Annual Report 2018-019



Action Works Nepal (AWON)

July 2018- June 2019

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Forward

It's my pleasure to present Annual Report 2018-19 for Action Works Nepal (AWON). This report provides a summary of the overall activities carried out by AWON, its achievement and budget expenditure for the period from mid-July 2018 to mid-July 2019.

AWON has successfully implemented all the activities planned in the annual plan for the fiscal year 2018/19. The main objective of the organization is to improve the livelihoods of communities through humanitarian, educational, and vocational result driven programs around political, economic, social, cultural and environmental empowerment and help communities to embrace peace, growth, and sustainable development. During the reporting year, AWON had conducted various programs (education, health, women/girls empowerment, disaster risk reduction & humanitarian support) in 4 districts of three provinces (3 districts: Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu from Province No. 6 and Kavre from Province No. 3).

AWON has implementing its revised policies and procedures to make its initiative more effective and efficient since last year. This year, AWON has worked together with other different organizations in partnership.

In the end, the Executive Committee of Action Works Nepal would like to thank organization members, partner organizations and contribution of the employees who were working at various levels in implementing activities in the fiscal year 2018-019 (BS 2075-76). At the same time, we would like to thank all institutional and individual donors, government agencies, friends and well-wishers and other organizations for supporting to our initiatives.

We look forward to another productive and exciting year ahead. As usual, we always look forward to your constructive feedback, critiques and comments which will make us more advanced and equipped for the days to come.

Thank you,

Bharat Wasti President Action Works Nepal

Acronyms

ANM Auxiliary Nurse Midwife AWON Action Works Nepal

CBO Community Based Organization

CDO Chief District Officer

CEDAW Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

DHS Demographic and Health Survey
DPHO District Public Health Officer
DRR Disaster Risk Reduction
EC European Commission

FCHV Female Community Health Workers

FP Family Planning

GBV Gender Based Violence

HFOMC Health Facility Organization and Management Committee

MA Medical Abortion
MBC Miteri Birthing Center

MHM Menstrual Hygiene Management

MMMS Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Survey

MOWCSW Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

MRC Miteri Recycle Center

MWRA Married Women of Reproductive Age

NGO Non- governmental organization SMC School Management Committee SMC School Management Committee

SRH Sexual Right Health

SRHR Sexual and Reproductive Health Right

VAW Violence against Women

VDC Village Development Committee

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Introduction

Action Works Nepal (AWON) has been working in an integrated approach to address the extreme poverty and human rights through "*MiteriGau-Let's Live Together Campaign*." AWON has initiated this campaign which is guided by the philosophy that "Birth Place of an individual is not a Choice", and "No one has the right to discriminate and everyone is obligate to contribute for living together, no matter who you are, where you are from and what you are doing". We raise funds through different activities to help marginalized and excluded people.

Vision

A multi-disciplinary group of people are organized and seek for prosperous and a healthy society in Nepal and beyond, following the philosophy of 'living together irrespective of differences'.

Mission

To work for vulnerable, marginalized and socially excluded communities in order to ensure social justice through partnerships, human rights movements and result driven programs.

Goal

To empower communities so that they can overcome poverty, illiteracy, health service scarcity and help them to live in a just and peaceful manner.

Objective

To improve the livelihoods of communities through humanitarian, educational, and vocational result driven programs around political, economic, social, cultural and environmental empowerment and help communities to embrace peace, growth, and sustainable development.

Programs and Activities carried out during the period from mid-July 2018 – mid-July 2019:

Thematic areas:

1. Education

Action Works Nepal (AWON) has been working on education since its inception in the remote and needy areas as a part of 'Miteri Gaun Let's Live Together Campaign'. The **Education Support** program includes scholarship to the selected students, teacher's sponsorship support to 2 schools, and capacity building of parents through School Management Committee, and providing bridge courses to students. Within the urgency, AWON pays much of its attentions towards rural, poor, disable, orphan, and other marginalized children. However, due to the limitation of funding, it has not been able to support all those needy and compelled to cover some areas only. The main donor of the project are individual donor, AWON core fund etc.

Objective of the Project:

- To capacitate and aware teachers, school management committee and parents on the importance of quality education.
- To support scholarship to needy, poor and marginalized communities
- To monitor and ensure the quality education in the needy areas.

Type of Support:

- Miteri Education Support Program Full / Partial scholarships
- Miteri teacher Support Program
- Material support for the repairing of School building and toilets
- Apple farm support
- Toys / stationery items support to the needy schools

Project Area / Location:

Jumla

Project Beneficiaries:

This year, we have supported 5 students studying at 5 different schools of Jumla as a part of regular scholarship support to the students. All these five students were female and one Dalit student. The support to those students includes school bag, a pair of shoes, two pairs of school dress, and two pairs of socks, sweaters and stationeries needed for an academic year. District Officer of AWON had distributed those items at office premises at the beginning of the school academic vear. Students were selected based on the recommendation from the



Kamala Kami, 13, receiving scholarship items/materials

schools targeting very poor, needy and talented students.

Similarly, we have been continuing support to two schools: Kalika basic school, Hiyakhola and Shivabhairab basic school Kudari of Jumla with three teachers on regular basic. The teachers are hired and recruited by the school management communities under shared fund from AWON and school management communities.

2. Women and Girls Empowerment:

2.1 Elimination of Chhaupadi Practice in Karnali Nepal

Background

'Elimination of Chhaupadi Practice in Karnali Nepal' is a three-year project (January 2016 – Dec 2018) funded by European Commission and is being implemented by AWON and BEE Group in three districts: Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu of Nepal. The issue of Chhaupadi is deeply rooted in the minds of people of the targeted areas. Even though it mainly impacts women, the issue cannot be eliminated without targeting men and other stakeholders of the community. The main objective of the project is to empower women and girls at the individual and group levels, as well as, build capacity and improve understanding of the policy and advocacy issues regarding Chhaupadi, human right and gender equality.

Chhaupadi is one of the harmful traditions practiced in Far and Mid-Western parts of the country. Deeply rooted patriarchal Hindu values perceive menstruated women as impure and polluted. So during menstruation, in this practice, women and girls are regarded as untouchable and keep away from safe and clean places, food, water, cattle, men, temple etc. Women and girls stay at cowsheds or open small hut outside house for four to five days. Such practices have compromised women and girls from their health and wellbeing as well as denied from personal and social development. Although menstruation is an inevitable biological process, the notion of impurity is culturally constructed. The practice of Chhaupadi is challenging fundamental human rights: right to life, liberty, dignity and physical well-being and integrity of women." Every Human being enjoy equal dignity, rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind, including sex, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, birth and other status" as proclaimed in articles of human right conventions. In the context of International Rights and Norms, Nepal is also state party of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The interim constitution of Nepal 2007 seeks to bring an end to discrimination including based on gender, and ensures rights to equality and social justice, which further provides legal backing efforts to end practices of Chhaupadi. To eliminate harmful practice of Chhaupadi, Government of Nepal, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MOWCSW) promulgate guidelines 2007 titled "Chhaupadi Pratha Unmulan Nidreshika -2064" (Elimination of Chhaupadi Practice Directive – 2007). Despite of legal ban, Chhaupadi is still practiced throughout the Far Western and Mid-Western regions.

Objective:

Eliminate traditional, deeply rooted Chhaupadi practice from the remote villages of Karnali, Nepal to establish women's human rights, justice and dignity.

Specific objectives of the Project

- Increase awareness of the demerits of Chhaupadi in the community and empower women and girls in the project areas to fight against it.
- Build capacity of and mobilize civil societies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), networks, media, community based organizations, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), male supporting groups, traditional institutions (traditional healers and priests) in the project area. Promote evidence-based policy advocacy to influence policies and their implementation to eliminate Chhaupadi practice

Progress status

Three years project on "Elimination of Chhaupadi Practices from rural Karnali" from January 2016 to December 2018 was successfully completed during this FY. Within the remaining six months period of the project during this FY, many important activities has been done. The important activities that were carried out during these time were regular awareness raising events at community levels, media mobilization, policy paper sharing to major stakeholders, and Chhau goath free villages declarations events and documentation for final reporting. The following activities have been completed till the reporting period with results and outcome of the project.

Awareness raising activities at community and district levels

Under this activity, celebration of special day such as Women's Day, Menstrual Hygiene Day, celebration of teej festival, 16 day gender based violence campaign, street drama were organized at different strategic locations at the community level and at district headquarters.

Besides regular monthly meeting among women groups, those groups also organized rally and interaction events at their villages creating awareness on menstruation health and hygiene, violence against women and women rights.

As usual, the women group and men groups made regular monthly discussion in groups and discussed on the Chhaupadi issues in their communities in addition to awareness against Chhaupadi practice, its causes, its negative effects, government act/policy on Chhaupadi, importance of menstrual care, sexual and reproductive health rights, women rights and gender

based violence to new members of the groups. Chhaupadi related leaflets, posters and newsletters published by the project were distributed to group's members. Also wall painting and hooding boards were placed at different places of pre-existing targeted VDCs. Similarly, various civil societies, male supporting groups and traditional healers were engaged and mobilized to address the issue of Chhaupadi locally.

Media Interaction Program

During the remaining period of the project with this FY, district level and central level media interaction programs were organized to share the status of the Chhaupadi issues making it agenda for news on the papers. At district level, all the media and journalists were invited to discuss on the issues of 5hhaupadi and women rights. The meetings were facilitated by the district officer and capacity building and advocacy officer. The



meetings agreed that the issues of the Chhaupadi are still hindrance to development and women progress and hence the local media would cover the Chhaupadi issues in their articles for advocacy. Similarly national level media interaction program was organized at Kathmandu AWON office where more than 25 participants/journalists from the major newspapers and online news portals.

School Activities

Youth focused school level activities were carried out to aware adolescent girls on Chhaupadi issues and menstruation hygiene. One day homemade pad making training were organized at 24 schools of the project areas. The trainings were made to capacitate adolescent girls to use homemade pad during menstruation and continue the schools during periods through knowledge and skills



on local hand make pads. 923 adolescent girls were made skillful on homemade pad making. Similarly, school focused awareness activities such as speech competition, quiz and folk dances competitions organized on the occasion of different special days.

Monitoring visits and project evaluation

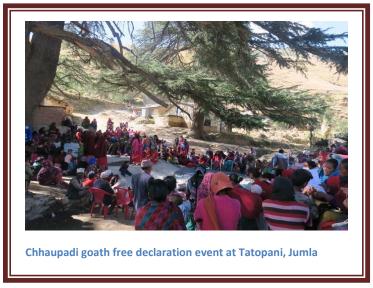
During the last semi-annual period of the project, besides regular monitoring district staffs, by the project monitoring and evaluation was carried out by evaluation team formed by Social Welfare Council. The team made field visit, observed ongoing activities, interact with different stakeholders including local people/beneficiaries, interview with key stakeholders & staffs and observed project documents for evaluation. Based their on



observation, the evaluation report was prepared and submitted to SWC and donor. The recommendations made by the team were being implemented for avoiding the repetition and brining good results of the other projects.

Chhaupadi free village declaration

Many villages of the project areas had declared their villages as Chhaupadi goath free villages with commitment from the key person of the villages and community members. The declaration events were participated by the community members, political leaders, religious leaders, school teachers, social workers, relevant local officials local government and representatives making the events grand and successful. Around 80 villages of the project areas made their



commitment to make their village free from chhaugoath in coming days even after end of the

project. The federal level political leaders and members from national parliament representing the project areas had also participated in declaration events.

Major achievements of the project

- Documentation of situations of Chhaupadi practices at Karnali through action research on Chhaupadi and its effects on **health, education, mobility & leadership** of women and adolescent girls; psychological thoughts & belief of locals; and situation of national laws, policies and Chhaupadi elimination guidelines 2007.
- Formation 106 women groups and 42 male groups for the project and mobilization of 3707 group's members in communities against Chhaupadi and other harmful practices against women.
- Capacity building of local stakeholders, religious leaders, community people, students and others against Chhaupadi practices.
- Mobilization of civil societies, CBOs, religious and political leaders, schools teachers and social workers at the project areas against Chhaupadi practices.
- Strengthening Legal Protection against Chhapadi custom policy paper developed.
- Girls' friendly toilet construction at 24 public schools.
- Development of IEC materials and poster against Chhaupadi practices.
- Advocacy at local, district, province and national levels against Chhaupadi practices.
- Declaration of 95 Chhaupadi goath free villages and commitment from local community and stakeholders for sustainability.

3. Health

3.1 Miteri Birthing Center, Jumla

AWON has been focusing right to reproductive and maternal health programs in the Karnali region, where women are not aware of their reproductive health rights and have little access to

basic health services. The Karnali region has highest Women of Reproductive Age (WRA) deaths rate (310/100'000) and the second highest MMR (275/100'000; MMS. 2008). Infant, under-five and neonatal mortality rates are both above the region (DHS, 2016). To address these problems, AWON launched a pilot project in November 2012 entitled "Miteri Birthing Center "(MBC) in



Sunnigaun Village Development Committee (VDC) of Jumla. The VDC was recommended by District Public Health Office (DPHO) Jumla as a suitable location to construct a birthing center because of highest maternal mortality rate. With the support from the Non-Resident Nepalese (NRN) UK, the birthing center was constructed, equipped with logistics, drugs and service started from one trained ANM deployed from the AWON. The birthing center was run by AWON till 2017 and handed over to local health facility management community. With successful MBC piloting at Sunnigaun, Nepalese Nursing Association committed to support similar birthing center at Bhadgoun, Jumla on January 2018 and the project is ongoing.

Objective of the Project:

The overall objective of MBC is to improve maternal and child health condition in the Karnali region of Nepal. The specific objectives are:

- To address the demand of maternal and child health situation in Karnali,
- To provide quality basic emergency obstetric service, and
- To create the enabling environment to make compatibility of demand and supply.

Project Period: 1 February 2018 to 31 December 2022

Target Beneficiaries of the project:

- Direct beneficiaries :
 - Pregnant women (pregnancy regular check-up, institutional delivery)
- Indirect beneficiaries:
 - HHs of the rural municipality (uterus prolapsed, normal check-up, family planning and safe abortion counseling)

Nearest village residence

Expected Results:

- The inclusive and capacitated health facility management committee will be in place
- Functional Miteri Birthing Center with quality services
- Service users at the birthing center will be increased
- Maternal and child health status in the project districts will be improved.

Progress status

The building construction and equipment set up at Miteri Birthing Centre Bhadgoun was completed by April 2019. Since May 2019, the delivery services has been started though the inauguration of the center was formally done on 29th May 2019. Till the end of June 2019, a total of six deliveries has been assisted by SBA at the center. The solar set up at the birthing center was done on last week of the June. Now the birthing center is equipped with required equipment and materials, essential medicines, SBA trained



ANM, facilities for infection prevention and control (such as 24 hours water supply) and regular supply of electricity. A quick assessment of the center was done on May and as per the assessment, few materials and equipment supply list has been prepared which is under process of procurement. Also community awareness activities targeting adolescents and pregnant women are ongoing from local FCHVs and ANM.

Service progress status

Sr. No	Indicators	Number of
		beneficiaries
1.	Number of women who had Antenatal checkup	15
2.	Number of women who had institutional delivery	6
3.	Number of women who had postnatal checkup	6
4.	Number of postnatal cases referred	0
9.	Number of women/girls who received counseling on safe abortion care, FP, pregnancy danger sign etc.	35

3.2 SAAF Project (Safe abortion)

Accessibility of safe abortion services is a major issue although abortion is legalized in Nepal. 13% of the maternal death at community is due to unsafe abortion (Annual report, DoHS, 2074/75). About .33 million women and adolescent girls have abortion in Nepal of which 58% are done under unsafe procedure (Guttmacher Institute, CREPHA). Less than half of the women of reproductive age had knowledge that abortion is legal in Nepal and nearly half of them knew the place for safe abortion (NDHS, 2016).

"Access to safe abortion and contraceptive services for vulnerable, marginalized and uncovered areas in the Karnali region of Nepal" is three-year project funded by SAAF, IPPF. The main goal of the project is that women and girls in Nepal are able to realize their rights to sexual and reproductive health and are informed and able to access contraception, safe abortion when needed.

Objectives

- 1. Increase the skills and capacity of 15 health workers and in public health posts of 6 Rural Municipality and 1 Municipality of Kalikot district to provide quality safe abortion and family planning services by second year of the project.
- 2. Improve knowledge of accessible safe abortion and family planning care for women and girls in 6 Rural Municipalities and 1 Municipality of Kalikot district to increase access to safe abortion services by end of the project.
- 3. Reduce abortion stigma by educating adolescent girls/boys and sharing knowledge on SRHR to women/men using media and campaigning in 6 Rural Municipalities and 1 Municipality of Kalikot district by end of the project period

Project Period: July 2018 to March 2021

Progress status:

During early period of the project, activities such as approval from the Social Welfare Council, recruitment of the project staffs, office set up, baseline survey, orientation to community facilitators, DPAC orientation and project orientation at community level were completed. On the next semi-annual period, activities such as health mother groups' formation, Health Facility Organization and Management Committees orientation, training on Gender based violence and counselling skills to FCHVs/HFOMC members/HF staffs, MA training to ANMs, bi-monthly meeting of health mother groups and HFOMC, SRHR session to school adolescent students and community awareness were done.

During this year capacity development of 206 people has been made for the project activities. 416 community level key person such as rural municipality chairpersons, ward secretaries, social workers, teachers, health coordinators, health post in-charges, FCHVs and others had participated in the project orientation meeting. Awareness on sexual and reproductive health and right including safe abortion among community people made through 17 community level events. 1637 students received special classes on sexual health and reproductive right, family planning and safe abortion. 8 ANMs received MA training and certification from National Health Training Centre & Family Welfare Division.

4. Miteri Integrated Project

4.1 Relief support to fire affected household at Kalikot

On 24th December 2018, dazzling fire destroy 87 houses at Khada Village of Palata Rural Municipality,

Kalikot. The fire affected 540 (171 Male, 239 Female and 130 Children) people residing in those houses. With core fund of the AWON and fund collected from the few institutions, we supported those affected households with basic items required for the survival in close coordination with disaster management committee district of administration office.

AWON provided Kitchen Utensils, plates, toothpaste,

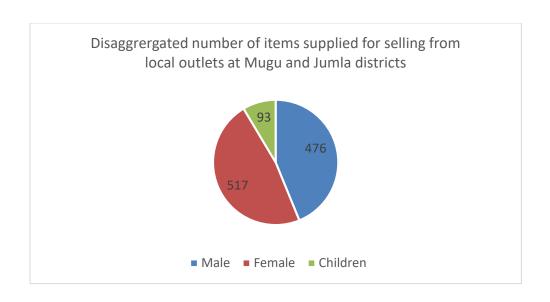


sanitary pads, soap, mattress, woolen caps, baby blankets, child jackets etc. for 45 families.

4.2 Miteri Recycle Center:

Action Works Nepal is running a social business through Miteri Recycle Center (MRC) since 2010 with aim to provide affordable clothes to the needy people of the needy areas of remote Nepal by preserving the environment and generating the economic opportunities to the disadvantaged women. We believe that in order to access peace we should first ensure the basic needs of everyone. Hence, to provide one of basic needs of the people, we started this business focusing long term sustainable solutions. MRC collects second hand reusable items especially clothes from Kathmandu and other city areas; refined them, packed and made them like retail items and sell them to the needy people at affordable price from different outlets. MRC also empowers women to start their own sales business as local retailers, creating income-generating activities for the most marginalized women. Till date, we have reached to 9 districts Jumla, Kalikot, Dailekh, Humla, Mugu, Accham, Dhangadi, Kavrelanchowk and Sindhupalchowk, however, our regular supply districts include Jumla and Mugu. MRC also keeps stalls in different expo and exhibition programs in Kathmandu to explore as well as to collect and sell clothes.

During this FY, we collected 1461 pairs of clothing from different people in Kathmandu and aboard. Also we supplied 1086 cloth items to Mugu and Jumla for selling at affordable price targeting needy poor people. The supplied items consisted of cloths for male adult, female adult and children for both sexes.



5. List of Projects in 2018-019

SN	Name of Program	Project areas	Budget Expenditure	Funding Partners
1	Elimination of <i>Chhaupadi</i> ¹ Practice in	Jumla, Mugu &		European
	Karnali (Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu	Kalikot		Commission
	districts)			
2	Establish and Operation of Miteri	Jumla		Nepalese Nursing
	Birthing Center (Jumla district)			Association
				(NNA)UK
3	Education Support Program, Jumla	Jumla		CSU Australia
				support
4	Education Support Program, Jumla	Jumla		Kindehilfe
5	Access to safe abortion and contraceptive	Kalikot		Safe Abortion Action
	services for vulnerable, marginalized and			Fund (SAAF), UK.
	uncovered areas in the Karnali region of			
	Nepal.			
6	Peace Learning Centre	Jumla		Various donors
7	Miteri Recycle Centre	Jumla		AWON own initiative

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6. Organizational Financial System/Annual Financial Statement

AWON has computerized accounting system named Financial and Management Accounting System (FAMAS) for recording, reporting and analysing of the financial transactions of the organization. AWON has a well-established finance, admin and human resource management system. AWON finance and administration section applies the organizational system and policies and auditing the finance and system by the authorised independent audit firms duly appointed by the Annual General Assembly meeting of the organization. The annual financial statement for the fiscal year 2018-019 is presented below.

Action Works Nepal (AWON)

New Baneshwor-10, Kathmandu

Balance Sheet

As on Ashadh end 2076 (16th July, 2019)

Particulars	Sch.	Current Year (Rs.)	Previous Year (Rs.)		
Capital & Liabilities					
Capital Reserve Fund	1	1,604,622.00	1,604,622.00		
Surplus / (Deficit)	2	6,294,124.32	5,760,333.64		
Advance Fund for the Project	3	12,432,568.46	19,182,246.85		
Grant for Fixed Assets		537,966.56	717,288.75		
Account Payables	4	296,747.00	1,679,652.47		
Total Capital & Liabilities		21,166,028.34	28,944,143.71		

Total Assets		21,166,028.34	28,944,143.71
Cash Balance		20,000.00	27,920.00
Bank Balance	7	20,047,727.63	25,754,066.04
Advance & Receivables	6	244,555.00	2,079,943.97
Fixed Assets	5	853,745.71	1,082,213.70

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to

Accounts 12
Schedule 1 to 7 & 12 are integral part of the balance sheet.

As per our report of even date attached

Samjhana Paudel

General Secretary

Bharat Prasad Wasti

CA Ramesh Nepal For Nepal Associates Chartered Accountants

Saroj Prasad Dahal

Jagannath Bista Executive Manager Ramesh Pandey Finance Officer

Action Works Nepal (AWON)

New Baneshwor-10, Kathmandu

Income Statement

Period Starting from 1st Shrawan 2075 to Ashad end 2076

(Period Starting from 17th July, 2018 to 16th July, 2019)

Particulars	Sch.	Current Year (Rs.)	Previous Year (Rs.)
<u>Income</u>			
Grant Income	8	20,865,511.77	17,376,367.56
Contribution from Board members, Staffs & Others Donors	9	2,436,871.53	983,487.06
Grant from Fixed Assets		179,322.19	239,096.99
Interest Income		179,405.43	228,278.57
Total Income		23,661,110.92	18,827,230.18

<u>Expenditure</u>			
Administrative Expenditure	10	2,033,340.48	1,122,031.48
Programme Expenditure	11	20,865,511.77	17,376,367.56
Depreciation	5	228,467.99	301,292.01
Total Expenditure		23,127,320.24	18,799,691.05

Surplus / (Deficit)	533,790.68	27,539.13

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to

Accounts

12

Schedule 8 to 11 and 5 & 12 are integral part of the income statement.

As per our report of even date attached

Samjhana Paudel

Bharat Prasad Wasti President CA Ramesh Nepal For Nepal Associates Chartered Accountants

Saroj Prasad Dahal Tresurer

Jagannath Bista

Executive Manager

Ramesh Pandey Finance Officer