

Reflections 2014



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION
NEPAL

Department
for World Service

member of **act**alliance

Annual Report

Reflections 2014

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Cover photo: Women and men from Pyutar VDC in Lalitpur display their joint land-ownership certificates and exude happiness. They were able to own land thanks to the support of LWF Nepal and its implementing partner Community Self-reliance Centre.



Message from the Country Director



Dear colleagues and well-wishers,

It gives us immense pleasure to share with you Reflections 2014, the Annual Report of LWF Nepal. It encapsulates the work that we and our implementing partner organizations accomplished to ensure the rights of the poor and oppressed people.

For us, 2014 was a watershed. A number of important policies were implemented this year. Our current Country Strategy 2014-2019, Country Operational Program Plan 2014-2016, and Program Document 2014-2016 came into operation from this year, ushering in a new direction to our programs and policies.

Building on our experience and strength, LWF Nepal continued to develop the capacity of the priority populations to enable them to be prepared for, face and recover from disasters and emergencies. We also provided humanitarian support to our rights holders during and post-disaster and emergency situations. Rendering the

poor and vulnerable communities disaster-resilient remained one of our priorities.

We strongly believe that sustainable livelihood enables rights holders to claim their basic rights, and remain safe in the face of disasters and emergencies. Therefore, we scaled up our efforts to ensure sustainable livelihood of the poor and oppressed people through skill development and income-generating training, access to market and finance, and rural enterprise. As a result, an increasing number of people have become self-employed and given employment to others.

Empowering the rights holders and sensitizing the duty-bearers through our Community-led Action for Governance and Justice Theme, we began deepening and widening the community empowerment, working closely with the government agencies at local level. Consequently, a large number of priority populations have been able to improve local governance and claim local public resources.

While carrying out various activities in collaboration with like-minded organizations, concerned government agencies and our implementing partner organizations, we strictly followed core commitments - Human Rights, Impartiality, Inclusion and Participation, Accountability, Gender Justice, and Climate Justice and Environment Sustainability.

We have attempted to provide the synopses of our major work of 2014 in this report. We would like to acknowledge and appreciate the support and commitment of our rights holders, implementing partners, donors, supporters, staff and stakeholders including the government for the accomplishments.

On the national political front, the process of making a new constitution hit a snag as the second Constituent Assembly (CA) also could not deliver constitution within the deadline set by the CA. As political parties could not build consensus on crucial issues like restructuring the state due mainly to being tangled in a debate on whether the new federal states should be constituted on the basis of geography or on ethnic identity.

The year remained dismal in terms of the performance of the CA, throwing cold water on the aspirations of the poor and marginalized people. The indecision of the political parties fuelled by partisan interests has to some extent created disenchantment among the people towards the political parties and the leaders.

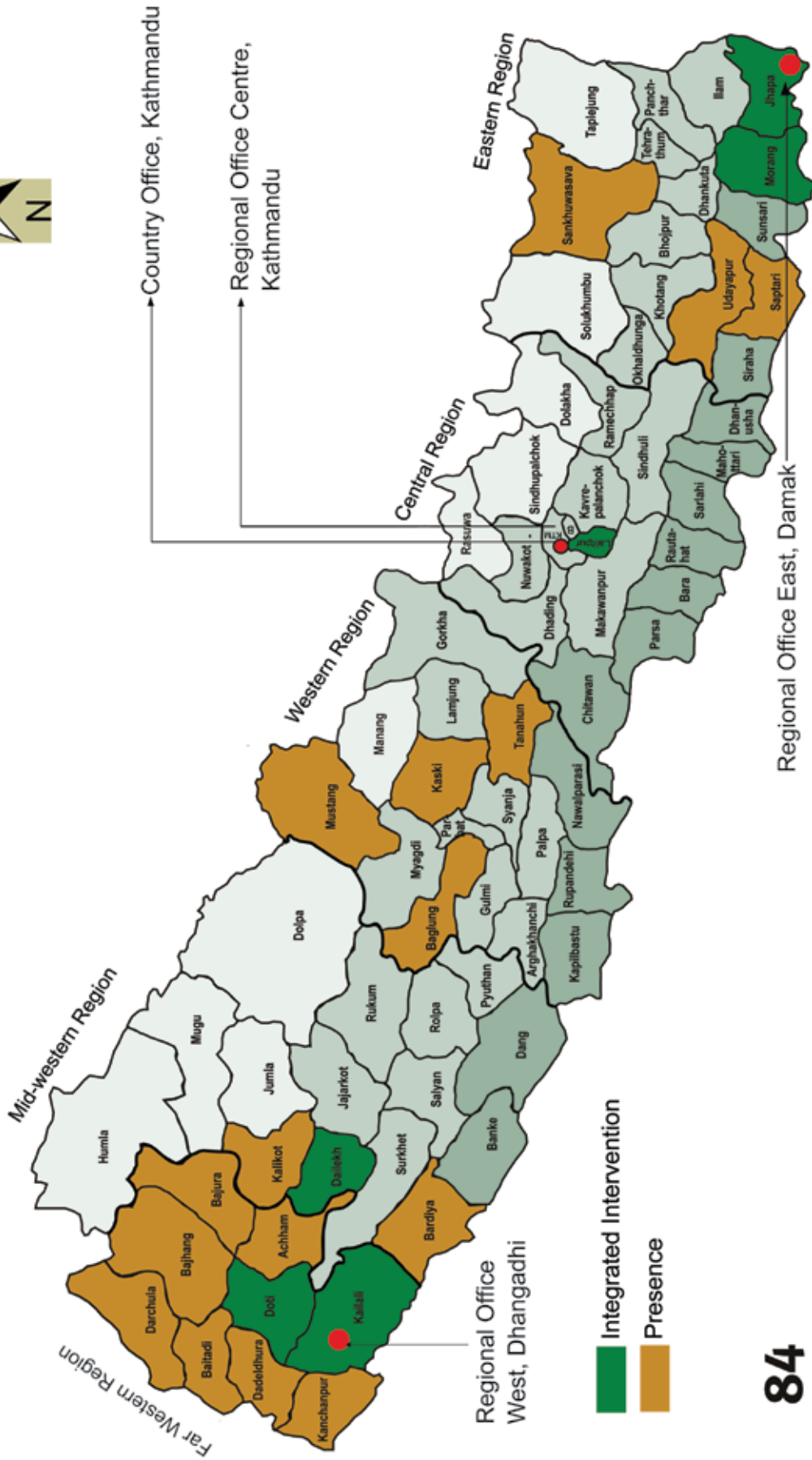
I would like to express gratitude to the government, Social Welfare Council, development partners, and implementing partners, for joining hands with us in our combined efforts to ensure the rights of the poor and oppressed people during normalcy and those for supporting us in times of emergency.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the staff, interns, volunteers for their hard work, dedication and team efforts.

Thank you,

Dr Prabin Manandhar

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Acronyms

ACT Alliance	Action by Churches Together Alliance
AIN-TGDM	Association of International NGOs in Nepal-Task Group on Disaster Management
ALWS	Australian Lutheran World Service
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
BPRM	Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration
BRCF	Bhutanese Refugee Children Forum
CAC	Citizen Awareness Centre
CBDRM	Community-based Disaster Risk Management
CBI	Cash-based Intervention
CBOF	CBO Federation
CBO	Community-based Organization
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCCM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management
CFS	Climate Field School
CFUG	Community Forestry Users Group
COPP	Country Operational Program Plan
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group
CTA	Community Technology Access
DCA	DanChurch Aid
DDC	District Development Committee
DDRC	District Disaster Relief Committee
DMC	Disaster Management Committee
DMP	Disaster Management Plan
DMT	Disaster Management Team
DPNeT	Disaster Preparedness Network
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRRP	Disaster Response and Recovery Plan
DWS	Department for World Service
ELCA	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ERDRM	Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Management
EWS	Early-warning System
FCA	FinnChurch Aid
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
HAP	Humanitarian Accountability Partnership
HH	Household
HMC	Health Management Committee
HRD	Human Rights Defender
ICS	Improved Cook Stove
IGA	Income-generating Activity
JTA	Junior Technical Assistant
LDRMPG	Local Disaster Risk Management Planning Guidelines
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development
NFI	Non-food Item
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
LWR	Lutheran World Relief
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
NPR	Nepali Rupees
NRRC	Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium
ODF	Open Defecation-free
PCVA	Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Analysis
PM&E	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
PwD	People with Disability
SADG	Social Awareness Development Group

SDRM	Strategic Disaster Risk Management
SIYB	Start and Improve Your Business
SMC	School Management Committee
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
SWC	Social Welfare Council
TNA	Tibetan New Arrival
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VAHW	Village Animal Health Worker
VDC	Village Development Committee
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCF	Ward Citizen Forum
WFP	World Food Programme

Glossary

<i>Ailani</i>	Unregistered land.
<i>Bigha</i>	Unit of measurement of land in the Tarai. One <i>Bigha</i> is equal to 72,900 square feet.
<i>Dalit</i>	A person considered as the "lowest caste" in the Hindu caste hierarchy. The <i>Dalits</i> are also often referred to as untouchables.
DDC	A committee of members elected to serve (in accordance with the District Development Committee Act, 1992) as the executive body of authority in each of the 75 districts of Nepal. Candidates for election to a DDC represent the Village Development Committees (VDCs) within that district.
<i>Haliya</i>	It literally means "one who tills land." They were enslaved within a system of bonded labor, and are forced by a landlord to execute various hard labors (usually agricultural) for many years, often for an entire lifetime. Besides the agricultural work, <i>Haliyas</i> fulfill a range of duties, including making tools (such as spades, knives, and sickles), graze animals, stitch clothes, make utensils and pots, etc. They are often provided with a small amount of food as wage.
<i>Janajati</i>	Indigenous nationalities of Nepal. As per the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities Act, 2001, the Government of Nepal has recognized 59 indigenous nationalities in Nepal.
<i>Kamaiya</i>	Agricultural bonded-laborer, particularly those that existed in western Nepal. Though it is abolished after the promulgation of <i>Kamaiya</i> Labour (Prohibition) Act, 2002, it is still in practice in different forms of domestic workers and seasonal agricultural laborers.
<i>Kamlari</i>	Female <i>Kamaiya</i> (mostly unmarried adolescent and youth), often daughters of <i>Kamaiya</i> , who used to work for landlords.
<i>Kattha</i>	Unit of measurement of land in the Tarai. One <i>Kattha</i> is equal to 3,625 square feet.
<i>Musahar</i>	A caste-group within the Tarai <i>Dalit</i> community.
<i>Santhal</i>	A caste group within the poor and marginalized communities mostly in the eastern Tarai of Nepal.
VDC	A committee of members elected to govern a village development area (in accordance with the Village Development Committee Act, 1992). Candidates for election to a VDC represent the wards into which a VDC area is divided.

About LWF in Nepal

LWF has been working in Nepal since 1984. LWF Nepal has intervened with disaster relief and rehabilitation in response to a number of emergencies, and worked with the Bhutanese refugees since 1991. Its development program has evolved from service-oriented sectoral and community development toward empowerment and rights-based approaches, increasingly with the most disadvantaged groups. LWF Nepal has shifted its intervention modalities to work with local partners (both CBOs, CBO Federations, NGOs) as well as with the government and civil society groups and movements to influence policy and practice at national level.

Vision

People in Nepal, living in a just society in peace and dignity, united in diversity and empowered to achieve their full potential, claim their universal rights, meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life.

Mission

Inspired by God's love for humanity, LWF Nepal responds to and challenges the causes and effects of human suffering and poverty.

Values

a) Dignity and justice, b) Compassion and commitment, c) Inclusion and respect for diversity, d) Transparency and accountability

Approaches

- Community-based empowerment
- Human rights-based
- Integrated program
- Participatory and inclusive

Program Objectives a) People and communities are capable to address and manage disaster risks, and to respond to and recover from disasters and emergencies, b) Priority populations achieve sustainable livelihood through enhanced food security, employment and income, c) Priority populations are able to participate in decisions affecting them and advocate for their rights

Program Overview LWF in Nepal works in the areas of Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response; Sustainable Livelihood; and Community-led Action for Governance and Justice in an integrated manner to build synergy and improve development impacts as much as possible. It focuses on the strategies for achieving changes in the following three domains for resilient livelihood of the poor and oppressed:

1) Assets creation and increased access to services for fulfilling basic needs including food security, sustainable income, confidence and dignity, and reduced vulnerability, 2) Rules, regulations, norms that are favorable for enhanced rights and roles in decision-making and benefit-sharing, 3) Capacity, network and strength for raising voice, defending rights and influencing decision-making

Organizational Priorities Developed organizational competency through the preparation and implementation of the guidelines on:

- Results-based PME
- Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI)
- Disability mainstreaming
- GESI-responsive participatory PME tool

The organization has been making continuous efforts to render workforce inclusive and participatory. Women's representation at decision-making level, coordinators being the senior position in organizational hierarchy, is 43 per cent followed by 33 at country management, 33 at officer, and 29 per cent at manager levels out of 96 staff.

LWF Nepal strongly believes in workforce diversity. It has institutionalized the Workforce Diversity Policy and has been making efforts to maintain the ratio of employees from different castes, ethnicity and genders. It supported to organize capacity-building initiative of international staff in 2014. It organized the AZEECON summit and capacity-building workshop from 24-26 September 2014 in Kathmandu in which 17 international and 169 national staff from LWF and its implementing partner organizations participated.

Resource Mobilization and Communication

Resource mobilization and communication is one of the core areas of engagement of LWF Nepal. In order to attract necessary financial resources, it strengthens fundraising and related efforts combined with effective communication. Resource mobilization is a priority to achieve a stable and more diversified funding base. Thus LWF Nepal considers fundraising as a core function of senior staff.

We build donor confidence by ensuring high-quality, well-managed programs and effective leadership and well-developed staff capacity, strong financial management, transparency and accountability. We seek new opportunities for funding at international and national levels with potential donors and partners. LWF Nepal communicates clearly that it is a mission-driven, relevant, and community-focused organization.

Accountability LWF is a HAP-certified international NGO. LWF Nepal adheres to Accountability Framework, HAP Standards, Sphere and human rights in its operations, and is committed to equitable participation of women and men, indigenous minorities, disadvantaged groups and *Dalits* in all programs, and decision-making processes.

We ensure good governance, participation, inclusion and accountability through Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Mainstreaming Guidelines, Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Manual for Disability Mainstreaming, the LWF Code of Conduct, Anti-fraud and Anti-corruption Policies, and Complaint and Response Mechanism procedures, among others.



Moving toward our Goal: A Synopsis of Major Achievements

A summary of our progress against each objective of the Country Strategy is presented in this section with accounts of key achievements in 2014. The subsequent sections provide key thematic achievements, aligned with the LWF Nepal priorities and special initiatives for priority populations.

2014 was very important for us as we were able to make considerable progress toward our goal to ensure the poor and marginalized people's access to and control over resources and services, and influence in decision-making for their sustained livelihood and dignified lives.

LWF Nepal focuses on the areas of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Emergency Preparedness and Response; Sustainable Livelihood; and Community-led Actions for Governance and Justice in an integrated manner to build synergy and improve development impacts. The overall program framework is based on the strategies for achieving changes in three domains for the priority populations' resilient livelihood with dignity: (i) Access to assets and services, (ii) Agency, voice and influence, and

(iii) Rules, regulations and institutions and their integration for synergy and impacts.

One of the significant achievements made through our collective efforts was joint land-ownership of women and men claimed by 180 women this year, making a pivotal shift in power relation in the society. Ownership to land is very important in the socio-economic context of Nepal. It is one of the yardsticks of social status, a base for livelihood and food security, and an important factor for reducing gender-based violence (GBV).

An increasing number of communities have been able to claim local resources and establish emergency funds at village level. LWF Nepal provided seed money and the rights holders were able to access state resources available to local bodies. As a result, 895 households have developed disaster-coping capacity. This initiative has also made the new generation aware of the necessity of disaster resilience.

Thanks to our financial and technical support, primarily the capacity-building of the poor and marginalized communities, 3,618 households have been able to earn a better income,

resulting in their improved living and health condition, and education of their children. Our initiatives have supported to ensure sustained livelihood of an increasing number of priority populations.

We have empowered communities strong enough to hold local government bodies accountable and improve governance. Consequently, a growing number of government agencies have been carrying out social and public audits. They have also been successful in establishing economic and social justice. The campaign of Freed *Kamaiyas* and *Kamlaris* for equal wage has been successful to raise the wage for women from NPR 200 in 2013 to 250 in 2014 in Kailali district, for instance.

The achievements accounted in this report are the results of our strategic interventions in various districts in partnership with local NGOs, community-based organizations, people's organizations, networks and alliances and collaboration with government entities. Our role has primarily been crucial in building the capacity of 27 long-term and many short-term partner organizations, linking grass roots work with national evidence-based advocacy (for instance Right to Food; Land Rights and Rehabilitation Modality and Action Plan of Freed *Haliyas*).

DRR, Emergency Preparedness and Response

- ✓ 72 villages moving toward disaster resiliency
- ✓ 895 households have disaster-coping capacities
- ✓ 56% of DMC positions are occupied by women
- ✓ 3,257 emergency support to disaster-affected people
- ✓ Camp care and maintenance support to 24,871 Bhutanese refugees
- ✓ 11 DMC and 41 DMT formed and strengthened
- ✓ Eight LDRMP, four DPRP and four SDRM plans prepared and revised
- ✓ 66 PCVA exercises done benefiting 2,564 HHs
- ✓ 16 DMTs and seven DMCs have emergency fund
- ✓ 1,420 improve cook stoves, biogas and solar panel installed
- ✓ 1,365 disaster-affected families received life-saving relief supports

Community-led Action for Governance and Justice

- ✓ 180 women received land ownership certificates
- ✓ 835 people received vital registration certificates
- ✓ 534 organizations received budget from public agencies
- ✓ 122 human rights defenders trained and capacitated
- ✓ 1,020 households benefited from Transformative Education
- ✓ 62 HRDs (40 women and 19 PwDs) developed and mobilized
- ✓ 8,791 freed *Haliyas* got ID cards from the government.
- ✓ 719 freed *Haliyas* and 1,618 freed *Kamaiyas* rehabilitated
- ✓ 538 *Kamlaris* rescued and rehabilitated
- ✓ NPR 2.8 million debt of 34 freed *Haliyas* written off
- ✓ NPR 6 million tapped by groups from other agencies
- ✓ 696 rights holders in decision-making positions in local institutions
- ✓ 505 freed *Kamlaris* received scholarship from the government
- ✓ 51 single women and 12 couples received land-ownership certificates

Sustainable Livelihood

- ✓ 3,618 families have food security for 3 additional months
- ✓ 1,462 households have solar, biogas or improved cook stoves
- ✓ 56 PwDs established micro-enterprises and each earned an average of NPR 6,000 per month
- ✓ 221 youths received skill training and got employed
- ✓ 250 women became literate
- ✓ Five seed and six grain banks established benefiting 1,452 HHs
- ✓ 426 groups and 32 CBOs formed and strengthened
- ✓ 35 cooperatives formed and strengthened
- ✓ NPR 15 million mobilized by groups and cooperatives
- ✓ 587 kitchen gardens established
- ✓ 2,627 commercial vegetable, cash crop farmers developed
- ✓ 399 micro-entrepreneurs with 50% women created
- ✓ 29 production pockets developed
- ✓ 177 irrigation schemes and five multiple use system of water set up
- ✓ 101 leader farmers, VAHW, JTA, ANM developed and self-employed
- ✓ Eight VDCs declared as open defecation-free in Dailekh and Doti
- ✓ 1,055 HHs earned average extra income of NPR 57,942 annually



Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness and Response



We focus on disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response through various measures such as supporting communities to develop

contingency plans, establish appropriate early-warning and assistance systems, and strengthening food-security measures and community shelters. We emphasize

on building the capacity of communities and duty-bearers who support communities in preparing for disasters and mitigating their risks.

Major Accomplishments

1.1 Disadvantaged communities lead disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness

LWF Nepal supported 99 disaster-prone communities to institutionalize culture of disaster risk management and build them disaster-resilient. Disaster management committees, teams and taskforces were established and capacitated with knowledge, skills and equipment related to

early-warning, light search and rescue, first aid and relief management.

113 community disaster risk management plans were developed based on the vulnerabilities, risks and capacities identified through participatory capacity and vulnerability analysis (PCVA) exercises. Community-based early-warning system (EWS) and community-managed safety nets such as grain bank, seed bank, emergency

fund, and mitigation measures such as spur construction, plantation, bio-engineering works were established. Culture of disaster- and climate-sensitive planning and implementation for livelihood activities were initiated by the communities. Six secondary schools prepared Disaster Management Plans and trained 196 teachers, parents and students in school-based disaster risk management.

Table 1.1

Activities	Number
Participatory capacity vulnerability assessment exercises conducted	66
Community disaster risk management plans developed	113
School disaster management plans developed	6
Disaster management committees, teams and taskforces developed	99
Seed/Grain banks established	11
Community-based early-warning system established	7
People trained in school-based disaster risk management	196

1.2 Local bodies prepare for DRR, emergency preparedness and response

LWF Nepal has collaborated with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and their departments for timely and effective disaster and emergency preparedness, response and recovery. It has also established operational relationship

with Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC) Flagship-4, Association of International NGOs in Nepal-Task Group on Disaster Management (AIN-TGDM) and Disaster Preparedness Network (DPNet). It has joined hands to advocate for institutionalization of nine characteristics of a disaster-resilient community.

LWF Nepal also supported DDC and VDC to formulate and implement District Disaster

Management Plan and Local Disaster Risk Management Plan. As a result, emergency funds have been established at DDC, VDC and community levels. Seven VDCs have established emergency response funds of above NPR 100,000. These funds were utilized in emergency periods such as during the flood and fire in Kailali and Saptari districts where 3,912 people were displaced.

Table 1.2

Activities	Number
VDCs having emergency fund	7
VDCs with updated local disaster risk management plan	8
DMCs mobilizing funds from local resources	2
Village emergency funds established	15
Officials from government and local bodies sensitized to mainstream DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) in their plans	116

1.3 Helping refugees and displaced people to lead better lives

1.3.1 Support to refugees

The number of the Bhutanese refugees in the camp is decreasing as a result of rapid third-country resettlement. LWF Nepal managed the refugee camp-care and maintenance activities through Camp Management Committees (CMCs), refugee community-based organizations and various subcommittees and refugee-intensive workers groups. The approach which maintains the participation of refugees in camp management has increased the ownership. It also contributed to cost-effective project operation. LWF Nepal continued to provide humanitarian

assistance to 24,871 (11,894 female) refugees. All humanitarian assistance were provided with the support of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Food Programme (WFP), and delivered according to Sphere Standards. Food and non-food items were distributed through distribution subcommittee, and all construction, repair and maintenance of shelters, latrines, water system, agency buildings, school classrooms, etc. were maintained by infrastructure subcommittee and social and protection-related activities and campaigns were led and managed by Bhutanese Refugee Children Forum (BRCF) and Bhutanese Refugee Women Forum (BRWF).

LWF Nepal provides special care and support to the extremely vulnerable families

(EVFs). This year shelter and latrines of EVFs were repaired and maintained and 25 disability-friendly shelters were constructed. Shelter of disaster-affected families were also renovated on time. Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) condition of refugees was continuously maintained by providing adequate potable water, proper personal hygiene practices and appropriate disposal of household waste and human excreta. With the financial support of UNHCR, LWF Nepal provided logistics, care and maintenance support to Tibetan New Arrivals (TNAs) transiting to India through Nepal. It also provided food and accommodation, basic health services and psychosocial counseling to 94 (including 14 leftover from 2013) TNAs during their stay in Nepal.

Table 1.3

Activities	Number
Emergency support to disadvantaged people	24,871 (48% women)
Shelters constructed for extremely vulnerable Bhutanese families	25
Support to displaced people (Tibetan)	3,993
Support to Tibetan New Arrivals	94
Emergency support to disaster-affected people	3,257

With the support of LWF Nepal, Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) and BRCF succeeded to promote awareness on child rights, women's rights, sexual violence and GBV and other social issues. CPWG and BRCF organized various activities such as sports and musical events, various competitions, and capacity-building activities that enabled them to operationalize community-based child care and drop-in centres. Furthermore, BRWF and their networks succeeded in raising awareness on their rights and human rights-related issues.

1.3.2 Development support to refugee host communities

Along with care and maintenance of refugees, LWF Nepal also provided support to the refugee host communities. Refugee host community support contributed to developing social cohesion between refugees and host community. It further contributed to achieving local development needs and peaceful co-existence.

1.3.3 Support to cold wave-, and flood-affected people

At the beginning of 2014, life-saving humanitarian assistance was given to the cold wave- and snowfall-affected *ex-Haliya* families, and toward the end of the year, life-saving and early-recovery interventions

were carried out for flood- and landslide-affected families in mid- and far western regions of Nepal.

With the financial support of ACT Alliance, LWF Nepal rendered life-saving assistance to 3,859 individuals (1,966 female) of 650 *ex-Haliya* families affected by cold wave and snowfall in Achham, Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Dadeldhura, Darchula and Doti districts of far west Nepal. Each *ex-Haliya* family received three woollen blankets, three sleeping mats, five woollen shawls (wrapper) and a 10-meter flannel cloth.

With the support of DanChurch Aid (DCA), ICCO-Cooperation and ACT Alliance, life-savings and early-recovery support were provided to flood- and landslide-affected families in Kailali, Bardiya and Surkhet districts. 565 flood- and landslide-affected families of Bardiya and Surkhet districts benefited from non-food items (NFI) kit distribution. Each NFI kit consisted of nine different materials. A total of 3,257 individuals (1,638 women) received NFI kits. Out of which 510 households received complete NFI kits whereas 110 household received one additional blanket, and 55 households got only blankets. Likewise, 510 needy households of Bardiya and Surkhet districts benefited from hygiene kits distribution. A total of 3,035 individuals (1,533 women) received hygiene kits. A national hygiene standard

developed by WASH cluster was followed while developing the hygiene kits. Necessary items for women and adolescent girls were included in the kit.

LWF Nepal promoted linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD) approach by supporting 3,912 flood-affected people to resume their agriculture practices and to restore critical life-line facilities that was damaged away by floods in Bardiya and Kailali districts. Cash-based intervention approach was used and promoted to maximize the choice of rights holders, to ensure their participation, increase ownership, and to minimize management and logistic hassles.

Life-saving and recovery needs of cold wave-, snowfall-, flood- and landslide-affected families were identified in close collaboration with respective District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs), clusters and humanitarian organizations. Relief packages were developed following Sphere standards and humanitarian operation was organized following the principle of Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP). Under the guidance of ACT Alliance Nepal Forum, respective DDRCs and in close coordination and collaboration with government stakeholders, humanitarian agencies and disaster-affected communities, LWF Nepal and its implementing partners carried out relief operations.





Stories from the Field

Emergency Fund Proves to be the Saviour of the Poor



Raj Kumari Chaudhary, resident of Adroha VDC-3 of Saptari (now Saptakoshi Municipality-6) faced a big problem on 17 September 2014. Her four-month pregnant daughter-in-law's health condition suddenly worsened. No male member was in the house, there was no money at home and no health worker in the village. She ran to neighbouring Jalim Bahardar's house and explained her problem. Bahardar discussed with his friends and NPR 10,000 was given instantly. She took her daughter-in-law to the hospital on time and avoided the unpleasant condition. Raj Kumari says 'I feel scared when I remember that incident. If I hadn't been helped, my daughter-in-law's life would have been lost.'

Emergency fund has been established by the villagers of Adroha. The fund is managed by the households of Koshi river basin. Coordinator of the fund, Bahardar says 'the emergency fund is helping during every emergency. He also adds that it provides the amount to the needy people on nominal interest.

With the joint effort of LWF Nepal and Koshi Victim Society, Saptari, the emergency fund

was established in Adroha VDC. Initially the fund was established with the total amount of NPR 30,000 from LWF Nepal and Koshi Victim Society. Now the amount has been increased due to the collective participation of the local people. This fund has been considered very important during any natural disaster or any emergency situation.

Pradip Chaudhary, resident of Adroha-3, got his leg fractured on January 2014. According to Bahardar, Pradip had no money for treatment. He added, Pradip was helped by the money from the fund. In addition, Laxman Chaudhary's daughter-in-law was also helped from the emergency fund to take her to hospital while she was in labour pain.

The people going abroad for foreign employment are also benefiting from the fund. Sri Kanta Chaudhary, member of the fund, got NPR 15,000 from the fund as per Bhuti Devi Sardar, president of VDC level disaster management committee. She also added that the fund helped the workers who wanted to go to India in search of work. Also, it gives loan to the needy people charging just 1% interest.

Till now 15 people have been helped in Kamalpur from the fund. Each member of the community deposits NPR 10 a month. The fund also gives relief to disaster-affected people. Different relief materials like lentil, rice, puffed rice, beaten rice, along with tarpaulin sheets were distributed to 5 fire-affected families. According to Satya Narayan Yadav, president of village level management committee, the fund helped nine families that were affected by the attack of wild elephant. He added 'now we don't have to wait for government relief since the fund helps instantly during any disaster or emergency situation'.

The program which was started for the vulnerable community of Koshi basin, has established early-warning information, search and rescue, and first aid teams for any expected risks. Also now they have some sort of coping capacity against any disaster.

Cash-for-Work: Reduces Risk to and Increases Income of Poor Community

When morning lights seeped in the freed *Kamaiya* settlement of *Jamto Tole* on the fateful day of August 16, 2014, flood was already in the doorsteps of the impoverished community members. *Jamto Tole*, comprising a total of 31 HHs, is a part of *Neulapur* village in *Bardiya* district of *Nepal*.

The flood-waters submerged the community with the onset of severe monsoon. As the level of inundation increased, the houses were swept away together with the materials inside, and multiple livelihood assets were damaged in no time.

As the water levels began to recede within the next few days, the emergency response ensued. Therein, the flood-affected people received food and non-food relief items and WASH kits.

Later, a project was devised to support the flood- and landslide-affected communities, encompassing the severely affected members of *Jamto Tole*.

Tharu Women Upliftment Center, a local implementing partner of *LWF Nepal*, was given the responsibility of carrying out emergency response and early-recovery support to flood- and landslide-affected people in western *Nepal*. The project was technically and financially supported by *LWF Nepal/ACT Alliance*.



This initiative aims at developing coping capacity, resiliency and sustainable rehabilitation of the affected populace.

One such intervention that provided community members with sustainability and a means of income was "cash-for-work".

The work done by the community members collectively was the construction of a bio-engineering scheme in a stream adjoining the community, which commenced in March, 2014. Working for eight hours a day, this venture provided the members with NPR 365 on a daily basis. The

endeavor, spanning little less than two weeks, helped the community members to establish a functional safety net in their locality. This bio-engineering structure, is expected to lessen the impact of flood this year.

"The cash-for-work scheme not only helped our community become more resilient to annual flash floods, but also provided us with a fair bit of income from our own efforts," says *Ms Phulbasiya Tharu*, a community leader in her mid-thirties.





Sustainable Livelihood

Enhancing people's capabilities and access, diversifying their livelihood options through social and economic empowerment, increasing income through local economic growth and consequently improving the

quality of lives are LWF Nepal's main areas of work. It considers livelihood as part of a complex web of socio-economic, institutional and political development. The organization also enhances market-led

approach to sustainable income through enterprise development, technical and vocational skills.



Major Accomplishments

2.1 Food security of poor and marginalized families improved

LWF Nepal continued to promote extension of the improved and new technologies through transfer of knowledge and skills onto the priority populations. Examples of these technologies are: improved seeds, introduction of new varieties; drip, sprinklers, pump, and pond irrigations, and improved farm management such as System of Rice Intensification (SRI), conservation farming, and organic farming. 991 marginalized households obtained food sufficiency for additional two months from increased

farm production in 2014. Examples of farm production are: paddy, wheat, maize, potato, vegetables, and livestock such as poultry, goat, and pig.

LWF Nepal supported the marginalized households in semi-commercial and commercial agriculture through agro-enterprise development, Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB), business plan preparation, business development and development of suppliers and service sector, market and value chain, etc. A total of 3,681 marginalized households obtained food security for additional three

months from the sale of the increased production of agriculture and livestock. Four collection and common facility centres were developed, which greatly helped in marketing the produce. 1,055 households earned an average additional income of NPR 57,942 in a year.

Due to the advocacy of LWF Nepal and its partners, many farmers have been able to access public land for growing vegetables and crops. 323 farmers received 22.90 hectare of public land in 2014.

Table 2.1

Activities	Number
Households increased productivity of staple crops	1,098
Households with kitchen gardens	872
Households increased production of cash crops or commercial vegetables	2,121
Collection and common facility centers established and functional	4
Youth self-employed after skill training	221
Households established micro-enterprises	612

A total of 612 members (50% women) became self-employed through support on micro-enterprises development. Micro-entrepreneurs earned an average income of NPR 23,729 from their businesses. Examples of the established micro-enterprises are bicycle repairing, bamboo-craft-making, liquid soap and phenyl production, vegetable vending, groceries, honey production, fresh vegetables, peas production, and vermin compost production, etc.

Vocational and technical skill training were provided to 390 group members, and among them 221 got self-employed. 56 people with disabilities (PWDs) established micro-enterprises and generated additional average income of NPR 6,000 per month.

66 leader farmers, eight Village Animal Health Workers (VAHWs), and 11 Junior Technical Assistants (100% girls) were

developed. Among them, eight VAHWs were self-employed.

2.2 Marginalized families' access to and control over financial services increased

LWF Nepal organized marginalized households' savings and credit groups to gain access to financial services for income-generating activities. In 2014, savings and credit activities continued in 240 groups and 49 cooperatives. 240 newly formed groups were registered with local government or district line agencies' offices.

22 new cooperatives were formed and 27 existing cooperatives were supported in their institutional development through various needs-based training including computer training. 41 cooperatives developed pro-poor and inclusive bylaws. These cooperatives are becoming more inclusive; they increased the number of

poor and marginalized people especially from *Dalit* and ethnic minority communities as member, 27 cooperatives lent 62% of loans to very poor and disadvantaged members on income-generating activities such as vegetable farming, livestock rearing and running micro-enterprises. Five cooperatives received wholesale lending and funds from Nepal Rastra Bank, other financial service providers, local bodies, and district line agencies including Government's High-Value Agriculture Project.

Six cooperatives of Kailali and Lalitpur districts were graduated and have business plans, bylaws and pro-poor policies. In addition, eight CBOs in Dailekh and Lalitpur districts developed their skills in organization management, bylaws, policy preparation and expanded coordination with local stakeholders and were empowered to tap external resources.

Table 2.2

Activities	Number
New cooperatives formed	22
Existing cooperatives supported	27
Women involved in saving and credit activities	8,494
Cooperatives developing pro-poor and inclusive bylaws	41
Number of cooperatives graduated	6

2.3 Hygiene and sanitation of marginalized households improved

LWF Nepal continued coordinating with Government agencies seeking to improve hygiene and sanitation status of rights holders by organizing various events. 768 individuals (female 339 and male 424) and 724 students (336 girls and 388

boys) gained knowledge on sanitation and hygiene through song competition, hand washing campaigns, street drama, quiz contests and child-club mobilization, etc.

Five drinking-water schemes and water-quality testing in Dailekh increased the access of 1,182 individuals to sustainable safe drinking water and also contributed to personal, household and communities'

sanitation and hygiene promotion. Support was provided for developing six WASH entrepreneurs in Dailekh, which contributed to community people's increased access to WASH accessories locally.

A total of 23 freed *Haliya* girls completed Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery course, and nine are being employed by local hospitals.

One gender-friendly and one child-friendly toilets were constructed in a school, which has increased the access of 292 students (boys 142, girls 150) including teachers to improved sanitation. Due to gender-friendly latrine and sanitary disposal pit, attendance

rate of girls has increased during their menstruation period too. Likewise, two school drinking-water schemes benefitted a total of 296 students (boys 146, girls 150), who have safe drinking water and also practice hand-washing after using the toilet.

Smokeless stoves were installed in 243 households, which has been a step towards promoting environmental sustainability and reducing health hazards mostly among women.

Table 2.3

Activities	Number
Households practicing sanitation and hygiene	500
Gender- and child-friendly toilets constructed in school	2
Smokeless stoves installed	243
Female community health volunteers trained in behavior change communication	47

2.4 Access to and quality of education improved

Although the national literacy rate is 65.9%, the literacy rate among the school-age children within the focus communities is rather low. LWF Nepal therefore continued facilitating for the access of children from poor and marginalized households to

schools through motivational campaigns, which helped increase enrolment. In 2014, 10 children from *Dalit* families were admitted to the private boarding schools in the Kathmandu Valley with 100% scholarships for education and partly for boarding through facilitation with the school management committees. In addition, LWF Nepal provided scholarship to 27 students

from poor and disadvantaged groups for continuing their higher education (e.g. intermediate, bachelors, ANM, JTA). Among them, 23 are girls, 14 are from ex-bonded laborer families, eight belong to *Dalit*, and 16 belong to indigenous minorities (e.g. *Santhal*, *Tharu*, *Rajbanshi*). 1,089 women became literate through empowerment education centres.

Table 2.4

Activities	Number
Students provided scholarships to continuing studies after school	27
<i>Dalit</i> children obtained scholarships in private boarding schools in Kathmandu	10
Students provided support through computer or other materials	34
Women became literate through empowerment education	1,098





Stories from the Field

Cooperative Pulls Marginalized Women out of Poverty

Aadarsha Cooperative, based at Sandepani in Kailali district, lent NPR 10,000 to Sanju Chaudhary to start a bicycle workshop, a relatively new enterprise given the practice of the local people there. Other women had borrowed money from the cooperative for vegetable farming and goat rearing among others. Sanju decided to open up the workshop. It was quite new to the community for a woman to run a workshop. Her neighbors advised against her plan. However, Sanju remained steadfast on her decision. Instead she questioned them, "If women can ride bicycle, why can't they repair it?"

Many people took her initiative as a wrong move. They expressed apprehension that she might be in debt because of her wrong choice. Contrary to the apprehension of her neighbors, she has been able to open up a grocery by the profit she made from the workshop. Her success inspired Sunita Chaudhary, one of Sanju's neighbors, to open up a bicycle workshop. Laxmi Chaudhary also borrowed NPR 16,000 from

the cooperative and has been doing poultry farming and running a meat shop. Aadarsha Cooperative has produced many women entrepreneurs who are from poor families, but have better work and skills.

Neither any banks have their branch in Sandepani nor the women from poor and marginalized communities have any property to pawn in order to secure loan from commercial banks, going all the way to Dhangadhi from Sandepani. As the banks consider such poor people unbankable, they were forced to approach the local money lenders earlier. But the local pawnbrokers also consider women unbankable. And those who had borrowed money from the local money lenders had turned into bonded laborers as they could not pay back the loan.

Community-based Organization Development Centre, an implementing partner of LWF Nepal, introduced a poverty alleviation program in the village with an objective of improving the economic condition of the poor people in Ramshikharjhala, Mohanyal and Sandepani VDCs of Kailali district. The cooperative was established by bringing together 22 groups. The cooperative has 497 women and 25 men as member. They began saving NPR 100 a month. Now the saving has crossed NPR 335,000.

Almost all the poor families of Sandepani have borrowed from the cooperative for investing in small enterprises, treatment, social functions and for the education of their children. The cooperative has become a boon for the poor people during emergency in particular and normalcy at large. Pooja Chaudhary, Manager of the cooperative, says, "Pregnant women can get NPR 5,000 as interest-free loan for delivery immediately."

This apart, the cooperative has been functioning as a seed bank. It provides the seeds of paddy, wheat, and off-season vegetables at their village itself. It has not



only saved their time, and energy, but also money as they can earn more from the time they save. The cooperative has also begun the process of procuring fertilizer in order to avert its recurrent shortage during plantation seasons.

Prior to the establishment of the cooperative, the villagers used to migrate to district headquarters in search of wage labor. These days they go to the headquarters not for seeking a menial job, but for selling their produce. Sangeet Farmers' Group has set up a turmeric powder factory in the village borrowing NPR 50,000 from the cooperative. Likewise, Prem Chaudhary, a former bonded labor, who had been wandering in search of work following his emancipation, has been running a meat shop with NPR 16,000 borrowed from the financial institution. Prem says, "I had never imagined that I could sustain my livelihood through enterprise. Nor anything I had to pawn in order to borrow from a financial institution. This cooperative has liberated me from perennial search for wage labor."



Climate Field School: An Innovative Approach to Climate Change Adaptation



Most of the traditional Nepalese agriculture is based on weather and its prediction. Farmers are more habitual to traditional farming. But due to the effects of climate change, weather patterns has changed, posing different problems and challenges to farming. Farmers have experienced extreme drought, rainfall, flood, and unpredictable weather changes. Consequently, they are facing difficulties in maintaining and monitoring their crops. On the other hand, meteorological information is used widely for other proposes rather than farming in Nepal. It is highly technical so farmers have difficulty in understanding accessing it. They lack proper knowledge on climate change, its effects and causes. This has badly affected the agriculture and other sectors, resulting in increasingly difficult livelihood.

Realizing it and to address the adverse impacts of climate change in agriculture, Integrated Community Development Organization (ICDO) Lalitpur has started Climate Field School (CFS) program with technical and financial support of LWF Nepal and Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) in Chhampi-4 Patasiphant, Lalitpur.

The CFS program aims to enhance the capacity of farmers and community people to understand and apply climate information to reduce risks in agriculture. It is an innovative way of addressing the extreme problems of climate change. Through CFS, the farmers learn to identify the types of crops suitable to grow, select seeds, schedule farm operations/farm management, understand the effects of

climate change and adaptation strategies and methodologies.

The main objectives of the CFS are to: enable farmers to understand climate-related risks in agriculture and crop management; show the importance of climate in plant growth and development, and its relationship with plant pests and diseases; familiarize the farmers with forecast implementation, climate parameters and agro-meteorological instruments; help farmers learn to integrate weather and climate information with disaster management and agricultural planning; and create awareness of participants on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Under this program, one agro-meteorological station has been established where different standard agro-meteorological equipment have been installed like: rain gauge, thermometer, dry and wet bulb thermometer, data logger, anemometer and soil thermometers which help the farmers or the participants of CFS classes to be acquainted with local weather conditions. These equipment measure temperature, rainfall, humidity, soil pH and moisture. One CFS facilitator regularly updates the data.

The collected data is used for the proper farming planning, to run CFS class on crops and vegetables, and informing other farmers and community people about the local weather. After getting the index number form DHM, these data will be sent to DHM for in-depth interpretation. These interpreted data and information will then be disseminated to the farmers, community people and other stakeholders. To get the

index number from DHM, the updated data record of the station must be kept for about three years. Then DHM analyzes the data for the reliability.

Now the collected weather data and its forecasts have been useful in advising the farmers on their farming and farm practices/management as per the changed climate. Farmers are taking the CFS class on wheat, paddy and vegetable farming. They conduct the CFS class according to the growing stages of crops/vegetables as prescribed by NARC (National Agriculture Research Council). These classes are mainly focused on adaptation methods of climate change effects on different stages of wheat, paddy, vegetables like: embrowning stage, emerging, flowering, and harvesting stages by measuring temperature, rainfall, humidity, soil pH, soil moisture and observation pests/diseases on crops/vegetables and planning according to the findings.

The initial results show that participant farmers have become more knowledgeable on their farming practices (like: selection of better quality seeds, pest, water and land management, etc.) because of the local weather information. Now the community people have improved knowledge on climate change, its effects, and adaptation strategies. They are able to identify available management option (like: mulching, timely irrigation, early/late harvesting, etc.) in order to reduce climate-related risks. The CFS has enhanced farmers' adaptive capacity, while addressing poverty and reducing climate change effects.



Community-led Actions for Governance and Justice

LWF Nepal emphasizes on actions that enable the poor and oppressed people for their equitable access to and control over resources and services. At the local level,

it supports to enhance knowledge and capacity of rights holders to understand and claim their rights responsibly. Collaboration with relevant duty-bearers at district and

national levels is emphasized for improving their services and responsibilities to ensure the rights of the priority populations.

Major Accomplishments

3.1 Capacity of frontline workers developed

LWF Nepal trained more than 150 staff from its regional offices and implementing partners in Public Expenditure Tracking Survey, Participatory Partners Performance Review, Transformative Education, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), Participatory Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (PPM&E). Each partner NGO/CBO Federation we work with has been supported for strengthening their capacities for development of at least three key policies. Support was provided for establishing and developing priority populations' organizations e.g. one *Santhal* organization in Jhapa district and one *Musahar* committee comprising 19 members (seven women) in Morang district. GESI mainstreaming and Appreciative Enquiry approaches were adopted and technical assistance and

backstopping to the local groups/CBOs/cooperatives were provided for evidence-based policy advocacy.

3.2 Priority population increasingly demand and policy advocacy

We built the capacity of the rights holders, their groups, CBOs and cooperatives at local level to access resources from government and other organizations through training, orientations, sharing workshops, and meetings with duty-bearers, etc. The rights holder groups developed advocacy plans on their relevant issues to tap resources. So far, 490 groups, 11 CBOs, and 33 cooperatives have accessed NPR 10,724,500 from different sources. Access to resources from other stakeholders has increased the volume and scale of works, and ownership. It has also increased their livelihood options.

LWF Nepal carried out assessment on the participation of rights holders in different local institutions especially in service delivery agencies like Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs), School Management Committees (SMCs), Health Management Committees (HMCs), users groups, Ward Citizen Forum (WCF), citizen awareness center (CAC), cooperatives, mothers groups, etc. of its working areas and developed action plan to increase people representation by bridging the gaps. 696 rights holders represent in different governmental and non-governmental institutions at local level for their access to public services and resources. Similarly, 385 freed Haliyas represent different community-level organizations (SMC, WCF, CFUG, Disaster Management Team) to raise their voice and influence decision-making at different fora.



Similarly, LWF Nepal promoted the formulation of pro-poor and women-friendly plans and policies in its groups/CBOs/cooperatives so as to increase their influence in decision-making process and roles. 419 women associated in different groups formed by LWF Nepal assumed leadership

positions in different local institutions such as VDC Monitoring Committees, SMCs, WCFs, CFUGs, cooperatives and local women groups.

In 2014, LWF Nepal developed and capacitated 122 Human Rights Defenders (HRDs). They were then mobilized in

the target VDCs to identify the issues and evidences for advocacy. The trained activists are playing a key role to empower the rights holders to claim justice, promote local governance and increase their access to public resources and services.

Table 3.1

Activities	Number
CBOs and cooperatives received budget allocated from public agencies	44
Groups received budget allocated by public agencies	490
Human-rights defenders trained	122
Human-rights defenders with disabilities trained	24
Debt of NPR 28,51,000 of freed <i>Haliya</i> written off	34

3.3 Rights holders internalize rights and duties

LWF Nepal supports the poor, disadvantaged and excluded groups as they have limited access to rights, entitlement and basic services meant to them. The organization raised awareness of its target population through Transformative Education Classes (TEC), orientations, and carried out community-based empowerment approach and evidence-based policy advocacy to enable them to claim rights. At the same time, sensitization and coordination were made with duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations. With these support, 1,642 rights holders exercised

their entitlement (e.g. Income-generating activities (IGA), seeds, and enterprise start up support). They were regularly facilitated. Debt write-off campaigns of former bonded laborers have resulted in the debt write-off of 34 freed *Haliyas*, amounting to NPR 28, 51,000.

2,171 priority populations have increased their understanding on access to government services and allowances (e.g. allowances for elderly people, single women, PwDs; scholarships for *Kamlari* and *Dalit* children). One school in Babiya Birta, Morang agreed to provide scholarships and 26 *Santhal* students got enrolled. Priority population of the targeted

VDCs are continually being made aware of VDC budget, old-age allowance, widow allowance and vital registration.

129 couples and 51 single women received land-ownership certificates. 1,142 priority population received services and allowances (e.g. elderly allowance, single women, disability, and *Dalit* children allowances). More than 90% households have citizenship certificates. A total of 835 vital registrations: birth, marriage, death, and migration certificates were obtained during 2014. 75 senior citizen and disability cards were also obtained.

Table 3.2

Activities	Number
Women received land ownership certificates	180
Priority population received government services and allowances	1,142
Vital registrations got done by priority population	835
Adults received citizenship certificates	4,325

3.3 Improved governance

LWF Nepal believes that participation of poor, excluded and disadvantaged groups in local planning process is one of the tools to promote good governance. In this respect, technical backstopping is provided to groups/CBOs/cooperatives to register them locally and build their capacity on government planning process. In 2014, 240 groups and 22 cooperatives were registered and their capacity was developed. Local government has started recognizing these groups/CBOs/cooperatives as one of the key change agents and invite them in VDC and DDC level planning process. A total

of 183 groups and 25 cooperatives were invited by government agencies in 2014 for their planning process.

LWF Nepal also promotes different tools of social accountability to promote good governance and accountability at local level. Social audit, public audit, general assembly, participatory budget analysis, public expenditure tracking survey, Right to Information, etc. are some of the tools to name a few. Throughout the process, the VDC council allocated budget for the rights holders in line with the guidelines, and their voice also influenced the decision-making process. The service-delivery agencies

became accountable towards the rights and issues of rights holders. 94 VDCs under the project areas followed all the planning steps prescribed by legal provision with meaningful participation of disadvantaged groups. 100% groups are adopting mechanisms to ensure accountability toward the poor and the disadvantaged. 100% local organizations, are regularly practicing social audit and public hearing. Regular social audits have helped to promote transparency, and accountability of the rights holders organizations. 34 cooperatives of the working areas are practicing their policies favorable for the poor and women.





Stories from the Field

Krishna KC: A Gulf Returnee Becomes a Change Agent

Almost all households in Katti village in Dailekh district had no latrine. Hence, the villagers used to defecate in open spaces. Their ignorance to sanitation often resulted in diarrhea and the outbreak of cholera in the village. Many succumbed to the gastrointestinal diseases. They also finished their hard-earned money on the treatment of those recurring diseases. But none of them were aware that it was the result of their indifference to sanitation. Krishna KC was one of the inhabitants of Katti. He had recently returned home after working in the Gulf country for many years. Krishna was saddened by the extremely poor sanitation of his village.

He was aware that many a villagers had suffered from bad health and had lost their hard-earned money on treatment and the cause was lack of proper sanitation. He realized that had every household had at least a latrine and open defecation stopped, many health-related problems could have been solved. With a view to educating the villagers, he started going around and soliciting them to construct a latrine each. Many villagers made fun of him in this course but Krishna built a toilet, used it, and kept it clean.

Actions speak louder than words. He invited

the villagers to his house, showed his toilet and informed them how it could minimize health risks. Gradually, people began to follow him. The practice of building toilet spread across the village over some time. All the villagers now wield toilet. "I made an effort to make my neighbors understand that sanitation is closely related to our health. And it worked," said an elated Krishna.

LWF Nepal in partnership with Everest Club, Dailekh had trained the youths and leaders of five VDCs including Katti in sanitation. And Krishna was one of the participants in the training. Upon the completion of the training, the participants were given a hygiene kit each. Krishna was determined to put the learning into practice for the benefit of his own village.

He had a two-pronged strategy: serving the villagers, and being self-dependent. Villagers constructed toilets, but their use and cleanliness was not up to the expectation. Sanitary ware were not available in the village and they had to go the district headquarters to buy them. Capitalizing on the opportunity, Krishna opened a shop and dealt in sanitary and plumbing items. As the villagers increasingly became aware of the importance of sanitation, the sale of his goods went up.

The profit earned from the shop is totally a personal gain for Krishna. But the enhanced profile of the entire village thanks to growing sanitation campaign spearheaded by Krishna is the public asset. The people have been able to save a lot of money which otherwise used to be spent on the treatment. Emboldened Krishna says, "Sanitation does not embody constructing toilets alone. It is about changing our habits and practices. And I am happy in that we have been able to change our bad habits to good ones."

According to Ram Bahadur Shrestha, Water and Sanitation Officer of LWF Nepal, the organization distributed 339 toilet pans to the villagers in order to advance the campaign launched by Krishna. As all 1,065 households in Katti VDC have built toilets and are using them, the VDC has been declared as 'open defecation-free' VDC. According to Geeta Khadka, Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), at Katti Health Post, there has been a significant decrease in the eruption of epidemic like diarrhea and cholera in the village following the sanitation campaign. Encouraged by the success, Krishna has also begun making and selling smoke-free stoves in order to render the village smoke-free.



River Training Saves Life and Enhances Income of poor people



The 216 households in ward numbers 3 and 4 in Jyamire, Hadiya VDC of Udayapur district had been affected by the flood in the Jyamire River for more than a decade. The river used to turn the fertile land into a sandbank. The villagers had increasingly been facing the problem of shrinking field and growing food insecurity. They used to curse themselves for being unfortunate as they had no way of training the river.

LWF Nepal in partnership with Nepal Red Cross Society, Udayapur implemented disaster management program. All the families in the villages were trained in DRR and emergency preparedness. The training included rescue operation and relief distribution skills as well. The villagers came to realize that they could fight back with disaster and should not run away from facing the problem. They formed Shree Shiva Baba DRR Committee.

The DRR program has brought about positive changes in the village. The embankment that they built some 15 years ago has been maintained regularly. The village runs the risk of being swept away by the flood in the river, but the villagers are better prepared to face the problem. Hem Raj Chaudhary is known as a 'Gauge Reader' in the village. He warns the villagers of imminent dangers. As the villagers are aware of DRR, they are less tense these days than before. People are ready to inform about looming danger and ready to support those at risk.

LWF Nepal and the Red Cross not only trained the villagers in DRR and emergency response, but also in vegetable farming.

The people of Jyamire are no longer confined to kitchen garden. Many a villagers have begun commercial vegetable farming. Asha Ram Chaudhary says, "Vegetable farming has become a miracle. I have been able to earn a net profit of NPR 50,000 from vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage and tomato grown in 4 *Katthas* of land in about six months." Besides this, Asha Ram also earns his income from poultry farming and staple crops.

The income generated through vegetable farming has encouraged the villagers. They sell their produce at the nearby Hadiya, Beltar and also at Gaihat, the district headquarters of Udayapur, since this year (2014). The vegetable farming has become a boon for the villagers of Jyamire to uplift their economic status. An increased number of children have begun going to school. This apart, vegetable farming has economically empowered women and they have gradually being self-dependent.



These women no longer depend on their male counterparts for buying stationery for their children and purchasing goods of their personal needs. Those women have started regular saving in groups and they borrow from the savings when needed.

In order to advance the agricultural work, the villagers have established Didibar Agricultural Cooperative. Begun with a seed money of NPR 50,000, the cooperative got NPR 5,500 from the District Agriculture Office as an incentive to their outstanding performance in vegetable farming. The cooperative has 60 members. It lends money to its members in order to purchase seeds of off-season vegetables and fertilizer. The cooperative collects demand for seeds in advance and distributes them accordingly.

This has fostered collectivism and social harmony. This is reflected in the collective efforts of the villagers to repair and maintain public heritage, community buildings and structures apart from school buildings.

There are four *Musahar* families in Jyamire. They too have been growing vegetables commercially. They have been able to construct latrines from the income of vegetable farming. LWF Nepal and the Red Cross provided one bag of cement and a pan to each family to construct a toilet. Sarita Sada was pregnant. Sarita said, "We were aware of the need of a toilet, but lacked money to build it". "In the absence of a latrine, the villagers used to call us indecent which used to hurt us. But with increased income, we now have a better status in the village", she said smiling.



Financial Overview

LWF Nepal managed financial resources effectively and efficiently in 2014. The total income for the year was € 2,843,742 including the contribution received in advance, while the expenditure was € 2,365,110. The income of 2014 is 23.5% less than the targeted income of € 3,714,827. In 2014 the funding decreased by 6 % as compared to 2013.

Of the total resources administered in 2014, € 1,320,652 was spent under Development Programs, and € 142,928 under Emergency Response. Similarly, € 901,530 was spent under Refugees and Host Community. LWF Nepal implemented the development and emergency projects through implementing partners, while it directly provided care and maintenance

to the Bhutanese Refugees and Tibetan New Arrivals. The Country Office coordination costs was confined to 5% of the total expenditure.

The income and expenditure of the organization are presented in the table below:

Income and Expenditure by Source in 2014

S.N.	Sources	Income (Euro)	Expenditure (Euro)
1	ACT Alliance	36,750	32,359
2	Australian Lutheran World Service/AusAID	571,486	353,317
3	Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM)	124,631	181,948
4	Church of Sweden	17,265	17,265
5	DanChurch Aid/Danida	110,797	110,797
6	DanChurch Aid-EU	36,988	22,187
7	Disciples: Week of Compassion	759	0
8	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	79,694	76,272
9	Finn Church Aid/DIDC	606,673	553,403
10	Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission	51,500	4,204
11	GNC-HA Hauptausschuss	40,000	40,000
12	Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)	122,759	132,976
13	Lutheran World Relief (LWR)	75,224	71,208
14	Other Donor - local	0	4,399
15	Refugee Youth Project	7,769	6,928
16	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	769,597	590,784
17	World Food Programme	140,514	121,870
18	Program Operation Finn Church Aid	46,123	39,980
19	Program Operation Administration	5,213	5,213
	Total	2,843,742	2,365,110

Budget and Expenditure of Implementing Partners

S.N.	Partner Organizations	Approved budget (Euro)	Total expenses (Euro)
1	<i>Navajagaran Krishak Samuha</i> , Humse Dumse	4,956	4,292
2	Bhutanese Refugee Children Forum	6,513	5,561
3	Bhutanese Refugee Women Forum	22,940	19,092
4	CBO-Development Center, Kailali	67,005	53,350
5	Community Network	2,893	2,507
6	Community Self-reliance Centre	24,706	18,933
7	<i>Dhotoe Chhukang</i> Welfare Association	113,183	97,786
8	<i>Digo Bikas Samaj</i> , Kailali	71,688	43,690
9	Everest Club, Dailekh	74,991	63,391
10	Freed <i>Kamaiya</i> Women Development Forum, Kailali	29,429	23,855
11	Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal	45,212	37,360
12	Himalayan Roots to Fruits	46,728	40,371
13	Integrated Community Development Organization, Lalitpur	27,221	22,661

14	<i>Kamaiya Pratha Unmulan Samaj</i> , Kailali	28,983	24,084
15	Koshi Victim Society	8,749	7,443
16	Lutheran Community Welfare Society, Morang	16,757	13,814
17	Nepal Red Cross Society District Chapter, Udayapur	11,417	9,184
18	Nepal Red Cross Society, Lalitpur	15,904	13,047
19	<i>Rastriya Haliya Mukti Samaj</i> Federation Nepal, Dadeldhura	104,179	92,463
20	Rural Development Centre, Doti	57,540	52,845
21	SAHARA-Nepal	8,601	5,980
22	<i>Seto Gurans</i>	3,198	2,770
23	Social Awareness Development Group, Jhapa	2,038	1,641
24	Social Service Centre, Dailekh	54,533	46,391
25	Social Network for Justice and Development, Jhapa	32,195	27,743
26	Society of Local Volunteers (SOLVE Nepal)	114,787	99,164
27	<i>Tharu Women Upliftment Centre</i> , Bardiya		
Total		996,346	829,418

Projects	Expenditure (Euro)
1. Summary of Needs Projects	
Nepal Development Program	552,466
Sub-total	552,466
2. Emergency Projects	
Cold wave in plain and snow fall in hills in western Nepal	32,359
Emergency Project	1,945
Emergency response and early recovery support	860
Regional Emergency Hub, Nepal	62,182
Relief assistance to flood- and landslide-affected families	45,582
Sub-total	142,928
3. Bilateral projects	
3.1 Refugees and refugee host communities	
Assistance to refugee from Bhutan and support to host communities	63,281
Assistance to refugees and asylum seekers from Bhutan	431,744
Assistance to Tibetan New Arrivals	95,759
Improvement in living condition of displaced people in Nepal	181,948
Management of warehouse and food distribution	79,450
Reclamation Gardening Programme	42,420
Refugee Youth Project	6,928
Sub-total	901,530
3.2 Development projects	
Capacity building of LWF Nepal local staff	6,853
Community-based WASH	59,964
Enhancing Dignity of Freed HaKK Project	234,015
Expanding flood-resilience capacity through community-based early-warning system	25,098
Expanding poverty reduction through food security	71,208
Implementation of Universal Periodic Review	3,605
Improving Food Security Governance in South and Southeast Asia through Strengthened Participation of Organizations of Marginalized Farmers	22,187
Promotion of Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	182,535
Resilient livelihood and sustainable food security of excluded and marginalized women and men in Dailekh and Doti districts	117,528
Program operation for FinnChurch Aid	39,980
Program operation administration	5,213
Sub-total	768,186
Total resources administered in 2014	2,365,110



Learning and Way Forward

Learning

Informed by our program interventions at the community level and policy influencing at the national level, the organizational change process was introduced in 2014 through the new Country Strategy (2014-2019). The strategy was developed in line with the need for a change in our strategic intervention to enhance the quality of our work. Some of the key learning generated from our work are:

- As climate change adversely impacts the lives of the poor and marginalized people, integrated approach to DRR and Emergency Preparedness and Response needs to be carried out so that it creates synergy and lasting positive impacts. And the integration of DRR and CCA and secondary-level interventions such as B2B and private-sector linkages is crucial for achieving resiliency in the livelihood of the marginalized people.
- Alliance building with increased number of like-minded organizations and deeper and wider collaboration with the government at community and national levels is necessary for linking community-level advocacy to change policies and implement them at national level. It has been learnt that closer collaboration with government entities eases the process of holding them accountable to the community through accountability mechanisms like public and social audits.
- Establishing networks among the existing and newly formed cooperatives has been proved supportive to exchange learning and best practices which in turn contributes to enhancing the quality of work, fostering harmonious relationship among the rights holders and to replicate good practices.
- Transformative education has become an inevitable tool for boosting the confidence of the marginalized people like ex-bonded laborers – former *Kamaiyas* and former *Kamlaris* – to participate in decision-making bodies such as VDC council, and claim their rights. This has significantly contributed to bring positive socio-economic changes in the communities.

Way Forward

Learning from our experience and envisioning the future course of action, we will keep on exploring partnerships with myriads of stakeholders like governmental and non-governmental organizations including the private sector in order to render our activities owned and collectively carried out by a large number of people, groups and organizations in the years to come.

- Women-led cooperative model has been proved boon for the poor and marginalized communities, wherever those cooperatives are in operation, for sustainable livelihood promotion and poverty reduction. We would epitomize those cooperatives and support to replicate the best practices to other areas of our program intervention will be widely disseminated for increased resource generation and mobilization.
- We will focus on economic empowerment of our priority populations through income generation so that they can afford preparing themselves for disaster and emergencies and be disaster-resilient, raise their voice for claiming their basic rights and be able to spare time and resources to improve governance at local level. For this we will collaborate more closely with initiatives like Micro-enterprise Development Programme of UNDP and the Ministry of Industry, and the private business companies and micro-enterprises developed by women.
- Support to relevant stakeholders for identifying and preparing issues and concerns of priority populations (e.g. women, *Dalit*, former bonded laborers, disadvantaged indigenous minorities) to include in the Universal Periodic Review 2015 and in the new constitution of Nepal through wider stakeholders consultation, and advocacy and lobbying with policy-makers.
- Ensuring the land rights of priority populations particularly women's right to land and rehabilitation of former *Haliyas*, *Kamaiyas*, and *Kamlaris* would be our prime focus in the days to come. Support to relevant stakeholders for identifying and advocating land reform issues, particularly land rights of the priority population by political parties and Constitution Assembly members will be our priority. We will partner with like-minded organizations, alliances, networks and social movements to attain these goals.
- LRRD will be our guiding approach in order to create synergy among DRR, livelihood and governance, and provide more sustainable solutions.

We will intensify the Transformative Education across all programs and areas for enabling the rights holders so that they can be organized and can claim their basic rights and transform the society at large.



Implementing Partners

- *Navajagaran Krishak Samuha*, Humse Dumse
- Bhutanese Refugee Children Forum
- Bhutanese Refugee Women Forum
- CBO-Development Center, Kailali
- Community Network
- Community Self-reliance Centre
- *Dhotoe Chhukang* Welfare Association
- *Digo Bikas Samaj*, Kailali
- Everest Club, Dailekh
- Freed *Kamaiya* Women Development Forum, Kailali
- Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal
- Himalayan Roots to Fruits
- Integrated Community Development Organization, Lalitpur
- *Kamaiya Pratha Unmulan Samaj*, Kailali
- Koshi Victim Society
- Lutheran Community Welfare Society, Morang
- Nepal Red Cross Society District Chapter, Udayapur
- Nepal Red Cross Society, Lalitpur
- *Rastriya Haliya Mukti Samaj* Federation Nepal, Dadeldhura
- Rural Development Centre, Doti
- SAHARA-Nepal
- *Seto Gurans*
- Social Awareness Development Group, Jhapa
- Social Service Centre, Dailekh
- Social Network for Justice and Development, Jhapa
- Society of Local Volunteers (SOLVE Nepal)
- *Tharu* Women Upliftment Center (TWUC), Bardiya





Supporting Partners



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