

I HAVE A VOICE!

WOMEN ADVOCATING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL



In the remote districts of Karnali, women have important roles and functions in their community. They have responsibilities and heavy workload, but they have little voice to decide for their own future and the future development of their village. Usually, boys have priority to access school, and literacy rate for women is much lower than for men. Population often believes that women are weak, not so clever and should only focus on home duties! As consequences, women are among the most vulnerable groups living in Karnali.

The World Development Report 2012 from the World Bank argues that gender equality is a key component for better development. Mission East, together with its partners KIRDARC and WWS, realized that, to be able to raise their voice, women of Karnali need to have a chance to become literate, need to understand their rights and the process of local development.

To address such issues, and with the financial support of the Danish Project Advisory Technical Center (PATC), Mission East, KIRDARC and WWS have developed the project "I have a Voice:

women advocating for development in Nepal", for the districts of Humla and Mugu.

With a view to address all forms of social exclusion, the project will include all of the most vulnerable and marginalized women: Dalit women, women with disabilities and their family members, illiterate women, single women, etc.

Project Objectives

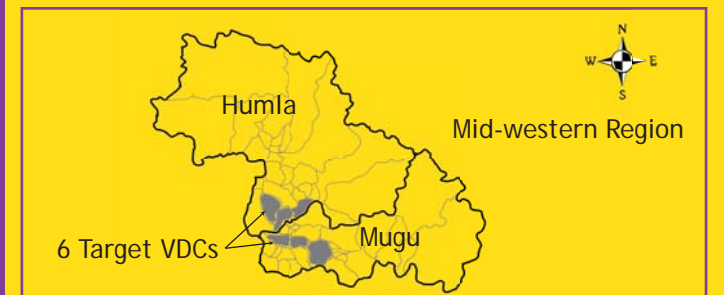
Objective 1: The capacity of the partners organizations, KIRDARC and WWS, is build in the area of gender and disability inclusion in development activities.

Objective 2: Marginalized women are empowered through training and access to information to play an increased role in community decision making.

Objective 3: Women Development Groups and other local community groups advocate and claim their rights in the sphere of community development.

Target Area

Districts	Village Development Committees-VDCs
Mugu	Kalai, Rara and Dhainakot
Humla	Srinagar, Kalika and Jaira



महिलालाई
Women



हुन्छ
Have



अधिकार
Right/Authority

Target Groups

- ▶ Vulnerable and marginalized women, including Dalit women, women with disabilities and their family members, single women and illiterate women
- ▶ Members of local NGOs
- ▶ Existing community groups
- ▶ Village Development Councils

Total number of beneficiaries
400 women from 18 WDAGs are the direct beneficiaries of this project whereas remaining 6967 people from six VDCs of existing groups are the indirect beneficiaries.

Major outputs of the Project

1. 400 Women are trained in several topics ranging from literacy, gender to basic rights, including the rights of Dalits and people with disabilities
2. Several Handbooks and training packages are developed: Handbook on Best Practice for Women's Empowerment, Handbook on Gender Sensitive Approach, Functional Literacy Training package and a Basic Rights Training package
3. 18 Women's Development and Advocacy Groups-WDAGs are formed,
4. 4 Women's Development Groups motivated to advocate for their needs in their villages and at national level



5. 6 VDC secretaries are aware of their obligation to use Participatory Planning Processes and implement it.

Major Activities of the Project

- ▶ Capacity building of KIRDARC and WWS in gender sensitive and disability inclusive approaches through trainings
- ▶ Development of 'Handbook for a Gender Sensitive Approach' for each of the partner's thematic areas such as education, food security, water/sanitation, disaster risk reduction, etc...
- ▶ Development of several training packages
- ▶ Identification and mobilization of vulnerable and marginalized women
- ▶ Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey to identify most appropriate training topics and methodology
- ▶ Functional literacy trainings provided for 400 women
- ▶ Formation of 18 Women's Development Groups.
- ▶ Sensitisation meetings between women's groups and VDC representatives.
- ▶ Competition to identify the 6 most active and motivated Women's Development and Advocacy Groups (1 per VDC).
- ▶ Awareness on gender sensitive approach and constructive democratic participation developed and facilitated with 70 CBOs
- ▶ Training for VDC members in: Participatory Planning Process; Local Government and Community Development Programme; gender sensitivity, and rights of people with disabilities.

For further information

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