



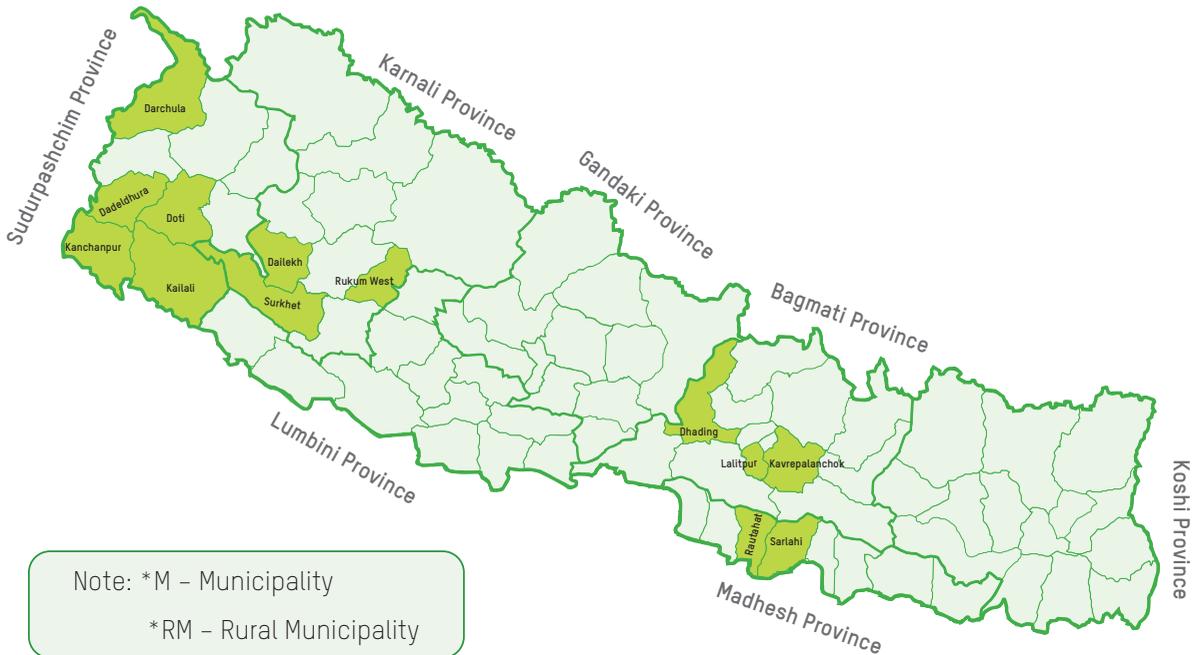
ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



OXFAM

The future is equal

OUR PRESENCE



Note: *M – Municipality
*RM – Rural Municipality

<p>Bagmati Province (District: Dhading – Benighat Rorang RM and Jwalamukhi RM, Kavrepalanchowk – Bethanchowk Rural Municipality, Namobuddha Municipality, and Temal Rural Municipality, Lalitpur)</p>	<p>Madhesh Province (Districts: Rautahat – Chandrapur M, Durga Bhagwati Rural Municipality, Gaur Municipality, Paroha Municipality, Rajdevi Municipality, Rajpur M, Yamunamai Rural Municipality, Sarlahi – Haripur M)</p>
<p>Karnali Province (District: Dailekh – Bhagwatimai RM and DUNGESHWOR RM, Rukum West – Sani Bheri RM and Aathbiskot M, Surkhet – Birendranager M)</p>	<p>Sudurpashchim Province (Districts: Darchula – Byans RM, Duhun RM, Lekam RM, Maalikarjun RM, Mahakali M, Dadeldhura – Aalital RM, Amargadhi M, Ganyapdhura RM, and Parshuram M, Doti – Joroyal RM, Kailali – Lamki Chuha M, Kanchanpur – Beldadi RM, Bhimdatta M, Dodhara Chandani M, Laljhadi RM, Krishnapur M)</p>

Cover: Kabita Luhar is one of the citizen scientists and an active WEC member from Dodhara Chandani Municipality, Kanchanpur District. She and WEC members have been involved in cleaning campaign of Mahakali River.

Photo: Kishor Sharma/Oxfam

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FOREWORD

This year stood as a powerful testament to the resilience of people and communities. From the high-altitude regions at the frontlines of climate change to the flatlands in the Terai, our collective progress has been driven by a shared commitment, proving that we are strongest when we work together. In a year marked by climatic uncertainty and shifting socio-economic landscapes, our commitment to building a more equitable and resilient Nepal remains steadfast. We focused our efforts on three strategic pillars to advance and deliver our critical mission.

1. Gender Justice: Moving Beyond Representation

True development is impossible if half the population is left behind. This year, we moved beyond inclusion toward transformative justice. We worked to dismantle the systemic barriers that limit women’s economic independence and leadership, ensuring that women and marginalized groups are not just participants, but decision-makers in local governance. Through targeted training in GESI, political participation, and gender responsive budgeting, we empowered 548 women, leading to 40 women securing formal roles in decision-making bodies.

2. Climate Justice and Resilience: Local Action, Lasting Impact

For Nepal, climate crisis is no longer a distant threat; it is a daily reality. By promoting climate-smart practices, we strengthened the economic resilience of more than 5,000 farmers. Our community seed production initiative has been a game-changer, providing farmers with affordable, high-quality seeds and significantly boosting local incomes. Beyond immediate response, we prioritized long-term stability through nature-based solutions and locally tailored adaptation strategies. We have empowered local NGOs to transition from disaster responders to preparedness leaders, reinforcing Early Warning Systems and training local first responders to protect their own communities.

3. Water Governance and WASH: Holistic Solutions for Shared Resources

Besides our work in ensuring safe water access, we successfully piloted an integrated watershed-level model in the Rangoon Watershed using the People’s Landscape Approach (PLA). This shift from fragmented to holistic planning has earned national recognition. Today, we serve as the Secretariat for the national Community of Practice on Water Resources, helping to shape the country’s water management standards.

The progress reflected in this report illustrates how collective will, people’s leadership, collaboration and partnerships can unleash potential and catalyze change. We extend our sincere appreciation to the individuals and communities who led with conviction, to partners and civil society for the dedication and collaboration, to supporters and donors for the unwavering belief in our mission, to the Oxfam teams and the confederation for the remarkable work and solidarity, and to the Government of Nepal for the support and cooperation.

We look forward to continuing this journey together for a future that is equal for all.

Tripti Rai
Country Director
Oxfam in Nepal



OUR REACH



99103

people were directly reached

55 %

were women and girls

29 %

were young people (15 – 24 years)



7753

people were directly reached through Gender Justice (GJ) Program



62,940

people were directly reached through Climate Justice and Resilience (CJR) Program



28,410

people were directly reached through Water Governance and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Program

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-25



6,267 climate-resilient entrepreneurs supported, with 70% women's participation.



2,800 jobs created, including 157 full-time positions.



40 women integrated into decision making bodies



1000 youth engaged in shadow governance and internships



300 water quality tests conducted by 109 women



4600 households have access to safe water

ABOUT OXFAM INTERNATIONAL

Oxfam is a global movement of people who are fighting injustice for a more equal world. Across regions, from local to global, Oxfam works with thousands of partners and allies, supporting communities to build better lives for themselves, grow resilience and protect lives and livelihoods also in times of crisis.

Because we want lasting solutions, we fight the inequalities that keep people locked in poverty and injustice, we tackle not the symptoms but the systems, and we campaign for genuine, durable change.

Oxfam is a global confederation that includes 22 member organisations, or affiliates, who

contribute their diverse strengths and expertise to help achieve our shared goals across more than 77 countries, including in Asia.

Our vision is a world that is just and sustainable. A world where people and the planet are at the center of our economy. Where women and girls live free from violence and discrimination. Where the climate crisis is addressed. And where governance systems are inclusive and allow for those in power to be held to account.

Our ambition is lasting impact. We make a difference by being part of a global movement for social justice.

OXFAM IN NEPAL

Oxfam's mission in Nepal as a humanitarian and development organization is to strengthen civic space and peoples' actions to end all forms of inequalities and social injustices, informed by a decolonial feminist lens rooted in the Global South. Oxfam has been working in Nepal since 1980s through various development, humanitarian and influencing initiatives in close collaboration and partnerships with people, organisations and institutions. Oxfam in Nepal has three interconnected programs viz. Gender Justice, Climate Justice and Resilience, and Water Governance and WASH to meet four country level goals.



Oxfam has been working in Nepal since 1980s through various development, humanitarian and influencing initiatives in close collaboration and partnerships with people, organisations and institutions.

COUNTRY GOALS



Goal 1 – We want to see women and girls have free choice, equal opportunities and hold positions of substantive and broad leadership in Nepal’s development, located within larger progress on social inclusion.



Goal 2 – We want to see young people, women, and poor marginalized groups, in urban and rural areas, have resilient livelihoods and more income.



Goal 3 – We want to see resilient communities through the increased coping capacity to disasters through localized risk management and response.



Goal 4 – We want to see strong governance of water and the capacity to address environmental management and climate emergency.

OXFAM CORE VALUES



EQUALITY

We believe everyone has the right to be treated fairly and to have the same rights and opportunities.



EMPOWERMENT

We acknowledge and seek to expand people’s agency over their lives and the decisions that impact them.



SOLIDARITY

We join hands, support, and collaborate across boundaries in working towards a just and sustainable world.



INCLUSIVENESS

We embrace diversity and difference and value the perspectives and contributions of all people and communities in their fight against poverty and injustice.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We take responsibility for our action and inaction and hold ourselves accountable to the people we work with and for.



COURAGE

We speak truth to power and act with conviction on the justice of our causes.



GENDER JUSTICE



The Gender Justice (GJ) program champions the right of every woman and girl to live free from fear and to lead with authority. The program adopts a feminist lens and works with grassroots Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and feminist alliances to advocate for the systemic inclusion of marginalized people and gender minorities at every level of power.

The GJ program engages people of all genders to challenge patriarchal values, harmful social norms, and the drivers of gender-based violence (GBV) and discrimination. The program works with partners and communities to advance the political and economic empowerment of women, youth, and marginalized groups, while ensuring the safety and protection of women and girls during humanitarian crises.

To ensure lasting impact, the program targets the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Improved knowledge, capacity and confidence of emerging young women leaders and elected women leaders on political system and governance.

Outcome 2: Capacitated youth challenge patriarchy, harmful social norms that contribute to violence.

Outcome 3: Improved capacity of CSOs on feminist principle, GESI mainstreaming approach and engagement in policy influencing.

Outcome 4: Government and non-government actors including unconventional partners (men, boys, religious leaders, faith healers, LGBTIQ+) actively engage in modelling positive behaviour, attitude and thinking.

In 2024-25, Oxfam reached 7,753 people through GJ program out of which 65 percent were women and 42 percent were young people (15-24).

The program significantly strengthened leadership and civic engagement among women and youth from marginalized communities. In Dadeldhura district, 548 women received training on gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), GESI, and political participation, resulting in 40 women joining decision-making bodies, nine of whom now serve as chairpersons. Through federal networking and the establishment of Women Leadership Platforms (WLP) and Youth Networks, participants influenced local policies on care work and GBV. Additionally, 592 emerging leaders were trained on gender equality, unpaid care work, and leadership, while more than 1,000 youth gained experience through shadow governance and internships, leading to increased representation and youth-led policy recommendations.

The program also empowered 1,123 young people (55 percent female) to lead gender equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). This translated into 21 youth-led collective actions against child marriage and GBV in Baitadi and Dailekh districts. A breakthrough in economic autonomy was achieved as 632 youth, primarily women, accessed financial services independently. Women who once relied on men to secure loans are now managing their own credit and businesses. Their ventures, ranging from bamboo crafts and vegetable farming to three-wheeler driving, unisex salons, wool weaving, and iron ore enterprises, are reshaping social norms and redefining women's roles as entrepreneurs.

Institutional capacity of four key partners, Yuwalaya, WAM, RUWDUC, and NEEDS Nepal, was strengthened, enabling transparent, accountable, and gender-transformative programming. These efforts culminated in national dialogues that secured federal commitment to uphold domestic workers' rights under ILO standards. At the local level, eight GESI and youth policies were endorsed across four municipalities, embedding systemic change into governance structures.

Finally, the program engaged 515 men and boys across Dailekh, Baitadi, and Kanchanpur districts to dismantle patriarchal norms and address caste-based discrimination. Led by 21 trained male change-makers, this initiative created safe spaces for men to reflect on harmful behaviors and unpaid care work. WLPs in Dadeldhura report a notable increase in male support for women's leadership and a growing openness to discussing gender issues.



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EMPOWERED TO LEAD: DHANA OAD'S PATH TO DECISION-MAKING

Dhana Oad from Amargadhi Municipality, Dadeldhura lives with her husband and two sons. Due to her family's financial hardship, she was married at a young age of 14, an event that cut short her education. However, Dhana's lived experience of caste and gender discrimination became the foundation of a lifelong commitment to driving social change.

In her community, women were confined to household chores, their mobility restricted, requiring family permission, and gender-based violence was widespread. Patriarchal norms

barred women from participating in public life and decision-making. For Dalit families, the discrimination was compounded, often being prohibited from entering dominant caste households, denied access to water, and excluded from social gatherings. These injustices ignited Dhana's deep desire to work toward women's development and challenge discriminatory norms.

Despite lacking formal knowledge of government policies or rights frameworks, Dhana persistently sought guidance from elders and community



Dhana Oad, Ward Member from Amargadhi Municipality-3 in Dadeldhura district of Sudurpashchim Province displaying her election victory certificate.

leaders, asking how she could contribute to eliminating gender and caste discrimination. She observed that men dominated decision-making spaces, and women were absent from leadership roles. Dhana aspired to attain such a position, not for status, but to initiate substantive change for marginalized communities.

Let Her Voice Be Heard: Transformative Leadership of Women Leaders in Nepal (TWLN) project, launched in Dadeldhura and Baitadi districts proved a turning point for Dhana. As part of its inception, Women Leadership Platform (WLP) was established in Amargadhi Municipality, where Dhana became a member. She received extensive capacity-building trainings on leadership, unpaid care work, harmful social norms (HSN), and gender equality. Regular meetings facilitated learning and experience-sharing sessions between elected women leaders and WLP members, offering practical strategies to navigate barriers within political parties and government structures.

Inspired by this comprehensive support, Dhana contested the Ward Committee local election and won, joining 15 other WLP members elected across Dadeldhura and Baitadi districts. This collective success demonstrated the power of inclusive platforms in enabling women's political participation.

Now serving as an elected official, Dhana continues to strongly advocate for ongoing capacity-building and greater clarity on roles and responsibilities to ensure she can fulfil her tenure effectively.

Her journey, from exclusion to respected leadership, embodies the transformative potential of inclusive political platforms and the resilience of women determined to redefine leadership roles.

"We need more trainings, more platforms, and more women in power. This is just the beginning," shares Dhana Oad.

EMPOWERING YOUTH, TRANSFORMING SOCIETIES

The Youth-led GESI Initiatives for COVID-19 Recovery Strategies and Action in Nepal, a three-year project co-funded by the European Union, and implemented by Oxfam in partnership with Yuwalaya and Women Association for Marginalized Women (WAM), concluded in December 2024.

Launched in January 2022 across four municipalities, Bhagwatimai Rural Municipality and Dugeswor Rural Municipality in Dailekh

district, Karnali Province and Patan Municipality and Dashrathchand Municipality of Baitadi district in Sudurpashchim Province, the initiative promoted youth participation in politics and economy while investing in capacity building.

The project prioritized multidimensional empowerment, equipping young people of all genders to drive social and economic change. Through informal education, policy dialogues, and GESI advocacy, youth strengthened their

ability to influence governance at multiple levels. Formal youth structures were established at ward and municipal levels, integrating young leaders into local planning and enabling them to secure youth-targeted budgets.

To complement civic engagement, the project enhanced financial security through vocational training and sub-granting mechanism like financial grant support to third party (FSTP), supporting participants to launch and manage sustainable micro-businesses.

Parallel to youth empowerment, the project built the institutional capacity of local governments, service providers, and stakeholders to foster inclusivity. This included advocating for GESI policy endorsement, supporting municipalities to form Youth Councils in line with National Youth Council guidelines, and equipping GBV service providers with survivor-centered approaches and referral mechanisms. Strategic coordination with cooperatives and financial institutions further strengthened financial pathways and long-term economic security for youth.



Patan Municipality Youth Network members pose for a group picture after a meeting. The Youth Network is a 15-member group (11 male, 4 female) led by a male chair and a female co-chair and has emerged as a powerful force for youth empowerment in Baitadi district.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Economic Empowerment:

- 907 youth completed financial literacy training.
- 101 youth entrepreneurs (70% female) scaled their businesses.
- 31 entrepreneurs (including 28 women) received direct FSTP support.
- 24 participants underwent specialized vocational training.
- 310 youth gained formal access to banks, cooperatives, and financial institutions.



Policy and Governance:

- Local governments endorsed GESI and Youth Council policies, creating a legal framework for Municipal Youth Networks.
- 284 youth participated in 13 policy dialogues (5 federal, 2 provincial, 6 local).
- 92 youth received good governance training.
- 16 youth interns gained hands-on experience in local government offices.
- 24 intergenerational dialogues fostered collaboration between youth and older generations to challenge harmful norms.



Protection and Health:



25

GBV cases were supported through safehouses and OCMCs.



42

survivors trained on legal rights, reporting mechanisms, and available services.



4

health posts established Youth Support Corners, expanding access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services.

By combining civic engagement, economic empowerment, institutional strengthening, and protection systems, the project created sustainable pathways for youth leadership and resilience. It not only expanded youth influence in governance but also reshaped local structures to be more inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of young people.



CLIMATE JUSTICE AND RESILIENCE



The Climate Justice and Resilience (CJR) Program focuses on strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacities of communities affected by climate shocks and disasters. By integrating climate preparedness with livelihood support, the program targets populations most vulnerable to environmental degradation and resource mismanagement.

The goal of the program is to foster a just world where progress continues amidst climate volatility and uncertainty. Oxfam advances localization by building local expertise and fostering women’s leadership to drive resilient,

community-led solutions. We advocate for climate finance that is adequate, predictable, and accessible, while partnering with communities and governments to bridge gaps in funding access.



The goal of the program is to foster a just world where progress continues amidst climate volatility and uncertainty.

The program works towards the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Youth and women from marginalized and disaster-affected communities have increased access to and utilization of productive resources, public and private sector services for increased on- and off-farm production and productivity.

Outcome 2: Inclusive and sustainable market including small and medium enterprises are developed to create employment opportunities and job and financial security for youth, women and marginalized groups in urban and rural settings.

Outcome 3: Small holder farmers including seasonal migrant families have resilient income through improved livelihoods and access to government's social protection and safety net programs.

Outcome 4: Local and provincial governments develop and implement favorable policies and programmes, including social safety nets, for youth and women employment and enterprise development.

Outcome 5: Local humanitarian leadership delivers effective, accountable, and gender-sensitive humanitarian assistance, particularly in WASH, EFSVL, shelter, gender and protection along the response and reconstruction spectrum.

Outcome 6: High-risk communities have reduced their exposure to disaster risks and become more resilient to the effects of natural disasters and climate-related shocks.

In 2024-25, Oxfam reached 62,940 people through the CJR program out of which 54 percent were women and 31 percent were young people (15-24).

The program is successfully addressing barriers such as youth migration by fostering rural economic opportunities. Through strategic partnerships, a local cooperative provided USD 54,967 (NPR 8 million) in financing to 41 youth, most of them women. Beyond finance, the program connects communities to essential services, including insurance and government disaster response units. A pilot group cash

transfer initiative has shown promising results in strengthening community leadership and ownership. Participants are now earning between USD 125 and USD 210 per month through diversified enterprises and livelihoods.

The program has promoted 6,267 climate-resilient entrepreneurs, with 70 percent women's participation. We have created nearly 2,800 jobs including 157 full-time jobs. The program has helped mobilize USD 123,676 (NPR 18 million) in public funding through national agriculture programs and provincial self-employment funds. A notable achievement includes securing

an international scaling opportunity with one enterprise supplying products to Sourced by Oxfam shops in the UK.

More than 5,000 farmers have adopted climate-smart practices such as poly-house cultivation, organic soil management, and mushroom farming. A standout success is the community seed production initiative, which has provided affordable, high-quality seeds and significantly increased household incomes. Local governments have now integrated these producers into official seed distribution and subsidy networks.

While local municipalities have drafted climate and DRR policies, implementation remains

challenged by funding and coordination gaps. To address this, Oxfam collaborates with provincial ministries to standardize inclusive agricultural practices, such as community seed banks, and convenes communities of practice on DRR.

Oxfam is moving beyond traditional aid by empowering local NGOs to lead. Partner NGOs have participated in national and international trainings, enhancing their capacities and securing leadership roles in platforms such as the Start Fund Steering Committee and the Humanitarian Partnership Platform. During the 2024 floods and landslides, local partners led the response, enabled by proactive standby agreements that ensured rapid, accountable action the moment disaster struck.

RESTORING KUNEKHARKA WSS: A COMMUNITY'S PATH TO RECOVERY

"Last year's relentless rain brought devastating floods and landslides, completely uprooting our community and our lives. It was an indescribably difficult situation, made even harder for us as women," explains Tulasa.

In September 2024, the devastating flood and landslide caused significant loss in Kavrepalanchowk district. Over 50 people died, and widespread destruction impacted homes, farmland, and crucial infrastructure, including water supply systems. The Kunekharka Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) scheme, which served 112 households, was among the most severely damaged by a landslide.

"We had to travel for almost an hour to the local water source to fetch water. It was incredibly

time-consuming," explained Tulasa Ghorasaini, 50, from Kunekharka, Bethanchowk Rural Municipality-10, Kavrepalanchowk district of Bagmati Province. Her husband, Ram Sharan Ghorasaini, added, "We didn't have access to safe drinking water until very recently, relying on temporary solutions. All our drinking water pipelines and sources were destroyed. The reconstruction of our water supply scheme has been a significant support in our lives."

The Kunekharka Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) scheme, initially funded by the province, drew water from Baghdwar, Narayansthan. It supplied drinking and irrigation water to 112 households, including 23 Dalit, 34 Janajati, and 55 other ethnic groups. The community heavily relied on agriculture and livestock, both of which were severely impacted by the water crisis.

The scheme's complete destruction, including water tanks, the reservoir, and pipelines, caused immense hardship, leading some families to consider relocating. Residents were forced to collect water from a nearby stream, a journey that took up to an hour of waiting and travel time.

As the crisis worsened, residents appealed to their ward office and rural municipality for help but faced initial delays. However, hope emerged when Shanti Jana Adarsha Sewa Kendra (SJASK), partnering with Oxfam and coordinating with the rural municipality, began restoring the Kunekharka WSS under the Flood and Landslide Response Project. A three-party agreement was signed between SJASK, the rural municipality, and the local WASH committee to facilitate the much-needed repairs.

With 7598 USD (NPR 1.1 million) allocated to the project, complemented by 2,951 USD (NPR 427,266) from the rural municipality and 798 USD (NPR 115,475) in labor donations from the WASH committee, the restoration work moved quickly.

As they look forward to this renewed supply, the residents of Kunekharka extend their heartfelt gratitude to all those who made this recovery possible. The rebuilding of the WSS is more than just infrastructure repair; it's a powerful testament to the community's resilience and their collective resolve to overcome adversity.

"We no longer have to wait or travel an hour to fetch drinking water," shared a happy Tulasa and Ram Sharan. "Our damaged water system has been reconstructed, repaired, and maintained, so now we drink right from our own tap."



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Tulasa and Ram Sharan Ghorasaini share that the repairs and maintenance of their water supply scheme have significantly improved their access to safe drinking water.



© Rachana Mukhia/Oxfam

The landslide caused partial damage to the Kunekharka WSS reservoir. Following this, protection work was carried out on the reservoir, and the distribution pipelines were rebuilt.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE: 2024 FLOOD AND LANDSLIDE RESPONSE

Between September 26 and 28, 2024, Nepal faced a catastrophic climate event. Extreme rainfall triggered widespread flooding and landslides, resulting in 250 fatalities, the displacement of over 10,800 households, and more than NPR 15 billion in damages to agriculture, hydropower, and critical infrastructure.

In partnership with local governments and local partners, FOCUS Nepal, RDC Nepal, and Shanti Jana Adarsha Sewa Kendra, Oxfam launched an integrated emergency response targeting 31,098 individuals across Dhading, Kavrepalanchowk, and Rautahat.

The intervention bridged the gap between immediate survival and long-term recovery.

Oxfam did more than just provide immediate relief after the devastating floods and landslides. In addition to distributing relief supplies, dignity kits, and winterization sets, Oxfam also gave cash support to help people meet their specific needs.

To ensure long-term recovery, Oxfam focused on rebuilding vital infrastructure. This included repairing 38 water supply systems in Dhading and Kavrepalanchowk districts to restore access to safe drinking water and fixing three irrigation canals to support the livelihoods of local farmers.

Oxfam's Response



1,370

households received
Cash Support.



37

water-supply schemes repaired



3,260

winterization sets



3

irrigation canals repaired



1,300

dignity kits



80

GBV survivors received cash support

Oxfam's response successfully combined rapid relief with community-led reconstruction. By prioritizing local labor and women's leadership, the program not only met immediate humanitarian needs but also strengthened the foundational resilience of disaster-affected communities.

FROM FEAR TO RESILIENCE: WOMEN LEADING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Aakriti Kasera, a resident of Pragati Tol in Dodhara Chandani Municipality, Kanchanpur, vividly remembers how disasters, particularly monsoon floods, once dictated their lives. Each year, the rising waters would sweep away crops, damage homes, and contaminate vital water sources, leaving the community isolated. Even as the floods receded, they left behind thick layers of sand and silt that rendered fertile fields uncultivable, trapping families in a cycle of poverty.

Beyond the water, the community faced a relentless barrage of windstorms, heatwaves, lightning, and threats from wild animals. With agriculture and daily labor as the primary sources of income, many men were forced to migrate to India for work. This left women, children, and the elderly to manage the households and



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Aakriti Kasera from Pragati Tol in Dodhara Chandani Municipality, Kanchanpur helping people move to a higher ground after the flood.

farms alone. Despite carrying the weight of their survival, women often lacked a voice in a male-dominated society. At that time, disaster management was purely reactive, fueled by fear and lack of preparation, resulting in devastating losses year after year.

"Our situation finally began to shift with the launch of the Strengthening Community Preparedness, Rapid Response and Recovery (SCOPR-3) project," Aakriti shares.

Through this initiative, implemented by Oxfam in partnership with NEEDS Nepal, the community established an inclusive Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC), with a specific mandate that women make up at least 33 percent of the group.

The members were equipped with essential training in first aid, early warning systems, and risk assessment through the CDMC.

"These new skills have completely transformed our mindset," Aakriti explains. "We no longer just react to disasters; we prepare for them."

The project has delivered tangible, long-term impact. Gender inclusion has moved beyond the committee, with two female CDMC members being elected as ward representatives. On the environmental front, the committee successfully campaigned for a ban on water bombing in the Mahakali River to preserve embankment reducing flood risks. Local governance has also become

more proactive; the ward office now equips the community with essential tools, including miking sets and emergency kits. Additionally, communication systems have improved to ensure timely early warnings, and agricultural resilience has been strengthened through better access to livestock insurance.

Today, Pragati CDMC stands as a leading women-led organization in Dodhara Chandani Municipality. In Pragati, women have taken ownership of the community's safety, collaborating with local authorities and joining municipal platforms like the Resilient Youth Network.

"Our journey, moving from a place of fear and helplessness to one of confidence and leadership, proves that resilience is within reach when women are empowered, and communities are prepared. To protect the futures of disaster-prone areas like ours, we must continue investing in women-led, community-based disaster risk reduction," offers Aakriti.



"These new skills have completely transformed our mindset," Aakriti explains. "We no longer just react to disasters; we prepare for them."

INTEGRATED RICE-DUCK FARMING

For years, Ms. Ramdulari Chaudhary of Gujara Municipality faced the relentless cycle of low rice yields, pest outbreaks, and the rising costs of chemical fertilizers. As a mother, her primary focus was simply ensuring her family's next meal. However, her determination to adopt modern agricultural techniques remained undeterred.

Recognizing this potential, the Building Community Resilience to Climate Risk and Vulnerabilities (BCRC) project implemented by Oxfam in partnership with RDC Nepal selected her to pilot an integrated rice-duck farming model. This climate-smart approach not only revitalizes rice cultivation but also introduces duck rearing, creating a sustainable path for her family to move from survival to stability.

Ramdulari cultivated 5 kathha (0.17 hectare) of her land using the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method. This initiative was a cost-sharing success, she personally invested 209 USD (NPR 30,300) for infrastructure and supplies, while the project contributed 402 USD (NPR 58,200) in essential inputs. The project-provided package included 7 kg of *Chandan Katarni* paddy seeds, two tractor loads of manure, and 50 kg of mustard cake for bio-fertilization. Additionally, the project supplied bamboo and protective net fencing for the plot, along with 125 ten-day-old ducklings, which were successfully integrated into the field shortly after arrival.

Once the paddy was transplanted and irrigated, Ramdulari built a shed to protect the ducks overnight. In the initial days, the field began to see weed growth, but the ducks quickly resolved the issue by foraging on both the

weeds and pests. This natural interaction created a cycle, the ducks kept the field clean, while their droppings acted as organic fertilizer that significantly boosted soil fertility and crop health.

Ramdulari received regular technical guidance from a Junior Technical Assistant (JTA) on duck husbandry and pest management resulting in crops visibly healthier and more vibrant than those on adjacent farms. The integration of ducks successfully suppressed weed growth and eliminated the need for chemical pesticides. This model not only enriches soil fertility but also establishes a resilient, triple-stream income through the future sale of rice, ducks, and eggs.

"The chemicals we used before were costly," Ramdulari shares. "Now, the ducks do the work, eating the insects and strengthening the rice plants. I am confident this will lead to a better harvest and much-needed extra income." Her success is creating a ripple effect in Gujara Municipality; her field has become a vibrant learning hub where neighbors gather to study her methods and discuss how to adopt climate-smart farming themselves.

The rice-duck model exemplifies how climate-smart innovations can fundamentally empower smallholder farmers. By minimizing input costs, enhancing soil biodiversity, and diversifying income streams, this approach offers a scalable pathway toward sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience. Ramdulari's success underscores the transformative potential of integrated farming systems in Nepal's most vulnerable regions.

STITCHING A NEW LEGACY

Maya Purja, originally from Myagdi, has been a vital member of Women's Skills Development Organization (WSDO) for nearly two decades. Despite being born with a physical disability that affects her mobility, Maya has built a life of remarkable independence.

For years, Maya stayed at home, completely dependent on her family while they went out to work. Motivated by a strong desire for independence, she looked for a new direction after friends told her about the work being done

at WSDO in Pokhara. After her friends reached out to the organization's founder, Ramkali Khadka, Maya was invited to join, marking the start of her journey there. Today, she has evolved from a student into a master artisan and a committed trainer who passes her expertise on to others.

Reflecting on her growth, Maya explains that she started by making braids for bag straps and learning to hem. As the organization started receiving orders for dolls, she got engaged with it.



Maya Purja preparing sketches for doll at WSDO office in Pokhara.

“Eventually, I became fully involved in making dolls. I also train women interested in doll-making,” she says. Maya conducts training twice a year, mentoring classes of up to 20 women in the art of doll-making.

“I might have trained around 500-600 women till now,” Maya shares with a sense of pride.

Currently serving as the lead doll maker, she oversees a team of 30 to 35 women. Whenever the organization receives new orders, she takes charge of the entire production process, selecting the specific fabrics, threads, and necessary materials, while also creating the sketches and designs for her team.

“I am grateful to this organization for giving me an opportunity to lead an independent life,” Maya shares. “I never imagined that I would be able to enjoy such a fulfilling life despite my physical disability.”

WSDO is a Fair-Trade non-profit established on International Women’s Day, March 8 in 1975 as a training organization. However, recognizing the need for economic empowerment, the organization shifted focus to production of

handicraft items. Since its inception, it has been dedicated to empowering marginalized, economically disadvantaged women, and women with disabilities from rural communities.

Oxfam has provided financial support to WSDO since 2016 for activities like entrepreneurship training, technical skill enhancement, publishing brochures and catalogues, and co-financing a dyeing machine. Crucially, Oxfam has also helped WSDO forge vital market connections with Sourced by Oxfam Shops in the UK.



“I am grateful to this organization for giving me an opportunity to lead an independent life,” Maya shares. “I never imagined that I would be able to enjoy such a fulfilling life despite my physical disability.”

GROUP CASH TRANSFER (GCT)

Oxfam in partnership with NEEDS Nepal introduced the Group Cash Transfer (GCT) initiative in Kanchanpur district of Sudurpashchim Province. Building on the success of pilot programs launched in 2021 across Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Lebanon, and Poland, Oxfam has become a strong advocate of this community-led approach.

What are Group Cash Transfers?

Group Cash Transfers provide direct funding to unregistered, emerging, or self-organized

community groups. These funds empower communities to design and implement projects that address urgent survival and recovery needs in times of crisis.

Implementation in Nepal

In Kanchanpur district, four distinct GCT projects were carried out in marginalized and diverse communities along the Mahakali River. Target groups were identified through criteria jointly developed by local government, Oxfam, NEEDS Nepal, and the communities themselves.

Criteria:

- High poverty levels
- Exclusion from mainstream development programs
- Food insecurity
- Extreme vulnerability to natural disasters

A total of USD 25,000 was distributed among four groups to support community-driven projects, many of which focused on livelihoods and resilience.

Community-Led Projects

• Pragati Tol, Bhimdatta Municipality-13

Members rehabilitated a roadside water channel and constructed a 125-meter nature-based embankment using bamboo and sand. They also raised the road level in flood-prone areas. The embankment now channels floodwaters safely, protecting roads and nearby settlements.

• Sonapur Village, Bhimdatta Municipality-13

Funds were used to build three community toilets, significantly improving local WASH facilities.

• Beldadi Village, Beldadi Rural Municipality-5

Fifteen households benefited from the creation of a community fishpond. Previously unusable marshy land was transformed into an income-generating resource, offering new livelihood opportunities.

• Dodhara Chandani Municipality-3

An all-women group launched a vegetable farming project by leasing land from a government school. Their first harvest generated an average income of NPR 15,000 (USD 115) per member, creating sustainable livelihoods for women who previously lacked such opportunities.



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Kamala Oli from Dodhara Chandani Municipality working in the agricultural farm supported by GCT initiative.

Impact and Empowerment

The GCT program showcased efficient and transparent fund utilization, while offering many groups their first experience in managing financial resources. This not only empowered participants but also provided valuable learning opportunities.



WATER GOVERNANCE AND WASH



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The Water Governance and WASH Program focuses on strengthening water governance and improving WASH service delivery. Currently, progress is often hindered by administrative fragmentation across local and provincial boundaries, complicating watershed management and inter-governmental coordination. These challenges are further exacerbated by climate-driven water insecurity and incomplete federal structures for conflict resolution. To ensure long-term water security, the program advocates for clear transboundary policies, evidence-based governance models, and sustained political investment.

The program addresses water insecurity faced by vulnerable, poor, and socially excluded populations, fostering sustainable access to essential resources and sanitation. It contributes to the strategic objectives of Just Economies and Accountable Governance within

a transformative system change model. Climate justice is treated as a cross-cutting priority, centering interventions on the leadership of those most affected by climate impacts yet least responsible for their causes.

The program targets the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Inclusive and equitable access to sustainable climate-resilient WASH services/facilities.

Outcome 2: Alternative water governance models developed and replicated at the watershed level.

Outcome 3: Local women in key leadership positions and marginalised communities influence water and WASH governance at all levels.

In 2024-25, Oxfam reached 28,410 people through Water Governance and WASH Program out of which 55 percent were women and 19 percent were young people (15-24).

The program has achieved substantial milestones across both the Hill and Terai regions. In the hills, Benighat Rorang and Jwalamukhi Rural Water Supply Management Boards assumed management of 54 DWSS schemes, delivering services to nearly 3,700 households. The installation of household taps and accessible water points significantly reduced the physical burden on women, girls, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Technical advancements included over 80 water quality tests and the adoption of digital tariff collection through e-Sewa, improving public health and financial transparency.

In the Terai, Haripur and Rajpur Drinking Water and Sanitation Management Board expanded infrastructure, providing new pipelines and taps to more than 900 households, prioritizing low-income and disadvantaged families. Governance was strengthened through inclusive orientations for more than 300 stakeholders on rights and responsibilities. Furthermore, Complaint and Feedback Mechanisms (CRM) enhanced accountability, resolved service issues, and enabled rapid response to a cholera outbreak through urgent testing and awareness campaigns.

Likewise, piloting People's Landscape Approach (PLA) is transforming water management in the Rangoon Watershed by replacing fragmented

administrative planning with an integrated watershed-level model. This governance framework, developed by WECS, Oxfam, and RUWDUC, unites local municipalities, civil society, user groups, private sector, and women's collectives, to manage water resources holistically. Tangible interventions, such as the restoration of degraded water sources, have benefited both upstream and downstream users. Furthermore, a newly institutionalized conflict resolution mechanism ensures disputes over water quantity, quality, and rights are managed systematically. As the secretariat for the national Community of Practice on Water Resources, Oxfam is leveraging the Rangoon experience to shape basin-wide strategies and national policy reforms.

Women and marginalized communities are not only influencing water governance but pioneering alternative models at watershed level. A total of 23 active WECs have facilitated nearly 900 instances of women's participation, enabling successful lobbying for irrigation, skill-building, and social reforms. Their advocacy mobilized USD 21,162 (NPR 3.08 million) from local governments to fund climate-resilient livelihoods and infrastructure. Beyond advocacy, 109 women conducted over 300 water quality tests, generating evidence for the River Health Report and influencing national WASH policy. These women are now recognized as essential knowledge-holders. Their joint advocacy with private and public sectors has even led to cross-border innovations, such as the collaborative promotion of rafting on the Mahakali River.

INCLUSIVE LOCAL WATER GOVERNANCE IN ACTION

Access to water is a fundamental right of every citizen in Nepal. Yet, this right is not always realized, particularly among the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. A recent case in rural Dhading highlights this reality.

In Sambas, a small Dalit community of just three households, families were forced to spend long hours carrying water on their backs across steep hilly terrain. Their only source was a lifting water supply system that had remained non-functional for nearly six months due to a damaged motor pump. The prolonged disruption compelled households, including elderly members, to

manually transport water in *gagris* (water pitcher made from aluminum or copper) placing a heavy physical burden on already marginalized families and depriving them of time for productive and income-generating activities.

According to government data, Nepal's water supply system is designed to reach 95 percent of the population. However, only 19 percent have access to safe water. This gap is largely due to dysfunctional systems that fail to deliver consistent services.

Since 2016, Oxfam, in partnership with FOCUS Nepal and with support from local government, has worked to expand access to safe water in Dhading district. Through the Alternative Management Project, two Water Supply Management Boards, Jawalamukhi and Benighat Rorang, have been established to strengthen governance and service delivery. These boards primarily focus on the one household, one tap approach, ensuring equitable access to safe water.

In Sambas, the intervention was a quick fix to restore water supply. Responding to the community's request, a new motor was provided to replace the broken pump, ensuring households once again had steady access to water without the exhausting burden of carrying it from distant sources.



The community was forced to carry water on their backs through the hilly terrain due to a damaged motor pump.

Looking ahead, Oxfam will continue to work with local government to integrate communities like Sambas into the broader one household, one tap system, ensuring long-term inclusion and sustainability.

This case illustrates the challenges of scattered and fragmented water supply systems. The Alternative Management Model seeks to address these gaps by consolidating such systems under Water Supply Management Boards, creating more reliable, accountable, and equitable access to safe water for all.



The community was provided with a new motor and the system was resumed. This is a temporary quick fix.

FROM RIVER USERS TO RIVER PROTECTORS

The communities along the Mahakali River utilized the river water without understanding the inherent risks, prior to the introduction of water quality testing. The river served as a water source, for drinking, washing clothes, disposing of garbage, and even releasing sewage. This lack of awareness meant they were harming their own health and damaging the river's ecosystem and aquatic life, as they viewed the river as merely an ordinary resource, not something requiring protection.

This assumption was directly challenged through the introduction of water quality testing within Women Empowerment Centres (WECs). WECs are community institutions established by Oxfam, that serve as hubs for water governance and climate resilience, providing the tools necessary

to replace traditional perceptions with scientific evidence. The community members were initially surprised, believing only professionals could perform such tests. This perception quickly shifted to curiosity and excitement once they realized they could conduct the testing themselves using simple kits.

In the beginning the women faced resistance within their households. As one citizen scientist recalled, her husband questioned her, "Why do you go out every day? What's this work?" Despite challenges, they persevered. They established regular water quality testing in their communities and successfully advocated to local governments for initiatives promoting clean water and improved waste management.



Citizen scientists testing the water quality of Mahakali River in Kanchanpur.

Over time, the initiative gained momentum. The initiative's growing success led to widespread community acceptance with local residents, including men, asking the women to perform water quality testing in their areas. This acceptance extended to their homes, transforming previously resistant husbands into supportive and proud advocates for their wives' work. The influence even crossed borders, inspiring the Mahakali Cleaning Campaign which successfully mobilized Indian communities across the river to cooperate on cleaning the Mahakali River.

Today, the initiative boasts of 16 certified citizen scientists, while WEC members are actively advocating for the establishment of a

local water quality laboratory. These women now vocally intervene whenever they observe improper disposal of garbage into the river or along roadsides. Consequently, there is increased public awareness regarding essential practices such as water source hygiene, boiling water, and using filters.

This transformation demonstrates the lasting behavioral change that occurs when communities are empowered with knowledge and the right tools. The Mahakali River is no longer perceived as "just a river" but as a shared responsibility. Thanks to the unwavering leadership and commitment of the WEC members, the Mahakali is now cleaner, safer, and held in higher respect.

STRENGTHENING WATER GOVERNANCE

Oxfam’s more than a decade of experience in water management laid the groundwork for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS). Through this MoU, Oxfam was designated as the secretariat tasked with connecting and coordinating diverse stakeholders engaged in Nepal’s water sector.

In 2023–24, under WECS leadership and in partnership with RUWDUC, Oxfam conducted research on water governance structures, watershed management planning, water balance and accounting, and conflict management interventions.

Building on these findings, the second phase of the Watershed Project focused on translating research into practice by strengthening governance, enhancing data systems, and promoting inclusive participation.

The initiative made significant progress in strengthening inclusive water governance and promoting sustainable resource management. Women’s participation through the Women Empowerment Centre (WEC) ensured gender inclusion in decision-making, while citizen science engaged local women, schoolteachers, and students in rainfall and river discharge measurements, expanding data coverage across the watershed. A comprehensive Rangoon Watershed database was developed, complemented by a web-based interactive GIS portal endorsed by WECS to centralize and share data.

Regular watershed-level governance meetings and the establishment of a formal governance structure, supported by local government and WECS, ensured sustainability beyond the project’s duration. Conflict resolution committees under municipal judicial bodies



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Citizen scientists in Dadeldhura district conducting river flow measurements.



Tripti Rai, Country Director for Oxfam in Nepal giving her address at learning sharing event of Watershed Management.

linked watershed governance with local communities, while infrastructure-based interventions helped resolve water disputes and enhance water security.

National level multistakeholder workshop and joint learning visits fostered collaboration and knowledge exchange. A water accounting tool was introduced to track inflows, utilization, and outflows of water at ward, municipality, catchment, and watershed levels, providing critical information to guide evidence-based decision-making for water management.

A formal watershed water governance structure was established with the involvement of local

government and WECS, ensuring continuity of multistakeholder meetings and decision-making processes.

The project demonstrated how inclusive governance, citizen science, and digital innovation can transform watershed management. The project embedded leadership roles within local government structures and judicial committees. The integration of women, marginalized groups, and schools into data generation and governance processes fostered ownership, strengthened social cohesion, and enhanced resilience.

- Inclusive Investment: Impact investing must prioritize Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) to build resilient local economies.

Oxfam’s participation in SAES XV underscores its commitment to ensure that South Asia’s green transformation does not exclude the communities least responsible for the climate crisis but most affected by its consequences.

Nepal Inequality Report

The Nepal Country Inequality Report 2025 (CIR 2025) was officially launched on 22 May 2025 during an event organized by the NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN).

Led by NFN, an umbrella organization of NGOs in Nepal, and developed in partnership with and support from Oxfam in Nepal, the report builds upon the earlier CIR 2019: Fighting Inequality in Nepal – The Road to Prosperity. Unlike a simple update, CIR 2025 provides a deeper and more comprehensive analysis, presenting compelling evidence that social, economic, and political inequalities remain deeply entrenched within Nepal’s society, institutions, and governance structures.

A synopsis of the report was first unveiled on 10 March 2025 at a civil society event organized by NFN, in the presence of then Prime Minister, leveraging a broader national platform to highlight its findings and significance.

The report examines inequalities across seven critical areas: Migration, Politics, Health, Income and Wealth, Climate Change and Disaster, Education, and Food and Hunger. Each thematic analysis identifies urgent priorities requiring immediate attention and intervention from government, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector.

The report is a qualitative, evidence-based study, grounded in desk research and stakeholder consultations. It relies on secondary data from government reports, academic papers, policy briefs, research studies, civil society publications, and datasets from national and international organizations. Both published and unpublished documents were reviewed from 2015 onwards. Each thematic section was rigorously examined by experts to ensure analytical depth, consistency, and alignment with national and global debates on inequality.



Former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli launching the synopsis of Nepal Country Inequality Report 2025 (CIR 2025).

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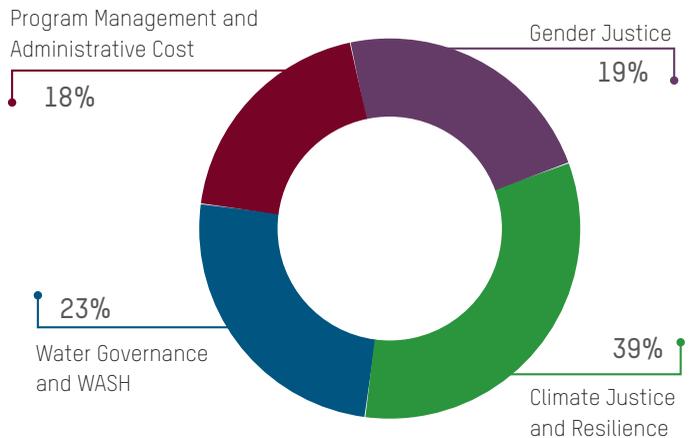
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FINANCIALS



Total Budget
3.1 MILLION GBP



ACRONYMS

BEE Group:	Bheri Environment Excellence Group Nepal
BWSN:	Bagmati Welfare Society Nepal
CBOs:	Community Based Organizations
CDMC:	Community Disaster Management Committee
CEFM:	Child, Early and Forced Marriage
COVID-19:	Coronavirus disease
CRDS:	Community Rural Development Society
CSOs:	Civil Society Organizations
DRR:	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWSS:	Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation
FFS:	Farmer Field School
FOCUS Nepal:	Forum for Community Upliftment System, Nepal
GBV:	Gender-based Violence
GESI:	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
HH:	Household
I/NGO:	International/Non-governmental Organization
LI-BIRD:	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development
MEAL:	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
NEEDS:	National Environment & Equity Development Society
NGO:	Non-governmental Organization
RM:	Rural Municipality
RUWDUC:	Rural Women's Development and Unity Centre
SD=HS:	Sowing Diversity Harvesting Security
SIDA:	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SWC:	Social Welfare Council
TROSA:	Transboundary Rivers of South Asia
VAWG:	Violence Against Women and Girls
WASH:	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WEC:	Women Empowerment Centre
WECS:	Water Energy Commission Secretariat
WLP:	Women Leadership Platform
SJASK:	Shanti Jana Adarsha Sewa Kendra



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Padma Devi Dhama from Beldandi Rural Municipality in Kanchanpur district, shows the goats she acquired through Oxfam's livelihood support. Her transition into goat husbandry has provided her family with a reliable and sustainable source of income.



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