drinking water' was contaminated during the monsoon," Mrs Devi explains. Water borne diseases were common for her and neighbouring families. Diarrhoea, dysentery and skin allergies were not unusual for all the residents of the village. The community hoped for help from the government, but their voices remained unheard.

Years passed and their problem remained the same. In 1999 an INGO launched a project in Saltada to ensure easy accessibility to drinking water. The villagers contributed by carrying materials such as stones and sand from the river to construct what was required for the drinking water project. However, by 2013 the reservoir tank started leaking, and the 28 families once again lacked water. Again the residents called on the government authorities to solve their problem.

### Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan Remembered

Then Mr Chakra Maajhi, Ward Chairman of Dipayal Silgadhi Ward No. 3 stepped in. Being well versed in the drinking water problem of Saltada community, he wanted to reconstruct the earlier water scheme. Unfortunately, there was no budget for this. Then he remembered the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) formulated the previous year with technical assistance from CDC Doti and financial help from World Vision International Nepal. Mr Maajhi consulted the plan and found that the ideal location and hazards related to a water scheme were identified in the LDCRP.

He instantly contacted NDRR Doti, who responded positively and assured him they would implement a small scale mitigation scheme in the community to construct a drinking water tap. The people of Saltada community were very happy to hear such positive news, particularly during the COVID pandemic situation.

### Inaccessible Taps

When investigated it was found the existing tap in the village was in a bad condition. The taps were broken by the children and the washout of the tank was directly used as the water outlet. After this inspection by the CDC technician and authorities the project put into operation a plan to mitigate these and other problems. Firstly, the location site was identified with input from the residents. At that time the main problem was with the leaking reservoir and that the tap was not easily accessible. The path to the tap was slippery. Because the tap had no proper valve it meant it was on all the time. For children, the path to the tap was extremely tricky.

## No More Water Shortages or Slippery Access Path

The experts and the authorities of NDRR Doti brought a stainless steel tank with a 2,000 litre capacity for water collection from the source. An appropriate site was selected for construction with mutual consent of all stakeholders. The local residents enthusiastically participated in the construction. A total budget of NRs129,072 was allocated for the construction of the water scheme from the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project, Doti.

A child friendly tap was constructed for easy accessibility by children. The path to the tap is paved with stones to enhance easy access to elderly people and children. The water reservoir, outlet, and two taps including one child friendly tap have been constructed in this small scale mitigation scheme. The community will never face a drinking water shortage in the future!

“We were worried about the condition of the old water reservoir, it used to leak and wasn’t able to hold water as per its capacity. Although this problem was identified in our plan we were unable to repair it due to various reasons. Thanks must be given to CDC Doti and World Vision International Nepal for providing remarkable support in the construction of this water scheme,” beams Chairperson Maajhi. “Twenty-eight households have benefitted and are very happy to have accessible safe drinking water,” he concludes.



Figure 1: People benefitted by the newly constructed drinking water scheme of Saltada, Doti.

## KAILALI

### 2. I Got Employment after the VCA Training

“My name is Sapana B.K. and I live in Ghodaghodi Municipality Ward No. 1, Pipaldanda. I have grown up in an average family and studied up to Grade 12 at school. School has been my only opportunity since there was no other training workshops or organisations holding youth participation meetings here. I had not even heard about disaster risk reduction until recently. However, I always had a desire to work for social issues in the community. In 2019 World Vision International Nepal, in partnership with Conscious Society for Social Development, started the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project here. I then got an opportunity to participate in Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment training for the preparation of a Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan for my Ward.

## Gaining Knowledge and Skills

I participated in the training and gained information, knowledge and skills on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. I learned the various tools and steps to take to carry out a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment at the community level. I also learned how to gather disaster related historical and current information.



During this three-day training, I have learnt more on the planning process as well. In the beginning, I was too shy to even introduce myself due to a fear of public speaking. Later, after the training, I found myself more confident to speak and facilitate in a group. I have facilitated discussions and other sessions in the community after completing the training. I have also participated in the planning process meeting, and advocated for the prioritization of disaster risk reduction related activities. I also regularly participate in different meetings in the Ward and my community.

## Prime Minister Employment Programme

Later when the Prime Minister Employment Programme started in Ghodaghodi Municipality, I applied and I got an opportunity of a job in this project and I have been engaging in the project since. I still think that if I did not get the opportunity earlier to participate in the VCA training, I may not have developed my speaking, facilitation and report writing skills. Then I would not have been selected for this programme. So would like to thank World Vision and CSSD for that opportunity.”

Reported by: Mina Kumari Chaudhari, SM, CSSD-Kailali.

## MORANG

### 3. Averting Disaster in School

“We had to close the school during the monsoon season as the rain directly entered the classroom distracting the students as well teachers. So we had to close the classes on rainy days. Also, the students faced difficulties during the sunny days and there were incidents where students fainted due to excessive heat. There was dire need of a repairman as well as total renovation of the school roof. But the schools lacked the budget for that,” explains Mr Sardar.

## Lack of Safe Roof Hampers Students Learning

“Our school is located at the centre of Gramthan RM Ward No. 4, and currently has 226 students mostly from the Tharu and Sardar communities,” says Rikesh Sardar, Chairperson of the School Management Committee (SMC). Mahendra School currently has classes up to 10th Grade but the school lacked the safe, basic structure needed for student to continue their education safely. The roof of the school was made up of CGI sheets which were old, rusted with time, as well as being full of holes.

## I Feel Safe to Attend Class Now

In the meanwhile, Nari Bikash Sangh in partnership with World Vision International Nepal has been implementing the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project in Gramthan RM Ward 4. As part of the project, LDCRP of the Ward have been prepared which highlighted the need for repair and maintenance of the school roof. As part of the mitigation scheme as mentioned in the LDCRP, repairmen were hired and the CGI sheets were changed.



*Figure 2 : CGI sheets supported to as a part of the mitigation work identified from the prepared LDCRP of the particular ward at Mahendra school Gramthan, Morang*

A student from Grade 6, Avinash Choudhary, tells us, “Previously I was afraid to attend class during the rainy season because my clothes and bag used to get wet, but now I feel safe to attend my class and my stuff doesn’t get wet now!” The repair and maintenance of the roof was completed prior to the monsoon season and the school was able to remain open even in the rain.

## Thank You Nari Bikash and World Vision

Mr Kagat Lal Chaudhar, Principal, smiles and says, “I am very thankful to Nari Bikash and World Vision for the support they have extended to our school. Before they came along, the outlook seemed impossible.”

## UDAYAPUR

### 4. Risk Mitigation at School Possible Due to the LDCRP

Kalika Basic School, Dadagaun is situated at Iname, Ward No. 3 of Tapli Rural Municipality. The school is situated at the top of the hill. As this is a hilly region, this is not surprising and exceptional but due to the new road opening around the school this last year, the school has been made an island surrounded by a road network. This has pushed the school into a vulnerable situation, susceptible to soil erosion and small scale landslides. Risky for the children who study there.



Figure 3: Fencing in the school has been protected children from injuries, Kalika Basic school, Udaypur

The school was established in 1977 and currently there are 81 students, 50 boys and 31 girls. The most surprising fact is that, out of the total students, 50 students are what are called 'registered children (RCs)' in World Vision International Nepal (WVIN). In other words, the most vulnerable children from vulnerable households in a community.

#### Made Vulnerable by a New Road

Lil Bahadur Magar, Class 5 explains, "The way from my house to school was fine for walking but the school playground was dangerous to play in due to a landslide and high ground created by the new road".

Mr Talak Bdr Rai, the Head Teacher, confirms, "Several incidents or accidents like falling resulted in dislocated arms, and other injuries during playtime".

#### NDRR Project in Action

Fencing, a small scale mitigation work, was accomplished through the support of the NDRR Project. The project supported with construction materials of NRs200,000 and Taapli RM supported NRs199,798 (being a total of NRs399,798) with direct involvement of the School Management Committee (SMC). The SMC Chair, Dal Bahadur Magar, mentioned that, "The fencing ensures the safety of the students studying in the school to the relief of students, teachers and parents. We can now say we will never forget the importance of the LDCRP"

Ghumansingh Tamang, a local teacher, also stresses the importance of the LDCRP and the plans it incorporated into the fencing of the school. "The fencing of the school was only possible when there was a Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan in Ward No. 3 of our area," he states.

Mr Talak Bdr Rai, agrees saying, "Nowadays the situation has changed and students can play and move within the school periphery safely - running, jumping and so on - thanks to the wire fencing."

## DOTI

### 5. Students get Safe Drinking Water

Kadamandau Secondary School lies in the remote Purbichauki Rural Municipality, Ward No. 5, Kadamandu. Two building and one under construction make up this school where 447 students are studying. In total there are 237 boys and 210 girls. The school is affected by windstorms and in 2012 the roof was badly damaged by such a storm. In addition, there was not proper facilities for drinking water in the school and students and staff were obliged to bring water from their homes. A drinking water scheme was constructed but a year before the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project (NDRRP) came along, the water scheme was damaged and again there was a problem obtaining drinking water in the school.

#### Sometimes There Was No Water at Home Either

“In those days the school had no budget for the maintenance of the water scheme so when it was damaged we could not repair it. Students and teachers faced a big problem regarding drinking water. Although we often brought from home, sometimes there was a water shortage at household level also which meant students had to go without water at school,” explains Chudamani Ojha, teacher.

When the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project was implemented through partnership between World Vision International Nepal and the Community Development Centre in Purbichauki Rural Municipality, one of the objectives was the preparation of a LDGRP. A Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment was done in support of the project, and during that assessment a major risk was identified as no access to water in the school. Plans to address this were made accordingly.

#### Child Friendly Taps Constructed

With support of the project partners, maintenance of Pauwagada drinking water scheme was carried out and now drinking water is fed regularly into the school. Eight child friendly taps have been established in the school and maintenance of the scheme has been carried out. The school itself has contributed to the maintenance of the drinking water scheme.

“Currently all eight taps are functional and I hope now children will not face a drinking water scarcity like in the past. We are committed to the proper maintenance of this scheme,” Siddharaj Joshi, Head Teacher.



Figure 4: Mitigation scheme has supported for clean drinking water facilities in the school at Kadamandu, Doti

## Hygienic Quarantine Centre

With the school now having a consistence water supply and numerous taps, it was used for more than two months as a quarantine centre for those coming home from abroad. Its water supply supported to maintain safe handwashing practices and helped to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the area.

Ward No. 5 Chairperson, Padam Dhanuk, says, “I would like to express my gratitude to WV and the CDC family for the immense support in the maintenance of the drinking water scheme so that we were also able to make this school a quarantine centre. COVID-19 did not spread as a result. I was worried that in my area, there was no other place to make a quarantine center. I cannot imagine the situation if this school also did not have water facilities.”

## DOTI

### 6. Implementation of Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan Results in a Resilient Community

Sayal Rural Municipality has six different Wards. This is the most remote Rural Municipality of the district and out of these six, Ward No. 5, Dhipukhet, has been ranked by the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) as most at risk. Landslides are common in this area and this village of 25 households has been facing difficulties during the monsoon. For example sometimes the road is damaged and villagers don't have access to other communities for their day to day needs. Through the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment it was seen that to mitigate existing risks, plantation and retention walls should be included in the plan.

#### The proposal

After the completion of the LDCRP plan, the local community coordinated and consulted with the Rural Municipality Office and submitted a proposal for support to make the community resilient. The plan had been reflected in the LDCRP of Sayar Rural Municipality and thus the Municipality allocated NRs568,987.00. With this money the Ward procured and managed 40 gabion nets and constructed a wall to protect the land and community from possible landslides.

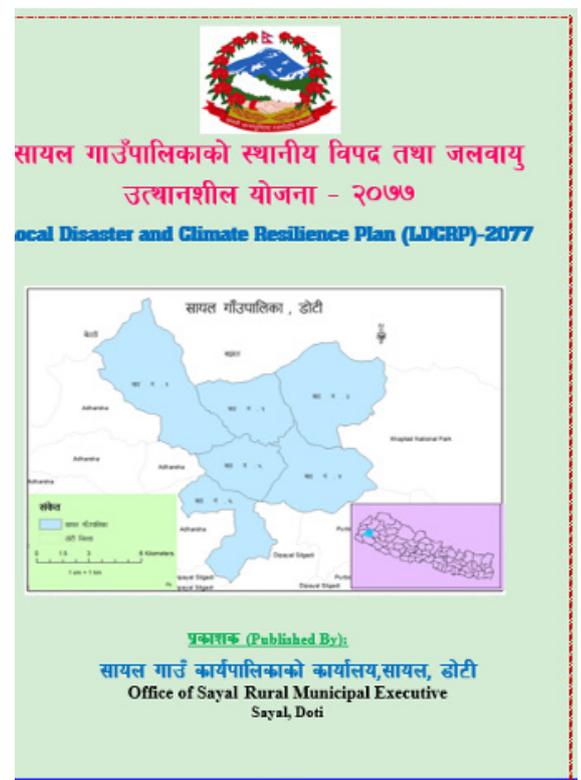


Figure 5: Local disaster and climate resilience plan of Sayal RM, Doti

## Coordinating for the Future

Today the community has become more resilient, but what's more, the Ward level Local Disaster Management Committee is actively working for the mitigation of existing risks in the community. By coordinating with the Rural Municipality level Local Disaster Management Committee, further resources should be available to make the community even more resilient. One of the outcomes is that safe zones are located on the hazard map so that in case of any emergency those locations will be used as safe shelters.



Figure 6: Awareness raising by displaying hazard map in Sayal, Doti

## KAILALI

### 7. “We Feel Safe in School Now”

Ghodaghodi Municipality, consisting of 12 Wards, lies in the buffer zone of Kailali District. The Mahendra Highway, the longest highway in Nepal, runs through the middle of the Municipality. People belonging to various ethnicities reside in Ghodaghodi Municipality which also houses attractions like Ghodaghodi Lake which is on the World Heritage Site list as a Ramsar Site (a renowned wetland area). This has opened up the area for tourism. However, the problem of natural disasters remains.



Figure 7: Roofing support to Shree Baalkalyan Basic School, Kailali

## Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project Steps In

World Vision International Nepal (WVIN) has been working to implement various programmes in Ghodaghodi Municipality. In 2018, the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project was launched by WVIN in partnership with the Conscious Society for Social Development (CSSD) to work with communities to map disaster risks and facilitate development of local disaster risk management plans utilizing a community-based disaster



Figure 8: Roofing support to Shree Baalkalyan Basic School, Kailali (before maintenance)

management approach. In April-May 2018 a storm took the lives of two people and injured hundreds. Moreover, the storm caused road obstructions and damaged much physical infrastructure.

Shree Baal Kalyan Adharbhut Bidhyalaya School of Ghodaghodi Municipality Ward No. 7 was also damaged by the storm. In this school, out of the total 275 students in the school, 48 students are registered children (RC). The storm damaged the school's roof due to which, the school building remained roofless for a week. The school was shut down and the School Management Committee appealed for support to various organisations and agencies. A week later, the school resumed classes but as the building was roofless, the students were compelled to study directly under the sun. The students remained in constant fear of the hazardous environment they were studying in. That is when WVIN came in, and with the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project, the school's roof was repaired.

### Possible Illness Averted

“When our school was damaged by the storm, we had no other option than to run classes in the rain due to the pressure from the community to resume classes. As the students were studying in a roofless building under the hot sun, or in the rain, there was a possibility of illness among our students,” explains Suraj Kumar Chaudhary, teacher.

However with support from WVIN and CSSD construction of the school was completed quickly and students were able to resume studies in a safe environment, free from threat of illness. “We are back to running classes. We are extremely happy and grateful towards World Vision and CSSD for this support,” concludes Mr Chaudhary.

## KAILALI

### 8. Risk of Epidemic Disaster Completely Reduced

Naakfoduwa village lies in Ghodaghodi Municipality Ward No. 12. Consisting of mostly a Tharu population, the village is situated 15km to the south of Pahalmanpur Bazaar.



Figure 9: Drinking water facility established in Rastriya Secondary School, Ghodaghodi Kailali

Flooding caused by the Kandra River is a major hazard here. In addition to this, the village also has a problem of contaminated water. Most of the water schemes contain arsenic and the schemes that are deeper have also been found to be contaminated with E. Coli. This includes the drinking water found in the only secondary school in the Ward. Rastriya Secondary School has a total of 269 students (201 boys and

168 girls) and 13 teachers. Part of the problem was that the existing hand pump had a depth of only 30 ft, resulting in contaminated water producing waterborne diseases and diarrhea. During the dry months of March and April there was no drinking water available, resulting in the children having to go outside of school for water. The road in front of the school gate posed the chance of bike or tractor accidents for children searching for water.

### Climate Resilient Plan Developed

The Conscious Society for Social Development in partnership with World Vision International Nepal started the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Project in the Ward. As a result, a Local Disaster Management Committee was formed under the chairmanship of the Ward Chair, Mr. Purna Chaudhary. After the committee was formed a Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) and a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) was carried out. Under the VCA the major problems were identified as possible flooding in the community and contaminated drinking water in the school. Based on these findings, a climate resilient plan was developed.

### Certified Drinkable!

With support from the DRR project, the school has installed an 80 ft deep hand pump to collect water in two copper tanks. For easy access for children, six taps were also fitted. The water has been tested and received certification from the government authorities that it is drinkable. As the water is available within the school premises, the possibility of children having accidents in front of the school has been minimized as they do not have to go outside the school in search of drinking water.

Also, with certification, there is no risk of epidemics among the children and teachers. The students love the new water facility and teachers are happy with the improved quality of drinking water available in their school premises.

## DOTI

### 9. Single Water Scheme Reduced Multiple Risks

Chabalaa community lies in Purbichauki Rural Municipality, Ward No. 3 of Doti district in Sudurpaschim Province. There are 86 households in the community (251 males and 274 females). The livelihood of the people in the community depends on agriculture. The harvest produce only lasts for around three months, making the rest of the year difficult. As a result, most of the males in the community have migrated abroad for work. This has left women with no choice than to carry out all the household chores themselves.



Figure 10: Drinking water facility supported as a small scale mitigation scheme in Purbichauki RM of Doti

## Water Shortage Led to Illness and Poor Diet

Earlier, one of the major tasks of women in the community was to get up early in the morning and walk over an hour to fetch water. In addition to waterborne communicable diseases, water shortages lead to sanitation problems as well. Diarrhea, colds and coughs were common. What's more with a shortage of water, the community was unable to grow green vegetables. Mrs Manadevi Rawat, Female Child Health Volunteer explains, "As the community lacked water facilities, there was no proper drinking water as well or enough for irrigation. As a result, people did not include green vegetables in their diet."

In addition, the community suffered from other hazards such as landslides, wind storms and fires.

## Drinking Water Scheme a Priority

A Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment was carried out by a committee of the Ward Office, the Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC), and the local community with the support of the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project implemented by World Vision International Nepal through the Community Development Centre. The committee identified drinking water as the key need in the community.

## Improved Sanitation Status Too!

Chandra Rawat, community member, "We now have a drinking water facility in our village itself. Women need not wake up early and invest hours to fetch water. Having the water so close by has also reduced the possible risk of animal attacks on women. And now that we have water the sanitation status is also improving in our community!"

## JUMLA

### 10. Lost Happiness Now Found

Almost 200 families of Chhetri and Dalit ethnicities are the residents of Sapuli village located at Tila Rural Municipality, Ward No. 4 (former Kudari Village Development Committee), Jumla District. In recent few years, under the joint investment of Sundar Nepal Sanstha (Beautiful Nepal Association-BNA) and the former Village Development Committee, the Karnali "One Employed in Every Home" project-supported Triveni Hydro Electricity Project had been illuminating the whole village.

As a result, there was a reduction in the work load for women in the village. There was a positive development in the studying habit of the village students. And improvement was observed in the health status of the elderly residents linked to factors like reduced exposure to air pollutants mostly smoke and dust from the parts of pine trees burnt previously indoors for light.

## Then Darkness Came Again

The canals for operating the hydroelectricity system were constructed completely through the manual labour of the community. However, in June-July 2018, following heavy rainfall, the constructed intakes and canals were destroyed, shattering the hard work and long hours put in by the villagers and forcing the village to go back into nights of darkness. The leaders of the village sought support from several organisations and government bodies in the district. Although all of them reassured the villagers of fulfilling their need, the Triveni Hydroelectricity Project could not resume its normal functioning.

## NDRR Project Steps In

The Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project (NDRRP) was implemented with financial support from World Vision International Nepal in partnership with KIRDARC Nepal. The NDRR Project supported to develop the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan in the same Ward. Based on this plan, initiatives to repair the hydroelectricity project were taken and gabion walls were set up and trees planted in areas affected by monsoon landslides. All the villagers participated in this work.



*Figure 11: Gabion wall for the maintenance of local electricity powerhouse in Jumla*

The project invested a sum of NRs227,000 (equivalent to USD1,974) for the repair work. Since then, the Triveni Hydroelectricity Project has resumed functioning, and the village has gained back its lost joy.

## Illumination Again!

Expressing his joy, Chakra Bahadur Shahi, former Chairperson of the then Kudari VDC shares, “From the initiatives we made, coordination and collaborations with KIRDARC Nepal has been ongoing. Due to which, the village has once again become illuminated.” Similarly, the current Ward Chairperson, Shanta Bahadur Shahi, expressed his gratitude for the project’s support and coordination adding his anticipation of similar collaborative ventures on other development works in the future. He stated that the Ward Resilience Plan is ready and that they will be prepared to reduce the potential risks from future disaster risk.

What’s more, an emergency information centre has been established at Ward level where KIRDARC Nepal has supported with emergency relief materials. Shanta Bahadur Shahi also informed that the concerned local body has accumulated a total of NRs950,000 (equivalent to USD8,261) as an emergency fund. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to KIRDARC Nepal and the NDRR Project.

## DOTI

### 11. “We Won’t Lose Our Lives any More Due to Water”

Bajgantey lies in Purbichauki Rural Municipality in Doti, one of the districts in the Far Western Province of Nepal. Some of the major issues faced by the community include a shortage of nutritious food, low educational status, and pressing superstitions and traditional practices. For employment, most adult males go to cities in India where they work as security guards or in menial jobs. In the households where agriculture is the main source of income, the food they produce is insufficient - lasting no longer than two months. What’s more students have to walk more, than two hours to attend school.

But more significantly, this community also faces a serious shortage of drinking water.

#### Too Little or Too Much Water!

Despite coordinating with various organisations to solve the problem of drinking water shortages, there was no change. But not only was there a shortage of drinking water. During the monsoon the rivers would swell and students would have trouble going to school. “The continuous shortage of drinking water was worrying particularly as the available sources of water were polluted, due to which children and families suffered from water-borne diseases. Every year, a number of people used to suffer from diarrhea, dysentery and cold infections. Families would undergo a lot of difficulties not to mention the amount of money spent on treatment. Some situations would be so dire that it would even lead to death,” shares Saimal Thakulla, a local.

#### The NDRR Project Solves the Main Issue

For the past six months, World Vision International Nepal (WVIN) along with its local partner Community Development Centre (CDC) Doti has been implementing the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Project in this community. The most pressing vulnerabilities of the communities have been identified and a Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Committee (LDCRC) and various sub-committees supported to be re-energized. Although the committee had been organising cleanliness campaigns, water source cleaning drives, and had requested the local government and various organisations for support to construct/repair the drinking water supply schemes, no support had been forth-coming. Ever since WVIN and CDC’s project entered the community, the locals shared the drinking water problem as their main issue and that in order to mitigate risks, this issue must be addressed. Hence, through cooperative work, with hardware materials (pipes, cement and equipment to fit taps) provided by WVIN and manual labour offered from the community, the drinking water supply system was repaired successfully.



Figure 12: Drinking water reaches the village after the maintenance of water scheme in Purbichauki RM Doti

## Thank You World Vision!

The locals are now happy to be consuming clean drinking water. “Fetching water is no longer a tedious task, as the new drinking water system has saved half an hour of our time. We will no longer be losing relatives and family members to water-borne diseases, nor will we have to face difficulties of treating them or spending money on their treatment,” share locals expressing their deepest gratitude towards World Vision and CDC.

## JUMLA

### 12. Tila Rural Municipality’s Commitment Towards Disaster Risk Management in Jumla

Nepal is ranked in the front line among the most multi-hazard affected countries. The country sees loss of lives and properties every year due to natural and man-made hazards. Since Nepal opted for a Federal structure of governance, local level governments have been established. The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act clearly provisioned the role of local level government in disaster risk reduction and management. Only since then have disaster risk reduction related discussions been initiated at the local levels. Communities in Jumla are familiar with disasters, and people’s cultural beliefs and values impacted their perception towards disasters and their impact.

#### Local Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan Prepared and Simulations Carried Out

When KIRDARC, in partnership of World Vision International Nepal, started the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project in Tila Rural Municipality of Jumla, the elected representatives oriented locals on the basic concepts of disaster risk management and national and international policies relating to it. Following the orientation, discussions and training at Ward level and Municipal level, the Rural Municipality realised the importance of disaster risk reduction and committed to work for it themselves. They then prepared their own act on disaster risk reduction.

In support of the project, they prepared the Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plan for all Wards of the Rural Municipality. For even better preparedness to response and in close coordination with the project staff they prepared a Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan. Once they formed the plan, they also conducted simulations of landslides and floods in Sita Secondary School of Rarali. Students, teachers, Ward Chairpersons, security forces, Red Cross representatives, youth and members of the Local Disaster Management Committees participated in the simulation which was aimed at helping the participants better prepare themselves in case of an emergency.



Figure 13: Local people along with Nepal police and other technical staff practicing simulation practice in Tila RM, Jumla

## Preparedness Strengthened, Scaling-up Planned

Prakash Nepali, one of the participants in the simulation says, “I’m really glad that I got the opportunity to be a part of this simulation. I had never participated in any event like this before. I am certain that activities like this strengthen our preparedness to respond in an emergency.”

Local government representatives were also enthusiastic while participating in the simulation. Chairperson of Tila Rural Municipality, Ratan Nath Yogi, was one of the participants in the simulation who was encouraging others to learn. He said, “For scaling-up the disaster risk reduction related activities, the Rural Municipality has planned to allocate budget to all Wards, establish an early warning mechanism and manage search and rescue materials in all nine Wards.”

## SINDHULI

### 13. The Dream to Serve Community Comes True After First Aid Training

Dhan Bahadur Tamang lives in Tinapatan Rural Municipality, Ward No. 10. He is the eldest child of his parents. Since his childhood he wanted to be a doctor and serve the community. But due to his family’s low economic condition he couldn’t fulfil his wish and instead worked on the family farm.



### Energetic First Responder

In 2018, SIDS Nepal Sindhuli implemented the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project, funded by World Vision International Nepal. Under this project there was first aid training. Mr Tamang was sent by his Rural Municipal to participate in the training. As the training went on it was found he was one of the most energetic people there and a perfect choice to be a first responder at the local level.

SIDS Nepal in coordination with WVIN distributed first aid kits to all the training participants so they could provide a first aid service in their respective communities in an emergency. Mr Tamang explains that, till date, he had undertaken first aid treatment of 14 people. Furthermore he mentions, “Recently Ramhari uncle from the next village fell out of a tree and injured his leg. When I heard the news, I went there and carried out first aid and stopped the bleeding and sent him to the Health Post”.

## Without My Training Ramhari Uncle's Condition Would Have Been Worse

Mr Tamang went on to explain that without SIDS Nepal Sindhuli's first aid training he would not have been able to give immediate treatment to Ramhari uncle. And without treatment his blood flow would not have stopped, resulting in a serious situation.

Mr Tamang is now more than 35 years old and takes his children's studies seriously. His dream of being a certified doctor could not come true but he wants to see the dreams of his children come true.

## Wish to Serve the Community is Fulfilled

He further explains, "When I walk in the village with my first aid kit bag, I feel like my aim to be a doctor is somehow complete and my wish to serve society has come true. I am very happy. I am sure that if SIDS Nepal Sindhuli implements such types of programmes again I will participate. My learning is not completed; I want to learn more. I would like to thank SIDS Nepal Sindhuli and World Vision International Nepal for making my dream true and giving me an opportunity to serve society however I can."

## SINDHULI

### 14. Mitigation Work Reducing Landslides and Making Access Safer

Haybar Gaun, located in Golanjor Rural Municipality, Ward No. 6, is mainly made up of Janajati and Dalit groups. Located two kilometres from the Ward Office and about 45km from the District Headquarters, the people of this village have low incomes. After the formation of the Federal system of local government a road was constructed in this area to link Ward No. 4 and 5 of Golanjor. However, with the land structure, and road construction, soil erosion and landslides occurred near the village making live very difficult for those living there.

### Potential Disasters Mitigated

When the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Project was implemented by SIDS Nepal, funded by World Vision International Nepal, in Golanjor Rural Municipality, the Ward and the people from Haibar Gaun requested help in mitigating potential disasters. With the coordination of the Ward, SIDS Nepal Sindhuli completed the mitigation work, benefiting 1,000 to 1,200 people, by reducing the likelihood of landslides by stopping soil erosion. Today the village is out danger and students, the general public and vehicle can easily cross the road without fear. This road is the easiest and shortest route for the market and Rural Municipality.

## People are Happy Now

The Ward Chairperson, Purushotam Shrestha said, “We didn’t have the budget for the mitigation work so we requested SIDS Nepal for help. SIDS Nepal Sindhuli accepted our request and carried out the mitigation work. Now people are very happy and there is no risk of landslides. I would like to thank SIDS Nepal Sindhuli and World Vision International Nepal for doing such incredible work for us and hope in the future they will do more such types of work in places that need it.”



*Before mitigation 1*



*Before mitigation 2*



*During mitigation*



## 15. A New Disaster Management Activist

Since his school days, Bimal Pokharel, now 25, was very interested in local level disaster dynamics. Being from Ward No. 4 of Tinpatan Rural Municipality, Sindhuli, Mr Pokharel supported and engaged with communities that were affected by the 2015 earthquake. At that time he had limited knowledge of disaster management but he had a thirst to learn.

### NDRR Activities

The Sindhuli Integrated Development Society (SIDS) implemented the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Project in partnership with World Vision International Nepal in three locations (Golanjor, Fikkal and Tinpatan) of Sindhuli district. Fortunately Mr Pokharel’s residence fell under the working area. Several project activities took place such as the formation of a Ward Disaster Management Committee

(WDMC), Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) training, the formation of a Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC), First Aid Training to local task force members and the formation of a Local Disaster Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP). And Mr Pokharel participated in most of the activities!



Figure 14: Bimal Pokharel after receiving the training on First Aid

### Local Level DRM Activist

Through his participation in the activities and training, Mr Pokhrel seized the opportunity to quench his thirst in the DRM sector. He read the DRR related documents, posters, and guidelines, taking permission from the project field team. Over time Mr Pokhrel transformed himself into a local level DRM activist. He now advocates and strongly urges the local level government for DRR funds allocation, and to mainstream DRR into regular developmental plans and community level risk mitigation agendas at Ward forums. He also has been delivering local hazards-specific key DRR messages to school students and teachers.

### Empowered!

“I had an interest in local level DRR issues and its management for years and I have been able to learn about this properly through the DRR project activities supported by SIDS Nepal and World Vision. I am indebted for all my life for this knowledge. Now I feel myself empowered in the DRM sector at my community and local level”.

## MORANG

### 16. Saving Land and Livelihoods

The three rivers of Lohandra, Khadra and Budhi flows through Gramthan Rural Municipality. These rivers used to ravage the lives and properties of those living nearby, primarily during the monsoon season. Among them, Khadra Khola (khola meaningriver) flows through the middle of Simariya Tole and is a major source of irrigation for nearly 30 Acre of land.

## Erosion of Land

More recently the overflow of Khadra River has cut away the sides and banks of the rivulet threatening the nearby houses and community. Mr Nem Narayan Dhama, Chairperson of the Repair and Maintenance Committee says, “The rivulet is the only option for irrigating our land, but on the other hand it became a threat to nearby residents. So we reached out to Gramthan Rural Municipality and the Ward Office seeking an embankment to contain the river.”

## Embankment has Brought Safety

In the meantime, WVIN and Nari Bikash Sangh were implementing the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project in Ward No. 5 of Gramthan Rural Municipality and were supporting the Ward Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP). This issue was raised and discussed resulting in the construction of an embankment with gabion boxes filled with stones on both sides of the embankment. This minimized the risk of bank erosion and cutting which would have impact nearby 300 houses. Agat Lal Majhi, a resident of Simariya Tole states, “We were very afraid as the river had already eroded away 90% of the sides of the rivulet and we felt this monsoon the rivulet would totally collapse posing a great risk to our houses. But now we feel safe as we have an embankment on the sides of the rivulet”.



*Figure 15: The embankment of the rivulet using gabion wire and stone in Simariya Tole.*

## No Longer do we Fear Being Swept Away

NBS and WVIN have constructed the embankments as part of the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Project at the expense of NRs350,890 while the community contribution stood of NRs25,000. Mr Nemnarayan, Chairperson of the Scheme Maintenance Committee, says, “We are extremely grateful to NBS/WVIN for the construction of the embankment and for making the community safe from being swept away by flooding.”

## SINDHULI

### 17. Sajha Sawal Gives the Public Opportunity to Discuss DRR

SIDS Nepal Sindhuli has implemented the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Project in two Rural Municipality (RM) of Sindhuli District, namely, Golanjor and Tinapatan RM. There are 11 Wards in Tinapatan and seven Wards in Golanjor RM. SIDS Nepal is working in 10 Wards of Tinapatan and all seven Wards of Golanjor.

#### Public Dialogue

Under the NDRR Project there was a crucial activity in terms of the DRR advocacy at community and local level called, "Public Dialogue (Sajha Sawal)". Within this activity SIDS Nepal Sindhuli has conducted dialogue programmes in Ward No. 5 and 6 of Golanjor RM and Wards No. 4 and 10 of Tinapatan RM. Additionally, one dialogue event was held at RM level at Tinapatan. The programme was held in the presence of the Chairperson of the Rural Municipality, Ward Chairpersons, members, related stakeholder, media and local people.

During these programmes the local people were made aware of the activities and budget from the Ward and Rural Municipality regarding Disaster Risk Management and Emergencies. They were also told about the activities ongoing in the respective Wards and budget allocation under various sections. The local people and stakeholders present raised several issues on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and other relevant issues.

#### Speaking Without Fear

Through the event, the local people got an opportunity to present their views about the programme and activities carried out by the local government and also showed their satisfaction and dissatisfaction about the work of local government. Views were presented without fear or hesitation, which make both the people and the representatives happy. The local representatives were also able to discuss future plans. Through the open discussions, the public realised it is their right to know what is happening and what plans would affect their community and future.

#### Thank You SIDS Nepal Sindhuli and World Vision International

At the end of each programme the local people and representatives present acknowledged with thanks the work carried out by SIDS Nepal Sindhuli and World Vision International Nepal in conducting the activities. It was suggested similar types of work and programmes be carried out in all Wards of the Rural Municipality to enable more people to learn about the activities done by the local government in their area.



Ward Chairperson of Golanjor 6 during Sajha Sawal



Ward Chairperson of Tinpatan 4 during Sajha Sawal



Ward Chairperson of Tinpatan 10 during Sajha Sawal

## MORANG

### 18. Reclaiming the River's Flow

Judi River lies east of Haraicha Market at Sundar Haraicha Municipality, Ward No.1, Morang district. Every year, the Judi River causes huge destruction, particularly in the monsoon season. With encroachment and rapid population growth over the last decade the river seems less like a river and more like a canal flowing through settlement areas. People residing nearby the banks of the river used to throw non-disposable waste materials into the river blocking the water flow. The resulting damn caused the water to overflow into the settlement destroying property and resulting in houses sinking. This hampered the day to day life of the community people.

#### River Clean-up

When Nari Bikash Sangh, with support from WVIN, stepped in it implemented the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project. The Ward level Local Disaster Management Committee was formed and carried out Vulnerable Capacity Assessment training in order to form the LDCRP. As per the plan, the immediate issue was to clean-up the river so it would flow as it did before. In this way the local community did not have to face being inundated with water on an annual basis.



The canal after maintenance

## MORANG

### 19. Youth Engaged in Search and Rescue

Rajesh Yadav lives with his wife and children at Budhiganga Rural Municipality 3. He explained that this central area of Morang district covers over 56km<sup>2</sup>. He continues by saying there are seven Wards in which Nari Bikash Sangh, in coordination with World Vision International Nepal has supported a Local Disaster Management Committee. Mr Yadav is a member of the LDLMC and has participated in various events organised by the NDRR Project and is engaged in awareness raising programmes on Disaster Risk Management.

#### Loss of Property and Lives

Mr Yadav explains, “Talking about the previous two years - flooding has been one of the challenging issues due to the heavy rainfall and swelling of the river. Many people have lost their belongings. What is worse, sometimes we have had to face a huge loss of life. We want our families to be safe under any situation. If a disaster occurs in our area, we villagers are the primary ones who can take instant action for rescue.”



#### Search and Rescue Training

“Nari Bikash Sangh in coordination with World Vision International Nepal organised Search and Rescue Training where members of the LDMC were able to participate. I too got the opportunity to participate in the training. The facilitator showed us how to prevent household accidents such as gas explosions and fire – its causes and methods of rescue by utilizing equipment. This training has become a boon to our life as simple techniques can be a powerful measure to save someone’s life. Youths who participated in the training can teach the techniques in their community,” expresses Mr Yadav.



Figure 16: Rajesh Yadav after receiving the training on Search and Rescue

#### Appeal to Local Government

“Lastly I would like to thank Nari Bikash Sangh and World Vision for their contribution to our community. And also I would like to appeal to the local government to conduct these kinds of trainings for youth empowerment. I am committed to making the skills I learned through the training worthy.”

## SINDHULI

### 20. Making My Community Safe and Breaking Stereo-types

“My name is Umesh Mangrati from Golanor Rural Municipality, Ward No. 6, Baleni. Mostly it is Dalit families living here. Until now, ethnic discrimination remains the same, following the old traditions, in our community.”

#### Sharing Breakfast – Unthinkable Previously

Mr Mangrati continues to explain, “Many developmental organisations are working in our community to develop better living standards. Among them SIDS Nepal Sindhuli is one of the leading organisations here. SIDS Nepal Sindhuli has implemented the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project funded by World Vision International Nepal in our community. I got the chance to participate in various meetings and orientations given by the DRR Project, I felt very happy and excited because in those programmes I got the chance to take breakfast with the so-called upper caste people of our community at the same table. Something that previously would have never happened because of the old beliefs. Only because of the project I got this chance, so I would like to thank DRR Project for this.”

#### I Learned a Lot

Mr Mangrati was happy to share what he learned about DRR through his participation in meetings and orientations. “The main road of this community was affected by a landslide, and SIDS Nepal Sindhuli carried out gabion work to make us safe from similar future disasters. Recently, World Vision International Nepal and SIDS provided response materials to those families who were affected by floods and landslides, which make the people happy and the community is hopeful for these kind of projects in the future also.”

#### DRR Committee Formed

Under the NDRR Project SIDS Nepal Sindhuli has formed a community based Disaster Risk Management Committee and Task Force and chose Mr Mangrati as the coordinator of the Task Force Committee. The Committee and locals were orientated about the emergency funds and emergency materials and their uses. Distribution of education material also took place and a Reading Camp was established at the local school. All of which is in line with WVIN’s ‘Dalit, Single Woman in One Programme’ which focuses on the inclusion of the most vulnerable and excluded groups.



Figure 17: Group photo after the formation of Community Disaster management committee, in Sindhuli

## Thanks from the Core of my Heart

Mr Mangrati's concludes, "I am hopeful that SIDS and World Vision will do this kind of incredible work in the future also. I would like to thanks from the core of my heart."

## UDAYAPUR

### 21. Authorities and Locals Feel Confident in Mitigating Disasters

Udayapurgadi Rural Municipality is located on the north-west side of Udaypur's District Headquarter Gaighat. Udayapurgadhi Rural Municipality comprises of eight Wards occupying a total of 269,51 square kilometres. Among these eight Wards, Ward No. 6 comprises of settlements like Majhuwa, Bhumare, Nagbele, Rumjhatar, Bardamar, Aridmaar, Gohoriya, Hattidunga, Dhappar, Dhanuwarbesi, Jngretar, Aanpdanda, Bohoribot, Sandhane, Nepaltar, Bhutiya Budathokitar, Amlitar, and Ambote.

There are a total of 1,024 households in Udayapurgadi, Ward No. 6 with a total population of 7,136 out of which 3,724 are males and 3,412 are females. The major occupation of most the residents in the Ward is agriculture and animal husbandry while a few are engaged in small businesses and other employment. Despite of an abundance of natural resources, the Ward is prone to natural disasters and multiple hazards.

### DRR Can Mitigate Disasters and Hazards

The major hazards the local faces are fire, landslide, flood, drought and wild animals. Each year, the Ward faces a huge loss of lives and property due to mainly fire, flood and landslides. With this in mind Jalpa Integrated Development Society and World Vision International Nepal, together with the Ward Office, started the Disaster Risk Reduction Project in the area. A Ward-level Disaster Management Committee (WDMC) was formed along with Task Forces.

Similarly, the project also supported in the formulation of a Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) for the entire Ward by mobilising WDMC members, Task Forces members and local youth and volunteers.

### Proactive, Not Reactive

Following its formation, WDMC meetings are conducted regularly where the WDMC members discuss disasters, possible impacts and ways to tackle them. At present, the WDMC and Task Force teams are very proactive in implementing the mitigation measures and plans identified in the LDCRP. The Ward Office has allocated NRs. 8400000.00 from the Ward Council meeting for the execution of mitigation schemes mentioned in the LDCRP for Fiscal Year 2020.

## Local Government Feels Well-prepared Now

Chairperson of Ward No. 6, Krishna Bahadur Khatri, says, “After the formulation of the WDMC and preparation of the LDCRP, the local government is feeling confident and well- prepared on the disaster management aspects at Ward level. Based on the prepared LDCRP, we will be allocating a budget each year to execute the disaster risk mitigation plans.”

## UDAYAPUR

### 22. Rautamai Rural Municipality on the Exemplary Path for Emergency Fund Establishment and Utilization

Rautamai Rural Municipality is situated in the mid-northern side of Udayapur district. It covers an area of 20,408km<sup>2</sup> and had natural, religious, historical as well culturally significance. However, it also suffers from natural disasters such as fire, flood and landslides.

#### One Step Ahead

World Vision International Nepal in partnership with Jalpa Integrated Development Society implemented the NDRR Project from 2019.

The project has supported to form Local Disaster Management Committees (LDMC) and Ward Disaster Management Committees (WDMC) in all the eight Wards and supported to prepare the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) of each. Moreover the project supported to establish the DRR and CCA Learning Centre, and Local Emergency Operation Centre as well as helping with policy document formulation such as the Emergency Fund Mobilization Guideline and Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for LEOC. With all this support the local government is now one step ahead on the Disaster Risk Management front in comparison with others in the district.



Figure 18: Gajendra Bdr. Khadka, Chairperson, Rautamai RM, Udayapur

#### Clarity and Preparedness

Rautamai Rural Municipality has also prepared a Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) in coordination and with the support of the project. In the plan there is clarity of roles and responsibilities of the different sectors and stakeholders in the event of emergencies and humanitarian crises. Thus with the support of the project a level of awareness, sensitization and responsibilities has been felt by

Most importantly, this has been an exemplary local level authority in the district. The local level authorities started to allocate funds towards the Emergency Fund after WVIN supported the seed money equivalent to NRs150,000. They have allocated an Emergency Fund of NRs 1,500,000. Additionally, staff contributed a day's salary equivalent to NRs500,000 and the elected representatives allocated a day allowance of NRs465,500 making a total of NRs2,465,500 as emergency fund. Today the local level has a balance of NRs1,200,000 in the fund while sixty-five hundred thousand rupees have been allocated for COVID-19 response, road networks damaged by floods, and landslides. Repairmen were allocated NRs5,000,000 in 2019.



Figure 19: LDMC meeting at Rautamai Rural Municipality, Udayapur

Also the success of the intervention was reflected during the last years' flooding. With all the DRR and emergency related local level documents (LDCRPs, DPRP, Emergency Fund Mobilization Guideline) in place, the response activities such as data collection, needs assessments, temporary relocation of affected families, beneficiaries identification and support etc were much faster in comparison to that carried out by nearby local authorities.

## Fostered Resilience

According to Gajendra Bdr. Khadka, Chairperson of Rautamai RM, "The entire area and its residents are susceptible and vulnerable to several hazards like landslides, floods, fire, and drought due to the weak and fragile geography, remote location and the poor economic condition of the communities. Therefore to minimize the impacts of such events a LDCRP has been prepared for each Ward so that the impacts can be manageable within the communities and from the local authority level. This has fostered resilience which was executed in coordination and with support from WVIN and JIDS. Thus I would like to thank both agencies for their technical and financial support on the major intervention related with the DRM."

## SINDHULI

### 23. From Shopkeeper to First Aid Practitioner

Sarita Adhikari, a resident of Tinpatan Rural Municipality Ward No. 11 in Sindhuli district, lives with her family, where she spends most of her time at her tiny grocery shop. Earlier, although she took part in seminars, workshops and meetings about various issues related to education, health and child protection whenever she got the opportunity, she neither gave her full attention, nor did she apply the learnings to her day-to-day behaviour.

## Changed Identity

One day Ms Adhikari got a chance to participate in a three-day first aid training. It was then she realised how much she liked to serve people and her community. After receiving the first aid training, she was very happy to use the learnings to help the people in her community whenever needed.

Ms Adhikari says, “The training helped me learn everything about providing first aid to people. I have been practicing the first aid skills I learned by using the first aid kit for minor wounds for anyone injured in my community. This has even changed my identity from a shopkeeper to a First Aid Practitioner here”.



Figure 20: Sarita providing first aid to a child, Tinpatan Sindhuli

## Nepal Red Cross, SIDS and WVIN Working Together

The first aid training in the community was one of the NDRR Project activities organised by SIDS Nepal Sindhuli in coordination with the Nepal Red Cross Society, Sindhuli and in partnership with World Vision International Nepal. It was a major platform for Ms Adhikari to learn first aid skills and help her community. The training was conducted at Tinpatan Rural Municipality, where 24 individuals from different communities participated.

Several other activities such as Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) training, establishment of a Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) and formation of a Local Disaster Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) and many other activities were conducted at Sindhuli District as a part of the NDRR Project.

## SARLAHI

### 24. Ward Disaster Management Committee Strengthen to Combat Local Disasters

Haripurwa Municipality lies in the south-eastern portion of Sarlahi district of Province 2. The Municipality is adjacent to Ishworpur Municipality, Brahmapuri and Parsa Rural Municipalities along with Mahottari district on the eastern side. Among the nine Wards in the Municipality, Ward No. 3 lies in the south-western region, and comprises of a total population of 4,126.

The majority of people in Ward No. 3 depend mostly on agriculture for their livelihood. Apart from that,

people also rely on small-scale businesses, jobs and daily wages for their living. Despite good development opportunities and possibilities existing in the Ward, for example, abundant human resources, availability of electricity, and fertile land with proper irrigation facilities, the progress in agriculture and physical infrastructure is not significant.

### Lack of Modern Agriculture Methods and Floods Hampering Development

Paddy and wheat are the major food crops grown here but only at subsistence level. On the other hand, sugarcane is grown as a cash crop. However, even with immense potential in the agriculture sector, use of modern agricultural tools and methodologies seem to be lacking. In addition, the Ward has to deal with flood and inundation problems each year, which hinders the overall agricultural sector and causes around 65 households from the Mushar community and Mandir Tole residents of Haripurwa Municipality, Ward No. 3 to evacuate their homes frequently.

### Committees Formed to Managed Disaster

With the Ward facing such challenges, World Vision International Nepal along with its local partner Bagmati Welfare Society Nepal (BWSN) started to serve the community of Haripurwa Municipality from 2019. Ward No. 3 was selected as one of the core project intervention areas for the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Project. With support from the project, the Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC) at the local level and a Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC) were formed. These committees act as authentic bodies identified by the legislative provision of the country to manage disasters at the local level. The project also supported capacity enhancement of the elected representatives of the local level, and LDMC and WDMC members along with DRR sensitisation on developmental processes and core humanitarian principles during an emergency situation. Moreover, the project supported with the Ward on a Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) preparation and engaged local individuals through the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment process following an intensive five-day training.



Figure 21: Figure 19: Ward Chairperson of Ward No. 3  
Dharma Raj Singh

## Ward is Now Aware of its Responsibilities

Ward Chairperson of Ward No. 3, Dharma Raj Singh says, “We had not been paying attention to disaster management and its principles. But with the NDRR Project’s interventions, we are now aware of different tasks that we are responsible for as the local government. We are aware now about the pre, during and post disaster responsibilities. The LDCRP has made it easier for us to ensure that DRR related activities have been incorporated into the regular developmental plans. We are committed to allocate a yearly budget for DRM and prioritise the plans in DRM to be executed in the future. The prepared LDCRP plan has made it easier for us to lobby with the Provincial and Federal Government for DRR budget to help implement further plans.”

## Warm Blankets and Progress!

Mr. Singh further stated that the Ward Council had allocated Nrs. 224000.00 for DRM in Fiscal Year 2019, out of which the WDMC was able to utilize \$1,000 for the purchase and distribution of blankets during the winter for those badly affected by the cold weather. For this Fiscal Year, the Ward Council and WDMC have allocated \$5,000 to DRM considering its significant impact. Thus, with the support of the NDRR Project, the Ward has made significant progress in the DRM sector.

## LAMJUNG

### 25. Bhim Bahadur and His interest in Disaster Management

Galegaun is a beautiful village in the northern central part of Nepal. It is a popular tourist destination with village homestays for those who want to explore the rural life of Nepali people in Lamjung district. Bhim Bahadur Gurung, 32, lives in this village inhabited mostly by people of the Gurung community. He is engaged in the homestay business and agriculture for his livelihood.

### DRR Project Igniting Interest

When the Rural Community Development Centre (RCDC) implemented the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Project in Kwolasotharr Rural Municipality, Ward No. 3, Bhim was diligently and continuously participating in the project activities. These activities included orientation programmes, Vulnerability Capacity Assessment training, Search and Rescue training, and others. In his Ward, Mr Gurung was chosen to be the lead member of the Search and Rescue Task Force. As an active member of the Local Disaster Management Meetings he shares his experience and learnings about disaster risk reduction. “Disaster management was a completely new term for me before I started engaging in several activities conducted under the DRR Project. In the beginning, I started going through the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and handouts provided in the orientation programme. I then slowly started understanding terms and terminologies related to disaster management. This ignited my interest and enthusiasm to learn even more.”

## Spreading Information in the Local Language

Following the orientation, Mr Gurung started to participate in the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment data collection for the formulation of the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP). For this, he traveled to all communities and facilitated the collection of data. He now even provides orientation to local people in the Gurung language so that the importance of a disaster and climate resilience plan is effectively communicated. He has been enthusiastic in supporting the team to conduct all sorts of DRR project activities.

## Taking the Initiative!

Apart from data collection for planning, he has also remained active in the implementation of risk reduction measures in the area identified during the formulation of LDCRP. Around 15 households in his village were identified to be at high risk because of excess rainwater flow during the monsoon season. The nearby playground was slowly eroding, resulting in a high risk for the households situated above it. Knowing this, Mr Gurung coordinated with the LDMC, Ward, and RCDC for implementing immediate risk reduction measures



Figure 22: Bhim Bahadur Gurung collecting VCA data from a nearby village to be used the information in LDCRP, Lamjung

in the village. He was the one to take the initiative, following which, a mitigation scheme was implemented.

## Future Plans

A drainage canal was constructed to control the rainwater flow and soil erosion during heavy rain and it was Mr Gurung who convinced all local youths and community members to construct the canal without any labour charge. Including himself, 70 people worked on the canal construction. RCDC supported for the high-density polythene pipe to use in the canal and all other expenses were met by the Ward and locals. After the scheme was implemented, rainwater has been easily passing through the ground correctly. Mr Gurung also wants to carry out some plantation work a few metres away from the village to reduce further chances of soil erosion.

## KATHMANDU

### 26. Kankali Secondary School Gets Child-Friendly Water Tap

#### The Problem

Bishnu Paneru is the Principal of Kankali (Namuna) Secondary School, where he has been working for the past 40 years. An active and hardworking person, Bisnu has managed the school very well. But despite this, he shared the issue of lack of drinking water for children in the school.

#### The Solution

Learning about this problem, CDS and WVI Nepal then constructed a child friendly drinking water tap under the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Project in the school. About 200 students now have access to drinking water. The tap has been constructed in such a way that students of both primary and secondary levels have easy access to drinking water. Bisnu shares, "The whole school is very happy that we have a good child friendly drinking water tap now. We would like to say thank you to the team of CDS and WVI Nepal who supported our school".



Figure 23: Handwashing station supported by the project in Kankali Secondary School, Kathmandu

## KATHMANDU

### 27. Bidhya Mandir School Gets Child-Friendly Water Tap

#### The Problem

Madhav Prasad Gautam is the Principal of Bidhya Mandir School, and has been working at the school for almost 40 years now. A hard working and honest person, his leadership efforts have brought the best results in the academic performance of the school. His leading role in school has played a strong role in the maintenance of a great relationship among the teachers, students and parents. The only thing missing was sufficient drinking water for the children.

## The Solution

CDS and WVI Nepal then constructed a child friendly tap for students at the school. Now about 150 students from Grade 1 to 5 have easy access to drinking water. Parents and the students all expressed their happiness about the construction of the water tap.

Madhav Prasad Gautam says, “We are very happy to have this child friendly tap in our school. Many students have easy access to drinking water which was not the case before. So, I would like to thank CDS and WVI Nepal’s entire team for their support in constructing a drinking water tap for our students.”



Figure 24: Madhav Prd. Gautam, Principle of Bidhya Mandir School, Kathmandu

## Balmukunda Bidari Brings Effectiveness to the Project

Balmukund Bidari is Ward Chairperson of Chandragiri Municipality 13. He is recognised as a results oriented person, particularly as he does a lot of social work in the Ward. As a result, the locals of Ward No. 13 like and respect him for his activities and leadership. He has supported every programme launched by CDS and WVI Nepal under the NDRR Project and his presence and support has brought effectiveness in the programme activities.

As a part of the NDRR Project, CDS and WVI Nepal organised VCA training, LDMC formation, and awareness raising programmes which resulted in being able to prepare the LDCRP in Chandragiri Municipality Ward No. 13. Two drinking water taps were also constructed in Shree Bidhya Mandir and Kankali Secondary School under the small-scale mitigation work. All these programmes were successfully completed with the presence and support of Mr Bidari and his team. “We are very happy with the results we got through CDS and WVI Nepal’s NDRR Project. We gained knowledge about Disaster Risk Reduction interventions in the Ward through the project and got support in the construction of drinking water taps in two schools. I would like to thank the entire team of CDS and WVI Nepal for their kind support in disaster risk management in our Ward.”

## SINDHULI

### 28. Community Comes Together and Establishes Emergency Fund at First Meeting

Lubhu is located in Tinpatan Rural Municipality, Ward No. 4, where people from different ethnicity live. Different kinds of organisations are working in this friendly community to increase the economic status of the community for a better lifestyle. However, Lubhu is vulnerable due to drought and landslides that occur every year.

#### The Need for DRR

The Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) team went there to implement a NDRR Project funded by World Vision International Nepal (WVIN) in coordination with Sindhuli Integrated Development Service (SIDS) Nepal, and orient the community about the programme. The community happily accepted the proposal and encouraged the NDRR team to implement the programme in their community. Bimal Pokhrel, one of the opinion leaders and a teacher by profession also participated in the orientation. He said, “We are affiliated with different programmes and committees but now that a project related to Disaster Risk Reduction is here in our community we are very happy.” Pokharel also encouraged and informed the community about the NDRR Project in a progressive way.

#### Emergency Funds

After the orientation on the project interventions, the Community Disaster Risk Management Committee (CDMC) and Task Force in the community were formed. The committee and Task Force were also oriented about the emergency fund and its implications. When the community learned about the importance of an emergency fund they were ready to establish it instantly. “We will start collecting emergency funds and try to save as much as we can monthly and also try to be resilient from the community level” enthused the community people. They were able to raise an Emergency Fund equivalent to NRs2,000 (USD 16.46) at the first meeting.



Figure 25: CDMC meeting Tinpatan, Sindhuli

The Secretary of Lubhu CDMC, Meg Bahdur Pulami, said, “We are pleased with SIDS Nepal Sindhuli and WVIN for this project. We requested the project to support the committee with stationary materials for our monthly meetings and other technical support.” He further elaborated that CDMC members will meet the Ward Chairperson of Tinpatan No. 4 and let him know about the CDMC and their Lubhu community DRR concerns.

## This Unique Programme Should be extended to Other Vulnerable Communities

He added he was glad and thankful to SIDS Nepal, Sindhuli and WVIN for such a unique type of programme. He was also glad that the community was now aware about disaster risk reduction. “I would like to request SIDS Nepal Sindhuli and WVIN to implement such types of programmes in other communities in Tinpatan Rural Municipalities that are vulnerable and prone to disaster.”

### MORANG

#### 29. “It’s not our Disabilities, It’s our Abilities that Count”

Md Abjal, a resident of Katahari Rural Municipality 1 is differently abled. But he has proved that disability is just a perception. In spite of his disability, he has contributed his efforts to disaster risk management for his community. His hard work brought fruitful results through the mitigation of the risk caused by the riverbank which lies in his locality. There are 50 households altogether that are affected due to extreme floods occurring in the river during heavy rainfall.

#### Record Disasters to avoid them in the Future

Mr Abjal is a member of the Local Disaster Management Committee, through which he has been participating in various events like the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) and the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) formation of the NDRR Project organised by Nari Bikash Sangh in coordination with World Vision International Nepal. After participating in the orientation and trainings, he started keeping records of disasters that occur in his community. He also participated in the LDCRP formation.



Figure 26: VCA at Katahari RM Ward No. 1, Morang

#### Vulnerability Reduced

Md. Adjal shares that he lives on unregistered land beside the Singhiya River along with 49 other households. This area is highly vulnerable and the households have to abandon their homes due to floods

in the monsoon season every year. This is the most challenging issue for this settlement. Therefore, Mr Adijal shared a plan of mitigation during the LDCRP formation programme. He coordinated with the Local Disaster Management Committee and local government for budget allocation. Finally, after the huge efforts of Mr Abjal, mitigation of the possibility of flooding along the Singhiya River bank was put into place. Nari Bikash Sangh, in coordination with World Vision International Nepal, supported NRs50,000 (USD418) for this process.

### Thank You for Your Support

Mr Adijal says, “I feel pleased to be a member of the Local Disaster Management Committee as I was able to put my efforts into boosting the mitigation process successfully. I would like to thank the local government, Nari Bikash Sangh and World Vision International Nepal for supporting us with Disaster Risk Management in our locality.”

## SINDHULI

### 30. CDMC Brings Emergency Fund for Disaster Management

Matrika Kafle, 36, lives in Tinpatan Rural Municipality 4, which lies in the eastern part of Sindhuli. He belongs to a poor family, which meant he was unable to complete his higher education; and yet, he is the only person in his family and community that received basic education. Working as a mason, he does construction work, especially building houses in his community.

#### Personal Pain and Disaster

In 2019, due to an accident caused by his daughter, his house caught fire. His house was completely destroyed and his daughter sustained severe burn injuries. After being hospitalised for around 14 days his daughter passed away. The family was in pain and shock.

#### Disaster Management Preparation is a Must

Since 2018 SIDS Nepal Sindhuli has been implementing the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Project in partnership with World Vision International Nepal in Goalanjan and Tinpatan Rural Municipalities. The project also worked to form the Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) in Mr Kafle’s community. He became the Chairperson of this committee. Since then, the committee has made an emergency fund for use for disaster management in the future. As Mr Kafle lost his daughter to a disaster he realised the real affect of disaster and the significance of disaster management.



Figure 27: Matrika Kafle of Tinpatan Rural Municipality 4, sharing his experience during a meeting, Sindhuli

## Spreading the Word

Now, Mr Kafle has been spreading the messages of disaster management and its significance in his community through several awareness programmes such as workshops, meeting and general visits. Moreover, the CDMC conducts monthly meetings and is saving money in an emergency fund that they developed during the CDMC formation. Till date, they have been able to collect more than NRs2,600 (USD22). “The formation of the CDMC has opened my eyes and helped me understand disaster management and planning. I am very thankful towards the NDRR Project, SIDS Nepal Sindhuli and WVIN”, says Mr Kafle.

Under the NDRR Project several activities have been executed such as the development of the DPRP, simulation exercises, mitigation and LEOC support materials distribution in Tinpatan Rural Municipality. These project interventions are helping the local government to manage disasters in tactful way.

## UDAYAPUR

### 31. Local Disaster Management Committees Active at Thanagaun

Thanagaun lies in Tapli Rural Municipality, Ward No. 4, which is located in a remote part of Udayapur. It takes around a day to reach there by vehicle from the District Headquarters. The community is comprised of ethnic groups such as Rai and Magar along with Chhetri, Brahmin, and Thakuris. The major source of income is agriculture; producing crops like maize, millet and buckwheat as well as growing oranges and lemons.

## Local Disaster Management Committee Formed

Despite the Ward being vulnerable to soil erosion, landslides, fire and storms, there was no disaster risk management earlier. But with the support of World Vision International Nepal and its local partner Jalpa Integrated Development Society (JIDS) in October 2019, a Local Disaster Management Committee was formed through the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Project. The project supported the formulation of LDMC along with five different Task Forces that can be mobilised for disaster risk management in the Ward.



Figure 28: LDMC meeting at Thanagaun, Taapli, Udayapur

## Building Local Capacity

With the project implementation, capacity building of the LDMC members and training of local youth and volunteers on the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) process was carried out. The locals also involved themselves in the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience (LDCRP) plan preparation process. With these interventions at the community level, the community is now aware of disaster related issues.

## Increasing Resilience

At present, the LDMC members are active in their community, utilising the knowledge and skills gained from trainings and orientations provided under the project. They have started discussing Disaster Risk Management (DRM) interventions rather than focusing on development agendas such as opening up haphazard roads. They have been internalising the relationship between disaster and development as two sides of the same coin. They also have a plan to coordinate with the local level authorities, Provincial Government, and the Central Government relating to DRM issues. Furthermore, they have been planning for the relocation of families and households from the most vulnerable locations to safer locations in the near future. All steps which are increasing the community's resilience.

## LAMJUNG

### 32. Irrigation Enhances Agriculture

Khatrichaur is a small village located at Besishahar 1, Lamjung. Around 300 to 400 people live here. The majority of people in Khatrichaur are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and source of income, and a few people work in the government. Most of the young people are working overseas so challenges are there to engage youth in agriculture to improve and modernized the agriculture sector. In addition farmers were not able to cultivate their farmland because of a lack of irrigation facilities. The main irrigation canal was damaged annually by landslides and as a result farmers were unable to farm their land and it was left barren.

#### NDRR Supports for Irrigation System

The NDRR Project has been supporting the local government in this area for the preparation of a Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) and advocating for mainstreaming such plans during the development process.

The issue of irrigation was identified during the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) data collection and prioritized for necessary actions to reduce risks. With WVIN prioritizing on supporting the poor and marginalized to become resilient to disaster and climate change, it was decided to support for 6 inch x 48 metre and 4 inch x 80 metre pipes for the immediate maintenance of the water supply system for irrigation. For the first monsoon the pipes were placed temporarily in order to meet the timeline for paddy cultivation. However, there needs to be more prevention activities such as permanent canals and other structural mitigation work to make farmers more fully resilient to disasters.



*Figure 29- Farmer Bharat Budhathoki showing his farmland with no water supply [picture taken by Kumari Tamang, Social Mobilizer-NDRR Project during the needs assessment of irrigation canal operation support]*

#### Farmers are Happy Now!

Bharat Budathoki, one of the leading farmers talking to the WVIN social mobilizer stated that, “We used to face problems of water supply every year but this year the canal was temporarily operated before the monsoon with the support of the NDRR Project and I believe that there won’t be the old issues in coming years”. Ward Chairperson Baram Shrestha, along with other farmers of Khatrichaur are also happy and thankful for the support of RCDC and WVIN.



*Figure 30: Ongoing paddy cultivation in Khatrichaur after the supply of water through pipes supported by the RCDC/WVIN NDRR Project as part of implementation of small scale mitigation activities [picture by: Kumari Tamang, Social Mobilizer-NDRR]*

## KATHMANDU

### 33. Radio for Disaster Preparedness

Deepak Acharya, a radio broadcaster at ACORAB (Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal) is content to have informed the local communities about disaster preparedness and management through a range of radio programmes such as news bulletins, interviews and PSAs (Public Service Announcements). The radio station at ACORAB, which usually broadcasts programmes on current affairs including political, business and social issues, is now disseminating information on disaster risk reduction for public awareness.

#### Now Journalists Can Inform Their Listeners

“With the lack of proper knowledge and information on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), journalists were not able to effectively create messages on various aspects of disaster preparedness so as to inform and educate the community,” explains Mr Acharya. “Now we understand the importance of disaster management and are aware about the fact that community radio can be a useful source for hazard related information to educate, aware and protect locals from the devastating impact of disasters.” This realization has come following the exposure of radio journalists to the topic of disaster preparedness in a programme organised by ISET-Nepal under



*Figure 31: Mr Deepak Acharya is a person devoted to increase awareness on DRR preparedness through radio*

the Surakshit Sahar (Safer Cities) project, which aims at building urban disaster resilience. The radio journalists working in the Kathmandu Valley participating in the programme were oriented on the significant role that they can play in disaster preparedness, management and proper dissemination of early warning and advisories to allow communities to prepare for natural and manmade hazards such as floods, road accidents, fires etc.

#### DRR Aired Across the Country

With increased understanding about disasters gained from the programme, Mr Acharya has considered including DRR issues and their dissemination to the wider public for community resilience. For instance, news reports related to disaster preparedness, earthquake reconstruction and recovery were broadcasted in Sajha Khabar; a news bulletin which is broadcasted from 300 radio stations across the country.

### Interview with DRR Expert Aired

Similarly, the radio aired a 30-minute long interview with DRR expert Ajay Dixit, which highlighted various aspects of disaster management. “The interview generated positive feedback from the audience, which motivated us to make a PSA on disaster preparedness, which is now broadcasted twice a day,” states Mr Acharya. He is now further planning to design programmes that convey proper information and are effective enough to develop community resilience to better deal with disaster situations. However, he also realises a need for adequate knowledge and skill to impact audiences and that can contribute to better disaster preparedness, response and recovery in the community.

### Resources for Journalists also Prepared

On the topic of resource materials for journalists to advocate effectively about disaster, the Safer Cities project has now prepared a handbook for journalists, which has become a tool for journalists working in the DRR sector.

## ACHHAM

### 34. Newly Constructed Wall Protect Children from Injury

Ghatte Danda Secondary school was established in 1979 and lies in Ward No. 5 of Mellekh Rural Municipality in Achham. Recently 196 children were saved because of the previously carried out work to create a school compound wall through the NDRR Project implementation by ASTHA Nepal with funding support from World Vision International Nepal.

### No Wall to Protect Staff and Students

After the implementation of the DRR Project in Mellekh Rural Municipality, a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment was carried out as part of the development of the Local Development and Climate Resilience Plan at the Ward level. During the assessment it was found the school was vulnerable and at risk due to not having a compound wall. It was felt all the 200 people (staff and students) using the school were in danger.



Figure 32: Mitigation scheme to support the school for the construction of a compound wall before and after photo of Ghatte Danda Basic School, Mellekh Achham

## I Feared for the Children

“Due to not having a compound wall at school several children were injured during playtime. With no health facility available locally, there was a fear that if a child had a large accident it would take time to get them medical help. I went through the mind-set of fear...particularly when I was out of the school for official work in the district,” explains Head Teacher Dhvaj Bahadur Khadka.

But now his fear is gone as the project has supported for the preparation of the school compound wall in joint collaboration with the School Management Committee and project funds. After the construction of the wall the risk of injury decreased.

## Safe Place to Play

Ward Committee Member of Ward No. 5, Chandrakaladevi Khadka happily shares “Now our children have a safe place to play within the school and we are confident that they will not be injury by falling from the school compound.” Lok Bdr. Bohora, Chairperson of Mellekh Rural Municipality says, “The playground of Shree Ghattedanda Basic School was in very poor condition due to not having a compound wall. Now we see it has been improved through the support of World Vision. I hope this will reduce the number of accidents and make the school area safer. I am happy to see the changes that the project has made in this school.”

## KAILALI

### 35. LDMCs are Actively Managing COVID-19 Response

Gauriganga Municipality in Kailali district has been one of the most affected Municipalities in the district when it comes to COVID-19. Due to the economic and social condition of the community about 30% of the population go to India searching for work to feed their family. Almost all of them migrate seasonably, spending around six months a year in India. The Municipality has been experiencing different disasters caused by flood, fire, and wild animal attacks. Conscious Society for Social Development (CSSD), in partnership with World Vision International Nepal has been implementing the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project. With the support of the project Local DRM Committees have been re/formed and capacitated for the better understanding of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, humanitarian codes of conduct and the process to undertake a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment.

### Plans Prepared

Under the leadership of the Ward Office, a Ward level Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan has been developed. Plans were prioritised for the further implementation at field level. LDMC members were oriented on the provision made in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act for the better understanding of the team regarding the government's existing provisions and policy. The

Municipality has prepared a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management policy at Municipal level. They have also generated an Emergency Fund, as per the prepared guidelines for Emergency Fund Utilization. There is a Ward level Disaster Management Committee at the Ward level under the leadership of Ward Chairperson and a similar committee at the Municipal level as well.



Figure 33: Most vulnerable people are supported with food assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic in Gauriganga, Kailali

### COVID-19 Quarantine Managed Locally

During the COVID-19 period, the Municipality carried out a more coordinated response at the community level by identifying the actual vulnerable households and community members. According to the LDMC Chair, Binod Chaudhary, different organisations supported 300 of the most vulnerable households with food assistance. In close coordination between the Ward level LDMC and Municipality level quarantine management has been in operation and people coming from abroad are managed in four different places locally. The local level authorities are committed for the regular increase of DRR funds and their implementation along with the implementation of activities planned in the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan.

Krim Chaudhary, CSSD, DRR Officer, Kailali

## JUMLA

### 36. Irrigation Canal Brought Happiness to the Community

KIRDARC Nepal with funding support from World Vision International Nepal implemented the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project in Jumla district. The Project was implemented particularly in Tila Rural Municipality and Tatopani Rural Municipality including some Municipal level programmes at Chandannath Municipality and Patarasi Rural Municipality since 2019. Jumla is a hilly and remote district. Thus, making the community more resilient to disaster was a priority.

### Strengthening DRRM

Providing different capacity strengthening and strategic planning and implementation of Disaster Risk Management were the priority tasks of the project. During this period preparation of a local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan of Ward level was done. Priority was given as per the Vulnerability and

Capacity Assessment of community schemes. An irrigation canal and an electricity canal in Ward No. 4 of Taatopani Rural Municipality were taken as the priority as requested by the Ward Office.

### Water for Vegetables and Electricity Supply

The project supported the maintenance of the canal to benefit both irrigation and local electricity production. Thirty metres of canal maintenance was done through the support of project. Earlier the canal was in very poor condition but now proper irrigation has supported its fertility and many vegetables have been produced. With regards to electricity, with the canal now operating properly there is continuous electricity in the community. In addition, leakage problems have also been solved. The Chairperson of Canal Maintenance Committee expressed his hope of providing regular electricity to 163 families and irrigation to 93 Acre of land.



Figure 34: People maintaining the water and electricity canal in Taatopani RM of Jumla

## KAILALI

### 37. LDMC Responds Quickly During Fire at Bhajani Municipality

Bhajani Municipality is one of the most vulnerable Municipalities of Kailali district in terms of different hazards, especially flooding. However, so many other hazards also affect the area every year. Flood, land erosion and inundation in the monsoon season, cold wave during the winter and fire in the summer impacts the lives of the people of Bhajani Municipality. Bhajani Bazaar area is under urbanization but most of the other areas have houses made of mud and wood. Unfortunately these types of houses are more impacted by both floods and fires. There is no fire brigade in the Municipality and very little other emergency equipment.



Figure 35: Small houses destroyed in Bhajani-7 and fire brigades

CSSD Kailali with funding support of World Vision International Nepal has been implementing the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project in the Municipality since 2019, and has supported to organise a systematic response mechanism for a quicker response during emergencies. Under the Chairmanship of Amar Bdr. Kathariya, a Ward level Disaster Management Committees has been formed and trained in coordinated response. There was a large fire in May 2019 in Ward No. 7 Chatara Tole of Bhajani Municipality. Because the houses were constructed very close to each other and almost all made of wood, 12 homes were destroyed. At that time the LDMC of Bhajani coordinate with Tikapur Municipality which has a fire brigade, and the fire was controlled.

Ward Chairperson Mr Amar Bahadur Kathariya says, “good coordination saved us from losing more property during that fire. We are more active now than in previous times.”

Mina Chaudhary SM, Kailali

## KAILALI

### 38. I am Changed by Training in DRR

My name is Pooja Neupane. I live in Ghodaghodi Municipality Ward No. 4, Janakpur. I am 33 years old. When I was studying in Class 8 I had to get married and now I have two boys. I became mother at a very young age. Later on, after marriage, I rejoined my study and stayed at school until Grade 12.

#### I Love to Participate in Different Programmes: Now I am a LDMC Member

“There were only a few organisation operating in our area at that time but I was interested to take part in different activities carried out by those organisations. I participated in the last local level election and won! I am a member in the Ward Committee. My husband is a lawyer and has always motivated me to participate and do something for the community. But, I was completely unaware of the structural process of disaster risk management. When CSSD Kailali in Partnership of World Vision International Nepal carried out its programme in our Municipality in 2019 and I got an opportunity to participate in orientation and became a member of the LDMC.”



Figure 34: People maintaining the water and electricity canal in Tatopani RM of Jumla

## I No Longer Think We Wait for Disaster to Strike before Acting

“I have participated in training for the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment and this has built my confidence. I felt I could coordinate with other relevant stakeholders during the assessment at Ward and community level. Previously I thought that when a disaster happened, only then we should seek support from others. But now I have changed my thinking. I now know that the impact of hazards can be reduced and mitigation carried out through the implementation of a good plan prepared after a VCA which can provide us with the actual scenario of local level hazards and possible impact. At every step, Disaster Risk Management should be taken into consideration for the sustainable development of the community. We can do the preparedness actions and activities so that the risk can be minimized. I am participating in local level meetings and raising my voice for the better preparedness of mitigating disaster risks.”

## I Always Raise Awareness

“I am committed to raise awareness in the community. Wherever I go I always talk about better preparedness to make our society safe. I would like to thank CSSD and World Vision International Nepal for giving me this ability.”

Prepared by: Mina Chaudhary, SM CSSD, Kailali

## RURAL/MUNICIPAL LEVEL

### JUMLA

#### 39. Local Authorities' Growing Commitment Towards Disaster Management

Prepared by: Purna Prasad Neupane, Social Mobilizer, KIRDARC Nepal, 24 February 2019

After the implementation of the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Project, the local government representatives, official, and communities of four local bodies of Jumla District showed increased concern towards disaster management and are actively partaking in the process. But it wasn't always like this.

#### Natural and Manmade Disasters

In four local bodies of Jumla District, namely Chandannath Municipality, Tila Rural Municipality (RM), Patarasi RM and Tatopani RM, concern was growing regarding natural and man-made disasters which effected these areas. Although these areas are rich in drinking water, forests and herbs and have road access to the Municipality Offices, they still face natural and man-made disasters every year: including wildfires, landslides, heavy snowfall and river erosions. And more recently, activities performed in the name of development were causing concern. The wiping out of forests to build roads, uncontrolled settlements, and the usage of dozers without analyzing the effects on the environment created added disaster risk.

#### Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project Steps In

It was seen that the local government representatives in these areas did not recognise the huge implication of disaster risks, particularly those man-made ones. As a result, disasters were invited in the name of development. Priority given to disaster management was extremely low.

World Vision International Nepal and KIRDARC Nepal have been implementing the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project (NDRR) in these four areas since 2018, through which the newly elected local government representatives, officials and various relevant stakeholders were trained on the policies, laws, and guidelines relating to disaster. It is felt these trainings would help mitigate disasters.



*Government representatives of four local bodies where NDRR is implemented during a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) Training, Jumla*

The NDRR did the following: supported to form Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Committees, disaster management funds were established, and equipment support equivalent to NRs1,800,000 (approx USD1,600) was provided to run local emergency operation centres. Search and rescue and first

aid training was held, information on methods of humanitarian support during disasters, information management during disasters, media's roles during disasters, and mainstreaming of disasters into development trainings were also run. The project directly reached out to 150 people.

## Planning and Momentum

In Tila RM, after conducting Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) training, Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (LDCRP) were prepared in three Wards of the RM. Also, on the occasion of National Earthquake Safety Day, five heavylift airbags were given, one to the District Emergency Operation Centre and one to each of the four local bodies' relevant authorities.

Due to this, momentum has been created in the District towards disaster management. All four local bodies where the project is being run, have set apart emergency funds that range from NRs 500,000 to NRs1,000,000 (equivalent to USD4,500 to USD9,000). At present, all Wards of Tila RM are preparing their LDCRP. Meantime, Tatopani RM is conducting VCA trainings and has created an action plan to finalise the LDCRP.

## We are Committed towards Disaster Management

"World Vision and KIRDARC Nepal have supported us a lot so we can understand disaster management. We are all committed towards disaster management. We now understand we cannot achieve sustainable development until and unless we can manage disaster risks. Hence, I would like to thank both the organisations from the bottom of my heart," states Khadananda Chaulagain, Chief Administration Officer at Tatopani RM.

"We weren't fully informed about disaster management, but due to this project we have come to learn a lot and we are dedicated to create the plans ourselves and mainstream disaster management into our development plans," shares Gangadevi Upadhyay, Deputy Chief at Tatopani RM.

Similarly, at Patarasi RM, a local Disaster and Climate Resilience Committee has been formed and have been planning to create the LDCRP soon, according to Laximan Bohora, the RM's Chief. Likewise, Chandannath Municipality is also planning and preparing the LDCRP soon.

After the implementation of the NDRR project, the local government representatives, official, and communities of these four local bodies of Jumla district have shown increased concern towards disaster management and are also actively partaking in the process.

## DOTI

### 40. Purbichauki Rural Municipality: A Resilient Local Level

#### Background

Nepal is a mountainous country that straddles the boundary between the Indian and Himalayan Tectonic plates. Many hills in Nepal are situated in or near landslide areas. Approximately 260 people lose their lives annually due to landslides in Nepal, with around 3,000 families being affected. Similar types of problems were identified in Purbichauki Rural Municipality of Doti district. All the stakeholder of the Rural Municipality and Community Development Centre Doti, in Partnership with World Vision International Nepal's Disaster Risk Reduction Project conducted a meeting and a Local Disaster Management Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Dirga Raj Bogati, in order to help mitigate these problems.



Figure 37: LDMC meeting at Purbichauki Rural Municipality of Doti

#### Inception of NDRR

As a process of the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) formulation, a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment was carried out. Landslides were identified as major hazards in the whole Purbichauki area. Similarly, the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan identified many other risks in the education, child, and drinking water sectors as well. After the VCA was conducted by the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project, the project started its activities, taking into account the hazards and their locations. And formulated policies accordingly. There was enthusiastic participation by the local residents for the identification of places of risk and indicating those places on a map. A total budget of NRs1,179,494.98 was spent in conducting small scale mitigation activities. The NDRR Project contributed NRs1,073,971.36 and the remaining budget was contributed by local level government and



Figure 38: Installation of hazard board in the community of Doti

the community. The activities like renovating the school infrastructure, construction of a public water tap and installing gabion and masonry walls for mitigating landslides were conducted by launching such schemes in Ward Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the same Rural Municipality.

### Resiliency Improved

Every monsoon (June-September) many incidents of landslides used to occur causing human and economic loss in the area. On the one hand the people of the Municipality did not know where the safer places were, where they could seek shelter in during a disaster. On the other hand they also didn't know which areas were most at risk in their neighbourhood. Many settlements which had not been identified earlier were at risk of landslide and erosion. The Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment has been able to point out many hazardous places which are not safe for settlements.

As many as eight hazard mapping boards are installed throughout the Rural Municipality; supported by the project. These map boards clearly indicate hazardous places, safer places, hospitals, Red Cross etc. The hazard mapping boards are installed in every Ward Office and Rural Municipality Office ensuring easy visibility and clear identification of risk prone areas. Now the visitors and the residents of the Rural Municipality feel safe due timely and effective notification of possible risk areas.

### We Feel Safe Now

The possibility of human and economic casualty due to landslides has been minimized by the hazard maps and the risk of epidemics due to polluted water has been mitigated with the implementation of small scale mitigation schemes. "We feel safe to reside in Pokhari Village now. We realized that despite being the local residents of the village, earlier we did not know about all the hazardous places inside this Ward," Prakash Saud, Ward Chairperson of Purbichauki Ward No. 7 Pokhari, explained during the setup of a hazard mapping board in his Ward.

## KAILALI

### 41. Establishing Local Emergency Operation Centres to Reduce Disaster Risk

Kailali is one of the nine districts in Sudurpaschim Province. The district consists of 13 local level governments. Among them, Tikapur Municipality, Bhajani Municipality and Kailari Rural Municipality have been ravaged by floods year after year. Many people lose their lives and property due to monsoon floods. The Karnali, Kandra and Mohana are the three major rivers causing floods in Kailali district.

## Emergency Preparedness

Earlier, the existing Local Disaster Management Committee was not functional. However, once the Local Emergency Operation Centre (LEOC) was reactivated, the LDMC meetings became regular. The meetings are held on a needs-basis. This year, the LEOC called a monsoon preparedness meeting for the first time before the arrival of the monsoon. Stakeholders, including the media, were invited to the meeting where they discussed and decided how to function during any emergency. The meeting concluded that the FM stations would broadcast the Early Warning System message free of cost during any emergency situation. The Municipality also visited the three major shops in the area and asked them to store food that would be enough for at least 2,000 households in case of any emergency or disaster. In addition to that, the fuel stations were also requested to keep a stock of fuel that would be sufficient for the needs of all the households in the area. As per the decision made at the meeting, the Municipality distributed megaphones to all Wards in Tikapur for the promotion of early warnings at local level.



Figure 39: Discussion for the smooth operation of LEOC at Tikapur Municipality, Kailali

## Local Emergency Operation Centre Established

Now a monitor installed in the Rural Municipality Office not only displays Department of Hydrology Meteorology updates during the monsoon season, but also plays videos with awareness messages on disaster risk reduction. All of which benefits visitors to the office.

“An early warning system had already been installed in the Karnali, Kandra and Mohana rivers, but we needed to depend on the District Emergency Operation Centre for any information or updates on floods or disasters. We did not have any mechanism and responsibility for the management of emergency information. After the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Project implemented by Conscious Society for Social Development (CSSD) with funding support by World Vision International Nepal, we established the Local Emergency



Figure 40: People getting information from a display managed by Tikapur ELOC, Kailali

Operation Centre in Tikapur Municipality,” says Devi Acharya, LEOC Tikapur Focal Person. LEOC has currently been working as the secretariat for disaster risk reduction in the Municipality.

## KAILALI

### 42. Rural Municipalities Collected More than NRs 1.8 Crore (\$157,855) in Disaster Risk Reduction Funds

In 2018, World Vision international Nepal introduced the concept of a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Fund at Rural Municipality level and also supported NRs153,000 (\$1,341) as seed money for the fund. Municipalities allocated equal or a little more budget to their fund during that time. The Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project continues to follow up on the Palika (Municipalities) as well as Ward level awareness activities and emphasises on preparedness for better response during emergencies.



Figure 41: LEOC representatives observing the DEOC Kailali

Municipalities have increased their DRR fund. They have allocated amounts that range anywhere between NRs500,000 to NRs5,000,000 (\$4,384 to \$43,848). Now, the total DRR funds of 13 Rural Municipalities amounts to NRs 18,650,000 (\$163,555).

### Looking to the Future through Sustainability

Padam Bahadur Dhama, Ward Chairperson of Panchadewal Binayak Municipality 2, shares, “After the project taught us the importance of disaster preparedness for quicker response, we have learnt some skills on response and rescue. We also formulated the rescue team and allocated a budget for the DRR fund. Our Municipality budget for DRR activities has reached NRs800,000 (\$7,015).”

Devi Prasad Acharya, DRR focal person of Tikapur Municipality, Kailali says, “We were able to collect NPs7,000,000 (\$61,388) for the DRR fund. We also have fund management guidelines which help us identify the level or kind of damages, and support community needs. This year, we supported storm victims using the fund. We now have NRs5,000,000 (\$43,848) remaining. For the sustainable management of this fund, we have provisioned to allocate three percent budget from any development activities implemented at the municipal level to this fund. With this, we can say that there will be sustainability to the project interventions and the Municipality will be able to carry on the disaster risk reduction/ mitigation and emergency response with their own budget.”

## MORANG

### 43. Simulation Exercise Changed my Understanding of DRR

Sharwan Hajari Tharu is the Disaster Focal Person of Gramthan Rural Municipality and has been coordinating the disaster related cases with the RM, community and civil society organisations for the last year. Nari Bikash Sangh (NBS), in partnership with World Vision International Nepal, has been implementing DRR focused projects in Gramthan since 2018. Mr Tharu has participated in several trainings organised by NBS and WVIN. He says, “Since 2018 I have participated in various trainings ranging from first aid, humanitarian response, light search and rescue, and information management training, all of which have capacitated my understanding of DRR. I am now able to fulfil my duties as DRR Focal Person of the Rural Municipality.”

#### Simulation Validates Response Plans

Gramthan RM has also been supported for the preparation of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan. The simulation exercise was helpful for the validation of the functionality of the DPRP. In this course, the simulation exercise was carried out at the Lohandra River, prioritizing a flood scenario. One result of the simulation has been the setting up of nine clusters for rescue and relief in the flood-prone communities.



Figure 42: People getting information from a display managed by Tikapur ELOC, Kailali

#### Simulation Exercise Gives Practical Knowledge

Recalling the simulation exercise Mr Tharu says, “In past trainings I got to know the basics of DRR and its issues, modality of operation and the coordination needed. But as per my understanding I thought I was solely responsible for DRR and during emergency situations. Through the simulations I learned in case of any incidents (e.g. flood) my basic role is to coordinate among several clusters and everyone has their own roles and responsibilities. For example for Search and Rescue, I should coordinate with the security agencies; for treatment I should contact the Health Clusters and so on. So although my prior training imparted me with theoretical knowledge, it was the simulation exercise that gave me practical knowledge which I will apply in the coming days”

## UDAYAPUR

### 44. Simulation Exercise Highlights the Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders

Due to the terrain and geographical complexity of the hills and mountains that lie within the Tapli Rural Municipality, this area is highly susceptible to landslides, mostly during the monsoon season. Every year several families have to face this problem, adversely impacting their normal life. Thus, JIDS Udayapur aimed to bring awareness about responses during such events, ways to survive during landslides, and the roles of different stakeholders. This was carried out with the support of the NDRR Project.

#### Local Representatives Have Responsibilities

A simulation exercise based on a landslide and earthquake together was demonstrated at Rupatar, Tapli Rural Municipality. The event was organised by the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project (NDRR) which was implemented by Jalpa Integrated Development Society (JIDS) Udayapur in partnership with World Vision International Nepal. The programme was organised on 3rd July 2019 in coordination and in direct involvement with the Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC) of Tapli Rural Municipality.



Figure 43: Simulation Exercise in Tapli Rural Municipality, Udayapur

The assistant principal of Mahendra Ratna Secondary School Mohan Budhathoki said, “Through the simulation exercise I realised the importance and responsibilities of local representatives and different organisations as well stakeholder during the time of disaster.”

Similarly local resident Arjun Raskoti recalled the devastating flood and landslide event of 1985 in which 20 houses were engulfed by an intense rainfall-triggered landslide. He further added, “The simulation event organised by JIDS has contributed a lot to the awareness raising aspects of the community people. They are more sensitised on the importance and role of the Rural Municipality, government and non-government organisations working within their community through the simulation exercise.”

#### Disaster Management Plan and Search and Rescue Materials to Follow

The Chairperson of the Rural Municipality, Uddhav Singh Thapa, mentioned that because of the event the roles and the responsibilities of various clusters have been made clear at the RM level. He further shared his experience saying that, “Being a RM Chairperson, I had to face my role as well as responsibilities in a realistic way during the simulation exercise. I only remembered that the entire event

was only a simulation when it ended!” Mr Thapa has announced that the local government will soon draw up a Disaster Management Plan. Essential Search and Rescue (SAR) materials will be stocked at their warehouse for emergencies.

## KATHMANDU

### 45. GIS in Local Government for Disaster Management

Narose Aryal, Ward Member of Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) 10 is determined to strengthen disaster resilience in the community with Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, which provides a decision support system in disaster management. GIS is a computer based information system for modeling, and analyzing spatial data that can be used for displaying a community’s vulnerability to hazards. He started using GIS software for disaster preparedness plans as well as tackling disasters at Ward level.

#### Feeling Confident

“Had we known about GIS before and had well-managed data in place, we could have informed locals and reduced damages during the Dhobikhola (river) flooding.” Mr Aryal recalls the flood incident in Dhobikhola, Ghattekulo that occurred a year ago at midnight. “We had a tough time dealing with the event in absence of a disaster database in the Ward Office that could have helped in timely decision-making,” shares Mr Aryal.



Figure 44: Narose Aryal, Ward member of Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC)-10

However, he now feels confident to handle such situations effectively as he, along with his colleagues, have been trained on GIS by ISET-Nepal under the Surakchit Sahar (Safer Cities) Project. The local representatives and appointees of selected Wards of Kathmandu (10, 12, 31) and Lalitpur (2, 9, 11) participated in the training aimed at increasing understanding on GIS and building institutional capacity of urban governance.

#### Gathering and Updating Data

With this knowledge and capacity, the Ward Office is initiating disaster management and preparation efforts at the local level. Mr Aryal is constantly working on the GIS, gathering data and updating the database. The Ward profile has been updated and road/ location map has been produced that can be used for finding alternate routes, shelters and locations in the Ward. Furthermore, open spaces, schools and temples in the Ward area have also been identified. “I am visiting the places, collecting the

information using GPS and storing the data; which are important steps for preparedness,” explains Mr Aryal as he realises that accurate cataloging of GIS data is essential for useful information during emergency conditions.

Thinking about future monsoons and potential floods, Mr Aryal's team is detecting potential sites of flooding from rainfall and deciding the actions to take in the aftermath of the event. “With stored data, decision making has become easy. We have identified how or where certain areas should be evacuated and which roads to access at the time of flooding. If we were not trained on the use of GIS technology for disaster management, we could face a disastrous situation in monsoon seasons”.

### Advancing Skills

Furthermore, Mr Aryal's team plans to communicate risk and hazard messages to the Ward residents based on accurate household data in the future, provided that they are further trained to advance their knowledge and skill on GIS.

## MORANG

### 46. Disaster Risk Management in Katahari Rural Municipality

Katahari Rural Municipality is located in Morang district of Province 1, and occupies a total area of 51.59km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 39,775 consisting of people from various ethnic groups such as Dalits, Madheshi and Janajatis. As most of Katahari is surrounded by rivers, it is affected by floods every year.

Farmers in Katahari work hard on their farms and supply their products like sugarcane, seasonal vegetables and other crops to the market for their livelihoods. These crops get destroyed during the monsoon due to extreme rainfall, which results in floods. The fertile soil also gets disrupted due to floods, which in the short and long term affect farmers' agricultural production and financial income.



Figure 45: Chairperson of Katahari Rural Municipality Ram Kumar Kamat, Morang

### Identified and Prioritised

Nari Bikash Singh, in coordination with World Vision International Nepal has been implementing the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project since 2018 in Katahari Ward Nos. 6 and 7. In 2020, the project was implemented in all the seven Wards of Katahari Rural Municipality. The project has been

supporting the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) formation and endorsement in each Ward along with Rural Municipality level Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) formation. These plans contain essential resources and major points for disaster risk reduction and its management. The main areas of risk and types of disasters were identified and prioritised for project activity implementation so that the plan could be achieved successfully. Before this, there were no plans or policies formed regarding disaster risk management. A Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC) has been formed in each Ward of Katahari, which will help in disaster risk reduction.

## Thank You

Chairperson of Katahari Rural Municipality, Ram Kumar Kamat says, “I would like to thank Nari Bikash Sangh and World Vision International Nepal for their kind support. Being a representative of the local government, my commitment is that I will focus on budget allocation for Disaster Risk Management and Resilience in Katahari. Thank you for bringing such an essential programme in our Rural Municipality.”

## SINDHULI

### 47. Simulation Exercise Raise the DRR Awareness at Local Level

In the geographical perspective, Tinpatan Rural Municipality of Sindhuli district is a vulnerable Rural Municipality where people from different groups, ethnicity and languages are residing. It is located 37km from the district headquarter. This RM is divided into 11 Wards and borders with Kamalamai Municipality, Dudhuli Municipality, Phikkal Rural Municipality and Golanjor Rural Municipality.

#### Simulations on Fires and Landslides

Several developmental organisations are working in this Rural Municipality and among them SIDS Nepal Sindhuli is one of the main organisations. SIDS is implementing the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Project which is funded by World Vision International Nepal. It has carried out different kinds of disaster related activities in Tinpatan, particularly related to fire. A simulation exercise was carried out in Chakmake Bazaar (Ward No. 11) of Tinpatan Rural Municipality. Through this awareness raising simulation, people gained knowledge about how to rescue those who are caught in a landslide and how to control fire and rescue people from fires.

#### Please Expand the Simulation Activity

The activity was held in the presence of Vice Chairperson of the Rural Municipality, Ward Chairperson, Elected Members, local level stakeholders and local people. The Vice Chairperson, after observing the simulation activity, mentioned that all the people who were present were aware about disasters, but if

any such disaster came they are now able to defend themselves. Similarly as per the Ward Chairperon of Ward No. 11, Mr Hitlal Shrestha “Simulation is an entirely new activity for the Tinpatan Rural Municipality and considered to be a most essential activity for all. If this activity had been carried out previously knowledge could have been used for past disasters. I would humbly request SIDS Nepal Sindhuli to organise this activity in all the Wards of Tinpatan Rural Municipality, and not limit it to RM level only.” Furthermore he added, “I would like to say thank you to SIDS Nepal Sindhuli and World Vision International Nepal for conducting such an activity.”



*Simulation ‘victim’*



*Participants in the simulation*



*First responders at the simulation*



*Vice Chairperson of Tinpatan RM addressing the simulation participants*

## ACHHAM

### 48. LDCRP Minimizing Disaster Risks in Achham

Kamalbazar was upgraded to a Municipality about five years ago but so far, only has basic facilities. Every year different disasters hit this area and affect local people. As per the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of Nepal, although there is the provision of having a disaster preparedness and response plan, there was no plan for the disaster preparedness and response at Municipality level.

## Orientations Held

Since 2019 World Vision International Nepal, in partnership with ASTHA Nepal started its Disaster Risk Reduction programme in Kamalbazar Municipality. Orientation on having a disaster preparedness and response plan, and the process and importance of such a plan, has been given to the local elected body and other stakeholders. Different levels of meetings were organised for the collection of information on disasters and their impact on the community, children, youth, women, and elderly people. Additionally, different sessions were conducted on the current risk mitigation practices and local level response set-up.



Figure 46: Mayor Mr. Om Prakash Bista, Kamalbazar Municipality Achham

## Mayor and Ward Working for Preparedness

Mayor Om Prakash Bista says, “We made the disaster preparedness plan earlier so that many tasks for the preparedness and response could be managed for the mitigation of existing risks. WVI and ASTHA Nepal supported us by providing technical and financial support to finalise our plan. We will carry out the implementation and set-up for the response at Ward level as well. I am hopeful that the prepared plan will help us for better preparedness and swift action,”



Figure 47: Mayor receiving the DPRP of the Municipality handing over by the project, Achham

Chairperson of Ward No. 4, Mr Lalit

Dholi further explains, “We prepared the Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan at Ward level with the support of the DRR Project. We have identified the plans to be carried out for making our community and society resilient.”

## Lives and Property Saved

Now, the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan of Kamalbazar Municipality has been prepared and endorsed by the Municipality for the first time in Achham. The Municipality has identified the plans to be carried out for better preparedness and strengthening the response mechanism. Now lives and property can be saved in the days to come.

## MORANG

### 49. A Step Forward on Disaster Risk Reduction: A Case Study from Gramthan Rural Municipality, Morang District

Gramthan Rural Municipality is located to the south-west of Morang district, adjacent to the Biratnagar Metropolitan city in eastern Nepal. The RM is formed by merging the former Sidhra, Bangigama, Tetariya, Lakhantari, Motipur and Jhorahat VDCs after the restructuring process of local government that took place in 2017. Despite of its close proximity with the regional headquarter and proposed Provincial capital, and its nearness to the Metropolitan city, developmentally it feels like they are still darkness.

#### Still Struggling

For example, the RM is struggling to uproot the existing problems like early child marriage, illiteracy, delivery of quality education, proper and clean water supply, health and transportation facilities, etc. Apart from this, the Rural Municipality has been continuously affected by a yearly cold wave, household fire outbreaks and flooding during the monsoon by the Singiya, Judi and Khadra river. A large number of lives and money has been lost through these disastrous events in the past, among which the unforgettable flood of 2017.



*Search and Rescue materials stockpile in Gramthan Rural Municipality*

With a deep breath Shrawan Tharu, DRR Focal Person, Gramthan RM, recalls the event. “That year 654 households were completely destroyed. No house was unaffected within the RM. During that situation, coordination, information compilation, sharing and combine response mechanism was lacking. Also lacking was search and rescue materials to handle the emergency situation.” Also it was felt that, there was a lack of proper planning and resources management during the situation. The problem is not however limited with the flood of a particular year. Every year the RM has to face the monsoon flood; the incident of 2017 was the largest one.”

Another major problem is that people have to face a cold wave in the winter, and even snake bites result in a few casualties every year. Despite these hazards and disasters, the local government took no initiative to reduce the disaster risk.

The nation was also experiencing significant changes in restructuring and yet there was still no plans to address issues in the community.

## Gramthan Now Strengthened

However, in 2018, Naari Bikas Sangh in partnership with WVIN came up with the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Project. As part of this project intervention, Gramthan Rural Municipality's capacity on DRM has been strengthened through the several DRR orientations and capacity building trainings. The training were provided to local community individuals, Task Force members, local elected representatives and even to the DRR focal



*Emergency Operation Centre and DRR & CCA Learning Centre together in Gramthan Rural Municipality*

person of the Rural Municipality. Along with the implementation of the project and support, the horizon of DRR and management was expanded individually as well institutionally. The project supported for establishing the emergency fund with seed money of NRs153,000 and also helped to prepare the mobilisation guideline and at the same time RM also allocated the NRs1,050,000 envisioning to spend the amount in an emergency situation. In addition to this, the existing seven Wards of Gramthan Rural Municipality have also allocated a tentative NPs 300,000 each to be used for Disaster Risk Reduction work at Ward level. Also there is support from the project on establishing a DRR and CCA Learning Centre and Emergency Operation Centre, provision of search and rescue materials and more.

Mrs Phulkumari Chaudhary, Vice Chairperson of the RM explains, "For FY-2019 the RM allocated of NRs200,000 for DRR capacity building and NRs350,000 for activities implementation on the DRR and CCA sector. In summary a total of NRs 2,400,000 for Ward level and NRs4,620,000 for overall Rural Municipality Level for the DRR, CCA and environmental sector has been allocated this year." She further assured that the budget will be utilized to its best purpose. Shivnarayan Majhi, Chairperson, mentioned that awareness about disasters was lacking and earlier there was neither preparedness nor infrastructure. Due to which a large loss of life and property was experienced during disasters.

Mrs Manju Parajuli, Social Mobilizer for this project, states that the Rural Municipality has prepared a disaster work plan, procured tools and equipment, and established an emergency fund. The local Disaster Management Committee is now also functional. The DRR Project run by NBS and WVIN helped the RM and communities realise the importance of disaster risk reduction and preparedness. As a result of this, in FY- 2019 there was a budget allocation and plan integrated into the local level priority actions that addressed the existing DRR, CCA and environmental issues within the RM.

## KATHMANDU

### 50. Chandragiri Mayor Giri Supports LDCRP and DPRP

Ghanshyam Giri was elected recently as Mayor of Chandragiri Municipality. He is an active, enthusiastic and a very cooperative local government representative. He has been extending his support to all the essential programmes conducted by CDS and World Vision International Nepal in Chandragiri Municipality. A project has been implemented aimed at increasing the resilience of communities and local government officials to better manage disaster shocks and stresses by taking ownership of their own Local Disaster Risk Management Plans.

Giri's participation in the VCA had made it more effective in regards to collecting data and information. A workshop on the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP), and orientation on the Disaster Risk Management Act was provided to stakeholders and awareness raising programmes were successfully conducted in the Municipality with the Mayor's presence and strong support.

During the LDCRP endorsement and DPRP workshop, he said, "Chandragiri Municipality has made LDCRP and DPRP essential documents which should be implemented for disaster risk management. By extending my heartfelt gratitude, I would like to request the entire team of CDS and WVI Nepal continue such essential DRR activities next year as well."



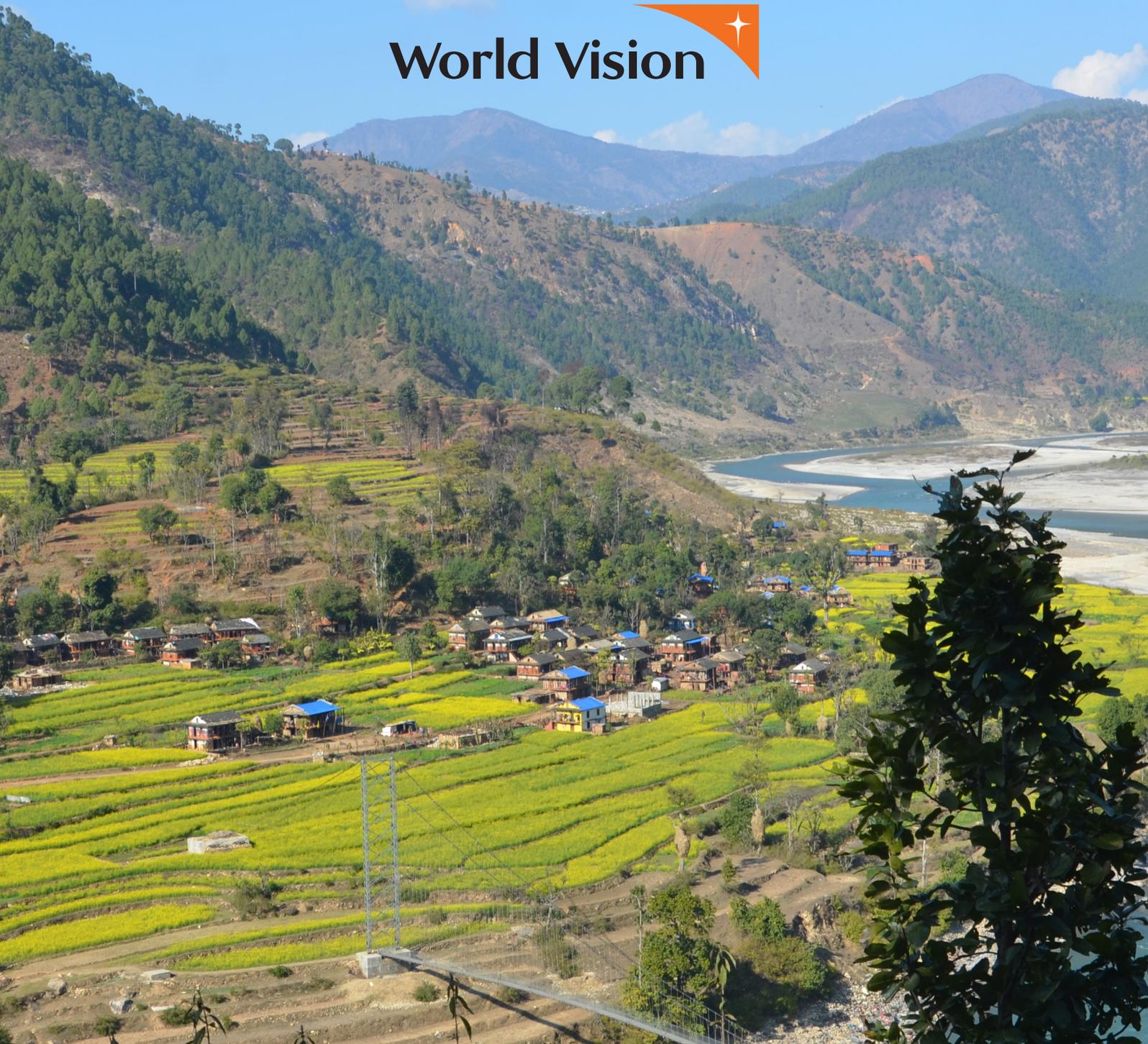
Figure 48: LDMC meeting at Chandragiri Municipality, Kathmandu

## District-wise number of case stories





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