



OXFAM

STORIES FROM NEPAL

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Efforts to make communities happier, healthier and stronger.

Twelve stories of bringing change in common peoples' lives.





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HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME

WASH

WATER FOR DRINKING AND IRRIGATION

- Rajib Adhikari

Before the 2015 earthquake, Nani Maya Baruwal, 55, of Basnet Gaun of Gajuri Rural municipality-3, in Dhading used to have a variety of vegetables in her kitchen garden. Safe and clean drinking water along with irrigation canal was available in her village.

After the earthquake, water sources started to dry up. People needed water for livestock too. They had hard time managing water.

“We were forced to walk hours to fetch drinking water for the family,” Nani Maya recalls the difficulty. Like Nani Maya, people of the community faced water shortage and raised the problem with NGOs working in the village. Oxfam and its partner organisation, Focus Nepal, constructed a water scheme in the village installing eleven tap stands for 48 households.

Now, Nani Maya along with 38 households are using water round the clock. They have been oriented and trained on the benefit of kitchen gardening by utilizing the waste water from the taps.

She planted garlic, onions and leafy vegetables in her kitchen garden by



Nani Maya with her vegetable products. Photo by: Rajib Adhikari/Oxfam

utilizing waste water for irrigation. She collected the waste water from her tap stand and a public tap stand.

“I am producing fresh and organic vegetables from my own garden every day,” she says. She also encourages her neighbors to use waste water for kitchen gardening.

Since 2015 until December 2017, Oxfam and partners have constructed 62 water schemes in Dhading. From these schemes, a total of 17,306 people have been benefitted.

EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS BECOME BAKERY ENTREPRENEURS

-Tara Nath Sigdel



Durga Thapa, a member of Bag Bhairab Bakery Factory starts her morning by preparing bakery items. Photo by: Amit Adhikari/Homenet Nepal

“The earthquake not only damaged our physical property, but also affected our confidence level,” said Durga Thapa, of Kirtipur Municipality-4. Like her, most of the women of Kirtipur suffered from livelihood challenges.

While searching for job, they realized that they had no skills. Then, ten women got together and decided to start their own enterprise. Being women, they had limited economic freedom, so they could not start their own.

But they were lucky enough to get training on baking by Kirtipur municipality. They acquired new skills; they had willpower and time as well, but they did not know how to start their own enterprise. In the meantime, some of them met with field staff of Oxfam. They requested them to set up a bakery factory.

Oxfam and its partner organisation, HomeNet Nepal, agreed to support to establish a bakery factory after evaluating the overall situation. Through Cash for Work programme, the women constructed a Group Production Unit (GPU).

Oxfam and HomeNet Nepal also provided machines, equipment and assisted them in legally registering the bakery at Cottage and Small Industries Development Board (CSIDB) and to acquire a Permanent Account Number (PAN).

They also got support to make business plan for the factory, and advanced bakery training. The women also put effort to seek funds from Kirtipur Municipality Ward No 4 and Office of the Cottage and Small Industries last year. Ultimately, they established Bag Bhairab Bakery Factory. They now sell the bakery items in the local markets and schools.

“We have created opportunity at our door steps,” said Kopila Budathoki, Chairperson of the Bakery Factory. “We have got a good employment opportunity in our locality,” says Bina Lama, 36, secretary of the bakery. “The factory has proved that women can also be good entrepreneurs,” says Rajendra Baniya, ward no 4 chair of Kirtipur Municipality.



Sanita Maharjan (left) and Kopila Budathoki, chairperson of the factory (right) making doughnuts. Photo by: Amit Adhikari/ Homenet

A total of 49 persons (22 female and 27 male) have directly benefited from the Bag Bhairab Bakery Factory.

RESTARTING A LOST BUSINESS

- Sujan Ghimire

Kamala Tamang, 26, of Samari in Nuwakot survived the 2015 earthquake but became an internally displaced person. Kamala used to earn her living by running a tailoring shop before the earthquake but her shop and equipment were totally damaged by the earthquake.

"I was thinking of going abroad to earn money as life was difficult here," Kamala remembers the days immediately after the earthquake. On a positive side, she became eligible to receive Oxfam's Livelihood Recovery Support for petty traders. She got financial support with which she bought tools and machines needed to restart her business.

She purchased a sewing machine and other items like threads, iron, scissors and measuring tapes and restarted her business. "I am now earning NPR 10,000-15,000 a month with which, I can manage my business and expenses at home," she says. She has plans to expand her business.



Kamala Tamang working in her house. Photo by: Sujan Ghimire

She also acknowledges the support she got from Oxfam and partners after the earthquake. "I was also a part of the Cash for Work Programme during emergency with which I was able to fulfill the basic food requirements of my family," she says, "I got support to restart my own tailoring business.

SHELTER

GETTING INTO CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

- Nishant Mahat



Dil Kumari Bhatta. Photo by: Nishant Mahat/Oxfam

Dil Kumari Bhatta Chettri, 32, a resident of Saurpani of Sulikot Rural Municipality-2 in Gorkha is a survivor of the 2015 earthquake. Her house was completely damaged by earthquake and was forced to stay in a temporary shelter with her two sons. Her husband went to Malaysia seven years ago but has not been back.

Immediately after the earthquake, Dil Kumari struggled to make ends meet working as an agricultural worker to manage her family as the money sent by her husband was not enough.

With the objective of increasing technical knowledge and capacity of local-level masons, Oxfam provided a 50-day On the Job Training (OJT) to earthquake-affected people in Gorkha.

Dil Kumari was one of the OJT trainees who has now stepped up in the construction industry.

The OJT was divided into knowledge and practical sessions. In knowledge session, a lead trainer would discuss construction of resistant structures while the practical session would engage the trainees in construction. Ninety per cent of the OJT consisted of practical sessions while remaining was theoretical.

“The training not only provided me theoretical knowledge about masonry but it also engaged me in practical exercises to build earthquake-resilient houses,” said Dil Kumari.

Oxfam has now planned to construct 30 houses in Gorkha for people who lost their houses in 2015 earthquake and Dil Kumari has been selected as one of the masons to construct the houses.



Dil Kumari working on a stone wall. Photo by: Nishant Mahat/Oxfam

GENDER AND PROTECTION

CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC SECURITY

- Sarita Rai/Radhika Thapa



*Punam Dhakal holding her citizenship certificate.
Photo by: Oxfam*

Punam Dhakal, 32 of Saurpani of Gorkha, could not get her three-year-old son to school because she didn't have her citizenship certificate, in the absence of which the boy did not have his birth certificate needed for his enrolment.

In various programmes and interactions organised by Oxfam and its partner organisations, she shared that her husband and family members did not support her to make her citizenship certificate. Her husband lived abroad and it was difficult for her to get citizenship certificate while he was away. She had visited VDC office to get recommendation letter for citizenship certificate, however,

the VDC secretary denied providing recommendation asking her to produce her marriage certificate. She did not have marriage certificate either.

Goreto Gorkha, a partner of Oxfam had organized a district level interaction with Nepal police where Punam's problem was also discussed. Nepal police, Deputy Superintendent of Police Birendra Thapa expressed commitment to help her make citizenship certificate. The police went to her husband's house and got a copy of her husband's citizenship certificate. With this copy, she was finally able to make her own citizenship.

"I can now issue a birth certificate to my son, he will be able to enrol into the school," said Punam.

Story of Bimala Nepali, a single mother from Darkha, Dhading is not different. She could admit her son to school because she didn't have her citizenship certificate. Bimala's father wanted to legally transfer his land and house in her name but that too wasn't possible in absence of citizenship certificate.

A mobile citizenship camp was then organised in collaboration with the local government in March 2017 where Bimala and 129 others got their citizenship certificates.

FLASH FLOOD 2017

OXFAM IS WITH THE PEOPLE OF TERAJ FROM RESPONSE TO RECOVERY

- Bed Prasad Dhakal



Kanti Devi Paswan with her children. Photo by: Bed Prasad Dhakal/Oxfam

Kanti Devi Paswan, 30, a resident at Maath Tole of Rajdevi Municipality-7 in Rautahat could hardly manage to shift her belongings from her home when the flash flood of Lal Bakaiya River entered her house on August 12 and 13, 2017.

To her greatest tragedy, her two-year-old son, Satyam Kumar died of pneumonia, just a day after the flood hit her house. "My son died because the roads were blocked by the flood and I could not take him to hospital on time," she laments.

Kanti Devi has an extended family of 18 members, and the family set up

a temporary shelter along with 150 families in the nearby Jana Bhawana Primary School for 15 days while some of them stayed on the spur of Bagmati River in makeshift tents.

Shiv Kumari Devi Paswan, 61, shared a similar story. When we met her, she said, "I lost all of my belongings when the flood entered my house and partially collapsed it, killing 16 goats."

Oxfam and local partner Rural Development Centre (RDC) provided emergency supplies such as dignity kit, food baskets, tarpaulin, mosquito net, hygiene kit, bucket and aqua tabs to



Oxfam staff handing food items to villagers in Chhattauli in Sarlahi district. Photo credit BWSN

25, 238 people in Rautahat district. Mohan Ram, a flood survivor in the settlement said that the bucket and aqua tabs they received from Oxfam helped them to purify water which prevented from possible outbreak of communicable disease.

“Managing food for the family was a challenge,” Kapindar Ram, a local said. He said the food provided by the organisations only lasted for 10 days for his family. “We were forced to buy food items by taking loans at high interest ranging from 36 to 58 per cent,” he added.

According to government statistics, the flash flood in August took lives of more than 150 people in various districts of Nepal. In Rautahat alone, it claimed lives of 18 persons while 2 went on missing.

The initial damage of property was estimated to be equivalent to NPR 2,150 million.

Oxfam in Nepal rated the disaster as Category 3 and provided emergency supplies in four districts—Rautahat, Sarlahi, Banke, and Saptari—to around 5,000 families. For long-term support, Oxfam is now working in four districts—Rautahat, Saptari, Morang and Banke with the aim to provide water, sanitation and hygiene support, livelihood and shelter support as a part of the recovery programme.

The Flood Recovery Project which has started from November will support 8,050 families in the four districts by the end of March 2018.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

GENDER JUSTICE PROGRAMME

ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

- Aarati Sharma

Sita Rokaya (name changed), 17, of Aathbis Rural Municipality disappeared from her house one day. Her family began to look for her with the help of Community Development Centre (CDC) participants but when they found out that she had ran away with a boy, they decided to stop the search.

It was because a girl getting married in early age was considered a common case in rural villages. But the CDC participants considered the serious issue as they were now aware about

the legal, health and other social implications of early marriage. But it was not easy to convince the family and community people to file a legal complaint.

The CDC participants accompanied by CDC Chairperson Mina Jaisi, 21, informed police about that incident. Then, police searched for the couple and found them out.

After a long process of mediation, a written agreement was made in



Women in a meeting of the Community Discussion Centre (CDC) at Tamsaria, Nawalparasi.
Photo by: Aarati Sharma/Oxfam



CDC members engaged in discussion in Dailekh. Photo by: Aarati Sharma/Oxfam

presence of the couple, families, CDC participants, other community people and police. According to the agreement, the boy and the girl would be eligible for marriage when they would be at least 20 years of age. Now, they are living with their own families and leading normal lives.

People of Aathbis Rural Municipality have started taking CDCs positively after this incident. In the past, the villagers used to take such issues of child and early marriages very lightly. Similar case happened in Nawalparsai in 2015. A girl and a boy in Tamsaria who had ran away made an agreement after police and CDC participants intervened. Interestingly,

they included an extra clause allowing them to choose anyone, for marriage after reaching their legal age, giving them the flexibility to make a more mature decision.

As a result of the Creating Spaces project, women and girls in the project area are gradually gaining confidence to seek support and speak out for their rights against Child, Forced and Early Marriages (CEFM) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Through 180 CDCs, Oxfam and its partners have been helping people take action against violence against women and girls, and child, forced and early marriages.

FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME

SKILLS AND SECURE MARKETS THROUGH FAIR TRADE

- Prerana Marasini

Shovita Shakya of Bungmati Lalitpur had worked only on her farm land growing rice and corn but she now carves beautiful handicrafts, which are sold at fair price at secure markets.

"I have learnt to carve different pieces that are used in a typical wooden Nepali window," says Shovita adding, "There are nine different designs involved, and I can make all of them." Shovita learned the skills at a three-month training provided by Oxfam through its Fair-Trade Project.

"We had been training people in the past too, but this time we were able to provide them a set of tools, with which they could work from their homes as well," says Mani Ratna Bajracharya owner of the Bungmati Kastha Kala Fair Trade Group who has trained so far 22 people through Oxfam's support.

"The set contains about 32 different tools needed for carving," added Mani Ratna's wife Dev Maya Bajracharya who helps her husband in the business.

"Although they knew how to carve, in absence of the tools, they were not able to continue working from their homes; and we were not able to provide them the materials either," she said.



Shovita Shakya has new skills and more income. Photo by: Prerana Marasini/Oxfam

Through Oxfam in Nepal's Sustainable Livelihoods Support Programme for Earthquake affected Families, 4,500 (60% women) earthquake affected families in Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Lalitpur have received support to improve their livelihood.

The project has supported more than 1,500 earthquake-affected households and formed 62 Fair Trade Producer groups (Bungmati Kastha Kala Fair Trade Group is one of them). These producer

groups get support to conduct training on pottery, hand knitting, tailoring, weaving, wood carving, making exotic products from felt, and processing ginger, lokta (*special kind of Nepali paper*), and leather.

"I earned NPR 5,000 in the last month, just by making the right use of my mornings and evenings," Shovita shared, who gets up at 4 am every day.

Nineteen-year-old Roshan Thapa from Bhaisepati, Lalitpur had a difficult childhood who could not continue his studies. He worked at a restaurant and was indulged in smoking and drinking. He now carves full time and makes good income.

"I earned NPR 15,000 in the last month," he said with a smile adding, "I bought clothes and also hung out with friends." Roshan says this skill has also helped him to stay away from bad habits such as drinking and smoking. "I think I will be able to start my own business in the future."



Roshan Thapa now carves wooden frames full time and makes satisfactory income. Photo by: Prerana Marasini/Oxfam

The project links the trained people to the member organizations of FTGN and local buyers so that they get a secure market to sell their products. The project has supported more than 1,200 producers by providing them equipment and encouraging them to start their production.

We WON'T LIVE WITH POVERTY

GHURKI, AN OUTSTANDING FARMER

- Rojy Joshi



Ghurki Tharu and her husband working in their tomato field. Photo by: Shyam Paudyal/Oxfam

There was a time when Ghurki Tharu in Kapilvastu would work alone on her vegetable farm as her husband was abroad for employment. She used to borrow loan to plant vegetables in her field. Now, her story has changed.

Three years ago, Ghurki joined Srijana Income Generating Group (SIGG) in her locality to learn about income-generating activities. She attended trainings on vegetable farming provided by the Livelihood and Empowerment Project (LEP), implemented by Oxfam in partnership with Kalika Self-Reliance Social Center (KSSC). Encouraged by the

new ideas, Ghurki started farming on 0.33 acres of land by taking a loan of NPR 4,000 from SIGG. She also received technical support from the project to increase production of vegetables. As a result, she was able to produce vegetables and sell them at a nearby Chandrauta bazaar, earning net profit of NPR. 40,000.

She could not wait to persuade her husband to come back to Nepal and help her infarming. Finally, her husband Shantaram Tharu returned Nepal after eight years of stay in a foreign land.

The couple have now started commercial vegetable farming by leasing 1.34 acres of fallow land. They received training, seeds, spray tanks, pump-set for irrigation, and technical knowledge from the LEP project.

In 2016, they made a net profit of NPR 200,000. They grow vegetables including cucumber, bitter gourd, tomato, green peas, bottle gourd, and chilly round the year.

Santaram is now determined to give continuity to the vegetable farming

initiated by his wife. Their income has helped their children to pursue higher education in good colleges. In 2016, Ghurki was recognized as *Outstanding Farmer* on the occasion of the World Food Day.

Never had Ghurki thought that her idea of joining the group to utilize her leisure time would lead her to embrace agriculture as her profession.

Her success has inspired four local individuals in Madawa to initiate vegetable farming.



Ghurki Tharu being felicitated as Outstanding Farmer by Kapilvastu District Agriculture Development Office. Photo credit: KSSC

EMPOWERED SETI MAYA WANTS TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR

Seti Maya Tamang, 34, of Kipsang Rural Municipality, Nuwakot was hopeless when the 2015 earthquake destroyed her house, killed livestock, and damaged her belongings. She had difficulties to find options for livelihood and send her two young sons to good schools as her husband was abroad.

After the earthquake, she was displaced to a temporary camp at Indrenichaur of Bidur Municipality. She had no option other than working as a waged laborer. Later, she ran a small shop but the income was not enough. She also started selling liquor but felt that selling liquor was against her ethics and considered it a humiliating job.

She tried her hands then on making handicrafts from bamboo. "I used to sharpen the bamboo sticks against stones. Sometimes, my efforts would fail as the sticks would break down," she remembers.

A team of Fair-Trade Project of Oxfam visited the camp where Seti Maya and 200 other families were living in 2016. The team decided to provide business development support.

The project formed three hand-knitting fair trade groups in the camp for 76 members. Seti Maya was unanimously elected chairperson of the Sankul Chatang Hand-Knitting Fair Trade Group that consisted of 27 members. The



*Seti Maya Tamang with her products.
Photo by: Gyanendra Pathak/FTGN*

project provided training and needed equipment for knitting.

Seti Maya then started producing and selling woolen caps, sweaters, socks, and gloves. She visited the Association for Craft Producers (ACP) in June 2017 in Kathmandu from where she gathered knowledge on fair trade principles and practices. She also received mentorship to make woolen caps.

Seti Maya is now determined to be an entrepreneur on hand-knitting. "I want to set an example on hand-knitting business. I am eager to transfer my knowledge, especially to girls and women and help them become economically self-dependent," she says.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

MUSHAR COMMUNITY BUILDS TOILETS

- Nidhi Shrivastav



People of Mushar Community constructing toilets. Photo credit: SDRC

Thirty-five families of Mushar community living in Matahi Tole of Makhanaha VDC-8 in Dhanusha district did not own land and property and used open places for defecation, raising chances of disease transmission. After a long effort, they now have constructed toilets.

The District Water Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee had entrusted Oxfam and its local partner, Social Development and Research Center (SDRC) to declare the VDC Open Defecation Free (ODF), and the challenge was to make the Mushar community build and use toilets.

To create awareness on building toilets, SDRC screened rounds of video shows, launched door-to-door campaign, performed street drama, organised meetings of VDC-level Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee (VWASH-CC) and held interactions on the importance of using toilets.

Initially, they were unwilling to participate in the ODF activities. Ramdev Sahani, a neighbor of Mushar Community, said, "Although they realized the need to have toilets, they did not have money."

There were a series of sessions to convince them to use toilets. To motivate them further, the VDC, in



A Mushar community member digging a pit for constructing toilet. Photo credit: SDRC

coordination with SDRC and Oxfam, decided to provide slab with toilet seats and three rings to each Mushar family. They agreed to dig hole, construct walls and roof of the toilets themselves.

Additionally, they formed a users' committee led by Kalasiya Devi Sada, a member of Makhnaha Agriculture Cooperatives that was registered with Oxfam's support. "After several efforts, I convinced the members of the

Cooperatives and the Mushar community to build toilets in their homes," said Sada.

By the end March 2017, 35 families of the Mushar community completed digging hole for toilet's ring installation. There was good coordination among the community members to construct the toilets. The VDC was finally declared Open Defecation Free.

MEDIA, ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNS

A QUEST TO GET THE BILL PASSED

- Samira Shakya



Parliamentarians during an interaction organised by HCG in Kathmandu in 2016. Photo credit: HCG

Oxfam in Nepal along with its partners and allies had been advocating since 2008, to change the archaic Disaster Act (Daibi Prakop Udhhar Ain), that defined disasters as something bestowed by divine power and nothing could be done to prevent it.

The provisions of the Act limited itself to just rescue and relief. A model draft bill, Disaster Management Bill, had been submitted to the government but not much progress was made on it.

The impetus for this lobbying gained momentum after the nation was struck by two massive earthquakes in 2015.

With its geographical location, Nepal is prone to such disasters which significantly impacts social, cultural, and economic systems. Therefore, it

was imperative to have an Act with robust provisions on preparedness.

It was during this period that Oxfam entered partnership with Himalayan Conservation Group (HCG), to influence the lawmakers on the importance of a bill with a preparedness aspect to it. Since 2015, more than 10 advocacy events with parliamentarians were organized; knowledge exchange workshops; national level workshop; strategic meetings with members of parliaments and a caucus of more than 150 parliamentarians was formed to raise the issue and get the bill endorsed.

On 25 September 2017, the Parliament finally endorsed the Bill to 'Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act'. After a decade-long battle, Oxfam, its partners, HCG, and allies were finally able to breathe a sigh of relief as this Act is going to be useful not only for the present but will also help minimize the damage from disasters in the future.

I AM A CITIZEN WITH RIGHTS!



Oxfam in Nepal has been working with government agencies and local partners to End Violence Against Women. We support women to claim their rights so that no one is left behind. The women below have received citizenship certificates with help from Oxfam, with which they can claim state support for post earthquake reconstruction and other social security. *These women are now not only aware of the entitlements they ought to receive but also able to support each other when violence against them or their daughters happens.*

DHADING



Urmila Chepang
Age: 21yrs



Parbati Shrestha
Age: 71yrs

GORKHA



Punam Dhakal
Age: 32yrs



Kamali B.K
Age: 41yrs

NUWAKOT



Sanu Maya Tamang
Age: 71yrs



Sharmila Tamang
Age: 21yrs

SINDHUPALCHOWK



Shyam Maya Tamang
Age: 32yrs



Kamala Thami (wife), **Bhim Bahadur Thami** (husband)

617

(May 2015–November 2017)

Citizenship certificates and vital registration documents that certify birth, marriage, migration, and death

Citizenship Certificates

333

Women: 231; Men: 102

Vital Documents

284

Women: 145; Men: 139

KATHMANDU



Sita Giri
Age: 32yrs



Kanchan Lama
Age: 23yrs



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