



ROYM NEPAL

Q U A R T E R L Y B U L L E T I N

ROYM NEPAL NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2, 2024

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, ENHANCING FUTURE

Vol. 002

HUMANITARIAN HERALD

APRIL TO JUNE 2024



PROJECT
HIGHLIGHTS

FIELD
INSIGHTS
COMMUNITY
VOICES

Warm Greetings from the Heart of Nepal!

We are thrilled to bring you the latest updates, stories, and achievements from our community projects and initiatives for the months of April to June 2024. Our mission to empower communities and enhance the future of Nepal through sustainable development and collaborative efforts continues to drive us forward. This edition of our quarterly bulletin is a testament to the incredible progress and resilience demonstrated by our communities, thanks to the continuous support of our partners and friends like you.

IN THIS ISSUE:

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS: Discover the latest milestones in our community projects, showcasing the transformative impact of live across Nepal.

FIELD INSIGHTS: Gain firsthand perspectives from our team members working tirelessly on the ground.

COMMUNITY VOICES: Hear inspiring stories from the individuals and families whose lives have been touched by our initiatives

AND MUCH MORE !

Together, we are making a difference!





ORIENTATION AND WORKSHOP IN RAUTAHAT, APRIL 10, 2024, RAUTAHAT

The orientation program of the project was held in 8th and 9th April, 2024 for two days. The representatives and staffs of ROYM Nepal from central office and project staffs of Rupantaran supported program team were participated in the orientation. The program was conducted informally with the objectives of sharing the project background and review of the activities carried out in previous months in details to staffs for the implementation of the project. The organizational details like history, goals, thematic areas and technical aspects were displayed and informed to the participants by Executive Director of ROYM Nepal. The background, objectives, program activities and budget were presented. The allocation of the staffs was done for management of the program, evaluation, reporting and entertainment. The field visit was also carried out in the project area with short interaction with community people and local level stakeholders of ward and palikas.

After orientation, workshop was conducted for two days. The workshop provided the participants with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to effectively lead the project. The workshop was highly engaging for the preparation of annual plan of the project. The project activities, implementation process and methods, duration, indicators, means of verification and responsibilities are discussed thoroughly. Rupantaran team with the support of Program Coordinator planned the project activities in the project area to use it as the basis of their organizing plan for finding stakeholders, members for forming groups and perform training activities and advocacy and aligning activities of project.



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SUCCESSFUL HANDOVER OF LEARNING CENTER, APRIL 18, 2024, MALANGWA

On April 18, 2024, a significant milestone was achieved with the successful handover/takeover of the learning center in Malangwa ward no. 3. The event was graced by the presence of the ward president, Mr. Pramod Ray Yadav, ward secretary, Mr. Chandeshwor Ray Yadav, staff of the ward office, and the ROYM Nepal Sarlahi team. The learning center is now well-equipped with essential learning materials and is home to 35 students (18 girls and 17 boys), all under the supervision and care of a dedicated Resource Person.



DISTRICT LEVEL PROJECT SHARING MEETING, APRIL 23, 2024, DHADING



On April 23, 2024, ROYM Nepal, in partnership with Ward No. 5 of Nilkantha Municipality, oriented the Jibika Project in Dhading. This event marked a significant milestone in community development, focusing on economic and social empowerment for marginalized communities, including women, Dalits, and indigenous groups. The program began with an introduction to ROYM Nepal and an overview of the Jibika Project's goals for fostering sustainable livelihoods.



Key attendees included the Ward Chairman, the Deputy Mayor of Nilkantha Municipality, the Assistant Chief District Officer, and representatives from various governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The event aimed to provide detailed information about ROYM Nepal and the Jibika Project, outline thematic areas, discuss the project's budget, and strengthen coordination among stakeholders. It also sought to engage stakeholders in constructive discussions and develop partnerships for the project's success.

The launch event featured profound discussions and presentations on the project's framework and its anticipated community impact. Keynote speakers, including the Deputy Mayor, Ward Chairperson, Assistant Chief District Officer, and leaders from the Journalists' Association and NGO Federation, emphasized the importance of such initiatives. The event began with the national anthem, followed by speeches and a comprehensive overview of the Jibika Project by Harisharan Dhittal, the District Project Coordinator of ROYM Nepal. The discussions highlighted the project's commitment to economic and social empowerment through alternative income sources and skill development programs.

Rajaram Sharma, Chairperson of the Federation of Nepal Journalists-Dhading, stressed the importance of transparency and public engagement in documenting the project's progress. Salik Ram Duwadi, Chairperson of the NGO Federation, emphasized the need for cohesive efforts and strategic planning to achieve impactful work within the community.

The meeting successfully established a collaborative platform for stakeholders to exchange feedback, innovative solutions, and best practices, fostering mutual learning and expediting the development process.



MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVE MUNICIPALITY BETWEEN WOMEN'S AGENCIES, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, APRIL 25, 2024, DHADING

Beginning the project in particular field area introduction among with local government and field related government and non-government institution is more necessary action to run program more effectively along with all coordination. ROYM Nepal and its project- JIBIKA we (ROYM Nepal, Dhading) had made communication with related officers, staff and local leader for their active participation in introduction program- As a plan and communication most of the key persons rural of Netrawoti Dobjong RM: RM president Mr. Meghnath Rijal, vice president Miss Sita Maya Gurung, chief administrative officer Mr. HaryRam Saha, ward no. 3 chair person Suresh Gurung, ward no.4 chair person Til Bdr. Gurung, ward no. 5 chair person Mr.Hari Adhikari and other related surrogates had been well-come by our ROYM Nepal Dhading VJTA Mr. Bijay Tamang and make more clear about ROYM Nepal, it's work, working themes, and JIBIKA project details by the district program coordinator of ROYM Nepal, Dhading Mr. Hari Saran Dhital. Program will be strongly focused on modern agriculture system like improve cattle shed management, irrigation facilities, improve crop production sector can make effective project outputs. Some of our working area (in the case of dalit, widow) are the most challenging sector which are miss-guidance by religion and culture in which we must be conduct a good homework before lunching the programs of project. Concept of collection centre can be more effective adding with mobile vehicle for transportation of agricultural production and other production from our groups. Some of our program like agriculture input, off-seasonal vegetable farming, group farming, entrepreneurship skill development training programs, etc can be share or can coordination with program of RM Agriculture development office and other agriculture sector's budget.



COMMUNITY ORIENTATION AND GROUP FORMATION- NEELKANTHA MUNICIPALITY WARD NO 5 AND NETRAWATI DABJONG RURAL MUNICIPALITY WARD NO 5, APRIL 28, 2024, DHADING

ROYM-Nepal has been started a new project on Dhading district with a title of JIBIKA (Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women, Dalit, and Ethnic Groups in Dhading District) an aim to address these issues by implementing activities to enhance livelihood opportunities and empower marginalized communities. By diversifying income sources through initiatives like cash crop cultivation, vegetable farming, and livestock rearing, residents can improve financial stability.

Additionally, the project seeks to increase the active participation of women, Dalits, and marginalized groups in local decision-making bodies through leadership development and capacity-building programs. Previously after the ward level interaction and decision to formed group in particular tole of Neelkantha Municipality-5 and Netrawoti RM-5 including Wada President, local political parties representative and other social personals. we circulate our social mobilizer staff and agri-technician in both ward for group meeting. Overall, the formation of women farmers groups contributes to the empowerment, capacity building, and social and economic advancement of women in agriculture, ultimately leading to more inclusive and sustainable rural development.



CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR DAY, MAY 1, 2024, RAUTAHAT

The International Labour has been celebrated on 1st May, 2024 with a theme of Advancing Social Justice, Promoting decent work. The program was successfully conducted in Brindaban-7 of Rautahat district under the chairmanship of Mayor of Brindaban Municipality. With the objectives of spreading awareness of the contribution that workers and the working class make to society the program was launch. In the program there was discussion on theme, history and significance of International Labor Day. Altogether 197 people were participated in the event including 129 females and 68 males. There was interaction with labors especially women group who are engaged in different wage labor activities. Similarly, a rally was done with pamphlets for advocating the workers' rights, fair wages, and improved working conditions through pamphlets.



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY CELEBRATION, MAY 1, 2024, DHADING

On May 1, 2024, the International Labour Day event was celebrated with enthusiasm at Nilakantha Municipality Ward No. 5. The event aimed to honor the contributions of workers worldwide, raise awareness about labor rights, and advocate for fair and equitable working conditions. Key figures, including Ward President Mr. Ram Bdr. Shrestha, Ward Health Facilitator Miss Sunita Pandey, Sirjana Shrestha, and Lab Technician Mrs. Pabitra Gurung, facilitated the program with active participation from the Khalte farmer's group and youth group members. The event began with a meeting organized by ROYM Nepal, involving orientation and communication through various media. The program included welcoming remarks, a briefing on labor laws, and closing remarks by the Ward Chairperson. Eminent speakers from labor unions, government agencies, and civil society organizations highlighted the significance of International Labour Day and advocated for workers' rights. Panel discussions covered topics such as wage equality, workplace safety, labor laws, and the future of work, facilitating dialogue among workers, employers, policymakers, and activists. A solidarity march was organized to demonstrate unity and solidarity in demanding fair labor practices, with participants carrying banners and placards advocating for workers' rights and social justice. The event underscored the recognition of workers' invaluable contributions to society, the advocacy for fair wages, safe working conditions, and equitable treatment for all workers, and fostered a sense of solidarity and unity among workers and advocates. The International Labour Day event served as a platform to celebrate workers' achievements and renew the commitment to advancing labor rights and social justice. By coming together in solidarity, we can create a more just and equitable world where every worker is valued and treated with dignity and respect.



RELIEF IN ACTION: ROYM NEPAL'S RESPONSE TO THE MAHOTTARI FIRE CRISIS, MAY 07, 2024, MAHOTTARI

In the wake of the devastating fire that swept through Jaralhawa and Miya toles in ward 6 of Matihani Municipality, Mahottari, ROYM Nepal, in partnership with Aide à l'Enfance de l'Inde et du Népal (AEIN), has been at the forefront, providing timely and compassionate assistance to the affected families.

On May 3, ROYM staff, arrived with a convoy of relief materials directly to the epicenter of the disaster. Our team worked tirelessly to establish women-friendly and child-friendly spaces, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for the most vulnerable.

Currently, two local residents have been recruited as staff members of ROYM Nepal for a three-month period: one as a volunteer and the other as a facilitator. Both are regularly working on-site to coordinate aid distribution and provide support services.

We've distributed nutritious food to lactating mothers, Sattu/Lito for children, provided water-proof tarpaulins for shelter, and supplied essential items like mats and emergency lights to bring comfort in the darkness.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Mahottari and remain committed to our humanitarian mission. Together, we will rebuild and emerge stronger.



THREE-MONTH DHAKA WEAVING TRAINING, MAY 14, 2024, DHADING

The 3-month Dhaka Weaving Training for Rural Women, conducted under the JIBIKA project, commenced on May 14, 2024, in Netrawoti Dobjung Rural Municipality Ward No. 5, Dhading. The training, held from 2081/02/01 to 2081/04/30, was coordinated with the rural municipality and ward office, in collaboration with Pavil Sana Kishan Krishi Sakari Sastha Ltd, and financially supported by AEIN Luxembourg. A total of nine participants were trained during this period.

The primary objectives of the program were to enhance women's financial independence and socio-economic status, provide training in Dhaka weaving techniques, empower women artisans, and promote gender equality by offering equal access to training and employment opportunities in the textile industry. The training was inaugurated in Katunje Bajar, with the official opening, by key figures including the Chairperson of the rural municipality, Mr. Megnath Rijal, Vice Chairperson Miss Sita Maya Tamang, Chairperson of ROYM Miss Sarmila Sharma, and Ward Chairperson of Ward No. 5, Mr. Hari Adhakari. The training was guided by Miss Kumari Majhi and ran daily from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.



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Training sessions focused on various aspects of Dhaka weaving, including yarn preparation, loom setup, pattern weaving, and finishing. Experienced Dhaka weavers served as instructors, providing hands-on training. Theoretical lessons covered the history of Dhaka weaving, traditional designs, color theory, and market trends, enriched by interactive discussions and demonstrations. Additionally, ROYM Nepal conducted an orientation program on gender-based violence (GBV) and human trafficking prevention (HTPS).

The 3-month Dhaka Weaving Training was a resounding success, empowering women with valuable skills, fostering economic independence, and contributing to cultural preservation and community development. By investing in skills training and empowerment initiatives for women, opportunities for sustainable development and inclusive growth are created.

REUNITING FAMILIES, RESTORING HOPE: ROYM NEPAL'S MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, MAY 17, 2024, SUNAULI



The open border between Nepal and India has served as a gateway for the people of both nations to lead their lives and earn a livelihood. Recently, 44 workers from the Mahottari, Sarlahi, Dhanusha districts, and other districts of Nepal faced harsh realities. These individuals, who had traveled to Jammu and Kashmir in India for employment four months ago, found themselves in a quandary, having started work at a company but not receiving their monthly wages, nor being allowed to return home.



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In light of this situation, ROYM Nepal became aware of this issue and embarked on a mission. With our initiative, and the support of Bardibas Municipality, the respective ward, and a social worker, we were able to reach them through Delhi, India. We have successfully reunited them with their families, safely and securely.

ONE-DAY HEALTH CAMP REPORT ON NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, MAY 21, 2024, DHADING



The health camp on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) was conducted at Nilakantha Municipality Ward No. 5 and Netrawoti Dobjung Rural Municipality Ward No. 5 in collaboration with the Public Health Office, Dhading, the NGO-Federation of Dhading, and with technical support from the Health Department of both municipalities. A total of 306 individuals received health screenings during the camp. The aim of the camp was to raise awareness about non-communicable diseases, their risk factors, prevention, and management among the local community.



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Activities conducted included health screenings such as blood pressure measurement, blood glucose testing, body mass index (BMI) calculation, waist circumference measurement, and sugar percentage measurement. Educational sessions were held to discuss the causes and consequences of NCDs, provide information on healthy lifestyle choices, and offer counseling on smoking cessation and alcohol moderation. Informational materials, including brochures and pamphlets on NCD prevention and management, as well as posters displaying key messages on healthy living, were distributed. Participants also had the opportunity to consult with healthcare professionals regarding their health concerns and receive personalized advice.

The health camp attracted participants from various age groups and backgrounds, including adults and elderly members of the community. Key findings from the camp revealed a high prevalence of hypertension, elevated blood glucose levels, and a considerable number of overweight or obese participants. Additionally, several attendees expressed limited knowledge about NCDs and their risk factors, highlighting the need for ongoing education and awareness campaigns.

Recommendations from the camp included implementing regular health camps and educational workshops to continue raising awareness about NCDs, fostering partnerships with local healthcare providers, schools, and community organizations to extend the reach of NCD prevention initiatives, and offering follow-up consultations and support services to individuals identified with NCD risk factors to facilitate behavior change and adherence to treatment plans.

The health camp on non-communicable diseases served as a valuable platform for promoting health awareness and disease prevention within the community. By addressing risk factors and empowering individuals to make healthier choices, we can work towards reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases and improving overall well-being.



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REBUILDING WITH LOVE, MAY 21, 2024, MATIHANI

On April 24, a huge fire affected Jaralhawa Tole and Miya Tole in Ward 6 of Matihani Municipality in Mahottari, destroying 104 homes. ROYM-Nepal had provided immediate relief in support of AEIN to those affected. During this humanitarian aid, we felt that the incident had left children the most vulnerable. So, in an attempt to meet their needs, we have created a child-friendly space. This is our attempt to ensure that no child is left behind in the wake of a disaster. It is the place where they can learn, play, and socialize at the same time. Our child friendly space is also helping them to deal with psychosocial problems caused by the disaster and return to normalcy. Here, they feel loved and cured in a safe environment where they can also learn by engaging in fun activities.



THREE DAYS' CITRUS FRUIT FARMING TRAINING PROGRAM, MAY 27, 2024, DHADING

ROYM Nepal Dhading branch organized a three-day Citrus Fruit Farming Training Program starting on May 27, 2024. The training aimed to equip participants with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills necessary for successful citrus cultivation, covering aspects such as cultivation techniques, pest and disease management, post-harvest handling, and market strategies. The event was inaugurated by Ward Chairperson Mr. Hari Adhikari, who emphasized the importance of regular and active participation.





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The objectives of the training were to familiarize participants with citrus cultivation practices, provide basic knowledge for orange orchard establishment, maximize yield per unit area, improve fruit quality, promote sustainable farming practices, and contribute to the socio-economic development of citrus-growing communities.

The first day covered an overview of citrus varieties, site selection, soil preparation, and planting techniques. PJTA Gopal Shrestha introduced citrus fruits, their importance, and scopes. The session included practical demonstrations on proper planting techniques.

The second day focused on identifying common pests and diseases, integrated pest management (IPM), and disease prevention strategies. Participants learned about symptoms of pests and diseases, environmentally friendly pest control methods, and the importance of sanitation, pruning, and proper irrigation.

The final day covered harvesting and handling practices, packaging and storage, and marketing strategies. Participants learned about the optimum time for harvesting, proper handling to minimize damage, and strategies for accessing local and international markets.

Throughout the training, participants engaged in practical sessions, including land selection for orange orchards, nursery establishment, grafting techniques, and compost manure making. The training also included sessions on bio-pesticide preparation, income and expense record keeping, and business plan development.



CONDUCTION OF MENSTRUATION HYGIENE DAY, MAY 28, 2024, RAUTAHAT

The Menstruation Hygiene Day was celebrated on May 28, 2024, with the theme “Together for a Period-Friendly World.” The event featured orientation and interaction programs held in Guraja-1 and Brindaban-7 of Rautahat District. A total of 264 participants attended, including 245 females and 19 males, with the majority being adolescent girls.

The program aimed to raise awareness about the social taboos and beliefs surrounding menstruation that need to be challenged and changed. It also sought to increase participants’ knowledge about the menstrual cycle and hygiene management. Participants were encouraged to understand the importance of necessary menstrual products, period education, and period-friendly infrastructure.

Additionally, the program provided valuable information on anti-trafficking, self-defense, and awareness to help adolescents understand their rights and the importance of education. This comprehensive approach ensured that participants left with a well-rounded understanding of both menstrual hygiene and their broader rights and protections.



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AGRI-INPUT SUPPORT FOR FARMERS GROUP PLASTIC TUNNEL WITH DRIP IRRIGATION SET, MAY 29, 2024, DHADING

On May 15 and 29, 2024, ROYM Nepal organized an agri-input support event in Netrawoti Dobjung Rural Municipality Ward No. 5, Katunje Bazaar, and Nilkantha Municipality Ward No. 5, Khalte, with financial support from AEIN. The event aimed to introduce rural farmers to the benefits of plastic tunnels and provide them with the necessary support to set up and utilize these structures effectively. Plastic tunnels, also known as hoop houses or polytunnels, offer a cost-effective solution for extending the growing season, protecting crops from adverse weather conditions, and optimizing yield potential.



The event commenced with training sessions and practical demonstrations on the installation, management, and maintenance of plastic tunnels and drip irrigation systems. Agricultural experts provided insights into selecting suitable site locations, construction materials, and optimal tunnel designs tailored to local agro-climatic conditions. Experienced technicians and extension workers were on hand to provide technical assistance and guidance to farmers throughout the process. The event also served as a platform for knowledge sharing and networking among farmers, researchers, and agricultural practitioners.

The support process included identifying the needs and interests of farmers, obtaining approvals and recommendations from local authorities, conducting field visits for confirmation, and supplying the necessary inputs. Supported agriculture inputs included silpoulin plastic for plastic houses, GI wire, drip irrigation sets, mulching plastic, rope, yellow sticky traps, lures, tomato seeds and vitamins.

Key takeaways from the support event highlighted the effectiveness of providing support to dedicated farmers and the positive impact of small but important assistance in motivating and benefiting needy farmers. The plastic tunnel support event represents a significant step towards promoting sustainable agriculture and empowering rural farming communities. By equipping farmers with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to harness the potential of plastic tunnel farming, we lay the foundation for inclusive rural development and food security



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SEED MONEY SUPPORT PROGRAM, MAY 29, 2024, DHADING

The Seed Money Support for Farmers event was organized on May 15 and 29, 2024, at Netrawoti Dobjung and Nilakantha Municipality Ward No. 5, with the aim of providing financial assistance to farmers to kickstart agricultural projects, enhance productivity, and improve livelihoods. The event sought to address the financial challenges faced by farmers and empower them to invest in their agricultural endeavors.

The objectives of the program were to provide financial assistance to help farmers start new agricultural ventures or improve existing ones, empower farmers, improve agricultural productivity and sustainability, and contribute to rural development and their socio-economic empowerment. The program also aimed to support smallholder farmers by providing initial capital to start income-generating agricultural activities, strengthen the capacity of farmers through training and technical assistance, and encourage agricultural entrepreneurship.

The event process began with VJTA Mr. Bijay Tamang welcoming participants and introducing ROYM Nepal and the JIBIKA project. The District Program Coordinator then detailed the importance and objectives of the Seed Money Support program. In Netrawoti Dobjung RM, the session included the handover of a welding machine set and grinder machines to four farmers from Nischal Tole Krishak Samuha. In Nilakantha Municipality, Ward Chair Mr. Ram Bdr. Shrestha highlighted the importance of seed money support and handed over checks to improve animal sheds for Mis Goma Shrestha and Look Kumari Shrestha.

Farmers were invited to register for the seed money support program, providing information about their farming activities, land size, crops grown, and specific financial needs. Needs assessment interviews were conducted to tailor the support accordingly. Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the program were established, including regular follow-up visits and progress reports.



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The event garnered active participation from local farmers, government representatives, and community leaders. Key outcomes included the empowerment of farmers to invest in their farms, improve agricultural practices, and increase productivity, leading to enhanced food security and income generation. The program had a positive socioeconomic impact, uplifting farming communities, reducing poverty levels, and promoting rural development and resilience. Additionally, the Dalit community's indigenous knowledge and skills were promoted through the provision of welding machines and grinders.

The Seed Money Support for Farmers event was instrumental in providing financial assistance, training, and capacity building to farmers, enabling them to improve agricultural productivity, enhance livelihoods, and build resilient communities. By investing in agriculture and empowering farmers, we can contribute to sustainable development, food security, and poverty alleviation.

QUARTERLY GROUP MEETING AND ORIENTATION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV), MAY 29, 2024, DHADING

On May 29, 2024, ROYM Nepal conducted a quarterly group meeting and orientation on gender-based violence (GBV) in Dhading, involving 70 group representatives from both Nilkantha and Netrawoti Ward No. 5. This meeting underscored the group's commitment to addressing critical community needs, empowering women, and fostering a safer and more inclusive environment. The objectives were to review progress on women's health rights initiatives, provide education on GBV issues, enhance the group's capacity to address GBV, and plan future activities integrating GBV awareness and advocacy.

The event began with ROYM Nepal District Coordinator Mr. Harisharan Dhital welcoming all group members and conducting an introduction program. A summary of activities and achievements since the last meeting was presented, followed by discussions on successes, challenges, and lessons learned. Facilitators conducted a session on GBV, covering definitions, types, prevalence, and the impact on women's health and well-being. Training needs for group members related to GBV advocacy and support were identified, and potential partnerships with local organizations specializing in GBV prevention and response were discussed.



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The orientation included presentations on the different forms of GBV, discussions on the root causes and contributing factors, and an overview of the profound effects of GBV on survivors and communities. Legal frameworks and support services for survivors were explained, and prevention strategies and interventions were explored. An empowerment session focused on the role of community leaders and advocates in combating GBV, with strategies for raising awareness and promoting survivor-centered responses.

The meeting concluded with the definition of action points and responsibilities for implementing GBV-related activities, and the establishment of timelines and milestones for upcoming events and initiatives. The quarterly meeting and orientation on GBV provided a platform for group members to deepen their understanding of GBV issues and integrate this knowledge into their advocacy for women's health rights. The session underscored the importance of community-driven initiatives in combating GBV and supporting survivors effectively.

FENCING OF THE SITE FOR COMMUNITY BASED MULTI-PURPOSE NURSERY, JUNE 1, 2024, SAPTARI

The project implemented area faces the problem of inundation so it was mandatory for us to select the Nursery site area little bit higher altitude for community-based nursery than average land altitude. So, the Rajendra Devaki School's Pond perimeter was selected for this purpose. This site is higher in altitude than surrounding and there is no problem of inundation here and around 3 kaththas of land is available for the nursery purpose. The area was fenced properly and the nursery works like preparation of seedling bed, germination house, germination bed etc. will be done once the monsoon season is over. We feel accomplished that at least the fencing of the Nursery site was complete.





MOBILE REPAIRING TRAINING TO REPAIR THE MOBILE PHONE SOFTWARE, JUNE 2 , 2024, MAHOTTARI

The mobile repairing training has been planned to enhanced socio-economic status through economic empowerment of backward people including women, youths through increasing access to services, resources and economic opportunities at local level. By analysis of training period, project location and budget of the program, the training has been planned to provide training to members of youth group of Bangaha-3 and 5 of Mahottari district. There are altogether 18 youths including 4 girls and 14 boys' participants in the training facilitated by the trainer with supportive materials. The training was started on 2nd June, 2024 for 65 days with an objective to well equip participants with basic knowledge and professional skills of repair and maintenance of mobile phones. In the same way, the participants must be able to identify and describe functions of passive and active components, perform general repair of mobile phone components, describe architecture and classification of mobile phones and troubleshoot mobile phones by the completion of training.

The youth who are interested to receive the skills that can help them to start your own business and work for a company are selected to be trainee of the training program. At the present, they are learning basic skills in electronics, hardware, software, and communication and getting familiar with essential tools like soldering iron, multimeter, screwdriver set, etc.



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GROUP FORMATION AND ORIENTATION TO THE FARMERS GROUPS AND OTHER COMMUNITY PEOPLE ON SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION, HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND SOCIO-JUSTICE, JUNE 5, 2024, RAUTAHAT

In total 250 members were present in eight groups of women group, women farmers group, farmers group and youth group. The formation of group started for 23rd April and ended on 5th June, 2024. For the group formation guideline were developed to ensure the target beneficiaries from disadvantaged and marginalized communities and with ethnicity (Dalit, Janjati, Muslim). There was a discussion and interaction with ward members and community people, which lead to survey the target area of project and communicate for situation analysis.

Women who are engaged in domestic work and in agricultural work were present in these groups. Similarly, the guideline had prioritized to have member, who are single and had faced social abuse, violence as well as economically weak. Youth groups were formed to create awareness against HTPs (Harmful Traditional Practices) and GBV (Gender based violence), improving access to quality SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights) and improving local governance.

The meeting and orientation were conducted in women group, women farmers group, Farmer group and Youth Group. Among the women group the issue of gender based violence, child marriage, reproductive health, safe motherhood and menstruation period were discussed during orientation. The information about the nurse bed and its type, the practice of using nurse bed according to the season and goat farming practices and its importance was shared among farmers group. With the objective to increase the knowledge on adolescent period the orientation was conducted among the youth group. Similarly, pre-test and post-test were also carried out to evaluate the performance of participants in the program.



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CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, JUNE 5, 2024, SAPTARI

ROYM Nepal marked World Environment Day 2024 with a plantation program at Shree Rajendra Devaki Higher Secondary School. The event, themed "Our Commitment: Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience," aimed to raise environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices among students and staff. The program began with a formal session hosted by the DCP of the Saksham Saptari Project.



Key figures, including the Chairperson of the School Management Committee, Mr. Raj Kumar Mandal, and the Principal, Mr. Dipendra Jha, addressed the attendees. Following the speeches, participants, including students from grades 9 and 10, engaged in a plantation activity, emphasizing the importance of land restoration and environmental stewardship. The event successfully highlighted the benefits of plantation and fostered a sense of responsibility towards the environment among the young participants.

YOUNG HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORKS MAPPING, JUNE 11, 2024, SALYAN

ROYM Nepal, under the project entitled: "EKATA; Campaign for solidarity and Promotion of young human rights defenders" organized a one day workshop focused on mapping Young human rights defenders. The workshop aimed to identify the district level young human right defenders from the groups/ clubs that has been working by district level civil society organizations, NGO federation, journalists, women human right defenders (WHRDs) and others relevant stakeholders. The Young Human Rights Defenders Networks Mapping workshop served as a platform to foster collaboration among various stakeholders and identified active, energetic, dynamic, committed in their groups/clubs. Moving forward, the data collected and connections established during this workshop will contribute significantly to the formation of strong and effective Young Human Rights Defenders alliance in the district.





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CLEAN OUR COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN LAUNCH, JUNE 12, 2024, SAPTARI

We started a new campaign, "Clean our community," from Maa Bhagawati Farmers Group, Mukhiyatole in Tilathi Koiladi RMP-04, Saptari. We have planned to provide social points to the members who actively participate in this awareness and cleanliness campaign. These social points will be calculated to provide technical as well as seed and material support from the Saksham Saptari Project. This campaign will be implemented in all our working areas.



AEIN LUXEMBOURG'S AND ROYM NEPAL'S TEAM VISIT TO DHADING, JUNE 12, 2024, DHADING



A team from AEIN Luxembourg, accompanied by representatives from ROYM Nepal, visited the JIBIKA Project in Dhading on June 2.

The JIBIKA Project stands as a testament to sustainable development and community empowerment. Initiated by ROYM Nepal with the support of AEIN Luxembourg, the project has been a catalyst for change in the Dhading, transforming lives through implementing activities to enhance livelihood opportunities and empower marginalized communities.



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The delegation was greeted with a warm welcome, adorned with garlands and traditional Dhaka shawls handwoven by the beneficiaries, which set the tone for a day of meaningful engagement and cultural exchange at the Dhaka weaving center in Katunje, Netrawati Dabjong Rural Municipality.

Lubha Raj Neupane, Executive Director of ROYM Nepal, introduced the visitors to the project's core activities, emphasizing the management's focus on sustainable practices and women's empowerment.

"We will be here for three years, and if we continue to work with dedication, we can extend our efforts up to six or even nine years. It's all about perseverance," Neupane stated, reflecting on the organization's commitment emphasizing the long-term vision for the JIBIKA Project.

The Vice Mayor and Ward Chairs, present alongside, echoed the sentiments of gratitude for the community's achievements.

The Vice Mayor, Sitamaya Gurung, expressed, "It's great to have a program like this for the betterment of the municipality's people. Although Dhading is the closest district to Kathmandu, the market access for its residents is still not adequate. The Dhaka weaving training has greatly assisted the beneficiaries, and I request an extension of this program."

The Ward Chairperson, Hari Adhikari, remarked, "We are extremely grateful for such initiatives that have been introduced during our tenure. We are dedicated to supporting these efforts, ensuring they have a lasting and positive impact."

The AEIN Team engaged with the Dhaka Weaving Community. Françoise Binsfeld, Executive Director of AEIN Luxembourg, inquired into the production and potential expansion of Dhaka products. Her interest in diversifying the artisans' skills to include blouses and sarees could further enrich the local craftsmanship.

Binsfeld, expressed her admiration for the project's impact. "The quality of Dhaka fabric here is remarkable. We're exploring how to enhance the production process. Whether it takes three months or six, we will facilitate training to refine these beautiful patterns," Binsfeld said.



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Binsfeld's interaction with the artisans revealed a vision for the future. "How can we improve the quality of Dhaka? How can we expedite the process without compromising on quality?" she inquired. The artisans' aspirations for greater access to raw materials and market opportunities were palpable." After three months of training, we can inquire about the cost of producing a tan of Dhaka fabric and even consider home-based production," Binsfeld added.

The day's dialogue also surfaced a burgeoning demand for training in woolen work, tailoring, poultry farming, citrus farming, and soap making, reflecting the community's drive to embrace a multitude of entrepreneurial ventures.

As the visit progressed to Reep village, the team was embraced by the Tamang culture's warmth and hospitality. The villagers' advocacy for declaring the area a citrus zone to promote the local orange variety highlighted the agricultural richness and potential of the region.

During a visit to Nischal Tole, the AEIN and ROYM Nepal team witnessed the beneficial effects of new tools—a Grinding Machine and a Welding Machine—provided to four individuals. Artisans shared their experiences, noting that the machines have made their work much easier. "With these machines, we can do our work faster and with better quality," said one artisan.

The artisans also showcased their handcrafted tools and implements, including knives, spades, and traditional Nepali khukuris, demonstrating the skills and craftsmanship that have been passed down through generations.

The following day, the delegation ventured to Nilkantha-5, where the community's was enthusiastic. The meeting room at the Ward Office in Fakshe Tole was filled with participants keen to discuss their experiences and hopes with the team from AEIN Luxembourg and ROYM Nepal.

Participants in the program have expressed their appreciation for the support provided by ROYM Nepal. "Since the arrival of ROYM Nepal in our ward, we've seen remarkable improvements," shared a local farmer. "The seed money has improved our animal sheds and has also helped us develop a farm."



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Women from eight different agricultural groups shared their experiences and aspirations with the AEIN team. They expressed a keen interest in new programs and conveyed their requests for continued support in various farming activities.

Participants voiced their needs for assistance in vegetable farming, goat rearing, dairy farming, poultry, and pig farming. The lack of irrigation and the need for water collection to sustain vegetable cultivation were highlighted as critical issues.

The community also requested support for ginger farming, which has been successful in the area but faces challenges due to lack of proper storage facilities. Technical support for potato farming and other crops was also sought to improve yield and quality.

Binsfeld, reflecting on the discussions, emphasized the importance of collective action. "While individual support is crucial, it is the collective requests that we can address more effectively. We encourage you to present your needs together for a stronger impact," she advised.

The visit concluded with a tour of the improved animal shed and a short cliffside trip, symbolizing the project's impact and the promising future that lies ahead for the people of Dhading.

The AEIN team included Michèle Jensen-Carlen, Communication and Donor Relations Manager; Claire Molitor, Awareness Raising Officer; and Ramesh Twayana, Nepal Coordinator.



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YOUNG HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ALLIANCE FORMATION, JUNE 14, 2024, SALYAN

ROYM Nepal, under the project entitled: "EKATA; Campaign for solidarity and Promotion of young human rights defenders" organized alliance formation program at Salyan district with the Chairmanship of Mr. Buddhi Pun (INSEC district representative) and Chief guest was CDO Shambhu Prasad Regmi (CDO) and guests were Nabin Karki (DSP) Chandra Prakash Oli (Bar chairperson) Mrs. Bishnu Kumari Sharma (WHRDs) and Mrs. Indira Bhandari (HRDs). Those dignitaries actively participated and provided orientation to the Young human rights defenders. The program aimed to form the district level young human right defenders alliance that youth were representing from the community groups/ clubs that has been working by district level civil society organizations, NGO federation, journalists, women human right defenders (WHRDs) and others relevant stakeholders. the events heightened the successful formation of alliance, enhancing the understanding of human rights among youth, and positive stakeholder engagement. The event not only met its goals but also laid a strong foundation for ongoing and future efforts to empower young human rights defenders. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by the participants and stakeholders were hopeful signs of a more active and engaged community in the protection and promotion of human rights.





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YOUNG HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORKS MAPPING, JUNE 17, 2024, DAILEKH

ROYM Nepal, under the project entitled: "EKATA; Campaign for solidarity and Promotion of young human rights defenders" organized a one day workshop focused on mapping Young human rights defenders. The workshop aimed to identify the district level young human right defenders from the groups/ clubs that has been working by district level civil society organizations, NGO . The Young Human Rights Defenders Networks Mapping workshop served as a platform to foster collaboration among various stakeholders and identified active, energetic, dynamic, committed in their groups/clubs. Moving forward, the data collected and connections established during this workshop will contribute significantly to the formation of strong and effective Young Human rights Defenders alliance in the district.



WORKSHOP ON ORGANIZING ADVOCACY SKILL-BUILDING FOR THE DISTRICT-LEVEL WORKING WOMEN'S NETWORK, JUNE 17, 2024. RAUTAHAT

A three-day workshop on organizing and advocacy skill-building for the district-level working women's network was successfully completed, with the participation of 30 working women from each municipality of Rautahat District. The working women's network has been established to develop an advocacy and organizing plan aimed at creating workers' collectives at the district level and linking their efforts at both local and national levels.





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The workshop capacitated 30 working women on advocacy skills, including those from targeted groups. The sessions began with self-awareness exercises, identifying challenges and problems, exploring solutions, and discussing leadership and the Labour Act of Nepal. The focus was on dignified and equal wages for the same work and the rights of laborers in the non-formal sector. Activities included group work, presentations, and interactive discussions among participants.

The workshop, held in Chandrapur, Rautahat from June 10-12, 2024, was facilitated by ED Lubha Raj Neupane, Local Resource Person Bibek Jha, and DPC. A significant component of the workshop was raising awareness about anti-trafficking measures, ensuring that participants understood the importance of protecting themselves and their communities from trafficking.

The objective of the orientation was to increase participants' knowledge about rights, women's rights, and legal provisions for equity as outlined in the Interim Constitution 2063. Pre-test and post-test results showed a significant increase in knowledge among participants, from an average of 22.25% in the pre-test to 80% in the post-test across six municipalities.

THREE-DAYS ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR START-UP BUSINESS START-UP PERSONNEL, JUNE 18, 2024, DHADING

From June 16 to 18, 2024, ROYM Nepal's Dhading project office conducted a comprehensive three-day Entrepreneurship Development Training at Hotel JIBIKA, Nilakantha Municipality Ward No. 3, Dhading Beshi. The training aimed to equip 25 rural farmers from two municipalities with essential skills and knowledge to foster entrepreneurial ventures and cultivate a culture of innovation and business acumen.



The objectives of the training were to equip participants with practical skills for developing business ideas into viable ventures, enhance their understanding of key entrepreneurial concepts, empower them to navigate business challenges, inspire them with success stories, and provide practical exercises to apply theoretical knowledge.



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The training began with District Project Coordinator Mr. Harisharan Dhital welcoming participants and introducing ROYM Nepal and the JIBIKA Project. Vice Chairperson of Netrawoti Dobjung Rural Municipality, Miss Sita Maya Gurung, and Ward Chairperson of Nilakantha, Mr. Ram Bdr. Shrestha, were special guests. Mr. Shrestha shared examples of successful entrepreneurs and emphasized the municipality's support for rural women's socio-economic empowerment. The training was facilitated by Mr. Megnath Gautha, Industry Officer of the Cottage and Small Industry Dhading, and Mr. Harisharan Dhital.

The second day focused on translating ideas into viable business plans and managing entrepreneurial ventures. Sessions included creating a business model canvas, financial planning, and understanding legal and regulatory compliance. Participants engaged in practical business plan preparation exercises.

The final day emphasized marketing strategies, sales techniques, and pitching business ideas to investors. Participants learned about digital marketing, branding, customer acquisition, effective sales strategies, and negotiation skills. They also prepared and delivered elevator pitches, receiving constructive feedback from mentors.

The Entrepreneurship Development Training concluded with participants gaining practical insights, networking opportunities, and renewed enthusiasm for entrepreneurial endeavors. Feedback highlighted the value of hands-on activities, expert insights, and peer learning. Certificates were distributed to acknowledge participants' commitment and successful completion of the program.

YOUNG HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ALLIANCE FORMATION, JUNE 20, 2024, DAILEKH

ROYM Nepal, under the project entitled: "EKATA; Campaign for solidarity and Promotion of young human rights defenders" organized alliance formation program at Dailekh district with the Chief guest was and guests were DSP, NGO Federation chairperson). Those dignitaries actively participated and provided orientation to the Young human rights defenders. The program aimed to form the district level young human right defenders alliance that youth were representing from the community groups/ clubs that has been working by district level civil society organizations, NGO federation, journalists, women human right defenders (WHRDs) and others relevant stakeholders.





THREE DAYS' COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE TRAINING PROGRAM, JUNE 21, 2024, DHADING

ROYM Nepal organized a three-day commercial vegetable farming training program starting on June 21, 2024. The training aimed to equip 25 participants from six farmer groups in Neelkantha-5 and 26 participants from various farmer groups in Netrawoti Dobjung RM with modern vegetable farming techniques.

The objectives of the training were to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of vegetable farming practices, enable hands-on experience in essential farming activities, educate on sustainable agricultural practices, introduce farm economics and marketing strategies, and empower participants to start or improve their vegetable farming enterprises.

First day began with District Program Coordinator Mr. Harisharan Dhital welcoming participants and introducing ROYM Nepal and the JIBIKA Project. PJTA Gopal Shrestha provided an overview of vegetable farming, its importance, and scopes, along with nursery bed preparation and management techniques. Practical exercises on land selection and nursery bed establishment were conducted.

The second day focused on main field preparation, transplanting techniques, and required fertilizer doses. Participants learned about cultural operations, irrigation management, and the preparation and use of bio-pesticides and pit manure. The day concluded with a review of the sessions.



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The final day covered the identification and management of diseases, insects, and pests in vegetable fields. Participants learned about compost manure making, bio-pesticide preparation, and application methods. Sessions on record keeping, income and expenditure management, and business planning were also conducted. The training concluded with discussions on harvesting, grading, storage, marketing, and transportation techniques.

Based on participant feedback, future training sessions could incorporate climate-resilient farming techniques, provide in-depth training on high-value vegetable crops, and offer follow-up support or mentoring.

The three-day commercial vegetable farming training program successfully equipped participants with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills essential for establishing and managing successful vegetable farming enterprises. Continued support and follow-up sessions will be crucial to ensure the application of learned techniques and the success of vegetable growers in their respective endeavors

THREE DAYS COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK FARMING TRAINING PROGRAM, JUNE 21, 2024, DHADING

ROYM Nepal organized a three-day commercial livestock farming training program starting on June 21, 2024. The training aimed to equip 27 participants from various farmer groups in Neelkantha-5 with commercial goat farming techniques. The session began with VJTA Mr. Bijay Tamang welcoming participants and introducing ROYM Nepal and the JIBIKA Project. District Program Coordinator Harisaran Dhital provided an overview of the importance and scope of commercial cattle farming, including the current status and challenges in Nepal. Participants learned about local and exotic breeds of cows and buffaloes, livestock insurance terms, and the preparation and management of feed and forage. The day concluded with a review session.





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The second day started with a review of the previous day's session. VJTA Bijay Tamang conducted a class on the gestation period, major problems in pregnancy, and the importance of artificial insemination. Practical exercises on silage making were included. Neelkantha Municipality livestock development officer Mr. Prakash Luitel and livestock technician Mr. Ashok Sharma Duwadi provided insights into shed hygiene, internal and external parasites, diseases, pest management, and dairy production. The day ended with a review session.

The final day began with a review of the previous day's activities. VJTA Tamang led discussions on commercial cattle farming techniques, record keeping, market strategies, and transportation methods. The training concluded with appraisals and closing remarks by Ward Member Mr. RajaRam Dhungana.

The training included group divisions, session rules, collection of queries, and detailed sessions on various aspects of commercial livestock farming. Practical exercises and reviews were conducted to reinforce learning. The three-day commercial livestock farming training program successfully equipped participants with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills essential for establishing and managing profitable livestock farming enterprises. Participants expressed satisfaction with the depth of information provided and appreciated the hands-on experience gained during the field visit.

THREE DAYS' COMMERCIAL GOAT FARMING TRAINING PROGRAM, JUNE 25, 2024, DHADING

ROYM Nepal organized a three-day commercial goat farming training program, inviting 33 participants from various farmer groups in Netrawoti Dobjung RM. The training aimed to empower participants with the necessary tools and knowledge to become successful and informed goat farmers, capable of contributing positively to the agricultural sector and their local economies.





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The session began with Veterinary Junior Technical Assistant (VJTA) welcoming participants and introducing ROYM Nepal and the JIBIKA Project. The session covered the importance and scope of commercial goat farming in Nepal, including the history, current situation, and challenges. Participants learned about local and exotic goat breeds, internal and external parasites, and methods for their control and management. The day concluded with a review of the session.

The second day started with a review of the previous day's session. VJTA conducted a class on the care and management of bucks, does, pregnant does, and kids. Participants learned to identify healthy and sick goats and manage their health. Netrawoti Dobjung livestock technician Mr. Nirmal Chaudhary provided insights into diseases, pests, and their control methods. The day ended with a review session.

The final day began with a review of the previous day's activities. VJTA of Ward No. 5, Miss Sunita Maya Shrestha, led a session on managing goat feed and forage, preparing balanced diets, and biosecurity measures. Participants discussed commercial goat farming techniques, record keeping, market strategies, and transportation methods.

The three-day commercial goat farming training program successfully provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of goat farming, from basic husbandry practices to advanced business strategies. Participants expressed satisfaction with the depth of knowledge gained and the practical nature of the training. The program was instrumental in promoting sustainable and profitable goat farming practices among aspiring farmers.

YOUNG HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORKS MAPPING, JUNE 25, 2024, SURKHET

ROYM Nepal, under the project entitled: "EKATA; Campaign for Solidarity and Promotion of Young Human Rights Defenders" organized a one-day organizational/Project orientation and Young Human Rights Defenders Networks mapping in Surkhhet.





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The workshop aimed to introduce the organization and project to district stakeholders including government and non-government organization representatives as well as identify the district-level young human rights defenders from the groups/ clubs that has been working by district-level civil society organizations, NGO federation, journalists, women human right defenders (WHRDs) and others relevant stakeholders. This program was conducted in the Chairmanship of Executive Director Mr. Lubharaj Neupane and the Chief Guest was Mr. Shankar KC (Senior Secretary of Office Chief Minister of Karnali Province. Similarly, Representatives from the National Human Rights Commission, Karnali Province Surkhet as well Federation of NGO, Journalist, Civil society Organizations, and others Relevant stakeholders were also attended.

The Young Human Rights Defenders Networks Mapping workshop served as a platform to foster collaboration among various stakeholders and identified active, energetic, dynamic, committed in their groups/clubs. Moving forward, the data collected and connections established during this workshop will contribute significantly to the formation of strong and effective Young Human rights Defender's alliance in the district.

CLIMATE SMART FARMER'S FIELD SCHOOL; DEVELOPMENT OF DEMO FARM PLOT, JUNE 29, 2024, SAPTARI

The classes under this activity are still in progress, a short gap was taken as the season of Paddy Plantation and monsoon season started but the classes recess as usual after that. During this period between April to June, we were able to fence and develop a demo plot for the demonstration of the farmers. Now, there are many components to be added for demonstration, light trap, different pheromone traps, composting pit, vermicomposting etc will be added for demonstration in the upcoming days.



COORDINATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT/REFORM OF POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND TRANSFORMATION, *JUNE 29, 2024, RAUTAHAAT*

The conduction of coordination meeting for adopting/reforming policies, strategies and programs for socio-economic transformation and social justice was carried out in the month of June on five municipalities of project area. The program was conducted under the chairmanship of Mayor, Deputy-Mayor and Administrative Officer of municipalities. There was participation of municipal level stakeholders. The discussion of strategies under Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration like GESI strategy, Women Empowerment strategies where Income generation, Right to house, land and fix assets are included, and Children Protection Strategies, Sexual and Gender based Violence, Agriculture and Youth Mobilization in municipal level program was carried out among the participants of the program.



YOUNG HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ALLIANCE FORMATION, JUNE 30,2024, SURKHET

ROYM Nepal, under the project entitled: "EKATA; Campaign for Solidarity and Promotion of Young Human Rights Defenders" organized an alliance formation and orientation on Human rights was successfully completed program at Surkhet district with the Chairmanship of Mrs. Sharmila BC (Chairperson, Human Rights Defenders Surkhet district) and Chief guest was Shankar Hari Acharya (CDO) and guests were Rupesh Khadka (SP), Man Bahadur Khadka (National Human Rights Commission, Karnali Province), Pitamber Dhakal (Provincial Chairperson Of Human Rights Defenders Forums), Mr. Ghanashyam KC (Chairperson Of Province level NGO federation), Prakash Sharu (NGO Federation chairperson) and Narayan Subedi (INSEC) those dignitaries actively participated and provided orientation to the Young human rights defenders. The program aimed to form the district-level young human rights defenders alliance that youth were representing from the community groups/ clubs that has been working by district-level civil society organizations, NGO federations, journalists, women human rights defenders (WHRDs), and other relevant stakeholders. The Young Human Rights Defenders Alliance formation event held in Birendra Nagar Municipality, Surkhet was a significant milestone in the promotion and protection of human rights at the district level. The event was accomplished in forming a district-level alliance providing orientation on human rights advocacy, and facilitating interaction between YHRDs and key stakeholders.



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COMMUNITY VOICES



A HAPPY WOMAN INDICATES A HAPPY AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY - ANJU SHAKYA

After receiving permission to launch the JIBIKA project in Netrawati Dabjong-5, ROYM-Nepal formed various groups, including farmer's groups and women's network groups. Among these, Barahi Krishak Samuha and Pariwartan Mahhila Sanjal were successfully established in Katunje, with Anju Shakya leading both groups as Chairperson. Today, she is admired as a prominent leader in her village.



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Through these groups, Anju has had the opportunity to speak on numerous topics during meetings and campaigns organized by ROYM Nepal. She has also raised her voice against violence towards women. Anju feels that she has received a significant opportunity to advocate for women's rights in her community by conducting various gender-based trainings and programs at the community level, in coordination with ROYM Nepal and the local government.

Mrs. Shakya shared that the women's network has been instrumental in developing her leadership skills and self-respect, which has increased her confidence to become an independent person. Conducting various programs has helped address numerous issues and build a sense of empowerment and strength.

Nepal, with its diverse cultural landscape and socio-economic challenges, has seen many women rise as leaders and change-makers. Anju Shakya is one such leader whose influence extends beyond her immediate community. Born and raised in a rural area of Nepal, Shakya witnessed firsthand the struggles in accessing education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. However, with the efforts of ROYM Nepal, she has emerged as a beacon of hope and progress

INSPIRATION OF LOCAL POULTRY FARMING - SANTA MAYA TAMANG





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Santa Maya Tamang, a 41-year-old married woman living with her younger daughter in Netrawati Dabjong Rural Municipality, Ward No. 5, Reep Gaun, Dhading, is a shining example of resilience and hard work. Known for her cheerful disposition and dedication, Santa Maya has been successfully managing local poultry farming alongside agriculture for the past few years.

Her journey began with a keen interest in poultry farming, starting with 36 chickens in a traditional coop. The income from her poultry farming has been instrumental in supporting her children's education and household needs. However, during home visits and direct interactions, it became evident that she faced challenges in properly managing her farm due to a lack of financial and technical resources. The chickens were kept in front of her house, posing risks of diseases and infections.

Determined to improve her farm's management, Santa Maya received financial and technical support from ROYM Nepal. This support significantly increased her income and transformed her into a successful local businesswoman. Today, she has 60 local poultry in her farm and has become a role model in her community, inspiring other women to pursue entrepreneurship.

"I have become a model of local poultry farming in my village. Thank you AEIN Luxembourg and ROYM Nepal for the support and changing my livelihood," said Santa Maya Tamang.

Santa Maya's story is a testament to the impact of community support and empowerment. Her success benefits her family and also had motivated other women in her community to strive for economic independence and leadership.



TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP: MANISHA SHRESTHA'S JOURNEY

Born on October 5, 1991, Manisha Shrestha resides in Fyakse of Neelkantha Municipality, Ward No. 5, Dhading. Despite facing poverty and unemployment, she managed to complete her education up to class 10. In 2014 AD, she got married, but her living conditions did not improve. Soon after marriage, she gave birth to a baby girl, and the family struggled to make ends meet with her husband's income from driving a bus.

In 2023, ROYM Nepal initiated the JIBIKA Project, organizing programs to gather and regulate members of youth, farmer, and women's groups. Manisha became the chairperson of two groups: "Hatemalo Mahila Sanjal" and "Sahayogi Udhyamsil Krishak Samuha." ROYM Nepal provided technical knowledge and skillful practices, helping individuals like Manisha transform traditional farming systems into commercial enterprises.

"The JIBIKA Project has not only focused on economic empowerment but also on social empowerment for women," says Manisha Shrestha.

As a dedicated community member, Manisha took on the role of leader in her ward's women's network. She organized meetings, facilitated discussions on women's rights and health issues, and mobilized resources to support women in need. Through her efforts, women in the community gained confidence, learned new skills, and became empowered to advocate for themselves.



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“Conducting community-level orientation programs on GBV and harmful traditional practices has been a significant part of my work,” Manisha shared. “I also lead and advocate for a women-friendly budget in our ward.”

Manisha’s leadership in the ward women’s network exemplifies the transformative power of grassroots empowerment. Through dedication, advocacy, and community building, she has not only empowered women but also ignited a movement that reverberates through generations. “My leadership journey has shown me that grassroots empowerment can create lasting change,” reflected Manisha. “Together, we can build a stronger, more equitable community.”



LEARNING THROUGH ORIENTATION: THE STORY OF PUNAM DEVI PASWAN

Punam Devi Paswan, a resident of Rautahat district, Brindaban Municipality, Ward No. 7, Sakuwa Dhamaura, is a member of Pratigya Mahila Samuha (Pratigya Women Group). Coming from a middle-class family with five members—her husband, two sons, and a daughter—Punam belongs to the marginalized Dalit community with a low income. The family engages in wage labor activities to meet their basic needs.



Punam's life took a challenging turn when she was married off at a young age, leading to early pregnancy at 17. As a result, she continues to suffer from physical issues like illness and weakness. "It wasn't easy being a mother at a young age, but I had to manage myself to care for the children. Even though I faced complications, I did the household chores during my prenatal and delivery periods," she recalled.

Informed by the ward office about the formation of the women's group, Punam became a member of Pratigya Women Group. Through her participation in various orientations on gender violence, early marriage, and reproductive health, she gained valuable knowledge on these critical issues. "In our community, early marriage and gender violence are major issues. I was enthusiastic to participate in the meetings informed by the ward officer. ROYM Nepal simplified all the aims and objectives of the group formation and the project, which motivated me to engage in the group," she explained.

Punam also actively participated in Menstruation Hygiene Day on 28th May 2024, supporting ROYM Nepal in organizing the program by communicating with adolescent girls and health workers for their participation. "I am glad to be a part of this program where all participants are influenced to analyze the need for necessary products, period education, and period-friendly infrastructure during menstruation," she said.

As a member of the women's group, Punam ensures female participation and monthly meetings. She disseminates information to the community about the importance of orientation and meetings. "I am grateful to ROYM Nepal for giving me an opportunity to be a member of the group and participate in the monthly orientation program. We conduct meetings on a monthly basis and discuss social issues. My aspiration is that no woman should face the same prenatal and postnatal problems I faced at a young age. I am hopeful that in the upcoming days, I will play a vital role in creating awareness in society as an educator on women's reproductive health," she shared.

Punam's story is a testament to the collective effort and dedication of ROYM Nepal and its partners. Her journey highlights the importance of education, empowerment, and community support in transforming lives and fostering sustainable development.



ANTICIPATION ON MOBILE REPAIRING TRAINING: THE STORY OF RINKU SHAH

Rinku Shah, a 16-year-old resident of Bangaha Municipality Ward No. 3, Mahottari district, Nepal, lives with her family of seven. Her father engages in wage labor activities to meet the family's basic needs. Despite belonging to a marginalized community, Rinku's parents prioritize education, sending her and her siblings to school. Currently, Rinku is studying in Grade XII at Shree Secondary School, Bangaha.

Growing up in a community surrounded by various social issues related to gender, and rights, Rinku has always been an active student, participating in extracurricular activities and community programs. Encouraged by the ward office, she joined the youth group formation meeting and was elected as the secretary of Gadhimai Yuwa Samuha (Youth Group). She actively participates in orientation programs and plays a vital role in organizing monthly meetings for the youth group.

"I feel that the youth group is gender-responsive since females have equal participation and leadership positions," said Rinku. "The orientation helped me understand gender violence and early marriage better. I learned about the causes and effects of these social issues in our society. Later, I want to be an educator to reflect these social issues among the community people by sharing the knowledge I gained from the orientation program. It was interesting to give pre-tests and post-tests in the program."



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A few months ago, a 65-day mobile repairing training was organized for the youth group, starting on 2nd June 2024. Rinku is participating in the training with keen interest and hopes to start her own business or work for a company after completing the program.

“At present, I am learning basic skills in electronics, hardware, software, and communication, and getting familiar with essential tools like soldering iron, multi-meter, screwdriver set, etc. I am very appreciative of every opportunity I received from ROYM Nepal. I also request ROYM Nepal to provide an advanced course to raise my professionalism in mobile repairing,” Rinku shared.

Rinku’s story highlights the importance of education and skill development in empowering youth from marginalized communities. Her dedication and enthusiasm serve as an inspiration for others, demonstrating the transformative impact of community support and training programs.

SARITA THAPA - A BEACON OF TRANSFORMATION IN DHADING

Sarita Thapa, a dedicated social mobilizer of ROYM Nepal from Dhulikhel, Kavre, has been a pillar of strength and inspiration for her community. From a young age, Sarita was interested in literature and humanities. She lived with relatives while attending school. After completing her +2 education, she began working as a social worker for various NGOs. Her passion for community service led her to join ROYM Nepal, where she has been instrumental in various projects aimed at uplifting the community. As a social mobilizer, Sarita believes her role is to enhance awareness and mobilize the community towards positive change. She has been actively involved in educational initiatives, advocating for the importance of education, particularly for girls. Sarita organized numerous workshops and awareness programs, helping many young girls secure education and awareness. Her efforts in community development projects led to the creation of self-learning platforms, fostering creativity and innovation within the community.





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Dhading was a new project for Sarita, and she viewed it as an opportunity for learning and growth. The remote and backward nature of the community initially surprised her, but she quickly adapted and took the initiative to uplift the area. Sarita's initiatives included community collaboration, municipality collaboration, people observation, lead observation, contact group formation, and monthly meetings. She emphasized self-dependence and maintaining strong community ties. "The team unity is my motivation," she said. "I came here to learn new things in a new environment, far away from home."

Initially, Sarita faced challenges as she belonged to a different community and found it difficult to operate. However, with team support and community engagement, she gradually built trust by participating in cultural programs and being present during both happy and sorrowful times. This trust-building process led to significant changes in the community. "At first, it was not easy. I was scared, overwhelmed, and nervous. But slowly, trust was gained through team support and community engagement," Sarita reflected.

Sarita's work extended to empowerment programs, where she conducted training sessions on various skills, enabling women to become financially independent and confident. Her dedication to creating a united and inclusive community was evident in her efforts to transcend caste and creed barriers. Sarita successfully mobilized the community to participate in development projects, creating a sense of unity and purpose. "Ethnic empowerment, particularly for Dalits, and women's empowerment through livelihood initiatives were common goals for both ROYM Nepal and me," she explained.

Sarita's professional approach and serious commitment to the community, regardless of caste or creed, helped her overcome personal struggles and learn valuable lessons. Her good engagement with the community, sharing experiences, and open communication strengthened bonds and fostered mutual understanding. "I now understand the importance of joining and participating in society. Domestic violence is a major issue, and we need to empower women to address it," she said.

Sarita Thapa's contributions to her community through ROYM Nepal are valuable. Her story is one of resilience, dedication, and the transformative power of community service. Sarita's journey continues to inspire and uplift those around her, making her a true beacon of transformation in Dhading. "Taking my own example, I have broken the barriers of my own society. From a very young age, I was self-dependent. Youth must take on leading roles, and women's empowerment can improve society," she reflected.

As we wrap up this edition of ROYM Nepal's Quarterly Bulletin, we reflect on the remarkable strides made from April to June, 2024. The dedication and hard work of our team, combined with the unwavering support from our partners and community members have been instrumental in driving our mission forward.

We are inspired by the stories of resilience and transformation shared by the individuals and families we serve. Their voices remind us of the importance of our work and the positive change we can achieve together.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to fostering partnerships, promoting transparency, and implementing innovative solutions to address the challenges faced by our communities. Together, we will continue to build a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to sharing more updates and success stories in our next edition.

Your support makes all the difference. Until Next Time!

With heartfelt gratitude,
The ROYM Nepal Team

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ROYM NEPAL

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