

SAPPROS Nepal

Newsletter

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Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal (SAPPROS Nepal)

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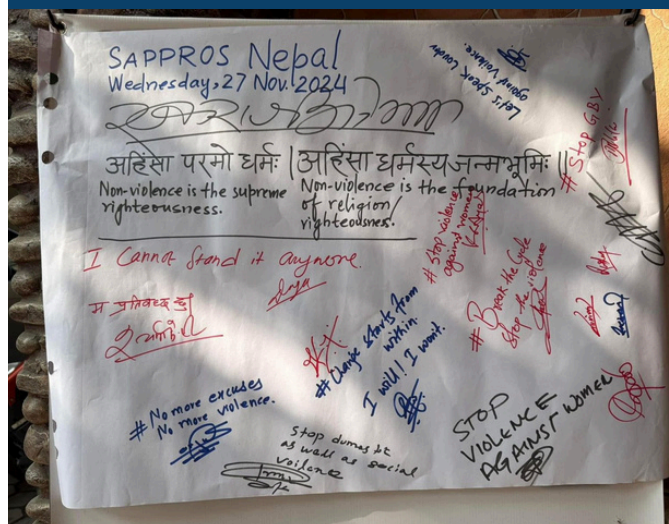
SAPPROS Nepal joined the global community in observing the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), an annual campaign that ran from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day). This year's theme, "UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls," emphasized the need for collaborative efforts and unified action to eliminate GBV globally.

SAPPROS reaffirmed its commitment to combating GBV and discrimination, recognizing the importance of gender equality in building an inclusive society. The organization has been implementing projects aimed at the socioeconomic empowerment of rural women in Nepal, focusing on education, health, and income opportunities to foster leadership and resilience. On the 15th day of this campaign, SAPPROS Nepal stood in solidarity with survivors, advocates, and global organizations fighting GBV. This reinforced its resolve to address the root causes of violence and promote equality.

We remain committed to continuing our efforts in empowering women, advocating for policy changes, and raising awareness about GBV. We urge individuals, communities, and institutions to take collective action for a safe, equitable society. Together, we can create a violence-free future where every woman and girl thrive.

Highlights

- Commitment to eliminate GBV
- USAID Local Works: Safal begins
- Crisis modifier plan prioritized
- Flood victims supported
- FAIDA project Inception workshop organized
- FEBL and GALS fostered learning
- Innovation fostered in Darchula
- Disability inclusive development promotion
- Efforts to combat malnutrition monitored
- SAFE project's successful completion
- Strengthening water security in Karnali
- Article on Safe and Healthy Food Movement



A pledge of SAPPROS Nepal team to end GBV.

USAID Local Works: Safal Project Commences

SAPPROS Nepal together with sub-partners Patan CBR and RCDC-Nepal have launched the USAID Local Works: Safal Project to enhance socio-economic opportunities for marginalized communities in Mahankal Rural Municipality, Lalitpur and MadhyaNepal Municipality in Lamjung. The project supported by USAID has started its implementation from 23 December 2024 for 3 years and seeks to directly benefit 800 individuals and positively impact 3,200 people indirectly.

The Safal Project focuses on improving livelihoods by empowering communities with sustainable on farm, off-farm and skills-based economic opportunities along with the input support and initiatives for value chain development and market linkages. It also looks to promote voice and participation of women and marginalized groups through state and civic engagement by bolstering municipal capacities for participatory planning, transparent service delivery, and inclusive governance aligned with Nepal's federal structure. At its core, the project emphasizes localization, empowering local communities and governments to lead decision-making while aligning activities with local development.



Meeting with representatives of the partner organization.

Inclusive Disaster Response Carried Out for the Flood affected Households



Financial assistance cheques handed Over to flood and landslide victims by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Chautara Sangachokgadhi Municipality, Sindhupalchwok district.

In late September 2024, relentless rainfall triggered severe flooding and landslides across Nepal, causing widespread devastation. In response, SAPPROS Nepal swiftly provided immediate relief in two of its project areas in Sindhupalchwok and Lalitpur districts. The affected communities faced critical shortages of essentials, including food, healthcare, education, and transportation. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, SAPPROS Nepal mobilized resources in close collaboration with local authorities to support the victims.

SAPPROS Nepal implemented an inclusive disaster response strategy, prioritizing vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged households. In Sindhupalchwok, eleven at risk households received direct cash support amounting to NPR 450,000. Additionally, NPR 500,000 was allocated to Mahankal Rural Municipality for effective utilization in addressing the needs of the affected population.

FAIDA project Inception workshop successfully organized in Chitwan

A three-day inception workshop was organized in Chitawan during 23 - 25 October 2024 for CBM Global Nepal supported Financial Autonomy and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (FAIDA) project. The workshop introduced the participants with project's vision, mission, and strategies to benefit beneficiaries and stakeholders, focusing on collaborative efforts to empower persons with disabilities.

FAIDA project has been designed to improve the financial autonomy and inclusion of persons with disabilities, primarily through agricultural initiatives. It seeks to address systemic exclusion and barriers to financial services and thus enhance the independence of persons with disabilities. The workshop emphasized CBM Nepal's commitment to uplifting persons with disabilities through its mission, vision, and collaborative strategies.

SAPPROS Nepal also showcased its achievements in promoting balanced development through innovative agricultural approaches and social inclusion efforts. The event concluded with development of project plan and a collective commitment from stakeholders to ensure the success of the FAIDA project.



Participants of the inception workshop

Fostering Gender Equality and Economic Empowerment through Community Dialogue and Learning Exchange



The implementation of Financial Education and Business Literacy (FEBL) and Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) has significantly enhanced knowledge sharing, collaboration, and mutual learning among community members in Saptari and Siraha Districts. Conducted in December 2024, these programs under IFAD supported, JP RWEE project engaged 118 women and 70 men, including local leaders, elected representatives, and stakeholders, to address economic empowerment, gender equality, and sustainable practices. The initiatives have demonstrated transformative potential by creating platforms for dialogue and peer-to-peer learning, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment. The impact of FEBL and GALS has been profound, driving behavioral changes and fostering gender equality within households and communities. These programs have empowered women and marginalized groups to address systemic challenges, encouraging collaboration to resolve community issues. Recognizing their effectiveness, the Community Dialogue and Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange program was organized to strengthen these efforts further, emphasizing the importance of financial literacy and gender inclusion in fostering sustainable development.

During the events, elected representatives pledged to enhance these initiatives by integrating business literacy into education systems, promoting women-friendly entrepreneurship policies, and providing technical support for agricultural businesses. Commitments were also made to organize legal rights campaigns, expand FEBL and GALS training, and strengthen capacity-building programs for rural women using municipal resources.



Promoting Agricultural Innovation and Collaboration in Darchula.

On 20-22 December 2024, SAPPROS Nepal successfully conducted a capacity-building training program on offseason vegetable production at Malikarjun Rural Municipality, Darchula. Facilitated by Mr. Khadka Gurung, Technical Resource Person of SAPPROS Nepal, with support from experienced farmer Anil Lohar, the training engaged local farmers, students, and Field Technical Assistants (FTAs). The program aimed to introduce advanced techniques for constructing permanent and temporary polyhouse structures and efficient nursery management practices, fostering agricultural innovation in the region. As part of the program, SAPPROS Nepal introduced improved polyhouses with fusion-type metal and bamboo frame structures. These innovative polyhouses, combined with drip irrigation, mulching techniques, and modern nursery management, enhance productivity while ensuring efficient water use. The hands-on training sessions included practical demonstrations of polyhouse construction, interactive discussions, and the exchange of best practices among 20 male and 5 female participants. This initiative is expected to enhance the sustainable supply chain for the Home-Grown School Meal Program (HGSMP), ensuring food security while promoting modern agricultural methods in the Darchula district.

In addition to the training program, a one-day Local Government (LG)-level USDA FFEP Program Review was successfully held across all nine Palikas of the Darchula district. The review brought together a diverse group of 390 participants, including 111 women, to reflect on the program's annual progress. Stakeholders and Palika representatives expressed their strong support for the program, emphasizing their commitment to integrating it into the upcoming fiscal year's plans.



SAMANATA: One Step Ahead in Fostering Disability Inclusion in Sindhupalchok



SAMANATA project, implemented in Sindhupalchok district with the support of CBM Global and SAPPROS Nepal, successfully conducted a Learning Exchange Program titled “Community-Based Disability Inclusive Development” on 23 December 2024, in Chautara and Balefi. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including local authorities, leaders, officials, representatives of organizations advocating for disability rights, and persons with disabilities.

The program was highly impactful as it highlighted the concerns and realities faced by persons with disabilities in the community. Through insightful discussions and experience sharing, the event shed light on the need for disability-inclusive development. Local leaders observed the grounded realities presented during the program and pledged to incorporate disability issues into their fiscal plans and policies. This commitment marks a significant step towards streamlining disability inclusion into local governance frameworks.

The SAMANATA project team received widespread commendation for their organized efforts in promoting community-based disability-inclusive development. Stakeholders and local leaders recognized the program’s value and expressed their willingness to collaborate on initiatives that prioritize the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. These efforts further reinforce SAMANATA’s mission to create an inclusive society where everyone has equal opportunities and access to resources.



MCHN Project: Combating Malnutrition through Enhanced Health and Nutrition Services

The UN-WFP-supported Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Programme (MCHN) project has been a transformative initiative addressing malnutrition in Nepal. It made significant strides in reducing high rates of stunting, wasting, and underweight indicators among pregnant and lactating women and young children. By focusing on enhancing access to essential health and nutrition services, raising awareness of healthy practices, and promoting the use of government services, the MCHN Programme empowered local communities.

The program’s primary objectives include reducing stunting in children under 24 months, minimizing wasting and anemia among pregnant and lactating women and children, and improving maternal and child feeding practices. To achieve these goals, the project employed a multifaceted approach that emphasized capacity building, community ownership, and active collaboration with local stakeholders. Key interventions included targeted health and nutrition awareness campaigns, skill development training for local health workers, and the promotion of sustainable practices.

During 1-7 December 2024, the Executive Director of SAPPROS Nepal, Dr. Ek Raj Ojha and SAPPROS Nepal team visited the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Programme (MCHN) in Mugu district. The visit aimed to monitor the status of the project and engage with concerned stakeholders. During their visit, the team held constructive interactions with project staff and beneficiaries, sharing insights about the importance of nutritious foods for the proper growth and development of children. The team expressed satisfaction with the project interventions and recognized the program's critical role in addressing malnutrition.



Rebuilding Lives in Rukum West



The Strengthening Resilience of Assets and Food Security Enhancement (SAFE) project was an eight-month initiative implemented in three municipalities of Rukum West to address food security, livelihoods, and nutritional needs of earthquake-affected families. Targeting 5,800 households, the project provided conditional and unconditional cash transfers, skill-based training, and community infrastructure development. Beneficiaries included 3,140 households participating in cash-for-work, 340 in cash-for-training, and 2,320 receiving unconditional support. Vulnerable groups such as households without members between 18-59 years, pregnant or breastfeeding women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly were prioritized, with additional nutritional top-ups for households with young children or pregnant women.

A major aspect of the project was the Nayarkhola-Khalchaur-Gaunbari-Tura Agriculture Road Upgrading Project, which improved the supply chain for food and agricultural products. Protective structures and bio-engineering techniques enhanced agricultural productivity and resilience in Sanibheri Rural Municipality, heavily affected by the 2023 Jajarkot earthquake. These interventions addressed the immediate needs of marginalized communities, revitalized the local economy through food-for-assets schemes, and provided sustainable infrastructure to withstand future challenges.

On 11 November 2024, a joint monitoring visit by representatives from the Joint Recovery Action Plan (JRAP), a UN agencies, the British Embassy in Kathmandu, SAPPROS Nepal, and local authorities reviewed the project's outcomes. Stakeholders praised the project's success in restoring livelihoods, rebuilding infrastructure, and fostering resilience. It showcased the power of collaborative, community-driven initiatives to secure sustainable futures for the vulnerable.

Transforming Lives Through Improved Water Access in Karnali

The USAID Karnali Water Activity partners with SAPPROS Nepal to implement a transformative initiative aimed at improving water access, management, and governance in the Karnali region. SAPPROS Nepal oversees the construction, management, and institutional support of 25 water supply schemes (WSS) across Kalikot, Jumla, and Dailekh districts. This includes eleven schemes in Mahabai Rural Municipality, Tila Rural Municipality, and Tilagupha Municipality under Package 2, and 14 schemes, including five multiple-use water systems (MUS), in Dullu, Chamunda, and Bhairabi Municipalities under Package 4. The project, launched on 11 November 2024, targets 6,813 individuals from 1,387 households, aiming to provide them with safe and sustainable water access within a 10-month timeframe.

The initiative focuses on strengthening water security and resilience by enhancing governance, resource management, and sustainable access to clean water. Key interventions include constructing new water supply systems, implementing source protection works in line with national standards, and conducting capacity-building programs for Water Users and Sanitation Committees (WUSCs). The project also emphasizes equitable access to water and encourages the use of water-efficient technologies, and integrates biodiversity conservation measures to protect natural resources.



Uniting for a Safe and Healthy Food Movement: SAPPROS Nepal Leading the way

In a world increasingly affected by the negative impacts of inorganic farming practices, SAPPROS Nepal is championing the cause of safe and healthy food through its commitment to organic agriculture and sustainable development. As a non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the lives of small farmers and disadvantaged communities, SAPPROS Nepal has been actively addressing the global challenges posed by the excessive use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and other harmful chemicals in farming.

The worldwide reliance on inorganic farming has led to alarming consequences. Studies show that overuse of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides reduces soil fertility by depleting essential nutrients and microbial life, leading to long-term agricultural decline. In economic terms, the global cost of soil degradation caused by such practices is estimated to exceed USD \$400 billion annually. Furthermore, these methods contaminate water sources, increasing treatment costs and endangering public health. Health-wise, exposure to residues from chemical-intensive farming has been linked to chronic illnesses, including cancers, neurological disorders, and developmental issues in children. The environmental toll is equally dire, with inorganic farming contributing to 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbating climate change.

SAPPROS Nepal's vision for a healthier future is grounded in its comprehensive approach to promoting organic agriculture, renewable energy, and ecotourism. SAPPROS founder ShriKrishna Upadhyaya, a Right Livelihood Award winner in 2010, together with the SAPPROS team, previously organized a conference on the 'Make Nepal Green' initiative in February 2016. Since then, the organization has consistently engaged with donor and partner organizations, academia including RLA laureates, and local governments to advance sustainable practices and foster impactful collaborations. Its goals are clear and interconnected: improving the lives of small farmers and disadvantaged communities, promoting sustainable development and healthy lifestyles, building resilience while protecting the environment, and empowering communities to embrace sustainable practices. With initiatives like the Home-Grown School Meal Programme (HGSMP), SAPPROS integrates local farmers and cooperatives into the supply chain for nutritious school meals, creating a sustainable market while ensuring healthy food for children. The organization's nutrition-focused publications advocate for organic farming and healthier lifestyles, raising awareness about the benefits of adopting sustainable practices. Additionally, the Make Nepal Green campaign of underscores the interconnectedness of organic agriculture, renewable energy, and tourism as pillars of sustainable development.

SAPPROS Nepal calls on all stakeholders including government agencies, local organizations, international partners, and individuals to unite against the proliferation of inorganic farming. The organization pledges its support to coordinate and collaborate on efforts to transition toward safer, healthier, and more sustainable agricultural practices. By leveraging the collective power of communities and partners, SAPPROS Nepal aims to build a movement that prioritizes food security, environmental conservation, and public health. Together, we can create a world where nutritious, organic food is the norm, and farming practices harmonize with the environment. SAPPROS Nepal stands ready to lead and support this transformative journey, fostering resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability for generations to come.

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A New Year's Promise – 2025

As dawn awakens the year anew,
We pause to honor all of you.
To donors who fuel our mission's flight,
Your kindness turns hope into light.

To governments steadfast, a guiding hand,
Together we nurture our cherished land.
To the partners, with strength and heart,
Your support plays a crucial part.

To beneficiaries, resilient and strong,
It's your dreams that guide us along.
From the fields to the hills, valleys wide,
We stand united, side by side.

May 2025 be a year so bright,
Filled with progress, peace, and light.
Together we rise, we build, we grow,
Sowing seeds of change as rivers flow.

With gratitude deep and vision clear,
We welcome this promising new year.
SAPPROS stands with love and care,
For a future we proudly share.

By - Kshitij Wagle

