



Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO)



Annual Report FY 2078/79

Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO)

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Message from the Board and Executive Director

In Nepal, the rights of Dalit people remain a key issue to be addressed in our society. Our vision at DWO is for a *Just Society without Caste-Based Discrimination and Untouchability*. DWO has been actively advocating for Dalit rights and for justice against Caste-Based Discrimination and Untouchability (CBDU) practices in Nepali society since 1994. We have focused on raising awareness and empowering the Dalit community and making the governmental authorities and policymakers accountable for the implementation of Dalit rights and improvement of their socio-economic situation. We strive to protect the civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights of these underprivileged communities by empowering them to raise their voice against discrimination based on caste and gender. At DWO we engage in regular dialogue and discourse on the effective implementation of SDGs in favor of Dalit and other marginalized communities. Alongside our advocacy and campaigning for change, we continue to develop and implement projects and programs, in collaboration with donors, I/NGOs, Government and local level resource mobilization.

The Board and DWO team are pleased to present the Annual Report for the fiscal year 2078/79 (2021/22). This Annual Report includes all activities and achievements of Dalit Welfare Organization - made possible through the coordination and collaboration between the DWO team, funding agencies and other stakeholders. It has been a very challenging fiscal year largely due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, with the support of the community, funders, government authorities, we at DWO have been able to adopt different tools and approaches and develop health protocols to accomplish our organizational and program activities. We have continued to raise the issues of *Dalits* from the local to national level. DWO has supported food initiatives, sanitation projects, health tools and short-term employment opportunities for unemployed laborers during the COVID-19 pandemic period. This has reduced the impact of the pandemic on the lives of the most poor and vulnerable, and returnee migrant people.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our supporters who believe in us and continue to support us through challenging times. With the financial contributions and other support from donors, national and international I/NGOs, Governmental agencies, political parties, civil society organizations, relevant stakeholders and individuals, we are able to continue to work towards our organization's goal of ending caste-based discrimination and improving the life situation of Dalit people in Nepal. Without your support none of this would be possible.

We at DWO look forward to building on our positive relationships and taking our work forward into a new year.

Ishwori Pd. Bishwakarma
Central President

Sanju Sing Bishowkarma
General Secretary

Tanka B. Bishwakarma
Executive Director

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1. Introduction – Dalit Welfare Organization

Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO) was established in 1994 as a national NGO working towards the elimination of Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability (CBDU), Dalit Human Rights and the socio-economic uplift of Dalit people in Nepal. With 28 years' experience DWO has adopted two main approaches, namely rights-based advocacy and development programs. Its primary target groups are women, youth, children and other vulnerable people from Dalit and other marginalized communities.

DWO works across 56 district chapters and has more than 16000 general members all over the country. DWO's vision is to establish *a just society by eliminating caste-based discrimination and untouchability*. DWO's key goal is to *increase access to education, health and the economy of poor Dalits*. This is achieved by increasing the organizational capacity of DWO, rights-based advocacy, and capacity building via development programs – all aimed at increasing representation and access of Dalits to all state mechanisms and public infrastructure. The core values of DWO include a movement-oriented member-based approach which demonstrates mutual respect, dignity, equal opportunity, transparency, participation and non-discrimination.

Three principal approaches

1. **Right based advocacy**
2. **Development program**
3. **Media mobilization**

DWO's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan covers seven key themes: Advocacy, Education and Health, Economic Empowerment, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Organizational Development and Capacity Building, Good Governance, and Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction. DWO employs skilled personnel and volunteers at district, provincial and central/national levels. The organization is led by a Board of experienced and committed committee members.

Key achievements over the years have come through a strong campaigning voice and use of media. Fundamental to raising awareness and creating change in social attitudes has been DWO's own Radio station named '*Radio Pratibodh FM 102.3MHz*' in Kohalpur, Banke, which is now totally self-sustaining. Through persistent and systematic people-centered advocacy for the elimination of *Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and punishment) Act 2011*, DWO was instrumental in the Act being endorsed by the Nepal Government. DWO has contributed to the dialogue and discourse on Universal Periodic Report, Sustainable Development Goals, Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The organization has been recognized for its work and has received many awards including *UNICEF award 2013* for Vocational Education/Training, *Adaptation at Scale Prize* in 2016 and 2019 by UK Aid among others. Representatives of DWO were nominated for the District Child Welfare Board in Bardiya, Surkhet, and Sunsari to work on the protection and promotion of Dalit child rights in collaboration with the Nepal Government. DWO is well networked and is a member of the National SDGs Network, NGO Network on Climate change (NGONCC), Right to Food National network, National Campaign for Education (NCE), International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) and other rights and development-related networks and federations.

Currently, DWO is running the following projects: Livelihood Improvement of Socially Excluded Community (LISEC) project in Dang and Salyan district, funded through The Development Fund, Norway; Enabling Local Democracy for Equal Rights (ELDER) project in Achham district, Sudurpashim and Karnali provinces, funded by DCA. Access to justice (A2J) project in Kalikot, Dailekh, Surkhet and Salyan districts, funded by UNDP. A Micro Enterprise Project is running in Bardiya district, funded with support from Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers USA. This focuses on vocational training, business support and education for people with disabilities (PWDs) in the Dalit and Tharu community; A Micro-loan program for 5 Cooperatives in Banke, Bardiya, Dang and Salyan districts is funded by TCP Global. Various other programs

are running at community level with support from Rural and Urban Municipality offices and provincial Government.

During the COVID 19 pandemic period, DWO provided much needed relief response, food and hygiene items to Dalit people, medical materials to the district hospital Bardiya, and cash for work and health equipment in Achham, Banke, Kailali, Bardiya, Dang and Salyan districts. DWO also provided livelihood support to farmers to enable them to increase production during the COVID-19 pandemic. A cash for work program was developed for unemployed and returnee migrant workers who lost their jobs during the pandemic. DWO raised awareness about Covid 19 via media and SMS – including a *Mask Campaign* in all project districts and palikas.

DWO Strategy 2019-2023

Vision <i>A just society without caste-based discrimination and untouchability.</i>	Strategic themes • Advocacy • Gender Equality and Social inclusion • Education and Health • Economic Empowerment • Organizational Development • Governance • Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
Mission <i>To enable and ensure access of Dalit community to all sectors of society and to protect and promote their rights, authority and dignity through economic, social, educational and inclusive participation.</i>	Strategic Philosophy DWO adopts the following approaches in all its activities: • <i>Holistic: To eliminate caste-based discrimination in Nepal, DWO addresses multifaceted issues ranging from private to public spheres, and from economic empowerment to national dialogue and policy advocacy.</i> • <i>Democratic: DWO puts power into the hands of its members and beneficiaries. Executives, regional and district representatives are elected democratically.</i> • <i>Local: DWO encourages social change of people who experience discrimination as a bitter social reality.</i>
Goals <i>Increase the access of the Dalit community to education, health, and employment by increasing the capacity of the organization and increasing representation and access to all state mechanisms and public infrastructure through rights-based advocacy.</i>	

DWO's key areas of intervention



2. Key Highlights of Fiscal Year 2078/79 (2021/22)

Summary of program portfolio

- DWO has organized regular dialogues on SDGs and Dalit related issues in Sudurpashim and Karnali provinces as well as at Government level. It has regularly participated in national and South Asian Regional International SDGs discussions.
- DWO has provided Covid 19 relief response materials (food items, sanitation material, health tools) in 5 districts (Achham, Dang, Salyan, Banke, Bardiya) of Nepal. During this period DWO provided 10 - 15 days *Cash for Work* jobs and provided workdays allowance for unemployed laborers. Via its District branch offices, DWO contributed to the Government's 'Mask Campaign'.
- On climate change, DWO applied the *Climate Adapted Village* model in one project area.
- DWO advocated on behalf of half dozen Caste-Based Discrimination and Untouchability (CBDU) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) related human rights violence cases, accessing justice for CBDU and GBV cases in Nepal.
- DWO identified and published a booklet listing Dalit human rights violence related cases and continued to raise awareness on these issues. DWO also published a booklet with analysis of budget allocation in favor of Dalit activities.
- More than 3500 households (HHs) directly benefitted from DWO's program in the fiscal year 2078/79.
- DWO promoted Dalit traditional skill development-related livelihood programs with focus on agriculture-based and modernization trainings for Dalit, Kamlari and people with disabilities (PWDs). This resulted in 90% of women participants increasing their income. Approx. 1200 people directly benefitted from this intervention. DWO has promoted leasehold farming, semi-commercial farming, and home gardening, lift irrigation, tunnel farming, and livestock farming. Key to the success has been the development of Dalit and women cooperatives in Dang, Salyan, Banke and Bardiya districts.
- DWO has contributed to provincial-level policy making process to ensure Dalit-friendly laws and Acts are implemented. After regular discourse, Sudurpashim province prepared the Dalit Empowerment Bill, and Karnali province and Mellekh Rural Municipality of Achham also drafted their Dalit Empowerment Bill.

3. Progress in DWO's thematic objectives

Progress on the seven strategic themes:

3.1. Theme: Rights based Advocacy

Dalit and other marginalized communities face multiple forms of discrimination, violence, and exclusion from society and the state. The Constitution bestows rights for Dalits and a key role of DWO is to empower the *rights* holders to enhance their capacity to claim their rights.

3.1.1. Enabling Local Democracy for Equal Participation (ELDER)

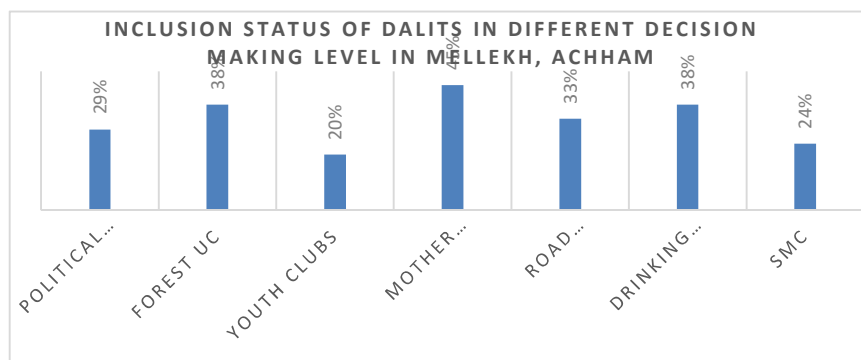
DWO's Enabling Local Democracy for Equal Rights (ELDER) project has been running since 1st January 2021 in Mellekh Rural Municipality of Achham District. Activities were developed in Sudurpachhim and Karnali provinces and at federal level.

The project's desired outcome: Marginalized women and Dalits have increased access in government and non-state actors' resources and services, have increased proportional and meaningful participation and influence in decision-making fora, reduced Gender and Caste-based violence, discriminations and Untouchability and enjoy a dignified life in the project area.

Outputs have included the formation of two Dalit networks, two women's networks and eight Dalit women's groups in wards 7 & 8 of Mellekh Rural Municipality.

Key project achievements:

- Regular educational and empowering activities have contributed to an increase in inclusion and participation of Dalit women within different forums.



- Activities to raise awareness and educate Dalits about the importance of registration has resulted in increased access to vital services and eligible rights: As a result of registration 217 Dalit children now have nutrition allowance, 9 persons have their marriages registered, 17 persons received Nepali citizenship, and 76 persons received birth registration certificates from Mellekh RM of Achham.
- This project adopted new technology such as virtual media to enable meetings, training, interactions and dialogue to continue during the prolonged Covid 19 pandemic period. Further practices were adopted to ensure health and safety including social distancing, Mask and Sanitizer (SMS) regimes.
- Due to regular lobbying, coordination and dialogue with provincial level Government and Parliaments, DWO enabled the allocation of a budget of 20 crore from Karnali province for the promotion of a Dalit traditional skills-based livelihood and Dalit women income generation program. Similarly, in Sudurpashim province DWO successfully influenced the allocation of 20 crores for the establishment of Dalit cooperatives and socio-economic empowerment of Badi community.

- People from the Dalit community are becoming increasingly politically sensitized and are eager to take membership in different parties.

- Elected Dalit women members have been empowered and capacitated in the project area, whereas outside of this area elected Dalit women are not confident nor empowered to use their voice in the decision-making process.



Sudur Pashim Provincial Government Provided the letter of Appreciation to DWO

- Encouraged through DWO's regular orientation, coaching and rights discussion activities, community groups and network members are now actively engaged in claiming eligible budgets from Municipal and Rural Municipal Councils (MCs/RMCs).
- Mellekh RM has allocated Rs. 1150000 for Dalits and Rs. 930000 for women, Rs 450000 for children and Rs. 500000 for youth.
- DWO has successfully increased awareness on CBDU and GBV related laws and provisions. As a result, caste-based discrimination and untouchability practices are decreasing in public places such as at water taps, wedding ceremonies, temples etc.
- Due to political empowerment an increasing number of Dalit and women are participating – and expressing their views - in different public forums and meetings.
- As locally elected Dalit and women ward members proactively engage in decision-making processes at local government level meetings, councils and judicial committees, the level of MC/RMC budget allocation towards Dalit and women programs is increasing.
- DWO has run orientation activities for farmers and youth on climate Change and Adaptation practice in Mellekh, Achham.
- With assistance from DWO, Mellekh RM has worked with the local government to pass 23 Acts, procedures, and policies in different sectors.
- Orientation sessions have been conducted to inform Dalits and women on how to report and seek justice through the justice mechanisms. Despite this, the prevailing patriarchal social norms have prevented any cases being adequately addressed.
- Whilst elected Dalit representatives are now aware of Dalit and women's rights, and despite being more empowered, there remains a lack of progress due to perceived lack of authority in the decision-making process.
- Sudurpashim Provincial Government drafted the bill for Dalit empowerment and endorsed in the House for approval.

- 3 UPR workshops and 2 SDGs localization workshops were conducted where 203 people participated (Male 119, Female 84). Provincial and national level Dalit leaders, Government authorities and elected representatives increased their knowledge on Dalit community related UPR and SDGs agendas.
- 379 Dalit leaders participated in training on Dalit Human rights issues, CBDU Act, Constitutional, Planning process, leadership development, advocacy and negotiation skills, UPR, and SDGs in the province. A total 1500 households directly benefitted from the project.
- DWO collected the CBDU cases from all districts and published the CBDU case study booklet. DWO has analyzed the Government budget allocation situation in Nepal and published the Dalit Budget Analysis Booklet.



Women Network members celebrated the international women's Day

3.2. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

3.2.1. Interaction and GESI follow-up meetings with Dalit and other marginalized communities.

DWO coordinated 42 group planning and follow-up meetings in various places around Dang and Salyan district. Discussions included gender-related (GESI) issues that people are encountering at the household and community levels, DWO informed groups about the legal and



constitutional provisions for banning CBDU behaviors from society. 652 people attended these groups of which 631 were women and 21 men.

3.2.2 Revision of GESI plan and policy

DWO has successfully integrated GESI across all projects and at all

organizational levels. A review of the previous GESI plan and policy took place to ensure GESI mainstreaming continues. The review revealed excellent GESI practices.



3.3. Economic Empowerment

3.3.1. Livelihood Improvement of Socially Excluded Community (LISEC Phase-2)

DWO is implementing the LISEC phase-2 project in five provinces - rural and urban - within Dang and Salyan districts. The project is funded by The Development Fund Norway. DWO successfully completed the first phase of this project, which started on 1st April 2017, and is now in its second phase since January 2021. A total of forty-two community groups have been established, and they have received various forms of agricultural support, market connections, training, and orientations in skills development, climate change adaptation, and agriculture technology. These project-related activities have directly benefited 1243 HHs.

In this initiative, DWO has supported activities that generate revenue from agriculture, as well as skills-based training and business support to Dalits, marginalized farmers, and members of the most vulnerable groups. Other significant focus areas of this initiative include strengthening

community groups and organizations, promoting gender equality and social inclusion, and enhancing governance through the empowered community leaders.

Key achievement and best practices of this project:

Leasehold Farming

Leasehold farming is an arrangement in which a landowner rents out the land to a tenant for various purposes, primarily farming.

In Dang and Salyan districts, the majority of the poor, marginalized, and Dalit population lack land or have very little land accessible for farming - insufficient even to cultivate their own vegetables and crops. In order to help those people, DWO supported leasehold farming assistance programs and organized groups of people who were



ready to start leasehold farming. Currently, 50 HHs are working in leasehold agriculture. People are cultivating around 1.3 hectares of land under lease. Members of the leasehold farming organization are involved in commercial vegetable and fish farming, which has opened up new opportunities for

Dalits, marginalized women, and small-scale farmers to earn money and work for themselves. The Badi and Gandharwa populations, who used to fulfill their basic necessities by asking money from nearby communities and playing *sarangi* respectively, now work for themselves and are generating a very decent source of income, thanks to leasehold farming.



Semi-commercial Farming:

With funding support from the Development Fund Norway, DWO implemented a semi-commercial farming program in Dang and Salyan district which is directly benefiting 160 HHs. Socially discriminated and poor Dalit community, Landless and Poor farmers with 3 to 5 kathas

of land, Marginalized Women, People with Disabilities (PWDs) were selected as beneficiaries and provided with support.

DWO offered training in nursery setup, leading to the establishment of many vegetable-specific nurseries in target areas by the beneficiaries themselves. DWO provided the seeds of different kinds of vegetables as well as seedlings of various kinds of fruits, including mango, dragon fruit, kiwi, etc. People have participated in various trainings on different techniques for planting different kinds of fruits and vegetables. They were trained in best practice techniques for field and manure preparation. Following DWO's initiative, the local Government is now also offering additional kinds of support to the target communities.



Semi-commercial Farming by Dalit women, Sharada, Salyan

Shila's Story: 'When I count money, all my sorrows disappear'

Ms. Shila Chaudhary, who lives in Ward No. 7, Jhargajeri of Dang district, along with her husband was living as *Kamaiya Kamalhari* (a form of bonded labor) in the house of the local *zamindar* (landowner). The family comprises a husband, wife, elderly mother and one son. As bonded labor is now banned in Nepal, the family worked on other people's farms, under the system of *adhiya* (sharecropping) whereby they would be recompensed with a very small amount of money to cover their daily expenses. It was very difficult for them to flourish from their vegetable farming and earn any significant source of money but after a time everything changed and they began to earn good money from farming. This change came when they were included in DWO's Vegetable Farming program under the project Livelihood Improvement of Socially Excluded Community (LISEC phase-2).

Since participating in this program the family has been continuously cultivating vegetables and is earning annually between Rs. 70,000 to 100,000 from the sale of their produce. The family can now pay school fees for their son to attend school. The family have gone from surviving day by day by working in other people's houses and farms to now living an independent, happy and successful life with dignity.

Integrated Home Garden to ensure nutrition security

To combat poverty, it is important to ensure adequate nutrition for the family. DWO developed and supported the *Integrated Home Gardening* scheme in Dang and Salyan districts. The poorer families use this method to produce fresh vegetables, fruit and fish on the small plot of land that surrounds their house. This production encourages the consumption of a variety of nutrients. Three integrated home garden groups have been formed in the districts of Dang and Salyan with the goal of giving Dalit, underprivileged, and disadvantaged population access to a variety of nutrient-rich food sources. DWO provides them with seeds and seedlings of different varieties of



Home gardening practices by Dalit women, Kalimati Salyan

vegetables and fruits. People who have participated have benefitted in both nutrition and health. Some families also sell their excess food at the market in order to generate a good source of income. Around 50 HHs in Dang and Salyan district have benefitted through this program.

Dalit's Traditional skill upgrading training to convert into sustainable business

Through the LISEC phase-2 project DWO provides advanced level skill upgrading training for unemployed youths from the project area with the aim of creating self-employment opportunity. All participating youths gained new job opportunities locally and are now involved in income-generating activities.

Pukar's story: Gaining independence through sewing and cutting/tailoring

Mr. Pukar Nepali, the eldest son of Lok Bahadur Nepali and resident of Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city, 13 Raniapur, was forced to go to Malaysia in search of employment due to a lack of local opportunities. Unfortunately, his stay in Malaysia was cut short as he fell ill and decided to return home. The family had to loan Rps 80,000 for his return ticket. After returning he was jobless. With no other options, he decided to start a sewing business even though neither he nor any of his family members having any experience of this. After one year, he started sewing shirts and trousers and earned 6 - 7 thousand per month. However, this low income did not even cover his expenses. He wanted to learn more sewing skills but did not have the financial means to do so. Luckily, he came in to contact with Dalit



DWO promoted and implemented this micro loan program in five Cooperatives: Paribartan Dalit Mahila Saving and Credit Cooperative LTD, Banshgadhi Bardiya, Sangharsa Dalit Mahila Saving and Credit Cooperative LTD, Kohalpur Banke, Dalit Women Multipurpose Cooperative LTD, Babai, Hapure Dang, Dalit Women Multipurpose Cooperative LTD, Sharada Municipality Barala Salyan and Kupindedaha Saving and Credit Cooperative LTD, Bandgard Kupinde Salyan. Funded via TCP Global from July 2021, each cooperative received USD 1500 and USD 2500 respectively in 2021 and 2022 as revolving grant from DWO. These monies were awarded as loans to poor and marginalized members of those cooperatives with the purpose of starting a new business. 38 poor and marginalized women received a loan and started a business successfully.

Dalit Women Multipurpose Cooperative LTD, Babai, Hapure, Dang

- Champa BK started a hotel named Anjali Bar and Fast-Food Hotel in Hapure Dang after borrowing as micro loan support from Cooperative. Through the business she earns net Rs. 25000.00 each month.
 - Uma Sunar, a native of Babai-5, Khayerbhatti, opened a Pig Farm with a loan of Rs. 1,00,000.
 - Bhimi Sunar launched Hapure Greel Udyog with a loan of Rs.
 - After obtaining a loan of Rs. 100,000, Sabitri BK established a lemon farm in Jaubari-5, Dang.
- 



Anjali Bar and Fast Food of Champa BK



Pig Farm of Uma Sunar

Sangharsa Dalit Mahila Saving and Credit Cooperative LTD, Kohalpur Banke

- Ashika Sunar began an independent vegetable and fruit stand, whereas Chijmaya B.K., Hajari Pariyar, Tilsari BK, Buddhimaya Damai, and Kaushila Pariyar got loan to start vegetable and fruit stand.
- Pansari Batha opened a cosmetics store using a loan.
- Pabitra Sunar and Pabitra Tamrakar both began operating their grocery store with a loan from TCP global micro-loan support.
- Chaat and Panipuri Shop opened by Gomati BK with a micro-loan support from TCP Global.

Dalit Women Multipurpose Cooperative LTD, Sharada Municipality Barala Salyan

- Kausila BK and Huma Sarki began goat farming.
- Tika Nepali began a farm raising chickens.
- Sita Nepali received a loan to start a Pig farm.



Cooperative manager handing cheque of worth Rs 50, 000 to Kausila BK for Goat farming

Paribartan Dalit Mahila Saving and Credit Cooperative LTD, Banshgadhi Bardiya

- Yamuna BK and Hira Devi BK started retail businesses while Tara Basel started vegetable and fruit stalls.
- Gita Urab launched her Chatpate Pasal.
- While Nandakala Sunar began raising buffalo, Deurupa BK, Tuti Pun Magar, and Sobha Pariyar began raising goats.

Kupindedaha Saving and Credit Cooperative LTD, Bandgard Kupinde Salyan

Out of 10 beneficiaries, 8 of them started goat farming and 2 are successfully engaged in buffalo farming and are earning very good source of income.

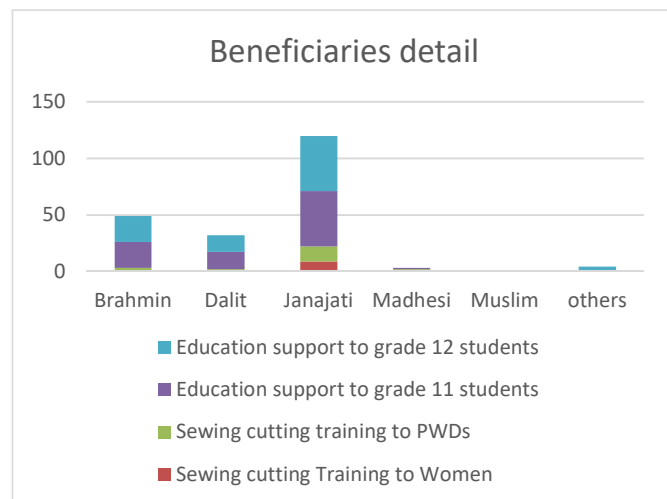


Ms Kawali Kavar is engaging in Buffalo and Mankumari in Goot Keeping from livestock business

3.4. Education and health

3.4.1 Skill Development and Educational Support Program (SDESP)

DWO implemented a four-year *Skill Development and Education Support Program* in Bardiya district funded by Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers USA. The project runs in Geruwa Rural Municipality, Rajapur, Thakurbaba, Madhuban, Gulariya and Barbardiya Municipalities with target groups including persons with disabilities (PWDs), deprived women and students of Grade 11 & 12.



Project objectives

- To improve the socio-economic condition of the disabled women and men, poor, marginalized and deprived communities
- To provide education support for deprived communities people to promote educational status.

Key Activities and Achievements of the project

- Two-thirds of the students continued their studies and joined Bachelor programs after receiving encouragement and support from DWO. A few even earned Master's degrees.
- One-third of the students are working in microfinance as department head, assistant, or field-staff.
- All 10 women who completed the training are currently employed and earning between Rs 12 to 27 thousand per month.
- Five of the women work in the clothing industry in Kohalpur and Bardiya, three are employed in other people's shops in Surkhet, and two have started their own businesses.
- All 20 individuals with disabilities are working to earn a living. Ten are working in the garments industry; eight work in other people's shops, while the other two have their own business and teach others how to sew and cut.

✚ *In total 180 students from deprived communities got scholarships from this program. 50% of students were Grade 11 and 50 % Grade 12*

✚ *10 deprived and underprivileged women were trained in sewing and cutting to improve their livelihood*

✚ *20 disabled men and women were provided with 12 months residential sewing and cutting training*

✚ *Top 10 students from grade 11 and top 10 from grade 12 were awarded with prize money worth Rs 5000 for each*

Asiki's Story

Asiki Kumari Taru was born on 28 Asoj 2053 in Pahadipur Village, Rajapur Municipality. She was born into a very poor family and lives with her father, mother and sister. The family's source of income came from working in other people houses and earning *adhiya* from *Zamindar* landowners. They earned just enough to pay for food and essential daily expenses. Asika was able to attend the local government-run Kisan Secondary School.

After passing her SLC, Asiki married and joined her husband's family along with 9 other family members. Her new home consisted of just 6 katha of land – not enough to sow paddy all year-round and sustain the family. So, despite wanting to continue her studies, she had to work in other people's houses and farms to earn some money. Whilst working like this she heard about the Skill Development and Education Support program (SDESP) which was offering the scholarship *Mukta Kamaiya Uttha*. Funded Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers USA and developed by DWO this provided financial assistance to poorer Plus 2 level students.

After learning about this program, Asiki registered for scholarship scheme and was successful. Asiki was very happy and shared the good news with her family members and was able to continue her and complete her studies with good grades.



Asiki now works as a field officer for *Kalash Mahila Bachat Tatha Rin Sahakari Sanstha* and earns a decent income and has a rewarding job. Asiki tells us this would not have been possible without the support of DWO and Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers USA.

Some glimpses of project activities



3.5. Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction

3.5.1 Climate Change Adaptation Practices

The concept of a Climate Adapted Village (CAV) was developed by The Development Fund, Norway, and has been implemented in Nepal by DWO since 2014. This livelihood-related project addresses the issues posed by climate change. It encourages the use of various CAV strategies, including mulching, lift irrigation, drip irrigation, the use of disease and climate-resistant varieties,



Tapari Mulching

tunnel farming, and other practices. DWO promoted *lift irrigation* in Fulbari, Dang district, to address the problems of drought. Tapari mulching practices were also implemented to combat serious drought.



Climate Adapted Village model orientation to community leaders and local stakeholders in Dang

3.5.2. Lift Irrigation installation for Adaptation practice in drought area:

The photo illustrates the installation of a lift irrigation system in Fulbari, Dang district – an area prone to drought. In order to lift the water from the Tui River and establish an irrigation system, DWO created a lift irrigation system which brings water from a higher level using an electric motor. This enables an increase in production and for multiple varieties of plants to be grown thereby removing the previous restrictive practice of mono cropping. More than 50 HHs have benefitted directly from this adaptation.



Lift Irrigation Installation in Dang

3.5.3. COVID-19 pandemic The second phase of COVID-19 impacted hugely on the lives of people, especially in rural areas. DWO consistently worked to lessen the effects of disaster on its beneficiaries, stakeholders and staff members by providing relief support in various districts and municipalities. The targeted households were Gandharv, Mukta Kamalari, Mukta Haliya, pregnant women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable people. Through this project, DWO offered relief assistance including



Food Item support to Poor members of community groups

rice, oil, pulses, salt etc. to its recipients and cooperated with the Local Government to implement other forms of assistance. DWO also provided assistance to improve and basic sanitation and hygiene practices.

Hari's and Suntali's Story: Life changing opportunity through LISEC

Hari Badi, of the municipality of Sharada, 06 Salyan married Suntali Badi in 2058 BS after engaging in inter caste relations. The Badi community are considered the poorest of Dalit communities in terms of both social and financial status. To support his family of four, Hari worked as a tractor conductor and his wife as a laborer for other households. Not having benefited from school, both parents are illiterate. Living hand-to-mouth the family could not enjoy even the festivals, and obtaining any form of loan was denied due to the perception that Badi people will not repay.

On 15th May 2017, DWO Salyan district office, launched their project *Livelihood Improvement of Socially Excluded Community* in cooperation with the local government. The focus was to increase the opportunity for *leasehold agriculture* for Dalit, poor and underprivileged communities. 10 individuals with less than 2 katha of land in their ownership were chosen to work as a group as the project's target population for leasehold farming. Suntali Badi, Hari Badi's wife, was selected. Her life began to change after she started leasing land for farming, and within three years, she purchased one *ropani* of land for Rs.75000 and declared she would earn a fortune. Using her earnings, she built her own home and sent her two children to a local boarding school. She began to feel more confident in herself and had the foresight to support her husband by borrowing 2 lakh loan from the Barala Multipurpose Agriculture Cooperative to buy a vehicle for him to generate some money. However, shortly after buying the vehicle Covid 19 pandemic took hold of the world.

With the national Lockdown in place, the family's financial situation deteriorated as they were unable to sell their produce at the neighboring market which was a drive away – despite owning a vehicle. They sought assistance from DWO who in turn sought assistance from the district administration office. As an essential food producer, the group was issued with an approval letter allowing them to sell fresh vegetables and fruits in the nearby market both morning and evening. With Covid 19 safety measures in place, Hari Badi was selected to transport and sell produce from the group's leasehold farm as well as other farms at the local market. The family's earnings doubled. During the second lockdown, the same practice was adopted allowing the family to survive and earn a good livelihood.



Vegetable supply through Auto Rickshaw during the COVID-19 pandemic

3.6. Organizational Development and Capacity Development

DWO has provided on-going organizational development and capacity building support to central and district board members, and other stakeholders to strengthen their knowledge on CBDU-related government policies, and SDGs.

DWO also formed community organizations, Dalit networks, and Dalit cooperatives in various districts and provided training on leadership, capacity building, cooperative management, livestock keeping, the planning process, and legal awareness. As a result of this, capability increased and networks, community organizations, and cooperatives were able to increase their access to local government budget and programs. Communications with local government officials have improved resulting in local level solutions to their problems. The leadership capacity of Dalit women increased resulting in improved inclusion and participation at local level user committees, management committees, political parties and other networks.



Cooperative Management Training to Cooperative members in Salyan

3.7. Good Governance

DWO applies good governance at organizational level and also advocates for the improvement of good governance at Government offices to ensure effective service provision for Dalit and other marginalized communities. In this year, DWO visited various Government authorities and elected representatives to ensure better services for Dalit and marginalized peoples.

DWO held its Annual General Assembly on 30th Bhadra 2078 BS and also held an annual celebration of the day of its founding. Establishment. During COVID-19 pandemic, these events were held online.

4. A glimpse at media coverage of DWO over the past year



Annex 1: Financial Report**Financial Report****Dalit Welfare Organization**

Khadka Gaun, Kalanki, Kathmandu

F/Y 2078/079

Statement of Income and Expenditure

From 1 Shrawan 2078 to 32 Asadh 2079

S. No.	Expenditure	Amount	S. No.	Income	Amount
1	Livelihood Improvement of Socially Excluded Community (LISEC)	7,927,670.94	1	DF Norway-LISEC Project	7,927,670.94
2	Enabling Local Democracy for Equal Rights (ELDER)	3,457,616.60	2	DCA-ELDER Project	3,457,616.60
3	Skill Development and Education Support Program (Bardiya District)	4,758,027.00	3	UK Aid	173,750.00
4	Adaption at scale Program	173,750.00	4	MEP Nepal	4,758,027.00
5	DWO Core expenses	190,845.00	5	DWO Core Income	205,653.00
6	Micro Loan Programme Expenses	2,099,125.25	6	TCP Global	2,099,125.25
7	Radio Pratibodh Expenses	1,395,557.83	7	Radio Pratibodh Income	2,715,563.20
8	Depreciation	168,910.97	8	Excess of expenses over income (Deficit)	154,102.97
9	Surplus (Radio Pratibodh)	1,320,005.37			
	Total	21,491,508.96		Total	21,491,508.96

As per our report of even date


 Finance Officer


 Treasurer


 Reg. Auditor


 Executive Director


 President

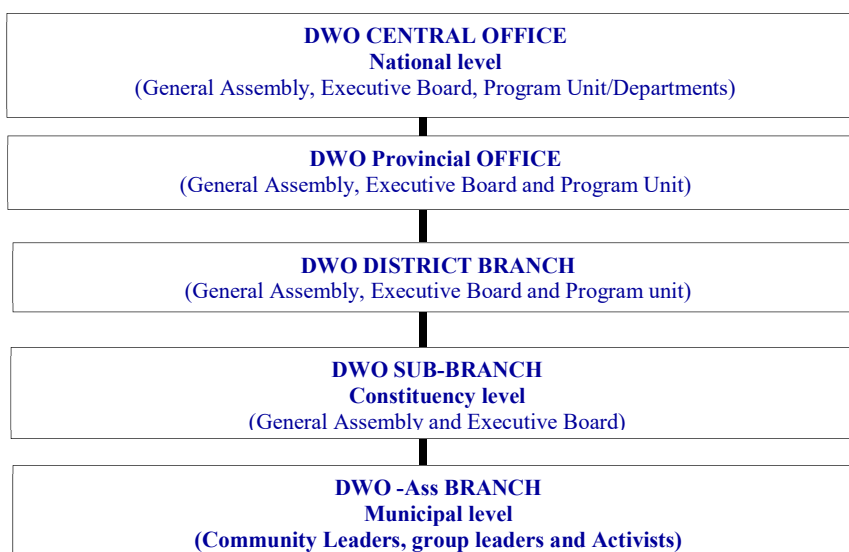


Annex 2: DWO Resources

DWO Executive Board

President	Ishwori Prasad Bishwakarma
Co-President	Bhumi BK
Senior –Vice President	Ganesh Kaliraj Sunuwor
Vice Presidents	Bhim Nepali Sarada Swornakar Bal Bahadur Sarki Samjhana Mote
General Secretary	Sanju Singh Bishwakarma
Treasurer	Surya Bishwakarma
Secretary	Tularam Bishwokarma
Members	Urmila Kumari Ram Kopila BK, Mangala BK, Krishna Bahadur BK, Kismat Bishwokarma, Gayatri BK
Staff at Head Office	Tanka Bishwakarma Executive Director Nirmila Purkuti Admin & Account Officer

DWO Structure



Annex 3: Partners & Networks

DWO's donors and partners

We would like to thank our donors and partners who have enabled our work to continue and contributed towards our vision of creating a society without caste-based discrimination.

International Partners/Networks

- Dan Church Aid (DCA)
- The Development Fund Norway
- UNDP Nepal
- Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, USA
- TCP Global
- IDSN

National and local Partners/Networks

- Local and Provincial Governments
- Dalit NGO Federation
- NCE
- Right to Food Network (RtFN)
- LI-BIRD
- SWI
- Local CSOs, Cooperatives and Networks
- SDGs National Network

Organization Details

Dalit Welfare Organization is registered at the District Administration office, Kathmandu, Nepal with registration no. 110/051/052 and affiliated with Social Welfare Council with affiliation no: 1983. The head office of Dalit Welfare Organization is located in Kathmandu Metropolitan city; ward No- 14 Khadkagaun, Kalanki, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Executive Director: Mr Tanka Bishwakarma.

Email: dwo@dwo.org.np

Website: <https://dwo.org.np>

Facebook: Dalit Welfare Organization