

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Economic Empowerment	1
In the Journey of Becoming Self Reliant: PUSHPA LUHAR	3
Leadership Development And Participation.....	5
Emerging Leader-Shanta Sharki.....	8
Human Rights and Access to Justice.....	11
“I Became a Citizen of My Country....!”	14
Inclusive Governance and Social Justice	17
On her journey to Politics-Ratan Devi Damai.....	20
Gender Responsive Humanitarian Assistance.....	23
Achievements of Projects in 2021	26
Project 1: Participation and Voice for Excluded Women in Nepal (PAVE)	26
Project 2: Increasing Access to Resources and Services for Women from Dalit and Marginalized Groups.....	27
Project 3: Strong Girls – Improving the Educational Achievements of Dalit and Marginalized Girls.....	29
Project 4:Combating Discrimination for Advancing Human Rights of Dalit Women in Nepal.....	31
Project 5: Strengthening Governance for Development and Social Justice of Dalit Women.....	33
Project 6: Strengthening Human Rights of Dalit Women in Nepal.....	34
Project 7: Comprehensive Relief Supports for Women and Excluded Groups in the Context of COVID-19.....	36
Lesson Learnt and Challenges.....	37
Financial/Audit Report 2020 and 2021.....	39

ACRONYMS

CAG	Collective Action Group
CBDU	Caste Based Discrimination and Untouchability
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTEVT	Council of Technical Education and Vocational Training
DADO	District Agricultural Development Office
DCA	DanChruchAid
DLSO	Department of Livestock Service Office
DWG	Dalit Women Group
FEDO	Feminist Dalit Organization
FLL	Front Line Leaders
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HRBA	Human Right Based Approach
IMADR	International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism
NCDC	Namsaling Community Development Center
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NHRC	Nepal Health Research Council
RtF	Right to Food
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls.
VDC	Village Development Committee
Brtw	Bread for the world.
GESI	Gender equality and Social Inclusion
LGUs	Local Government Ouits

ABOUT FEDO

Introduction

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) is one of the leading Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Nepal, working since past 28 years for the empowerment of Dalit women through their social and economic transformation. It has been working to increase access to basic needs, education, health and sanitation, providing Dalit women with various economic opportunities, skill and leadership development trainings, among others to ultimately combat the existing caste-based and gender-based discriminations and violence. FEDO is doing this through activism, advocacy and policy engagement. It incorporates the issues of Dalit women and the entire Dalit community vowing for a just and equitable society.

FEDO has a nationwide network and member based organization, having 57 district chapters in all seven provinces of Nepal. It has over 2154 women's groups with about 53,850 Dalit women group members and 812 frontline women leaders united, organized and mobilized to fight against caste and gender-based discrimination at all levels. FEDO has a partnership with a number of donors, government agencies and development agencies and is committed to further expanding its funding base. FEDO has also been working with several alliances, expanding its network to strongly lobby and bring Dalit women issues to the forefront at both the grassroots as well as the national level. Coordination, collaboration and networking are the major working approaches of this organization. Since its establishment in 1994, it has been raising the various issues of Dalit women such as systemic and structural discrimination, poverty and social injustice, and poor political participation among others. It has been working with a mission to liberate Dalit women and their families from all forms of discrimination owing to gender, caste and disgrace of untouchability.

Moreover, with FEDO's continuous effort, the participation and representation of Dalit women has also increased in political parties, local level planning committees, community forest user's groups, women groups, school management committees, health committees and other community development committees with decision making authority on identifying issues to raise to the political and governance structures and for overall local development. Likewise, Dalit women are trained and are empowered to voice their concerns and advocate rights and entitlements. Dalit women leaders have launched advocacy campaigns because of increased awareness and empowerment on the importance of gender-responsive and inclusive governance with Dalit women's perspective.

Vision

A just and equitable society where Dalit population and Dalit women enjoy their rights and have opportunities to life, equity, development and participation.

Mission

To create a movement against caste and gender-based discrimination in order to protect and promote civil and political rights of Dalit women and to support their socioeconomic empowerment.

Goal

To eliminate caste and gender-based discrimination against Dalit women by making duty bearers responsive and rights holders proactive towards enhancing equal rights and opportunities.

2925



Economic Empowerment

4580



Leadership and Participation

15551



Total Direct Reach

5908



Gender Responsive Humanitarian Assistance

1079



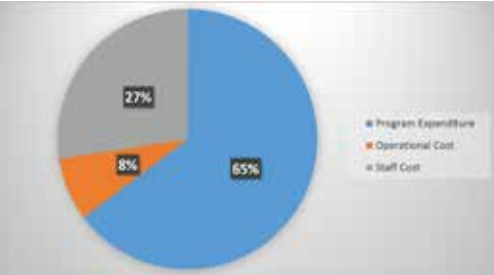
Inclusive Governance and Social Justice

1059



Human Rights and Access to Justice

FEDO AT A GLANCE:

<p>Legal entity Registered in: District Administration Office, Kathmandu Registered Date: 2051/04/12 Registration No: 13/051/052 Affiliation with: Social Welfare Council: 2051 Bhadra 12 Affiliation No:001036 Permanent Account Number (PAN): 301705246</p>	<p>Institutional Framework General Assembly: Policy, plans and statutory responsibility, executive committee election, guidance in strategic direction and programmatic plan Central Executive Committee: Ensuring policy, plans and programs implementation, oversee the status of implementation of overall strategic priorities, engagement with national and international level District Executive Committee: Implementation of the project activities, monitoring, reporting and documentation, represent FEDO as per the requirement</p>								
<p>Information about District Chapter District Chapters: 56 Implementing project districts: 23 districts</p>	<p>Composition of FEDO structure Central Executive Committee: 13 members Management Committee: 5 members District Committee:9-11 members</p>								
<p>Directive Policy and Plan 1. Constitution, 2051 2. Strategic Plan 3. Financial Administrative Regulation 2052 4. Personnel Policy 2052 5. GESI policy 6. Good governance policy 7. Anti-corruption policy</p>	<p>FEDO associates with National/ International networks 1. Dalit NGO Federation 2. NGO Federation 3. Global Rights to Food and nutrition Network 4. Men engagement alliance South Asia 5. Asian Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF) 6. International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)</p>								
<p>Donor agencies/ partner organization in the year 2021 1. Dan Church Aid (DCA) 2. DFID/Womankind Worldwide 3. Karuna Trust Germany/BMZ 4. Bread for the World (BftW) 5. Foundation for a Just Society (FJS) 6. KIOS Foundation 7. UN Women</p>	<p>Presentation of Annual Expenditure 2021</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Annual Expenditure 2021</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Program Expenditure</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operational Cost</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff Cost</td> <td>27%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Percentage	Program Expenditure	65%	Operational Cost	8%	Staff Cost	27%
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Program Expenditure	65%								
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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

It is an honor to present to you our 'Annual Report 2021' with key achievements throughout the years. FEDO has worked in collaboration and coordination with all three tiers of government, especially on advancing human rights, development and access to justice of Dalit. FEDO has continued its efforts to end caste and gender-based discrimination against Dalit women and girls. The engagement of men and boys is also one of the priorities to make advocacy campaigns more effective, as it is important for both men and women to collectively raise the issues of Dalit women's rights and defeat the violence against Dalit women and girls. Gender Responsive Budget and access of Dalit women to the public services and resources is also a part of advocacy has continued as a priority.

FEDO has been working with the issues of Dalit women in the area of socio-economic empowerment, education, health, leadership development and advocacy for its establishment. FEDO refers to all its program activities as a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to empower and enhance the capacity of Dalit women at local and national level.

Since its inception, FEDO has provided its constant effort to build the capacity of Dalit women group members and leaders to bring a positive change in society. Due to our conscious and concerted actions, Dalit women frontline leaders are now able to make the government and concerned stakeholders responsive and accountable to addressing the issues of Dalit women. A series of capacity building initiatives have been taken for locally elected Dalit women to make them able to put the agenda of their community in decision making process of local government. Locally elected Dalit women are well informed and oriented about their roles and responsibilities in order to effectively engaged with the local development. As a result, they are playing a significant role in representing the voices of Dalit women in local planning and law making process. The issues related to violence against Dalit women and girls, quality education for Dalit girls, caste-based discrimination and untouchability were discoursed and sensitized right holders and duty bearers at the local and national level. We are working together with the concerned authorities to make them responsive and accountable with the new and emerging issues of Dalit women. We have been able to support and encourage a large number of Dalit women in 56 districts, where Dalit women have been organized and empowered for claiming their rights, dignity, social justice and meaningful participation in development action. The project activities implemented by FEDO have empowered Dalit women to bring a success of Dalit women movement at the community level.

This annual report of 2021 offers insights into our work – and into the wide-ranging challenges we, together with our targeted groups, continue to face. I would like to thank all our supporters and look forward to everyone's continued support from donors, I/NGOs, government officials, political parties, civil society organizations and relevant stakeholders and individuals to make our movement success to the better living of Dalit women. We hope you will be enjoying to see and read this report; we expect your constructive feedback and valuable suggestions for improving it in the future.

Kala Swarnakar



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM GENERAL SECRETARY

This annual report highlights the achievement of FEDO projects carried out during the year of 2021. We have implemented several projects in advancing human rights of Dalit women, equitable service delivery, access to justice, leadership development, support to affected people from disasters and outbreak of COVID-19, gender responsive and inclusive governance from Dalit women's perspective. The capacity of Dalit women has been strengthened through advocacy campaigns, promotion of constructive engagement between citizens and government to address the issues faced by Dalit women from local to national level.

Dalit women are being empowered to voice their concerns and claim their rights and entitlement. Taking Dalit women's rights into top priority and seeing it as a source to live Dalit women with dignified life, FEDO actively worked to increase Dalit women's access to resources and service delivery. Dalit women front line leaders played significant role in advocacy campaigns resulting in increased awareness and empowerment to increase the access of Dalit women to the development and social justice. FEDO is constantly engaged to ensure rights and inclusion of Dalit women, end caste and gender-based discrimination against Dalit women and free quality education of girls from Dalits and marginalized groups as provisioned by the constitution. Entrepreneurship among Dalit women and youth has also been promoted to develop resilient livelihood and to provide economic opportunities.

Despite facing challenges, we are certain to bring possible changes in improving the lives of Dalit women and girls. Our achievements of 2021 has encouraged us to learn from what we have been able to do, contribute to get further learning for others, and improve capacity to translate learning into practice. We have collectively worked to generate prosperous lives of Dalit women. FEDO has committed itself to continuously support Dalit women and their families to fight against gender and caste based discrimination and strengthen the human rights of Dalit women. It will further intensify its efforts to strength human rights of Dalit women in Nepal by continuing advocacy campaigns. The commitment and enthusiasm of members and staffs of FEDO is what makes a difference in changing the lives of Dalit women and girls.

Therefore, we call for a more comprehensive approach and collaboration to effectively address the issues of Dalit women by understanding the underlying causes of poverty and also examine how caste and gender-based violence continues to hinder sustainable changes in order that the lives of women and girls from Dalit community and other marginalized groups can bring about improvement in their current conditions. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all our key partners including the government agencies, donors, international and national NGOs, civil society organizations and so on. I would also like to offer my sincere gratitude to all FEDO staffs and board members at the central and district level for their support in preparing this annual report. Finally, I am looking forward for the same support and guidance in forthcoming days.

Renu Sijapati

800



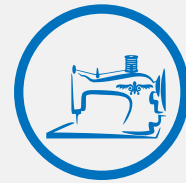
A total of 800 women from Dalit and socially excluded groups have started enterprises in tailoring, vegetable cultivation, goat rearing, poultry rearing, Ghumti Pasal, nursery, flower cultivation, fresh house, iron work etc.

120



households received agriculture and irrigation support

61



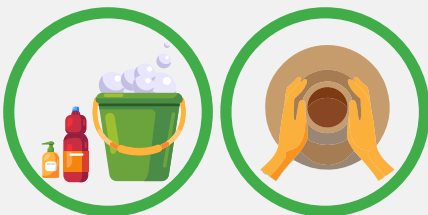
61 women received sewing machine and have followed the occupation of tailoring where they make and sell mask, dresses and other clothes.

2925



Total Benefitted Dalits

326



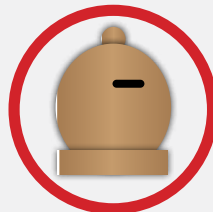
Women benefitted with entrepreneurship training

418



Dalit women received money for their economic sustainability

1200



Dalit women have increase their economy through saving and credit fund collected in the group.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

This year FEDO has directly benefitted 2,925 Dalit women for improving their economic condition in the community by positively shaping their livelihood. Dalit women who were once confined only in the household and reproductive work are now coming out and establishing entrepreneurship both on-farm and off-farm enterprises. They are involved in livestock rearing, restaurants, grocery shops, vegetable farming, and electric and house wiring, cottage industries of spices, leaf plates etc. FEDO is also providing support for small holder farmers to improve their production and enhance their livelihoods by providing trainings as well as necessary resources. FEDO has been working for the empowerment of Dalit women for more than 2 decades and continues to work for the overall betterment of the Dalit women community.

This year, under the PAVE Project, we reached out to 248 Dalit women from community level and elected representatives of Achham, Dadeldura, Bajura, Kanchanpur and Doti districts with seed money of Rs.20000 and 30000 respectively for encouraging them toward economic sustainability. Along with this, we also distributed seed money to 10 groups which includes 170 women of Udayapur and Siraha districts in support of KIOS Foundation. Women have now initiated their own business for income generation and are able to live independently looking after their family. The Focused Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted with the Dalit women groups of active districts who shared their involvement in different enterprises through the seed money provided and also showed their enthusiasm to further extent the business jointly with their family members. Moreover, we also formed Dalit women Entrepreneur groups comprising of 20-25 members each to strengthen their ability to structure and build

their entrepreneurial visions for long term. Likewise, A total of 800 women from Dalit and socially excluded groups have started enterprises in tailoring, vegetable cultivation, goat rearing, poultry rearing, Ghumti Pasal, nursery, flower cultivation, fresh house, iron work etc. (450 and 350 in banke and Kailali districts respectively) to advance their earning for livelihood.

Dalit women groups received Rs. 983,000.00 for different trainings such as boutique, doll/cushion, masaura/papad making and controlling women trafficking from LGUs. Total Rs.5622687.00 Saving and Credit fund has been collected and mobilized by Dalit women Groups. Out of which 1,200 women increased their economy More than 120 HHs from Dalit and excluded groups have received agriculture irrigation support (summer Cell, Pump set and water Motor) as well as benefited in vegetable farming, Rice cultivation and other agriculture activities.



In Palpa, Rupandehi and Kapilbastu districts, through different trainings such as Detergent making, tailoring and handicraft, cushion making, vegetable farming and pickle making, 205 women got benefitted and now at least 200 Dalit families increase their household income by an average of 5,000 NPR/mon. Along with this, 61 women received sewing machine

and have followed the occupation of tailoring where they make and sell mask, dresses and other clothes. Few of them are working for Garment Companies as well. Rs 100000 has been supported by local Government for their business expansion in detergent making which is now officially registered as a domestic industry.



IN THE JOURNEY OF BECOMING SELF-RELIANT: PUSPA LUHAR

This success story is of Pushpa Luhar, 30 residing in Bhimdatta Municipality ward no.10, Tinkenni of Kanchanpur district is a third child to Amar Luhar and mother Hemanti Luhar. Despite of the patriarchal notion, she completed her high school (+2) from Siddhanath Higher Secondary school and right after graduating, she got married and now she has a family of 4, including husband and 2 children.



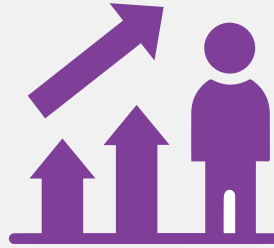
Despite having high school degree in hand, Pushpa was unable to do anything for her economical sustainability as she was indulged in heavy household chores. Right then, she found out about FEDO and its group in Bhimdatta municipality of Ward 10. Seeing her active involvement in the group, all the group members decided to appoint her as a president of the group. After being the president, she also got an opportunity to participate in various activities conducted by FEDO, and other local level authorities. And with that level of awareness in her, she has been working rigorously on making the group effective and strong by focusing more on spreading awareness among the group members in caste and gender issues as to promote and encourage them on economic empowerment. Along with this, she also worked on updating the monthly saving records of the group too.

Through various trainings, she was able to coordinate and build strong relationship with the stakeholders and this somehow opened doors of opportunity for her to move toward to economic empowerment. From the amount of

Rs. 100000 granted by the District Agriculture Knowledge Center, she initiated a poultry business from which she is able earn quite good enough to sustain her family. 'I was fully dependent on my husband's earning before but now I'm self-reliant as I can look after my family on my own.' she says, 'I always wanted to started something on my own but due to economic constraint, I wasn't able to do so, however now with the help of FEDO, I'm able to fulfill my dreams to becoming an independent woman.'

With this, she expresses her gratitude toward Fedo for encouraging her to stand independently, without relying on anyone else. Now, she is also engaged Forest Users Committee as the Secretary and she thanks FEDO for shielding ray of hope in her life and helping her build a better life for herself and her family. Being a confident woman now, she is motivated to help and encourage other women group to become economically active by spreading awareness on the importance of education and women empowerment as well.

2359



Women received Leadership Development trainings in different districts of Nepal

1975



community members in 5 districts in province 7 in Nepal have improved knowledge, skills

4580



Leadership and Participation

142



With enhance Public speaking skills and confidence, community women are now representing different local structures

104



Upcoming Dalit leaders of Kaski district has acquired basic knowledge on HRBA and Advocacy techniques



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Leadership development of Dalit women is seen as a base for an overall increase in meaningful participation and representation. Better leadership skills among Dalit women leads to independence as well as advocacy to bring forward women from the bottom of the exclusion and discrimination spectrum as representatives and set examples to empower Dalit women, dealing with their extreme exclusion and poor socio-economic situation.

So this year too, FEDO worked on capacitating and facilitating the emerging and existing Dalit women and women leaders from political parties and civil society organizations, exploring constructive ways to enhance their meaningful participation and representation, building effective coordination and cooperation between citizens and government.

We reached out to 4580 existing and emerging Dalit women leaders through different trainings, workshop, orientations, awareness programs and group discussions to improve their participation, leadership and influence in decision making at both local and provincial level government across formal and informal space. Altogether 270 elected Dalit women representatives received training to



enhance their understanding on their roles and responsibilities as an elected leader. Along with this, monthly forums between elected women and political party leaders was also held in different districts. After their effective participation, Dalit women were able to actively participate in policy, plan and budget formulation process of the local government and positioned demands as per needs of Dalit women. The leadership development training eventually increased their confidence and activeness for political



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participation further strengthening their capacity to strongly represent in local planning, budgeting, GRB and GESI for proper service delivery and policy influence at local level.

Also, to encourage emerging women leaders toward proactive engagement in local politics, FEDO provided capacity enhancement programs to 4310 community women of different districts and this ultimately helped in improving their knowledge, skills and resources to actively support women's participation and leadership. The changes encountered through our work is immeasurable, however observing their enthusiasm to get involved into politics for bringing greater change in their lives can somehow be counted as one of FEDO's greatest achievement.

With enhanced public speaking skills and confidence, 142 community women of Kaski and Dhanusha districts are now representing in different local structures/mechanisms which include ward level coordination committee, school management committee, forest user committee,

disaster risk reduction committee, and many more. Further, 1,975 community members in 5 districts in province 7 in Nepal have improved knowledge, skills and resources to actively support women's participation and leadership and 104 upcoming Dalit leaders of Kaski district has acquired basic knowledge on HRBA and advocacy techniques to motivate the people in right-based campaigns at the local level. With the level of awareness, women has now realized the true importance of education to girl child by forming mother group. In Rupandehi and Palpa district "You must need to study" (Timile Padhnaiparchha) slogan is initiated by mother's group to encourage their daughter's education. In this regard, different Joint meeting with wings-school, child club and parents/mothers/community were also conducted to increase the educational achievements of Dalit and marginalized children. So, to make the women group more sustainable and strong, monthly group meeting is organized to gather information on the status of the group, their savings and loan mobilization.

EMERGING LEADER-SHANTA SARKI



“We used to just follow in the chairperson’s footsteps, but this training taught us that as women – especially women from the Dalit community – we should bring attention to issues that affect us unjustly.”

Shanta Sarki, 37, is a ward member of Banigadi-4 in far western Nepal. Reflecting to her past, she always had keen interest in politics, but due to the traditional gender norms and rigid society she was always pushed back. As a Dalit woman, in a patriarchal country facing caste-based and sex discrimination, the odds were already stacked against her. Not only mentally but she was physically abused by her husband. On top of that, poverty was another barrier since she had no land to nurture her family of 2 children and 1 elderly. So, eventually she had to rely on daily wage working for livelihood.

This story is of poverty and struggle – but also the second chance gifted by PAVE. After getting involved into politics, nothing really changed for her. Even though she got opportunity to be part of different women forum and events, meaningful participation of her was still lagging. So, with her engagement in this project, she got an exposure to visit Kathmandu, the capital and most populous city of Nepal, and attend a leadership development training.

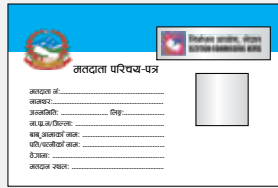


'I was always confined within the four walls, but this project gave me a life-changing opportunity to confidently step outside and learn about my roles and responsibilities toward the community.' she further adds, this training empowered me and strengthened the leadership, teamwork and public speaking skills in me.'

Inculcating the knowledge acquired, Ms. Sarki went back to her place, coordinated with the local government and successfully allocated the emergency fund of Rs.500000 to uplift the status of women and children in her community. "We used to just follow in the chairperson's footsteps, but this training taught us that as women – especially women from the Dalit community – we should bring attention to issues that affect us unjustly." she says. Moreover, this training played a central role for displaying greater leadership in her position and developed her confidence in voicing the opinions in local government meetings. Besides politics, Shanta is involved in stone chipping job for

survival. The income earned from this menial job is not enough to look after her family. Even after having sewing skill on her hand, she is unable to start up her own business due to economic constraint. So after participating in entrepreneurship training, she was able to enhance her knowledge on business strategy; budgeting and saving schemes. The proper business plan was also developed in this platform which has eventually helped her start off the tailoring business. 'I can finally initiate my own business with the money and ideas received from PAVE. Being self-reliant hasn't only helped me in economic aspect, but has also supported my political career development.' says Shanta. Lastly, she thanks FEDO and the PAVE project for helping her build a better life to herself and expresses her commitment to utilize the skills that she learned from the training in conducting successful campaigns for reelection.

148



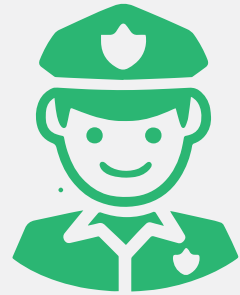
excluded women were facilitated to acquire their citizenship certificate for ensuring their right to live a dignified life

73



Dalit women have got marriage certificate,

34



Women have got Social security allowance

1059



Direct Beneficiaries

27



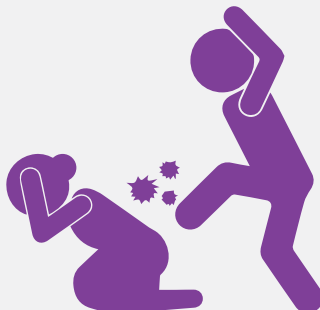
facilitate 27 children (14 girls and 13 boys) of excluded women to get their birth certificates

17



Dalit children have received the child Nutrition allowances at local level.

760



different reported cases documented and later supported the survivors for getting access to legal treatment.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE



It's crucial to identify the cases of violence against women and girls (VAWG), take them forward and to coordinate with concerned authorities after they are being capacitated on legal treatment and justice system. FEDO's exploration in Dalit communities, particularly among Dalit women has shown very nominal access to human rights system, social justice and development. So, FEDO carried out different activities related to reducing VAWG ensuring their human rights in different districts of Nepal enforcing the value and the steps of human rights, access to justice and development aiming to enable Dalit women and their community to live in a free, fearless and peace-

ful environment, in which all human rights are respected.

This year, by organizing and mobilizing the Dalit women group, frontline leaders, networks and elected representatives in advocacy initiatives, FEDO solely worked on identifying the pertinent issues and needs of Dalit women and girls. We successfully documented 760 different reported cases (domestic violence, Caste based discrimination, polygamy, rape case, divorce, witchcraft and death) of violence against women and girls and later supported the survivors for getting access to legal treatment and justice system. The statelessness experienced by Dalit



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and marginalized groups in Nepal is another greatest issue which is basically both a symptom and a cause of their exclusion which stems from discrimination based on difference, and it reinforces their lack of full membership in the societies they live in and this eventually makes everyday life much more difficult for solidifying civil and political exclusion of Dalit and marginalized groups. So with the constant effort toward overcoming the struggle, FEDO succeeded in helping 148 excluded women acquire their citizenship certificate for ensuring their right to live a dignified life. This eventually helped in their access to bank accounts for cash-based support. Not only this, but FEDO was also able to facilitate 27 children (14 girls and 13 boys) of excluded women to get their birth certificates, 73 Dalit women have got marriage certificate, 34 Women have got Social security allowance and 17 Dalit children have received the child Nutrition allowances at local level.

Likewise, we have mobilized our active women group in Dalit Women's Monitoring Committee who are now responsible toward working closely with the justice providers through advocating, lobbying and documenting the issues of violence against women, caste discrimination and other discriminations. Frontline leaders and CAGs have also been identified and mobilized in different districts to facilitate Dalit women groups about social, economic and le-

gal issues related to human rights and social justice and make them able to claim their rights and entitlements.

Strengthening access to justice by claiming their rights and entitlements is very important, however addressing the human rights violation cases of Dalit women has definitely been a challenge to overcome and for that FEDO has been constantly working on spreading awareness among the mass through PSA/Jingles and radios which are developed/ telecast not only for making people mindful of violence and other issues but also for promoting governance and social accountability at local government level for increasing access of Dalit women to the development and social justice. Recently, we broadcasted 70 episodes of radio magazine program from the local radio station on the burning issues of the Dalit/marginalized women. Approximately 20000 populations benefitted through radio program and PSA/Jingles were also developed in rural areas to increase access of Dalit women to the development and social justice.

Furthermore, Youth and women plays a significant role toward mitigating the human right issues of their community, so this year, FEDO worked on forming and mobilizing youth and mother groups in different districts of Nepal and oriented them with the pertinent issues of Human rights as well.#

**“I BECAME A
CITIZEN OF MY
COUNTRY....!”**



“I have been deprived from various opportunities and my own basic rights because i didnt have a citizenship before marriage but now i finally became citizen of my country because of FEDO.”

She is Rekha Devi Sada residing in Kanchanrup Municipality 4, Jhankatta in Saptari district. There are altogether 3 members in the family; she and her husband and a son. Engaging herself into the seasonal daily wages work at the village and sometimes near the market, Sada would manage bread for her family. Before the lockdown, her husband used to work as a construction worker in the cities like Kathmandu, Birtamod, Jhapa etc. and sometimes also the seasonal fishing in Koshi Tappu, selling fishes at the local market.

But post lockdown, her husband could not go outside the village for the labor work and that time was indeed a challenging phase for her.

To escape from such depressing situation, her husband started drinking alcohol and beat her badly. Trying her best to seek justice, Sada took help from the community to stop abuse. Even after promising to change his habit in front of the community, his abusive nature was never gone.

I have been deprived from various opportunities and my own basic rights. I did not get my citizenship before marriage because I was



underage. Looking at my condition, FEDO listed me in their relief support list and provided three lots of relief support, food and non-food items such as: rice, dal, chana, sugar, cooking oil, medicines, soaps, salts, detergents, Dettol, cotton, oral rehydration solutions (ORC) and re-usable sanitary pad, gas stove, gas cylinders and mobile phone with data cards.

These food and non-food items supported us from starving for a few days. The second wave of the pandemic again put us in a more vulnerable position. We remained out of work and had no food to eat. I really want to understand why God is being merciless and repeatedly testing us like this?

Having a citizenship was compulsory in order to open the bank account. With the support of FEDO, I finally was able to make my citizenship. I became a citizen of my country, which makes

me very proud. I want to express special thanks to FEDO for helping me become a citizen of this country and providing me three lots of relief support of food and non-food items. I am also very happy because I can even vote to choose a good leader because of the citizenship in upcoming days. I can utilize government services and benefits along with different kinds of allowances due to my citizenship.

After receiving the citizenship, FEDO opened my own bank account. Now, I can save money in the bank if I will earn more. FEDO has said that I am also eligible to receive a cash-based support from the organization. After receiving the money soon, I will invest it in my child's education, health and nutrition. I also plan to save a certain amount of the money for future emergencies. I want to express my gratitude towards FEDO and humbly request for continue supports in upcoming days.

579



Locally elected representatives,
were capacited on existing polies, programs
and mechanism



We handed over Dalit empowerment
bill and advocated to pressureize local
government.

1079



**Locally elected Representatives and
Dalit Women Leaders were directly
benefitted.**

31



Proposal were
submitted by the network
members to the local
government

500



Community Leaders were
oriented and educated on
caste issues



INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

While working on ensuring inclusivity of Dalit women, FEDO realized the significance of meaningful participation and representation of Dalit women at all levels despite being the critical challenging factors for transformation. Locally elected Dalit women and Dalit women leaders in group networks have played significant role in ensuring Dalits and mainly Dalit women to have access to human rights, development and justice with end to the stigma and discrimination. So, emphasizing more on increasing access to equitable services and resources for Dalit women, this year FEDO reached out to 1,079 locally elected representatives, Dalit women leaders, justice actors, and government officials to work on creating a participatory platform for Dalits by holding the local government accountable toward the issue.



Focusing more on delivering better, inclusive, and more transparent public services, development and social justice of Dalit women, FEDO worked on holding the Local government accountable toward the issues of Dalit women through favorable laws, policies and plans. A total of

31 proposals were submitted by the network members to the local government and the ward office of proposed districts also allocated budget of 175000 for awareness raising and capacity development training of Dalit community.





To make the Dalit women representable at the local level decision making process, FEDO engaged 579 locally elected representatives on capacitating them on women's rights and imparting knowledge on the existing policies, program and mechanisms to address the issue related to COVID-19 at ward/ local level. Likewise, 500 community leaders from both Dalit and Non-dalit community were oriented and educated on caste-based issues and other plans and strategies to make the local government accountable toward the Dalit issue. This has eventually created a great opportunity for Dalit community to find their own representatives at local level decision-making bodies as now the elected Dalit women are playing their role to support their constituency and identify the needs of Dalit women. And the Dalit

women Networks are strengthened enough to develop coordination and linkage with local government to address their needs. Dalit women at the community level are able to pro-actively claim rights vowing for a just and equitable society. 10 % of Dalit women represented in local structure created for the development such as road, water supply, school management, health, forest etc.) to influence policy and decision making based on their concerns.

Also, we handed over Dalit empowerment Bill and advocated to pressurize local government in incorporating the Dalit women perspective in the bill. Now, the bill is tabled in assembly and is on the final process to pass. #

ON HER JOURNEY TO POLITICS-RATAN DEVI DAMAI



She was in her vegetable garden taking care of her cauliflowers and spinach while I reached her home. Draped in red saree, she looked bright amongst the greens.

She is Rekha Devi Sada residing in Kanchanrup Municipality 4, Jhankatta in Saptari district. There are altogether 3 members in the family; she and her husband and a son. Engaging herself into the seasonal daily wages work at the village and sometimes near the market, Sada would manage bread for her family. Before the lockdown, her husband used to work as a construction worker in the cities like Kathmandu, Birtamod, Jhapa etc. and sometimes also the seasonal fishing in Koshi Tappu, selling fishes at the local market.

But post lockdown, her husband could not go outside the village for the labor work and that time was indeed a challenging phase for her.

To escape from such depressing situation, her husband started drinking alcohol and beat her badly. Trying her best to seek justice, Sada took help from the community to stop abuse. Even after promising to change his habit in front of the community, his abusive nature was never gone.

I have been deprived from various opportunities and my own basic rights. I did not get my citizenship



before marriage because I was underage. Looking at my condition, FEDO listed me in their relief support list and provided three lots of relief support, Ratan Devi Damai, was born in Ward no 1 of Bannigadhi RM and lived all her life in Achham. Her father passed away when she was only 6 years of age so she was taken care by her mother and two elder siblings. Due to extreme poverty she had to support her mother in the household chores- farming, taking care of goats and buffalo and cooking. She neither had the opportunity to go to school nor had a playful childhood.

She was married off at the age of 16 and had her first child while a year after her marriage. Despite not getting any formal education she always knew that she would educate her children no matter what. She and her husband engaged were engaged in producing vegetables and by selling them at the Bazaar (market) of Mangalsen she managed to provide for formal education of her sons. She recalls the hardship she had to go through while taking the vegetables to the market." I used to carry the vegetables in a Doko, reach the Bazaar through the trails of the uphill jungle at 4 in the morning. I would be very scared of the dense jungle and slippery trails but we needed money and I had to sell the vegetables."

Damai, got interested in politics due to her husband as he was an elected member of Ward during 2048 BS. After the demission of the federal structure, she engaged herself in politics along with her husband. She used to attend party meetings and influence other women of her community to be a part of the local politics too. After years of

engagement with the local political party, the party leaders entrusted her to stand for the 2074 BS election. She got elected as a Ward member from Dalit women's quota and currently serving as an elected ward member. Damai recalls her hardship to understand her roles and responsibilities during her early days of her tenure. She shares "It was a new state structure that we were introduced to and there were no one to guide us. It was challenging for me. Due to my limited knowledge on how Ward functions and my responsibilities as an elected member, I would shy off from speaking with the Ward Chairperson and limit myself to just saying Namaste and agreeing to whatever the men said. But things gradually changed after my constant engagement with in the Ward meetings and after being member of the Community Women's group. On top of that my confidence boosted as I got leadership training from PAVE in Kathmandu. This training was a great platform for me as I was able to strengthen the leadership, teamwork and public speaking skills.' she says.

Even though she got opportunity to be part of different women forum and events, her meaningful participation was still lagging. So, after this training she was able to present herself in every political platforms. Despite having no literacy she feels that she has knowledge and is entrusted by the community members to solve their problems. In the earlier days of her tenure, while she attended group meetings- she recalls "I didn't know much about the Ward functioning and when community women asked me for any support regarding any legal registration, I didn't know whom to approach and



didn't know I had the authority to make recommendation letter. But, gradually I learnt that it was in my duty and power to do so." She now, walks with community women of her Ward, if they have to solve any problems. Even if certain things are not under her control such as mediating a dispute within a family- she acts as a bridge.

When second phase of COVID had spiked in SudurPaschim, Damai initiated to provide relief for few of the most vulnerable women of her Ward. After negotiating with the Ward Chairperson she was able to provide goats to them as a means for survival.

Damai, although she is an elected ward member, she doesn't want to run for the next election as she feels that younger women should come into this role and serve the community. ' I believe Women participation is very important, so

whether I be in politics or not, I'll forever encourage other women to come in power and work on influencing decision-making processes.' she says.

Apart from being into politics, she is also the producer of seasonal vegetables who has been supporting a single woman from her community by engaging her in farming. Appreciating all her hard work, the local government has helped her with cash for expanding her business. Besides, the seed money provided by FEDO has eventually motivated her to flourish her work to the next level. Damai has been a great living example for not only the women but everyone around her community.

At last, she extends her gratitude toward FEDO and the PAVE project for making a pathway for her to build a better and independent life.

Gender Responsive

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

FEDO believes that disaster itself does not discriminate based on caste, gender, or any other grounds, but it can exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities and might lead to increased discrimination, exploitation and violence against women. Therefore, FEDO advocates and promotes gender responsive humanitarian actions. It prepares its team and executes actions for ensuring women friendly disaster relief packages. So this year we reached out to 3762 Dalit and marginalized households with comprehensive relief support which basically included food, hygiene kits, Nutrition Food and non-food material in close collaboration of local government which somehow improved their capacities to respond/cope with the socio-economic impacts of COVID 19.



'I can now afford to gift a wheelchair to my daughter...'-
Dhana Devi Kami, Tikapur Municipality-1

Further, among the 2000 excluded women of Kailali and Siraha district, 1,932 have received cash-based support in their bank accounts for further strengthening their economic sustainability. But opening an individual bank account was a hard task as many of the Dalit and excluded women didn't have their national identity (birth certificates, citizenship and voter IDs) so we worked on identifying such women and supported 146 women to receive their national identification. Likewise, 2000 excluded women were supported with the digital access of mobile phone for securing their access to effective communication and information. Also, understanding the mandatory need of psychosocial counselling to such vulnerable groups, we provided counseling services

from trained counselors to overcome mental health issues caused by the current pandemic. PSAs on caste-based discrimination and mental health issues aired through different FM stations reaching out to 100000+ targeted audiences.

Moreover, to reach out to the majority, we joined hands together with different Local Governance Unit (LGU) members and sensitized them on GESI responsive planning



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and programming. With that, we also supported 100+ LGUs in movement building by enhancing their knowledge and understanding on early preparedness of disaster management. 50 COVID-19 isolation centers in the project districts were visited and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) responsive recommendations were provided to community health centers and LGUs to improve quality of isolation centers.

I am Dhana Devi Kami, a resident of Tikapur Municipality-1. I have been living in the Kamaiya Camp with my young son and my 15-year-old daughter who has a disability. My husband, who left for India quite a long time ago for foreign employment, has been out of contact since long. He has sent us no money, nor has he sent any letter since his departure. Due to this situation, I have been forced to earn a livelihood for myself and my children through daily-wage work. Obviously, I have lots of dreams, and one of them is to send my daughter to a good school for her education. But she cannot go anywhere and it hurtful for me as a mother see my child so vulnerable and weak. I always dreamt of gifting her a wheelchair, however, I did not have any money to buy it. You can already imagine how worried I must have been and that's how my life was, helpless and sad.

Nowadays, I am feeling slightly better and that is all due to FEDO. A while back, the officials of the organization helped me create my personal bank account, and assured to send some amount in the account. I have already decided to buy a wheelchair with that money to help my daughter go to a school daily. I want to see her become a successful in the future. Sisa Nepal has aided me in a lot of ways. Along with the grant they promised, the organization also helped me with my daily necessities. After the COVID-19 enforced lockdown, Tikapur Municipality tried to assist us by donating some food materials. However, that only sufficed my family for 10 days and left me in a constant worry of my children's well-being.

Right at that time, FEDO provided me with all the essential materials so I could live comfortably in my own house, in turn, helping my family survive the coronavirus. The gas stove they gave us had a huge role to play as well. The government had asked us not to leave our houses but I had to fetch firewood for cooking food. For years, I suffered from Asthma due to excessive use of firewood in my house. But after FEDO provided me with a gas stove, cooking has become much easier. The government has never understood the problems of people like me. But now I'm confident that FEDO is there with me.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECTS IN 2021

Project 1: Participation and Voice for Excluded Women in Nepal (PAVE)

Project Goal	The right of all women in Nepal to full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making is promoted and protected in line with SDG target 5.5.
Project Duration	October 2019 to September 2022
Project Partner	DFID/Womankind Worldwide
Target Districts	Achham, Bajura, Dadeldhura, Doti and Kanchanpur

PAVE Project is a three years' project with aims to improve the participation, leadership and influence in decision making in local and provincial level government across formal and informal spheres of the elected women representatives in five districts of Province 7 targeting the elected women to improve knowledge, skills and resources to increase their participation in governance and represent their views of their constituents more effectively. Additionally, the targeted community women (including marginalized women) have increased capacity to engage proactively in local politics and decision-making that affects their lives. They are getting equipped with improved knowledge, skills and resources to actively support women's participation and leadership. Furthermore, the project provides coordinated and collective action to strengthen women's movement in support of women's political participation at the provincial, national and international levels.



Leadership development training given to Dalit women of Achham and Dadeldhura district



Seed money distributed to 251 community and elected women of all 5 districts

Achievements

- 178 elected women from all 5 project districts have received training which enhanced their understanding of their roles and responsibilities as elected women.
- 1376 women (including marginalised women), in 5 districts in Province 7 of Nepal have improved participation, leadership and influence in decision-making in local and provincial level government across formal and informal spaces
- 9 events of monthly forums between elected women and political party leaders was held in all five districts with 209 participants.
- 1,115 women (including marginal-

- ised women) in 5 districts in Province 7 of Nepal have increased capacity to engage proactively in local politics and decision making that affects their lives
- Monthly group meeting with 2835 unique participants to gather information on the status of the group, their savings and loan mobilization.
- 1,975 community members in 5 districts in province 7 in Nepal have improved knowledge, skills and resources to actively support women’s participation and leadership
- 248 Dalit women from community and elected representatives received seed money as for their economic sustainability.

Project 2: Increasing Access to Resources and Services for Women from Dalit and Marginalized Groups

Project Goal	Women from Dalit and other excluded/marginalized groups have improved access to state and non-state resources and services, have increased representation and influence in decision making fora, face less discrimination and have enhanced to justice.
Project Duration	January 2018 - December 2021
Project Partner	DCA
Target Districts	Banke

The project has focused to ensure that women from Dalits and other marginalized groups are actively participated from planning to the implementation of project activities. With regard to other non-Dalit groups, those who are poor and extremely marginalized excluded has participated and benefitted from the project activities. The Specific Objectives of the project are:(i) To increase access of women from excluded groups and marginalized community to social security schemes, health, education, economic opportunities and agricultural services, and (ii) To enhance influences of women from Dalits and marginalized community in planning and decision-making structures at local level.



FEDO supporting local government of Banke district with COVID relief packages



Mushroom cultivation training to Dalit women of Duduwa rural municipality



Achievements

- 1050 women from Dalits and excluded groups have been organized in 37 Dalit women groups and three Women Networks at three LGUs in Banke as well as they have been mobilizing to claim their rights and entitlements.
- A total of 450 women from Dalit and socially excluded groups started enterprises in tailoring, vegetable cultivation, goat rearing, poultry rearing, GhumtiPasal, nursery, flower cultivation, fresh house, iron work etc. to increase their income. Dalit women groups received Rs. 983,000.00 for different trainings such as boutique, doll/cushion, masaura/papad making and controlling women trafficking from LGUs.
- total Rs 5116514.00 Saving and Credit fund has collected and mobilized by Dalit Women Groups and mobilize the savings for their economic and social wellbeing activities.
- 81 stateless women from Dalit and excluded groups have received the Citizenship Certificates and 73 Dalit women have got marriage certificate. Likewise, 34 Women have got Social security allowance and 17 Dalit children have received the child Nutrition allowances at local level.
- total of 1925 women from Dalit and excluded groups have strengthened their capacity and mobilized through different training, orientation and awareness programs to increase their access to the resources and service delivery.
- 81 stateless women from Dalit and excluded groups have received the Citizenship Certificates and 73 Dalit women have got marriage certificate. Likewise, 34 Women have got Social security allowance and 17 Dalit children have received the child Nutrition allowances at local level.
- Total 370 HHs of Dalit and marginalize groups were provided relief support package in project LGUs.
- Total 25 no. of locally elected representatives especially of women members and Dalit at ward and municipal level strengthened their capacity on local planning, budgeting, GRB and GESI for proper service delivery and policy influence at local level.
- Total 162 community leaders selected from Dalit's and non-Dalit community were educated on ending caste based discrimination and untouchability from the society.
- More than 120 HHs from Dalit and excluded groups have received agriculture irrigation support (summer Cell, Pump set and water Motor) as well as benefited in vegetable farming, Rice cultivation and other agriculture activities.
- Total 1200 Women were educated about the resources and services provided by local government and other service providers targeting to Dalit and marginalized communities.
- Altogether 1200 Covid-19 affected Dalit and marginalized people were provided the relief materials of food, hygiene kits, Nutrition Food and non-food material in close collaboration of local government
- Altogether 116 cases related to domestic violence, Caste based discrimination, polygamy, Rape case, divorce, witchcraft and death were reported and supported to



- justice process in the project.
- Total 48 women leaders from Dalits received the training on political leadership and enhance knowledge and skills on leadership as well as built the capacity to prepare them for claiming their candidacy in forthcoming elections.
 - The 15 women groups have submitted the demands/plans during the planning process of local government and eight demands has addressed by the assembly.
 - FEDO developed the guideline to use social accountability tools and oriented to 42 no. of group leaders, frontline leaders and CBOs how to influence the governance actors/ implementers like civil society organization, government program planners, managers and staffs to adopt the existing tools for effective social accountability mechanisms.
 - Total 40 episodes of radio magazine program has broadcasted from the local radio station on the burning issues of the Dalit/marginalized women. Approximately 15000 populations benefitted through radio program.
 - Total 397 participants from elected Dalit women, ministers and parliamentarians of provincial government, political parties were participated in the program and got orientation as well and expressed commitments on the issues of Dalit women.

Project 3: Strong Girls – Improving the Educational Achievements of Dalit and Marginalized Girls

Project Goal	Girls from marginalized castes in Nepal achieve a higher level of education. FEDO focused on ER-3 Dalit families are committed to the education of their daughters and are able to improve their household income and keep their daughters in school through their own economic activities.
Project Duration	Sep 2018 – Dec 2021
Project Partner	Karuna Deutschland (Karuna Germany), KD and Bundesministerium Für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation) or BMZ
Target Districts	Palpa, Rupandehi and Kapilbastu

The project “Strong Girls- Improving the educational achievements of Dalit and Marginalized girls of Nepal” supports on quality education through teachers training, livelihood support and child club mobilization to improve the educational achievement of Dalits and marginalized girls in community school. FEDO has been concentrated on community-focused activities to support for improving the educational achievement for. Beside this, regular coordination, networking with related stakeholders and local government has also been done for the successful implementation of the project.



26 members benefitted from the Pickle making training



Tailoring and handicraft training given to 40 women of Rupandehi

Achievement

- Through different trainings such as Detergent making, tailoring and handicraft, cushion making, vegetable farming and pickle making, 205 women got benefitted and now at least 200 Dalit families increase their household income by an average of 5,000 NPR/mon.
- Rs 100000 has been supported by local Government for their business expansion in detergent making which is also officially registered as a domestic industry.
- Joint meeting with wings-school, child club and parents/mothers/community were conducted to increase the educational achievements of Dalit and marginalized children.
- "You must need to study" (Timile-Padhnaiparchha) slogan is made by mother groups for their daughter's education.
- 61 women received sewing machine and have followed the occupation of tailoring where they make and sell mask, dresses and other clothes. Few of them are working for Garment Companies as well.
- Joint meeting with wings-school, child club and parents/mothers/community were conducted to increase the educational achievements of Dalit and marginalized children.
- 24 mother groups have come together and worked on developing slogan "You must need to study" (TimilePadhnaiparchha) to encourage their girl child toward education.
- Capacity building training to staffs has been provided to develop the GESI and social mobilization skills of staffs.

Project 4: Combating Discrimination for Advancing Human Rights of Dalit Women in Nepal

Project Goal	Enable Dalit women and their community to live in a free, fearless and peaceful environment, in which all human rights are respected.
Project Duration	Jan 2017 – Dec 2020
Project Partner	Foundation for a Just Society (FJS)
Target Districts	Bardiya and Kailali

The project has played significant role in implementing protective laws and other human rights legislation and policies in the favor of Dalit women and other marginalized and excluded groups. The coordination and linkages with women campaigners, right holders and duty bearers (justice service providers) has been established to elicit accountability for justice service delivery and implementation of protective laws and other human rights obligation.



Poultry Farming initiated by the group member for income generation



Legal literacy training being provided to Dalit women

Achievement

- Altogether 2050 Dalit women in 80 groups have been mobilized at local community level and empowered to claim their rights, entitlements and justice services through strong advocacy skills and tools in Bardiya, Surkhet, Kanchanpur and Kailali.
- A total of 400 active members (100 frontline leaders and 300 CAGs) are identified and mobilized in four project districts to facilitate Dalit women groups about social, economic and legal issues related to human rights and social justice and make them able to claim their rights
- Altogether 560 cases of violence against Dalit women in the forms of rape, untouchability, domestic violence, girl trafficking, attempted rape, polygamy, child marriage, divorce, property dividend, sexual harassment, murder, financial transaction and public affairs, deprived of citizenship, marriage registration and death registration etc. has been documented
- Conducted 8 interactive events on “addressing the discrimination and violence faced by the Dalit women in their day-to-day life” among the human rights and law enforcement institutions, local judicial committee, service providers and civil society actors working at local level.
- Regular coordination and linkage



development with Legal Aid Center has been established to ensure socio-legal service provisions for Dalit women and Dalit community at the local level.

- Performed demonstration rallies in many of its project districts protesting against caste and gender based violence cases and demanding strong action against the perpetrators of the scandalous crime.
- FEDO has been publishing quarterly e-bulletin and magazine (Margadarsan) in Nepali regularly, to disseminate the important messages and information subjecting human rights violations of Dalit women and Dalit community. FEDO has covered the news related to the incidents of rape and murder against Dalit women and girls and their access to justice through its publications.
- Monitored and analyze cases of violence against Dalit women and girls recored and published in media and other sources. In 2021, the data showed that the total of 68 Dalit people, including women and girls has been murdered due to caste and gender-based discrimination disputes in Nepal.
- District level FM radio stations program tools were utilized to disseminate the information about empowerment and advocacy efforts for ending caste and gender-based discrimination and increasing access of Dalit women to justice services at district level.
- In the close coordination and lobby from FEDO, Dalit women groups received resources/budget of NPR58,50,000 from the local, provincial and other department of government to conduct different skill development activities.
- A total of 350 Dalit women are engaged in entrepreneurship development activities i.e. running grocery shop, tailoring shop, mushroom cultivation, and many more. These women groups are registered in cooperatives and agriculture and livestock offices. Thus, their economic sustainability has eventually led to the increment in representation of Dalit women in school management committee, forest user groups, water management committee, and other local management committee as well.
- FEDO developed a strong coordination and linkage with the provincial government in terms of formulating and executing Dalit empowerment policy and program. Likewise, FEDO also submitted the draft of Dalit Empowerment Bill to the local government of Sudhuraschim province and is in the process of passing the bill in Karnali province as well.
- Through regular saving, 80 women groups has saved a total fund of NPR. 50, 61733 which has further been utilized in economic development of its members.

Project 5: Strengthening Governance for Development and Social Justice of Dalit Women

Project Goal	The project contributes to the comprehensive socio-economic and political participation of Dalit women within the Nepali society.
Project Duration	Nov 2019 – Oct 2021
Project Partner	Dalit women will not be remained in further discrimination and exclusion – their voices are heard for the development and social justice at the local level.
Target Districts	Bread for the World (BftW) Doti, Kaski and Dhanusha

The project has played significant role in implementing the existing laws, policies and plan in the favor of Dalit women groups. The coordination and linkages with local government, right holders and duty bearers has been established to make more accountable them for development and social justice of Dalit women.



FEDO team with Chief minister after discussion on Dalit women issues at Kaski, Gandako province



Conducted group meeting to address and orient the Dalit women about the impact of COVID-19 in Doti district

Achievements

- 267 elected Dalit women representatives, frontline Dalit women leaders, Dalit women group/network members and government officials were provided training that eventually increased their confidence and activeness for political participation.
- A total of 31 proposals were submitted by the network members in all three districts. Based on the plan, The ward office in Doti, and Kaski district has successfully allocated budget of 175000 for awareness raising and capacity development training of Dalit community.
- 780 Dalit women (450 group/networks members 67 elected Dalit women and 263 front line leaders) were organized and mobilized in advocacy initiatives at project areas. This networks of Dalit women groups organized monthly meetings (131 monthly meetings: 48 in Doti, 40 in Kaski and 43 in Dhanusha) to identify pertinent issues and needs of Dalit women.
- 46 Dalit students were provided with educational materials in Kaski district.
- The network members advocated 11 cases of caste based discrimination and 6 cases of GBV to support

- survivors in justice processes.
- Out of 450 members, 142 (32%) people are now representing in different local structures/mechanisms which include ward level coordination committee, school management committee, forest user committee, disaster risk reduction committee, and many more.
 - Out of 67 trained elected Dalit women in the project areas, 4 elected Dalit women representatives in Kaski district could participate actively in policy, plan and budget formulation process of the local government and positioned demands as per needs of Dalit women.
 - 182 locally elected representatives were oriented on the existing policies, program and mechanisms to address the issue related to COVID-19 at ward/ local level.
 - 104 upcoming Dalit leaders has acquired basic knowledge on HRBA and advocacy techniques to motivate the people in right-based campaigns at the local level.
 - PSA/Jingles were developed in three project districts to promote governance and social accountability at local government level for increasing access of Dalit women to the development and social justice.
 - FEDO submitted draft Dalit Empowerment Bill with Sudurpaschim province government and advocated to approve the bill. Now, the bill is tabled in assembly and is on the final process to pass.

Project 6: Strengthening Human Rights of Dalit Women in Nepal

Project Goal	Capacitate Dalit women against caste and gender-based discrimination by increasing their awareness level and by making duty bearers responsive alongside empowering their economic rights through concrete livelihood opportunities.
Project Duration	Jan – Dec 2020
Project Partner	KIOS Foundation
Target Districts	Siraha and Udaypur

The project has been working on increasing the level of awareness among the Dalit women representatives on human rights, laws and other pertinent issues related to secure and safeguard the human rights of Dalit women. The project has been successful to empower existing and future Dalit women leaders for ensuring economic rights of Dalit women with concrete economic empowerment initiatives where they were provided with solid trainings to empower and further strengthen their economic opportunities and were able to establish linkage between the public and private institutions for income generation, securing access of Dalit women to finance, business development services and appropriate technologies.



Achievements

- Total of 20 Dalit Youth Girls have been incorporated in a group from 2 of the working Municipality where the high school and university going girls has been included who have urge to work for the community, issues and talk about the change. 40 number of Dalit Youth Girls were selected on the basis of their capacity and understanding on the social issues, with the close observation by the district team,
- A total of 60 high-school going, under-graduates, graduates and working youth were identified and oriented with the pertinent issues of Human rights.
- 60 selected Dalit youths were given 2 days training on the leadership and advocacy where they were well-equipped on how to lead the advocacy, meetings and campaigns and defend the rights of Dalit women. Afterwards, same Dalit Youth Groups were mobilized and asked to take lead in some of the community issues.
- 60 local Dalit women representatives of Udayapur and Siraha districts were present in the coordination meeting conducted by FEDO which merely focused on recommending the plans and strategies that government needs to prioritize for the wellbeing of the Dalit women.
- The Focused Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted with 10 of the groups of both the districts who shared their involvement in different enterprises(goat and cattle rearing) through the seed money provided and also showed their enthusiasm to further extent the business jointly with their family members.
- 5 Dalit women Entrepreneur groups comprising of 20-25 members was formed. The selected 60 participants were trained on strengthening their ability to structure and build their entrepreneurial visions.
- Local level meetings and campaign was conducted to deal with local government for livelihood and economic empowerment of Dalit women. 70 participants were participate in the meeting included some of the active members from the E
- 2 Ward level Dalit Women's Monitoring Committee with 20 members has been formed in 2 districts who are working closely with the justice providers through advocating, lobbying and documenting the issues of violence against women, caste

discrimination and other discriminations.

- The coordination meeting with Judicial committee and justice actors has been organized in participation with 30 par-

ticipants. The linkage with local judicial committee will surely further support in strengthening access to justice and to address the human rights violation cases of Dalit women.

Project 7: Comprehensive Relief Supports for Women and Excluded Groups in the Context of COVID-19

Project Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance access to cash of Women and excluded groups in the project locations. - Women and excluded groups have access to quality services (through in-kind support) in the project locations - Women and Excluded groups have strengthened leadership capacity, voice and agency to influence policies, local level decision making (political engagement and movement building support)
Project Duration	September 2020 – Oct 2021
Project Partner	UN Women
Target Districts	Kailali, Bajura, Saptari and Siraha

The project has been contributing to improved access to services and resources of Dalit and marginalized groups at the local level to cope/respond to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. The coordination and linkages with local government, right holders and duty bearers has been established to make more accountable them for development and social justice of Dalit women.



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Achievements

- A total of 2000 (Dalit 1,198, Madhesis 223, Muslim 168, Badi 148, Brahmin/Chetris 143 and Janajatis 120) excluded women of 11 targeted LGUs were able to improve their capacities to respond/cope with the socio-economic impacts of COVID 19 through accessing a comprehensive relief package (food and non-food items).
- 2000 excluded women were able to have digital access through mobile phones.
- 146 excluded women and their children received their citizenship,



birth certificates, and voter identity cards and able to access cash-based support by opening their bank accounts.

- Among the 2000 excluded women, 1,932 have received cash-based support in their bank accounts.
- 357 excluded women benefitted from counselling services from trained counsellors to overcome mental health issues caused by the current pandemic.
- Two PSAs on caste-based discrimination and mental health issues aired through six FM stations reaching out to 100,000 target audiences.
- A total of 178 LGU members were sensitized on GESI responsive planning and programming.
- 11 COVID-19 isolation centers in the project districts were visited and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) responsive recommendations were provided to community health centers and LGUs to improve quality of isolation centers.
- 95 local level organisations/network members were able to enhance their knowledge and understanding on early preparedness of disaster management.

LESSON LEARNT AND CHALLENGES

Lessons learnt

Working with the different women groups, networks, frontline leaders and the allies at the local, district and national level, FEDO got lesson learnt that will be very useful for

implementing best practices and determining better strategies in the future.

- Dalit women don't want to share the violence they are facing because of social norms and family honor prevalent in the community needs to change systemic and structural discrimination against Dalit women and girls.
- Social Mobilizers and Dalit Women Frontline Leaders are backbone to make a success of the organization.
- Capacity of social mobilizers and frontline leaders needs to be strengthened and frontline Dalit women to mobilize them as community facilitator in order to promote and protect the human rights of Dalit women at the community level.
- The importance of legal empowerment should be introduced in groups at local circumstances with concrete examples that occur in their community. Both women and men should be more oriented with legal provision and legal treatment as mentioned in anti-discriminatory laws and policies.
- Dalit women have been deprived of basic needs along with access to education, health, sanitation, and justice among others due to their poor economic status. Thus, more focused should be given for their economic empowerment.
- Dalit women leaders have limited access to media when compared to the women leaders of other caste. Thus, their voices are less heard. FEDO needs to focus to increase Dalit women leaders' exposure to media.
- Successful implementation of the

projects becomes possible with the political neutrality of the FEDO that needs to be continued in coming years as well.

Challenges

- Low-level of awareness about CBDU and GBV among the people; weak implementation of the related Acts coupled with the lack of appropriate support from law enforcement agencies.
- Because of the poor economic status, the Dalit women are more inclined towards livelihood and income generation program rather than awareness-oriented program.
- Dalit community itself is reluctant to break the chain of discrimination due to deeply rooted social stigma within themselves.
- Dalit women who had elected in local-level were not able to put the issue of Dalit women in the decision making level. Moreover, their so-called upper caste male counterparts do not take their opinions into consideration when it comes to decision-making.
- Financial crisis to launch advocacy campaigns targeting large number of community people.
- Lack of proper number of staffs in the organization as per the need of project management and implementation.

FINANCIAL/AUDIT REPORT 2020 AND 2021

FEMINIST DALIT ORGANIZATION (FEDO)

Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the period from Shrawan 1, 2077 to Ashadh 31, 2078 (July 16, 2020 to July 15, 2021)

Amount in NPR

Particulars	Sch.	This year Amount (NPR)			Last Year Amount
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
Income					
Grant Income	8	3,976,775.18	90,548,560	94,525,335	34,826,459
Contribution Income	9	718,566	-	718,566	582,082
Bank Interest		243,063	-	243,063	341,893
Membership fee		-	-	-	5,535
Other Income		146,499	-	146,499	133,995
Donation		-	-	-	128,970
Total Income		5,084,903	90,548,560	95,633,463	36,018,934
Expenditure					
Program Expenditure	10	1,079,148	60,780,516	61,859,664	16,416,696
Operational Cost	11	1,506,741	5,045,553	6,552,294	4,372,133
Depreciation		964,747	-	964,747	1,086,034
Staff Cost	12	1,119,050	25,084,865	26,203,916	17,173,832
Total Expenditure		4,669,687	90,910,934	95,580,621	39,048,695
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		415,216	(362,374)	52,842	(3,029,761)

Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts

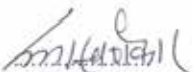
12


As per our report of even date

Schedules 1 to 12 form an integral part of the financial statements.


Bina Rasaili
Admin/Finance Officer


Renu Sijapati
Acting Executive Director


Kala Swarnakar
President


Ranju Bishwakarma
Treasurer


CA. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha
Pradeep & Co.
Chartered Accountants



Date: 11/11/2021
Place: Jwagal, Lalitpur





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