



2023

Annual Report



SAPPROS – Nepal

39-Kha, Surya Marga, Babarmahal, Kathmandu

Tel: +977 1 5332129, 5342143, 5342318

email: info@sappros.org.np; sapprosnepal@hotmail.com

Website: www.sappros.org.np

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON

Dear Valued Stakeholders,

I am delighted to present to you our Annual Report for the Financial Year (FY) 2022. This year has been remarkable for all of us here at SAPPROS - Nepal. We emerged more resilient and reinvigorated, and our confidence in our capabilities is reflected not only in our numbers but also in the trust that our project partners and participants have placed in us. I am grateful to our donors, partners, project participants, team members, and other stakeholders for their relentless collaboration to make this happen. Last year, we successfully navigated through the challenges of the unpredictable country conditions and achieved strong growth. The SAPPROS team was engaged in ensuring the smooth implementation of nine different programs across 19 districts of Nepal. Our 156 staff members, supported by a strong leadership team, have been instrumental in fueling the next wave of growth. Emphasizing the enhancement of our team's skill quotient, SAPPROS has successfully provided training in safeguarding, financial management, communication skills, photography, and videography. These initiatives contribute to both individual career growth and organizational development. Our investments in platforms, tools, and training are strategically focused on strengthening our team's capabilities.



We have embraced a hybrid working model and allowed new people engagement norms to emerge. We believe that it is no longer just about work-life balance or work-life integration; it is about work-life harmony. Recognizing that one size does not fit all, we are creating multiple avenues for our people to unleash their potential by taking control of their personal health and well-being—physical, emotional, social, and financial.

While the pandemic brought unprecedented disruptions, it also imparted valuable life-changing lessons. We learned the importance of protecting our families, communities, and the world at large. Consequently, we embarked on extensive outreach programs and practices to connect with our donors, partners, and vendors, consistently assuring them of our unwavering support. Giving back to society has never been more crucial, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member of the SAPPROS family for their active support and unshakable trust in our abilities to deliver on our promise. Your motivation has empowered us to unleash our potential for the next phase of our growth.

In the days to come, SAPPROS Nepal will advocate fully for healthy living and strive to make Nepal green. A safe environment and health will be central to our objectives for the years ahead. We seek the support and solidarity of all in our movement.

Thank you,

Dr. Arun Kunwar

Chairperson

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to present SAPPROS Nepal's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022, offering an overview of our significant initiatives, outreach, activities, and impactful stories throughout the year.

In 2022, SAPPROS Nepal achieved a significant milestone, completing 32 years of dedicated service to the impoverished, women, marginalized groups, and vulnerable individuals in Nepal's rural areas. Over the years, our sense of responsibility to serve these communities has deepened. Our journey began in 1991, initially focusing on food security and livelihood. However, responding to the evolving needs of the community, we have expanded into various sectors. Presently, our programs are strategically centered on Organizational Development and Capacity Building; Food Security and Livelihood; Infrastructure and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH); Disaster Risk Reduction, Resilience, and Climate Justice; and Health and Nutrition. All these efforts align closely with Nepal's long-term development priorities, emphasizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SAPPROS actively engages in 11 projects categorized under five core themes, ensuring a priority focus on vulnerable and marginalized populations. The year 2022 was immensely gratifying as we received strong support from our donors, local government, staff, and communities, securing essential resources to pursue our objectives. This collaborative support empowered us to introduce novel strategies and foster new partnerships, enabling us to enhance food security and provide on-farm and off-farm livelihood opportunities. Consequently, income levels within the community increased. Moreover, we worked on capacity building, empowering individuals to advocate for their socio-economic growth through a rights-based approach.

Our mission is to drive positive change and empower women, marginalized, and vulnerable groups in poverty and distress. In translating this vision into action, we owe immense gratitude to numerous organizations and individuals who have supported us. I extend my sincere appreciation to all funding agencies, development partners, the government of Nepal, multilateral and bilateral organizations, consortium partners, local partner NGOs, the people we collaborated with throughout the year, and the dedicated colleagues at SAPPROS Nepal. The impacts highlighted in this report are a testament to our collective efforts. I eagerly anticipate sustaining this fruitful partnership, addressing even more substantial challenges in the future.

Thank you for your unwavering partnership in supporting sustainable livelihoods for the marginalized and vulnerable populace in rural Nepal.

Mr. Nirmal Prasad Gyalang

Executive Director

ACRONYM

CRS	Catholic Relief Service
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FY	Financial Year
GESI	Gender, Equality and Social
LRP	Livelihood Restoration Program
MCA-Nepal	Millennium Challenge Account – Nepal
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MCHN	Mother and Child Health Nutrition
MT	Metric Ton
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NPR	Nepali Rupees
SAPPROS – Nepal	Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Program
WUG	Water Users Group



ABOUT

SAPPROS - NEPAL

SAPPROS - Nepal is a prominent national non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to alleviating poverty in Nepal. Registered in Nepal, the organization's primary focus is on rural communities, aiming to diminish poverty through strategic approaches. This includes constructing productive infrastructures, mobilizing local resources, and ensuring meaningful involvement of women, the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized individuals in development planning and decision-making processes.

Over the span of 32 years, SAPPROS Nepal has significantly expanded its reach to encompass 52 districts, with a

particular emphasis on remote areas and regions that rank low on the country's overall development index, such as Province 2 and Karnali Province. SAPPROS concentrates its efforts on five essential thematic areas: a) Organizational development and capacity building; b) Infrastructure and WASH; c) Food security and livelihood; d) DRR, and Resilience and Climate Justice; and e) Health and Nutrition.

By adhering to the principles of integrating institutions, infrastructure, resource generation, and local capacity development, SAPPROS Nepal strives to achieve sustainable development and enhance the resilience of women, the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable groups. The organization has made a significant impact by serving and positively impacting over 600,000 households in Nepal through a range of developmental and livelihood projects.

LEGAL STATUS

Organization Name	Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal (SAPPROS Nepal)
Year of Establishment	1991
Place and Date of Registration	District Administration Office, Kathmandu Registered on: 2048/05/207 (September 12, 1991)
Registration No.	88/048/049
PAN No. and Date	500199385, Date: 2057/12/17 (March 30,2001)
Affiliation and Date	Social Welfare Council (SWC), Kathmandu, Nepal Date: 2048/06/17 (October 3, 1991)



VISION

SAPPROS envisions a poverty-free Nepal, enabling innovative initiatives without concerns about opportunities.



MISSION

The mission of SAPPROS - Nepal is to reduce poverty in Nepal through various means, including assisting rural women, marginalized groups, and vulnerable communities. This involves mobilizing local livelihood capitals and resources, reducing disaster risks, building innovative technology-based productive infrastructures, and promoting meaningful participation and leadership of women, marginalized individuals, and vulnerable populations in planning and decision-making at all levels



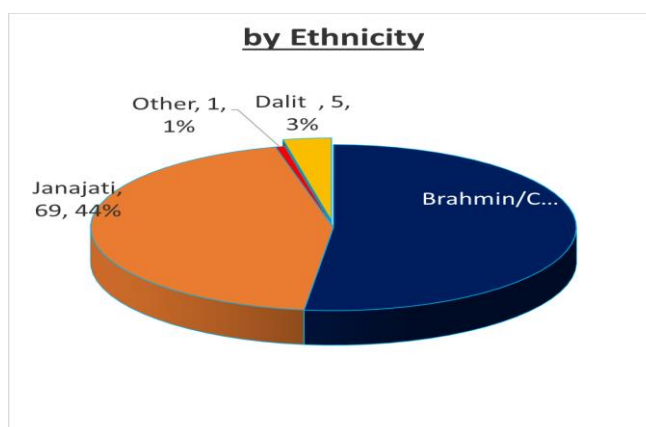
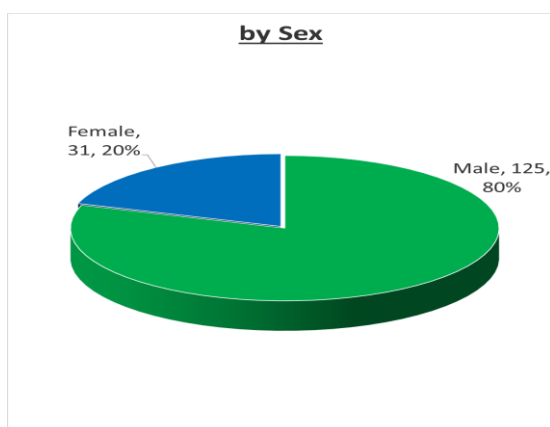
THEMATIC AREAS



MAJOR OBJECTIVES

- Foster the growth of autonomous and self-sufficient grassroots-level institutions.
- Establish sustainable community infrastructures and natural resource systems.
- Attain sustainable household income and ensure food security and nutrition for the targeted population.
- Promote gender equity and social inclusion in all development efforts, enhancing the involvement and leadership of women and vulnerable individuals and groups across various domains.
- Augment physical and financial resources to support the sustainable livelihoods of impoverished and vulnerable communities.
- Enhance local capacities to effectively manage and sustain community development initiatives.

STAFF COMPOSITION





REVIEWING

THE YEAR 2022/2023 (11 PROJECTS + 19 DISTRICTS = 94,397 PEOPLE)



Reached **9,884** individuals to establish or strengthen **454** grassroots or community organizations, water user groups, and farmers' groups to support food security, nutrition, and resilience.



Reached **26,990** individuals, including **17,232 (63.85%)** female members, to enhance their behaviour, knowledge, skills, and capacity, ultimately improving their quality of life through capacity building initiatives.



Reached **17,240** individuals from **3,446** households and **17** public institutions, improving their access to enhanced water supply and irrigation facilities across **360** hectares of land through the implementation of 118 water infrastructures.



Reached **6,380** families who have benefited from various input supports, both on-farm and off-farm, as well as non-farm assistance, aimed at enhancing their production and productivity.



Reached **1,607** individuals through digital climate information, agricultural advisory services, and a market information system, enabling them to enhance their decision-making regarding farming practices, optimize resource usage, and adapt strategies based on climate forecasts.



Reached **10,548** pregnant and lactating women, as well as young children aged 6-23 months, through health camps and distributed **118.08** MT of super cereal food, contributing to improved nutrition and health outcomes for both mothers and children.



Reached **21,748** students from **336** community schools through a healthy day meal program, enhancing their nutritional intake and promoting better concentration and performance in their studies.

PROJECTS IN 2022/23

S. N.	Name of Project	Funding Agency	Location	Beneficiaries HH	Project Duration		Contract Value (NPR)
					From	To	
1	Resilient Communities through Vulnerable Earthquake Recovery (ReCoVER)	CRS	Lamjung, Tanahu, Gorkha, Chitwan, Makawanpur	6240	21-Jul	23-Sep	142,432,525
2	Leveraging women's Leadership and Employment in Value chain for Resilient Livelihood (Women in Value chain)	WFP	Kailali	3,800	23-Apr	24-Mar	55,273,942
3	Building hope Along the Karnali River Basin (BHAKARI)	USAID/ Mercy Crops	Surkhet, Dailekh, Achham, Kalikot, Jumla and Mugu	5,525	20-Oct	23-Sep	55,591,923
4	Using Renewable Energy to kick start Agriculture in Achham (UREKA Achham)	Renewable World (RW)	Achham	1,730	21-Jan	23-Sep	9,318,327
5	SAMUNNATI - Prosperity through inclusive livelihood	CBM	Sindhupalchowk	925	23-Jan	23-Dec	10,706,611
7	Home Grown School Meal (HGSM) Program	WFP/Mercy Corps	Darchula	346 schools	23-Jan	23-Dec	26,425,681
8	Ratmate Livelihood Program (LRP)	MCA Nepal	Nuwakot	235	22-Mar	24-Mar	129,361,276
9	Mother and Child health Nutrition Program (MCHN)	WFP	Mugu and Humla	9,060	23-Apr	Dec – 23	31,737,896
10	JP- Rural Women Economic Empowerment Programme (RWEE)	WFP	Siraha and Saptari	6,000	23-Apr	Dec – 23	24,328,670
11	Develop Water Use Master Plan (WUMP) of 4 Municipality	USAID/DAI	Kalikot, Bardiya, Surkhet and Dailekh	4 Municipalities	22 – Jun	22 - Dec	13,514,567

ADDRESSING POVERTY THROUGH HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES

1. Organizational Development and Capacity Building

SAPPROS - Nepal has prioritized the implementation of strategies aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of grassroots-level and inclusive community organizations by strengthening their capacities. The organization consistently works to uplift the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, including women, the elderly, people with disabilities, single women, and those living in poverty. We have consistently emphasized professional growth by investing in training programs, workshops, and skill development opportunities for these institutions. These initiatives



are designed to cultivate a skilled and motivated workforce, ensuring our organization remains adaptable and capable of effectively responding to evolving challenges. Furthermore, we have implemented various improvements throughout the year to streamline internal processes, enhance communication, and optimize workflow. All of these have played a pivotal role in fostering a more cohesive and efficient work environment.

One of our core strategies has been the systematic implementation of targeted training programs and skill development initiatives. These programs encompass a range of areas, including on/off/non-farm training on management, technological advancements, leadership, and communication skills. Our Agricultural and Livelihood Programs have been instrumental in providing training, fostering capacity building, and promoting sustainable farming practices among farmers. These initiatives have empowered farmers with the knowledge and skills needed for sustainable agriculture, resulting in increased agricultural productivity and economic growth. The success stories emerging from these programs highlight the tangible benefits experienced by farmers and communities, showcasing improved livelihoods and economic stability. Furthermore, these initiatives have significantly contributed to enhancing food security, ensuring a more consistent and ample food supply, a fundamental aspect of community well-being.



Additionally, the achievements in strengthening our organizational capabilities have been substantial. These achievements encompass improved project delivery timelines, enhanced coordination among teams, and an overall boost in team morale and productivity. Our ability to effectively align our teams with the organization's mission and objectives stands as a testament to the progress made in bolstering our organizational capacity.



In the calendar year, SAPPROS – Nepal achieved significant milestones by actively engaging and empowering communities. We supported 454 community groups, predominantly comprising 7,599 females out of a total of 9,884 individuals. These groups, spanning agriculture, water usage, self-help, and more, served as crucial entry points for project interventions, enhancing community institutions for resilience and sustainability.

Furthermore, SAPPROS – Nepal played a pivotal role in capacity-building, impacting 26,990 individuals through 1,093 events. These events included diverse training programs like farm-based training, skill development, management training, technical training for healthcare volunteers, and workshops focusing on social behavior and communication change. Impressively, about 64% of the participants were female, showcasing a notable emphasis on female empowerment and involvement in income-generating endeavors to support their households.

SAPPROS – Nepal's multifaceted approach reflects a dedication to holistic community development. Their efforts not only encompassed training and skill enhancement but also extended to improving the structure and operations of community groups. By empowering individuals, particularly women, and bolstering their skills and knowledge, SAPPROS – Nepal has made a significant stride towards fostering sustainable practices and inclusivity. The emphasis on income generation and the active engagement of female participants underscore their commitment to enhancing livelihoods and ensuring a resilient and prosperous future for the communities they serve.



2. Infrastructure Development and WASH

SAPPROS – Nepal has actively participated in various transformative initiatives under the Community Infrastructure and WASH component. This involves the construction, rehabilitation, maintenance, and improvement of essential facilities such as schools, school kitchens, and community market spaces. Simultaneously, our endeavors in the water infrastructure sector have had a significant impact on communities, ensuring improved access to



clean water, enhanced sanitation facilities, and reliable water sources for irrigation purposes. Consequently, there has been a notable reduction in waterborne diseases, an overall



improvement in community health and hygiene practices, and a substantial increase in agricultural production through year-round irrigation facilities.

In summary, SAPPROS - Nepal remains dedicated to its mission of driving positive and enduring changes within the communities we serve. Our comprehensive initiatives in infrastructure, WASH, agriculture, and livelihoods serve as a

testament to our commitment to fostering sustainable development and empowering individuals and communities. Through these collective efforts, we aspire to continue making meaningful contributions towards the development of resilient, self-sufficient, and prosperous communities in Nepal.

SAPPROS - Nepal achieved significant milestones in water infrastructure during this reporting year. We led the construction of 118 water infrastructures, benefiting a notable 17,240 individuals from 3,446 households and 17 public institutions. These infrastructures not only elevated the quality of drinking water services but also provided reliable irrigation facilities, covering an impressive expanse of 360 hectares of land. What's more, SAPPROS - Nepal showcased remarkable success in mobilizing resources, securing a substantial 32.7% leveraged funding (NPR 135,470,252) from the government and communities, with an impressive 20.9% kind contribution from the community itself, amplifying the impact and reach of their initiatives.

Additionally, SAPPROS - Nepal dedicated efforts to the construction and improvement of 60 community school kitchens in Kailali district. This strategic move was to help school children with their hygienic and healthy day meal program but also triggered a matching leveraged funding of NPR 13,000,000 from the government, equivalent to an encouraging 50% of the total construction cost. These achievements underscore SAPPROS - Nepal's commitment to improving crucial infrastructure and essential amenities, contributing significantly to the well-being and progress of the communities they serve.

3. Food Security and Livelihood

SAPPROS - Nepal exemplifies a proactive and strategic approach to securing essential financial support and resources crucial for sustaining its impactful initiatives. The organization actively forges strategic partnerships and engages in targeted fundraising efforts involving a spectrum of stakeholders, including government entities, international donors, non-governmental organizations, and the communities it serves. Through these collaborative endeavors, SAPPROS - Nepal diligently secures grants, funding, and in-kind contributions, significantly bolstering its operational capacity. This fortified operational capacity,



in turn, enables the successful and efficient implementation of a diverse portfolio of projects aimed at enhancing agricultural practices and livelihoods within the communities.

An outstanding achievement lies in SAPPROS - Nepal's meticulous resource optimization, ensuring the efficient utilization of locally acquired resources to benefit impoverished communities. This encompasses meticulous financial planning, efficient fund allocation, and transparent reporting to stakeholders, ensuring accountability and effectiveness in resource deployment. During the reporting period, the organization provided extensive support to over 6,380 families through a variety of on-farm interventions. These interventions included the distribution of livestock (chicken, goat, pig, buck) and essential agri-inputs like seeds, solar tunnels (153), and Micro-Irrigation Technologies (157 sets). This comprehensive support significantly enhanced field efficiency, boosting agricultural production and overall productivity. Additionally, the organization supplied crucial tools such as mini tillers, corn shellers, and turmeric processing units, further augmenting agricultural efficiency and contributing to sustainable farming practices.



Moreover, SAPPROS - Nepal has made remarkable strides in skills development, empowering over 50 individuals with tailored training and supports in various vital areas such as blacksmithing, tailoring, stone cutting, furniture making, beauty parloring, heavy equipment operation, taxi driving, computer training, plumbing, electrician work, and welding. This emphasis on skill enhancement aligns with their dedication to fostering self-sufficiency and promoting sustainable livelihoods. Project participants were also actively engaged in Exposure Visits and Business

Plan development, providing them with invaluable learning experiences and insights from others, enhancing their project management capabilities and fostering a culture of continuous improvement and growth.

4. DRR, Resilience and Climate Justice

SAPPROS - Nepal has proactively addressed the growing challenges posed by climate change. The organization has initiated a 'Healthy Food Momentum' promoting chemical-free green agriculture to mitigate climate change



effects. By advocating an integrated climate-smart agriculture approach, SAPPROS - Nepal aims to adapt and transform agricultural systems to combat

climate change effectively. This approach involves implementing practices that not only boost agricultural productivity and livelihoods but also contribute to climate change mitigation and resilience. SAPPROS – Nepal is actively engaged in a range of activities and interventions, emphasizing crop diversification, water conservation and management, soil health improvement, sustainable pest and disease management, livestock management, and weather forecasting and advisory services to mitigate the impact of climate change and DRR.

In the spirit of collective action, SAPPROS – Nepal has fostered vital partnerships that strengthen disaster resilience and response mechanisms, particularly during infrastructure development such as water systems. Collaborations have facilitated knowledge exchange, resource pooling, and the formulation of effective disaster risk reduction strategies. These collaborative efforts have significantly enhanced their ability to respond promptly and efficiently during emergencies, providing crucial support to affected communities, be it during the Covid-19 crisis or floods. Through their emergency response activities, SAPPROS – Nepal has reached a substantial number of beneficiaries and communities, offering timely assistance and critical support during pivotal times.

During the year, SAPPROS – Nepal supported communities in planting coffee, banana, raikhanayo, and avocado, totaling over 36,500 plants. This initiative is expected to assist the community in climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and to some extent, enhance their income levels.

5. Health and Nutrition

SAPPROS – Nepal is actively involved in improving community health and nutrition, focusing on establishing healthcare facilities, conducting health education programs, and delivering crucial nutrition assistance to communities in need. For the past four years, the organization has been implementing the Mother and Child Health Nutrition (MCHN) program in Humla and Mugu districts, providing essential support to pregnant and lactating women, as well as young children aged 6 to 23 months. This integrated program aims to prevent malnutrition and enhance diets. By operating monthly MCHN clinics and engaging 59 health facilities, SAPPROS – Nepal ensures that beneficiaries receive comprehensive maternal, child health, and nutrition-related services, considering good nutritional status as a fundamental indicator of overall health. This year, the program has successfully facilitated regular health check-ups for 3,154 pregnant and lactating women, supplying them with super cereal food at 3 kg per month, and has monitored the growth and nutrition of 7,394 children aged 6–23 months, providing them with the same nutritional support, totaling a distribution of 118.08 MT.



Furthermore, SAPPROS – Nepal is implementing school day meal programs across Darchula, Kailali, Siraha, and Saptari districts, aimed at enhancing nutritional intake and health status for school-going children, particularly those coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The organization supports local

farmers to cultivate healthy food in these regions and facilitates market linkages to ensure their sustainable growth. This program reaches all 336 community schools in Darchula, benefitting approximately 21,750 students, contributing to a healthier and more nourished future for these students.


Financial Overview

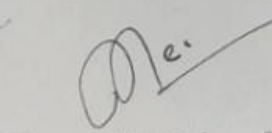
Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal (SAPPROS Nepal)
Kathmandu, Nepal
Balance Sheet
As on 31st Ashad 2080

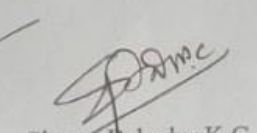
Particulars	Schedule	Current Year NPR	Previous Year NPR
Assets			
Current Assets			
Advance, Deposit & Receivables	2	54,733,289.92	25,738,800.70
Receivable from Donor	3	2,320,102.00	1,637,973.70
Bank, Cash & Cash Equivalents	4	34,569,284.53	30,679,026.30
Total Current Assets		91,622,676.45	58,055,800.70
Non Current Assets			
Fixed Assets	1	3,646,813.25	4,607,605.75
Total Fixed Assets		3,646,813.25	4,607,605.75
Total Assets		95,269,489.70	62,663,406.46
Liabilities & Fund Balance			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	5	39,699,480.16	11,550,387.73
Total Current Liabilities		39,699,480.16	11,550,387.73
Fund Balance			
Unrestricted Fund	6	9,451,623.29	20,248,710.00
Restricted Fund	7	46,118,386.25	30,864,308.73
Total Fund Balance		55,570,009.54	51,113,018.73
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance		95,269,489.70	62,663,406.46


Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Account 10
Note: Schedule 1 to 7 & 10 form integral part of
Balance Sheet

As per our report of even date


Nirml Prasad Gyalang
Executive Director


Pleasure Bhandari
Treasurer


Shyam Bahadur K.C.
General Secretary


Dr. Arun Raj Kunwar
Chairperson


Nishchal Bhattarai, FCA
Partner
S. Devkota & Company
Chartered Accountants



Location: Kathmandu, Nepal
Date : 5 October 2023

Chameli Chepang: Stitching Success all across Landslide-Prone Terrain

In the heart of the perilous landscape of Dhusa Village within Ichchakamana Rural Municipality, lies a story of resilience and transformation embodied by a 28-year-old woman named Mrs. Chameli Chepang. The specter of landslides loomed over this village, and the government had already flagged it as a high-risk zone for natural disasters, prompting a planned resettlement of the vulnerable community.



Before the ReCoVER initiative set its wheels in motion, Chameli grappled with the dual challenge of limited finances and a dearth of skills required to embark on an entrepreneurial journey. Recognizing her potential, ReCoVER identified her as a promising candidate for their project and placed their faith in her ability to flourish in the realm of tailoring. Conducting thorough demand assessments, ReCoVER extended crucial support by providing her with vital machinery—a sewing machine, interlock machine, press, and scissors—to kickstart her tailoring venture.

Collaborating seamlessly with the local governing body, Palika, Chameli received specialized training in tailoring through an employment-centric skill enhancement program. Eager to learn and driven by her passion for the craft, she progressively realized her dream by establishing a modest boutique in the bustling Phisling Bazar. With her finely honed skills and a genuine passion for her trade, Chameli's burgeoning business began to capture the attention of customers not only from her immediate community but also from neighboring districts.

Guided by the wisdom acquired through business planning training, she gained a deep understanding of market dynamics, demand-supply equilibrium, and effective marketing strategies. As her knowledge grew, so did her earnings, now averaging an impressive monthly income of approximately 20 thousand rupees. Cementing her dedication and ambitions, Chameli officially registered her enterprise under the moniker "Chameli Tailors" with the Palika.

Chameli's remarkable odyssey serves as a beacon of hope, illustrating how even the smallest modicum of support coupled with unbridled passion can dynamically alter one's livelihood. A source of inspiration within her community and beyond, her journey epitomizes the notion that with unwavering determination and the right backing, anyone can rise from humble origins and carve out a prosperous path in life.

Empowering Communities: Breaking Gender Barriers for Water Accessibility

In the charming hills of Jumla, a story of transformation and empowerment was unfolding in the Sarkibada Community, a Dalit settlement situated in Tila Rural Municipality, ward number 3 of Jumla. The landscape was not just defined by its natural beauty, but by the resilient spirit of its people and their fight for a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Brought to this community was the BHAKARI water component, a project designed to enhance access to sustainable water sources for productive purposes while adhering to a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)-first approach. The selection of vulnerable communities for the water project was a meticulous process, considering various criteria such as poverty status, remoteness, number of female-headed households, percentage of excluded groups, and the state of existing water facilities.



Sarkibada community stood out, not just for its need but also for its potential to be a catalyst for change. Following a thorough assessment and ranking based on these criteria, Sarkibada emerged as the first community to undergo intervention through the productive water project. The project was meticulously planned and executed, with sub-engineers conducting field verification and feasibility studies.

During these studies, the water team discovered a critical issue: an unlined canal situated directly above the residential area, causing seepage problems and a lack of water during the dry season. This finding spurred the community into action, and they swiftly advocated for a lined canal. The project, deemed socially, financially, technically, and environmentally sound, received the green light for further processes.

The transformation began with the formation of a Water Users Group (WUG) and a subsequent community meeting, where a remarkable 73.33% of attendees were women—a testament to the successful advocacy regarding the importance of women's participation in the project. The water team emphasized the significance of women's leadership and representation, leading to the selection of five females and four male members for the WUG.

In a groundbreaking move, key positions such as the chairperson and treasurer were allocated to Dalit women, breaking away from traditional gender roles. Ms. Lalkaura Sarki, a 38-year-old Dalit woman, assumed the position of the chairperson, demonstrating strong leadership and commitment to the success



of the project. The decision to place women in pivotal roles was celebrated and approved by the entire community, marking a pivotal moment in challenging gender stereotypes.

Lalkaura Sarki, now the chairperson of the Water User Committee, voiced her dedication to overcoming societal norms and proving that gender should never be a barrier to success. Her words echoed the sentiments of a community determined to showcase the abilities of women and shatter gender stereotypes, thus paving the way for a brighter and more inclusive future.

Raju's Journey to Entrepreneurship: A Tale of Resilience and Triumph

In the heart of Khalte, nestled within the Belkotygradhi municipality of Nuwakot district, resides Raju Shrestha, a 29-year-old with aspirations of providing a quality life for his family. With a loving wife, two daughters, and a son, Raju yearns to forge a stable and prosperous future for them. His path was once set in foreign employment in Malaysia, driven by the desire to secure a livelihood and support his family, until fate intervened.

As the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) initiated its Electricity Transmission project in Nepal,



Raju and his family faced the need to relocate, as their land fell within the territory designated for the project. The MCC-Nepal legally acquired their 20-Ropani of land, registered under his father's name. Although this was a significant upheaval, MCA-Nepal ensured appropriate compensation for their loss. Raju's father allocated a portion of the compensation money to him, igniting the spark of entrepreneurship.

With a vision to construct a better future, Raju judiciously invested the funds in building a house along the highway. Recognizing the potential of his location, he decided to open a small hotel within his house, realizing a lifelong dream. Raju embarked on this new chapter, operating his hotel, and concurrently, MCA – Nepal launched the Livelihood Restoration Program through its consultant SAPPROS Nepal. The program, spanning two years, aimed to restore the livelihoods of individuals impacted by the MCA – Nepal's Electricity Transmission Project. During consultations, Raju displayed an unwavering eagerness to enhance his cooking skills and sought technical support to improve his hotel business.

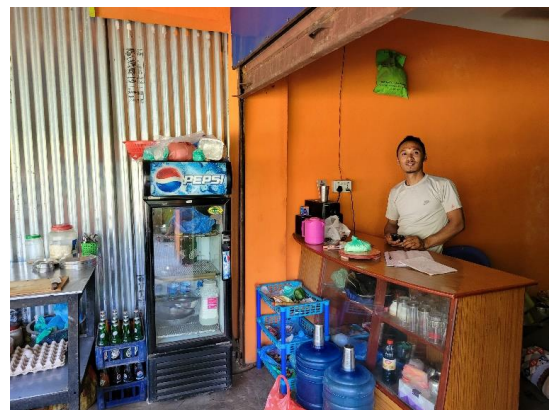
Having prior knowledge of Indian, Nepali, and Continental dishes, Raju expressed a keen interest in receiving training for sweet and snack making. Acknowledging his enthusiasm and potential, the LRP project provided comprehensive training in sweet and snack preparation. For two months, Raju dedicated himself to learning and refining his culinary skills.

With newfound knowledge and honed skills, Raju expanded the menu of his hotel, introducing delectable items like samosas, momos, pakoras (fritters), and a variety of sweets.

The local community warmly embraced his culinary creations, attracting a growing clientele to his hotel. Raju's hard work and dedication paid off, evident when he sold around 10 kilograms of jerry, along with other sweets, on Mother's Day, garnering approximately 10,000 rupees.

Empowered by his initial success, Raju now plans to create and sell more sweets during the upcoming festival season. The heightened demand during festivities presents a golden opportunity for him to boost sales and further expand his business. Presently, his hotel generates daily sales ranging from 3,000 to 3,500 rupees. With the promise of continued growth, Raju envisions expanding his hotel and diversifying his menu with even more delightful offerings.

Deeply appreciative of the support he received from the LRP project, Raju expresses his heartfelt gratitude. The training not only enhanced his cooking skills but also instilled the confidence to venture into new culinary endeavors. Raju's journey from being impacted by the MCC project to blossoming into a successful entrepreneur stands as a testament to his resilience, hard work, and the transformative power of support and opportunities.





SAPPROS – Nepal

39-Kha, Surya Marga, Babarmahal, Kathmandu

Tel: +977 1 5332129, 5342143, 5342318

email: info@sappros.org.np; sapprosnepal@hotmail.com

Website: www.sappros.org.np