

# SAPPROS NEPAL

## Newsletter

January – March 2025

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**Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal  
(SAPPROS NEPAL)**

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### GEDSI orientations conducted

SAPPROS NEPAL continues to strengthen its commitment to a professional, safe, and respectful working environment through targeted safeguarding and GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion) orientations. With a strong emphasis on zero tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment, and human trafficking, the organization has organized five different half-day orientation events for 64 project team members (40 male, 24 female) across five key projects including JP RWEE II, FAIDA, MCHN, SAMANATA, and HGSEF.

These sessions reinforced staff accountability to uphold the organization's Safeguarding and Staff Code of Conduct, which applies during and beyond official working hours, especially while engaging with communities. SAPPROS is actively creating widespread awareness across all projects, integrating Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and PSEAH (Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment) into core programming.

Confidential reporting channels including email, toll-free hotlines, and complaint boxes have been placed to support a transparent and accountable working culture with in SAPPROS to prioritize dignity and protection for all.

### Highlights

- Safeguarding and GEDSI Orientations
- Leadership Update: New ED appointed
- TOT on financial literacy conducted
- MCHN program monitored
- Planning workshop for new FLA organized
- CSA training organized
- Disability Inclusive Policy review conducted
- Holi Celebrated
- Toll - free number introduced



Photo from the orientation program



## Leadership Transition: Ms. Sanju Bagale Takes the Helm

SAPPROS NEPAL proudly announces the appointment of Ms. Sanju Bagale as its new Executive Director, effective March 2025. With over 15 years of experience in humanitarian and development sectors, Ms. Bagale brings a wealth of expertise in food security, DRR, climate adaptation, and environmental safeguarding. She holds dual Master's degrees in Environment Management and Rural Development and has led projects supported by DFID, USAID, UKAID, and MCA - Nepal. Her visionary leadership is expected to elevate SAPPROS' impact, foster strong partnerships, and drive sustainable change. The SAPPROS family warmly congratulates her and wishes her best.



## Empowering Inclusion Through Financial Literacy: FAIDA Project's TOT Initiative in Chitwan



With funding support from JOA and CBM Global, the FAIDA Project, implemented by SAPPROS NEPAL, has been actively promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities across Chitwan District. Collaborating closely with municipal-level disability committees and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), the project has established 93 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across seven municipalities—providing a safe platform for persons with disabilities to share experiences, raise concerns, and pursue collective growth.

From 24th to 26th March 2025, the project conducted a three-day Training of Trainers (TOT) on Financial Literacy in Sauraha, Chitwan. This training aimed to build capacity among 25 participants (18 project staff and 7 OPD representatives) to become effective community trainers. Topics included saving habits, budgeting, risk management, small business planning, and use of digital financial tools. Interactive sessions like role-plays and group discussions helped ensure engagement and real-world application of financial concepts, ultimately enhancing entrepreneurship and financial empowerment within the disability community.



## Leadership in Nutrition: 12 Years of MCHN Impact in Karnali Province

For over a decade, with the generous funding support from UN World Food Programme (WFP), SAPPROS NEPAL has been leading efforts to improve maternal and child health in the remote districts of Mugu and Humla through the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Program. Now firmly integrated into the Government of Nepal's Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan (MSNP) III (2023–2030), the program is a key intervention contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 2 – Zero Hunger, focusing on the prevention of chronic malnutrition.

By March 2025, the program has reached 11 rural/municipalities, strengthened 51 health facilities, and mobilized 455 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs). Through their outreach and collaboration with mothers' groups, the initiative has directly benefited 2,841 pregnant and breastfeeding women and 4,425 children aged 6–23 months, promoting improved Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices and the use of locally available nutritious foods.

A joint monitoring visit conducted from March 9–21, 2025, included elected representatives, local government officials, WFP and SAPPROS Nepal officials, in Chhayanth Rara Municipality, Mugu. The team expressed high satisfaction with the program's tangible contributions to health system strengthening and service delivery, especially its community-focused efforts to support pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and young children in Karnali Province.



Photo of the monitoring team

## Strengthening Agricultural Value Chains through Stakeholder Synergy



Under the IFAD-led component of the JP RWEF project, SAPPROS NEPAL organized a Sensitization Workshop on March 18, 2025, in Laxmipur Patari Rural Municipality. The event brought together 94 key stakeholders including producer farmers, input suppliers, traders, processors, retailers, exporters, and government and development representatives to strengthen collaboration across the agricultural value chain. The workshop aimed to promote synergy in the production-to-consumption process by addressing challenges, sharing knowledge, and fostering partnerships. Participants engaged in open dialogue to identify bottlenecks and co-create solutions to enhance product quality, efficiency, and sustainability.

## Project update

**SAPPROS NEPAL is currently implementing six ongoing projects, outlined as follows:**

### **1. Dignity through Livelihood-Improvement for Persons with Disability in Nepal: SAMANATA**

Implemented in Chautara Sangachokgadhi Municipality and Balefi Rural Municipality, the project targets to benefit 1,081 people with disabilities from January 2024 to December 2026. Funded by CBM Global, it aims to enhance livelihood and social empowerment by embracing Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Model.

### **2. JP – Rural Women Economic Empowerment (WFP Component)**

Operating in Siraha and Saptari across 5 local governments, this WFP supported initiative seeks to empower 6,000 beneficiaries, primarily rural women. The project promotes food security, nutrition, and economic resilience from January to December 2025.

### **3. JP – Rural Women Economic Empowerment (IFAD Component)**

This IFAD-led intervention, also in Siraha and Saptari, complements the WFP component with a long-term focus on women's economic empowerment. With implementation from September 2023 to September 2027, it supports inclusive, sustainable development pathways.

### **4. Financial Autonomy and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities through Agriculture**

Implemented in Chitwan district, this project benefits 98,000 individuals, including persons with disabilities and their caregivers. Funded by JOA and CBM Global, it fosters economic inclusion through agricultural livelihoods from July 2024 to June 2028 in all 7 municipalities in Chitwan.

### **5. Home Grown School Feeding Program 2025**

Launched in Darchula, this WFP and Mercy Corps-supported project targets 336 schools, 21,748 students, and local cooperatives. It promotes food security, education, and nutrition through community-based school feeding from January to September 2025.

### **6. Nuts and Fruits in Hilly Areas (NAFHA)**

Spanning 34 districts, this WFP-backed project engages 100 JT/JTAs and over 10,000 smallholder farmers to boost agroforestry and nutrition. Active from April 2025 to March 2026, it aims to strengthen food systems and rural livelihoods in hilly regions.

### **Project terminated**

USAID supported Local Works: SAFAL project in Mahankaal and MadhyaNepal, and the USAID/DAI supported WSS & SP Scheme in Jumla and Kalikot, have been prematurely terminated.

This unexpected end to the projects has deeply affected communities still awaiting clean water and resilient livelihoods. Despite the closure, SAPPROS NEPAL is committed to seeking future support. Key learnings from this experience will guide better for more resilient planning in our upcoming initiatives.



## Advancing School Feeding Sustainability: Planning Workshop for New FLA organized



The Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Program, implemented by SAPPROS NEPAL with generous financial support from USDA, project lead WFP and technical lead Mercy Corps, continues to create meaningful impact in the lives of children, farmers, and communities across Sudurpaschim Province. By ensuring that school meals are sourced from local farmers, the program tackles two pressing challenges: child malnutrition and rural poverty. Children in public schools now receive regular, nutritious meals that enhance their concentration, reduce absenteeism, and contribute to better academic performance. Simultaneously, local farmers many of whom are women are gaining reliable market access for their produce, boosting rural livelihoods and promoting inclusive economic growth.

To promote stronger institutional ownership and sustainability, a Planning Workshop for the new Field Level Agreement (FLA) was held on 30th March 2025, bringing together 35 key stakeholders from seven local governments, including Education Officers, Agriculture Officers, Chief Administrative Officers, and Vice Chairpersons (with 9 women participants). The workshop served as a platform to review progress made in 2024, including achievements in improving school meal implementation and increasing community engagement. Challenges such as logistical delays and procurement bottlenecks were openly discussed. Stakeholders collaborated on the 2025 annual plan, ensuring improved coordination between sectors and alignment with municipal strategies.

A major focus of the workshop was on enhancing the Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) reporting system, improving data collection and food tracking through better collaboration with warehouse managers. Participants emphasized the urgent need to institutionalize the HGSF program within local government policies and plans, securing long-term commitment and financial allocation. As a multi-sectoral model, HGSF contributes not only to nutrition and education, but also to agriculture, governance, and gender equity. The workshop concluded with a shared commitment from all stakeholders to address systemic challenges and scale up the HGSF approach as a resilient, locally driven solution for child well-being and sustainable community development in Sudurpaschim.

## Strengthening Resilience through Climate-Smart Agriculture

Under the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE-II), jointly funded by IFAD and WFP, SAPPROS NEPAL conducted 2 events of six day training on Climate Smart Village (CSV) training from 20–25 March 2025 in Saptari and Siraha districts. The training aimed to enhance farmers' understanding of climate change impacts and equip them with climate-resilient agricultural (CRA) practices. A total of 50 farmers (25 male and 25 female) were trained on practical techniques including soil health management, organic mulching, seed and water-smart practices and agriculture insurance.

In addition, a Follow-up Intercultural Operation Training was organized for 58 champion farmers to promote market-aligned production, focusing on staking, pruning, and eco-friendly pest control. Rural women were also engaged in hands-on mushroom farming training. These initiatives are part of a broader joint programme implemented by FAO, IFAD, UN Women, and WFP each leading specific components. SAPPROS NEPAL, under the technical guidance of WFP and IFAD, is leading the implementation of women's empowerment, food security, nutrition, market access, and capacity-building activities to build resilient livelihoods and strengthen community-based adaptation.





## SAMANATA Project Facilitates Disability-Inclusive Policy Review



As part of its ongoing commitment to disability inclusion, the SAMANATA Project implemented by SAPPROS NEPAL with funding support from CBM Global organized a comprehensive policy review workshop on March 11, 2025, in coordination with the Municipal-level Disability Coordination Committee of Chautara Sangachokgadhi Municipality. The workshop brought together 28 key stakeholders from government and civil society to critically assess the status of disability-inclusive policies and programs across major sectors such as education, health, livelihood, and empowerment.

The primary objective of the workshop was to ensure that the voices and needs of persons with disabilities are effectively prioritized in the Municipality's annual plans and budget for FY 2082/083. Through participatory review, the session identified existing policy gaps and recommended actionable strategies for more equitable and accessible service delivery.

During the event, Chautara Sangachokgadhi Municipality was formally recognized for its exemplary efforts in disability inclusion—most notably its provision of free health insurance for persons with disabilities across all recognized categories (Ka, Kha, Ga, and Gha). This commendation reflects the municipality's progressive stance in advancing an inclusive society where persons with disabilities can access health and social services with dignity and equality.



## Celebrating Unity in Diversity: SAPPROS Nepal Family Marks Holi with Joy and Togetherness

On 12th March 2025, the central team of SAPPROS NEPAL came together to celebrate Holi the festival of colors, in a vibrant display of unity, collaboration, and resilience. The celebration not only embraced the cultural richness of the occasion but also symbolized the organizational values that SAPPROS stands for: inclusion, diversity, and shared purpose. Just as a blend of colors creates beautiful patterns, the collective energy of the SAPPROS family continues to weave together hope, strength, and impact in the communities it serves.

The celebration served as a heartfelt reminder that togetherness and joy, even in simple moments, can energize the spirit and strengthen team bonds. It reflected the organization's commitment to nurturing a positive and inclusive workplace culture, where every individual is valued.



## SAPPROS NEPAL Launches Toll-Free Reporting Line

SAPPROS NEPAL has introduced a dedicated toll-free number: 1660-1122022, reinforcing its strong commitment to Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI), safeguarding and anticorruption principles across all levels of its operations. This initiative is part of SAPPROS's ongoing efforts to ensure a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment free from harassment, abuse, exploitation, and discrimination. The toll-free number besides other complaint mechanisms (NTC and NCELL phone numbers, email, suggestion box) serves as a confidential and accessible platform where staff, community members, and stakeholders can report any misconduct, safeguarding violations, or grievances.

# शोषण, उत्पीडन, र भ्रष्टाचार विरुद्ध शुन्य सहनसिलता!!!



यदि यस संस्थाका कर्मचारी, सदस्य वा  
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