

Good Neighbour Service Association Nepal (GONESA Nepal)



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT- 2021

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Executive Summary

Through this report, we are delighted to share the results of our community efforts. Since two decades, GONESA has been extending its services in the community based intervention to the wide range of disadvantaged and marginalized families. Our service started with providing child care services by establishing Early Childhood Development centers (ECD) in the slums of Pokhara, providing health care and sponsorship program. GONESA has been able to grab the attention of other development organizations due to its excellent and quality services. Which resulted in the successful completion of various projects such as Hariyo Ban Program (Climate Change adaptation), Covid Recovery Project and program and Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation project.

Like in the past years, we continue to serve children, support their nutrition, health and education. Not only with children, project benefitted their parents and community people. Children attending schools for education for their better future. We are able to coordinate and collaborate with community schools, teachers and stakeholder for free and compulsory public education. GONESA implemented COVID Response Project and able reach over seven hundred people for providing immediate response in the period of crisis. We are grateful to UNDP family for their trust and providing us financial and technical support to reach among covid impacted families. In the meantime, we are very thankful to Pokhara Metropolitan City Office, Agriculture Department collaborating and providing necessary support regarding implementation of COVID Recovery project and sharing their resources and expertise.

We appreciate and are grateful to VISPE- Italy for their long-term support for the ECD and sponsorship program. We are also excited in working with BMZ, Germany and Karl Kubel Stiftung (KKS) and are grateful for starting a new venture of community development program in Rupa Rural Municipality, kaski since August 2021. Lastly, we would like to express our gratitude for the

members, executive committee, and project staff for their tremendous efforts in making this year a success with remarkable accomplishments.

Organization Background

Good Neighbour Service Association (GONESA), a non-profit, non-governmental organization that was established in 1999, is a member of the NGO Federation and a partner of the Social Welfare Council (SWC). GONESA started its service to address the needs of children living in slums at Pokhara. Upon acknowledging that survival is critical to achieving education, health facilities were linked to beneficiaries after a few months. Thousands of slum youngsters have completed their basic education over the last two decades. The organization has successfully implemented a program in the Western Development Region and has gained recognition from stakeholders for its quality service. Similarly, various Community Development Projects have been successfully conducted in the districts of Gorkha, Parbat, Lamjung, Kaski, Syangja, Myagdi, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Arghakhanchi, and Tanahu. Various thematic areas were addressed, and expertise were developed in areas such as the promotion of saving and credit, excellent health care, income production, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.

Objectives

GONESA aims to fight for social injustice, illiteracy, poverty, and health risks for the most vulnerable people (women and children). Therefore, the following objective leads the achievement of the organizational goal.

- To increase the literacy rate by providing quality education among the urban slum residents, child and rural poor people.
- Provide basic health and sanitation services as a component of human rights in order to improve the health of disadvantaged and marginalized groups.
- Promote diverse livelihood prospects by enhancing their knowledge and skills, introducing microfinance, saving credit, and income-generating activities through the mobilization of local resources and the use of social mobilization strategies.
- To safeguard and promote fundamental human rights, as well as to effectively advocate for children's, women's, and other people's rights.

Strategy

GONESA has long term vision and mission to make our society safe for children and women. Happiness and prosperity come through hard work, devotion and having sound economic status. Low-income family are unable to send their children schools, they do not have any selection of educating children. GONESA adopt short periodic plan for achieving investment for education, early education and basic education. We are together with our contributor, following these strategies to implement activities.

Partnership, Networking & collaboration:

In our efforts to address societal stigmas and poverty, we emphasize on successful partnering, networking, and collaboration. End Child marriage, trafficking, and child labor necessitate enormous effort on the part of all stakeholders, and we value collaboration greatly. In the current environment, the Nepalese people have expectations for good government, accountability, democracy, and peace. We realize and are working to achieve it through partnerships, networking, and collaboration.

Local resource utilization:

This is the current coordination and collaboration approach with local government. Local representatives were elected after two decades, and the country adopted federalism. The decision-making authority is governed at the local level in order to plan through the bottom up approach. In cooperation with relevant local authorities, our primary strategy will be the mobilization of local resources to offer suitable services to those in need.

Human Resource Management and Development:

Our primary concern is to mobilize the human resources of the organization through appropriate utilization of the technology, for which the human resources require adequate knowledge and skills as per the changing scenario and advancement of the technology. Therefore, we focus and encourage the employees for their personal development through various trainings and workshops aligning to the goals of organization.

Programs and Achievements

1. ECD Program

Childhood is the most important time of human life; this period of life is also the basic basis of human development. According to scientists, 90 percent of children's brain development occurs between the ages of 2 and 5 years, so this period is a very important time of life for children. Early Childhood Development Centers (ECD) have been established by GONESA Nepal since 2056 providing quality and inclusive education the children. Child care, midday meals, child friendly



education and health services are provided by trained facilitators from the ECD. The main objective of the program is to support the physical, mental, emotional and social development of children. Malnutrition is a major problem among Nepali children. Mid-day meal has proven to be very important for those children of extreme poverty and having difficult situations. In this balanced diet, pulses, green vegetables, fruits, eggs, milk etc. are provided alternately. For malnourished children whose weight is below the standard, more nutritious muesli, vitamin, protein, and carbohydrate-rich snacks have also been arranged. Parents feel very comfortable sending their children to our ECD as there is proper provision for mid-day meals.

A total of 19 Early Childhood Development Centers are in operation, among which 12 are community-based early Childhood Development Centers and 7 are school-based early childhood development centers. Such Early Childhood Development centers have provided education, nutritious food and health services to 417 children in 2078/79. There are 371 newly admitted children in these centers this year. Likewise, 31 very poor children have been enrolled in schools and given educational support.

2. Sponsorship Program

GONESA has been conducting school enrollment support program for children from economically weak and disadvantaged families. Through this program, the children are supported with the facilitation on school admission and useful educational materials needed for studies, school uniforms and additional school fees. Total of 418 children are receiving ongoing help throughout



this academic year 2079–080, including 31 new children. The scholarship program is the special support program for children in particularly difficult circumstances.

A total of 988 children including 434 boys and 554 girls have been supported under the school enrollment support program since its inception. 272 children are studying at the basic level and 146 are studying at the secondary level, of which 178 are boys and 240 are girls. The objective of this program is to increase access to education for children from poor and disadvantaged families and to help reduce the dropout rate by encouraging school enrollment programs in the community.

3. Health Care support to children

In order to improve the health of children born in extremely poor and difficult families, the organization has been providing consultation, first aid, referral and expert services for free. The organization's health center provides general treatment and first aid, children with complex problems are admitted and treated free of charge in coordination with the relevant hospital.

In this financial year, a total of 2856 patients have received health services from GONESA Clinic and other related hospitals. Among them, 11 are chronic patients



who take regular medicines. Monthly reports are sent regularly to District Public Health and Pokhara Metropolitan City Health Division.

Small support, big change: My Dream Come True

After completing three years of my nursing studies, I got an opportunity to assist in health care unit of GONESA Nepal. I was very happy during the work there and became familiar with everyone in the organization. I felt like it was a home rather than a workplace. I had the opportunity to gain many new knowledge and while assisting my young brothers and sisters for treatment.

I grew up in a poor family, my father is daily wage labor in informal sector. His earnings used to spend in hand to mouth for our family. I received scholarship support of GONESA for education.

GONESA invested my education up to 12th standard. I am very happy to be a part of GONESA project because I got enough education materials,

medicine and health care support. I started dreaming of becoming a nurse and serving the patients. So, I started paying attention in my studies and my parents supported me in every step of my hard work. I am very proud to attain 5th position and was able to become a registered nurse. My family and GONESA have helped me a lot to fulfill my dream. Indeed, I am indebted to the organization, to fulfill my desire to become a nurse.



Courtesy: Laxmi Ranabhat

Community Development Project in Rupa , Kaski

CEEC project is implemented by GONESA in Rupa Rural Municipality, Kaski of Gandaki Province from August 2021 in financial and technical support of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany and Karl Kubel Stiftung Fur Kind und Familie (KKS). This project is community based intervention to ensure children's rights and to create an environment for children to grow up well and safely. The project aims to sustainably improve the

socio-economic living conditions of the marginalized and disadvantaged families and also improve the education opportunities for the children at schools.

With focus on 15 schools of 7 wards in Rupa Rural Municipality, 15 child clubs have been formed



where there are total of 375 members in these clubs. All the child club members are strengthened on child protection capacities in Rupa Rural Municipality and conduct various awareness raising program on child rights and child protection and end social stigma. A hoarding board is also erected in 5 different places of this Municipality conveying the message against Child Marriage.

Improvement of education opportunities at public school is one of major project activities where GONESA will coordinate with the Education department for the development of educational plans and policies in Palika. Also, Acknowledging the need of making teachers technology friendly digital literacy training will be provided to all teachers of 15 project schools where 194 teachers will be benefitted. Computer labs are established in 7 schools of Rupa RM and include computer subject in the local curriculum. Similarly, water purification system will be established in 7 schools which will eventually decrease the risk of water borne diseases.

225 disadvantaged families of Rupa RM will be benefitted from Income generation activities such as vegetable cultivation, poultry farming and goat rearing. This intervention will support 25 families for tunnel construction for vegetable cultivation and cage construction to 25 families for poultry farming and 175 families for goat rearing along with the support of seeds, sprouts, chicken and goats to the farmers. We have reached to 118 disadvantaged families this year in 2022. The Income generating activities of this intervention aims to increase the annual income of low-income and marginalised families so that they can provide their children with the adequate educational materials and prevent them from having to drop out due to poverty.



Covid 19 Response Program

Project Context :

COVID-19 Response and Socio-Economic Recovery Project, which is being implemented by GONESA Nepal in Pokhara Metropolitan City is funded by UNDP and Pokhara Metropolitan City. Pokhara is one of the most impacted cities of Nepal due to COVID-19, as the major economic activity of Pokhara is dependent on tourism, which has come to standstill due to the pandemic. In such a scenario, a large proportion of the local population has gone unemployed and the situation doesn't look to improve soon. In this context, the project is being targeted to the most vulnerable clusters of different wards of the city. The project is especially targeted to the community in rural Pokhara, where most people, losing their job in the city, have returned back

and are looking for alternative sources of income, especially agriculture. The project is targeting the most vulnerable and highly affected people from disadvantaged community especially returnee migrant workers and women of Dalit and janajati community, together with marginalized and poor people.

Objective of the project

The overall objective of the project is to involve COVID impacted most vulnerable households to improve their socio-economic status and built resilient livelihood. Project envisages utilizing local resources, enhancing traditional knowledge and adopting sustainable agriculture as a means of livelihood.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- Increase access to income generation opportunities among jobless, poor and marginalized households through capacity building, high value crops and vegetables production, agriculture mechanization, market linkage and information technology.
- Utilize local resources and coordinate with local government and stakeholders to maximize and sustaining the opportunities.

Activities accomplished

1. Iron Truss Poly house construction:

22 poor and marginalized farmers were provided with Iron Truss Poly house support from the project. Polyhouse of 10mx5m size was constructed and provided to the beneficiaries. Each polyhouse was also supported with Mulching Plastic and Drip Irrigation System and seeds required for plantation. Among the beneficiaries Dalits 19 and other 3 were supported.

2. Ginger seeds distribution and farmer's training

361 families of Pokhara-24, Kaskikot were provided with around 25 Kgs of improved ginger seeds of Kapurkot variety. A total of 8200 kg of seeds were brought from Salyan and distributed to the farmers. A total of 361 beneficiaries were involved in training and involved in ginger production.

3. Moringa Plantation Program

1000 seedlings of Moringa were brought from Kapilvastu district and 28 farmers were provided with Moringa Seedlings and organic manure. Due to low success rate of Moringa establishment because of dry season. So, additional 600 plants were provided by the Municipality later to the same beneficiaries. In kaski district it is done as piloting. Among the beneficiaries Male: 12, Female: 16.

4. Vegetable farming promotion Program

A total of 12 farmers groups encompassing 222 direct beneficiary farmers and around 200 more indirect beneficiaries were supported by the project. The beneficiaries were 60 male and 162 were involved . These beneficiaries were provided with following support as part of vegetable farming promotion program

a. Seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable seeds

All 222 farmers under vegetable farming promotion program were provided with seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable seeds. These distributions were made through 12 Farmers Groups. Among these farmer groups, 7 farmer's groups were established by the project itself. Disaggregation same as vegetable farming promotion program.



b. Bamboo poly house supported at 50% subsidy by Municipality

60 families were supported by Municipality in construction of Bamboo poly house at 50% subsidy. The poly house constructed were 5m wide and 10 m long. These farmers were selected by the local elected dalit ward representative. The supported beneficiaries belong to poor and marginalized Dalit community.

c. Drip Irrigation Support for poly house farmers - 60- HHs

The farmers who received subsidy from Municipality for constructing Poly houses were supported for Drip Irrigation installation from GONESA. These farmers are same as those in section 4(b).

d. Plastic Drum (300 L) Support - 25 HHs

25 HHs of Sarangkot were provided with Plastic Drums to help them collect water and use it in irrigation purpose. All the beneficiaries were Dalit women led households involved in vegetable farming promotion program.

Disaggregation: Male - 9, Female - 16, Dalits - 25

e. Small and handy agricultural tools - 200 HHs

200 HHs under vegetable farming support program were supported with small agricultural tools, particularly irrigation and spraying tools to help reduce their workload. These include sprayers for 20 HHs, Plastic Drums for 25 HHs, Irrigation tool kits for 60 HHs, 92 Drip Irrigation Sets and 5 Plastic Ponds.

Disaggregation:

f. On-site training on vegetable farming and poly house management.

62 farmers who received polyhouse support from GONESA as well as Pokhara Metropolis were given on-site training on poly house management and tomato farming. These farmers were identified for training based on their training need assessment.

Disaggregation: Total 62, Male - 18 Female - 44

Dalits - 48, Janajati - 5, Brahmin/Chhetri - 9

5. Local Poultry Support - 59 HHs

59 Dalit households of Pokhara-24, Pame and Karki Ko Tagaaro were provided with 1000 chickens of 9 days old. The local poultry support program was one of the most desired by the Dalit Communities who didn't have good land holding.

Disaggregation:

Total - 59, Male - 37, Female - 22

Dalits - 59

6. Organic Farmer Field School - Demonstration and Learning Center - 90 beneficiaries

Three organic field schools were established by the project in three different areas of Pokhara. The organic schools were meant to provide basic to medium level training to beneficiary farmers in organic vegetable farming. So, all the farmers under OFFS were also the beneficiaries of vegetable farming promotion program. A demonstration center was established at all three sites. 90 farmers were direct beneficiaries of this activity in three schools.



7. Equipment and Machineries distribution - 4 Groups

Equipment for saving time and friendly for hilly land are equipped to farmers. Minitiller distribution to 3 Farmers Groups of Kaskikot - 3 Minitillers Millet Thresher distribution - 1 (Direct support from UNDP Nepal)
Weeding machines distribution - 5 (Direct support from UNDP Nepal)
Hatchery Machine distribution - 2 (Direct Support from UNDP Nepal).
Pokhara Municipality Mayor distributed these equipment's among the groups.



8. Construction Cold Storage Facility - 3 Farmer's Markets

In close coordination with Pokhara Agriculture department , 3 cold rooms were constructed under the project at farmer's market place of Pokhara. The coldrooms are located at Fewa Farmer Market, Pkr-18, Kahu Khola Farmer Market, Pkr 13 and Aajiwan Sahakari Farmer Market, Pkr-10. One cold room was fully supported by UNDP fund, while other two were supported by Municipality. The farmers will have better access to these market for storing their products.

9. Disaster Risk Management Support - Indirect support through Red Cross Circle

28 disaster affected households were indirectly supported the Tarpaulins by the project as part of emergency relief support. These tarpaulins were handed over to Nepal Red Cross Circle, Kaski for dissemination to targeted groups.

10. Plant Health Clinics - 4 events

4 Plant Health clinics were conducted by the project at 4 different sites at different times. The Plant health clinics were based on farmer's report of disease and pest invasion in an area. One plant health clinic each was conducted in Dhungepatan, Okhle, Sarangkot and Besichowk All the beneficiaries of PHCs were under vegetable farming promotion program. Altogether, 128 farmers were directly benefitted by these programs.

11. Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation Training - 169 beneficiaries

A total of 169 farmers including youths and women were provided with skill development training related to agribusiness and commercial farming. Almost all the beneficiaries of these training sessions were later covered by vegetable farming promotion program for additional support.

12. Community Nursery Establishment

In total, three community nurseries were established at three different sites of Pokhara. One was established at Pumdi, other at Sisuwa and the third one at Batulehaur. Two nurseries were owned by cooperatives while the one at Pumdi was owned by a local farmer. These nursery will produce seedlings and distribute to members of their groups at no cost , more production of seedling are sold at market for further sustainability.

Challenges

- Due to the COVID pandemic created problems in project implementation and increased poverty.
- Increase in migration as the parents of the students are wage labourer and migrate seeking better opportunities.
- Local elections, staff turnover and increase in the price of materials affected the activities
- The problem of dropping out of school due to child marriage continues for which the cooperation of stakeholders is required

Key Learnings

- multi-stakeholder campaign is needed to increase the awareness level of the local people on child marriage, child labour, the importance of girls' education, children's regularity in school, etc.
- Including the local elected representatives in project makes beneficiary selection easy as they know the local situation. But it can also lead to nepotism and favouritism by those representatives especially when resources are limited and expecting beneficiaries are many.
- The major interests of Dalit and marginalized community are in animal rearing rather than farming. It is particularly due to lower land holding of such communities. So, programs should be more focussed on livestock than farming.