

## **Annual Report - 2022**

### **Executive Summary**

Through this report, we are delighted to share the results of our community efforts. Since two decades, GONESA has been involved with community for their rights, access and fulfillment of basic needs in disadvantaged and marginalized families. Our attention remains with children and poverty impacted families for education, health and livelihood. This year our services were focused within Kaski district. Early Childhood Development Program , Education support Program , Community Development Program in Rupa Rural Municipality and Informal workers empowerment Program and Covid 19 response program were implemented to reach fifteen thousand over populations.

Furthermore, GONESA Nepal has contributed actively in different local and nation networks for advocacy and solidarity. It has been playing vital role in in NGO Federation, Human Rights Alliance, National Campaign For Education, Children as a zone of peace, Women Human Rights Defender, Shanti Ka Lagi Nagari Samaj and Consortium Nepal for social changes, transformation and solidarity.

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. Likewise, we are grateful to UNDP Nepal for partnership in COVID Response Program with Pokhara Municipality. In this period, over 500 youths have been benefitted by EBIC project which has motivated to our youths to fulfil their ideas into business. There has been good initiation from Mayor of Pokhara for carrying out post incubation and other activities to promote the centre. The entire project team is gratitude to UNDP Nepal for their continuous feedback and backstopping during implementation of the project.

There has been some delay during accomplishment of activities due to two tiers of election and new system and new representatives. However, the activities were accomplished successfully and activities accomplished smoothly. The organization is always with community people to uphold their dignity. Projects are the means to join with deprived people and interact with them in future. We request to friends and contributor to join hands together for humanity in future as well for common mission.

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.

## **GONESA in a nutshell**

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.

## **Programs and Achievements**

### **Early Child Development Program**

Childhood is the most important time of human life; this period of life is also the foundation 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 any children. Early Childhood Development Centers (ECD) have been established by GONESA Nepal since 2002 AD. GONESA deliver basic education, Child Care, Midday meal. Children enjoy 2 years in our ECD and socialize with better care and health care services. Parents feel very comfortable sending their children to our ECD as children enjoy their rights in safe environment.



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.

Additionally, review meeting of teachers, refreshment training, parents meeting, door to door campaign for enrollment, food and kitchen materials supply, preparation of day meal, furnishing classrooms and supervision and monitoring are activities conducted to accomplish the objective of project.

### **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.

### **My Dream Come True**

After completing three years of my nursing studies, I was called to assist in health care for children in the dispensary at 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 would always be reminded of my past.



I grew up in a poor family, my parents worked as a wage laborer to support the family and educate us. My father enrolled me in the Early Childhood Development Center established by GONESA, twenty years ago. After studying there for two years, I again got the opportunity to study till 12<sup>th</sup> standard with the support of GONESA in Shree Shukraraj Balbhadra Secondary School, when I became sick and while being treated in Manipal hospital, seeing the work of the doctors and nurses treating the patients and how they would be cured, I started dreaming of becoming a nurse and serving the patients. I started paying attention in my studies and my parents supported me in every step of my hard work and I was able to attain 5<sup>th</sup> position and was able to become a registered nurse.

I am going to work as nurse in a hospital after some time. I will my best support and service during the treatment of children from disadvantaged families. My family and GONESA have helped me a lot to fulfill my dream. I am very grateful to the support of the foreign doctor Susanne and VISPE Italy as well as entire GONESA family who have helped and treated me when I was a child.

**Courtesy: Laxmi Ranabhat**

**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 referred to hospitals 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.

### **1. Project Introduction:**

The CEEC project which is being implemented in Rupa Rural Municipality of Kaski district primarily concerns with the overall welfare of the children from poor and marginalized families. The project aims to create a proper enabling environment in Rupa RM where children enjoy all basic aspects including child rights and protection, capacity building, quality education, child participation in local decision making and a sustainable support in their growth and development through improved livelihood opportunities for the families. The project started from August 2021 and will last through December 2024.

### **2. Project Objectives:**

The project contributes to ensuring children's rights and to creating an environment in the Rural Municipality of Rupa for children to grow up well and safely.

Following are the specific objectives:

- Strengthening of child protection capacities in Rupa RM
- Improvement of education opportunities at school
- Increase of income of disadvantaged families

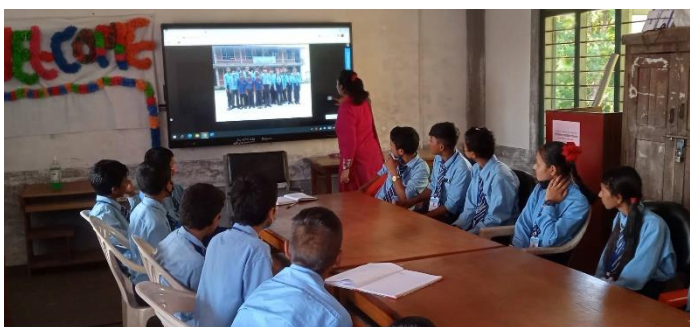
Major areas of program intervention are child rights and protection, capacity building of children, improved education infrastructures and resources at school and improved income generation activities for poor and marginalized children's families.

### **3. Project implementation (activities and accomplishments)**

#### **Sub-Objective 1 - Strengthening of child-protection capacities:**

##### **1.1. Establishment and strengthening of child clubs**

Quarterly meetings of child clubs



The child clubs have been conducting regular quarterly meetings in their respective schools and plan for the activities to be conducted within the school premises. The child clubs have held monthly meetings on their own however, the quarterly meetings are held in the

presence of head teacher, representatives from SMC, PTA and child club. The focal teacher for child clubs supports and guides the child clubs to organize the meeting and facilitates the discussion

## 1.2. Awareness-raising on child rights and child protection

### Extra-curricular Activities with pupils

After the amendment of the project proposal, we have planned to conduct 30 extracurricular activities every year. A total of 22 ECA events were conducted by the end of 2022 and a total of 502 students participated in the event.

Child Club of all 15 schools have conducted the ECA activities in the school premises



where the students participated in various activities such as Quiz, Oratory, Drawing and Poem competitions. These events are conducted marking the special national and international days such as national children's day, Literacy day and International day against gender violence so that the children will be aware of the importance of celebrating these days. Also,

the self-confidence and leadership skills is developed through these programmes.

### Multipliers sharing knowledge with colleagues

All multipliers were urged to host at least two child issues-related awareness events at their schools on a quarterly basis in the first half of 2022. They were given specific subjects to discuss with their fellow teachers at schools. Each multiplier held a discussion session on child marriage with fellow teachers and child club members at their respective schools during the first quarter.

Similar discussions and sharing sessions on child protection, abuse, and legislation against child labour and abuse were also held by the multipliers during the second quarter of 2022. The multiplier-teachers' knowledge on these subjects was increased by the project through the distribution of educational handouts. Simultaneously, the teacher multipliers have been raising awareness marking the special occasion of 16 days campaign against gender based violence.

### Training of elected SHG leaders and RM officials on child rights and local policy making

Training on child rights and local policy making to the elected SHG leaders and RM officials was held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (Thursday) with total of 54 participants. There were 36 males and 18 female participants. Out of which 6 were government officials, 31 were local representatives, 10 were SHG leaders and 6 were project staffs. The major objective of the training was to sensitize the local representatives and government officials on CRC. The training was facilitated by two facilitators Mr. Badri Wagle- Child Rights Focal person Gandaki Province and Ms. Kunjani Pariyar- Advocate and Child Right Defender.



The authorities of Rupa Rural Municipality who were directly or indirectly involved in child related policy making needed proper understanding and guidance regarding the child rights and their provisions. The facilitators briefed the participants about the Child right convention, Legal provision on child rights, Planning for child profile, child protection policy and child protection committee. The stakeholders made a strong commitment to implement the child right and related issues of children as soon as possible and immediate action will be taken to formulate the child protection policies. All participants revealed that the whole training was very effective to expand the knowledge of Child Rights and minimize the gap in the future to protect children. The government officials and elected representative have acknowledged the importance of addressing the children's issues first and foremost.

#### Production and Distribution of IEC materials

A total of 1500 posters have been developed conveying the message regarding the qualities of a good teacher and responsible parents. The draft of the IEC materials were presented in the PMC meeting and the PMC members approved the publication of the posters. The posters related to teachers are distributed in the schools and the posters relating to parents are distributed to all the SHG members and also to the schools of Rupa RM.

### 1.3. Exchange and networking with stakeholders

#### Quarterly meeting with the project management committee

Two events of project management committees were conducted during the year 2022. One event was conducted on 26 June 2022 where all the members of PMC attended the meeting. There were total of 14 participants in this event. Project achievements were shared and future plan and collaboration plan were discussed among the committee members. Second event was conducted on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022 where there were 10 participants in the event. Progress review of the project activities as of September was discussed and discussion on the endorsement of the proposed activities for the next quarter was done.

There should have been overall 4 PMC meeting by the end of 2022, but only 2 meetings could be conducted. This was due to the declaration of three tiers election where the local level election was held on 13 May 2022, and provincial level election

was held on 20 November 2022 throughout the country. For which, the representatives of Rural Municipality were busy and involved since march 2022 for local election and October 2022 for the provincial level election. Therefore, they couldn't manage time for PMC meeting and requested to continue the project activities and postpone PMC meeting until election were held.

## **Sub-Objective 2 - Improvement of education opportunities at schools:**

### **2.1. Equipping of computer labs**

As per the amendment for the establishment of computer labs, most priority will be given to the Secondary schools and observing the need and number of students from the marginalised community the computers will be supported to basic schools. The project has procured all the computers (56 computers) with the prior approval from KKS during the first half of 2022. The procurement was made to prevent escalating computer prices due to inflation, ensuring good quality computers to be obtained with the allocated budget. The PCs purchased are branded Dell desktop computers with processing core i3-10th gen (mini CPU), RAM - 4 GB, HDD 1 Tb, 19" led display, keyboard, mouse, and Windows 10 operating system.



During the reporting period 6 computer labs have been established in 6 different schools of Rupa RM. They are as follows:

S.N.	School	No. of beneficiaries	Support Provided
1	Shree Janata SS	215	8 desktop computers only, furniture and carpet was not supported as they were already available in the school.
2	Arunodaya BS	113	8 desktop computers, 4 double computer tables, 8 chairs and carpets. Electricity supply system was already available in the room.



3	Kalika SS	176	8 desktop computers, 4 double tables, 8 chairs and carpets along with the labour charge for electrification.
4	Deurali BS	93	8 desktop computers, 4 double tables, 8 chairs and carpets along with the labour charge for electrification.
5	Jateshwor SS	58	8 desktop computers, 4 double tables, 8 chairs and carpets along with the labour charge for electrification.
6	ChandraPrabha SS	227	8 desktop computers, 4 double tables, 8 chairs and carpets along with the labour charge for electrification.

1 school has been identified for the establishment of computer according to need and data of baseline, the support will be provided to the beneficiaries by the first quarter of 2023.

## 2.2. Training of teachers

### Digital Literacy Training for teachers

A total of 5 events of digital Literacy training have been completed during the year 2022 at 5 different schools in Rupa RM where 92 teachers have been benefitted from these training.



Among them 39 teachers were female and 53 teachers were male. The courses included in the Digital Literacy Training are – Introduction to computer, files and folder management, installation of a software, Virtual meeting platforms (zoom, google meet), surfing internet (Wi-Fi, Ethernet), sending and receiving email and attachments, MS office package (Word, Excel, Power Point). The teacher participants expressed that this training have been very fruitful as they now can prepare presentation for conducting

classes and prepare questions on their own for exams. The evaluation of participants' progress was attained through the pre-test and post-test questionnaire.

S.N.	Name of child club (school)	Date of training	No. of participants (except project staffs)	Facilitator	Average Pre-test score	Average Post-test Score
1.	Janata Secondary School	February 2 to 8, 2022	21	Pratik Pangeni	29%	81%

2	Chandra Prabha Secondary School	9th to 15th February, 2022	18	Pratik Pangeni	21%	71%
3	Shree Rupajyoti Secondary School	4th to 7th May, 2022	14	Yagya Prasad Dhakal	38%	88%
4	Kalika Secondary school , Deurali Basic School	07 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> September, 2022	24	Sagar Wagle	40%	80%
5	Gaun Farka Secondary school	20 <sup>th</sup> to 23th December 2022	15	Sagar Wagle	39%	85%

### 2.3. Installation of water purifying system



After the observation of the data from baseline report it is shown that out of 15 schools 4 schools already have safe drinking water, 4 schools do not have water source for the installing the system and 7 schools do not have access to safe drinking water and have water source. Therefore, only 7 schools will be provided with the water purifying system.

By 2022, installation of 6 water purification systems in 6 different schools have been completed they are

S.N.	Name of the school	No. of beneficiaries
1	Rupa Jyoti SS	138
2	Bishwoshanti SS	280
3	Chandraprabha SS	227
4	Kalika SS	166
5	Deurali BS	86
6	Gaufarka BS	45
<b>Total</b>		<b>942</b>

School management committee along with the head teacher are responsible for the maintenance of the water purifying system. However, this year installation of all 7 systems in the schools was targeted only 1 was completed during this year. 1 school have been identified observing the need and data of baseline likewise, installation will be completed within the first quarter of 2023.

### 2.4. Development of education plans and policies

### Exchange meeting with child club, SMCs and PTAs

17 Exchange meetings of child club, SMCs and PTAs have been completed. Through this event 539 participants participated in the interaction. Participants were the chairperson from the child clubs, SMCs and PTAs along with the teachers. This interaction program aims ensure efficient education system through the provision of child friendly teaching learning environment for the children in schools as well as in home and also strengthen head teachers, teachers, SMC, PTA members and child club members on child right and child protection and to increase parents' participation in the school events. Through the interaction among Head teachers, teachers, SMCs, PTAs and child club in one platform have helped acknowledge the things for improvement inside the schools and various commitments were made in order to bridge the gap between the need and problems. Likewise, the schools have committed to act against child abuse and violence, child labour and child marriage through various awareness raising program.

### **Sub-Objective 3 - Increase of income of disadvantaged families:**

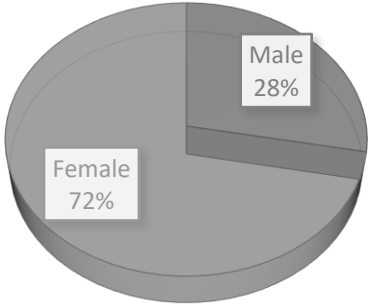
#### 3.1. Establishment and strengthening of SHGs

The establishment of 10 SHG have been completed with all together 225 members. In this year a new group Namuna Ramkot being formed on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 in ward 7 of Rupa RM. This group consists of 20 parents from the command area of Ramkot Secondary School who belong to disadvantaged Dalit communities.

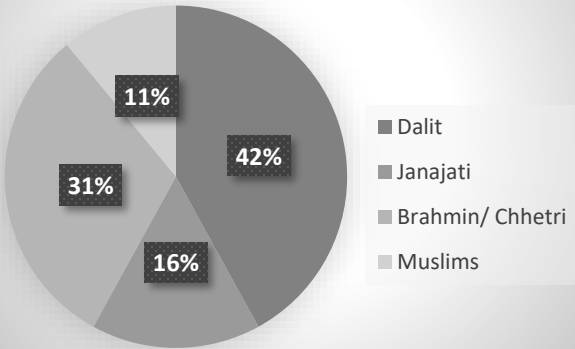
S.N.	Name of Self-Help Group	Total Member	Goat Rearing	Tunnel Construction	Poultry farming	Remarks
1	Shivalaya Farmers Group	16	10		2	Registered in the agricultural department of Rupa RM by the initiation of project
2	Uadhyamsil Farmers Group	17	6	5	1	
3	Arunodaya Farmers Group	20	4	14		
4	Namuna Ramkot Farmers Group	20	5	5	2	
5	Kalika SHG Farmers Group	14	10		4	Registered in the agricultural department of Rupa RM by the initiation of project
6	Indrayani Farmers Group	32	23	1	6	Registered in the agricultural department of Rupa RM by the initiation of project
7	Deurali Farmers Group	26				
8	Milijuli Polyang Farmers Group	26			4	

9	Dhunga Gadey Farmers Group	24	10		2	Registered in the agricultural department of Rupa RM by the initiation of project
10	Rupa Islamic Farmers Group	30	10		4	Registered in the agricultural department of Rupa RM by the initiation of project

### GENDER BASED DISAGGREGATION OF SHG



### Ethnicity Based Disaggregation of SHGs



### Bi-monthly Meeting of Self Help Group

A total of 42 Bi-monthly meetings were conducted in the year 2022. These meetings are conducted in the presence of project social mobilizers to help the group to learn about the meeting procedures and documentation process, together with fund raising and fund mobilization. The meeting of the group is held by self-initiation whereas, bi-monthly meetings are conducted by the project and discuss on various agendas such as initiation of income generating activities along with registering the group in the agricultural and livestock department of Rupa RM to increase the access in government services.

### Training to the members of SHG on the concept, roles and responsibilities.

Aiming to enhance capacity of Self Help Group member, Project has conducted 2-day leadership development and SHG concept, roles and responsibilities training.

S.N.	Name of Self- Help Group	Date	No. of Participants
1	Indrayani Farmer Group	Dec 6 and 7, 2022	29
2	Shivalaya Farmer Group	Dec 13 and 14, 2022	27
3	Rupa Islamic Farmer Group	Dec 16 and 17, 2022	25
4	Kalika Farmer Group	Dec 9 and 10, 2022	25

Through conduction of 4 training 106 members from SHG have been reached where 60 were females and 46 were males. This 2 day was effective to increase the knowledge and skills on the SHG group and its importance to the farmers as a member, conduct meetings, saving and credit, prepare plan and mobilize group member, share information and techniques about group registration process and increase access to government subsidy programs of Rural municipality, and develop their leadership skills.

### 3.2. Promotion of poultry



The completion of the targeted activities was done during the reporting period. The construction of the cage for 25 beneficiaries have been completed whereas, 13 families are supported with 50 chickens along with the drinker, feeder, chicken feeds and vitamins. During the reporting period 6 families are able to earn about NRS 35000 on an average. Distribution of 50 chickens, drinkers, feeders and vitamins for 12 beneficiaries will be done by the end of Winter. For initiating poultry farming the beneficiaries have contributed 25%, Municipality contributes 25% as local contribution similarly the project bears 50% of the total budget. The income and expenses sheet have been provided to the beneficiaries to keep records.

### 3.3. Promotion of goat rearing

A total of 78 disadvantaged families have been supported with the goat rearing program. 60



families have been supported with the goat shed from the project and one goat each as a part of Rural Municipality contribution. 78 goat shed has been constructed in different parts of Rupa where the families from marginalized community are benefitted. After the completion of the construction process the farmers will be provided with the support of 2 goats each. For initiating goat rearing the beneficiaries have contributed 25%, Municipality contributes 25% as local contribution similarly the project bears 50% of the total budget. The income and expenses sheet have been provided to the beneficiaries to keep records.

This activity will be continued in the year 2023 where 97 families will be supported with the goat shed construction and 2 goats each.

### 3.4. Promotion of vegetable cultivation

A total of 25 families have been supported for vegetable cultivation where semi poly house of 10m long, 5m wide and 2.5m high are constructed with iron poles and bars, bamboo and plastic sheet. These tunnels are constructed observing the feasibility. 10 farmers are supported with tomato seeds, polybags Knapsack sprayer and fertilizers. Seedlings were grown in nursery inside protected structure with the help of project staffs and Agriculture officer from Rupa Rural Municipality. They have harvested one season product of tomato and are able to sell 300kg and earned NRS 20000 in an average. Remaining 15 farmers will be supported with cucurbits seed, sprayer, polybags and fertilizers by the end of winter season. For initiating vegetable cultivation, the beneficiaries have contributed 25%, Municipality contributes 25% as local contribution similarly the project bears 50% of the total budget. The income and expenses sheet have been provided to the beneficiaries to keep records.



### Effort to support the family

Mina BK is a women from Dalit community of in Rupa Rural Municipality-7, Kaski. She has five members in her family: three children and husband. Her husband works in daily wages which is seasonal job. Mina cares children and works in her small pieces of land. Therefore, this family has to struggle for food and bread. Her children study in government schools, which charge tuition fee, and other cost for school uniform, stationery materials etc. She has small piece of land where she used to grow traditional crops like rice, maize in her field which is sufficient for only six months. It was so difficult to purchase required educational materials and dress for their children.

In 2021, BMZ supported CEEC project initiated its intervention in their village. In the beginning, the project identified such vulnerable families through baseline survey. Most marginalized and disadvantaged people were selected and involved them in a Self Help Group. A plastic tunnel was constructed for growing tomato with fifty percent contribution of the beneficiaries. She also participated in tomato farming training and leadership development training conducted by the project. The project has trained them to prepare nursery to grow seedlings, disease and pest management and link the groups with cooperative and government line agencies. Motivated and inspired by trainings, she decided to grow tomatoes. She was able to harvest more than 350 kg of tomatoes in growing season. She proudly shares that she earned NPR 25000 in one season.

Furthermore, she attends regular meeting and able to put her decisions during bimonthly meeting of Self Help Group. Mina is also one of the beneficiaries among them and she is able to receive seeds of *Avena sativa*(Jai ghaas) in 80% subsidy from agriculture department of Rupa RM which makes her access in government services.

**Mina BK** shares, *“With only my husband’s income from working in wages, it hard for us to even join hands for food and bread as it was seasonal. Now, from the tomato cultivation I am able to support my family and I have committed to provide education to my children so that they should not struggle in the future.”*





Nursery for seedlings



Tomato planted in polyhouse



Tomatoes grown in polyhouse



Ready to sell in market

## **EBIIC Project**

GONESA Nepal has successfully implemented COVID Recovery Project Supported by UNDP Nepal during the early stage of COVID-19 to sustain the local economy through engaging migrant returnees and those who had lost their jobs in the pandemic situation. UNDP Nepal program assisted Government of Nepal to cope with COVID 19 and new job through entrepreneurship, business incubation and innovation support among the youths. In this regard, GONESA and Pokhara Metropolitan Office jointly initiated EBIS Project under the financial and technical support from UNDP Nepal. Pokhara is provincial headquarter of Gandaki Province and a beautiful city of Nepal. It is the major market place for nearby districts and a best destination for tourism in Nepal. Therefore, it attracts domestic and international tourists throughout the year. Likewise, Pokhara Metropolitan City is the largest city of Nepal in terms of land area and second largest city in terms of total population after Kathmandu. It is one good destination with many opportunities and sectors for youths who dreams for future.

EBIISP intends to entrepreneurship, business incubation and self-sustaining start-up aiming at environment friendly and job oriented. This has been possible with financial support from UNDP Nepal. Project aimed to uplift the economy and creation of jobs engaging the youths at their local market so that after covid aspirations become sustain and maintained. It aimed basically counselling and pre incubation support to migrants, youth, women and who wants to start an enterprise. This program initially owned by local government, provided a strategic location for this project and accepted it as part of large dream project called Business Promotion Project. After completion of local, provincial and federal election, government has its responsibility to create jobs for youths and new commerce in the market. On the other hand, Pokhara has potential entrepreneurship opportunities. Therefore, the short-term project will have large impact for government initiations towards creating enabling environment for rapidly growing population of Pokhara. It has been realized to bring all sorts of income generation grants through one door rather than offering through various doors in fragmented way. Establishment of EBIC, itself is a milestone to Pokhara metropolitan office towards creating job opportunities for youths. EBIC itself is a combination of new technology and new concept with various opportunities. Therefore, successful implementation of the project has been widely accepted by all stakeholders and scale up with similar activities are crucial in the future as well.

Establishment of dedicated EBIC for entrepreneurship development, business incubation and innovation it itself the beginning of entire business promotion. This centre will develop effective networks with all sorts of forum related with concerned stakeholders in innovative approach and lead post incubation activities in future.

### **Entrepreneurship, Business Incubation and Innovation Centre (EBIC) Operation**

The project has established a EBIC Centre in Pokhara City on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The EBIC Centre is equipped with furniture's, video conferencing hall and enough space for meeting and other official purpose. Along with the EBIC, there are three components to provide day to day service to its clients. It has very good facilities included with high resolution camera and television set where tele conferencing for various business purpose. It is connected with internet facilities and well sitting arrangement. The project has established an EBIC which is the major destination for new commerce to enter into market through innovative idea and product. It will work for growth centre for entrepreneurship in Pokhara Metropolitan City to propel economic development in the future. EBIC promotes Entrepreneurship and self-sustaining evolution of Startup Ecosystem based on the market intelligence.



In this centre, the project team has conducted training, workshop and virtual meeting with stakeholders. It has enough space and parking facility as well.

**Counselling Service to Beneficiaries:**

Over 500 youths including women visited to EBIC during the project duration. Project has prepared brochure / leaflet to provide basic information related with services. Project staff have provided information to the visitors. The visitors were mostly youths and jobless, while few were already engaged in some business and own their entrepreneur. The visitors have brought some of their production which is placed in the office, that helped to disseminate information of the product as well.

**Roster of Mentors and Experts**

The project has prepared roster of various sector, experts and mentors. These professionals were identified on the base of their expertise, sectors and experience. During reporting period, 25 professionals have been enlisted to our services. Similarly, two business groups and 2 investors are also enlisted in our roster. The experts are from different sectors and possess very good knowledge on their respective profession. Out of them, 5 female and 20 males represent.

### Mini Exhibition

One day workshop was organized to interact start up, Mentors and experts and investors, aiming to explore the innovative ideas of youths and get feedback from experts. Altogether, 30 start-ups presented their business idea among stakeholders. This workshop was very effective to reach at best and innovative idea. Proposals were selected on the basis of environment friendly, innovative, owned by women, Dalits and returnees. 24 persons with dedicated business have been identified, supported and visited to their business sites before providing start up grant.



### One Day BOOT Camp/Training to Youths

One day orientation was organized by the project on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at EBIC Hall. The orientation was related with entrepreneurship development. The bootcamp was facilitated by experts of different sectors making it more interactive and relevant. 24 start-up / entrepreneurs participated to enhance their knowledge for business improvement.

### Challenges

- Due to the COVID pandemic has created financial and social insecurity among poor people.
- Increase in migration as the parents of the students are wage labourer and migrate seeking better opportunities.
- Three tiers of government are in position, but still local government are not in position to take responsibility of education.

### 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.
- Enabling of local community to take responsibility is crucial.