

CHOUTARI

World Vision International Nepal (May-October 2018)



Three wards declared
child-friendly..
More information on page 2

Girls’ Summit 2018

Creating momentum in Province One against child marriage

Girls’ Summit 2018 was held in Biratnagar in Province One during 17-19 August highlighting commitment to end child marriage in the province by 2025. The event was inaugurated by Hon. Minister for Social Development Jeeban Ghimire and child club network member Anisha Giri. The summit brought together community members, children, District Coordination Committees, elected representatives of local government, differently-abled people, activists, faith leaders, government officials, diplomats, media and the civil society to accelerate momentum in ending child, early and forced marriage.



The Summit concluded with handing over of “Biratnagar Declaration” which provides guidelines for the policy formulation, programme design and other related activities giving special focus on well-being of children.



WVIN’s work has brought significant changes for children in rural communities of Nepal in the past months. For the first time, three wards among WVIN’s working areas were declared as child friendly. The three wards were- Ramdhuni Municipality’s ward no. 2, Suddhodhan Rural Municipality’s ward no.2 and Triyuga Municipality’s ward no. 15.

The first ward was declared child friendly on 16 July, the second ward had the official declaration on 30 September and the latest ward to be declared child friendly had its event on 2 October. All three events were held in the technical and partial financial support from WVIN and its partner organisations.

Wards declared as child friendly

An important milestone for WVIN’s commitment towards Child Friendly Local Governance



This achievement has come as a result of continuous initiatives such as facilitating coordination meetings, building capacity of relevant stakeholders and continuous follow-up taken at the local level towards promoting child rights. The commendable efforts and dedication displayed by children and relevant stakeholders ultimately resulted in this outcome- meeting all the indicators set under the National Strategy on Child Friendly Local Governance 2011.

Kathmandu Mini Maker Faire 2018

Showcasing the work of local and global innovators



This year’s Kathmandu Mini Maker Faire that was organised by the Nepal Communitere from 22-23 September had World Vision International Nepal’s (WVIN) Nepal Innovation Lab as one of its organising partners.

The Kathmandu Humanitarian Mini Maker Faire is a unique gathering of global innovators who are solving some of the greatest social challenges facing our communities. This is a festival of invention, creativity and resourcefulness which can lead to transformative change.

This year, the event brought together makers from Nepal and beyond, specifically highlighting global innovations that inspire communities to “Design the Future”.



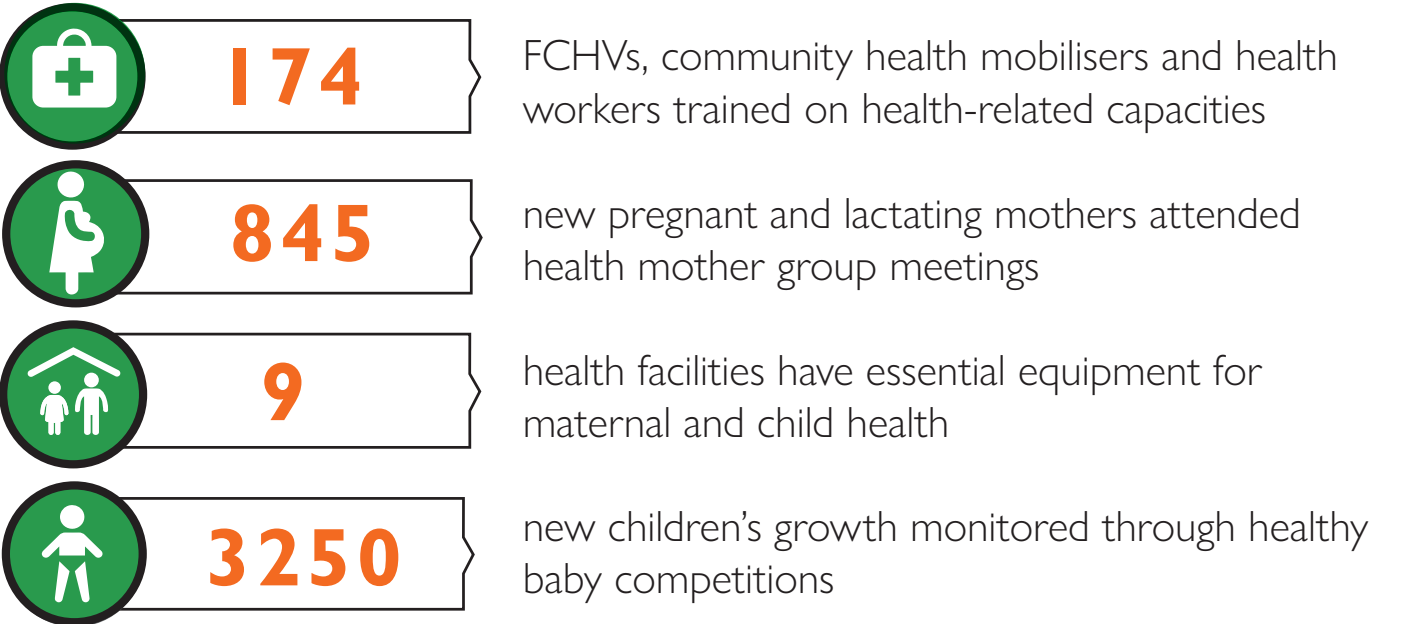
Bringing together communities, entrepreneurs, makers, non-governmental organisations (I/NGOs), and government agencies, the event showcased cutting edge innovation and technology through a series of sessions with guest speakers representing 10 countries, expo pieces, a virtual reality booth, drone flying, 3D printing workshops, solar power technologies, traditional craft making techniques , to name a few. 1,300 individuals, 45 local makers, and 20 international makers attended the Maker Faire.

Health

We work to support safer motherhood, improve child nutrition, strengthen capacity and governance of community health institutions in maternal child health and support government campaigns promoting community-led total sanitation.



Bhagwati Shrestha (left, in blue) supervises the growth monitoring of children in her community. “After receiving training and equipment support from World Vision, the mother groups’ meetings I conduct are more effective and the health status of infants have improved,” says the Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV) from Sindhuli.

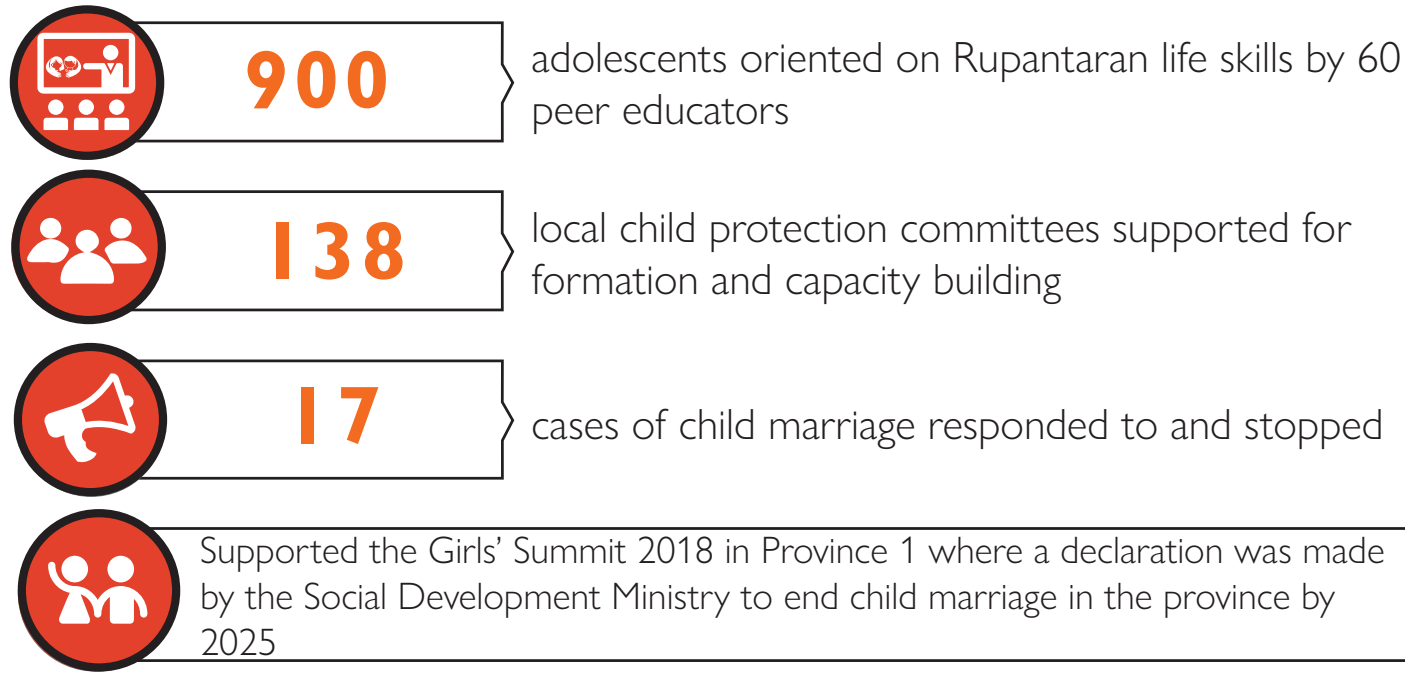


Protection

We work to strengthen formal and informal community systems that work to protect women and children, increase children’s resilience and reduce harmful practices against children.

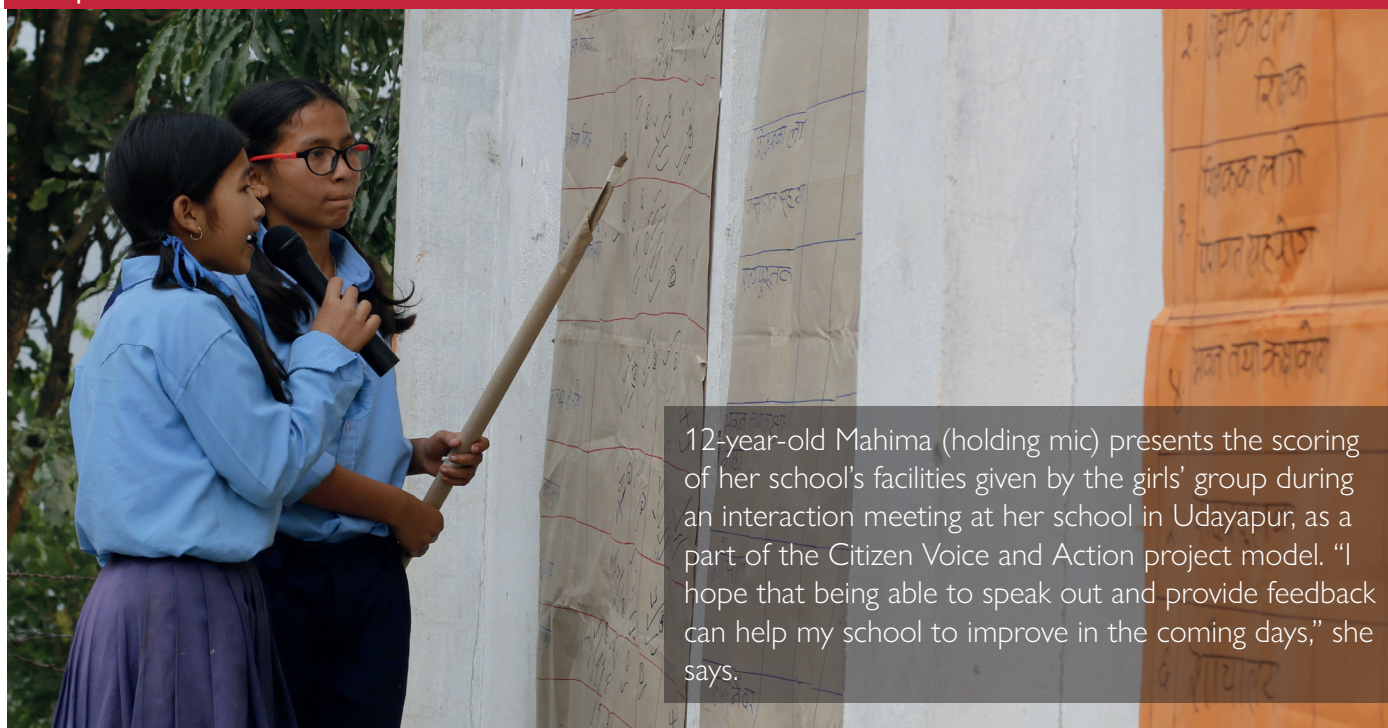


Rajjo (standing) interacts with other children from her community about menstrual hygiene, which is a part of the Rupantaran life skills programme. “After becoming a peer educator, I am more aware of myself and my abilities and am committed to relay the same message to my peers in my community,” says the 17-year-old student.



Education

We work to 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 in line with the Government of Nepal's standards for schools.



12-year-old Mahima (holding mic) presents the scoring of her school's facilities given by the girls' group during an interaction meeting at her school in Udayapur, as a part of the Citizen Voice and Action project model. "I hope that being able to speak out and provide feedback can help my school to improve in the coming days," she says.



148

early grade teachers trained on core reading skills



63

schools supported with supplementary reading materials



215

reading camps established



148

Citizen Voice and Action groups formed

Resilience

We work to help families strengthen their production and income and their ability to meet the need of their children through trainings in 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.

Bishnu is a the head of Bhagwati Savings Group initiated with the support of WVIN in Jumla. She shares, "Most women in my community are illiterate and had to rely on their husbands' income for any financial support. After being a part of this group, we learnt the value of saving even small amounts and we are financially independent. Things are gradually beginning to change."



Agriculture and Economic Development (AED)

652 producer groups formed and are functional

100 youths supported with need-based vocational trainings

223 saving groups established involving 3,789 community members



Youth Development

131 SKYE clubs formed, engaging 3,029 youth

20 SKYE training of trainers developed

233 community service learning projects carried out by SKYE clubs



Disaster Risk Reduction

56 Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (LDCRPs) supported to develop

46 local government agencies supported to initiate disaster risk management funds and emergency operation centres



Nepal Innovation Lab

An application funded by and built in-house at WVIN's Nepal Innovation Lab, Sikka, has matured as an idea as well as a platform for an initial minimum viable product (MVP) and pilot phase product. Sikka, can now fully support the distribution of cash for the cash transfer programme (CTP) with a few additional features being developed to further improve the system and its user interface and user experience (UI/UX). A few key achievements for Sikka this year are highlighted below:



- Pilot: The first pilot of the system was conducted in Phulpingkot VDC (in former administrative structure) of Sindhupalchowk District in April. The pilot was conducted for the distribution of payments for a cash for work programme under the Ghumsume Irrigation Scheme at the same place through a local financial cooperative. A total of Rs. 583,000 (about \$5,830) was successfully distributed to 73 beneficiaries using Sikka



- Tech4Dev Conference: Sikka's paper was selected to be presented at the Tech4Dev Conference that was held in Lausanne, Switzerland on 27-29 June. The paper was presented in the "Blockchain and the Blockchain-oriented Programm (BoP): a disruptive technology for economic

inclusion?" session. It mainly focused on helping all understand the needs of BoP and build a roadmap to ensure everyone is part of the blockchain revolution.

Furthermore, the FieldSight, a digital platform supported by the Nepal Innovation Lab, is being implemented in more than 50,000 sites in over 40 different types of projects locally and globally. After its launch in January, a lot of impetus has been provided on scaling-up the use of the platform locally and internationally.



The Nepal Innovation Lab sourced local innovators to put into place a cost-effective flood early warning system in few of its working districts namely Kailali, Rupandehi, Morang and Sunsari. The local innovators had been supported by the lab in 2016 to build a prototype which is being used as a part of this system. The aim is to help local government and communities become resilient and prepared to respond appropriately to save lives and reduce the impact of disasters. The team has completed building the systems and is working closely with the Department

of Hydrology and Meteorology to pilot these systems in the aforementioned districts. Upon implementation the system will be able to alert citizens 8-10 hours prior to an imminent flood, giving them time to get to a safe place and wait out the disaster. This locally sourced system and its piloting is being funded by Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH).

For the love of a child



Sushmita looks on as her daughter Roshni's growth is being monitored.

In an empty school compound in rural Sindhuli, women gather around a lady clad in a blue sari. The lady is monitoring the growth status of all children present.

Everybody in Nepal knows that women who wear blue saris, as this lady is, are 'Volunteer Didis', formally referred to as Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV). FCHVs are the bottom-rung, the community grassroots element, of the healthcare system in Nepal. They act as the eyes and the ears of the government-led health programmes in the communities. In this village in Sindhuli, 51-year-old Bhagwati Shrestha has been playing this role for the past thirty years.

When it is two-year-old Roshni's turn to be monitored, Sushmita, her mother, crouches beside her curiously. "She weighs eleven kilogrammes now, a massive improvement from when she first arrived," states Bhagwati. Sushmita nods in agreement and grins.

Bhagwati is referring to the time when Sushmita had brought her daughter to a mother's group meeting for the first time. "Roshni was underweight with thin arms. It was so difficult to feed her as she would become irritated and complained all the time while eating," recalls Sushmita. "Bhagwati didi asked me to attend a mother's group meeting several times. I was not sure how it would help but one day I finally decided to go and it was one of the best decisions I have made so far."

During the meeting Sushmita's worst fear was verified. Roshni was found to be malnourished through a Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement along with height and weight evaluation. At 14 months, she weighed only 8.5 kilogram's and was on the yellow section of the MUAC scale.

Soon after this discovery, a Positive Deviance (PD) Hearth session was organised in Sushmita's community. At the session, Sushmita was taught to cajole

her daughter while feeding by singing songs or showing videos on her cell-phone. She was taught to pay close attention to hygiene practices: washing hands before every meal, and ensuring Roshni is cleaned up every now and then.

Within 12 days, Roshni's condition began to improve. Her weight began to climb, her mood began to lighten, and she fell sick less often. After the PD Hearth sessions, Sushmita was supported with agro inputs like seeds, fertilisers, tools, etc to maintain a kitchen garden in her backyard. She has been growing vegetables in the vicinity of her house and uses them to make porridge and gruel high in nutrients. "It has been a year since and my daughter has gained 2.5 kilogrammes. Meal times are much more relaxing now as she eats without me having to exert any force. I can finally take a breath of relief," beams Sushmita.

Healthcare in Nepal is still unevenly distributed. According to Nepal Demographic Health Survey, 2006, only 78.83% of the total population have access to essential healthcare services. This indicates sophisticated healthcare services are more focused on major cities, making the role played by FCHVs crucial in order to sustain healthcare in more rural areas.

However, most FCHVs do not receive adequate technical support and hence are not motivated to work to their full potential. To help bridge this gap, last year World Vision reached out to 491 FCHVs with technical training on health and nutrition. They are also supported with a minimal stipend to run mother group meetings, door-to-door visits, and other relevant programmes. This support has slowly resulted in community members having a positive attitude towards child nurture and care. The results are evident from the improved nutrition status of children like Roshni.

"My child is healthy now and I am thrilled to know that she is well nourished. Mothers like me couldn't ask for more," beams Sushmita.



A glimpse of KITAB project's kickoff workshop

WHAT's NEW?

WVIN's Programmes and Operations sectors merged in September. Here are some major updates from the sector-

• New Area Programmes: WVIN has received partnership approval to start new Area Programmes (APs). The target area for one AP is Sarlahi District in Province Two. The assessment for this AP will commence in January 2019. The new programming in Sarlahi will be in alignment with WVIN's commitment to reaching the most vulnerable children and families by starting our footprints in Province Two and increasing our development investment in the least developed districts of Nepal.

• SIKAI Strengthening Inclusive Education in Nepal: This is a five-year project aimed to improve access to participation and achievement in education for excluded children,

with specific focus on children with disability and children from marginalised castes and ethnic groups. The project will be implemented in Sarlahi District, Province 2. This is the first project for which WVIN has received funding support from the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian NGO Cooperation Programme (ANCP) mechanism. This project has also enabled WVIN to partner with Humanity & Inclusion (HI) and World Education (WE) for the first time. The project commenced in July 2018 with research/ scoping study, multi-year design, and baseline as the key outputs from Year 1.

• KITAB Knowledge Improvement through Access of Books: This is a two-year project supported by the Results for All Children (REACH) trust fund, housed at the World Bank, and the Global

Book Alliance, a multi-partner alliance. This project is the first project that will utilise a results-based financing (RBF) intervention. The project aims to generate rigorous evidence on the effectiveness of the RBF intervention. It will provide incentive to stakeholders to align and support the achievement of existing government education standards to improve literacy outcomes for the National Early Grade Reading Programme that will benefit children in Morang and Sunsari Districts. The project commenced in October upon finalisation of the contract with the World Bank.

Campaign to end child marriage and SDGs

Discussion Program on “Laws on Child Marriage & Strategies for its Effective Implementation”



WVIN organised a policy dialogue on “Laws on Child Marriage and Strategies for Effective Implementation” in partnership with SAARC Law on 14 September. The panelists of the event were Judges of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, and a defence lawyer. The objective of the dialogue was to create a discourse on how criminal justice system actors can be proactive in ending child marriage in Nepal. The event put a huge focus on critically analysing the new Penal Code and tried to bring clarity among all actors. The need for awareness raising at the ground level on the implications of child marriage as well as on the enforcement of the Penal Code was a conclusion of the dialogue.

Furthermore, WVIN joined hands with SAIEVAC (apex body of SAARC), Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, National Human Rights Commissions, INGOs and UN agencies, to conduct a two-day event called the “All Nepal Conference on Ending Child Marriage” on 26 and 27 September. The event focused on various issues including the root causes of child marriage and the ways forward to address the issue. The event was held in the chairmanship of Sapana Pradhan Malla, Judge of Supreme Court and President of SAARC Law Nepal Chapter.

The highlight of past months was a 100-day popular mobilisation to end child marriage called “Bees Pache Bihe” (Marriage after 20) conducted in partnership with Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB). The programme which commenced on 1 May with an objective to generate public awareness, initiate dialogue and gather commitment of children and stakeholders concluded on 8 August. It was successful in mobilising more than 200 community radios with 4,200 hours of radio events to reach 100,000 listeners in the country. 10,000 people across the country committed to end child marriage as a result.

WVIN also attended the high-level Political Forum (HLPF) at the UN Headquarters, New York from 10-18 July to present its evidence on how it contributed in the implementation of SDGs in Nepal.



Our programmes contribute to the following SDGs:



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Phone +977-1 5548877



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For more information contact : info_nepal@wvi.org
Contact no. : +977-1-5548877
For feedback, contact : nplo_feedback@wvi.org
Content and design : WVIN Communications