



ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Contents

ACRONYMS.....	3
ABOUT US	4-5
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	6
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	7
2025 : A YEAR IN REVIEW KEY HIGHLIGHTS	8-10
NATIONAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2021	11-13
THEMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS OVERVIEW	14-25
CROSS- CUTTING ISSUES	26-27
PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS.....	28-37
OVERVIEW OF ADVOCACY ON NATIONAL AND GLOBAL INITIATIVES.....	38-44
BREAKING THE SILENCE: EVIDENCE TO END CASTE- AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE...	45-47
FINANCIAL/AUDIT REPORT 2024/2025.....	48-49
OUR 2025 JOURNEY GLIMPSE:	50-54

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADRF	Asian Dalit Rights Forum
AIN	Association of International NGOs in Nepal
CAP	Community Action Plans
CBD	Community-Based Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DCA	Dan Church Aid
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
FEDO	Feminist Dalit Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion
IDSN	International Dalit Solidarity Network
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
JuRi	Justice and Rights Institute
KII	Key Informant Interview
KJS	Foundation for a Just Society
LDCRP	Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans
LGU	Local Government Units
OD	Organizational Development
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PWD	Person with Disability
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHG	Self-Help Groups
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
APSF	Asia Pacific Social Forum

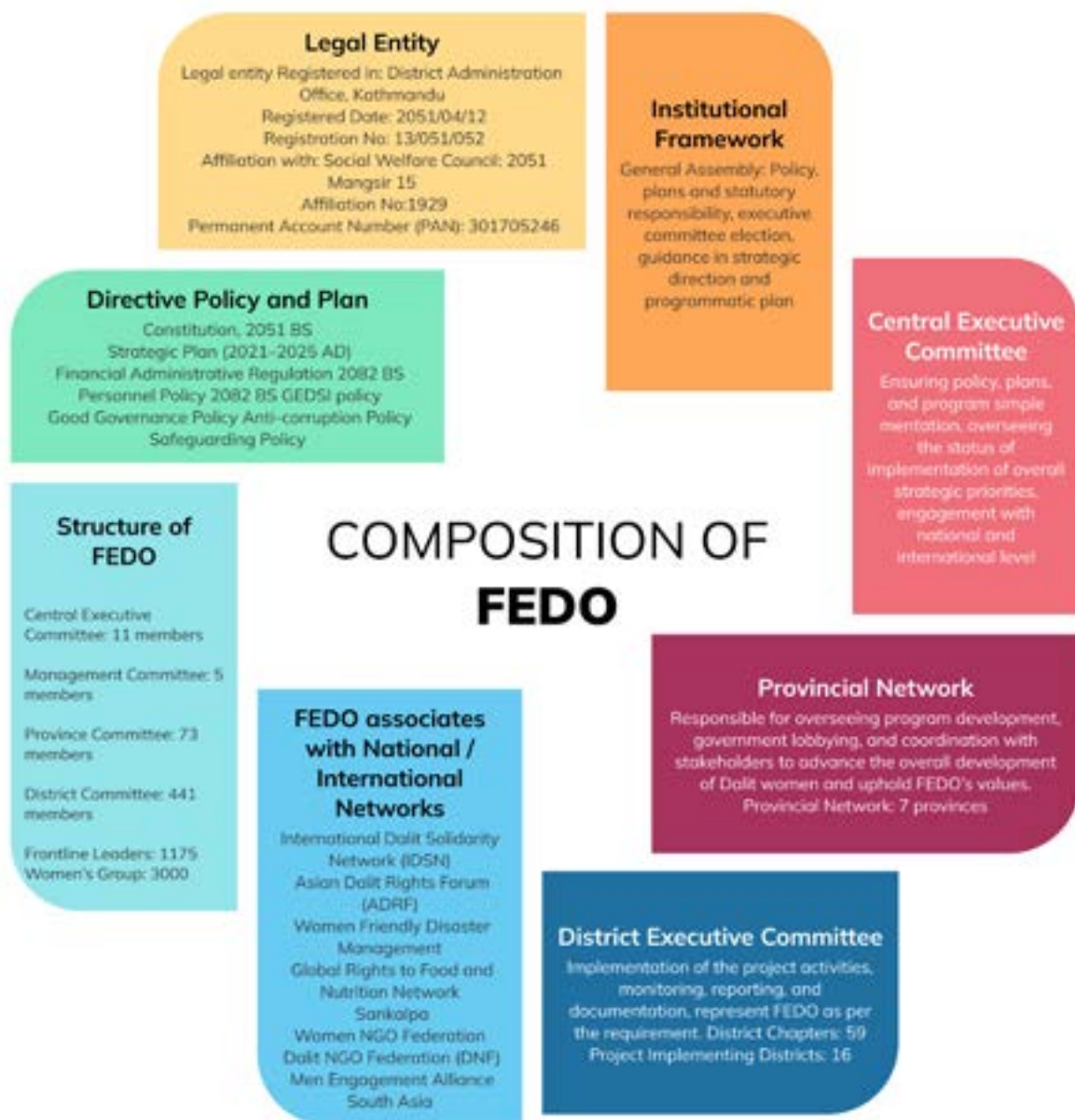


Fig:1(The Composition of FEDO)

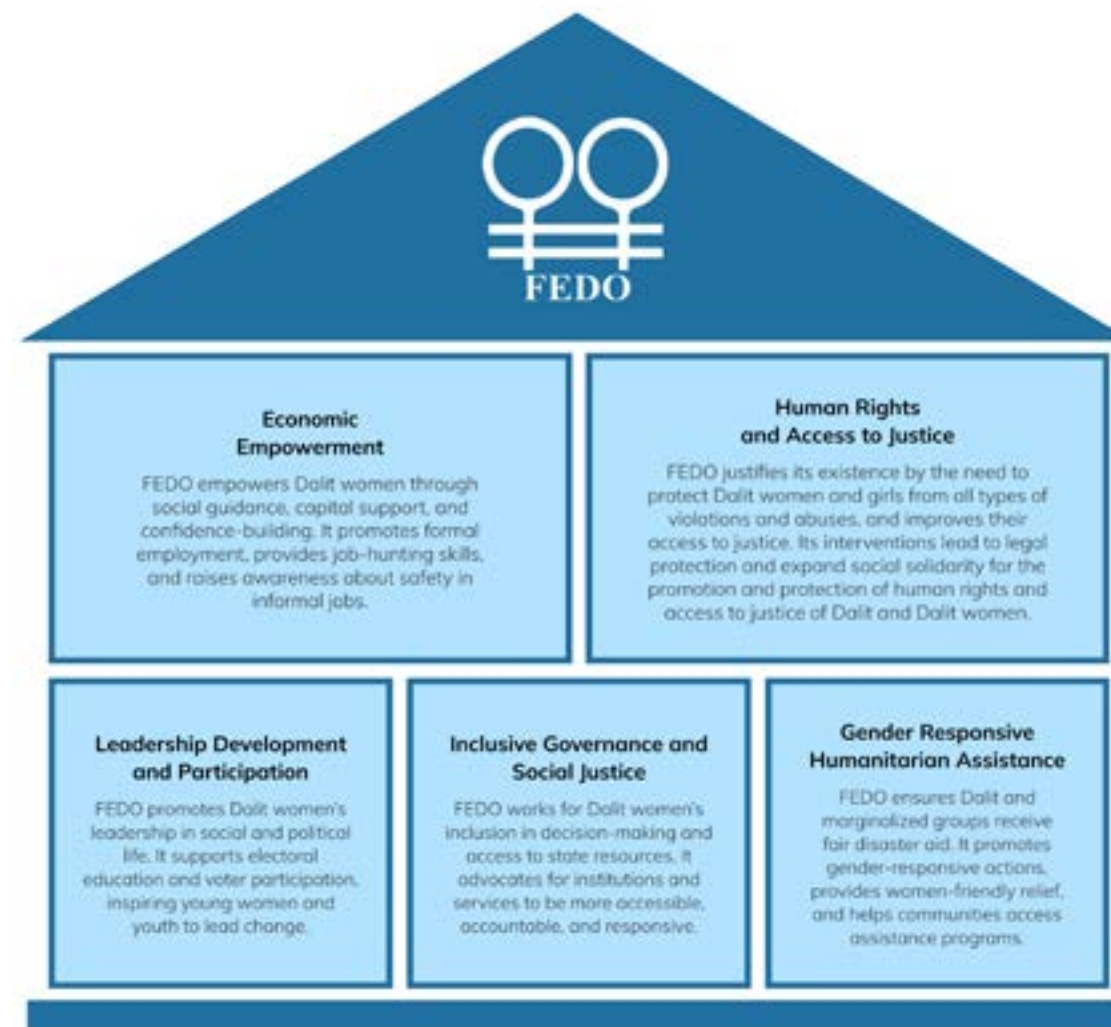


Figure 2: Strategic Pillars for 2021/25

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), founded in 1994 by visionary Dalit women in Nepal, is a non-profit, non-political, and secular organization committed to combating caste- and gender-based discrimination. FEDO champions the rights of Dalit women and the broader Dalit community, placing them at the center of its mission for dignity, equality, and justice.

Operating through 59 district chapters across all 77 districts and seven provinces,

FEDO engages over 3,000 grassroots women's groups and 1,175 frontline women leaders. Its work combines community empowerment with advocacy, ensuring Dalit women are active participants and leaders in driving change.

FEDO also participates in national and international networks, linking grassroots experiences with policy discussions to amplify Dalit women's voices in development and policy making at all levels.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I present the Annual Report 2025 of the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO). This year has been another important milestone in our collective journey toward advancing equality, dignity, and justice for Dalit women and marginalized communities across Nepal.

Over the past year, FEDO has continued to expand its reach and deepen its impact through community-led initiatives, advocacy, and partnerships. We have witnessed encouraging progress in areas such as economic empowerment, access to justice, leadership development, and inclusive governance. These achievements are a testament to the strength, resilience, and leadership of Dalit women and girls, who continue to challenge long-standing discrimination and drive meaningful change within their communities.

At the same time, we remain aware that structural inequalities and social barriers persist. Caste-based discrimination, gender inequality, and limited access to opportunities continue to affect the lives of many. As an organization, we reaffirm our commitment to addressing these challenges through sustained advocacy, evidence-based interventions, and strong collaboration with stakeholders at all levels.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our partners, donors, and well-wishers for their continued trust and support. My gratitude also goes to the Board Members, management team, provincial networks, district chapters and staffs for their dedication and hard work. Most importantly, I acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Dalit women, girls and communities we work with, whose voices and leadership remain at the center of our mission.

As we move forward, let us continue to work together with renewed commitment and shared vision to build an inclusive, just, and equitable society where every woman can live with dignity and equal opportunity.

Kala Swarnakar
President, FEDO



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2025, FEDO's journey has been one of courage, solidarity, and transformative action made possible only through the collective strength of many.

To the Dalit women, girls, and communities at the heart of our work: you are not merely target groups- you are leaders, changemakers, and the living proof that resilience can dismantle even the deepest-rooted discrimination. Your voices shape every decision we make.

To our development partners, donors, and collaborators: your trust goes beyond funding. It is an affirmation that the fight for Dalit women's and girls' rights is a shared human responsibility. Your solidarity has carried our advocacy to national and international platforms, turning local struggles into global conversations.

To our Board Members: your strategic vision and moral clarity have kept FEDO firmly grounded in its mission. To our dedicated staff, province level networks, district chapters, and frontline leaders working often in the most demanding conditions your tireless commitment ensures that no community is left behind.

We also acknowledge the government agencies, civil society networks, and media partners whose collaboration has strengthened accountability and inclusive governance across communities.

Yet, gratitude alone is not enough. The road ahead demands even greater urgency. Caste-based discrimination, gender inequality, and social exclusion remain deeply entrenched. FEDO stands unwavering in its resolve to challenge these injustices — until every Dalit woman and girl lives with dignity, equality, and freedom.

Together, we do not just imagine a just society. We build it.

Dr. Rabina G. Rasaily
Executive Director, FEDO

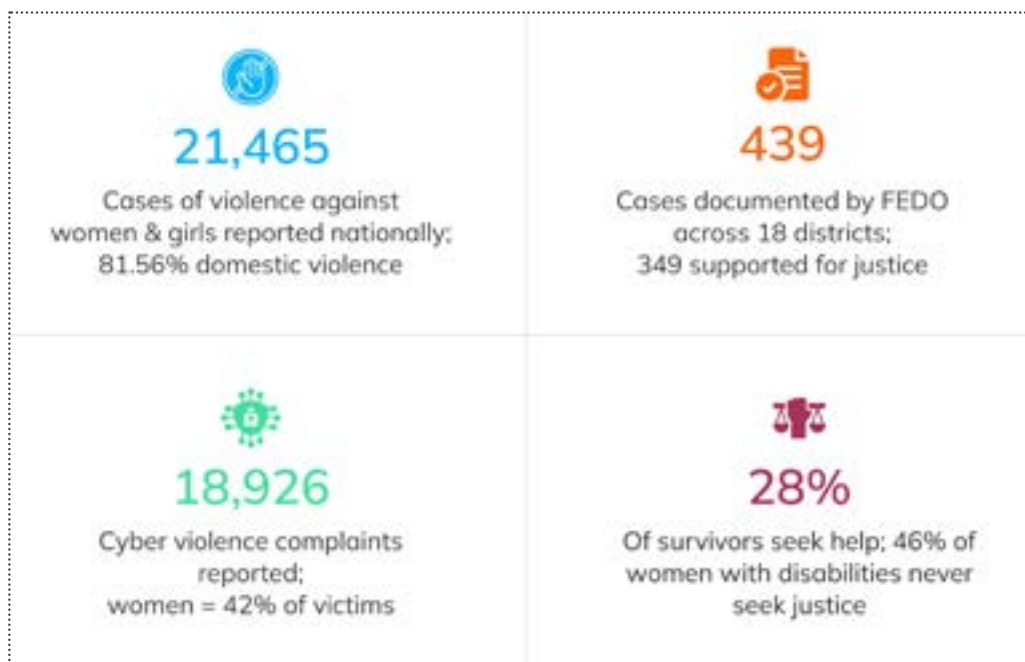


2025: A YEAR IN REVIEW KEY HIGHLIGHTS

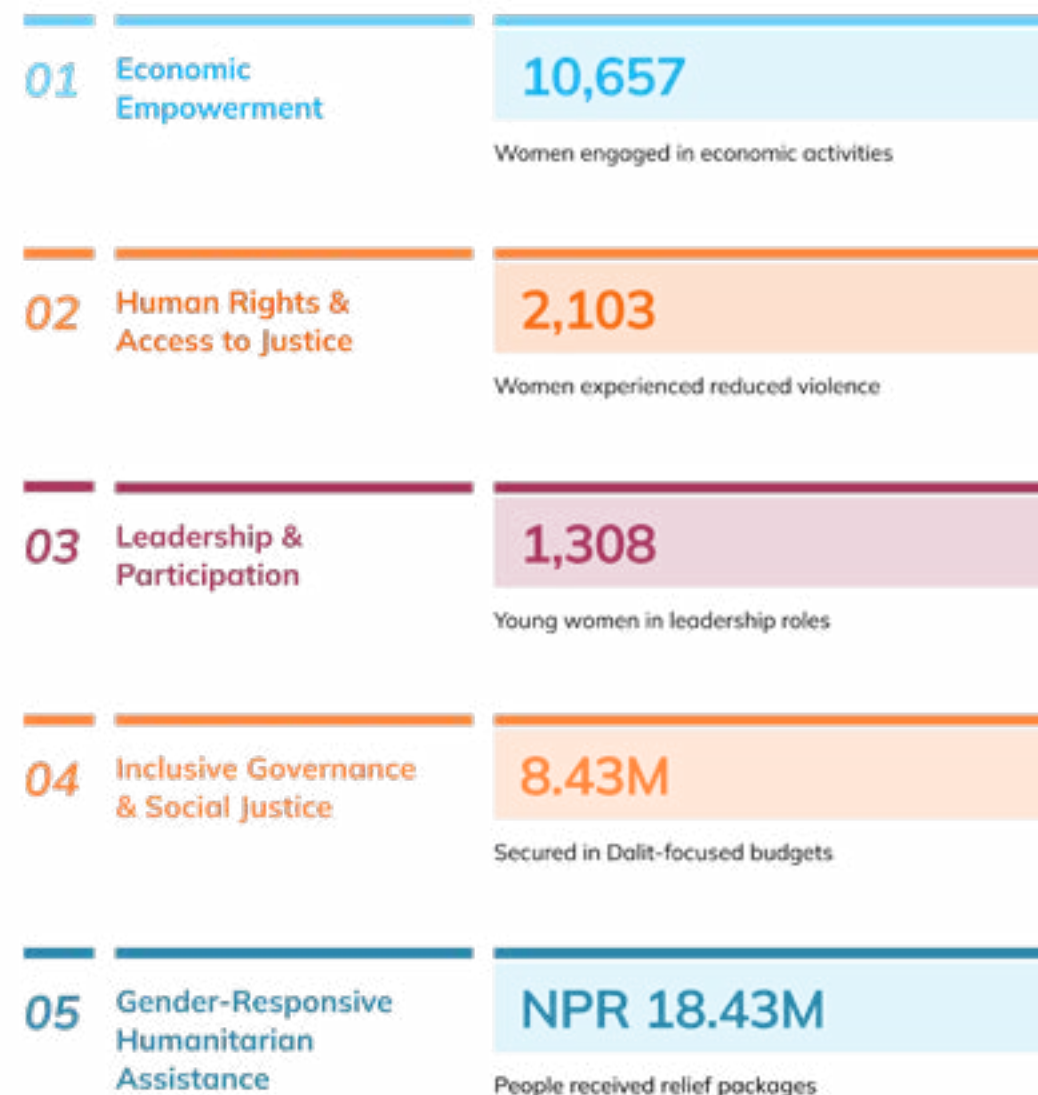
Overview

In 2025, FEDO marked 31 years of advocacy for Dalit women’s rights across Nepal. The year saw landmark progress across five thematic pillars – economic empowerment, human rights, leadership, governance, and humanitarian assistance. A joint report with Nepal’s National Statistical Office, grounded in Census 2021 data, sharpened evidence-based policymaking. Dalit voices were elevated at global forums including CSW69, UN CEDAW, and the Global Conference for a Caste-Free World, while grassroots networks of women’s groups and front-line leaders continued transforming communities across all 77 districts.

Evidence on violence against women - 2025



Five pillars of action



Key highlights

01

Census 2021 report launched jointly with the National Statistical Office; evidence dialogues held in all six provinces to drive Dalit-inclusive policymaking.

02

Provided B.A.LL.B. scholarships to 9 students (8 girls and 1 boy), including 4 full and 4 partial support, contributing to the development of future legal advocates.

03

Strengthening Dalit Representation through Federal Dialogue and Law Reform.

04

10,657 women were economically empowered and engaged in income-generating activities. Among them, 879 women are involved in micro and small-scale businesses, while others participate in agriculture and daily livelihood activities.

05

FEDO mobilized NPR 8,430,000 from provincial and local government budgets to implement activities focused on empowering Dalit women and supporting livelihoods.

FEDO at international platform

CSW 69 - Beijing+30

11th March, Baha'i International Community, United Nations Office, New York. Side event on intersectional progress; documentary screened; platform shared with WHR and NIBL.

UN CEDAW

Geneva, February 3, 2025. Oral statement with IDSH; concerns on justice and political participation reflected in concluding observations.

Asia-Pacific Social Forum

November 3, 2025, at Thammasat University, Bangkok. Side event on intersectional economic justice; statement for inclusive digital and financial system.

Global Caste-Free World Conference

Toronto, Canada, from May 25–27, emphasized the importance of inclusive policies at both national and international levels; policies that reflect the voices and experiences of Dalits, women and girls.

Global dialogue on investing in women

Copenhagen, February 10, 2025; shared insights on economic independence and emphasized women's empowerment as a continuous effort toward equity and inclusion.

UPR Pre-session

November 28, 2025 - met with member states to highlight ongoing caste-based discrimination and the need for stronger protections in Nepal's upcoming fourth-cycle review.



**A Statistical Report on
Dalits in Nepal 2021**

01

A STATISTICAL REPORT ON DALITS IN NEPAL 2021

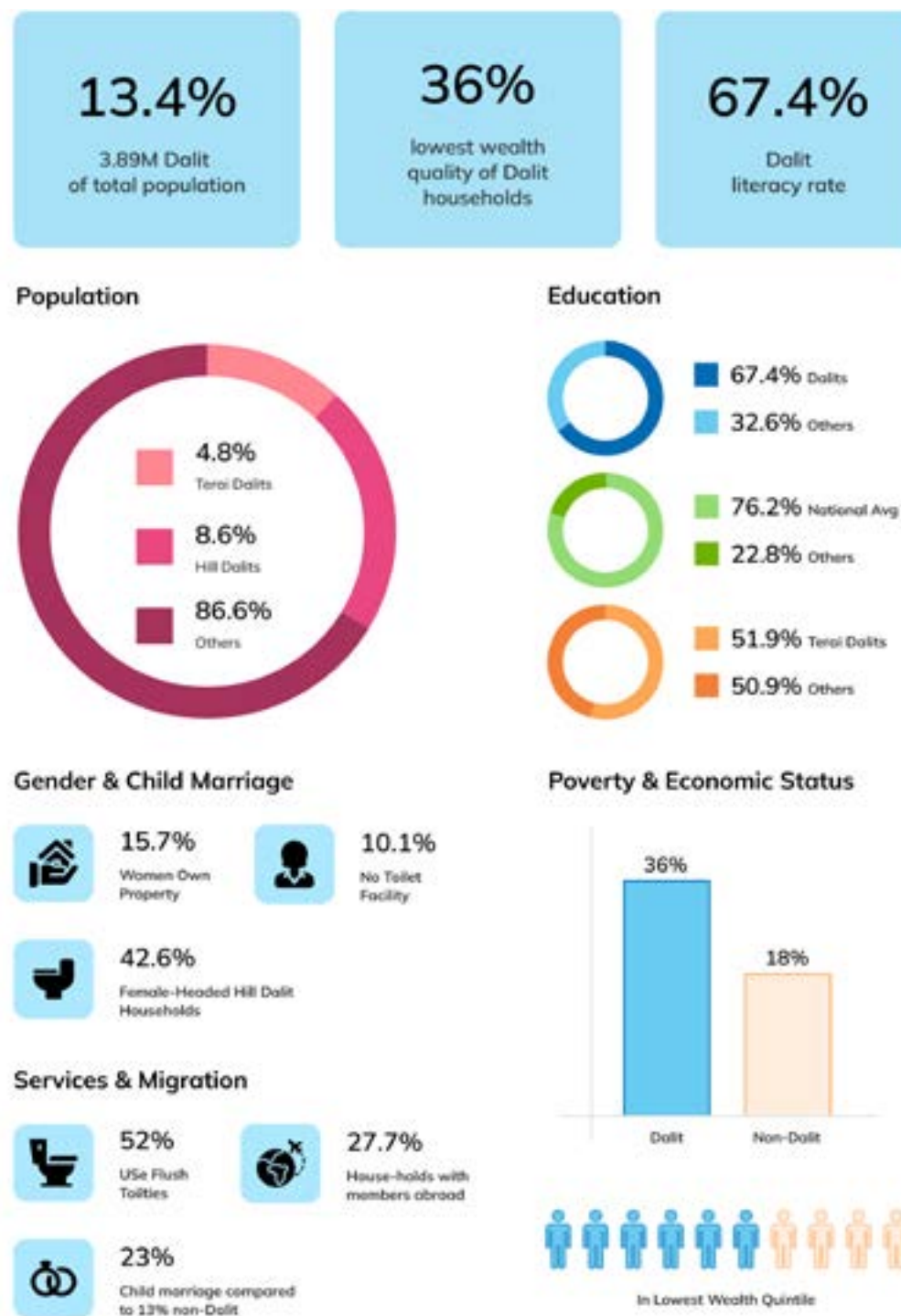
In collaboration with the National Statistical Office (NSO), a comprehensive statistical report based on the National Population and Housing Census 2021 (2078 B.S.) was jointly launched, highlighting the socio-economic, demographic, and educational status of Dalit communities in Nepal, with a particular focus on Dalit women. The report provides disaggregated evidence on persistent inequalities and structural barriers, serving as a critical foundation for inclusive and data-driven policymaking.

Key discussions highlighted gaps in the implementation of the Dalit Empowerment Act, limited representation of Dalits in decision-making spaces, and continued barriers to accessing basic rights and opportunities. The initiative reinforced the importance of using evidence to inform policy and advance accountability toward addressing caste- and gender-based disparities. Following the

launch, a dialogue program based on findings from the National Census was organized in four districts including Dang, Kailali, Biratnagar and Janakpur using Census 2078 data to discuss the social, economic, and educational status of the Dalit community, emphasizing evidence-based policymaking with participation from key government, civil society, and diplomatic stakeholders. The primary objective of the program was to facilitate discussion among provincial government stakeholders on the statistical realities of Dalits and Dalit women, with the aim of strengthening their responsiveness in the formulation and implementation of inclusive provincial policies and programs. Participants discussed gaps in the implementation of the Dalit Empowerment Act, limited representation of Dalits in decision-making bodies, and persistent barriers to basic rights and opportunities.



Key Data Highlights: Dalit Communities in Nepal (Census 2021)





Thematic Achievements Overview

02

THEMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS OVERVIEW

Pillar 1: Economic Empowerment



Figure 5: Pillar 1 Economic Empowerment

The Economic Empowerment pillar focuses on strengthening Dalit women's access to productive resources, skills, and livelihood opportunities, enabling greater participation in decent work and entrepreneurship. Through community-based initiatives, women are organized into groups that promote savings, collective learning, and economic activities.

In 2025, 470 women's groups were mobilized across districts, engaging 10,657 Dalit women in savings and credit groups or cooperatives. These groups serve as platforms for financial inclusion, mutual support, and livelihood development.

To enhance skills and employment opportunities, 1,153 Dalit women aged 18 and above accessed vocational and skill development training through CTEVT-certified courses of 3 to 6 months in both traditional and non-traditional trades. As a result, 1,634 Dalit women were engaged in employment or self-employment in sectors such as small businesses, agriculture, and livestock. Additionally, 879 Dalit women established or operated micro-enterprises with the support of seed capital and livelihood assistance. These efforts contributed to strengthening Dalit women's economic independence and expanding opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

SUCCESS STORY

SELF HELP GROUPS FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Mahunyal Self Help Group (SHG) is a women's group in Bhajani LGU, Ward No. 1, Kailali. The group has 25 members. They work to stop harmful practices such as child marriage, untouchability, caste discrimination, domestic violence, and menstrual taboos. Members completed 28 reflect sessions from the Gender Transformative Manual. These sessions built their awareness of gender, power, and rights. They learned communication, negotiation, and decision making. Members now speak confidently as community leaders and local advocates. The group made four Community Action Plans on ending child marriage, gender violence, caste discrimination, and drug abuse. They do door-to-door awareness, hold rallies and street dramas, and coordinate with the ward office, police, and service providers. To challenge the idea that business is only for men, six SHG members started a group tailoring

business in December 2024. The project gave NPR 130,000 to set up the collective. Four members already had sewing skills and trained the others. After ten months the business runs smoothly. Each member now earns about NPR 15,000 per month. They record daily costs and pay expenses from sales. The group saved NPR 30,000 and invested NPR 20,000 in materials in April 2025. They plan to buy winter and festive stock next. The group received public recognition on 8 March 2025 during Bhajani LGU's International Women's Day program. The mayor and deputy mayor praised them and gave an appreciation letter and NPR 1,530 as an honor. Members say the income helped their families and increased their decision making at home. One leader, Ganga Damai, said the reflect sessions taught her to communicate and solve many problems with her family. The group asks for more financial and technical support, financial literacy training, and links to local markets. They are committed to working together to grow the business and support other women in the community.



SUCCESS STORY

STORY OF DEVI BISHWAKARMA

I am Devi Bishwakarma, a resident of Khayerbani, Belaka Municipality, Udayapur. Despite its municipal status, my village remains remote and isolated from the district headquarters. For years, our community was held back by poverty, illiteracy, and deep-seated social issues such as caste-based discrimination, gender violence, and child marriage. Initially, I stood alone against these injustices, but my efforts gained momentum after FEDO intervened. The organization helped us establish the "Juntara Dalit Women's Group," where we began a disciplined monthly saving of 50 rupees. This collective fund eventually grew to approximately Rs. 87,000, allowing us to handle our financial needs independently. Beyond financial support, the team provided transformative training on human rights, entrepreneurship, and legal literacy. We

learned that caste discrimination is a punishable offense and realized our right to access municipal budgets. This knowledge empowered us to hold perpetrators accountable even involving the police when necessary and to build a direct working relationship with local government offices. With seed money provided by FEDO, I turned my pickle-making training into a business. By combining a small loan with my personal savings, I began selling products from shop to shop and eventually opened my own Chatpatey stall. Today, I am no longer just a victim of circumstance; I am recognized as a "Leader Woman" and a successful entrepreneur in my village. Our success has even inspired neighboring Magar and Tamang communities to form their own groups. I am deeply grateful to FEDO for this empowerment and hope such support reaches Dalit women across every municipality.



Pillar 2: Human Rights and Access to Justice



The Human Rights and Access to Justice pillar focuses on strengthening the protection of Dalit women and girls from human rights violations and ensuring improved access to justice and support services. Efforts under this pillar emphasize legal awareness, psychosocial support, and advocacy to address caste-based discrimination and gender-based violence.

In 2025, 395 Dalit women claimed justice and accessed legal aid services, including cases related to caste-based discrimination and gender-based violence. These interventions supported women in reporting violations and seeking justice through formal mechanisms.

Community-level engagement and awareness initiatives contributed to 2,103 Dalit women reporting a reduction in experiences of violence, including fewer discriminatory behaviors, derogatory language, and caste-based or gender-based abuses within

households and communities. Additionally, 2,436 Dalit women accessed psychosocial counseling and related support, including referrals for counseling services, mediation support, and participation in psychosocial orientation and training programs. Efforts to promote social change also contributed to 735 Dalit girls being married after the age of 20, reflecting growing awareness around delayed marriage and the importance of education and empowerment. At the advocacy level, five Dalit women's issues related to caste-based discrimination, gender-based violence, human rights, climate justice, and economic security were raised at international platforms such as UN forums and global advocacy processes.

These initiatives contributed to strengthening protection mechanisms, enhancing access to justice, and amplifying the voices of Dalit women at both national and international levels.

SUCCESS STORY

THE HAPPINESS CITIZENSHIP BROUGHT TO MY FAMILY

For many, citizenship may seem like a simple document, but for families without it, life becomes full of barriers. In Bardiya, Sushila Rasaili, married to an Indian national, lived for decades without citizenship. Because of this, her two sons could not obtain birth registration or citizenship, and the family was excluded from basic services such as banking, savings groups, and access to loans. Even her elder son's marriage and the birth of his children could not be legally registered.

The absence of citizenship created deep hardship and conflict within the family. Despite repeated attempts with lawyers and local

authorities, the process failed. The family lost hope, and Sushila herself fell into despair.

Support finally came through the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) Bardiya. FEDO representatives accompanied her to the ward office and district administration office, ensuring her citizenship was issued in 2075 BS. This allowed her to open bank accounts, join women's groups, and begin saving. FEDO continued to advocate for her sons, and in 2082 BS, both sons received their citizenship. Their marriage and birth registrations were also completed.

Today, the family enjoys restored dignity and opportunity. With citizenship, they can access services, secure livelihoods, and plan for the future. Sushila credits FEDO Bardiya for bringing hope and happiness back to her household.



Pillar 3: Leadership Development and Participation



Figure 7: Leadership Development and Participation

The Leadership Development and Participation pillar aims to strengthen the leadership roles and participation of Dalit women and girls across social and political spheres. Efforts under this pillar focus on building leadership capacity, promoting political engagement, and creating opportunities for Dalit women to actively participate in decision-making processes at different levels.

In 2025, 1,308 young Dalit women under the age of 40 were engaged in social and political leadership roles across party structures, local government bodies, and community-based institutions. At the community level, 510 frontline leaders actively raised the voices of Dalit women through local advocacy and grassroots mobilization. This was further strengthened through the formation and orientation of young frontline leaders in districts such as Rupandehi and Kapilvastu, enhancing their capacity in advocacy, lobbying, and community engagement. At the same time, strengthened collaboration among elected women representatives through common forums at municipal levels contrib-

uted to improved coordination between ward members, municipal leaders, and local authorities, promoting inclusive governance and social cohesion. To further enhance leadership capacity, 817 elected and potential Dalit women leaders received role-specific trainings, including leadership development, public speaking, advocacy and networking, gender and feminism, disaster risk reduction, gender-responsive budgeting, and social accountability. Advocacy efforts also contributed to 20 policies being drafted, adopted, or improved to support the inclusion of Dalit women in leadership and decision-making spaces, addressing key areas such as gender equality and social inclusion, gender-based violence, caste-based discrimination, and gender-responsive planning and budgeting. These initiatives supported the emergence of confident grassroots leaders, strengthened networks of elected women representatives, and enhanced Dalit women's meaningful participation in governance and community decision-making processes.

SUCCESS STORY

FROM SILENCE TO LEADERSHIP THE STORY OF ISHWARI NEPALI, KASKI, GANDAKI PROVINCE

Ishwari Nepali's life changed when she became part of the Naya Kiran Dalit Women's Network formed by FEDO Kaski in 2077 BS. Before this, she had little knowledge about her rights and very limited space to speak. After joining the network, she found confidence, knowledge, and a strong voice. She says, "At first I did not understand what local government was, but slowly I learned." Through FEDO, she received trainings on gender based violence, caste discrimination, leadership, and public speaking. These trainings helped her understand her rights and the problems faced by women in her community. With this support, Ishwari stepped into leadership. She became the chairperson of the Batulechour Women Farmers' Group. Under her leadership, women began saving money every month and started small businesses. The group also became a safe space to talk about domestic violence, caste discrimination, and other challenges women faced. Ishwari did not stop there. In 2079 BS, she led a road construction project and successfully secured a budget of 500,000 rupees from the local government. This showed her growing confidence and ability to work with local authorities.

She also became active in social work. As a member of the Suicide Prevention Committee, she provided counseling and helped save 18 women from suicide attempts. She supported five survivors of domestic violence by coordinating with police and local services. She also helped people with disabilities access social

security support and raised funds for families in need. Her leadership also created economic opportunities. With support from FEDO and coordination with the local government, group members received support for tunnel farming and beekeeping. Ishwari herself started tunnel farming and began earning daily income. She realized the importance of women's economic independence. She says, "When women earn and manage household expenses, family behavior changes positively." Through her leadership, different trainings and programs were organized in the community. These included leadership development, gender based violence awareness, and income generating skills like pickle making and farming. Many women in the group benefited from these opportunities. Ishwari also raised her voice against discrimination, even within her own community. Despite challenges, she continued to speak up and take action. Over time, her work brought visible change. Today, Ishwari is known as a leader in her community. She shares, "People who once ignored me now greet me with Namaste Ma'am." She credits FEDO for this transformation. With the platform and support she received, she was able to grow, lead, and support others. Now, she continues to inspire other Dalit women to raise their voices, claim their rights, and become self-reliant.



Pillar 4: Inclusive Governance and Social Justice



Figure 8: Inclusive Governance and Social justice

The Inclusive Governance and Social Justice pillar strengthened Dalit and Dalit women's participation in decision-making and improved access to state resources, services, and opportunities. In 2025, FEDO's advocacy and engagement focused on inclusive policy development, social accountability, and participatory governance.

Through 1,370 social accountability initiatives, communities engaged with local authorities to promote gender-responsive and Dalit-friendly governance. Advocacy efforts including 91 interactions with government stakeholders, campaigns, delegations, and policy discussions supported the integration of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) concerns into laws, policies, and programs. These included consultations on the Draft Dalit Empowerment Bill and federal-level dialogues on

implementing Dalit constitutional rights, emphasizing women's representation, participatory drafting, and coordination among Dalit leadership networks and civil society for effective implementation.

FEDO also facilitated access to essential services, helping 357 people obtain vital registration and citizenship documents, and enabling 1,152 Dalit and Dalit women to access government entitlements such as social security, land services, scholarships, vaccination, and employment support. Continued advocacy contributed to NPR 8,430,000 allocated as targeting Dalit women, reflecting strengthened prioritization in public resource allocation. These initiatives reinforced Dalit women's engagement in governance, promoted inclusive policy development, and enhanced equitable access to services and decision-making processes.

SUCCESS STORY

ACCESSING EDUCATION AND LEGAL EMPOWERMENT FOR DALIT WOMEN.

In Bajhang District of Sudurpashchim Province, caste discrimination continues to affect the lives of Dalit communities. Rama Kumari Pariyar experienced exclusion and humiliation in school, which strengthened her resolve to fight injustice through education and law.

Her family's financial condition made higher studies almost impossible. With parents working as tailors and daily wage laborers, she struggled to pay fees and was at risk of leaving education altogether. At this critical time, the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) provided a scholarship that covered tuition

and stationery. This support allowed her to continue her studies and complete higher education.

Today, Rama Kumari is committed to using her legal knowledge to advocate for Dalit women and provide free legal assistance to economically disadvantaged individuals. Her journey shows how FEDO's intervention in education and empowerment can transform barriers into opportunities, ensuring that Dalit women become active voices for justice and equality.

Along with Rama, 8 students from different parts of Nepal were provided such scholarships supported by FEDO along with FJS. This initiative is to legally empower the newer generation in inclusive and effective advocacy and to also bridge opportunities with equity.



Pillar 5: Gender Responsive Humanitarian Assistance



Figure 9: Gender Responsive Humanitarian Assistance

The Gender Responsive Humanitarian Assistance pillar focuses on ensuring that Dalit women and vulnerable communities have equitable access to humanitarian assistance and protection services during disasters and emergencies. Interventions emphasize relief support, preparedness, advocacy for inclusive disaster management, and strengthening institutional capacity for gender and inclusion monitoring. In 2025, 230 people received relief packages coordinated through FEDO, including food and non-food items, medical support, and hygiene kits to address immediate needs of disaster-affected households. Targeted responses in climate-affected areas further supported vulnerable communities, including Musahar households in Biratnagar affected by flooding, and the distribution of winter clothing to vulnerable households in coordination with key stakeholders, prioritizing women, children, and senior citizens. These interventions helped mitigate immediate food and health insecurities while highlighting the need for long-term resilience and safe housing.

Institutional capacity was strengthened with 41 staff and members trained on gender and inclusion monitoring, improving the tracking of humanitarian programs and budgets from the perspective of Dalit and marginalized women. Additionally, 51 families affected by emergencies were supported to overcome daily survival challenges through access to essential services such as food, shelter, healthcare, safe drinking water, and sanitation. Advocacy efforts remained central, with 78 initiatives promoting gender-responsive and Dalit-friendly disaster management across prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery phases. Furthermore, NPR 18,430,020 in resources was mobilized through coordination with government bodies to support humanitarian response and community resilience. These efforts contributed to strengthening inclusive humanitarian action and improving access to protection and essential services for Dalit women and vulnerable communities.

SUCCESS STORY

REPORT ON CLOTHES DISTRIBUTION DURING COLD WAVE

Manav Sewa Ashram, Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), and the National Human Rights Commission, Koshi Province jointly organized a program to collect and distribute clothes to Dalit communities who were forced to live in hardship due to the cold season. The program targeted families living in very marginalized Dalit settlements of Biratnagar Metropolitan City and Budhiganga Rural Municipality in Morang district. Clothes were collected from different places and managed according to need. About 160 households were prioritized, especially those with children, women, elderly people, and individuals in very weak conditions. Distribution focused on reaching these groups effectively. The cold season had a clear impact on economically weak and marginalized communities. Without enough warm clothes, they faced health risks, disruption in daily work, and difficulty in living. The distribution of clothes provided immediate relief and also contributed to health protection. The cooperation between Human Service Ashram, FEDO, and the National Human Rights Commission played an important role in making the program effective and wide-reaching. Coordination among institutions helped in collecting resources, managing them, and distributing them properly, while also identifying the real needs at the local level.

RELIEF BROUGHT HAPPINESS TO RANO RISHIDEV

Rano Rishidev, a member of the Musahar community in Biratnagar Metropolitan City, Ward No. 12, Bakhi, faced a major crisis during the heavy rains in Ashoj. Floods entered her house and washed away all stored food. With no grain to cook, her family had to stay hungry for days. As daily wage earners, their income also stopped, leaving them completely helpless. In this difficult situation, the relief materials provided through FEDO became life-saving for her family. Basic food items like lentils, rice, oil, and salt allowed them to cook again. For Rano, this was not just food, but hope returning to her home. She said with emotion: "When we had no way to eat, this support gave us the basis to survive. For poor families like ours, it was a big help." The happiness on her face after receiving relief showed the real impact of the program. Today, she is not only a recipient of support but also an active member of the "Shraddha Dalit Women's Group," encouraging other women to stand together during crises.

She expressed gratitude to FEDO: "Thank you for remembering us in difficult times. This support gave us courage to live and strength to move forward."



Cross-Cutting Issues

03

CROSS- CUTTING ISSUES

- 1. Inclusive participation** was strengthened by engaging men, boys, and individuals from diverse caste groups, leading to positive shifts in attitudes, increased shared household responsibilities, and stronger support for girls' education. Community dialogue platforms like Chalphal Chautari further promoted awareness on gender equality, GBV, and IPV.
- 2. Collaboration between Dalit and non-Dalit communities** fostered mutual understanding, social cohesion, and collective action to address caste- and gender-based discrimination.
- 3. Youth engagement** remained a priority through awareness campaigns, school enrollment drives, and interactive programs that challenged harmful practices such as child marriage and dowry while promoting education and civic participation. These efforts also improved access to government schemes, vocational training, and livelihood opportunities.
- 4. Digital literacy** initiatives enhanced awareness on cyber threats and technology-facilitated violence, equipping women and youth with skills to safely navigate online spaces.
- 5. Scholarships for highly marginalized students** expanded access to legal education, supporting the development of future professionals committed to justice and equality.
- 6. Engagement with media** strengthened inclusive and responsible reporting, amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and contributing to more balanced public narratives.
- 7. Climate justice** was integrated across interventions, emphasizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized women. Advocacy efforts promoted gender-responsive policies, budgeting, and inclusive disaster management, supported by community awareness and policy dialogue at multiple levels.
- 8. Waste management and environmental sustainability** initiatives were carried out in Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City, Banke, including Khajura-8 (Raniyapur) and surrounding wards. Activities included coordination meetings, ward-level awareness on climate change, and training on waste management and organic compost production. Public waste bins were installed in key areas to promote proper waste disposal and cleaner surroundings.
- 9. Community-level climate change sensitization programs** were conducted in Baijanath, Duduwa, and Khajura rural municipalities of Banke, reaching women and marginalized groups. School-based sessions further promoted environmental awareness, focusing on disaster preparedness, tree plantation, and reducing plastic use.



04

Project Achievements

01

Hamro Sahakarya - Pathways from trauma to empowerment - fostering social norms change through storytelling and collective mobilization

Partners: UN Women

Coverage: Kailali, Doti & Surkhet



Result Area	Key Achievements 2025
Referral Mechanism & Access to Justice	64 volunteers and LGU members strengthened on gender-responsive referral systems; 1,004 marginalized individuals aware of services; 99 GBV survivors accessed legal aid, counselling and support; 3 LGUs allocated NPR 62,000 to sustain referral village clinics.
Leadership & Collective Mobilisation	131 SHG members engaged in leadership roles within LGUs and community structures; 3 women's collectives established promoting group enterprises and local advocacy.
Livelihood & Economic Empowerment	206 women received re-skilling and livelihood support (goat raising, tailoring, retail, poultry and pig farming); group-based enterprises established in multiple LGUs.
Social Norm Change & Community Engagement	3,981 individuals (including men, boys and adolescents) engaged through inter-generational dialogues addressing caste, gender and harmful practices; strengthened community advocacy and movement building.

Overall Impact

- Strengthened community-based referral systems and access to justice for marginalized groups
- Increased leadership and participation of Dalit and marginalized women in local governance
- Improved livelihoods and economic resilience through skills and enterprise support
- Fostered social norm change through collective dialogue and community mobilisation

02

PAHUCH- Promoting Access to services and resources, human rights, uplift voice and reach of individuals and communities facing hindrance

Partners: Dan Church Aid (DCA)

Coverage: Banke



Result Area	Key Achievements 2025
Climate Action & Local Planning	3,620 individuals adopted climate-friendly practices (composting, plantation, biogas use); 3 LDGRP plans developed and 2 endorsed by Rural Municipalities.
Economic Empowerment & Financial Inclusion	70 women's groups strengthened with savings of NPR 6.4 million and NPR 310,000 interest; 305 women accessed subsidies worth NPR 2.5 million, earning Rs. 15,000–20,000/month; 55 Dalit women started enterprises; 21 registered and 20 in process; 1 women-led agricultural cooperative established.
Access to Services & Governance	340 individuals accessed citizenship, registration and social security services; 306 CAPs submitted with 48 approved (NPR 4.77 million allocated); 135 groups engaged in RM networks securing NPR 1.3 million.
Livelihood & Institutional Linkages	37 women's groups registered in Animal Husbandry and 68 women in Agriculture units; livelihood activities expanded (vegetable farming, livestock, small businesses).
Access to Justice & Rights Protection	77 cases of violence and rights violations supported through referral mechanisms; cases addressed through police, court and local judicial committees.
Digital Outreach & Awareness	30,000 people reached through social media campaigns; 14 women entrepreneurs promoted businesses through digital platforms.

Overall Impact

- Strengthened climate resilience and sustainable practices at community level
- Increased economic independence and enterprise development among Dalit women
- Improved access to government services, resources and local governance processes
- Strengthened justice mechanisms and support for survivors of violence
- Expanded community voice and digital engagement for advocacy and awareness

03

Strengthening Organizational Policies, Human Resource Capacity, M&E and Communication Systems of FEDO

Partner: Foundation for a Just Society (FJS)

Coverage: All Provinces



Result Area	Key Achievements 2025
Policy Strengthening & Governance	Revised organizational policies disseminated through provincial and national orientation programs; 112 district, provincial and central committee members oriented; FEDO Constitution amended to strengthen governance and institutional accountability.
Capacity Building of Staff & Mobilizers	Specialized trainings conducted for social mobilizers and program staff on community engagement, case story documentation, result-based reporting and proposal development; strengthened program quality and resource mobilization capacity.
Financial Management & Accountability	Financial management training conducted to strengthen compliance with government regulations, taxation and internal control systems; enhanced transparency, accountability and financial governance.
Organizational Leadership & Structure	Five district boards reformed and two new district boards established, strengthening leadership and expanding FEDO's institutional presence at the grassroots level.
Institutional Strengthening of District Chapters	Targeted institutional support provided to Jajarkot and Lalitpur chapters, enabling effective governance, successful AGM completion, and improved operational management.
Global Advocacy & Partnerships	Active participation in international forums including the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Global Conference for a Caste-Free World; strengthened global advocacy for Dalit women's rights and expanded international partnerships.
Transparency & Organizational Accountability	Comprehensive Social Audit conducted and findings shared with government stakeholders, reinforcing transparency and evidence-based decision-making.
Communication & Knowledge Management	Documentary video produced highlighting FEDO's work and advocacy; key publications including the Annual Report and Beijing+30 report developed; website regularly updated to enhance visibility and outreach.

04

Locally led movement for Rights to Food and Dignity of Marginalized Women (Our Lead Project)

Partners: Fastenaktion (FA)



Coverage: Surkhet

Result Area	Key Achievements 2025
Community Organisation & Capacity Building	1,468 Dalit households organized into 67 Dalit women's groups; 67 lead volunteers facilitated REFLECT classes; 20 agroecology facilitators trained (MTOT); 10 nursery facilitators trained; project staff strengthened in agroecology, seed management and participatory tools.
Food Security & Agroecology Promotion	131 kitchen gardens established (5+ vegetable varieties including indigenous crops); 1 community seed bank established; village nurseries supported; sustainable farming practices promoted.
Women's Empowerment & Leadership	Dalit women actively engaged in decision-making, agroecology initiatives, and community planning processes across all wards.
Health, Nutrition & Social Awareness	Nutrition, hygiene and harmful practice awareness conducted in all women's groups; 76 households began using water filters; toilets constructed for 2 families; malnourished children received health support; girls and women enrolled in education programs; harmful practices such as Chhaupadi reduced.
Civic Engagement & Rights Access	Landless families supported in land application processes; community proposals submitted through seven-step budget planning process; strengthened coordination between community and local government ensuring timely proposal submission and increased local ownership.

Overall Impact

- Strengthened community capacity and institutional engagement
- Improved food security and sustainable agriculture practices
- Enhanced leadership and participation of Dalit women
- Increased collaboration and trust between community and local authorities

05

Hamro Sahas Programme – Feminist Movement Building for Social Norm Change

Partners: UN Women



Coverage: Lumbini / Arghakhachi, Gulmi, Kapilvastu and Rupandehi

Result Area	Key Achievements 2025
Community Movement Building	Inclusive Self-Help Groups (SHGs) strengthened as safe spaces for dialogue on caste, gender, disability and access to justice; SHGs evolved into local advocacy platforms raising community issues with authorities.
Community-Government Dialogue & Accountability	Chalfal Chautari multi-stakeholder forums facilitated at ward and municipal levels; issues of caste-based discrimination, GBV, child marriage and disability inclusion discussed; improved responsiveness and accountability from local leaders.
Engaging Men, Boys & Faith Leaders	Dialogue sessions with faith leaders, men and boys promoted positive masculinity, shared household responsibility and non-violence; challenged discriminatory social and religious norms.
Access to Justice & Civic Awareness	Civic education on citizenship and vital registration; legal mobile clinics conducted; referral coordination mechanisms strengthened; improved awareness on legal and psychosocial services.
Capacity Strengthening of Women's Rights Organizations	Gender-transformative and feminist leadership trainings delivered; partner organizations strengthened in facilitation, advocacy and inclusive practices; trained facilitators leading structured reflective dialogues.
Well-being & Sustainability of Activism	Psychosocial well-being and self-care trainings supported frontline leaders to address burnout and sustain long-term engagement in social norm change work.

Overall Impact

- Strengthened grassroots feminist movement across four districts
- Increased confidence and collective agency of Dalit and marginalized women
- Improved dialogue and accountability between communities and local governments
- Enhanced institutional capacity of women's rights organizations
- Initiated visible early shifts in harmful social norms and discriminatory practices

06

Strengthening Governance for Development and Social Justice of Disadvantage Women

Partners: BroT / Helvetas Nepal

Coverage: Dhanusha, Doti and Kaski



Result Area	Key Achievements 2025
Group Strengthening & Financial Mobilization	1,559 Dalit women mobilized in 60 groups; total group savings reached NPR 9,074,543; 23 groups raised issues with local government (5 formal engagements).
Economic Empowerment & Livelihoods	54 women started small-scale businesses (32 through group loans; 24 with local government support); 56 women earning regular income; NPR 1,910,000 mobilized for capacity building, advocacy and business skill development.
Policy Advocacy & Budget Influence	153 proposals submitted to local governments; 19 approved; 77 elected Dalit women initiated budget allocation for Dalit and marginalized women; Gandaki Province passed Dalit Empowerment Bill; Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality passed Dalit Empowerment & Development Bill; Dalit Development Committees under formulation.
Leadership & Representation	94 Dalit women represented in key local structures (school, forestry, road, health, cooperatives); 420 Dalit women leaders strengthened in advocacy and rights mobilization; Elected Dalit Women Forums and Frontline Dalit Women Networks formed in all three districts.
Access to Justice & Rights Protection	49 cases of caste-based discrimination and GBV raised; 46 resolved through police, court and judicial committees; 3 cases under process; increased coordination with police and local government for justice support.
Awareness & Movement Building	Dalit women educated on constitutional provisions, CBD&U Act 2011 and GBV laws; strengthened coordination and networking with local and provincial governments; growing grassroots advocacy movement led by Dalit women.

Overall Impact

- Strengthened economic independence of Dalit women
- Increased representation in decision-making structures
- Improved access to justice for caste and gender-based violence survivors
- Influenced local and provincial policies for Dalit empowerment
- Built a strong, organized movement of Dalit women leaders across three districts

07

Enhancing Human Rights of Dalit Women and Girls in Nepal.

Partners: Foundation for a Just Society (FJS)

Coverage: Bardiya, Kailali, Surkhet, Dang, Morang and Makwanpur



Result Area	Key Achievements 2025
Policy Influence & Budget Allocation	Koshi Province allocated NPR 500,000; Morang LGUs allocated NPR 1,200,000; LGUs allocated NPR 10,998,000 to women's groups (FY 2082/083); Mahila Ko Sajha Thalo leaders influenced NPR 15,940,000 for Dalit empowerment across six districts; Dalit Empowerment Acts formulated/adopted in Bardiya, Kailali, Surkhet & Dang.
Access to Justice & Survivor Support	102 group members and 150 frontline leaders supported 160 cases of violence and discrimination; 25 serious cases (rape, CBDU, GBV) accessed legal and psychosocial support; 75 survivors received justice support through advocacy platforms.
Social Protection & Public Services	200 Dalits accessed social security schemes; 172 individuals enrolled in health insurance; 60 students received scholarships; strengthened coordination with justice mechanisms and service providers.
Economic Empowerment & Livelihoods	500 women received entrepreneurship training; 320 women established enterprises earning NPR 5,000–25,000/month; businesses include livestock, vegetable farming, tailoring, beauty parlors, grocery and small enterprises.
Education & Leadership for Dalit Girls	8 Dalit girls supported to pursue B.A.LL.B degree (4 full and 4 partial scholarships) through transparent scholarship guidelines and LGU verification process.
Social Norm Change & Institutional Engagement	District Administration Offices led Jatiya Bhedbhaaw Tatha Chhuchhut Unmulan Diwas in Morang, Bardiya & Kailali; improved public awareness and inter-agency collaboration; visible shifts in household gender roles and shared responsibilities.

Overall Impact

- Increased government accountability and budget commitment for Dalit empowerment
- Strengthened access to justice and survivor-centered support systems
- Expanded economic independence of Dalit women
- Enhanced access to education and leadership pathways for Dalit girls
- Promoted gender equality and anti-discrimination commitments at institutional and community level.

Mahila Samman (Women’s Respect) Women Empowerment and Access Project

Partners: Karuna Trust

Coverage: Kapilvastu, Rupandehi



Result Area	Key Achievements 2025
Education & Girls’ Empowerment	68 Dalit and marginalized girls re-enrolled in community schools; 65 girls received school bags from local government; 31 Dalit girls received PMT scholarships (NPR 6,000 annually); increased parental engagement and reduced school dropout rates.
Awareness on Gender Equality & Social Norm Change	95 community members (40 women, 20 men, 10 girls, 25 boys) gained confidence to speak against caste- and gender-based discrimination; 44 girls and 75 men and boys improved understanding of gender equality, GBV, and harmful practices such as child marriage and dowry.
Engagement of Men and Boys	26 men and 66 boys participated in dialogue sessions on ending GBV and promoting girls’ education; increased support for shared household responsibilities and improved family support for women and girls.
Skills Development & Livelihood Support	Women and girls received vocational training including beauty parlor, doll-making, tailoring, jewelry-making, shoemaking, electrician skills, computer training, anchoring, and minute writing; 7 women started small businesses earning NPR 600–5,000 per day.
Economic & Livelihood Assistance	Livelihood support provided through vegetable seeds, chicken coops, and goat shelter from local government and partner organizations; women trained in tailoring and shoemaking established income-generating enterprises.
Community Empowerment & Voice	Women, girls, and youth increasingly speaking out against caste- and gender-based discrimination; stronger community awareness and support for girls’ education and women’s participation in community activities.

Overall Impact

- Increased school retention and educational opportunities for Dalit girls
- Strengthened awareness on gender equality and harmful social practices
- Expanded livelihood skills and income opportunities for women and girls
- Greater engagement of men and boys in promoting gender equality
- Increased community confidence to challenge caste and gender discrimination

Strengthening Human Rights of Dalit and Marginalized women and girls in Nepal

Partners: KIOS Foundation

Coverage: Udaypur and Bara



Result Area	Key Achievements 2025
Economic Empowerment & Financial Inclusion	244 female and 63 male rights-holders trained on economic rights, financial literacy and business skills; 54+ women strengthened in small enterprises; couple trainings and public economic discourses promoted shared economic decision-making; improved access to credit, markets and sustainable livelihoods.
Policy Advocacy & Leadership Strengthening	350 women and girls trained in HRBA, leadership and advocacy; knowledge of elected Dalit women on planning and legal frameworks increased (20% to 40%); strengthened engagement in ward meetings, budget discussions and policy dialogues.
Duty-Bearer Engagement & Inclusion	29 duty-bearers (10 female, 19 male, including 3 persons with disabilities) sensitized on economic rights and legal provisions; inclusive approach engaging men and non-Dalit communities to reduce discrimination and strengthen solidarity.
Human Rights Documentation & Access to Justice	Frontline leaders strengthened in systematic case documentation and referral; 44 cases filed (Bara: 8 DV, 2 CBD, 2 citizenship, 2 GBV; Udayapur: 12 DV, 3 CBD, 6 citizenship, 9 GBV); coordinated support provided through police, judicial and ward committees.
Community Development & Livelihood Support (Bara)	1 community building and 5 houses constructed for Dalit families; 20 women completed Mudha (Machiya) training; goat livelihood support expanded (5 goats delivered offspring, 7 pregnant); 1 deep boring and 2 hand pumps installed improving water access.
Networking & Movement Building	Strengthened network of frontline leaders and elected representatives; increased digital advocacy skills; intergenerational exchanges fostered collective action for Dalit women’s rights and economic justice.

Overall Impact

- Increased economic independence and financial literacy of Dalit women
- Strengthened leadership, advocacy and policy engagement capacity
- Improved documentation and response to caste and gender-based violations
- Enhanced collaboration between community leaders and local governments
- Improved access to housing, water and livelihood resources in marginalized communities

Overview of Advocacy on National and Global Initiatives

05

OVERVIEW OF ADVOCACY ON NATIONAL AND GLOBAL INITIATIVES

FEDO Joins Global Dialogue on "Invest in Women In Copenhagen"



FEDO Join Global Dialogue on "Invest in Women In Copenhagen, FEDO joined the "Invest in Women" event organized by DCA HQ, where it shared insights on economic independence and the need for sustained investment in women's empowerment. Both engagements reinforced FEDO's commitment to advancing equity, inclusion, and justice for Dalit women at the global level.

69th CSW in New York

Every year, participation in the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) in New York provided an important platform to amplify the voices and concerns of Dalit women at the global level. Marking the Beijing+30 review, the engagement highlighted intersectional challenges and progress in advancing gender equality and social justice.



In collaboration with Women for Human Rights (WHR) and the Nepal National Dalit Network (NNBN), a side event titled “30 Years of the Beijing+ Journey: Highlighting Intersectional Perspectives, Challenges, and Progress” was organized. The event shared key insights from the Beijing+30 report and presented a video documentary reflecting the experiences and advocacy efforts of Dalit women. Participation also included several side and parallel events focusing on labor and economic justice, ending violence against women, and strengthening women’s leadership. Engagement in the NASO community event in Baltimore marking the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination further amplified Dalit voices and advocated for equality and justice at the international level.



CEDAW Concluding Observations: Interaction and Way Forward



Participation in the 90th pre-session of the UN CEDAW Committee in Geneva provided a key platform to raise issues affecting Dalit women and girls in Nepal. An oral statement, delivered in partnership with the International Dalit Solidarity Network, highlighted discrimination in access to justice, political participation, and inter-caste marriage protections, and called for stronger legal implementation and intersectional approaches. These priorities were reflected in the Committee’s concluding observations.

Following on the Recommendations of CEDAW, in the National Level



Building on this, an interaction programme was organized with the National Women Commission and consortium partners to disseminate the recommendations and identify implementation pathways. The discussion emphasized representation, access to services, and accountability



for Dalit and disabled women.

At the provincial level, a discussion in Biratnagar further explored practical implementation, highlighting challenges such as limited resources, low awareness, coordination gaps, and social norms. The need for coordinated action, sustained advocacy, and clear accountability mecha-



Engagement at the Asia-Pacific Social Forum (APSF) 2025

In Bangkok provided a regional platform to advance discussions on intersectional economic justice. A side event brought together civil society actors, social movements, and grassroots representatives from across the Asia-Pacific region. The discussion emphasized the need to move beyond gender mainstreaming and address caste and social identity within economic policies and investments. As a major takeaway, economic justice is inseparable from social justice, and stressed the importance of empowering Dalit and marginalized youth, strengthening access to education and dignified work, recognizing informal and home-based workers, and promoting inclusive digital and financial systems. A statement was also submitted, calling for equitable and justice-oriented economic systems that uphold the dignity and leadership of Dalit and marginalized women and girls.



Global Conference for a Caste-Free World 2025

Participation in the Global Conference for a Caste-Free World 2025 in Toronto provided an important platform to strengthen global solidarity towards ending caste-based discrimination. The conference brought together policymakers, civil society, human rights defenders, and activists from across regions to advance dialogue on equality and social justice. FEDO's Founder President participated as a speaker, sharing reflections from her decades-long advocacy and representing the voices and lived experiences of Dalit women and girls.

The engagement emphasized the need for inclusive national and international policies that reflect the realities and rights of Dalit communities, particularly women and girls. It also contributed to strengthening global advocacy and collective action towards a caste-free and just society.

UPR Stakeholder Engagement: National to Global Advocacy



PREPARATION

In preparation for Nepal's Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR 2026), coordinated efforts were undertaken to ensure Dalit voices are reflected in the stakeholders' report. A national consultation, in collaboration with the Dignity Initiative and Dalit civil society organizations, focused on developing a joint, inclusive submission with clear roles and responsibilities. This was followed by a National Validation Workshop in Kathmandu, where government representatives, human rights institutions, civil society, and development partners reviewed and strengthened the draft report.



Provincial consultations in Koshi and Gandaki further localized the process, engaging diverse stakeholders to identify key issues such as barriers to justice, implementation gaps, and structural discrimination, and to develop practical recommendations for national reforms and the UPR process.

LEADING UP TO THE SESSION

These efforts were carried forward to the UPR pre-session in Geneva, where engagement with member states and participation in key forums helped highlight caste-based discrimination and advocate for stronger protections, ensuring the concerns of Dalit women and marginalized communities are reflected in international human rights recommendations.



Provincial Dialogue for Equity and Inclusion

In 2025, province-level dialogues were conducted to advance the rights and leadership of Dalit women and promote inclusive governance.

In Koshi Province, the program brought together provincial assembly members, local representatives, elected women leaders, journalists, human rights advocates, and community leaders to discuss Dalit-friendly legislation, the Dalit Empowerment Bill, and strategies for equality and inclusion. A two-day orientation followed, enhancing leadership skills, networks, and advocacy capacity for young women and frontline leaders.

In Karnali (Surkhet) and Madhesh (Janakpur), dialogues focused on inclusive policy and budget planning. Participants including ministers, assembly members, local officials, journalists, and civil society reviewed previous policies and budgets, identified priorities, and recommended strategies for equitable development and meaningful participation of Dalits and women.

These initiatives strengthened participatory governance, built leadership capacity, and promoted accountability to ensure provincial planning is inclusive, responsive, and equitable.





Caste and Gender-Based Violence Against Women And Girls in Nepal

06



CASTE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN NEPAL

Every year, on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) releases its annual study on Caste- and Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls in Nepal. The report provides evidence-based insights to guide national advocacy and global efforts, including the UNiTE campaign.

Drawing on data from government, civil society, and media sources, the study highlights the scale, patterns, and structural drivers of violence, particularly affecting Dalit and marginalized communities.



It reveals that violence remains widespread and intersectional, with women and girls facing multiple forms of abuse and persistent barriers to justice.

The findings emphasize the urgent need for survivor-centered approaches, strengthened accountability, and systemic action to address structural inequalities and end caste- and gender-based violence.



Intersectional Inequality



Children at Risk



Major Crisis





Our 2025 Journey Glimpse

08

OUR 2025 JOURNEY GLIMPSE



10 bicycles were distributed in Duduwa Rural Municipality



31st Annual General meeting held at Chitwan



Common Forum' of Dalit women representatives in Morang



Woman from Jhagirti Mahila Krishak Samuha, Kaski, running a small hotel



Meeting with FJS Team at central FEDO



Compost bins and dustbins were distributed in Nepalgunj Metropolitan City



Poultry Farming Supported



Celebrating 31st Anniversary



IEC Material Distribution to frontline leaders at Bardiya



Advocating for Dalit issues across the country to the former government



Capacity building training



Historic transition for communities; from caste based to self-respect



Livelihood support in Udayapur



Relief material distribution in Morang



A women's group from Dhanusha running a fruit stall



Cross stitch training at Baijhanath, Banke



Monthly Women's Group Meeting at Kaski





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