Three wards declared child-friendly.
More information on page 2
Bringing together communities, entrepreneurs, makers, non-governmental organisations (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.

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”.

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.

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.

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.

Girls’ Summit 2018

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

Wards declared as child friendly

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SECTORAL UPDATES (past 6 months)

**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.

- **174** FCHVs, community health mobilisers and health workers trained on health-related capacities
- **845** new pregnant and lactating mothers attended health mother group meetings
- **9** health facilities have essential equipment for maternal and child health
- **3250** new children’s growth monitored through healthy baby competitions

**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.

- **900** adolescents oriented on Rupantaran life skills by 60 peer educators
- **138** local child protection committees supported for formation and capacity building
- **17** cases of child marriage responded to and stopped

Supported the Girls’ Summit 2018 in Province 1 where a declaration was made by the Social Development Ministry to end child marriage in the province by 2025.
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.

- Early grade teachers trained on core reading skills: 148
- Schools supported with supplementary reading materials: 63
- Reading camps established: 215
- Citizen Voice and Action groups formed: 148

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.

- Agriculture and Economic Development (AED)
  - Producer groups formed and are functional: 652
  - Youths supported with need-based vocational trainings: 100
  - Saving groups established involving 3,789 community members: 223

- Youth Development
  - SKYE clubs formed, engaging 3,029 youth: 131
  - SKYE training of trainers developed: 20
  - Community service learning projects carried out by SKYE clubs: 233

- Disaster Risk Reduction
  - Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (LDCRPs) supported to develop: 56
  - Local government agencies supported to initiate disaster risk management funds and emergency operation centres: 46

Bishnu is the head of Bhagwati Savings Group initiated with the support of WV 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.”

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.
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 Programming (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).
Story from the field

For the love of a child

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 (FCHVs). 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, and the ears of the government-led 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 in Nepal has received partnership approval to start new Area Programmes (APs). The target area for one AP is Sindhuli District in Province Two. The assessment for this AP will commence in January 2019.

The new programming in Sindhuli 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.

WHAT’s NEW?

W VIN’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 Sindhuli District in Province Two. The assessment for this AP will commence in January 2019.

  The new programming in Sindhuli 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 Sindhuli 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.
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.