

# Annual Report

(2020 – 2021)



## Action Works Nepal (AWON)

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*This report covers summary of activities completed in the period of July 2020 to June 2021.*

## Foreword

It is my pleasure to present Annual Report 2020-21 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 starting from mid-July 2020 and ending on mid-July 2021. AWON has successfully implemented major activities planned in the annual plan for the fiscal year 2020/21 despite the limitations due to COVID-19 pandemic, which had significant impact on the timely implementation of the project in its respective districts.

The main objective of the organization is to improve the livelihoods of communities through humanitarian, educational, and vocational result-driven programs surrounding them with political, economic, social, cultural and environmental empowerment and helping them embrace peace, growth, and sustainable development.

During this reporting year, AWON had conducted various programs (education and health) in two districts of Karnali Province - Kalikot and Jumla. Quality education provision, capacity development of teachers, scholarship support to needy students and resource support to schools were emphasized in education. Meanwhile, in health, family planning, safe abortion and menstrual hygiene management were the main focus of the program activities.

Further, AWON has been implementing its revised policies and procedures to make its initiative more effective and efficient since 2019. 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 2020-21 (BS 2077-78). 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.



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Bharat Wasti  
President  
Action Works Nepal

## Acronyms

ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
AWON	Action Works Nepal
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDO	Chief District Officer
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSU	Charles Sturt University
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DPHO	District Public Health Office
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteer
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
RAP	Rural Access Programme
RM	Rural Municipality
SMC	School Management Committee
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Right
VAW	Violence against Women

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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 "**MiteriGaun: 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 obligated 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 socially excluded people.

### Vision

A multi-disciplinary group of people are gathered, and they seek prosperous and 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 with political, economic, social, cultural and environmental empowerment and help communities to embrace peace, growth, and sustainable development.

*The subsequent paragraphs entail details of the programs and their respective activities in different thematic areas that were carried out from mid-July 2020 to mid-July 2021.*

## 1. Education

Action Works Nepal (AWON) has been working in education since its inception in the remote and needy areas as a part of '*MiteriGaun: Let's Live Together*' campaign. The Education Support Program is being implemented at one rural municipality of Kalikot and two rural municipalities of Jumla district respectively. The program includes provision of scholarship to selected students, sponsorship support of teachers of two schools, capacity building of teachers, and provision of materials used for extracurricular activities. As for the students, AWON prioritizes rural, poor, differently-abled, orphaned and socially marginalized children for the project activities. Nevertheless, limited funding has made the support only accessible to some needy ones of specific locations only. The donations and funds come from AWON, Kinderhlife, Charles Sturt University (CSU) Australia and few individual donors.

The major **objectives** of the program are to:

- Capacitate and make teachers aware of the importance of quality education, and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)
- Provide scholarships to needy and poor people of marginalized communities
- Monitor activities and ensure quality education provision in the project areas

The **types of support** AWON provides in education are:

- Miteri Education Support Program – Full / Partial scholarships
- Miteri Teacher Support Program
- Material support for extra-curricular activities in school
- Toys / stationery items support to libraries to the needy schools
- Support trainings of making sanitary pads
- Support in capacity building of teachers

The **project areas** are selective rural municipalities and municipalities of Kalikot and Jumla districts.

This year, we conducted training to 18 health teachers on SRHR from the project implemented schools. Similarly, scholarship support to the needy students has been continued since the last year. The support to the 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. Students were selected based on the recommendation from the schools targeting very poor, needy and talented students. However, for the academic year that started later this year has not been continued due to the pandemic. The schools were closed and this has hampered in selection of the students and providing the support. The activity will be continued after the school reopens.



Similarly, we have continued to support Kalika Basic School, Hiyakhola with two teachers on regular basic. The teachers are hired and recruited by the School Management Committee under shared fund from AWON and School Management Communities.

Likewise, with the main objective of the project is to support needy students for scholarship and to ensure supportive school environment and quality education at the selected schools of Jumla and Kalikot, AWON distributed educational materials like school uniform, bag and stationery materials. While the plan was to distribute the support materials to previously selected students for scholarships, due to then recent fire at Gothigaun, Ward No-7 at Tila Rural Municipality Jumla which destroyed the whole village, the plan was revised in consultation with Kinderhilfe Nepal. The revised plan was approved and 81 new students were selected who were affected by the fire and were distributed with 2 sets of school uniforms, bags and stationery materials. In total, 199 students benefited from the scholarship.

The distribution date and venue were planned with Municipality and Rural Municipality authorities prior to the distribution, where the elected officials participated and actively supported the scholarship distribution to the selected students.

The distribution program was held on different dated at different venues. Following are the details of distribution:

Date	Venue	Particulars Distributed	Remarks
3 February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shree Janajagaran PrimarySchool, Tilagufa Municipality, Ward No-8</li> <li>- Shree Shivalaya Secondary School, Tilagufa Municipality, Ward No-9</li> <li>- Shree Kalika Secondary School, Tilagufa Municipality, Ward No-4</li> </ul>	Uniform Set, Bag, Stationery	52 students from 25 different schools from that area were handed out the support materials.
4 February 2021	Shree Sita Secondary School, Tila Rural Municipality, Ward No-6	Uniform Set, Bag, Stationery	Students affected by the fire were supported during this event where 81 total number of students from 2 different schools were supported.
13 February 2021	Shree Jwala Primary School, Tilagufa Municipality, Ward No-6	Uniform Set, Bag, Stationery	10 students from 5 different schools were supported at the event.
19 March 2021	Shree Sita Secondary School, Tila Rural Municipality, Ward No-6	Uniform Set, Bag, Stationery	56 students from 28 different schools were supported.



## 2. Health

### 2.1 Miteri Birthing Center, Jumla

Nepal has one of the highest maternal mortality rates among the developing countries, which makes it imperative for the organizations to emphasize in improving the quality and access of healthcare related to maternal and child health so as to reduce related morbidities and mortalities. To top it, lack of awareness among general public on maternal and neonatal health has even led to low number of women seeking relevant health services. To make it worse, health institutions have inadequate infrastructure and logistics, which are often run by poorly trained or even untrained staff, like in some cases of very remote areas.

Keeping all these in mind, AWON has launched a 5-year project named “Miteri Birthing Center in Karnali” with financial support from Nepalese Nursing Association UK (NNAUK) starting from 2018.

This project has been designed to improve the maternal health status of women of a remote part of Jumla with the construction and operation of a birthing center.



Miteri Birthing Center at Bhadgoun, Jumla

Specifically, **the project aims to:**

- Address the high maternal mortality rate and poor child health condition in the program areas and around nearest outreach
- Provide basic quality emergency health services to the poor, vulnerable and socially excluded groups
- Create an enabling environment for demand and supply

The project **started from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 and is expected to run until December 2022**, and after that the center will be handed over to the local government body.

The **target beneficiaries** of the project are as follows:

- Direct beneficiaries: Pregnant and Lactating women (ANC and PNC services, Institutional delivery)
- Indirect beneficiaries: HHs of the rural municipality (General check-up)
- Nearest village residence

The **results expected** from this project are as follows:

- There will be an establishment of an inclusive and functional health facility management committee
- Miteri Birthing Center will be conducted with quality services
- Service users at the birthing center will increase
- Maternal and child health status in the project will be improved.



Post-delivery treatment at the Birthing Centre at Bhadgau, Jumla

As for **the progress** so far, the building construction and equipment set up at Miteri Birthing Centre, Bhadgoun, were completed in April 2019. Despite the hardships, the construction of the birthing center and the installation of the necessary equipment have all been completed and now, it is fully functional starting from last year (2020).

After the formal inauguration of the center on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019, a total of 23 deliveries have been assisted by Skilled Birth Attendant (SBA) at the center by the end of June 2020. 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, which has led to the smooth execution of the project.

The community mobilization on MNCH and Family Planning are continuously being done in the catchment area of the birthing center through AWON's field staffs and FCHVs. Our field staffs and FCHVs conduct home visits to counsel women on ANC, PNC, Family Planning, Safe Delivery services and different health related topics. Despite the limitation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 152 service holders received services during the reporting period.

S.N.	Indicators	Number of beneficiaries
1.	Number of women who had Antenatal checkup	29
2.	Number of women who had institutional delivery	29
3.	Number of women who had postnatal checkup	29
4.	Number of postnatal cases referred	0
5.	Number of women/girls who received counseling on safe abortion care, FP, pregnancy danger sign etc.	152

## 2.2 SAAF Project (Safe abortion)

Accessibility of safe abortion services is a major issue even though when abortion has been legalized in Nepal for almost two decades. Around 13% of the maternal deaths at community level is due to unsafe abortion (Annual report, DoHS, 2074/75). About 0.33 million women and adolescent girls have undergone abortion in Nepal, of which 58% are undertook 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 to make women and girls able to realize their rights to sexual and reproductive health, to inform them about contraception and safe abortion and to make these services accessible for them when they need them.

To clarify, this project has the following **objectives**:

1. To 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. To 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. To 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

The project **started in July 2018 and ended in September 2021** with no cost extension.

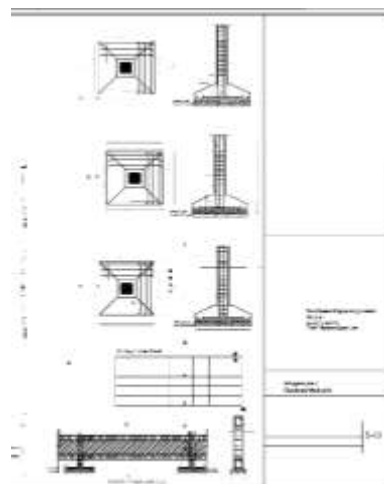
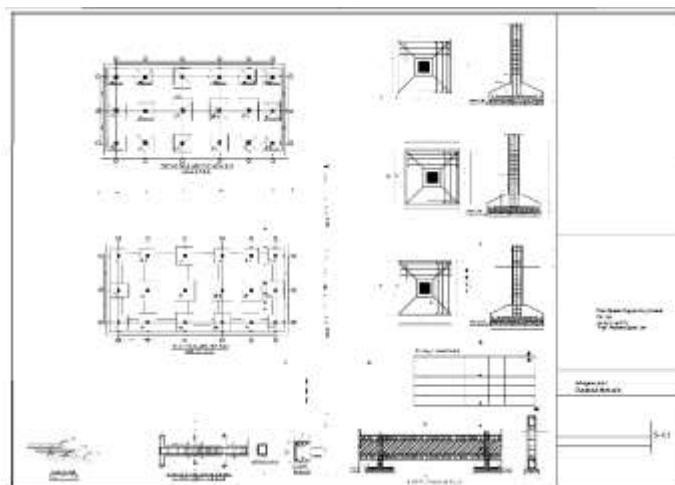
Since the planned activities in the first two trimesters were not undertaken due to COVID-19 pandemic, all the **key activities** carried out in the final year were as such:

- Provided contraceptive service (Implant) through mobile camps in different villages to 181 service users.
- MA and Implant training provided to 6 and 4 new health workers.
- Youth dialogue and interaction program on SRHR conducted at 9 different villages, reached 231 youths.
- Awareness campaigns, advocacy events on SRHR and MA service conducted at all 7 RM's.
- Continuation of bi-monthly HMG, HFOMC and men's' group meeting reaching respectively 4931, 257 and 445 members from each.
- 1023 females of reproductive age group reached and counselled through door to door visit.
- 132 women provided with medical abortion services.
- 72.72% of females receiving MA services provided with post abortion contraceptive service.
- Out of total service users, 66.3% provided with short term contraception and 33.69% choose long term contraception.
- 95.18% of total contraception users were women with age more than 20 years and 4.81% were of age less than 20 years.
- 270 students reached through SRHR class in school.
- Supported in providing safe abortion training and certification to 6 ANM's from selected government health facilities
- 12 health workers for project implemented health facilities were supported in receiving implant training from listed government training site.
- Equipment and basic logistics required for health posts to deliver MA and implant service including other family planning services were procured and distributed to support 15 health facilities. The supply included MA drugs, analgesics, furniture and curtains.
- Reorientation on revised activities were conducted with the community facilitators and semi-annual action plan was prepared based on the revision made.
- Mobile camps for family planning were conducted in 3 VDC's.
- Bi-monthly meeting of health mothers' group, health facility management committee are regularized to discuss the issue of awareness raising and quality service delivery on safe abortion and family planning. However, the last two meetings were not conducted because of the Covid-19 pandemic led restrictions in the district.

- Door to door visit to counsel and aware family members on safe abortion and family planning were conducted by all community facilitators.
- Provided SRHR education to school students targeting to adolescent girls and boys.
- Produced and broadcasted radio programs to educate community on abortion and family planning. Similarly, radio jingles were aired to raise awareness.
- Conducted campaigning activities to raise awareness on SRHR focusing on abortion rights.
- Conducted district level interaction program with local media and key stakeholders to sensitize them on SRHR issues, abortion and family planning rights and issues.
- Published and distributed awareness materials to inform the community about legal abortion and family planning.
- Monitoring and supportive supervision of project activities were conducted by the project management team and district staff.
- Review and reflection meeting of the project team was conducted where the project status, key achievements, issues and actions need to address those issues were thoroughly discussed in the team.
- Youth dialogue and interaction program for SRHR issues were conducted in each project VDC's where members of child clubs, users' groups and anti-child marriage clubs participated in the program.
- Capacitated health teachers of schools from project implemented VDC's on SRHR and family planning.

### 3. Miteri Peace Learning Centre

AWON has aimed to establish 'Miteri Peace Learning Centre' in Chandannath Municipality, Khalanga (BoharaGaun), Jumla as a learning center for the locals. The construction of the building has already started, which will hold a library, an IT room and a commemoration monument. For the construction, the coordination with a local stakeholder and selection of the contractor were conducted in the initial months.



## List of Projects in 2020-021

SN	Name of Program	Project areas	Funding Partners
1.	Establish and Operation of Miteri Birthing Center (Jumla district)	Jumla	Nepalese Nursing Association (NNA)UK
2.	Education Support Program	Jumla, Kalikot	CSU Australia support, Kinderhilfe
3.	Access to safe abortion and contraceptive services for vulnerable, marginalized and uncovered areas in the Karnali region of Nepal.	Kalikot	Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF), UK.
4.	Construction of Peace Learning Centre	Jumla	Various donors

## 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.



## Photo Gallery



Teachers training on ASRH at Manma, Kalikot



Birthing Centre at Bhadgau, Jumla



Health Mothers Group Meeting at Kalikot



Male Groups Meeting and discussion on Safe Abortion and Family Planning by CF



Implant service provided by ANM at Health facility in Kalikot



Youth Groups Training at Kalikot



ANC Check-Up at the Birthing Centre at Bhadgau, Jumla



Solar equipment's at Birthing Centre at Bhadgau, Jumla



Interaction with mothers group members during field visit by central team



Interaction on family planning and safe abortion with female members from the community at Kalikot



Sanitary pad making training at Boharabada, Humla



Sanitary pad making training at Bama, Mugu