

# WHAT'S UP?

NEWSLETTER, OXFAM IN NEPAL



**OXFAM**

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*Woman weaving fabrics in Pokhara Handicraft Enterprise. Photo by Fair Trade Connection*

## AMAZED BY THE IMPACT!

I had the opportunity to accompany the visit of Kate Attwooll, Kalayaan Constantino, Cecilia Keizer from the Country Governance Group to Women's Skills Development Organization (WSDO) in Pokhara, one of the enterprises being supported by Enterprise Development Program of Oxfam in Nepal.

During the visit, we thoroughly interacted with Ms. Ramkali Khada, the lady behind the establishment of the Fair Trade organization and some of the women producers. This organization was established in 1975 and is working for the economic empowerment of poor, differently able, socially and physically abused, widows, divorced, single, orphan and outcast women of Kaski district.

Enterprise Development Programme (EDP) of Oxfam in Nepal has been working with WSDO since late 2017. EDP targets to improve the economic condition of 500 marginalized and outcast women in three years and improve the business performance of the organization. Before EDP, WSDO was providing employment to around 400 women. We observed that in past 18 months, EDP had already supported to create employment opportunities to around 300 new women from the most vulnerable and marginalized community. With the support of EDP, the number of producers being employed by WSDO has increased to 700 (100% women) from 400. EDP's support to provide skill development training (weaving, sewing, doll making) to the new and existing producers, equipment and tools support, technical support on

product design and development, linkage development with different markets, mentoring on financial and business management and providing support on access to finance has made a huge impact on the organization itself and on the producers. Since, WSDO provides home-based jobs, many women have been benefitted by working from home.

We found out that a woman working with WSDO can earn up to NPR 20,000 (USD 200) per month doing the home based weaving job. Different trainings to producers, yearly free health camp, discounted checkup facility to its producers in Manipal Hospital, child-care centers to producers having children, scholarships to deserving children of producers are some of the benefits women are receiving from skill development organization. It was inspirational to know that women working in WSDO have also established their own cooperative, where they save regular income and get loans in times of emergency.

We feel honored to be supporting this wonderful organization through EDP to strengthen their supply base, develop linkages with market, increase sales, design new product and product lines and enhance business management skills and most importantly improving the economic condition of the most vulnerable, marginalized and outcast women.

**Bimala Chapagain**  
Interim Country Director

## AGREEMENT WITH SOCIAL WELFARE COUNCIL

Oxfam in Nepal have recently signed an agreement with Social Welfare Council (SWC) for its Sustainable Development Programme on 12 June 2019 at SWC Office, Kathmandu. Mr. Rajendra Kumar Paudel, Member Secretary of SWC and Ms. Bimala Chapagain Interim Country Director of Oxfam Nepal have signed the document in the presence of SWC International Section Chief, Mr. Durga Bhattarai, Oxfam- Acting Head of Business Support, Mr. Ram Prasad Sapkota along with other SWC staff.

Social Welfare Council appreciated Oxfam's work in Nepal, and showed interest to see our work in the program areas for greater understanding.



Photo by Ram Sapkota/Oxfam



Visitors with the women at Women's Skills Development Organization. Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

## VISITORS IN THE COUNTRY

Ms. Kalayaan Constantino, Asia Campaigns and Policy Manager and Ms. Kate Attwooll, Programme portfolio Manager for Asia and Latin America, recently made a formal trip to Nepal to visit various program activities.

During the five-day visit, they traveled to Nuwakot to observe the integrated settlement built for Internally Displaced Persons affected by the earthquake in 2015 and visited Pokhara to observe women handicraft enterprises which is targeted for the marginalized women in the communities. Different meetings were also held with head of departments to closely understand the programs.

## STAFF ASSOCIATION OF NEPAL (SAON) FOR 2019/20 FORMED

New and dynamic SAON Executive Committee has been formed for the year 2019/ 2020 who are looking forward to work very closely with the staff and management team to support and facilitate in concerns put forth by the staff. New team is also excited to bring all staff together for various celebrations and different occasions for team building.

Following are the new committee members:

Man Bahadur Dhanha Magar	Chairperson
Rajan Wagle	Vice Chairperson
Bal Bahadur Thakurathi	Secretary
Neelam Khulal	Treasurer
Sulochana Sadda	Member
Sofila Vaidya	Member
Swikriti Sharma	Member



Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

# URBAN WASH PROJECT TO START SOON!

Oxfam in Nepal together with Birendranagar Municipality is implementing Urban WASH Project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The project aims to harness technology to strengthen municipal solid waste management system and optimize resources from waste in Birendranagar municipality of Nepal. It will be implemented in Surkhet district until October 2020 with focus on strengthening the municipality's capacity in planning and monitoring of waste management; supporting private sectors in effective waste collection; promoting entrepreneurship/ profit-making business converting waste to resources and community awareness and waste education.

Project was selected to participate in Innovation Accelerator WASH Bootcamp in Munich, Germany. The team comprising of Mr. Dev Kumar Subedi, Mayor of Birendranagr Municipality, Mr. Jagat KC from Environment Development Society, Bandana Sharma, and Sher Bahadur Raule from Oxfam in Nepal participated in the event from 3 - 7



Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

June 2019. The organizers provided a dedicated facilitator and mentors to detail out the project from the beneficiaries' perspective. During the Pitch Night, the concept of our work was shared among the larger audience which provided an opportunity to pitch for funds and to expand networks.

## A RESEARCH TO CREATE EQUAL SPACES FOR WOMEN

"It used to be easy to talk about social norms in Community Discussion Centres (CDC), but it was very difficult to talk and receive information from people during the data collection for research. However, we could grasp interesting feedback from the discussions with women", said Ms. Goma Upadhyaya, CDC facilitator and enumerator for the Innovation Fund research, Dailekh.



Club members discussing the data collected from research.  
Photo by Aarati Sharma/Oxfam

Innovation Fund was awarded to Everest Club (EC), Dailekh who is a standing partner of Oxfam in Nepal for Creating Spaces project. The award money has been utilized to conduct a research on pilot initiatives that generate evidences on programming approaches that work to end violence against women and girls. The research will highlight the harmful social norms which are playing negative roles for women's empowerment, agency and transformative leadership. The research is being conducted in all the Creating Spaces project areas of Dailekh district. Data collection for the research has been concluded recently. And, the club plans to share the findings of the research to the stakeholders as well as law-makers at community, district and province level government by August. Once finalized, the research report will be accessible through Oxfam's website and through media partner Ujyaalo Online and KDKA radio programme.

## EARLY WARNING SYSTEM SIMULATION EXERCISE CONDUCTED

Communities from Nepal and India residing along Mahakali river came together for Transboundary Early Warning Simulation Exercise. The exercise aimed to disseminate early warning information



Partner staff explaining community members about the simulation exercise. Photo by Sofila Vaidya/Oxfam

received from both countries. The drill also aimed to strengthen community to community relationship and to define the roles of community members such as, designated people for receiving and sharing information about flood early warning.

The simulation exercise which took place at Parsuram Dham, Jogbuda, Dadeldhura, was attended by Indo-Nepal Joint Early Warning task force members from Kanchanpur, members from Women Empowerment Centres, employees working at Tanakpur Dam, Champabhat, Uttarkhand, staff from Gramin Development services and Ward Chairperson and community members from Chuka, India. "This simulation exercise has given us hope to save our lives from the disaster," says Meena from Srijana Mahila Sashaktikaran Samuha (Srijana Women Empowerment Centre). It is evident that communities with shared problems despite geographical boundaries come together to resolve problems amicably.

## SOWING DIVERSITY HARVESTING SECURITY PROJECT KICK STARTS!



Meeting with local stakeholders. Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

The Sowing Diversity Harvesting Security project recently started with an objective to support indigenous people and smallholder farmers to

enjoy their rights and have capacity to access, develop and use genetic plant resources to improve their food and nutrition security under conditions of climate change. Oxfam in Nepal with support from Local initiatives for biodiversity, research and development (LI-BIRD) Nepal will implement the project in Dadeldhura, Kanchanpur, Doti and Kailali.

The project team has identified and assessed the capacity of potential community seed banks and farmer's seed enterprises to support farmers in escalating their agricultural capacity. The project has been funded by SIDA, and will be implemented from June 2019 to March 2023.

Quick links to new publications in Oxfam in Nepal's website:

A new path to a happy life

A change maker's story

Secured life, happy life!

Wood carving giving youths a pathway to income generation

# INFLUENCING FOR CHANGE



At a time when the parliamentarians were deliberating on the government's policy and programmes, and principles of budget for the fiscal year 2019/20, Oxfam in Nepal and its partner HAMI led a delegation to parliamentarians and senior political leadership to remind them the commitments they made in different forums to reduce inequality and fight poverty. The delegation also urged them to allocate more budget in health, education and social protection sectors. The delegation was complimented by the parliamentary actions, meeting and dialogue with parliamentarians where our agenda for increased budget in the aforesaid sectors was put across. Results are encouraging which include renewed commitment of policy makers to fight inequality and allocation of more budget to reduce gap of inequality between rich and poor. A policy brief was prepared and used as lobbying tool both for the delegation and the parliamentary action.

## समृद्धिका लागि समानता आग्रहपत्र

श्री.....

नेपालको संविधानले स्वास्थ्यलाई मौलिक हकका रूपमा प्रत्याभूत गरेको छ। नेपालले क्षेत्रीय तथा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय मन्त्रहरूमा पनि स्वास्थ्यसम्बन्धी विभिन्न दस्तावेजमा प्रतिबद्धता जनाइ विनम्रको कार्यान्वयनमा जोड दिएका पाइन्छ। जसअनुसार गुणस्तरिय स्वास्थ्य सेवामा सबै नागरिकको समतलरूपक पहुँच सुनिश्चित गर्ने कार्यमा लाग्नुपर्नेको सकारात्मक दाबी छ। त्यसैले मुलुकमा यतिबेला चातु अवस्थामा रहेको चौपी योजनाले आफ्नो उद्देश्यमा सबै वर्ग, क्षेत्र र समुदायका नागरिकको आधारभूत तथा गुणस्तरिय स्वास्थ्य सेवामा समतलरूपक पहुँच अभिवृद्धि गराउने र स्वस्थ जनशक्ति तयार गर्ने, रोग प्रतिरोधात्मक क्षमता बढाउने, गुणस्तरिय र पोषणयुक्त खाद्य सामग्रीमा पहुँच बढाउने विषय समेटेको छ।

सरकार शिक्षा प्रणालीलाई आर्थिक-सामाजिक रुपान्तरणको सम्वन्धित रूपमा विकास गर्न किचार्गील छ। यस क्रममा सबै तह एवम् क्षेत्रको शिक्षामा समतलरूपक पहुँच सुनिश्चित गर्न, शिक्षालाई रोजगारमूलक बनाउन तथा गुणस्तरमा सुधार एवम् व्यवस्थापकीय क्षमता अभिवृद्धि गर्नेतर्फ शिक्षाका योजना/कार्यक्रम लक्षित छन्। त्यसैले मुलुकमा जारी चौपी योजनाले समतलरूपक अवसरहरू सुनिश्चित गर्दै शिक्षालाई सिपयुक्त, समग्र-सामाजिक र गुणस्तरयुक्त बनाउन वैकल्पिक उपयवहरूको अवलम्बनबाट सबै तह र प्रकारको शिक्षा उपलब्ध गराउनुलाई आफ्नो मौलिक उद्देश्यका रूपमा उल्लेख गरेको छ।

अक्सफाम गार्गी तथा असमानता अन्त्यका लागि पहल गर्ने विषयव्यापी संस्था हो। यही संस्थाले नेपालमा माननीय जवाफदेहीता अनुमन अभिव्य (HAMI) र दक्षिण एशिया गार्गी अनुमन मन्त्र (SAAPE) नामक संस्थासँग मिलेर बढ्दो आर्थिक असमानतावारे समृद्धिका लागि समानता विषयक एउटा अभियान प्रभावित तयार गरेको छ। शिक्षा र स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्रमा माथि उल्लेखित उद्देश्य हासिल गर्न लाग्नुपर्नेको सकारात्मक संवोधन पुनानुसमा लाग्नु त्यही अवकाशका आधारमा यो अनुरोधन तयार गरिएको हो। अनुमनको मुख्य प्रति सबै पत्रको अनिमित पृष्ठमा उल्लेखित विद्यमा उपलब्ध छ। यसका स्रोत सामग्री पनि मुख्य प्रतिकै भएकाले यहाँ उल्लेख छैन। आशा छ, यसले सकारात्मक काममा सहयोगीका रूपमा योगदान पुचाउनेछ। जसको उद्देश्य पनि यही हो।

# WORKSHOP ON NEW LET'S TALK FORMS



The HR team conducted a workshop to launch New Let's Talk form and guiding principles for all staff. The session highlighted the importance of having meaningful conversations frequently and how it helps staff to celebrate their contributions as expressed their objectives and live their values every day.

The session was conducted in two batches and more than 25 staff members participated in each batch. A participatory approach was taken where staff were engaged in role plays and group discussions to understand the new Let's Talk approach.

# WELCOME TO OXFAMILY



**Rajendra Dhakal**  
Project Coordinator  
(Food and Economic Justice)  
Joining Date: 20 May 2019



**Shova Kumari Chhetri**  
Project Coordinator  
(Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)  
Joining Date: 2 May 2019



## FEEDBACK?

Do you have programme updates, stories, pictures, videos to share? Or, any important questions on the newsletter?

Please contact: **Sofila Vaidya, Media and Communication Officer** at [svaidya@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:svaidya@oxfam.org.uk)

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