

# **Youths in Empowerment Sector (YES) Nepal**

## **Annual Progress Report**

### **2074**

#### **1. Organizational Introduction**

Youths in Empowerment Sector (YES) Nepal is a social non-governmental organization. YES Nepal was registered in District Administration Office Achham, Mangalsen in 2002 and is affiliated to Social Welfare Council. It was established to bring marginalized, poor, women, dalits and janajatis of Far-western Nepal, who are back-warded due to existing poverty, illiteracy and other reasons, into mainstream development through their skill and capability enhancement. YES Nepal's central office is located at Safebagar of Achham District in its own building while office of the Executive Team is in Dhangadhi of Kailali District. Similarly, two field offices are in the then Binayak and Duni VDCs of Achham district while Contact Office is in District Headquarter- Mangalsen. YES Nepal is continuously working in Achham district since last 16 years and in Kailali district since last 13 years. In the then 24 VDCs of Achham district, 3 of Kailali and 1 of Baitadi, altogether in the then 28 VDCs, YES Nepal is conducting various programs. In coordination with 12 cooperatives it has been carrying out different income generation programs. Through different programs carried out in Achham, Kailali and Baitadi districts with 29,684 female and 27,634 male, a total of 57,318 people from 9077 households are benefited. Out of which 10,326 are dalit women and 1,882 are dalit men.

To make its operational plan clear YES Nepal has formulated a five years strategic plan: 2017-2021. According to which, it envisions establishing "Equity Based Prosperous Society" while organization's internal vision is "Capable, Disciplined and Inclusive YES Nepal."

#### **A. Mission**

To support for sustainable development by improving living condition of marginalized communities through rights based approach, capacity development and disaster risk reduction.

#### **B. Target Groups**

- Marginalized communities (children, dalit, women and janajatis)
- Landless
- Differently able people
- Disaster victims
- HIV infected and affected

#### **C. Goal**

- To help bring sustainable improvement in the living condition of marginalized communities through their capacity development.
- To support marginalize communities in disaster risk reduction and to secure their rights.
- To make YES Nepal sustainable, disciplined and people oriented.

## **2. Activities completed by the Organization**

### **2.1 Regarding Organizational Development and Management:**

To make the environment conducive for effective and systematic implementation of programs run by the organization, this year four rounds of Executive Committee meetings were held which took decision on various issues. With the holding of organization's Annual General Meeting (AGM) has set out plans for upcoming fiscal year, endorsement of last year's income and expenditure as well as amendment was made regarding accidental insurance in Staff Service Policy and Advance Payment for programs. To make organization's financial status transparent and disciplined an external audit was done and report of which was shared with all partner agencies. As per the rules of Government of Nepal by paying all necessary taxes to be paid annually renewal of the organization was also done. By targeting marginalized communities of Achham, Kanchanpur and Kailali districts this year YES Nepal has submitted 7 concept papers and/or proposals in different areas. Out of which, agreement was done for one program which is been running while two programs are in the process of agreement.

Out of total staff members working in different program of YES Nepal, including 4 women altogether 6 new staff been selected. With the completion of contract of Young Farmer Entrepreneurship Program farewell was also given to 12 staff working in that program. This year in seven different training and tours organized by partner organizations, members and staff of YES Nepal have participated. Similarly, official participation was also made in trainings, meetings and interaction programs in various issues organized by institutions like District Development Committee-Achham and Kailali, NGO Federation etc. In addition, for the suggestions, recommendations and guidance from stakeholders meetings of Project District Advisory Committee were held for two times in Achham.

### **2.2 Organizational Sustainability and Monitoring:**

Various programs run by YES Nepal were regularly monitored by partner organizations, district level various stakeholders and YES Nepal itself. In this period Sansthatag Bikas Sanjal, Mennonite Central Committee and Development Fund Norway had monitored the programs. Similarly, the programs were monitored from the District Development Committee, District Agriculture Development Office, District Animal Offices, including representatives of various political party members from Achham district. Giving continuity to construction of the building that was started to manage the internal source of YES Nepal and take organization forward in sustainable manner, this year construction work of upper one floor has been completed. For this, in previous year's General Assembly members and officials of the organization had made decision to provide Rs. 80,000 donations while Sansthatag Bikas Sanjal had provided Rs. 300,000 as grant.

## **3. Programs in Detail:**

### **3.1 Young Farmer Entrepreneurship Program**

#### **(a) Program Introduction**

In financial support of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and partnership with Sansthatag Bikas Sanjal, YES Nepal is carrying out Young Farmer Entrepreneurship Program in Achham

district. In altogether in five the then VDCs namely Duni, Marku, Patalcoat, Siudi and Sokat the program was in operation since last three years while its contractual period has completed this fiscal year. The main objective of this program was to increase in consumption of nutritious foods by hunger affected households in the work area, create agriculture based business opportunities for youths migrating aboard for work and through capacity enhancement of cooperatives expand their services in communities. The last assessment of this program has also been carried out, and YES Nepal has done its review and progress assessment, which is as follows:

**(b) Toward Nutrition Awareness**

Various activities were conducted in the community targeting for awareness of hunger affected families for their nutrition under the Young Farmer Entrepreneurship Program. From this awareness on nutrition has increased in all five VDCs of the working area. There was decrease in number of consumer taking fast food (junk food) by 60%, and habit of growing green vegetables in gardens and its consumption have developed. In more than 50% of households people are having 3 types of food (strength giving, growth/develop and protecting) have increased. Similarly, the use of iodized salt in work area is found in more than 80% of the households and neighboring VDCs have also done similar. In average 170 people in each VDC, a total of 850 people have received nutritional information. Similarly, over 1500 people have observed nutrition, agriculture and animal fair. From which they have learned to make worm medicines, consume mineral pills, make farms for goats, and start kitchen garden. Nutrition information was provided to 150 mother/daughter in-laws, because of which pregnant women regularly visiting health post for pregnancy test and consultation also have been increasing. .

**(c) Toward Business Development**

To develop agriculture based business opportunities for youths migrating abroad for work, 11 days Farmer Business School was conducted. Afterwards, they were provided agriculture based skill development trainings, and to start business they were also provided loans and grants from cooperatives. As a result, 349 businessmen are running their businesses. Till this day, they have made a net profit Rs. 3,254,200. About 65 previous migrant workers are making income by operating business in their own villages. Similarly, goat farming businessmen after getting information regarding animal insurance are doing insurance of their livestock while some businessmen have made modern cages for goat farming. Most businessmen doing goat farming after learning about worm medicine, mineral pills consumption and goat cages construction have materialized their knowledge.

**(d) Toward Cooperatives' Capacity Enhancement**

Under this program, for the capacity enhancement of five cooperatives in the working area, at different stages various types of trainings were conducted including meetings, interactions, experience sharing workshops. This program was also supporting in remuneration for managers of the cooperatives. That's why all cooperatives are making regular saving and monthly meetings. All cooperatives are developing and implementing annual business plan while account management of cooperatives has also improved. In this context, all five cooperatives have received Rs. 279,000 grant from YES Nepal, and till this year they are operating total Rs. 3,859,886. This has helped in operation of cooperative by increasing capital. For sustainable development and management of cooperatives, the then VDCs are also been helping these

cooperatives. For the construction of offices for all five cooperatives, so far all VDCs have supported a total Rs. 524,900. Similarly, community forests also provided around 2 Ropani of land to make cooperative buildings. Additionally, because of small physical infrastructure like irrigation pond, canals about 130 households are been getting irrigation facilities.

### **Success Story:**

#### **Lesson taught by goats**

Achham district, the then Patalkot VDC, ward no. 2, Bahun tole resident Tularam Joshi, age 53, has started modern goat farming. He had started the business with the objective that with his economic progress community people could see and take positive learning. Nevertheless, he is also a social worker and serving the community. All ninth people were unemployed in his family and his economic condition was also weak because of which there were problems in the family to manage food and clothes. His production could feed his family only for six months, and during rest of the times should be managed from money earned working in India.

In this way, he also participated in Young Farmer Entrepreneurship Program by YES Nepal. He was also Share member of Kalika Savings and Credit Cooperative Limited in the then Patalkot VDC. With the support from YES Nepal and Kalika Cooperative along with six days goat farming training, he also got Rs. 14,800 to start his business. Because of his desire and dedication in goat farming business, he has already earned Rs. 22,800 and still he claims to have 5 female goats, 2 castrated goats and 1 male goat. Market price of which is more than Rs. 38,000. From the earning made from goat he is planning to add more goats constructing a modern cage and to get registered in the District Livestock Service office. He said, by constantly taking ahead the goat farming business my plan is to introduce myself as a model goat farmer. Recently, he has also done insurance of 4 goats to lower the risk. He tells us that he has been spreading message to other villagers that by even starting from a small business in the village one can earn a lot of money, so there is no need to go abroad to earn money.

#### **Goat farming helped manage food, clothes and education**

Santu Pariyar, 27, resident of the then Patalko VDC ward no. 1 of Achham district, although long been doing traditional goat farming was not been able to make enough income. After selected as an entrepreneur and got business development and goat farming related training under the Young Farmer Entrepreneurship Program run by YES Nepal, she planned to do goat farming in modern way. From her own money and taking loan from cooperative, in Rs. 22,000 buying four goats she move ahead her goat farming business. She tells, before taking training I didn't know anything about goat diseases/worms, khoya, incest, tatano etc. After learning all these things in I worked and earned Rs. 35,000 just selling six goats, is the first opportunity to see such a big amount at once in my life. From that money she also has bought land to make modern cage for goats, and all her family members also have been supporting her, she said I am also depositing money in cooperative and mother group in monthly basis, and feels that goat farming business has made a lot of changes in my life. She said that now for her husband there is no need to go to India to earn money, education my children is also continue and there is no problem in managing food and clothes at home.

## **3. 2 Reaching Across the Borders for HIV/AIDS Prevention (RAB) Program**

### **(a) Program Introduction**

In partnership between YES Nepal and Sansthaगत Bikas Sanjal, Lalitpur in the then five VDCs (Dhudhurkot, Budakot, Siddheshwor, Payal and Lugra) of Achham district 'Reaching Across the Borders for HIV/AIDS Prevention (RAB) program' is in operation. This program is carried out to reduce the risk and effect of HIV/AIDS in migrant workers and in their family members.

### **(b) Completed Activities and Achievements**

To increase awareness regarding HIV/AIDS various kinds of discussions and interactions were held during home visits and in groups. Along with sending group members to health post for blood test were provided financial support to reach CD4 and ART centers. Similarly, for HIV infected people along with the mobilization of revolving fund, monthly meeting of the group and coordination with different agencies were done. Six members from revolving fund mobilization have re-owned their lands which were sold due to family problems and they have started farming which has reduced problems associated with purchasing food while the morale of the infected people has increased drastically. Till this period, with 799 female and 999 male students discussion regarding HIV/ AIDS and sexual disease was done. After getting information about HIV/AIDS, they had conducted six public awareness programs in order to reduce HIV infection. Due to the weak economic condition, 27 members who used to give their ID cards to others for bringing medicines, are now use to go to hospital and bring medicine themselves. Till this period, for 119 times female and 97 time male were provided support to go to ART centers. With the Supporting Groups got registered in VDCs, just in this year from VDC Rs. 90,000 have been received for their nutrition and emergency fund. Having collected monthly interest, their funds have increased and as such raise the amount for additional business. Similarly, through coordination with Agriculture Service Center, four farmers have got seed and other technical assistance that has helped in doing vegetable farming.

### **Success Story:**

#### **From group leader to political leadership**

Resident of Achham district Safebagar municipality, ward no. 9 (the then Budakot VDC, ward no. 3) Susila Mijar, 46, is HIV infected women. Twelve years before her husband died also because of HIV/AIDS. She is currently living with a son and a daughter. About 12 years ago when her husband died, she knew she is also HIV/ AIDS infected and at the time she was very disappointed. She said, "The deadly disease caught me without any reason, now how can I live my life?" How will I die? There is no hope for life. Her heart was covered by disappointment. Then she got affiliated to a Helping Group under 'Reaching Across the Borders for HIV/AIDS Prevention (RAB) program run by YES Nepal. Slowly she got information regarding public awareness messages about HIV/ AIDS. She did her blood test from help of various organizations; gave her additional treatment and necessary counseling to raise expectations for life was done by YES Nepal. After that she started doing regular test of CD4 and Viral load, and started taking regular ART in counseling of District Health Office, Achham. With the support of YES Nepal she started a small kitchen garden in her house and started consuming vegetables and nutritious food daily. Also, like others she started to become active in all social activities in the village. In addition, she also showed interest in politics at local level. As a result, in the local level election-2017 she was elected as the dalit women member of Safebagar municipality, ward no. 9, and since then she is heading the community.

### 3. 3 HIV Education for Safer Migration Program, Achham

#### a. Background

The HIV Education for Safer Migration Program is being operated in the then Kueka, Chalsa and Binayak VDCs of Achham district with the financial support of FELM Nepal and in partnership with Sansthatag Bikas Sanjal. Its aim is to improve the living condition of HIV infected people. This program has been carried out with the objective to aware people of different age groups regarding harmful aspects of HIV, to provide livelihood support and to manage unsafe migration.

#### b. Activities Completed and Achievements

Under this program various activities were conducted like different trainings, home visits, revolving fund mobilization and meetings and interaction. Also, financial support for blood test and CD4 was also done. The people of the community were informed about safe migration and HIV /AIDS as well as other sexual diseases, from which till now 1388 people have received the information. 289 students also received information about HIV/ AIDS and sexual diseases. The meeting of all three helping groups is being run regularly. This year infected people have mobilized 501,000 (Five lakhs one thousands) revolving fund. Out of which, 28 women and 15 men by conducting various businesses have made financial benefits. In addition, it has also helped in purchasing essential items and medicine/treatment for school children.

Financial assistance for blood test and CD4 was provided to infected and affected people in the community. Due to financial weakness, 172 people with difficulty in drug treatment were assisted for consulting and HIV testing. To support the revolving fund this year Rs. 40,000 has been released. With the establishment of an Information Center in coordination with VDC and Health post, 217 more people have been able to get information about their health and HIV infection. While making financial assistance to infected people, 14 members have gone out of the district for their check-up and as such got to know condition of their viral loads, while 4 members of the helping group by running business have given continuity to education of their 8 children.

#### Success Story:

#### Words of Love

*Than living a life of hatred in the palace a life of inspiration in a hut is great, tells Mahamati B.K. of Kueka-4.*

45-year-old Mahamati Nepali is a HIV infected woman from a Dalit family. Mother of three sons and three daughters Mahamati Nepali's husband Kamman Singh Nepali has died 10 years ago. After the death of her husband, Mahamati faced many problems in raising her children. Sons who have been raised with much difficulty when got married went to India along with daughter-in-laws. Only the woman who passes through knows the suffering of husband's death, she says. After knowing that she has HIV, her sons and daughter-in-laws did not tell anything but choose to go to India. Seeing such a behavior of sons and daughter-in-laws she feels herself humiliated. She says the time kept on passing; I got help from helpful hands for medicines. I told sons and

daughters-in-law about the medicines that I consumed for three months. But sons and daughters-in-law didn't talk well. I felt really bad and threw all medicine I had in the river. I thought that if the children raised by you are not yours, then how can others become yours? ...after that, killing all my inspiration I started waiting for death.

While conducting HIV Education for Safer Migration Program in Kueka VDC, Mahamati was also made involved in the Group. During Group's meeting, discussion on various issues including regular consumption of medicine encouraged me and I started to take medicines again, Mahamati told. But the condition of my health was worsening. Mahamati reiterated that she was neglected by her sons and daughters-in-law, and as such sons and daughters-in-law got separated from me and started using their separate kitchen. After listening to all of her, the local facilitator of YES Nepal informed sons and daughters-in-law about the HIV, and keeping together mother-in-law and daughter-in-law informed about the medicine. Mahamati says, today, after daughter-in-law knowing everything about the disease is assisting her to take regular medicine,. Mahamati tells that she is now very happy with the relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, and due to improvement in her health Mahamati is providing support with excitement in household chores, says daughter-in-law Dhankala. Nowadays, mother-in-law is helping to take care of small children, says another daughter-in-law Dura. Mahamati says that for human being to survive food is basic, but love and affection works as vitamins.

### **Success Story:**

#### **Human development itself is courage**

The courage is the first step to develop human's underlying talents, tells Mana Timilsina of Kueka-4. Mana is resident of the then Kueka VDC ward no. 4. A 40-year-old Mana Timilsina has two sons and two daughters. Having belief that- doing marriage of daughter earns religious recognition; her father-mother made Mana married at early age. After five months of marriage, her husband had gone to India to earn money. But, even after spending five years in India her husband returned empty hand.

She was 26 when her husband was ill. After long treatment, with no progress, her husband died. During the time when Mana knew she is HIV infected, she was disappointed having no hope for living. Then she got affiliated to a Group under HIV Education for Safer Migration Program run by YES Nepal. After gradually learning a lot from the group, all the members told them to take leadership of the group; at the time I felt like falling from the roof, she told. You can do that, after everyone including staff member in the group encouraged her to be courageous, she become chairperson of the group. Slowly mobilizing the group she started a business taking a loan. After all, she believed that everything gets done only when one starts to do. She said that she has Rs 20,000 annual income and has given continuity to education of two children. Also, to provide consultancy and suggestions to other people about HIV has become her daily routine. Like this, she has become source of inspiration for other infected people like her, tell other infected persons.

### **3.4 Peace Program for Sustainable Development**

#### **a. Introduction**

In financial support of FELM Nepal and in partnership with Santhagat Bikas Sanjal, Community Peace Program for Sustainable Development is in operation in the then Binayak VDC of Achham district. Making environment for reconciliation concerning small problems, rift and issues of conflict existing in the community through discussions among one another; and provide support for community peace building has been the main objective of this program.

#### **b. Activities Completed and Achievements**

Under this program, activities like VDC level meetings, formation of peace groups, various trainings related to reconciliation, and discussions on problems, have been completed. Similarly, there were regular meetings held with the peace groups including VDC level fest, Peace Center construction. In addition, the local peace groups were also coordinating with the Women's Development Office, with which a grant of Rs. 10,000 in the fund of Peace Committee is made by Women Development Office to spend for women suffering from violence. Community fest was organized making participation of various ethnic and all religious groups, where Local Peace Group in order to minimize caste based discrimination made regulation to stop the use of language and word that humiliates dalits by any member, and if found guilty the group itself would take action. The public representatives present in the fest also made commitment in this effort. The local peace committee has built a Peace Center. For the construction of Peace Center, Panchadev Binayak Municipality has also made financial support of Rs. 315,000 while from YES Nepal Rs. 292,000 and public labor worth Rs. 27, 500 making in total Rs. 634, 500 Peace Center is constructed. Until the municipal building is not constructed, temporarily Panch Dewal Municipality has started working from the Peace Center. Similarly, in the then Binayak VDC peace fund worth Rs. 190,000 has been established. In which, there is YES Nepal's Rs. 90,000, Local Peace Groups' Rs 90,000 and Women Development Office's Rs 10,000. The directive has been made to spend that money for income generation while women suffering from violence have been kept in priority. In addition, local peace group is responsible for the operations of the said fund. To establish peace in the community, rural peace group and child club, in order to control alcohol, by forming four Informer Groups has helped Administration to capture and destroy illegal alcohol worth Rs. 35,756. In order to know the status of women violence in the community and to reduce it, nine rural peace groups have collected statistics of highly violence affected women and children, and report of which was submitted to the local public representative.

### **3.5 Women Empowerment for Social Transformation Program**

#### **a. Introduction**

In financial support of Norwegian Development Fund, Youth in Empowerment Sector (YES) - Nepal is running Women Empowerment for Social Transformation Program since April 2017 in the then VDCs of Devasthan, Khaptad and Babla (now Safebagar Municipality wards no. 11, 12 and 13). This program has been conducted to improve the financial condition of targeted community by improving nutrition and food security, and gender equality of back-warded women, dalit and children.



## **b. Activities Completed and Achievements**

Due to the operation of Women Empowerment for Social Transformation programs at the end of this fiscal year, few activities that have been completed which were included in this report. After contractual agreement of the program, application has been submitted by completing all necessary procedure to secure permission from Social Welfare Council. After selecting the necessary staff for the program, they were oriented about the program objectives, work procedure, YES Nepal and its regulations etc. Prior to the start of the program, by organizing ward level coordination meeting stakeholder were informed about the program, where there was participation of local public representatives and other related stakeholders. Similarly, as per the program plan in all three wards a total of 30 target groups (27 Women Saving Groups and 3 Adolescent Groups) were formed and for them three days training on nutrition and food security was organized. Apart from this, coordination meeting with district level stakeholders and public representatives of the working area was organized in Safebagar.

## **3.6 Public Awareness and Lobby for Abolishing Chhaupadi Practice**

### **a. Program Introduction**

Though the Honorable Supreme Court has already made decision that discriminatory practice where women have to live in a cattle shed or a makeshift hut during their menstruation period is an ill practice and has already issued directives against it, this ill practice is still continue in Achham. Recently, in the then Timilsain and Gajara VDCs of Achham district two women have died in Chhaupadi shed. With the objective to abolish this deadly problem associated with women health and security by bring public awareness and making necessary lobby with related stakeholder to address it, this program was formulated. Its duration was from Magh to Falgun 2073. The program budget was Rs. 201,000 (In words: Two hundred one thousand only) while financial support was provided by Santhagat Bikas Sanjal, Lalitpur.

### **b. Major Activities Completed and Achievements**

- **District Level Interaction**

YES Nepal in order to abolish Chhaupadi ill practice had organized district level interaction program. With the Chief Guest- Former Deputy Prime Minister/Defense Minister and Honorable MP, Mr. Bhim Rawal, in the interaction program held in district headquarter of Achham- Mangalsen there was participation of 52 representatives from stakeholder agencies. In the program, the main speakers had put remarks that the upcoming laws regarding Chhaupadi will create fear in people and Chhaupadi practice will gradually reduce, the legislature parliament should immediately pass this bill. In addition, to abolish Chhaupadi ill practice has to be started from ones house and oneself, and also expressed commitments to work making coordination with all NGOs and related stakeholders.

- **Interaction between Women MPs**

While organizing interaction programs to abolish Chhaupadi ill practice, on 20 Falgun 2073 an interaction program was organized in Kathmandu with women MPs of Far-western to abolish Chhaupadi ill practice. In the presence of six women MPs of different

political parties in the interactive program held in Baneshwor, Kathmandu all together 30 people have participated that included representatives of the organizations and media personnel affiliated with different media houses. The program was conducted by the Community Information Center (CIN) and Himalayan Television journalists. In this interaction program, MPs have expressed commitments that to abolish Chhaupadi ill practice they will move ahead collectively in the parliament, shortly they will bring it under the law, and for this they will move forward with various discussions and awareness rising activities.

- **Media Mobilization**

An agreement was made between YES Nepal and Radio Ramarosh, Achham to run radio interaction program titled 'Sudur Sawal' to abolish Chhaupadi ill practice. The Sudur Sawal program was conducted to make district stakeholders accountable to reduce this ill practice and encourage school adolescents to move forward themselves. The program was organized in direct involvement of teachers, students and all related stakeholders in different places of Achham district. The participant stakeholders in the program had expressed commitment to unite against Chuppudi in coming days while female teachers had said that during menstruation period of adolescent girls they are ready to make environment comfortable at schools and there would be no obstacle for girls to regularly join school. This Sudur Sawal program was heard by more than 50,000 listeners of more than 10 districts of Far-western and Mid-western regions.