

# CHOUTARI

World Vision International Nepal  
Newsletter ■ May - Oct 2017



President of Nepal addresses the  
**‘It takes Nepal  
to end child marriage’**  
campaign launch

*“The culture of child marriage has not only curtailed child rights but it has also affected all aspects of their life. It has pushed the life of girls and women to a vicious cycle of difficulty and violence, and elimination of this bad practice is possible through collective efforts.”*

*Speech by Right Honourable President, Bidya Devi Bhandari of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. Kathmandu, 10 August 2017.*



**Launch of 'It takes Nepal to end child marriage' campaign**





On 10 August 2017, in partnership with the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal, World Vision International Nepal (WVIN) launched a five-year nationwide campaign in Kathmandu.

The campaign launch was organised in association with National Youth Council to support the government's initiatives to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially targeting SDG 5.3, SDG 16.2 and the National Strategy to End Child Marriage 2016.

It was a day-long event divided into two main sessions. The inaugural event was graced by Right Honourable President Bidya Devi Bhandari, ministers, high-level government officials, child representatives, diplomats,

faith-leaders, academics and representatives from civil society and the private sector. President Bhandari encouraged all the stakeholders present to join hands in ending child marriage, as it is a multi-faceted issue. The inaugural event was followed by parallel sessions on the roles of law, policy, youth, and media in ending child marriage.

Concluding the launch, Elizabeth Satow, National Director of WVIN, said, "Though the legal age of marriage in Nepal is 20 for both men and women, we still see child marriage being practiced in both rural and urban areas of Nepal. And hence, it takes each one of us, it takes people to end child marriage."

**National level consultation on Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG)**

A national level consultation meeting on CFLG was organised by the National CFLG Forum with the support of WVIN on 4 September 2017. The meeting was conducted in the presence of child club graduates, representatives from the government, media, UN and I/NGOs. The objectives of the meeting were to consult and compile ideas from civil society for implementing CFLG in newly-structured policies and agendas, and to encourage child-related networks, INGOs, NGOs, media to adopt CFLG.

An open floor discussion was also held, focusing on issues like the need to increase awareness among parents and teachers regarding child-friendly society. Some participants also raised the need to advocate for child rights monitoring and protection systems at all levels. These recommendations will be incorporated by the National CFLG Forum in their further activities.

The National CFLG Forum was formed with the initiation of WVIN on 31 March 2017 with the objective to bridge the gap between policy level and grassroots work on CFLG.



**NEPAL FLOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

In August 2017, WVIN responded to the floods that affected many districts in the Terai belt and reached out to those who were most in need, providing critical humanitarian support to flood survivors.



**17,435** beneficiaries reached



500 mosquito nets, 565 blankets, 674 hygiene kits and 1,454 tarpaulins



200 kg beaten rice, 8 quintals rice and lentils, 100 kg salt, 200 liters oil, 674 dry fod rations



Super flour to 8,382 children (6-23 months), pregnant and lactating women



Response districts Morang, Sunsari and Kailali (indicated by orange dots from right to left)

Priorities for recovery phase



Food Security



Agriculture/Livelihoods



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene



# Increased access to quality, safe & inclusive education



IMPACT IN SECTORS



Improved child health

WVIN is working to strengthen the access to quality of education services provided through basic education and Early Childhood Education and Development Centres (ECED), improve the quality of learning environment for young children; enhance learning outcomes; strengthen school safety and systems, improve sanitation and hygiene; and promote child-friendly teaching and learning in schools through its education projects.

WVIN is working to support safer motherhood, improve child nutrition, strengthen capacity and governance of health institutions in maternal child health and support Open Defecation- Free campaigns promoting community led total sanitation through health projects.

In Fiscal Year 2017 (Oct 2016- Sep 2017),

-  123 school drop-outs re-enrolled in schools
-  199 school management committees' capacity built
-  163 ECED centres supported
-  442 reading camps established in 10 districts
-  610 schools supported for promotion of quality education



Menuka Karki, teacher at Shree Mangala Secondary School in Sindhuli District says, "Teachers play a critical role in enabling students to learn to read in the early grades. However, not all teachers have the essential skills and knowledge required to effectively play this role. I am glad I received training on Literacy Boost which has taught me how to incorporate the core reading skills into the curriculum in order to ensure that children are learning to read and remain motivated to learn while in the classroom."



"Until few months ago I did not know which type of food was nutritious and suitable for my daughter, Alisha. As a result she was malnourished and underweight. But when I attended Positive Deviance Hearth sessions I learnt a lot. Earlier, I prepared porridge using only rice but after the sessions I started adding fresh vegetables and lentils to make it more nutritious. I also started feeding her fresh fruits. Now, her weight has increased by more than a kilogram," says Mana, mother of Alisha (2) from Udayapur District



In Fiscal Year 2017 (Oct 2016- Sep 2017),

-  16,321 women reached with nutrition education
-  55 Out-Reach Clinics equipped
-  369 families received toilet construction support
-  989 mothers groups involved in nutrition promotion
-  417 children rehabilitated through Positive Deviance Hearth



Increased community resilience to disaster and economic shocks



Increased protection for vulnerable groups

"The tailoring training I received motivated me to start my own tailoring centre and now, my business is booming," shares Dil Bahadur from Jumla District.



WVIN is working to help families strengthen their production and income, including training for the use of technology and improved farming practices, value chain development, skills development for vulnerable youth, and support for communities to help manage disaster risks.

In order to collaborate and coordinate for a youth development programme, WVIN has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Youth Council.

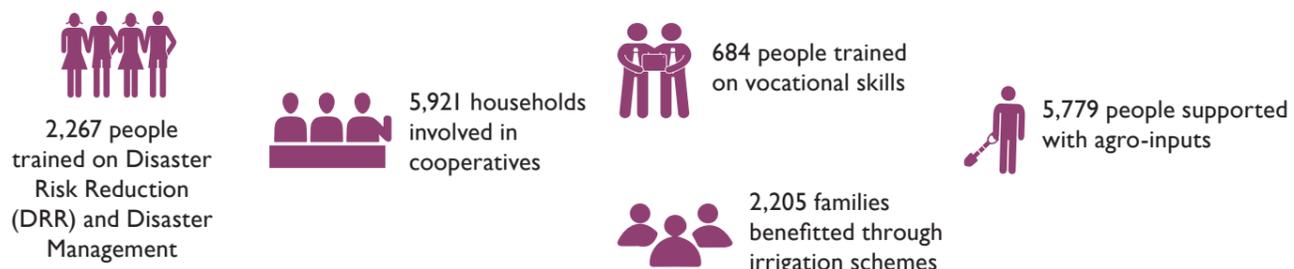
WVIN is working to strengthen formal and informal child protection systems, increase children's resilience and reduce harmful traditional practices against children. For this, the protection programme developed the capacity of the police, local child protection and promotion committees, and women and children service centres, to provide effective child protection services. It also enhanced the capacity of informal systems like child clubs, mothers' groups, School Management Committees and health workers to strengthen the case reporting and referral system and increase the ability of children to protect themselves from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.

Additionally, Channels of Hope project was implemented in Lamjung and Morang. The project encouraged multi-faith leaders to enhance child protection within their faith communities and worked in the communities through Community Hope Action Team (CHAT) groups.

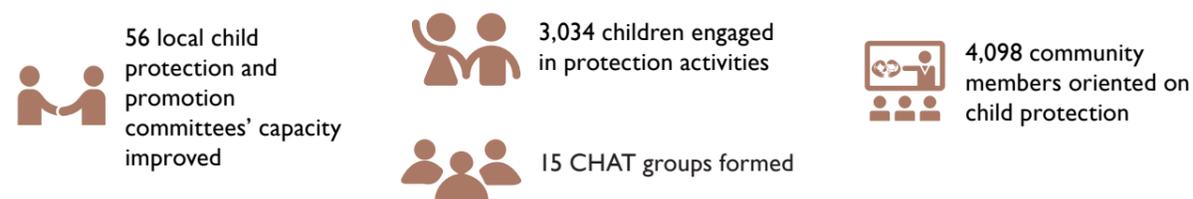


Laxmi (left) was hardly 18 when her marriage was fixed by her family and she felt helpless. When the local child protection and promotion committee in Sindhuli district found out about the case they intervened, informed the police and stopped the marriage. Recalling the time, Laxmi shares, "If I had married then, I would not have been able to continue my studies."

In Fiscal Year 2017 (Oct 2016- Sep 2017),



In Fiscal Year 2017 (Oct 2016- Sep 2017),





## ADDRESSING WATER WOES AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE



## Nepal earthquake response update



Rice flakes mixed with raw wai-wai (instant noodles) is what the hard-working community of Gaikhur village in Gorkha District have for lunch after toiling for hours under the sun. They have been working to restore the water supply in their community after the earthquakes of 2015 swallowed their local ponds and diverted their rivers.

Each morning for the past two months, the men in this community start constructing the water reservoir at 10, take a break to have lunch around 2 pm and typically work till 5 or even later if their target for the day isn't met. Prem Bahadur, a local farmer says, "We've completed the outer walls of the reservoir and have begun working on its internal structure. Some of the men had taken part in the training where they learnt the techniques of setting up galvanised iron pipes which is a new technique to us as well. This knowledge transfer had made construction easier." Prem leads the water user committee in the village and is positive that there should be some development in the next two months.

Similarly, the women have been working hard to prepare the water source. Despite their challenging schedule of having to manage housework, after sending their children off to school they have been beginning work at 11 a.m. and finishing at around 5. "We have been helping transfer the construction materials from the vehicle drop-off point to where the water source is. I am old and it can get tiring at times, but this is the least we can do," shares Santa Kumari, 50, continuing, "Before lunch today, I moved 12 sacks of cement, walking 20 minutes there and back for each trip. The base of the reservoir is now complete and further work is being done."

Before the earthquake, the villagers were dependent on local ponds and rivers for water for domestic chores such as washing clothes, dishes, and bathing, and had to walk at least half an hour to fetch drinking water from the water source. Following the devastating earthquakes, as a result of the ponds and rivers drying up, they had to resort to

making more trips to the water source for drinking water as well as water for other purposes. This meant more trips, 3-4 at a minimum.

As if that weren't enough, the path from the village to the water source carried with it the risk of attack by wild animals- tigers and snakes - especially at night.

The children are no stranger to the problem. Just take Juna, a 30-year-old mother of four. Her daughters, as young as Sirjana, who is 8, have been helping her fetch water, taking 45 minutes on the path for each trip. In each trip, Sirjana carries a vessel holding 5 litres of water and 3 bottles of 1.5 litres of water each. Juna says that Sirjana has hurt herself a number of times during the process; the fresh scars I see on her legs leave me in no doubt. "Even I don't like to ask her to get the water, but she can't resist it, seeing her sisters work. I can't deny that it helps though," she remarks.

So, how common is this problem? A study by UNICEF shows that in the aftermath of the earthquake, 1.1 million people across 14 districts were left without access to protected water sources. With such great need, World Vision is trying to restore access to water sources for the earthquake survivors.

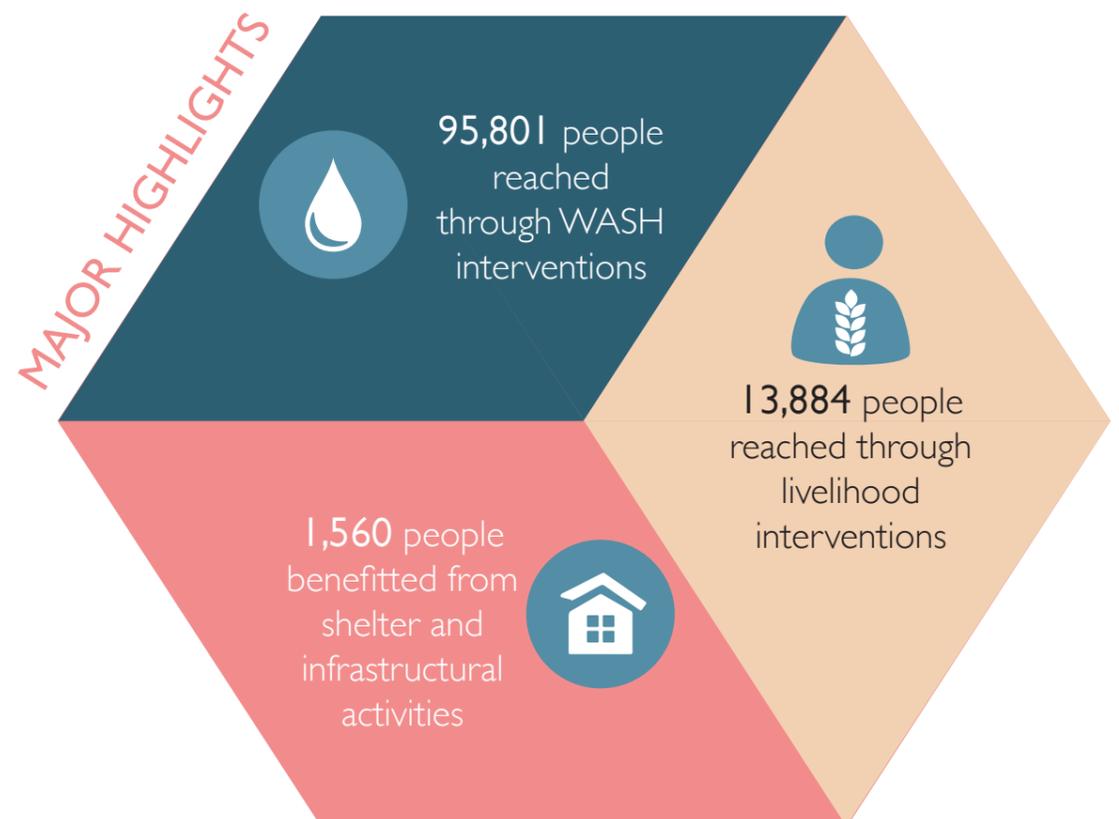
The construction of the Gaikhur reservoir is expected to be completed sometime in the next two months. Once completed, it should meet the needs of about 40 households in the village, with an individual tap for each house.

To date, World Vision has supported the reconstruction of 175 water supply systems, benefitting more than 50,420 people.

"Access to clean drinking water is vital to human health and thanks to World Vision, we will soon have enough water to drink," says Man Bahadur, another local farmer.

After the devastating earthquake struck Nepal in April and May 2015, WVIN responded with immediate relief followed by recovery efforts in ten of the worst-hit districts working alongside humanitarian stakeholders, government and community partners.

WVIN is currently working in Gorkha, Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk districts to help families bounce back and strengthen their resilience with interventions in the areas of livelihoods, shelter and infrastructure, and WASH. Through its Rehabilitation phase beginning in 1 October 2016, WVIN helped 111,245 people across the three districts so far.



By Nissi Thapa, Communications Officer



■ Grant projects update

Recovery Education Project in Sindhuli

As one of the worst-hit districts of 2015 earthquakes, Sindhuli District had more than 80% of its public schools damaged due to the disaster. In response to this, a Recovery Education Project commenced in Sindhuli in October 2016 with funding support from World Vision USA. Working in 20 schools, it seeks to improve safe learning environments while improving early grade reading. So far, 48 reading camps have been set up and 20 School Based Disaster Risk-Reduction Management Plans have been developed. Reading awareness sessions for parents and monthly teachers' clinics are being run and seven classrooms are being constructed. "Unlock Literacy", a three-phase teacher training to help develop culturally relevant and local dialect reading material, has also been completed. In addition, 20 schools have established book corners with sufficient resource materials for children's



National Director of WVIN hands over a school to the School Management Committee of Prabhat Lower Secondary School



Reconstructed school building in Sindhuli

reading. Furthermore, at home, parents have been encouraged to create reading spaces for children. A major achievement of the project has been to advocate with the rural municipality to invest in improving early grade reading, advocacy which resulted in the allocation of \$40,000 by Golanjar Rural Municipality for primary level educational development. In addition, construction of one school has been completed and it has been handed over to the community.

■ Grant projects update

Sunsari Economic Empowerment of Producers (SEEP)



methods to improved vegetable farming techniques.

As a result, 300 farmers have increased their vegetable farming-based income by 80% and in a single season earned \$68,757 collectively. Thus, farmers are now able to support their families and children better in education, and with better food and health care. With improved marketing skills, farmers have also been able to contact market agents directly and negotiate better prices for their produce.



The SEEP project funded by World Vision Hong Kong commenced last year with the aim of increasing the sustainable income of vulnerable producers in Sunsari District, Nepal.

As a part of the project, 1,150 vegetable producers have been equipped with skills and knowledge of commercial agriculture and are positioned to generate higher income in the current and upcoming harvest seasons.

Through the project, vulnerable producers have been supported to transition from their traditional farming

■ Celebrity visit update



Tom Cochrane, a Canadian music icon and front man of the Canadian rock band Red Rider, dedicated humanitarian and World Vision Ambassador, was in Nepal from 30 October to 10 November 2017. He visited WVIN projects in Sindhuli, one of the hardest hit regions during the 2015 earthquakes. He also participated in the handover of a school reconstructed after the earthquake in Golanjar Rural Municipality of Sindhuli.

■ OPERATIONS UPDATE



Since 1 October 2017, WVIN has implemented a new operating model for field operations. This transition was driven by changing internal and external contexts, including changing field requirements as WVIN began to roll out new approaches and programming styles; the changing funding landscape and, with the introduction of federalism, the changing context in Nepal. The new operating model has been designed to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness, and is expected to contribute more positively towards reaching the most vulnerable children and families, meet organisational targets, and create a sustainable and technically proficient organisation.

With the new operating model, WVIN has closed 11 district-based offices and established 3 field offices. Each field office will be responsible for managing WVIN's development programme portfolio across a number of districts as summarised below:

- Field Office West, based in Dhangadhi, is responsible for WVIN's operations in three districts: Achham, Doti and Kailali. Field Office West covers six Area Development Programmes including Achham East, Achham West, Doti East, Doti West, Kailali Central (Chisapani) and Kailali East. It manages a portfolio of Technical Programmes including Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition, Education (including Safe Schools), Agriculture and Economic Development, and Community Engagement and Sponsorship Projects which include Sponsorship, Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction and Child-Friendly Local Governance. WVIN works with a total of seven partner NGOs (two in Achham, two in Doti and three in Kailali).
- Field Office Central, based in Kathmandu, is responsible for WVIN's operations in five districts: Jumla, Rupandehi, Lamjung, Sindhuli, and Kathmandu.

Field Office Central covers seven Area Development Programmes including Jumla, Jumla Sinja, Butwal, Lamjung, Sindhuli East, Sindhuli West, and Urban Kathmandu. It manages a portfolio of Technical Programmes including Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition, Education (including Safe Schools), Agriculture and Economic Development, Youth Development, and Community Engagement and Sponsorship Projects which include Sponsorship, Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction and Child-Friendly Local Governance. WVIN works with a total of ten partner NGOs (two in Jumla, one in Rupandehi, two in Lamjung, three in Sindhuli, and two in Kathmandu).

- Field Office East, based in Biratnagar, is responsible for WVIN's operations in three districts: Udayapur, Sunsari, and Morang. Field Office East covers four Area Development Programmes including Udayapur East, Udayapur West, Sunsari and Morang. It manages a portfolio of Technical Programmes including Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition, Education (including Safe Schools), Agriculture and Economic Development, Youth Development, Protection (including Menstrual Health), and Community Engagement and Sponsorship Projects which include Sponsorship, Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction and Child-Friendly Local Governance. WVIN works with a total of seven partner NGOs (three in Udayapur, two in Sunsari, and two in Morang).

At the National Office level, the new operating model has led to further streamlining of the field operations department with the removal of one horizontal layer between the national office and field office teams, and the fine-tuning of operational roles and responsibilities to strengthen organisational capabilities in five key areas including sponsorship operations, operational surge capability, management of partner NGOs, organisational disaster preparedness, and security operations.

■ Story from the field



# Rebuilding schools, rebuilding Nepal

By Barun Bajracharya, Content Manager



To educate a child is to turn walls into doors.

Melina Rai has been teaching at Panchawati School in Udayapur for six years. She is passionate about teaching and loves to spend time with children. "I enjoy being surrounded by children. Teaching them gives me so much joy and satisfaction," she says. "People say school is the second home for students. I feel the same for myself as well. This school is my everything."

On 25 April 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal impacting 39 out of 75 districts, leaving around 9,000 dead and over 22,000 injured.

Panchawati Primary School was also caught in the destruction.

"It was such a challenging time; I don't even want to recall it. It just brings me to tears," says Melina. "The earthquake damaged our school building leaving it uninhabitable and we had to conduct classes under the open sky for several weeks. We had no chairs, no desks and no blackboard. Even our toilet was damaged."

Although the earthquake and constant aftershocks terrified the students and staff of Panchawoti Primary School they did not give up. They built a temporary shelter for some time and now they have reconstructed the damaged school building with support from World Vision's Safe Environment for Learning (SEL) Project. They have truly proven that they are resilient.

"The school building has been reconstructed in an earthquake-resistant manner," says Bijaya Rai, another teacher at the school. "Now, the students as well as teachers feel safe to study in the newly reconstructed building. Had we not received this support from World Vision we could not have been able to continue our studies in a normal, peaceful manner. When we conducted the classes in the open ground it constantly affected us psychologically and physically. Moreover, the hot weather affected us terribly. Children were always sweating and they could not concentrate on the studies. We don't have that problem anymore. Now, their grades are significantly improving."

Ambika, a third grader, says, "After the earthquake my parents did not want me to resume studies because we had no class room. Now, I feel safe in this newly reconstructed building. I like studying here."

Not only has the reconstructed building directly benefitted the school students and teachers but it has also had a positive impact in the local community as the awareness of many community members on earthquake-resistant construction and disaster preparedness has significantly increased.

The school has also been supported with education materials such as books, bags and stationery. Yekraj, a fourth grader, says, "We received various education materials from World Vision and we are using them every day in the class room. We like it very much. Our parents are hardworking farmers and we are not rich. If our school receives such support it will help us students to study better and be successful in life."

The earthquake may have crumbled their school building but it surely has not crumbled their dreams.

tell us what you think

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