

Annual Report

2017-18



Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society



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Thank you to all who contributed stories and photographs for this Annual Report

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Dear Friends,

One of my favourite books of the past year was *Aid, Technology and Development: The Lessons from Nepal* (Gyawali, Thompson & Verweij, 2017). The authors cast an unsparing (and often acidly humorous) eye over what has and hasn't worked in Nepal's development sector—as well as what should have worked but for poor aid policies.

Borrowing from cultural theory, the editors unpack four different rationalities that underlie approaches to development: a hierarchical rationality (often favoured by governments and donor bureaucracies), an individualistic rationality (favoured by advocates of markets), an egalitarian rationality (often favoured by civil society groups), and a fatalistic rationality (often adopted by those persistently excluded from or damaged by development processes).

Which of these rationalities underpins Nepal's most successful development experiences? I appreciated the authors' answer: as in other domains of life, good results tend to come from a 'clumsy' interaction between rationalities, not from a solution dominated by a single logic. Purely market-driven or purely hierarchical solutions have repeatedly failed Nepal. The successes, like community forestry, small hydro, and biogas, have emerged from a messy but fruitful engagement between ordinary people, government, market, and civil society actors.

UMN has been instrumental in some of those successes; three of the book's chapters describe our historic role in Nepal's hydropower and biogas sectors. But I was proudest that the book described UMN as 'scrupulously egalitarian,' referring to our actions, our mission statement,



and the personal example of past leaders. UMN's most important contribution to the 'clumsy' successes of development in Nepal has been our persistent commitment to ensure that, at the end of the day, the outcomes benefit the poor and excluded.

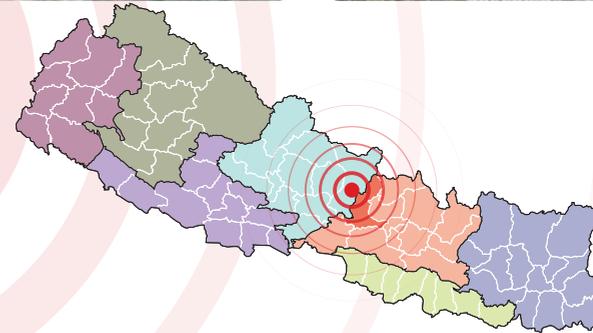
This report describes UMN's ongoing work in the space where rationalities intersect—where we continue to bring our passionately egalitarian, pro-poor ethos into fruitful engagement with government programmes, market actors, marginalised groups, and many civil society partners. I hope that some of these stories will be retold in future books about what has worked in Nepal's development.

Thank you to our partners, in Nepal and globally, for your support and prayer.

JOEL HAFVENSTEIN
Executive Director

EARTHQUAKE UPDATE AT A GLANCE

- 27 school blocks with 59 classrooms constructed.
- 2,223 farmers adopted improved agricultural practices.
- 477 households have access to clean drinking water facilities from eight community taps.
- 59 masons trained on earthquake resilient house construction techniques.
- 341 families constructed household toilets and 4 toilets constructed at schools.
- 195 improved sheds constructed by farmers.
- 112 enterprises established from vocational training and input support.
- 135 mothers trained in basic nutrition and preparing nutritional food.
- 143 pregnant women visited the health centre for four antenatal care check-ups.
- 193 pregnant women received supplementary food.
- 162 people trained on awareness of Disaster Risk Reduction activities.
- 2 hectares of land covered through afforestation of various saplings in public and private land.
- 2 biogas plants and 51 improved cooking stoves constructed by local people.
- 32 schools (including 90 classrooms) supported to set up child-friendly classrooms with learning materials.
- 13 Schools prepared School Disaster Risk Management plans.
- 190 primary level teachers trained in child-friendly teaching methods.
- 137 adolescents received Life Skilled-based Adolescents Sexual Reproductive Health training.



UMN's Dhading Disaster Response Programme (DDRP) continues to work towards the restoration and improvement of communities following the 2015 earthquakes. Programme activities are conducted in Ruby Valley, Khaniyabas, Benighat Rorang, Ganga Jamuna and Gajuri Rural Municipalities. The post-disaster work concentrates on implementing multiple programmes including Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Disaster Risk Reduction as well as coming alongside communities to improve community infrastructure, livelihoods, health and nutrition, psychosocial, trauma healing and protection.



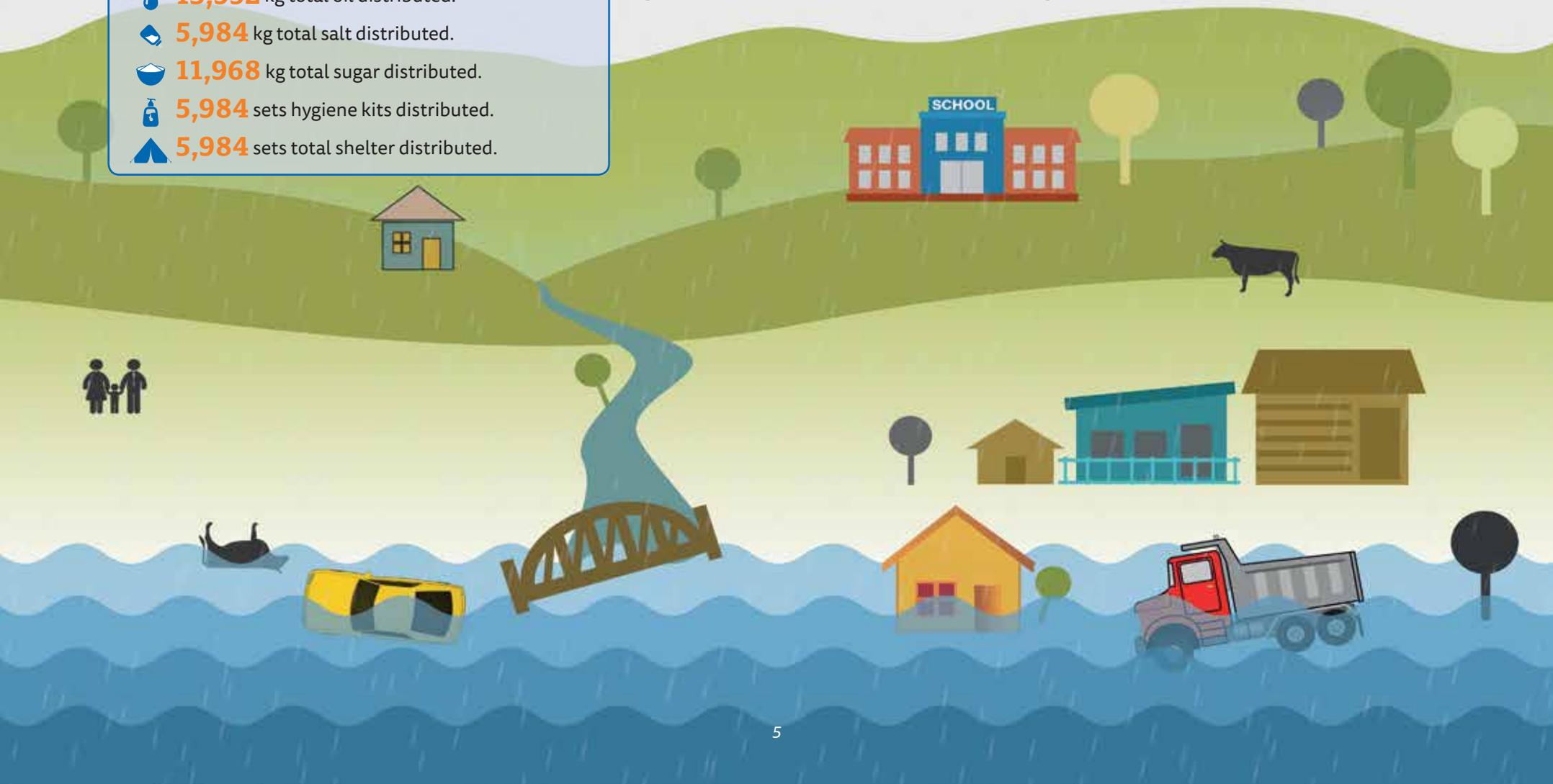
TARAI FLOOD RELIEF

AT A GLANCE

-  **7** partners involved, **483** volunteers mobilised.
-  **5,984** total households reached.
-  **149,600** kg total rice distributed.
-  **17,952** kg total pulse distributed.
-  **13,952** kg total chickpeas distributed.
-  **13,952** kg total oil distributed.
-  **5,984** kg total salt distributed.
-  **11,968** kg total sugar distributed.
-  **5,984** sets hygiene kits distributed.
-  **5,984** sets total shelter distributed.

Beginning in the early hours of 11 August 2017, Nepal experienced its worst rains in 15 years which triggered floods in the southern plains and landslides in the mid-hills. The flooding affected 35 out of the country's 75 districts and caused extensive damage to infrastructure, livestock losses, farms, livelihoods and food security. It was heartbreaking to hear news of houses being swept away, to see poor farmers watch their rice fields disappear under the water and their livestock drown in the rising water levels. Sunsari and Morang, where UMN serves, were two of the hardest-hit districts.

The disaster response team set about relief efforts in the districts of Sunsari, Morang, Nawalparasi and Rupandehi, aided by staff from the Sunsari and Rupandehi Clusters, together with volunteers from throughout UMN. In total, nearly 6,000 households were given aid in the weeks that followed the flooding.



EDUCATION AT A GLANCE

- 70 Early Child Development (ECD) facilitators received parenting education training.
- 57 schools in Doti, Bajhang, Dhading, Mugu, Rukum and Sunsari conducted social audits.
- 49 scholarships provided to Dalit girls in Mugu.
- 12 schools in Rukum are using the MLE textbooks in Grades 1-3.

It is encouraging to see child-friendly education techniques are now flourishing in remote schools throughout Nepal. During this year, 87 teachers received training in child-friendly teaching methods. In addition, around 40 classrooms were refurbished with carpets, cushions and basic classroom furniture.

Schools we work with have also promoted child clubs. These clubs provide an excellent forum for children to learn and discuss about various important issues (child rights, child labour, child marriage, life skills, etc.) They also go a step further as they challenge many malpractices in the community and advocate for the rights of children. About 157 child clubs and networks with which UMN is working are making a difference in the lives of 2,542 children. They have clearly proved to bring positive changes in families and communities.

This year the clubs conducted various activities related to sanitation, child rights, birth registration, immunisation, child labour, dowry and child marriage. Fifty-three child clubs conducted self-assessments and the results from this were used to develop and prepare action plans. Ten child-protection committees were formed to ensure and strengthen child-protection issues in Morang, Sunsari, Doti, Rukum and Bajhang districts.

A working group from Rukum, consisting of teachers, community leaders and Rural Municipality officials visited five schools in Bardiya that have adopted the Multi-Lingual Education (MLE) programme, which UMN has been promoting in Rukum's ethnic minority communities. Following the training on MLE textbook writing, those for Social Studies, Mathematics and Science were revised and reprinted for Grades 2 and 3.



Eight schools in Bajhang and Doti developed a School Disaster Risk Reduction plan. As an introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction, a three-day workshop on risks associated with water quality was also conducted for child-club leaders from three schools of Rukum.

The School Management Committee and Parent Teachers Association of 42 schools in Bajhang and Doti received training on school governance and management. This has helped them to understand their roles and responsibilities for the development of the school.

Seventy Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilitators (50 females and 20 males) from Doti and Bajhang received training on parenting education. Ninety-three members (84 females) from six parenting groups, participated in the International Child Development Programme and meetings in Rukum.



LEARNING IS FUN

There are now 300 students enrolled from Early Childhood Development classes to Grade 8 at Shree Saraswati Basic School. But earlier, this school which is located in a remote village of Shyala, Rukum West, survived in a poor condition without any safe classroom management. Without any compound wall, even the cattle showed up at the school!

The School Management Committee (SMC), Parents Teachers Association (PTA) and school teachers didn't know how to improve the school. They lacked proper vision until UMN and its partner, Christian Society Development Campaign (CSDC) organised a School Improvement Plan review workshop.

Facilitators from UMN and CSDC conducted a one-day review and asked them to draw a picture of the school before 2015 and to create a five-year plan from 2016 to 2020. Then the participants analysed the photos which presented the real scenario before 2015 without basic facilities like a school compound, computer lab, kitchen garden and drinking water. Another picture reflected the school's vision with all those amenities and more.

The workshop gave the participants a sense of direction. The headteacher, SMC and PTA members, parents and child clubs were all inspired to work to achieve the vision. They received funding from the former Home Minister and built the school wall compound.

Today the school is transformed. Some changes include child-friendly teaching methods and a new kitchen garden. The students get to eat fresh vegetables from this kitchen garden during lunch break. There is now a separate toilet for girls and boys, a child-friendly water tap, and solar support for computer lab management. This has made it possible for 90 students from Grades 6 to 8 to take computer lessons in the school.

The school has indeed become a model school, all because of the effective school team and kind support.



GOOD GOVERNANCE AT A GLANCE

- 174 community leaders (66 F, 108 M) were oriented on the Community Score Card tool, Participatory Planning Processes and Public Audits.
- 6 public institutions (4 health posts and 2 community schools) were helped to carry out Community Score Cards to improve their relationship with the rights-holders and demonstrate transparency and accountability.
- 5 public institutions were supported to carry out Public Audits to institutionalise the practice of transparency and accountability.

UMN's Good Governance Team aims to improve the accountability and public service systems of local institutions by working hand-in-hand with communities, partner organisations and government authorities. A total of 3,409 people from Sunsari, Nawalpur, Kapilbastu, Doti, Mugu and Rukum districts were directly engaged in UMN's capacity building activities on public service delivery and processes this year. Two hundred and eighty elected representatives of these districts were involved in capacity building initiatives on various legal provisions related to good governance and legal functions. Federal governance, separation of power and functions of three levels of government were included in these capacity building sessions. Three hundred and sixty two out of 443 development plans that were submitted at the local government offices by the community groups were approved.

The Good Governance Team has ensured that all UMN's partner organisations fulfil their legal responsibilities and set higher standards of accountability and transparency in the areas they serve. For this, they have conducted internal and external financial audits, maintained transparency and carried out social audits among stakeholders and target groups.

UMN's work with the Karani community in Mugu continues to promote better service delivery and improved governance. UMN, along with its local partner, is committed to improving the education sector and other



public service institutions. We want to help the Karani community enjoy equality and other human rights. We can report that 560 Karani community group members were involved in the local government's participatory planning process and were successful in securing government funds for 36 community development plans.

UMN currently works with 1,135 community groups. Ninety-six groups self-assessed their capacity using a tool called Group Capacity Assessment. One hundred and sixty eight of them have developed a group code of conduct, 136 women leaders participated in various government and social structures and 75 groups are enrolled in different line agencies this year. With 43 local partner organisations we advanced our development initiatives for the poorest people living in poverty, upholding UMN's vision which aims to achieve fullness of life for all.



TRACKING PROGRESS

Buddha Higher Secondary School in Mangri, Mugu was performing well but the community people were doubtful and were not cooperative with the school. The school had not yet found a forum to disclose their good deeds until UMN's partner Karani Community Development Centre (KCDC) introduced them to Community Score Card (CSC) which is a feedback mechanism used by the community and the service provider for better performance.

The chairperson of the School Management Committee (SMC) and Parents Teachers Association (PTA) along with the headteacher of the school agreed to organise CSC.

The community members of the students, along with the SMC, PTA and teachers, were oriented in this process. The school collected feedback from the community and an action plan was developed by incorporating the things to be improved along with the formation of a monitoring committee.

A significant change can be observed in both the school's education and infrastructure today. Now they have also started a bi-monthly parent's gathering. They get together to discuss the quality of education, health, sanitation, regular attendance of students and administrative management.

Child club has been made more functional and now there are extra-curricular activities every Friday. SMC, PTA and staff meet on a regular basis, and this has led to less internal conflict.

A School Improvement Plan has been revised and implemented. The school has also been organising a social audit once a year. The learning achievement rate in school has increased too. Along with an increase in staff attendance, the regular attendance of students has increased by 5%. The students wear clean uniforms and complete their home assignments on time.

Separate toilets are managed well for both girls and boys. Parents are also encouraged to visit the school to learn the progress of their children. All of these changes have been made possible with the implementation of the action plan made after the CSC process.



HEALTH AT A GLANCE

2,606 adolescents and youths were reached through the Peer Education Program. **308** peer educators were trained and are working to educate their peers on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, including HIV and AIDS.

1,358 students and teachers benefitted from renovation of Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities and bio-sand filter installation at five schools in Kapilbastu, Sunsari and Doti districts.

304 People Living with HIV and AIDS are receiving care and support services from UMN. **85** people receive regular home-based care in Sunsari District.

20 medical officers from across ten districts of Nepal have received mental health training.

UMN's diverse and integrated health programmes have been enhancing the efficiency of the health services for people living in remote and rural regions of Nepal. There has been an improvement in service accessibility (particularly in maternal and child health), family planning and basic mental health care services.

Child nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene, community home-based care for people living with HIV and AIDS and community-based mental health care are some important areas we are working in currently.

We have been building the capacity of rural health-care workers, aiming to fulfil the prevalent quality service gaps seen at rural health-care facilities. Communities have also been engaged in awareness programmes about using the health care services.

Safe Birth Attendance (SBA) is a basic requirement to initiate birthing services from the rural health facilities. A total of 10 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) from Dhading, Doti and Bajhang districts received two months SBA training in coordination with the National Health Training Centre. Necessary equipment and supplies were given to these health posts. This has helped them run the 24-hour birthing services.

Twenty medical officers from across ten districts of Nepal (five of which are UMN's working districts) have received mental health training which



was also organised in coordination with the National Health Training Centre. As a result, basic mental health services are now available in 16 local health facilities, including 10 district hospitals.

Around 600 young girls and women received training on menstrual hygiene management and Improved Washable Pads (IWPs). The practice of making and using IWPs has been well accepted and proved to be a suitable alternative for sanitary pads for girls and women who live in rural settings. Six hundred and fifty eight students and school teachers enjoyed improved Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in 10 schools. In addition, 492 students benefitted from the school-led sanitation and WASH awareness activities this year. Tackling the issue of malnutrition, 101 children affected by malnourishment benefitted from UMN's Positive Deviance Hearth programmes in Mugu, Doti and Bajhang.

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION:

An emergency obstetric and neonatal health care fund of around NPR 200,000 (USD 1,830) was given to four local health facilities of Doti and Bajhang. Ninety percent of the financial contribution was made by UMN and the remaining ten percent by the rural municipalities. This fund will allow poor families to manage referral services for any obstetric or new-born emergencies. This will contribute to the national goal of reducing maternal and new-born mortality.



WELL NOURISHED!

Mothers with children between the age of six months and five years visited the Positive Deviance Hearth (PD Hearth) Centre located in Doti. Mothers and caretakers of children who are identified as malnourished are encouraged to come to the centre.

Kaushila Bogati, 25, is one of the members of the group. During a camp held by UMN's partner Centre for Equal Access Development (CEAD) to identify undernourished children, her child was found malnourished. "I was at my mum's place during that time, so my mother-in-law took my son to the camp," she says. "My son was almost five and weighed only 14 kilograms. I was asked to join the group."

Once women like Kaushila join the centre, they meet for two hours every day for two weeks along with their children. All the members bring ingredients to the centre to cook nutritious food together and feed their children. They also learn about and discuss health, nutrition, personal hygiene, sanitation, feeding behaviour and many other health-related issues.

Before joining the centre, Kaushila used to feed her son the food that was cooked for the family, which was not necessarily packed with the right nutrition. But after joining the group, she learned that the baby's food needed more attention. Today her little one enjoys all the health benefits of fresh fruits and leafy vegetables, multigrain, jaulo (a mixture of rice, lentils and vegetables) and meat. Now her son is showing signs of better health.

Today he weighs 16½ kilograms and is healthy and happy. "I have seen the change in my son," she says. "If a child in my neighbourhood is malnourished, I am willing to teach what I learnt."

After joining the centre, children from 16 households of Mudegaun gained normal weight in a span of three to four months. The progress is clearly visible.



INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT AT A GLANCE

- 186 youths were engaged in awareness-raising activities against child marriage.
- 32 children affected by AIDS received educational materials.
- 345 women are regularly meeting in 21 Sangsangai groups.
- 32 theologians are empowering 200 graduates to promote integral mission in their communities.

The Integral Development (ID) Team in UMN works in collaboration with its partners to help local churches understand their role in transforming their community. In the process, the ID team works to build the technical and managerial capacities of willing individuals in these communities. This development process contributes to social harmony in community and the wellbeing of the most vulnerable people.

Last year we provided training to approximately 2,000 people in the community on holistic mission, accountable leadership and good governance. We see the results of these capacity-building initiatives in areas of accountability. People are more organised in their work, they serve with a servant heart and there has been a decrease in dependency on external help. For example, a Sangsangai group in Dhading worked together with community members to widen a road to their village, giving them better access for the transportation of goods and services. Another group was awarded NRP 400,000 (USD 3,660) by the local government in recognition of their committed service to the people. The group mobilised the entire community in village sanitation, women empowerment and quality education for their children.

UMN's local partners continue to help expand people's theological understanding in congregations. A partner in Rukum assisted churches as they advocated for the rights of children on issues related to health and education. Also, in Rukum, we've trained 180 young people from the churches and community to help their children complete their school education. We have equipped people with the knowledge and skills to make them aware of risks related to child marriage and early pregnancy.



NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION:

UMN coordinated with the Integral Mission Forum to make the National Creation Care Conference Nepal 2017 a success. The event delivered first-hand knowledge on important questions around the mission priorities of the church, the dangers of climate change and environmental degradation. Participants were encouraged to take actions against the loss of biodiversity and its negative impacts on the environment. They also inspired congregations to become responsible stewards of God's creation.



NO TO CHILD MARRIAGE

Until she participated in training, 18 year-old Shanti BK from Rukum considered child marriage as a normal practice. A very high rate of child marriage prevails in Rukum. According to the Population census of 2011, around 57% of children (under 18) get married at an early age.

Shanti, a youth member of Aajeevan Abhishek Church, studies in Grade 11. She participated in facilitators training on child marriage organised by UMN's partner Christian Society Development Campaign (CSDC). She wasn't aware that marriages before 20 years of age is illegal for girls in Nepal. The training challenged her thoughts and concepts about life.

The factors that contribute to child marriage are many. In some communities, it is considered as a part of their culture, but there are grave consequences to it. The training focused on developing facilitators to run awareness campaigns against child marriage in the communities of Rukum East. They shared about child marriage and the consequences girls face in physical and mental health and family and community life. Many topics were discussed and policies were developed with the goal to reduce child marriage.

Shanti decided not to get married until she completes her studies. Determined, she plans to make the campaign wider in her community as well as in her church. The AG Church welcomed her idea and decided to prohibit child marriage in the church and supported her campaign.

She is using different tools and methods for the campaign such as street drama, speech competitions and one-on-one meeting in local churches, communities and schools. Shanti wants to raise awareness in her community until child marriage stops completely. Many other participants of the training are now active members of the campaign group too.

Filled with hope she expressed, "Even if I can save just one life, there is enough reason for me to campaign."



LEARNING, POLICY & STRATEGY

AT A GLANCE

- 119 partner staff (53 F, 66 M) took part in a gender policy workshop.
- 35 partners adopted an organisational policy on climate change.
- 14 evaluations conducted (7 on projects and 7 on partnerships)
- 5 baseline surveys completed.
- 4 research studies accomplished.
- 3 external evaluations coordinated.

UMN is going through a vital change process, seeking ways to be more effective in bringing about community transformation through grassroots empowerment. In this light, the UMN Learning, Policy and Strategy (LPS) Team has made meaningful contributions in the decisions and actions related to the change process by participating in management meetings and undertaking responsibilities in relevant task groups.

One of the key objectives of the LPS Team is to support organisational decision-making, based on evidence. Surveys, evaluations and research processes are an integral part of our work. It gives us important feedback to make appropriate decisions about projects, programmes, approaches and policies. The LPS Team conducted and coordinated evaluations related to partnerships and programmes, thereby documenting learning and providing recommendations. The team also carried out research on relevant topics like effective community groups mobilisation and the feedback mechanism implemented in Dhading Disaster Response Programme. Insights, evidence and learning generated through these studies are being used in programme designs.

The gender mainstreaming work continued the capacity building of our partners with a focus on increasing ownership of organisational gender policy and improving the implementation. Staff also contributed ideas to integrate gender-equality intentions in the critical aspects of UMN's change process. Similarly, capacity building of the partners in environment and climate change has encouraged 35 partners to adopt an organisational policy on environment and climate change. Some partners are now better skilled in facilitating climate change mainstreaming processes in



their existing projects. Many community groups have conducted their environmental assessment and made relevant plans to minimise the environmental risks. The launch of a South Asia level research report on Anti-Human Trafficking, in which an LPS Team member contributed as a researcher, is also a significant achievement this year.

The LPS Team has also made useful contributions internationally. The team leader co-evaluated the community development work of International Nepal Fellowship (INF) and contributed in strategic decisions of Local Capacity for Peace South Asia Network as a coordination committee member.

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION:

Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs) is a coalition of 149 civil society organisations from eight South Asian countries promoting equity and sustainable development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure its implementation. In this network there is a Nepal National Committee, which has been chaired by UMN since June 2017. The LPS Team Chairperson has made important contributions to help formulate a four-year CANSAs Nepal strategy with an annual operational plan. The committee published a research report on the "state of climate action by the Government of Nepal" and disseminated the research findings through a press conference to put pressure on the government to speed up the climate policy implementation in the country.

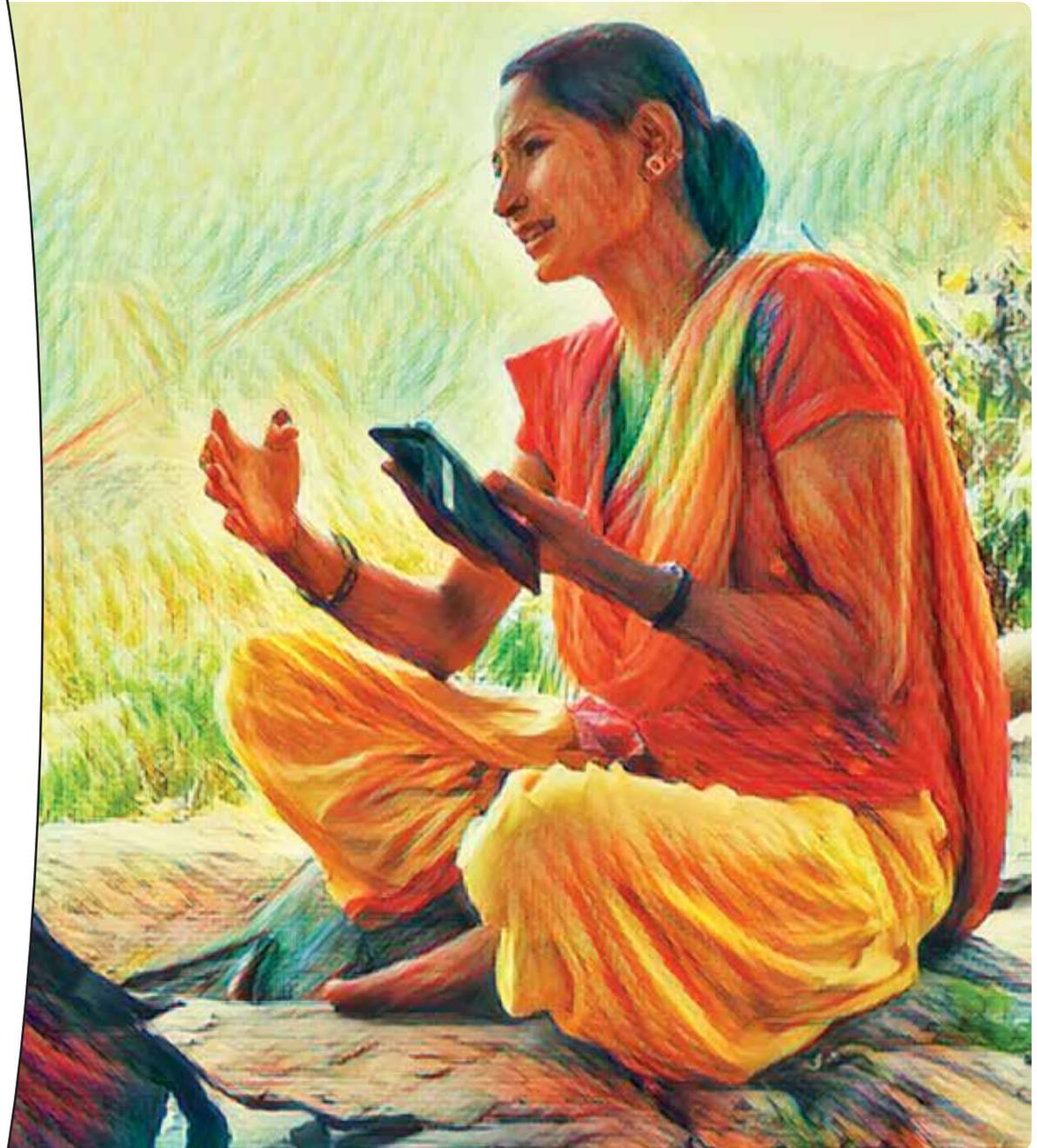


FEEDBACK MECHANISM

Development organisations are often challenged on the grounds of resource mishandling, failing to involve affected communities, having mechanistic nature of interventions, and maintaining weak accountability and transparency. The community feedback mechanism in UMN is a tool to address some of these challenges. The mechanism recognises the rights of beneficiaries and community members to raise their complaints and feedback and seek timely responses from the implementers.

The feedback mechanism was first initiated in UMN with Dhading Disaster Response Programme (*see page 4*). Over two years into the implementation in DDRP, UMN recognised that the mechanism added value for better programming, improved standards and better service delivery. There are several examples where the community people registered complaints about the quality of construction materials. Feedback mechanism has also been effective in minimising risks and potential conflicts as it facilitates better understanding of the situation and leads to swift and concerted actions. It has increased community participation and trust towards UMN and its partners. It is a source of rich information that provides better understanding of community concerns and UMN's implementation gaps.

UMN's change process envisions community transformation through i) grassroots empowerment, ii) integrated programming, and iii) focus on impact. An initiative like the feedback mechanism that empowers the community people in raising their voices and concerns, undoubtedly promotes a bottom-up approach as it allows for decentralised decision making and downward accountability. The successful experience of its implementation in DDRP has now encouraged UMN to apply it across all of UMN's clusters and programmes.



PEACEBUILDING AT A GLANCE

- 98 Personal Energy Transportation (PET) carts have been distributed to people with disabilities.
- 36 out of 45 local partners now have their conflict sensitive policies developed.
- 29 interfaith mediators are trained and are active in their community.
- 28 children with disabilities have received medical rehabilitation support.
- 18 disputes have been resolved through mediation.

UMN's peacebuilding work is directed towards promoting equality, inclusion and wellbeing for all by addressing different forms of oppression, injustice, violence and discrimination in the community.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Project works on strengthening local communities by conducting awareness-raising activities regarding human trafficking. Through this, women's group members of Rupandehi District brought their concerns to local authorities about three missing girls in their community. As a result, these girls were rescued from attempted trafficking, and the trafficker is now behind bars. This shows the importance of communities' involvement in addressing this grave social and human rights issue.

UMN promotes an Interfaith Peacebuilding Programme that supports a group of different faith leaders to enhance social harmony. A network is officially registered with the government and now functions independently. A wing of the network (the Interfaith Peace Youth Group) has been volunteering in the community to support women to acquire their citizenship papers and advocate for the elderly people to obtain their allowances. They have also been called by the local government to mediate in local disputes.

The Community Capacity Building Programme is raising awareness about social issues related to caste, gender discrimination and child marriage in adolescent groups. Through creative ideas like street dramas they are advocating for equality and security for their peers and people in the community.

* Chhaupadi is a social tradition in the western part of Nepal for Hindu women which prohibits a woman from participating in normal family activities during menstruation because they are considered impure. The women are kept out of house and have to live in a shed (image example above).



One of our other projects called 'Combating Traditional Practices that are Harmful to Women and Girls' continues to work for gender justice and equality in remote parts of Nepal. During international Human Rights Day, 12 women in Bajhang were publicly honoured for leaving the practice of staying in chau sheds during menstruation. Ending the practice of Chhaupadi* has been a long, ongoing struggle. The government, along with many other organisations, are trying to end this harsh practice in Nepal. The project also works to combat alcohol abuse and violence against women.

We are also working with people with disabilities and their families, with the goal of giving them an improved quality of life as equal citizens. Children with disabilities have received rehabilitation, including corrective surgeries, assistive devices and rehabilitation therapy.

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION:

A national interfaith consultation was organised during December 2017 where an Interfaith Peace Federation Nepal committee was formed. This group meets regularly and is in the process of getting registered with the government.

UMN staff are actively involved in AIN's (Association of International NGOs Nepal) Disability Working Group and other disability networks such as National Christian Disability Network and Community Based Rehabilitation.



EXPERIENCING VICTORY!

As part of UMN's Anti-Human Trafficking project, UMN's partner, Sungabha Community Development Centre, started an adolescent group.

The group members were trained in leadership development, advocacy skills, and concepts on Right Based Approach. They also held regular meetings which made them more mindful about the causes and effects of human trafficking and other important issues around it.

The group helped the adolescents increase and strengthen their coordination, and network with the local Rural Municipality (RM). They were actively engaged in public awareness rallies and interaction programmes to reduce the human trafficking problems. In January 2018, they urged the RM to provide vocational training for girls who had dropped out of school.

"We shared the reasons why adolescent girls needed help," says a group member. "We told them about the problems of poor communities and the likelihood of trafficking of girls from these families."

Through this advocacy, the RM informed them that four girls from their community were selected for three-month long vocational training. Sita Balami, a group member, shares, "It felt like we had won a war when we received this message. I felt confident and powerful for the first time."

The four girls have completed the vocational training where they learnt to design and make stuffed dolls which they can even sell and make some income. They are truly encouraged with this achievement.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

AT A GLANCE

- 3,360 people received relief support (survivors of flood, landslide and fire) worth NPR 1,441,727 (USD 13,191).
- 465 farmers have been legally associated with National Farmers Group Federation.
- 360 women are currently associated with 12 Community Empowerment Centres. Out of the 12 centres, ten have been registered with District Women and Children Development Office.
- 58 married couples received Joint Land Ownership Certificates through a joint land ownership campaign.
- 31 vulnerable people in the community received income generation support. The beneficiaries include people with disability, single women, Dalits and people living with HIV and AIDS.

It is a surprising and sad fact that despite Nepal being an agrarian country for centuries, it is also currently a food-insecure country. Increasing frequency of natural disasters coupled with challenging geographic landscapes and poor farming practices continue to undermine Nepal's ability to give food security to its citizens.

Considering the growing threats and risks in the agriculture sector, such as unpredictable weather, market fluctuations and labour problems, we reach out to offer various achievable livelihood options or off-farm entrepreneurship in communities. We were satisfied with the growing confidence among the hundreds of farmers who started exploring unconventional livelihood options such as fish breeding, pig rearing, roadside food stalls, etc. Our initiatives have contributed to higher production, greater efficiency and resilience. One of our major achievements was fish breeding at the local level in one of our remote working areas. Shyarpu agriculture cooperative, based in Rukum, started local fish breeding of the common carp fish. The farmers have been successful in harvesting and producing more than 100,000 fingerlings (young fish) in a newly established nursery.

Joint Land Ownership, a campaign to ensure women have joint ownership of land, continues to be our flagship activity to manage risks and raise awareness about this issue. So far 58 married couples have received



Joint Land Ownership certificates through this campaign. Community empowerment centres continue to help rural women's understanding on important issues (their rights, government facilities and services, gender-based discrimination and violence, proper nutrition) and build their confidence. We were delighted to see the number of groups, networks and alliances able to access the local and regional resources.

We've provided relief support to hundreds of families during the flood disaster, which took place last August (see page 5). Our relief interventions were followed by a disaster preparedness plan and basic material support.

We've also promoted improved technology to reduce carbon emissions from household activities and have planted thousands of plants on slopes and edges of fields.

We are delighted that we were invited to assist the newly established Hupsekot Rural Municipality of Nawalpur to develop disaster preparedness plans. This is a great opportunity to make a meaningful contribution.

We assisted Devdaha Municipality of Rupandehi to achieve their goal of "indoor smoke-free kitchens". The installation of 369 Improved Cooking Stove (200 installed from municipal support, 169 from UMN) was a joint venture. The installation has halved the use of firewood, minimised women's physical workload and time and improved respiratory health.

UMN partner NASSO (Rupandehi) and MIC (Rukum) were instrumental in persuading the local government to allocate NPR 2,100,000 (USD 19,213) and NPR 300,000 (USD 2,745) respectively.



THE HARD-WORKING DUO

Lal Kumari Gaha and her husband Tek Bahadur Gaha from Rupandehi are hardworking farmers. Many years ago, Tek went to India as a wage labourer, but after four years he returned empty-handed.

The couple decided to start farming and purchased radish seeds that cost NPR 50 (USD 0.46). This decision turned their life around for good. They were able to make NPR 1,000 (USD 9) from the very fresh produce. This motivated them to expand their farming, but their plan was hindered as they lacked technical expertise.

Somehow, they started farming in 1,016 m² of land. However, irrigation problems and insect-pest infestation impeded optimum production. In 2013, Lal Kumari joined the Sahara Agriculture Group formed by UMN's partner Nepal Abinash Social Service Organisation (NASSO) where she received vegetable and compost-making training. She also received the Start and Improve Your Business training and joined the Farmer's Business School. The training helped the couple to develop a business plan for their agri-enterprise to keep track of their business and profit.

Later in 2016, Tek joined a week-long training course on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) where he learnt about natural and organic remedies to treat pests and utilise local farm resources to increase yield. They expanded their farming area to 4,063 m² and started using the IPM measures. This year, the Gaha family made NPR 200,000 (USD 1,830) profit alone from vegetable farming.

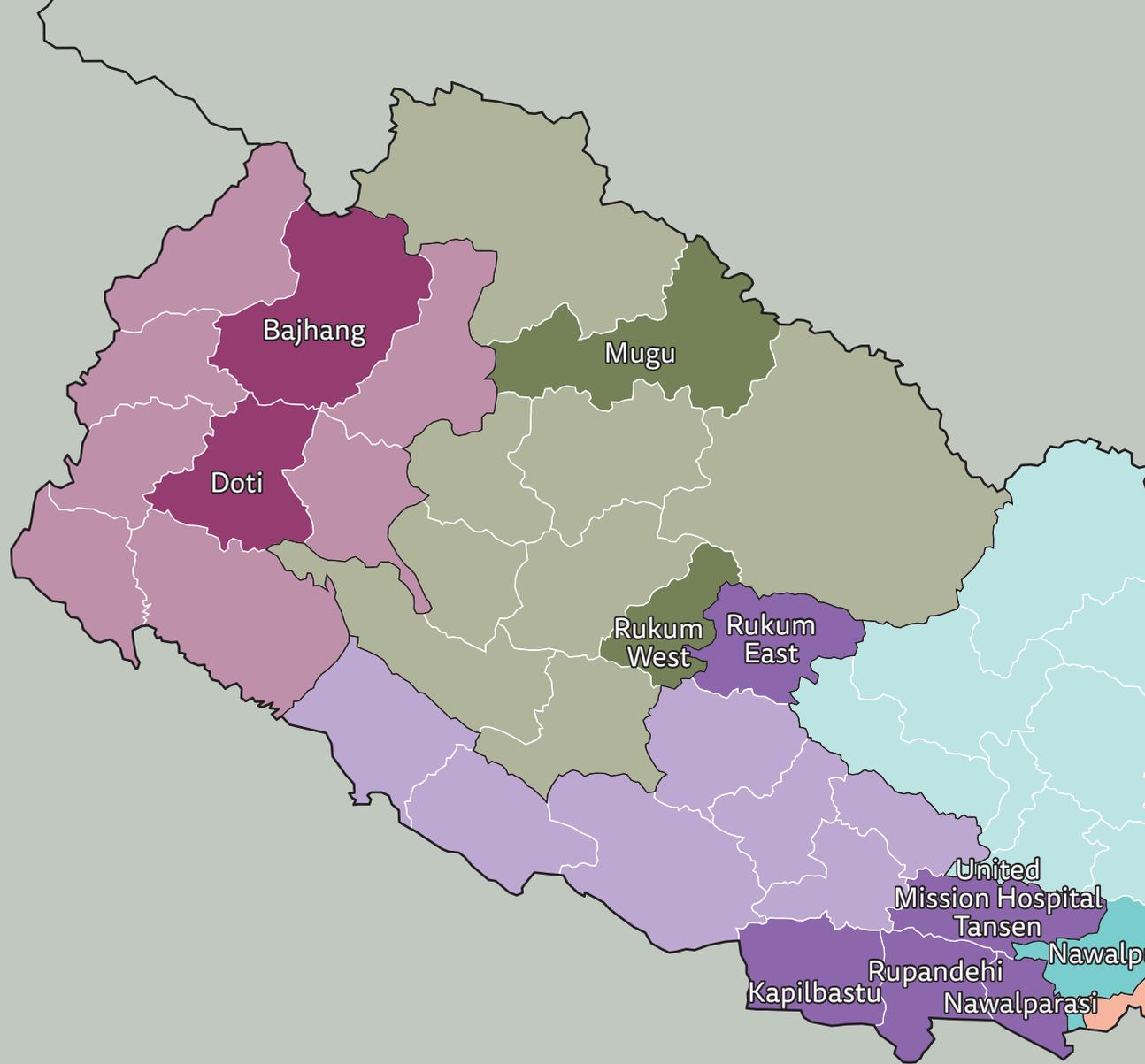
"We enjoy and love farming, but without the project support, our energy would be wasted," the couple shared. "We are able to provide a good education to our children from the farming income. We have dreams to transform this village into an organic farming community."



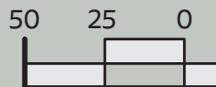




WHERE WE WORK



INDIA

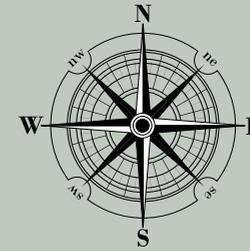


UMN'S CLUSTERS AND PARTNERS: (as of July 2018)

CLUSTER	TOTAL	NGO	CO-OP	GoN	SCH.	AREAS
Bajhang	4	3	1	0	0	11
Dhading	8	7	1	0	0	12
Doti	5	4	1	0	0	7
Mugu	5	4	0	0	1	3
Rukum	4	4	0	0	0	8
Rupandehi	9	9	0	0	0	16
Sunsari	8	7	0	1	0	12
National	1	1	0	0	0	-
Total	44	39	3	1	1	67

NGO = Non-governmental organisation
Co-op = Co-operative
GoN = Government of Nepal
Sch. = School
Areas = Number of Rural Municipalities worked

For a full list of partner names, see page 42



-  Province 1
-  Province 2
-  Province 3
-  Province 4
-  Province 5
-  Province 6
-  Province 7

CHINA
(TIBET)

NEPAL

Dhading

Kathmandu

Okhaldhunga
Community
Hospital

Sunsari
Morang

BHUTAN

50 100 150

Kilometres

BAJHANG



Keeping students safe in school, giving people access to clean water, empowering women to make decisions, guiding people with disabilities to live a life of dignity and helping farmers thrive – these are just some of the exciting things that are happening in Bajhang District.

We are strengthening communities through our education and health work. We've helped improve student safety at schools as we supported four schools when they created disaster-risk management plans. We've also helped improve overall health in communities. One committee came up with a plan to ensure total sanitation in a community. Four hundred and sixty eight people received support to build a dry-rack utensil washing place and were also given access to clean drinking water.

We are empowering communities through our peacebuilding efforts. We're helping bridge the gender equality gap by informing men of the issues women face and encouraging women to engage in more community programmes. Six hundred and ninety-four women are engaged in 31 community groups and are actively participating in community events. The seven women (two from Dalit community) who were elected in the local elections are also contributing in the community decision-making process.

We've seen a shift as women are united and empowered to make more decisions. One positive change is that now 59 women have a safe house to go to during menstruation.

We're changing lives in our work to improve livelihoods. This year we've worked with 15 people with disabilities to help them earn incomes through agribusiness, mobile repair shops and tailoring. Financially, we've helped each person to earn around NPR 7,000 (USD 64) a month. This support has helped these people to be more independent, but more importantly to live a life of dignity. We've also been helping farmers and tailors earn a steady income. We've helped around 174 people by doing things like supporting vegetable production, selling milk and helping get insurance for animals.



BAJHANG AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
195,159

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
15,783

UMN WORKING AREAS:
9 Rural Municipalities, **2** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
3 NGOs, **1** Co-operative

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Violence and discrimination against women; food insecurity; seasonal migration; lack of access to quality education; poor nutrition and discrimination against people with disability.

TYPE OF WORK:
Awareness and training; group empowerment and mobilisation; livelihoods, education improvement; nutrition; treatment and support to people with disability.

DHADING



Educating. Empowering. Improving. Developing. Those are the words we'd use to describe the kind of work we've been doing in nine different projects across Dhading this past year. We've been educating and empowering people in different ways. One way we did this for women was through land ownership training in Tasarpfu village, where they learned about women's equal rights in owning land property. We've also helped by creating community networks where 191 women have been trained and equipped for leadership. We're helping men too. We've educated traditional male healers about maternal and neonatal health and family planning. From this training, these men referred 183 of their cases to health facilities that would be able to give patients proper care in these areas.

We've been improving quality of life by focusing on mental health and strengthening basic mental health services in three health facilities. One hundred and thirty six patients who had a mental health illness received treatments and they have improved health. In addition, 1,500 people benefited from attending mental health awareness sessions. The local government of Jwalamukhi Rural Municipality has decided to provide NRP 2,000,000 (USD 182,983) to patients for treatment of major health complications like cancer, kidney failure and spinal injuries. Through UMN's and its partners advocacy and lobbying, we were successful in adding severe mental illness to this list.

After the earthquake in 2015, many water sources were damaged and dried up in Dhading and other parts of Nepal. Together with the local government, we've constructed seven water schemes which has given safe drinking water supply to 238 households.

We've been developing people by helping improve their farming practices. Twenty one of these farmers have been able to start off-season vegetable production. Thirty farmers who started out only growing enough to live on have now made the shift to being able to farm for profit which ranges from NPR 15,000 to 60,000 (USD 137 - 549) per year.



DHADING AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
336,067

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
9,805

UMN WORKING AREAS:
10 Rural Municipalities, **2** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
8 NGOs, **1** Co-operative

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Poor modern technology, tools and mechanisation in agriculture; less organic farming; poor health facilities; lack of access to quality education; child labour; early marriage; human trafficking; lack of WASH; HIV and AIDS; vulnerability to disasters.

TYPE OF WORK:
Community health; mental health; nutrition; adolescent sexual and reproductive health; food security; climate change awareness; child-centred community development; disability awareness and empowerment; child disability physical treatment; integral mission; education and good governance.

District Border
Rural Border
National Border
Working Area
Non Working Area

DOTI



Health, education, livelihoods, disability and good governance – these are the different areas UMN has been working in with local partners in Doti this year.

One project targeting HIV awareness is changing the lives of 562 young people (292 girls and 270 boys) in Grades 7-10. An HIV extra-curricular book was introduced to students in four schools which are located in communities where the infection rate is high. Our hope is that the youth will now have a better understanding of how to prevent and treat HIV.

We have also been working on projects in Joroyal Rural Municipality that are helping people make sense of their civic rights and improve their livelihoods. Four hundred and seventy six community members have been helped through civic education classes. Eighteen groups have been meeting three times a month to discuss and learn about things like women’s rights and services available through government service providers. Six of these groups have received financial resources of NPR 275,000 (USD 2,516) to address the needs of their community.

Within Joroyal Rural Municipality, farmers are improving their livelihoods. The community created two seed banks to preserve their indigenous seeds and 65 households are being positively impacted. The farmers were able to preserve 55 indigenous seeds, which included maize, wheat, rice, vegetables and more.

Education is improving through a workshop that had a direct impact on 125 representatives of Badikedar Rural Municipality. Led by education expert, Dr Bidhya Nath Koirala, this workshop was held to help the community draft their own education policy to guide their school. Rural Municipality members, government officials, school management committee members, teacher and parent association members, head teachers and political leaders all benefited from this opportunity.



DOTI AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
211,746

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
19,360

UMN WORKING AREAS:
4 Rural Municipalities, **2** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
4 NGOs, **1** Co-operative

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Lack of employment opportunities resulting in high seasonal migration; social-economic inequalities based on gender and caste; limited access to health, nutritious food and quality education; low agricultural productivity; poor rural infrastructure; vulnerability to natural disasters.

TYPE OF WORK:
Good governance, food security and agricultural improvement; mental health, community health and adolescent sexual and reproductive health; support and empowerment for people with disabilities; livelihoods improvement; nutrition; quality education, maternal and child health.

MUGU



Many girls weren't going to school, people with disabilities weren't valued in communities and families struggled to plan – these were some of the issues Mugu was facing. But, thanks to our hard work in collaboration with people in the community, lives are being transformed.

One issue in Mugu was girls not going to school, particularly Dalit girls. In 2005, only 33 Dalit girls (who received scholarship support from UMN) were enrolled in school throughout the entire district. Other organisations and the government have also been working among the Dalit community to encourage girls' enrollment in schools. Incredibly, in 2017 the district reported 2,047 Dalit girls in school. It's encouraging to see that the work to empower the Dalit community is having an impact on girls' education.

Another reason girls don't attend school is menstruation. One group of peer educators and married school-dropout adolescents have been making Improved Washable Pads (IWPs). They set up places in Seri and Sirikot schools for girls to access them. Fifty-nine girls are now using IWPs during their periods and it's had an amazing impact, allowing them to attend school on a regular basis.

Another challenge in this community was in the way people with disabilities were treated differently. We've helped to support 24 people (11 female, 13 male) with disability with income-generation activities. It was successful as they were able to earn more income and it helped them develop their self-esteem and sense of worth. Community members noticed a change too and started to view them in a more positive light.



MUGU AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
55,286

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
3,053

UMN WORKING AREAS:
2 Rural Municipalities, **1** Municipality

UMN PARTNERS:
4 NGOs, **1** Government School

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Poor quality education; acute food insecurity and lack of basic health services.

TYPE OF WORK:
Nutrition, sanitation and family planning; adolescent sexual and reproductive health; support for girls' education (Dalit and Karmarong); support for child-friendly education and special education (deaf and blind); enabling children with disabilities and their families to attain improved quality of life as equal citizens.



District Border
Rural Border
National Border
Working Area
Non Working Area

0 20 40
Kilometers

RUKUM EAST & RUKUM WEST



We're encouraged that we've been able to help 10,801 marginalised people through our 13 projects in Rukum this year. We've helped improve livelihoods through cooking stoves, fish, pig sheds and empowering Dalits (so called low caste people) and women.

We've helped 70 households install Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) in their kitchens. This has had many benefits, one of them being a reduction in firewood (up to 50%), which has meant a decrease in carbon emissions. Women have also benefited from this, having a lighter workload from not needing to collect the firewood. People have also noticed that the closed and ventilated system of ICS has significantly reduced smoke inhalation and thus improved respiratory health.

We've also helped improve lives through fish. We supported fish breeding training to help people in Rukum get access to fish. Fortunately, it worked and today they have harvested more than 100,000 fingerlings for fish-farming. It has also generated income as people have been able to sell fingerlings to other farmers as well. They have been able to save around NPR 200,000 (USD 1,830) annually from this project. We've also helped 84 households through improved pig shed construction. It's helped so people don't have to keep them inside their homes and the environment is noticeably cleaner.

We've also been empowering Dalits in Rukum, particularly the Baadi community where there are 18 Baadi households. This community belong to the lowest strata of Dalits. For generations, they have made their living by begging and performing as dancers and entertainers. UMN, through its partner N-PAF, has been helping these families to escape from the trap of degradation and poverty for the last two years. Today, all 18 households have a kitchen garden following UMN's training on kitchen gardening and commercial farming. Eight families have started micro enterprises in pig

farming, tailoring and grocery shops. Another positive impact we've seen is 17 couples receiving joint land certificates this year. UMN's successful Joint Land Ownership Certificate campaign supports and contributes to the government's goal to promote women's rights by ensuring rights on land ownership.

RUKUM WEST

AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
154,272

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
5,272

UMN WORKING AREAS:
2 Rural Municipalities, **3** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
5 NGOs (**1** Christian faith-based organisation)

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Food insecurity; lack of quality education; poor health service; child marriage; poor nutrition; disability and inadequate physical infrastructure.

TYPE OF WORK:
Disability; disaster management and climate change; mental health; multilingual education; community health; water and sanitation; integral mission; adolescent and sexual and reproductive health; good governance and livelihoods.



AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
53,018

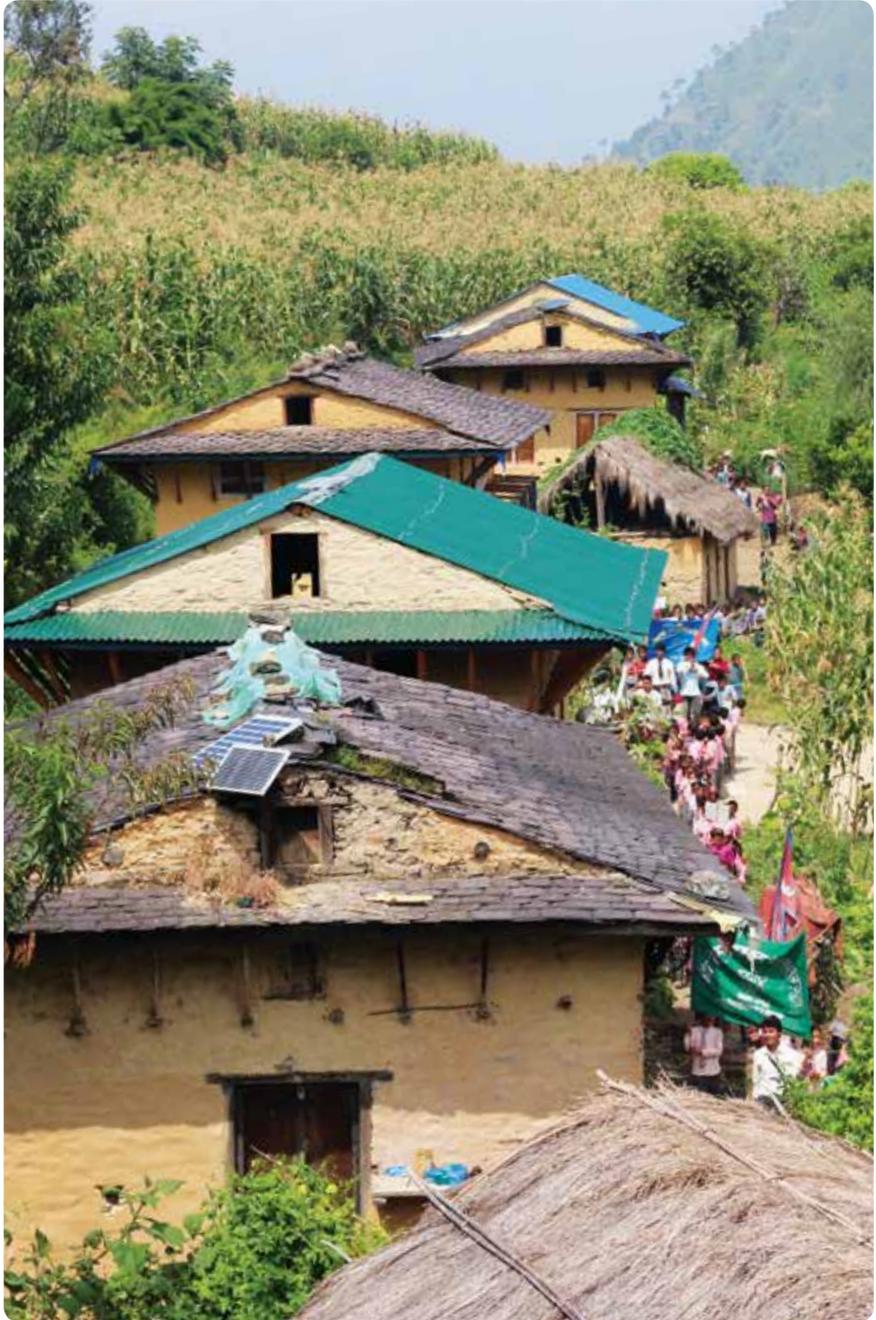
UMN BENEFICIARIES:
5,429

UMN WORKING AREAS:
3 Rural Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
4 NGOs

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Food insecurity; lack of quality education; poor health service; child marriage; poor nutrition; disability and inadequate physical infrastructure.

TYPE OF WORK:
Disability; disaster management and climate change; mental health; multilingual education; community health; water and sanitation; integral mission; adolescent and sexual and reproductive health; good governance and livelihoods.



KAPILBASTU, RUPANDEHI, NAWALPARASI & NAWALPUR

Community transformation – that’s been the beating heart of our work throughout the four districts in this cluster. Changed lives is exactly what we see when we look at the numbers. Twenty-seven thousand six hundred and eighty-seven people were directly helped and an additional 118,038 people benefited from our work through 16 projects.

One of our projects is improving mental health for over 1,100 individuals in a community. Psychosocial support was provided to 61 patients. In addition, 52 traditional healers and 56 Female Community Health Volunteers were given orientation on mental health. People also learned more about this important topic through street drama, orientation and training. This project has also influenced the local government to make mental health a priority. Now they have allocated an annual budget of NPR 70,000 (USD 640) for mental health to be utilised for antipsychotic drug treatment.

Another project is helping improve livelihoods for 245 farmers in the community who are doing small-scale vegetable production and now have healthy diets. UMN’s local partner, Nepal Avinash Social Service Organisation (NASSO), helped these farmers by doing things such as training them and giving them seeds and water pumps. A highlight of the project was 60 farmers being able to produce vegetables on a large scale and collectively earn more than NPR 5,500,000 (USD 50,320) per year. These farmers are producing, selling and earning money as entrepreneurs. It’s been so successful that the local government has declared this place a “vegetable pocket area”.

One other Good Governance project Sushasan, has finished its three years of project period and has been handed over to the local government. This project which was implemented by Isai Samaj Nawalparasi, is changing



lives for the poorest people living in poverty. The goal was to enable communities to influence decisions that would impact their lives. By increasing their active participation (through Participatory Planning Process, Community Score Card and civic education) they learnt how to be active in the decision-making process in local development. After completion of this training, 180 proposals were accepted and approved by Hupsekot Rural Municipality council in Nawalpur.

KAPILBASTU AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
571,940

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
3,982

UMN WORKING AREAS:
2 Rural Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
3 NGOs (**1** Christian faith-based organisations)

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Lack of quality child-friendly education; child marriage; malnutrition; gender-based violence; poor WASH facilities; poor child and maternal health facilities; poor income, livelihoods and irrigation systems.

TYPE OF WORK:
Integrated peacebuilding; adolescent sexual and reproductive health; WASH; family planning; community disability rehabilitation; good governance; child marriage and domestic violence.



RUPANDEHI AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
880,200

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
9,370

UMN WORKING AREAS:
5 Rural Municipalities, **3** Municipalities

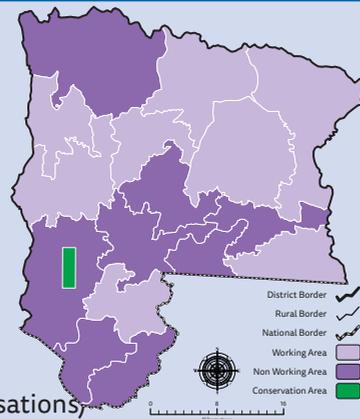
UMN PARTNERS:
4 NGOs (**2** Christian faith-based organisations)

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:

HIV and AIDS; human trafficking; child marriage; malnutrition; gender-based violence; poor WASH facilities; poor income/livelihood; climate change and environment degradation.

TYPE OF WORK:

Livelihoods (livestock and vegetables); climate change; environment and disaster management; mitigation and adaptation; HIV and AIDS intervention; mental health services and awareness; nutrition; anti-human trafficking; and WASH.



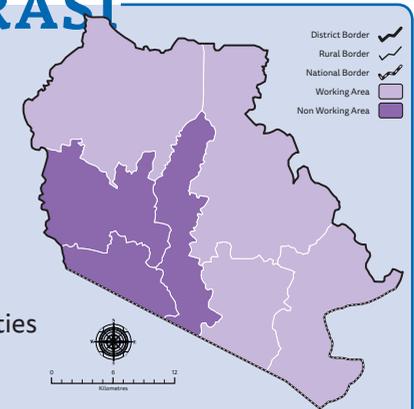
NAWALPARASI AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
321,058

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
4,551

UMN WORKING AREAS:
2 Rural Municipalities, **2** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
2 NGOs



NAWALPUR AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
310,864

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
5,285

UMN WORKING AREAS:
2 Rural Municipalities

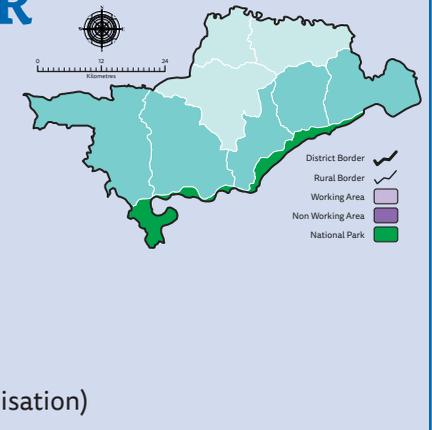
UMN PARTNERS:
1 NGO (Christian faith-based organisation)

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:

Human trafficking; HIV and AIDS; lack of quality child-friendly education; gender-based violence; high migration; poor WASH facilities; poor income/livelihoods; climate change and environment degradation; high alcoholism and drug abuse by youths.

TYPE OF WORK:

Child-friendly education and support; good governance; livelihoods (dairy, livestock and vegetables); climate change; environment and disaster management; mitigation and adaptation; good governance; integral development; HIV & AIDS and community health.



SUNSARI & MORANG



Flooding, struggling with disabilities, border crime, being vulnerable as a child and money issues – those are just some of the challenges people in Sunsari faced this past year.

When disastrous flooding hit Sunsari we were able to help 3,998 families. We gave each family a 15-day relief package which included food and other essential items. We also supported 525 families as they started vegetable gardens. In addition, we assisted people who lost their goats during flooding. We helped 93 families start goat and pig rearing to increase their annual income and recover their loss.

Disabilities can make it hard or even impossible to get around, so we've been doing something to help people. We've given wheelchairs to 70 children and adults with disabilities. It's made a big difference, especially for the 16 children. It's enabled them to attend school and now they're more involved in social activities in their communities. It's helped people with their livelihoods as well, as 25 people with disabilities have been able to get jobs after receiving a wheelchair.

Border crime has also been a major challenge for people in Sunsari. People have had their cattle stolen and been victims of looting near the Indian border. UMN has been supporting a programme called Strengthening Local Communities for Peacebuilding. Members of the group advocated with the government for more security in this area to protect the community. Thanks to their perseverance and patience, they were successful and today there is a security post on the border keeping crime down and people safe.

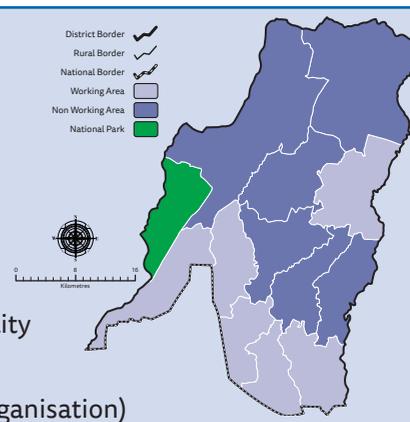
We're also working hard for children's rights. We work with 1,381 children through our 61 child clubs. These clubs have raised awareness about issues like birth registration, immunisation, child labour and child

marriage. The Bagmati Child Club played a huge role in helping 19 children who didn't have birth certificates. They organised a programme where they shared information about the importance of birth registration. It was a success, with all 19 children receiving birth certificates.

Generating a sustainable income can also be a challenge for people. We've set up 136 Self-Reliant Groups and have reached 2,888 people. Women and men have been meeting regularly to discuss saving credit, income generation and other social issues. The results have been great. Around 400 group members have increased their annual income by over 250% which can be used to cover household costs and give their children an education.



SUNSARI AT A GLANCE



POPULATION:
763,500

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
16,987

UMN WORKING AREAS:
5 Rural Municipalities, **1** Municipality

UMN PARTNERS:
5 NGOs (**1** Christian faith-based organisation)

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Cross-border crimes; human trafficking; HIV transmission; high migration rates; marriage breakdown; drug addiction; industrial pollution and poor waste management.

TYPE OF WORK:
Good governance; peacebuilding through Inter-faith network; strengthening the capacity of local committees to reduce cross-border crimes; child-centred community development; disability; HIV prevention, support and care; commercial agriculture and vocational training; community health, nutrition, sanitation and WASH.



MORANG

AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
965,370

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
12,966

UMN WORKING AREAS:
1 Rural Municipalities, **3** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
2 NGOs

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Cross-border crimes; human trafficking; HIV transmission; high migration rates; marriage breakdown; drug addiction; industrial pollution and poor waste management.

TYPE OF WORK:
Good governance; peacebuilding through Inter-faith network; child-centred community development; commercial agriculture and vocational training.





ITEM	TANSEN		OKHALDHUNGA	
	2017-2018	2016-2017	2017-2018	2016-2017
Beds	169	169	50	50
Bed Occupancy	83%	81%	117%	127%
Out-Patient Dept.	112,071	98,390	28,287	29,778
In-Patient Dept.	13,631	12,774	5,858	5,832
Surgery	7,206	7,198	2,271	2,474
Delivery	2,571	2,337	1,201	1,126
Emergency	17,864	15,350	3,700	3,310
Total Income (NPR)	409,146,584	357,180,452	276,144,170	289,453,460
Total Expenditure (NPR)	372,736,025	337,648,964	220,820,679	263,653,372
Free Care (NPR)	16,956,842	17,887,793	24,480,837	23,441,699

HOSPITAL SERVICES OFFICE

HSO continued its central support to the hospitals. It also liaised with line ministries of Government of Nepal and other partners. Under the federal system, healthcare services have been categorised into three levels (local, state and federal). However, there is no clarity regarding institutions such as our hospitals. The UMN board in November decided to end the hospital transition mandate. Similarly, the leadership team decided to make some changes in the organisational structure. The Hospital Executive Committee (HEC) will now be called Leadership Team-Hospital (LT-H).

UNITED MISSION HOSPITAL TANSEN

This year's statistics show an increase in all of the services. The hospital continued to implement the government health insurance policy. New equipment such as the Image Intensifier and parts for the laparoscope were purchased. This year the hospital also received about NPR 8,000,000 (USD 73,193) from the government for infrastructure development, but this funding was too little to purchase a CT Scanner as planned.

Our regular pre-service training courses, such as the Medical Doctorate in General Practice, continued. The hospital also continued a one-year Anaesthetic Assistant Training Course under the National Academy

of Medical Sciences and a Proficiency Level course in Nursing and Laboratory Technician under the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training. Besides these accredited pre-service courses, we also conducted regular in-service courses such as the Skill Birth Attendant course and Mid-Level Practicum Course under the National Health Training Centre. The Diploma in Pastoral Healing Ministry course also continued this reporting year.

Besides implementing a government health insurance policy, the hospital provided free care worth NPR 16,956,842 (USD 155,140). We continued to provide Anti Retro Viral treatment, TB and Leprosy treatment. We also provided Kala Azar medicines and some heart medicine free of cost from the Nepal government. Similarly, the hospital provided free food to all in-patient children admitted to the childrens ward and gave free implants to the orthopaedic patients.

The Community Health Department worked with 28 mothers' groups in two remote Rural Municipalities of eastern Palpa District. They continued supporting two satellite Maternal and Child Health Clinics (CHDs) at the Town Clinic. Health education in school and FM radio broadcasts were discontinued as project funding finished at the end of December 2017. Nine infant nutrition monitoring centres and antenatal clinic support were added in our working area from January under new funding. CHDs saw a total of 4,656 children under five years of age and 3,060 pregnant mothers at Town Clinic. Nutritional Rehabilitation services continued and we are planning to add a waiting home for high risk pregnant mothers on the premises. New Life Psychiatry Rehabilitation services continued in partnership with the municipality and Abhiyan Nepal.

OKHALDHUNGA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

The hospital was registered with the local municipality. Both curative and public health services continued in OCH. Statistics showed a decrease in out-patient department numbers. Admitted cases and the number of deliveries have increased. Bed occupancy remained above 100% despite the hospital being upgraded to 50 beds. Free treatment for children weighing less than 12 kg, a nutritional rehabilitation centre for malnourished children and a waiting home for high-risk pregnant mothers also continued this year. It helped severely malnourished children and high-risk pregnant mothers. The free treatment policy continued. We



spent a total of NPR 24,480,837 (USD 61,972) for free care to those who could not afford to pay.

We also installed an oxygen generation plant. This will reduce the transportation cost of oxygen cylinders from outside the district, which ensures patients who need oxygen an affordable stay in the hospital.

OCH has been a training site for Medical Doctorates in General Practice Residents during their district posting. Mid-Level Practicum, a refresher course for paramedics, started in partnership with the Nick Simon Institute. Besides this, regular on-the-job training for Auxillary Nurse Midwifery and teaching learning activities to the staff continued.

OCH continued its Multidrug Resistant Tuberculosis activities in cooperation with the National Tuberculosis Centre of Government of Nepal.

Hospital extension work is continuing, the latest being the construction of two staff quarters.

The Public Health Unit continued its activities as planned. Some of the areas have been phased out, while some new areas have been chosen for the next phase.

The Hospital continued to implement the Safer Motherhood Programme with the government, even though the hospital has to supplement a significant amount.

OCH is planning to implement the government health insurance programme after some negotiation. Recruitment and retention of the Nepalese staff at a senior level is still a challenge.

The hospital constructed 12 new houses in Molung Rural Municipality for landless families and handed over those houses to the respective families.



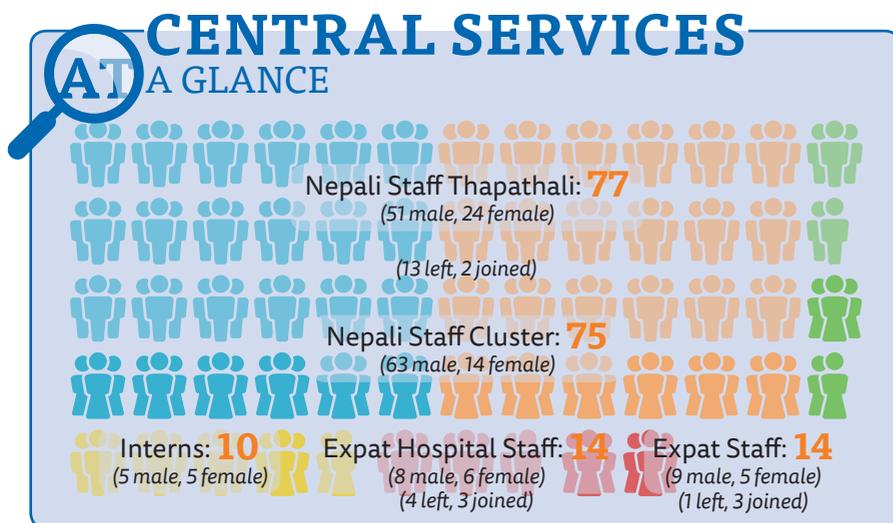
A HOUSE OF HIS OWN

For the past 30 years, Nima worked hard as a shepherd for others, tending to their livestock. Living with his six family members in Okhaldhunga, he didn't have any land in his name. Even after years of struggle, he couldn't earn enough to buy land for him and his family. Owning a house for him seemed like a far-fetched dream.

Landless people like Nima are deprived of receiving facilities from the government and cannot join any local committees. One day, he learned about UMN's financial support that the landless people were getting to build houses. His name was listed. His second landlord was kind enough to give him 0.05 Hectares of land for free, which meant that he could now build the house.

"With the support, we were able to build the house and today we finally have a house that we can call our own. We feel safe and healthy." Nima shares. "We also got an opportunity to work on the construction sites as masons for the many houses that were being built in this project which gave me earnings of NPR 70,000 (USD 640). The money has been helpful to cover education expenses that we took during the construction. There has been a change in the social outlook as well."

Nima and other people who received the support can now participate in communal activities and feel socially included. They can actively participate in community groups (such as mothers' group and farmer's group) and activities which is one of the main achievements of the project. The project has been successful in building 34 houses in Okhaldhunga which has given a sense of worth and belonging for many people like Nima in the community.



BOARD

The overall governance and direction for UMN is the responsibility of the UMN Board of Trustees, who are elected by the supporting partner organisations. This is a skill-based board and its focus has continued to be the governing of the organisation through Carver Policy Governance, and strengthening the financial governance through the Board Audit Committee.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

UMN's Leadership Team (LT) is led by the Executive Director, Joel Hafvenstein, and consists of eight members after Bishnu Sapkota (Finance Team Leader) joined in 2018. The LT has initiated a two-year change process in UMN (2018-2020) to more effectively achieve our strategy of community transformation through increased grassroots empowerment, integrated programming, and focusing on impact. The team meets formally every two months and weekly for prayers and updates.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communication Team continues to produce UMN publications and newsletters on time and also supports other teams in communication-related services. We were able to produce five Nepali-language manuals and booklets and five short videos, which has helped us to better communicate the impact of UMN's work. A major publication was the *Partner Profiles* book, which includes short demographic and social statistics of UMN's working districts

and partner organisations. The Communication Team worked closely with the Funds Management Team in raising money and campaigning for the Terai flood disaster. We've also upgraded PayPal's security, which makes purchasing from UMN's website and making donations easier and safer.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The ITS Team helped the Finance Team upgrade UMN's financial and accounting system. Now we've centralised all the financial transactions, which has increased data integrity and transparency. ITS team members deployed the Office 365 email system for Okhaldhunga Community Hospital. To replace the outdated server system, we purchased a new server system for the Thapathali office.

We've also worked on standardising ITS related processes such as procurement, supplies and service desk. Most of the ITS services have now been documented in SharePoint as an IT-managed service. We continue to train staff on Microsoft Office 365 to maximise productivity.

FUNDING & FINANCE

UMN has entered into partnership with two new financial partners. We were able to gather sufficient funds from our partners and friends around the world to respond to flood disasters in Sunsari and Rupandehi and also to the fire in Kimri, Mugu. UMN submitted 20 new proposals in addition to the existing projects and programmes. Eight were accepted, eight were declined and four are pending to be decided. We have successfully upgraded the accounting system that provides direct and live access of financial information to relevant budget holders and programme managers. This has also reduced tedious manual inputs for data consolidation for periodic management reports. The corporate costs were fully funded by programme contributions this year too.

HUMAN RESOURCES & SITE MANAGEMENT

The Ignite Leadership Development course was developed and delivered to 23 team leaders and line managers who work at UMN. The Ignite course is a two-year programme that is designed to strengthen and build the capacity of UMN leadership. We also developed and implemented a broad strategy for Cross-Cultural Management. To manage office waste efficiently, UMN has teamed up with DOKO Recyclers, a private company in Nepal.



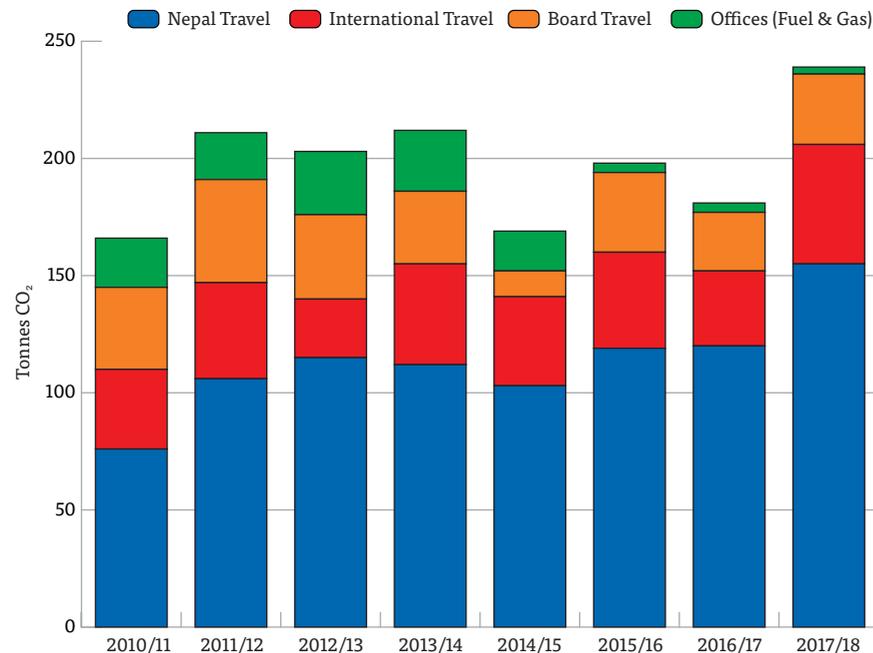
ENVIRONMENT

This year's organisational carbon footprint comes to 239 tonne CO₂e in total which is up by 32% compared to last year's emission. The increase is due to a rise in both domestic and international travel. Part of the growth is attributed to the revised domestic travel record system, which now, unlike before, captures staff travel done by hiring private vehicles for official purposes.

For offsetting the emission, ideas are being explored in consultation with experts. The most suggested idea has been around supporting the poor and climate-vulnerable households for bamboo farming, with the reason that bamboo possesses both carbon sequestration as well as climate-resilient properties that are suitable for the climate-vulnerable people in Nepal.

We have been using Environment Assessment (EA) and Climate Change Adaptation Mainstreaming toolkits to ensure that our project outcomes are sustainable and climate resilient.

UMN'S CARBON FOOTPRINT



GENDER

To support capacity-building in bringing change for gender justice, this year we have been focusing on how to increase the ownership of the gender policy, which is one of the policies requested of UMN partners. We introduced to our partners some participatory processes to reflect on local gender situations, the connection between gender and development and our partners' effort. We explored the meaning of a policy without an implementation plan as was often the case. We encouraged partners to facilitate some of these participatory processes with their staff and members so that ownership can be inclusive and broad-based.

Likewise, we continue to expose partners' frontline staff to participatory action and reflection processes through group work, using gender as the focus. Some were able to practice this approach with their community groups.

As UMN started the comprehensive organisational change processes, gender staff made attempts and encouraged colleagues to integrate gender-equality intentions and measures in the key aspects of change. For example, how marginalised girls and women can be included in our participatory bottom-up process; how gender equality is to be on board as we reshape our capacity-building approach and content; and how to improve staff gender balance.

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

UMN's Conflict Sensitivity policy has been revised and analysed from the gender perspective. The revised policy:

- ★ promotes the participation of women and men in the organisation and its programmes;
- ★ looks closely at how conflict affects women and men; and
- ★ makes sure that women and men have equal access to project resources.

Thirty-six local partners of UMN have developed conflict sensitivity policies and have incorporated them in their existing policies. With this policy in hand, UMN projects are assessed and action plans are developed through the 'Do No Harm' approach to reduce unexpected negative consequences. UMN's earthquake response programme (see page 4) is also monitored through the conflict-sensitive approach.



FINANCE

In the year ending 16 July 2018, UMN's consolidated income was USD 11,245,429 and consolidated expenditure was USD 11,501,973. The consolidated accounts of UMN include the full accounts of the Tansen and Okhaldhunga hospitals and the Hospital Services Office Dhading Disaster Response Programme (DDRP) and Terai Flood Relief. UMN's accounts have been prepared guided by the requirements of the U.K. Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) published in March 2005.

INCOME

Consolidated Income was USD 11,245,429 a decrease of 2.8% on the prior year (USD 11,573,441¹). The hospital's income was USD 6,269,815 accounting for 55.8% of overall income. Grants from institutions and donations for UMN's clusters work, DDRP and Terai Flood Relief amounted to USD 4,605,099 including USD 216,373 of expatriate volunteer services.

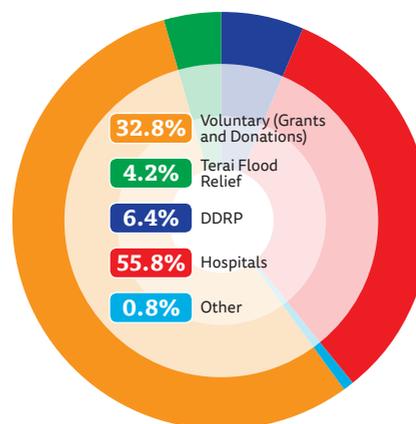
EXPENDITURE

Consolidated Expenditure was USD 11,501,973, a decrease of 1.4% on the prior year (USD 10,848,617¹). The hospital's expenditure was USD 5,430,528 accounting for 50.8% of overall expenditure. Thapathali and Clusters charitable expenditure was USD 5,904,866 accounting for 53.1% of overall expenditure. Charitable expenditure includes Dhading Disaster Response Programme USD 1,798,185 and Terai Flood Relief for USD 399,364.

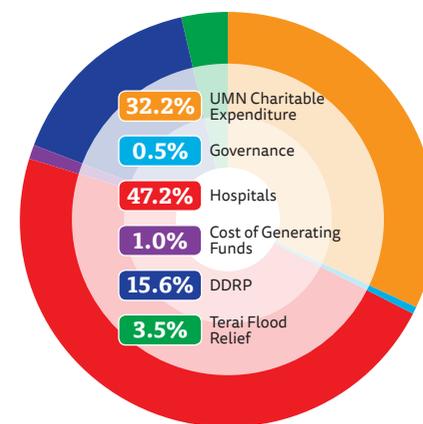
The cost of generating funds 1.9% are the costs associated with activities to attract donors and individuals to support the work of UMN. Governance costs 0.9% ensure that there is an adequate governance infrastructure within UMN and cover the cost of the Board, the bi-annual general assembly, financial governance and strategic management.

Excluding governance cost and cost of generating funds, the total expenditure of UMN was USD 11,335,394 (98.6% of total expenditure) including USD 605,401 of support costs allocated in direct proportion to direct costs. No support costs were allocated to the hospitals.

INCOME 2017-18



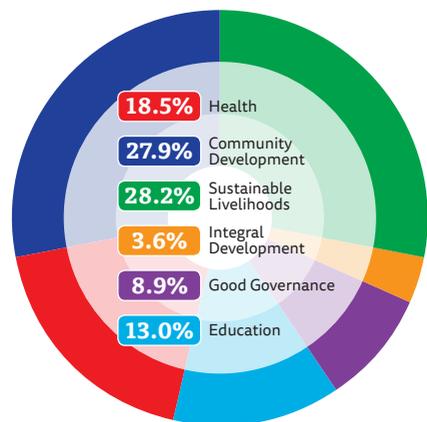
EXPENDITURE 2017-18



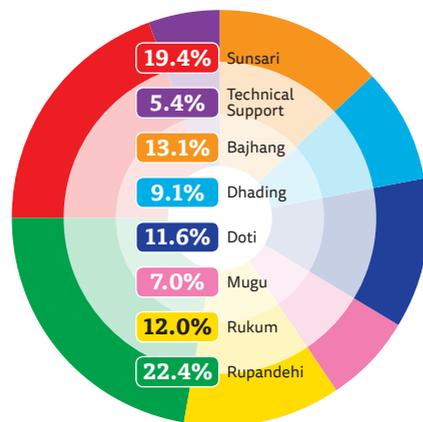
BREAKDOWN OF GRANT INCOME²:

DONOR	USD \$	%
Transform Aid International	\$1,212,800	26.0%
Tearfund UK	\$351,647	7.5%
InterAct	\$349,058	7.5%
Woord en Daad	\$265,160	5.7%
Bread for the World	\$245,012	5.2%
TEAR Australia	\$230,592	4.9%
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe	\$219,817	4.7%
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	\$210,973	4.5%
HimalPartner	\$194,329	4.2%
PMU InterLife	\$176,332	3.8%
United Methodist Church	\$171,693	3.7%
UMN Support Trust	\$126,728	2.7%
UK Aid	\$107,033	2.3%
Normission	\$95,398	2.0%
ICCO & Kerk in Actie	\$88,979	1.9%
SIM International	\$81,998	1.8%
ZOA	\$70,640	1.5%
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission	\$69,151	1.5%
Others	\$402,234	8.6%
Total Grant Income	\$4,669,574	100%

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE 2017-18



CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE BY LOCATION 2017-18^{3,4}



Dhading Disaster Response Programme expenditure totalling USD 1,798,185 represents 16.4% of UMN's total expenditure³ this year. UMN's expenditure for its clusters work totaled USD 3,916,492.

The hospitals work in specific geographical locations whereas the rest of UMN's work is split over a number of geographic locations. The 2017/18 charitable expenditure of UMN is broken down by location below: (left).^{3,4}

Rupandehi, Sunsari and Bajhang were the locations in which the highest proportion of UMN's charitable expenditure was spent. Technical support is provided to clusters from advisory groups based in Kathmandu in order to ensure the quality and effectiveness of UMN's work.

BREAKDOWN OF CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE³:

DONOR	USD \$	% of TOTAL EXPEND.	% of CHARITY EXPEND. ⁴
Hospitals	\$5,430,528	49.5%	
Terai Flood Relief (TRF)	\$399,364	3.6%	
DDRP	\$1,798,185	16.4%	
Good Governance	\$298,549	2.7%	8.9%
Education	\$623,838	5.7%	18.7%
Health	\$622,433	5.7%	18.6%
Community Development	\$742,006	6.8%	22.2%
Sustainable livelihood	\$938,306	8.6%	28.0%
Integral Development	\$119,541	1.0%	3.6%
Total	\$10,972,750	100%	100%

Exchange rate: USD 1 = NPR 109.3

¹ Since all financial reports are denominated in NPR, for comparative reasons we have recalculated last year's figures with this year's exchange rate.

² Excluding Hospitals.

³ Including Hospitals.

⁴ Figures are given excluding Dhading Disaster Response Programme to allow comparison with previous years.



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



FELICITY WEVER *(Chair)*

Felicity is based in Sydney, Australia, and has a background in international aid and development. She is currently the Head of International Programmes for UNICEF Australia. Felicity previously worked for Baptist World Aid Australia, helping to establish UMN's Child-Centred Community Development programmes.



ALEX SWARBICK *(Vice-Chair)*

Alex lives and works in Singapore as Regional Director for leadership development organisation Roffey Park. During the 1990s, Alex worked in Nepal as Personnel Director for the International Nepal Fellowship.



MAHENDRA BHATTARAI

Mahendra has been working as a development consultant for many years. He is Chairperson and leading pastor in a church group in Nepal. He is associated with several Christian organisations and is active in Christian/Non-Christian relations.



HENK BLOM

Henk served with UMN from 1981 until 1990 in Tansen, Palpa. He has fulfilled several leadership posts in different NGOs since then. Henk recently retired from his position of director of the Komensky Consultancy in Pune, India. He lives in Holland.



SHANTA MAYA GURUNG

Shanta is a public health professional and served for many years through faith-based and bilateral organisations within Nepal. Her experiences have mainly been in community health, development, drug & alcohol addiction and HIV & AIDS prevention in Nepal. For the last eight years, she has been leading a team which ministers to girls involved in the sex trade.



GRACE KHALING

Grace is an active member of the Nepali Isai Mandali Lalitpur Church, where she serves as an elder, as well as in several volunteer roles. She has been working with the Asian Development Bank for nearly 30 years, and has considerable work experience with other international organisations. She also serves as a Board member for other para-church organisations.



HOM KHATRI

Hom worked with World Vision International Nepal as Finance Director, and previously as an Internal Auditor. He is currently working as Chief Executive Officer of Bethel Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd, and previously served as Board Chairman. As a member of Nepal Isai Mandali, he has been providing support in financial management as a finance committee member. He also previously worked for seven years with Nepal Bible Society as Finance and Admin Officer.



SUBASH PRADHAN

Subash is an ordained minister who served as the principal of Nepal Baptist Bible College for eight years. He now serves as one of the revisers in the Revision Team at Nepal Bible Society. Currently, he is on the board of the Living Baptist Church, and also serves as a Board member for other NGOs.



LALBIAKHULUI ROKHUM

Kuki, as she is more popularly known, is currently the Director of Training and Mobilisation of EFICOR, India where she has worked since 2002. Kuki is passionate about issues of justice and is involved in teaching about issues such as HIV and AIDS, creation care and climate change.



DHANAN SENATHIRAJAH

Dhanan is a qualified accountant and Lawyer from Sri Lanka. After serving as Vice President - Finance and Planning at National Development Bank PLC, he moved on to become the National Director for World Vision in Sri Lanka in 2016. He serves on the Sri Lankan Boards of Back To The Bible, Campus Crusade, Vision Fund, Lanka Bible College, and Healthcare Christian Fellowship. He was also Chair of UMN from 2013 -2017.



AJAY SHARMA

Ajay has been working in community development for more than 16 years. He is a Director of WACT, an NGO working in the far western region of Nepal. He has served on the board of different local and national level NGOs in Nepal. He has experience in conducting evaluations of development projects and organisational assessment of NGOs.



RICHARD SYKES

Richard was a lawyer specialising in international work with a London law firm for 30 years. After retiring in 2000, he worked for a year for INF in the Mid-West Region of Nepal. Since then he has returned to Nepal every year, either to work for INF or, more recently, in his capacity as a UMN Board member. He was for over ten years on the Boards of INF UK and the Nepal Leprosy Trust UK.



NATIONAL & CLUSTER PARTNERS

NATIONAL

Micah Network Nepal	NGO
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BAJHANG

Dalit Sahayog Samaj (DHS)	NGO
Ekikrit Bikash Manch	NGO
Mahila Kalyan Bachat Tatha Rin Sahakari Samstha Ltd.	Co-op
Pragatishil Yuwa Samaj (PYS)	NGO

DHADING

Chandrajyoti Integrated Rural Development Society	NGO
Committed Society For Change (COSOC Nepal)	NGO
Dhading Christian Society (DCS)	NGO
Himalaya Community Salvation Society (HIMS)	NGO
Jagat Jyoti Community Development Centre (JCDC)	NGO
Namaste Gramin Bikas Samaj (NRDS)	NGO
Prayatnasil Samudayik Bikas Samaj (Prayas Nepal)	NGO
Small Farmers Agriculture Co-operative Federation (SFACF)	Co-op

DOTI

Bar Pipal Saving and Credit Co-operative Ltd. (BPSCCL)	Co-op
Centre for Equal Access Development (CEAD)	NGO
Disabled Service Organisation (DSO)	NGO
Rural Community Development Centre (RCDC)	NGO
Rural Development Centre (RDC)	NGO

MUGU

Buddha Higher Secondary School	Sch.
Disabled Rehabilitation & Rural Development Organisation (DARRDO)	NGO
Gramin Samudayik Sanstha (GSS)	NGO
Karani Community Development Centre (KCDC)	NGO
Rinimokshya Samaj Sudhar Kendra (RSSK)	NGO

RUKUM

Christian Society Development Campaign (CSDC)	NGO
Disabled Protection Forum (DPF)	NGO
Nepal Magar Society Service & Information Centre (MIC Nepal)	NGO
Nepal People Awakening Forum (PAF)	NGO

RUPANDEHI

Bikalpa	NGO
Dalit Social Development Centre (DSDC)	NGO
Isai Samaj Nawalparasi (ISN)	NGO
Kapilvastu Institution Development Committee (KIDC)	NGO
Lumbini Christian Society (LCS)	NGO
Nepal Abinash Social Service Organisation (NASSO)	NGO
Sakar Samuha Nepal (SSN)	NGO
Sunawal Community Development Centre (SCDC-S)	NGO
Sungabha Community Development Centre (SCDC-R)	NGO

SUNSARI

Community Development Forum (CDF)	NGO
Chandra Mukhi Club (CMC)	NGO
District Development Committee (DDC), Morang	GoN
Naba Jiwan Samaj Sewa (NJSS)	NGO
National Community Development Centre (NCDC)	NGO
Nepal Chelebeti Disabled Women Society (NCDWS)	NGO
Participant Mobilisation Centre (PMC)	NGO
Sundar Samaj Nirman Samuha (SSNS)	NGO

NGO = Non-governmental organisation
GoN = Government of Nepal
Sch. = School
Co-op = Co-operative



SUPPORTING PARTNERS

AUSTRALIA

Transform Aid International
TEAR Australia

FINLAND

Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission

GERMANY

Gossner Mission

IRELAND

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

THE NETHERLANDS

Tear Netherlands
ICCO & Kerk in Actie

NORWAY

Normisjon
HimalPartner

SWEDEN

InterAct

UNITED KINGDOM

BMS World Mission
Church of Scotland
Tearfund

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
General Board of Global Ministries
World Mission Prayer League

MULTI-NATIONAL BODIES

Interserve
The United Methodist Church

UMN is also grateful to the following organisations for their support this year

Bread for the World-Protestant
Development Service, Germany
CEDAR Fund, Hong Kong
Church Missionary Society of Australia
Church Mission Society, UK
Cornerstone Trust, USA
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, Germany
EduTech, Nepal
Forum Wiednest, Germany
Lloyd George Asia Foundation, UK
Medic Assist International, UK
Mennonite Mission Network, USA
Mennonite Central Committee, USA
Methodist Church in Britain
Opportunity Education, USA
Presbyterian Church World Mission, USA
PMU Interlife, Sweden
Samaritan's Purse, Canada
SIM
Smyrna Church, Sweden
UK Aid
UMN Support Trust, UK
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), USA
United Methodist Women, USA
ViiV Healthcare, UK
World Relief, USA
Woord en Daad, The Netherlands
ZOA, The Netherlands

UMN is also grateful to many individuals, groups and churches around the world who provide faithful support to UMN.





Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society

UNITED MISSION to NEPAL

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