

**Annual Report**

**Mandwi**

**Fiscal Year 2076/77-2077/78 (16 July 2020-15 July 2021)**



**Mandwi**

**Empowering Women**

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## 1. Background of Organization

### 1.1 Who are we?

People having willed to see the equitable society without gender discrimination, achieve social justice and fulfill the poor people basic rights has joined their hands together and formed an organization called **Mandwi**. **Mandwi** a non-profit, non-governmental and non-partisan organization dedicated to work strategically to contribute to the overall development of disadvantage groups' special focus on women & girl and another marginalized & disadvantaged group. The collective focus of Mandwi has been to empower civil society, communities, and government of Nepal to raise voices against gender based and domestic violence and focuses over education, good governance, peace and social justice, gender-based justice, and economic empowerment which promotes the inclusive growth and development for the better-quality life of citizens of Nepal with special focused on Terai community. Mandwi is an EU certified organization (Ref No 612844-EUAV-1-2019-1-UK-EUAV-CERT), acknowledged by SWC (advocacy for marginalized and Muslim women and adolescent girls), recognized by provincial police office of province no 2 (for coordination, cooperation, participation, and partnership), district court, Rautahat (for child protection) and appreciated by District Disaster Management Committee, Rautahat (for disaster management).

### 1.2 Our Vision

**“A society without injustice and without exclusion in which every person enjoys their *right to a life of dignity.*”**

### 1.3 Our Mission

**“To work with women, Youth, disadvantaged, excluded and minority people to eradicate injustice and exclusion.”**

### 1.4 Values

- Mandwi is guided by a set of principles to build mutual respect and trust among women & girl, minority and disadvantaged group, their organizations and government to be a part of the alliance which is against injustice & exclusion.
- Gender sensitivity, requiring us to be sensitive towards women & girl within and outside organization.
- Equity and Justice, requiring us to work to ensure equal opportunity to everyone, irrespective of age, gender, class, ethnicity, disability, location, and religion.
- Independence from any religious or political affiliation.
- Solidarity with the women & girl, youth, poor & powerless, excluded & disadvantaged will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against injustice and exclusion as well as poverty.
- History & Culture, Understand and respect people's feeling, believes and the way of life to whom we serve.
- Honesty and Transparency, being accountable at levels for the effectiveness of our actions and open in our judgments and communications with others.

## **1.5 Objectives**

- Ensure safe and quality of drinking water to poor and marginalized communities.
- Improve socioeconomic status of poor and vulnerable people in rural communities through income generation, vocational skills, livelihood, mentoring, social mobilization, and local employment generation.
- Support all children special focus on girl child to attain quality of education and health in a safe and equitable environment.
- Engage with women, girls and youth build their active agency to challenge and act against all forms of discrimination and injustice against their body, sexuality, and unequal burden of work.
- Facilitate the political advancement of women, marginalized and disadvantaged groups to hold duty bearers to account develop propositions for national development strategy & deepen democracy.
- Ensure good governance and build watchdog communities by increasing government and private sector accountability towards women, poor and disadvantaged people to get services on time.
- Built social justice and dispute free society by addressing injustice that result from the formal and informal institutions of society and its practices and functioning institutions that provide a platform for analysis and measurement of societal and institutional change.
- Enhance the capacity of society to make them resilient to prevent and manage disasters
- Work for political, local, national, and international policy changes relating to the improvement of all animal welfare issues.

## **1.6 Mandwi's Strategic Approaches**

From the expertise and experiences of Mandwi's as well as studying and analyzing the Global, Regional, societal and grassroots level positions, Mandwi's strategic approach towards ending injustice and exclusion is to adopt a human rights-based approach and believe the state is the primary duty bearer for the dignity and wellbeing of its citizens. Our approach reaffirms the role of popular struggle, social justice movements, popular actions, alliances with other community-based organizations, networks, individuals, opinion leaders, political parties, private sector organizations, media and government agencies for rights concentration and transformation of unequal power relations.

- Enabling and empowering
- Mass concentration and building solidarity
- Pro people's right policies and governance

## **1.7 What we will achieve?**

We imagine a Nepalese society where people have equal rights and inclusion and living in justifiable society. We will not stop our work until we achieved them.

### 1.8 Why we are Different?

We start to work in 77 districts of Nepal with special focus in Terai and have ‘right based’ approach to decision making. Mandwi’s head office is in Rautahat district (which is smaller and less developed district) because it is important to us that the people with whom we work (people whose lives we support) are feeling connected to us – our location is an important part of that connection.

Most of all we believe everyone must live with dignity and exercise all the power within them to create change for themselves, families, and communities.

Women in discrimination are not waiting to change to happen; they are getting on with it themselves. That is what ‘The Power in People’ is about.

“Mandwi willing to be a catalyst for that change.”

### 1.9 Mandwi’s Focused Area

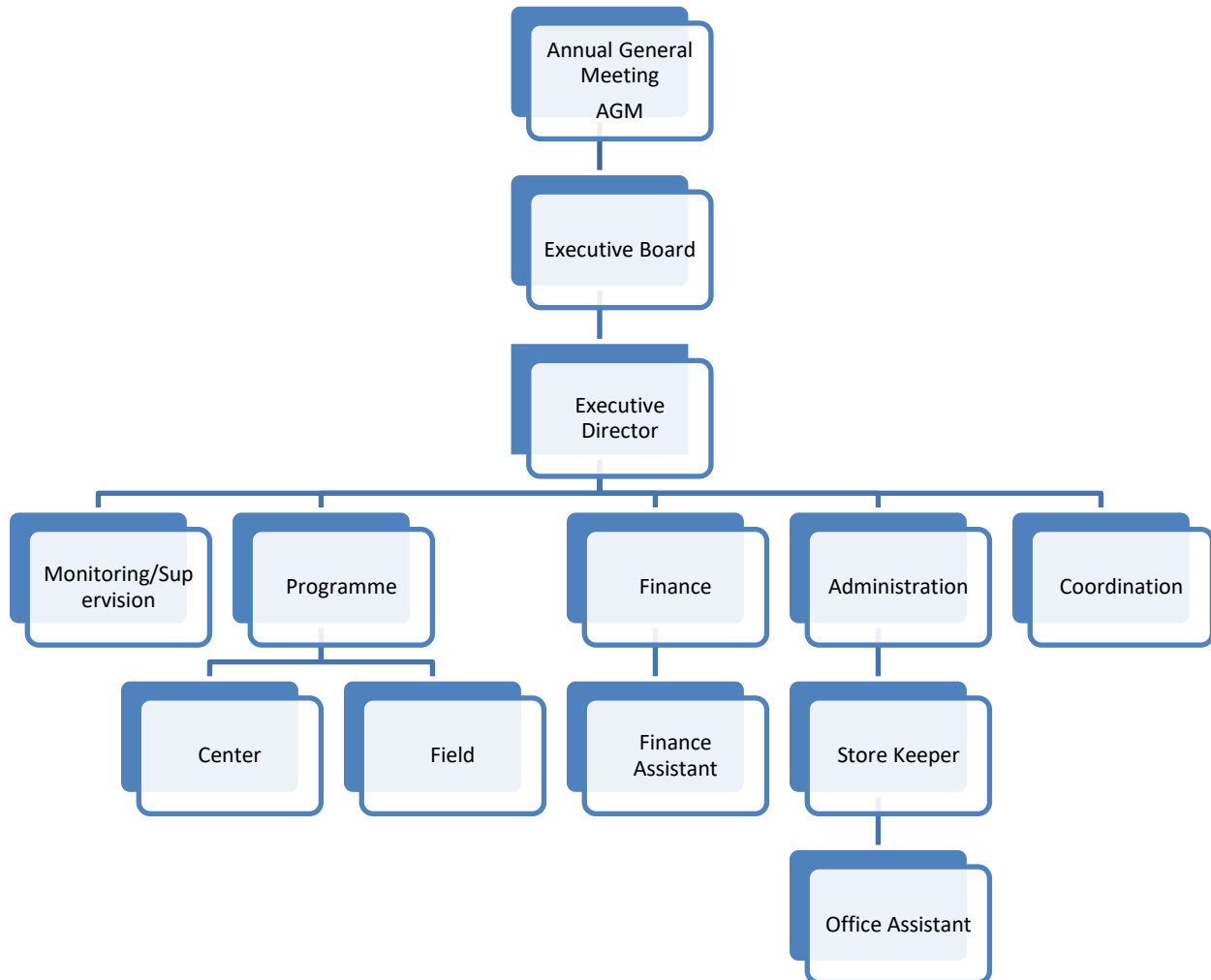


Terai and adjoining hilly districts likewise: - Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, Sarlahi, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Siraha, Sapatari, Udaypur, Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa, Dang, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Bake, Bardiya, Nawalparasi, Kapilbastu, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Rupendehi.

### 1.10 Our Slogan



## 1.11 Organizational Structure



## 1.12 Thematic Area of Engagement

- Community Mediation for Access to Justice
- Socioeconomic Empowerment (Women, Youth) for Overall Leadership Development
- Emergency Response, Disaster Risk Reduction with Preparedness and Early Warning System for Community Resiliency
- Vocational Training, Income Generation for Livelihood (Women, Youth)
- Animal Welfare for Animal Rights
- WASH for Access to Safe Drinking Water
- Life Skill and Mentoring for Women and Girls for Creating Supportive Environment in the Home and Community

- Women and Youth Advocacy Capacity Building and Mobilization for Advocacy
- Facilitation and Support to Local Government and Networks for Good Governance
- Non-formal Class and Renovation, Retrofitting Support to Schools for Quality Education

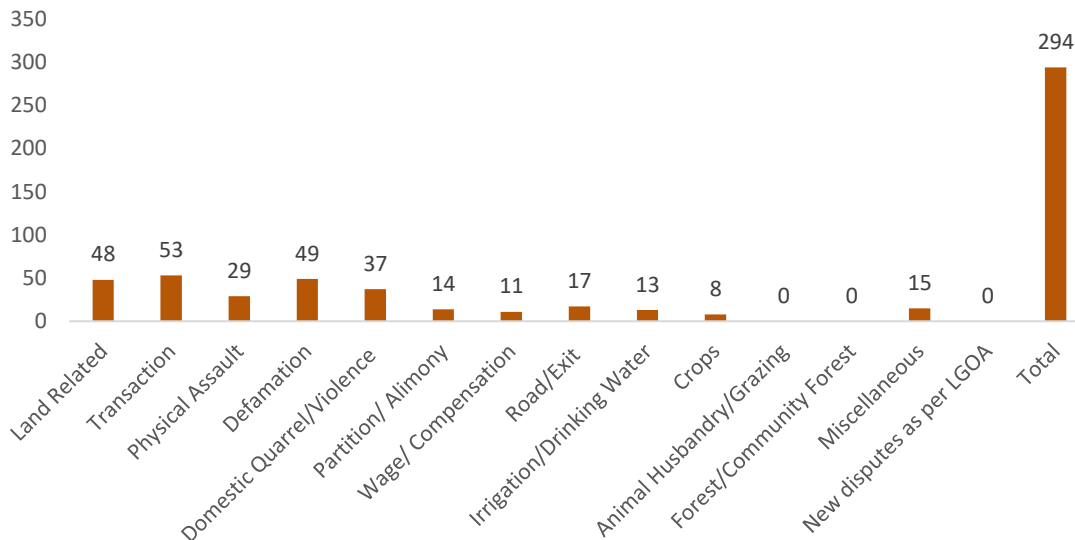
## 2. Major Achievement on Project and Other Activity (2077/78)

### 2.1 Promote conflict Resolution and Peace Building in Nepal through local Level Dispute Resolution Program in Sindhuli and Bara

Mandwi implemented “**Promote Conflict Resolution and Peace Building in Nepal through Local Level Dispute Resolution**” under local government strengthening in all 68 wards of 9 local governments of Sindhuli district and 27 wards of Kalaiya Sub-metropolitan city of Bara district with the technical and financial support of The Asia Foundation and in close coordination with district coordination committee, Sindhuli, Bara and under the monitoring of Social Welfare Council, Kathmandu. The overall goal of the program is to establish sustainable peace in the society through mitigating local level disputes, improving relationship and developing social harmony and cohesion. The project is being implemented from May 2020 to January 2021.

The main outcomes of the program are:

1. Supporting knowledge creation and ensuring the quality of mediation
2. Advanced and speculated training and capacity building of local mediators on emerging issues related to governance and social marketing of mediation at local level
3. Effective coordination among service providers at local level



In this reporting period, mainly the mediation services from the community mediation centers were offered to the people regularly in both Sindhuli and Bara districts. Besides that, one event of practice sharing meeting and 2 events of orientation on mediation organized in Bara.

Total 294 (175 in Sindhuli and 119 in Kalaiya, Bara) cases reported to the mediation centers were facilitated by mediators keeping physical distance in mind and following the norms of lock down announced by the government of Nepal with sanitization, mask and maintaining physical distances. Disputes were related to land 48, transaction 53, physical assault 29, defamation 49, domestic quarrel/violence 37, partition 14, wage/compensation 11, road/exit 17, irrigation/drinking water 13, crops 8, and miscellaneous 15. Out of the reported cases 94 were female related, 37 from Brahmin/Chhetri, 45 from Dalit and Indigenous 106, Madhesi 24, 3 were group level dispute. Out of 294 recorded local disputes 272 were successfully settled and 22 cases are in process. Both the parties in disputes realized that they must live together in the society without any tension and resolve the disputes by themselves. It will not only save their time but also save money that can be utilized in the production work. Further, it contributes to the retaining peace and prosperity in the society via built a strong relationship. In addition, mediators disseminated awareness messages related to COVID-19 like hand washing, sanitization, social distancing to their neighbors, well-wishers, friends in the community as well via following the rule of social distancing and lockdown of the government of Nepal.



Also, to build better relationship between judicial committee and community mediators one event of rural municipal level practice-sharing sessions for the judicial committee members and community mediators organized by the project for Kalaiya Sub-Municipality of Bara district on 2077.06.01 BS. In practice sharing meeting total 30 (female 21, male 9, Brahmin/Chhetri 2, Indigenous 3 and dalit 2) key municipality level stakeholders like ward commissioner, mayor, deputy-mayor. The meeting was facilitated by the project coordinator and team

where judicial committee members and community mediators were also participated. In the meeting, participants shared best practices and challenges of community mediation program. In addition to that, community mediators shared their experiences and problems faced during facilitating community mediation processes. The judicial committee realized that the program contributed to their responsibilities and it helped to provide effective and efficient community mediation services to the marginalized people as they are able to get the community mediation services at local level through trained community mediators. It established a good relationship between community mediators and judicial committee members. Similarly, it saved their time and resources and easy justice for them.



In the same way, the project organized mediation orientation sessions on community mediation application, principles, and procedures to local leaders for Kalaiya Sub-Municipality of Bara district on 2077.06.23 BS to inform about the significance of the community mediation program. In the meeting 61 (female 54, male 7, Brahmin/Chhetri 2, Indigenous 2 and dalit 10) local leaders were participated and discussed on their roles and responsibilities in the community mediation in their communities

and its significance to the life of the marginalized community in terms of saving local resources, time, and tensions. Total 61 local leaders, knowledge with the significance of community mediation program to the people and their life. Local leaders are referring the local disputes at community mediation centers. They are convincing the community people to go to the mediation centers to get the justice at the local level.

## **2.2 Rural Women Economic Empowerment (RWE) Programme for Advocacy Campaign for Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality – To Provide the Follow-up Support**

Mandwi implemented strengthening and mobilization of women leadership (SAMWOL) project under RWE programme with support from Equal Access International in four rural municipalities i.e. Chandranagar, Bramhapur, Basbariya and Dhankaul of Sarlahi, and Brindaban Municipality, Rajpur Municipality, Gujra Municipality and Yamunamai rural municipality of Rautahat district of Province 2 from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The overall objective of the program was to develop the leadership and life skills capacity of women farmers in the targeted area. The specific objectives of the programme were:

- Support leadership development of rural women farmers to effectively work with and benefit from the new local government system,
- Effect policy changes that are sensitive to the needs of women farmers by advocating for gender sensitive plans and policies,
- Promote increased participation and representation of rural women farmers in local-level decision-making

The following major activities were carried out under this programme

### **Radio Programming**

Due to the Corona epidemic, it was not possible to meet and discuss in person, so FM radio was provided to 1,059 women farmers in all eight R/municipalities. It aimed to ensure regular listenership of 1059 RWE women farmer group members and their active and meaningful participation in the radio magazine series and call-in shows. However, after mapping of RWE farmer group members there were 1059 members. Hence, a total of 1059 women farmers from 45 farmers' groups in 8 different R/municipalities of Sarlahi and Rautahat districts targeted for FM radio distribution. The radios are operated by both batteries and electricity. In rural areas, there is minimum supply of electricity. In the absence of electricity, women





groups might have problem of radio charging (having back up). At the same time, they might be reluctant with frequently changing batteries of radio. These might create hurdle for them to access and listen radio program. Hence, multipurpose radios with both electricity and battery power were supported to women farmers.

Along with this, women farmer group members were orientated on the broadcasting schedule of the Sambal radio magazine and discussion program. At the same time, a practical exercise of toll-free numbers on IVR was conducted. In addition, the role of the group chairpersons on the radio program was discussed. The main topics of discussion was; regular listening to the radio program, motivating the other members to listen as well, monitoring the members who listen or not, and involving themselves and other members in the live radio discussion program. Along with FM radio set, 500 informative posters about the broadcast schedule of the Sambal radio program were also posted in various places.

### **Sensitization and Awareness Rising Among Local Vendors**



Mandwi had organized five events of two-hour long orientation to local vendors especially on the issues of GESI. In total 103 vendors participated in the events from Rautahat (46) and Sarlahi (57) districts who are working in agro vet, wholesale and retail groceries and vegetable shops, microfinance, and cooperatives. Among them 52 females and 51 were male. Out of them, 2 from Dalits, 18 Janajatis, 2 Muslims,

and 81 were from Madhesi. The specific objectives of the activity were:

- To enhance the GESI awareness level of the key vendors in the community and to increase better communication and cooperation between the women farmers and the local vendors.
- To provide space for raising awareness and open discussion on the issues of rural women and the challenges they face while connecting with the market.
- To come up with practical solutions to the existing challenges faced by women, by enhancing the awareness level on the issues related to GESI of the key vendors in the community.

### **Local Advisory Group (LAG) Mobilization**

Due to the Corona epidemic, women's empowerment activities could not be conducted through in-person meetings. As an alternative, a total of 15 Sambal radio magazines and call-in-show programs were launched through local FM to empower women farmers. There was a need for a local advisory group to assess whether Sambal Radio Magazine and Call-in Show were able to address the issues and concerns of women farmers and to provide the necessary support.



In this context, Mandwi formed a local advisory group, including key stakeholders, representatives of women farmers' groups, local government officials, elected representatives, FAO representatives and SAPPROS Nepal representative. This group will be responsible to support the radio production teams by providing feedback on the key priority issues of the women farmers in the current context. This will be

ensured through a total of four monthly meetings which will be utilized to discuss the emerging issues of women farmers and identify the issues and topics to be addressed through the radio series. Furthermore, this group will also provide advice and support for the women farmer group members to get in touch with their local government units and relevant authorities to put forward their needs and priorities via phone and online platforms as relevant, with support from Mandwi.

A call-in show program was conducted every Monday with experts on the issues raised by the radio magazine. In it, women farmers put their queries through telephone on the radio with the invited experts. The fifth, ninth and twelfth call-in Show programs were conducted under the title "My Question to My Leader". The queries raised by the women farmers were addressed by their elected leaders and employees of the municipality.

### **Training of Local leaders**



Mandwi had organized four events of two days' workshop to 60 local elected leaders & government officials on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion issues. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic four events of 2-day workshop accomplished for 63 local government representatives, elected leaders and key persons in a small group as per COVID prevention guideline of local government. Due to the key local and Nepali festival like Vijaya Dashmi, Tihar, and Chattha, local government suggested to organize

one remaining event after the festival. Hence, in relation to meet the target of participation of 60 local government representatives and elected bodies in GESI training, the last event was held on December 1 and 2, 2020. The specific objectives of the activity were:

- To enhance GESI, gender responsive planning and budgeting knowledge of the elected leaders and municipal officials
- To encourage local governments for ensuring meaningful participation of women and minority groups during their annual planning.
- To facilitate and influence local governments to reflect their learning in 7 steps local planning and budget allocation process.

### Organizing Policy dialogues



Mandwi organized two events (one in each two districts) of policy dialogue, based on the review of the existing policies and strategies related to agriculture at the provincial/local level that includes an analysis on the current gaps and opportunities that currently exist in the local polices related to women and agriculture along with recommendations to further strengthen the current existing local policies.

Discussion was focused on the policy gaps (within policies such as gender and social inclusion policy, gender responsive budgeting, agricultural policy, and other policies at the local and provincial level) that need to be addressed. Therefore, the finding of the review was shared with the local governments representatives and concerned officials.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, the initial plan was to conduct the discussion on radio, with participation of relevant local leaders, representatives of women farmers and other stakeholders. However, given the challenges related to ensuring adequate participation of all relevant stakeholders and leaders, we organized this discussion program in-person by following the COVID-19 safety measure guideline and protocol of the government of Nepal. The policy dialogue program was attended by representatives of women and children units, agriculture and livestock units, planning units, and representatives of women farmers in all eight municipalities. During the program, there was a discussion on identifying and addressing the policy gaps in various units at the local level.

Through this program the following major achievements were made:

- 10 women aware about basic information on financial management
- 196 community members aware about women's human rights and GESI responsive approaches
- 103 local vendors aware about GESI and its importance for women's economic empowerment

- 40 government stakeholders engaged in a dialogue on the existing policies gaps and priorities of the women farmers that needs to be addressed by the policies and processes
- 63 government representatives/officials with enhanced knowledge GESI and gender responsive planning.

### **2.3 Installation of Shallow Tubewells to provide safe and quality drinking water to communities in Province No 2 and 3 of Nepal**

Mandwi implemented **“Installation of 562 Shallow Tubewells to provide safe and quality drinking water to communities in Province No 2, Nepal”** project in Gaur, Paroha, Ishanth, Rajpur municipalities of Rautahat and Bahudarmai municipality of Parsa with the technical and financial assistance from Penny Appeal. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to improve water security and community health in selected areas of Province 2 and to complement Government policies and programmes. To contribute to the goal mainly two specific objectives were set, i.e. 1. To increase access of needy and marginalized people to safe, usable and quality of drinking water in the project area and 2. To ensure that needy and marginalized people have an understanding of the significance of hygiene, hand wash, water waste management and maintenance of tubewell. The project directly targeted 562 needy and marginalized households from marginalized communities who have scarce access to and cannot afford access to water. In addition, the project indirectly targeted 2810 family members of 562 targeted needy and marginalized people, two districts and five local governments level officials, 150 key stakeholders, leaders and ward representatives, and 4500 member of water management committee in the project area through the following key activities:

- Coordination with the Local Government
- Water Quality Testing
- Selection of the Village
- Formation of WASH Management Committee (WMC)
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- Identification and Selection of Beneficiaries by WMC
- Procurement and Installation Work
- Installation of Hand Pumps
- Confirmation of Completion Certificate from Beneficiary
- Completion Certificate from local government for project

The following major results were achieved by the project during this reporting period:

- Coordination with local governments, i.e. Gaur, Ishnath, Paroha, and Rajpur Municipalities of Rautahat, and Bahudarmai Municipality of Parsa districts of Province No 2 established
- 6 villages with high population of religious minority and marginalized people who needed safe drinking water in Gaur, Ishnath, Paroha, and Rajpur Municipalities of Rautahat, and Bahudarmai Municipality of Parsa districts selected based on the recommendation of local governments
- WASH management committee formed in 6 villages with 54 members (18 Female members)

- MoU signed with 5 local governments, i.e. Gaur, Ishnath, Paroha, and Rajpur Municipalities of Rautahat, and Bahudarmai Municipality of Parsa districts of Province No 2
- 562 locations for 562 beneficiaries from recommended villages selected by WASH management committee
- Procured materials, skilled and unskilled labors procured for installation of shallow tubewell
- 562 Shallow tube well installed
- Awareness session (community meeting) on significance of hygiene, hand wash with soap water and sanitization to be prevented from COVID-19 pandemic, wastewater management and repair and maintenance of tubewell conducted at 562 locations where shallow tubewell Installed

***Case 1 Installation of tubewell has not only fulfilled the safe drinking water requirement for the rural marginalized people but also handwashing need after the COVID Pandemic***



Umesh Paskan of 55 years is living with his families in Mahadevpatti village of Gaur municipality of Rautahat district. He represents from dalit caste (untouchable). In the context of Nepal, they are discriminated based on caste system. Dalits in Nepal are marginalized in terms of economic, health, education, social protection and their

access over government resources.

His family is dependent on waged labor works. Due to the long period of lockdown led by COVID pandemic they lost the opportunity of local employment that compelled them to extreme economic crisis. Hence, they were unable to afford to install tube well self. Other side, COVID added the burden of frequently handwashing. Finally, Paskan's family was obliged to collect water for drinking and daily uses from either the public or personal water sources that was risky due to the gathering of many people at water sources during COVID pandemic. Due to that, his families were in tense.

One day, Umesh shared his emotions to one of his friends and became to know about the tube well support program from PA/MANDWI/MUNICIPALITY. He consulted with ward commissioner and staffs of Mandwi. Upon the recommendation from ward, he was supported with tube well installation at his place. Now, he along with his families are using safe water for drinking and washing hand in their daily life, they are happy, and thanked the agencies who supported this assistance because **installation of tubewell has not only fulfilled the safe drinking water requirement of UMESH but also handwashing need after the COVID Pandemic.**

## Case 2 Tube well support helped people for frequent and proper handwashing prevented people from spread of COVID



Chandeshwar Sada age of 54 is from Bahudarmai municipality of Parsa district. He has five members' family. He represents from Dalit (untouchability). Dalits in Nepal are landless, socio-economically deprived. He has no land without a house for living. Hence, he meets his family requirements through a daily wage

works.

Due to his economic deprivation, he has not own water source. They obliged to go for either public or neighbor's source of water. They were discriminated during and after COVID because of threat of transmission of COVID. In the normal days, they faced discrimination by neighbours and community people during water collection sometimes. However, COVID pandemic also contributed in increasing caste-based discrimination. Due to that, his families were usually faced such types of evidences and they were in tense. It was not restricting them from the water rights but also compelled in high risk of COVID in the absence of frequent and proper handwashing.

His name was also recommended by ward commissioner to PA/MANDWI for the tube well installation support. Tube well has been installed at his own place. Now, he is using water from his own water source. This support has **not only prevented him from spread of COVID but also prevented other community people as well**. Finally, he thanked MAND/PA/local government.

### 2.4 Migrant Resource Center and Associate Activities under the Safer Migration Project (SaMi)

Mandwi has been implementing "Migrant Resource Center and Associate Activities under the Safer Migration Project" (SaMi) with the financial assistance of Government of Nepal in four Palikas namely Gaur Municipality, Durgabhagbati Rural Municipality, Garuda Municipality, and Chandra Municipality of Rautahat district from June 2020-June 2022 targeting Migrant workers and families. The aim of the project is to contribute to access to information, access to justice, access to vocational skills, financial literacy and psychosocial counseling in line with the overall goal of the project that migrants and their families are better protected by the concerned Nepali institutions and benefit from decent work conditions abroad. Through this project the following achievements made:

- 1364 youth migrants counselled by trained counsellors through migration or sub-migration resource centers
- 23 migration related cases registered at migration centres. Out of them, 2 cases resolved by the initiation of migration resource centre, 6 cases are being facilitated by MRC (1 resolved and 5 in process), 6 cases referred to PNCC (1 resolved), 5 cases referred to

people forum (1 resolved) and 4 cases are pending in the absence of sufficient documentation and proofs. In this way, 23 people have access to justice.

- Individual counseling service provided to 18 people, counseling service received by 44 people from financial literacy classes, 28 people received counselling services at quarantine centres while 53 people counselled through telephone.
- 16 financial literacy classes conducted where 435 women participated. Out of them, 45 people are maintaining their financial records, one person has started business, and one person has access to loan of 650000.00.
- 447 people attended 20 community orientations and 320 people attended 18 events of deep orientation
- Home visit was conducted for 3753 people while 3317 people have access to information
- 5 people trained with skilled base training
- 181 people participated in interaction program on safe migration
- A blood donation programme was organized on the occasion of international migration day where 50 people donated 13 packs blood

## **2.5 Mosque for Muslim**

Mandwi implemented Mosque for Muslim (MfM) project with the technical and financial assistance from Penny Appeal in Badharba village of Durga Bhagbati Rural Municipality of Rautahat district of Province No.2 in Nepal. The overall objective of the Project is to enable Muslim elders to practice Islam in five-time prayers and ensuring Qur'an education for children. It has targeted to directly reach to 160 Muslim households who will have access to the religious practices, i.e. Islam in five-time prayers and Qur'an education within their villages. Similarly, the project has targeted to reach to 1235 people (1200 family members, 25 key stakeholders, religious leaders and ward representatives, and 10 member of Mosque management committee) indirectly. To contribute to achieve the overall objective of the project the following activities were implemented in this reporting period:

- Groundbreaking, Leveling & Weed Eradication
- Excavation and Termite Control Spray
- Foundation (Footing and Bottom Beam) with Black Look
- Damp Proof Course (DPC)
- Masonry Work for Side & Partition Walls
- RCC for Vertical Columns & beams
- Shuttering and Formwork for Slab
- Bar-bending and Re-baring
- Pouring of Concrete on Slab & Dome
- Weather Resistant Barriers (Insulations)
- Fixing of Doors and Windows
- Plastering (inside)
- Plastering outside
- Electrification
- Plumbing Work
- Water Supply and Sanitary fittings
- Flooring and Leveling

- Finishing and Painting
- Plantation and Green belts
- Installation of Solar System
- Visibility

As a result, the following outputs were achieved to date

- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is done with local government
- A strong and functional coordination established at local government level with their committed for the coordination support
- Local government and Muslim Commission Nepal monitored the program and provided feedback of improvement
- One village of Durgabhagbati rural municipality of Rautahat district is selected for a small Mosque construction as per Penny Appeal selection criteria
- A Mosque Management Committee (MMC) formed with participation of female representatives
- MMC signed a MOU
- A procurement committee formed; the list of required materials prepared, required materials purchased and stored
- Construction of a small Mosque completed, and 200 Muslim households benefitted
- The quality of the Mosque construction ensured by ward chairperson/local government representative
- A MMC signed a small Mosque handover certificate
- A completion certificate for Mosque construction issued by local government
- The visibility of the project ensured jointly with local government

**Case-3 A Participation of Rural Marginalized Women Ensured by Local Government in a Meeting and MMC**



*Mandwi implemented Mosque for Muslim (MfM) project with the technical and financial assistance from Penny Appeal in Badharba village of Durga Bhagbati Rural Municipality of Rautahat district of Province No.2 in Nepal. The overall objective of the Project was to enable Muslim elders to practice Islam in five-time prayers and ensuring Qur'an education for*

*children. One of the major activities of the project is to form Mosque Management Committee with the participation of female.*

*After signing a contract with Penny Appeal for the construction of a small Mosque (MfM-Mosque for Muslim), Mandwi coordinated with Mayor of Durga Bhagbati Rural Municipality, ward representative, and*



religious leaders to inform about the project and form Mosque management committee (MMC). Finally, Mandwi in coordination with local government formed a 9 members Mosque management committee (MMC) in a selected Badharba village of Durgabhagbati Rural Municipality in Rautahat district for the construction of a small Mosque through a participatory approach. In a meeting there was a participation from rural and marginalized female as well. In an MMC, three female members were ensured by the meeting.

It is a unique one because the participation of women in a community meeting is not entertained by local communities and government generally due to the patriarchal rural communities as well as existing traditional and religious thoughts, and social norms. In the meeting, women were invited to participate in the meeting. In the beginning they were surprised and hesitant to join the meeting, however, after request from ward commissioner, they participated in the meeting. They became happy that at least people started to inviting them to participate in the meeting and even elected them in a management committee that is a vital for them.

#### **Case-4 Construction of a small Mosque make the dream of rural and marginalized Muslim people comes true to practice of Islam in five-times prayers and Qur'an education**

Mandwi implemented Mosque for Muslim (MfM) project with the technical and financial assistance from Penny Appeal and close coordination with local government Durgabhagbati Rural Municipality of Rautahat district in Province No.2, Nepal. The overall objective of the Project was to enable Muslim elders to practice Islam in five-time prayers and ensuring Qur'an education for children.

Through this project, Mandwi constructed a small Mosque in the rural community in close coordinated with Mayor of Durga Bhagbati Rural Municipality, ward representative, and religious leaders especially targeting 200 rural, marginalized and pro-poor Muslim households who have not access to practice of



Islam in five-times prayers for women and elderly Muslim people as well as Qur'an education for Muslim children. Mayor of Durga Bhagbati Rural Municipality, ward representative, and religious leaders ensured the quality of construction a small Moque through their frequent visits.

According to Saba Khatu, a rural woman of the Badharba village, through this construction of a small mosque, not only rural, marginalized and pro-poor Muslim households get

access to practice of Islam in five-times prayers but also women and elderly Muslim people have the same opportunity. In addition, Muslim children have access to Qur'an education. She is very happy and thanked the organizations who supported technically and financially to make the dream of rural and marginalized Muslim people comes true for practice of Islam in five-times prayers and Qur'an education because people of Badharba had to go to other communities for that before.

## **2.6 CASH PLUS: Building Resilience & Ensuring Basic Needs for the Most Vulnerable of Nepal**

In the same way, Mandwi in technical assistance of Mercy Corps and financial support from DFID/NERF is implementing **CASH PLUS: Building Resilience & Ensuring Basic Needs for the Most Vulnerable of Nepal** Project in Dhanusha district of Province No. 2 from July to April 2021 targeting the most vulnerable families. The aim of the project is to reach the most vulnerable to mitigate the secondary impacts of Covid and maintain resilience into monsoon season to 'slow the spread of Covid 19, save lives, reduce suffering and protect dignity' as part of DFID response commitment.

Through this programme the following major achievements were made:

- Mandwi selected ward no 12 and 13 of Sabaila, 3 and 7 of Sahidnagar for phase I and ward no 3 and 5 of Khireshwornath, ward no 1 and 6 of Mukhiyapatti Musaharniya for Phase II based on the agreed ward selection criteria like a) Number of daily wage household, b) % of unemployed youths, and c) marginalized: Dalit, minority after the information collection by field level staffs and volunteers in coordination with respective municipalities. After that Mandwi completed MoU with those municipalities.
- 4 municipality and 8 ward level workshops (in July 2020 and January 2021) organized by Mandwi to select at least 230 vulnerable households from each targeted ward. After the selection of local enumerators by Mandwi in coordination with ward commissioners of selected eight wards of four municipalities, a team of expert from MercyCorps orientated and trained those enumerators and project team (Project Coordinator, Monitoring Evaluation Officer, and Social Mobilizer) on household selection, verification and registration process by using Commcare software developed by MercyCorps. Finally, they were mobilized in the field, collected list of vulnerable households in coordination with ward commissioners, local leaders, verified those households, and registered 1852 (at least 230 for each 8 wards) households through a CommCare.
- Mandwi project team members were oriented on Need Assessment tool in the Commcare application developed by Mercy Corps. The enumerators were oriented, selected and mobilized in the field for needs assessment using the same tool. The needs assessment was conducted in the sampled 314 (96 in 1<sup>st</sup> phase and 208 in 2<sup>nd</sup> phase) Households as forwarded by the Mercy Corps. Mandwi mobilized social mobilisers and enumerators to conduct the need assessment in the sampled households during value voucher cards distribution at distribution sites.
- Mandwi frequently coordinated, communicated, and engaged local leaders, ward commissioners, representatives, mayors, vice-mayors, and executive officers of the municipalities in the whole process of municipality selection, ward selection, collection of lists of vulnerable people from those wards, verification, registration of those households in a CommCare software through mobilizing trained and local volunteers. In addition, the members of DDMC, representatives from local governments were actively engaged in the project cycle helped in the smooth delivery of the assistance. Mayors, Ward Commissioners, local leaders are happy with this type of rigorous approach of program implementation modality of MercyCorps/DFID and Mandwi that they never realized. They are happily taking ownership of the program and assisted in local level coordination and lead for required information collection and resolution of local conflicts directly or indirectly induced during the distribution of Value Vouchers.

- In relation to set up, manage and report accountability and feedback mechanism including child friendly, Mandwi collected the information in the project area by mobilizing its staffs after their virtual orientation on check list for the collection of information by MercyCorps dated 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. Based on the recommendation of report, Mandwi set up CARM channels in working areas with the technical assistance from MercyCorps. All project team (Project Coordinator, Field Mobilisers, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer) and the Executive Director participated in the orientation on September 28, 2020 for MEL/CARM orientation. The leading partners technically oriented all staffs on different formats of MEL/CARM and discussed the strategies to implement them in project arena. In this regard, CARM focal person was also required from the implementing partners and Mandwi forwarded one of its Field Officer for the CARM focal person. During the Voucher distribution program, the Mandwi setup a feedback desk to log the feedback from the beneficiaries through face to face CARM channel. Till now no feedback was logged as most of the beneficiaries were illiterate and seem not interested in lodging feedbacks. The CARM card were found to be useful and most of the people used hotline numbers to report issues directly to MC and these issues were duly addressed.
- MercyCorps introduced identified financial service provider i.e., Prabhu Bank to Mandwi in September for the voucher programming through organizing a joint meeting with Prabhu Bank, Mandwi, and MercyCorps. Mandwi announced the merchant requirements to provide relief materials such as food items, kitchen vessels, medicines, hardware stuff, clothes etc., the requirements notices were posted in Palikas notice board of all four working palikas viz. Sabaila Mun, Sahid nagar Mun, Kshreshwornath Mun and Mukhiyapatti Musaharniya RM. In this regard, Mandwi coordinated with Palika officials as well. After going through all the legal procedure, vendors were finalized and selected to provide the commodities. Mandwi organized a meeting letting them know the bank and the reimbursement process. They were agreed upon opening their account in Prabhu Bank since Prabhu Bank was the key for the voucher card and PoS machine service provider institution associated in this program. The POS machine was installed in the selected shop with support of bank and Mandwi.
- In a guidance from MercyCorps, a team of Mandwi selected 18 merchants (11 in first phase and 7 in second phase) from the working area and Janakpur of Dhanusha district after the rapid market assessment. Mandwi linked those merchants with FSP in consultation with MercyCorps for the voucher programming. With coordination and collaboration with Prabhu Bank officials and selected merchants and FNCCI representatives, Mandwi organized meeting at its office. In the meeting, discussion was focused on the relationship among beneficiaries and merchant during shopping. Reimbursement of funds of merchants, how to handle future catastrophe.
- Mandwi team and the mobilized enumerators and volunteers along with the FSPs staffs put their endeavors in the transfer of household level emergency assistance to selected beneficiary families. For this, the Value Voucher Card of worth thirteen thousand and five hundred were given to selected beneficiaries (801 in first phase, 821 in second phase) as a first top up; with the help of this prepaid card the beneficiary could shop in linked grocery stores, food stores, clothing stores, medical stores, and others. The beneficiary also received the second top up which equaled the value of first top up. In total each household

received the relief package worth of Rs. 27000, which was sufficient for the families to mitigate the effect of long pandemic lockdown.

- Mandwi team was oriented with the PDM tools developed by the MC and using the same PDM was conducted in 208 households as sampled by the MC. Mandwi mobilized social mobilisers and enumerators to conduct the PDM in the sampled households and as well as the merchants who are involved in this program.
- Mandwi broadcasted jingles related with COVID-19 awareness and early warning system like flood messages. In respect to all the hotline numbers, toll free numbers are being broadcasted in the Dudmathi FM and Mithalancha FM of Dhanusha, so it can reach to the 10000 people where project beneficiaries reside. For the adaptation of behavior change communication (BCC) materials especially for handwashing, safe drinking water, and nutrition, Mandwi collected different BCC materials like poster, pamphlets, leaflets, radio jingle etc used by different organizations and agencies in Nepali and local language Maithili in Dhanusha district and shared with MercyCorps. After the finalization of BCC materials, Mandwi broadcasted jingles related with SBCC, WASH, social protection and about protection in the local language which depicts about behavioral change during the situation of COVID-19 pandemic, measures to adopt in respect to WASH like washing hands with soap in regular interval. In respect to all the hotline numbers, toll free numbers were broadcasted through the Dudmathi FM and Mithalancha FM of Dhanusha, so it can reach to the 10000 people where project beneficiaries reside.
- Mandwi participated Cash Plus project staffs along with its senior management team members in virtual orientation on discussion on protection component organized by MercyCorps dated 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Mandwi team enhanced their knowledge on protection mainstreaming, inclusion, and safeguarding. A training was organised in Mukhiyapatti Musharniya ward no.6 in the presence of ward member Mr. Mohammad Atabul Sekh on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 likewise dated 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 in Kshireswornath ward-3. The target audiences were members of mother group, civil society, youth, social activist (minute attached in annex). They were trained on shock responsive safe guarding. They were also informed about the significance of hand washing. They were taught about the six steps of hand washing. Being a closer to India border, they were also aware on taking care from the people who come from India and advised to suggest them to adopt proper health protocol as a preparedness mechanism.
- Mandwi Project Staff as well as senior management team coordinated and facilitated local governments to activate protection co-ordination mechanism. In this regard, both the target Palikas didn't have any protection co-ordination committee. So, Mandwi facilitated Palikas for the formation of Palika Level Protection Committee in all targeted municipalities. There was engagement of Palika level stakeholders from Mayor, Deputy Mayor, executive officers, women and child development thematic persons, education thematic officers, ward commissioners, and key stakeholders. Finally, child protection committee was formed in all 4 Palikas. In addition to that, Mandwi is a protection cluster member at District and provincial level as well where it has been updating its activities regularly.
- Mandwi Project Staffs and Senior Management team were engaged in the field for market mapping and assessment of the market to find out the interested service providers for

quality emergency assistance. The long list of vendors prepared with their details. Finally, in consultation with MC, the interested 11 service providers were selected in first phase, 7 in second phase and reported to MC for enrollment with Financial Service Providers.

- Mandwi also updated the information regarding social protection status of 920 (230 for each 4 wards) vulnerable households in coordination with ward commissioners and local leaders during verification of those households and registration through a CommCare by trained enumerators. Mandwi organised meeting to form Social Protection Coordination Committee in working palika. On 16<sup>th</sup> Sep2020 in Sahidnagar Municipality and Sabaila Municipality likewise 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 in Kshireswornath Municipality and 24<sup>th</sup> March in Mukhiyapatti Musharniya RM (meeting minute attached in annex). The committee was committed to address social protection related issues.
- Mandwi has collected the potential name list to be registered under social protection schemes. The name list has been forwarded to SPCC which is led by deputy mayor and deputy chairperson of respective palika. Total 22 such eligible persons are being recommended under the scheme. The name list which forwarded to the committee
- Mandwi has organised various levels of capacity building through meeting, face to face, telephonic conversation. The meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to capacitate merchants with the support of Bank, FNCCI. They were said to ease the goods distribution process. They have issues about their payment. Mandwi provided them the weekly transaction details so that they can adjust and verify the payment with bank. They were also requested to ready for the assistance if any emergency occurs in coming days.
- In fact, it is a kind of new system to promote the market and that of cashless. This reduces the pick pocketing. Basically, CVA modalities support in emergency where immediate response is required. This system established the coordination, rapport among merchants. Easy to receive relief stuffs without any burden. It also helps to reach of bank among communities and that of with vulnerable community.

#### **Case 5-A relief to disabled senior citizen**



Mandwi implemented "Resilience Plus" project in the Dhanusha's two Palika Sahidnagar and Sabaila, with the technical assistance of Mercy Corps and under DFID Nepal Emergency Response and Recovery Framework (NERF) Covid-19 response. Under this scheme, the project intends to meet basic food and nonfood needs to the most vulnerable Households. A relief package worth of Rs. 13500 was distributed in the first phase with which they could

*purchase their needed food and nonfood item with the help of prepaid voucher card. Such package was received by a household of disabled senior citizen who is blind and stays with his wife as children didn't look after them.*

*It always was a complain that many organisation visited their home, wrote their name but they didn't give any types of reliefs. Mandwi also enumerated, registered the households, and eventually implemented the scheme which almost took four months for distribution and this period was a long wait. However, after distribution they received the prepaid voucher which they intended to use to alleviate the impact of long duration lockdown in pandemic, when they didn't receive the social protection on time. They were happy to get our package as they were old and disabled and they couldn't even work to suffice their needs. And this ascertained their belief few organisation are there to stand for them in the pandemic period and support them directly and were very thankful to our donors, supporters and implementing partners.*

### **Case-6 A blessing from the single old mother**

*In the state of complete lockdown Mandwi initiated implementation of "Resilience Plus" project in the Dhanusha's two Palika Sahidnagar and Sabaila, with the technical assistance of Mercy Corps and under DFID Nepal Emergency Response and Recovery Framework (NERF) Covid-19 response; with the intention to meet basic food and nonfood needs to the most vulnerable Households by providing a relief package of worth Rs 27000 in two phase using the modality of prepaid value voucher. One of our beneficiaries is single old mother who has no one to look after her and has a small tattered house in small place in Sahidnagar-7.*

*The first visit to the household was during the rainy season; there was ponding of water around her house and she was very old, having difficulty to stand or move; and above all she was struggling all alone as a single old mother. She was receiving social protection as well but not on time due to pandemic. As, we*



*interviewed her for vulnerability, and she fell in our criteria during the assessment and the enumerators registered her as our beneficiaries. We conveyed that she would receive our relief package soon and she was happy knowing about us. After a long patience of about 3 months she received the value voucher card with the help of which she bought the food items and felt merrier about the package. She was overwhelmed to receive the*

*package and was very thankful to us with watery eyes as she couldn't work and was dependent on materials given by others. With all the devotion the only thing we got from was her blessing and indeed, this was the real blessing from the single old mother attributing our triumphant implementation of project.*

### Case 7-A sign of relief for the beneficiaries

Mandwi implemented “Cash Plus–Building Resilience and Ensuring Basic Needs for the Most Vulnerable in Nepal project in Dhanusha district of Province No. 2, Nepal with the technical assistance from MercyCorps under DFID Nepal Emergency Response and Recovery Framework (NERF)– Covid-19 response. The project has targeted to reach 888 vulnerable households and 4440 people from two municipalities.

The project has aimed to meet their basic food and non-food needs through the receipt of emergency assistance, improve awareness on Covid-19 prevention & mitigation, nutrition, hygiene practices, key protection messaging, information on social protection schemes and referral services, and strengthening social protection pathways & access to services including government social protection schemes.



In this regard, the

beneficiaries were overwhelmed at the receipt of value voucher prepaid card and being oriented about the total amount in the card. A sign of relief was seen in their face after two or three months. As the previous relief package, they had received could haul their sustainability for less than a week for a family, out relief package seemed well promising and they were relieved that it could sustain their life for a month or more depending on the household members. As our packages are contained non-food items, they participated in purchasing different nonfood items and clothes.

The excitement and hope of the beneficiaries were well justified when they reached to the merchants in the mass just the day after receiving card and their participation the way we had designed and conveyed them.

### 2.7 Comprehensive relief package for women and excluded groups in the COVID-19

Mandwi implemented Comprehensive relief package for women and excluded groups in the COVID-19 context in Province No.2 and Sudurpaschim Province from November 2020-May 2021 to improve access to services and resources for Women and excluded groups at the local level to cope/respond to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.



Through this project in total 982 women and excluded groups (257 in Ishnath, 243 in Rajpur Municipalities of Rautahat district, Province 2 and 253 in Tikapur, 229 in Lamkichuha municipalities of Lamkichuha) had accessed to quality services i.e., in-kind support by receiving food items (Rice-30 kg; Lentils-3 kg, Salt-1 kg, Cooking oil-2 ltrs; Gram-1kg; Sugar-2 kg), non-food items (Soap-6pcs, Detergent-1 kg, Sanitary pad cotton one: 12 pcs), energy saving, solar energy equipment (1 LPG ), essential

supplies (Paracetamol, Dettol, cotton, ORS), mobile phone (1 set) as part of the comprehensive relief package in this reporting period (98.2% against the project target-1000) reached.

Before that, total 1000 (960 women, 39 men and trans-gender 1) beneficiaries from excluded groups identified in the project area. Out of them 257 in Ishnath, 243 in Rajpur Municipalities of Rautahat district and 253 in Tikapur, 247 in Lamkichuha municipalities of Kailai district first. They were conflict survivors-3, Dalits with low income- 171, low income-511 GBV survivor-2, destitute -4, mental problem-1, religious minority (Muslim) 185, single man-1, single women-105, children adopted-1, with disability-6, with family member disability-10. In relation to identify women and excluded groups, a rapid assessment (*please find details in Annex-2*) of 1000 households for relief materials distribution and cash-based support completed in all four project municipalities (Ishnath, Rajpur Municipalities of Rautahat, Tikapur-and Lamkichuha municipalities of Kailai) in close coordination with local governments and consultation with UNWOMEN. In doing so, 20 volunteers (10 females, 10 male), 51 (39 females, 12 male) counsellors, and 5 (3 females, 2 male) programme staffs oriented on programme objective, strategies, approaches, monitoring, forms and formats used for the programme monitoring and reporting

Before the distribution, food items (Rice, Lentils, Salt, Cooking oil; Cereals and Sugar) procured from Amaan Traders, non-food items detergent procured Amaan Traders, soap and sanitary pad from New Electronic Plaza, Energy saving, and solar energy equipment (LPG Cylinder) and gas cook stoves from Chukki Enterprises procured for 1000 beneficiaries and stored in a warehouse (Gaur of Rautahat district and Tikapur/Lamkuchuha of Kailali district). For that, a procurement committee formed who was responsible to procure all the required food, non-food items, essential supplies, energy saving/solar energy equipment, seeds/ vermi-compost, mobile phones and data cards for targeted 1000 rural women and excluded groups. Based on the decision of committee, a tender notice published in daily local newspaper



Krantidwar, national newspaper Nagrik and social media pages of Mandwi (Facebook, website).

Additionally, 400 cold wave survivors' women and excluded groups (383 women, 17 men) received warm clothes like blanket and shawls and other clothes. Out of them 61 were pregnant, 83 single women, and 85 senior citizens. They were from Chandapur (51), Ishnath (150), Rajpur (187), and Gaur (12) municipalities of Rautahat district.

In total 884 people (women 874, men 10) identified who have no bank account through the rapid need assessment. The reasons of not having bank account were women having no access over financial resources, socio-economically deprivation, and having no citizenship (5) etc. Project team coordinated with Bank. Bank committed to process for account opening for 874 women. Finally, bank account opened for 627 beneficiaries (Ishanth-211, Rajpur 214) of Rautahat district in Prabhu Bank that includes 623 females and 4 males. Due to program postpone for three months and a month long current lockdown account opening process for beneficiaries in Kailali in progress.

Similarly, 95 people (women 92, men 3) had not citizenship. Mandwi facilitated them to get citizenship. Finally, 90 (women 87, and men 3) people accessed to citizenship. Still five women have not citizenship.

A program approval letter from 4 working municipalities i.e., Rajupur in Rauatahat, Tikapur and Lamki Chuha in Kailali district received. Also, Mandwi received approval of program implementation from DDMC and DCC Rautahat and SISEA from DCC, Kailali. In addition to that, project team received list of beneficiaries from 4 municipalities i.e., Rajupur and Ishnath in Rauatahat, Tikapur and Lamki Chuha in Kailali. For that in total 16 different level coordination meetings accomplished that includes two coordination meetings for briefing about programme completed with Provincial Governments in Province No 2 and 7, two coordination meetings completed with district administration offices in Rautahat and Kailali, four coordination meetings for program approval letter and recommendation completed with 4 municipalities, i.e., Rajupur and Ishnath in Rauatahat, Tikapur and Lamki Chuha in Kailali, two coordination meetings for approval of program implementation completed with DDMC and DCC Rautahat, one coordination meeting in DCC, Kailali, and one coordination meeting with SWC for program approval with submission of all the required documents. In the same way, four coordination meetings for beneficiaries list collection completed with 4 working municipalities.

List of 1000 beneficiaries collected from six wards of 4 municipalities i.e., Rajupur (1) and Ishnath (3) in Rauatahat, Tikapur (1) and Lamki Chuha (1) in Kailali. For that, six ward level coordination meetings with local stakeholders including government representatives in 4 municipalities i.e., Rajupur (1) and Ishnath (3) in Rauatahat, Tikapur (1) and Lamki Chuha (1) in Kailali completed by the project team.

In addition, 4 local governments i.e., Rajupur and Ishnath in Rauatahat, Tikapur and Lamki Chuha in Kailali received technical support through coordination meetings and interactions to integrate a gender perspective in local development plans, relief packages, socio-economic recovery interventions through four coordination meetings with concerned municipalities and discussion on integration of gender perspective in local development plans, relief packages, socio-economic recovery interventions. Local government representatives (Mayor Shekh Shakil, Rajpur municipality, Shekh Chand Ali, Ward Commissioner-8, Ishnath municipality) committed to incorporate gender perspective, support relief packages to need women who are left behind, and socio-economic recovery interventions in upcoming local level development plan.

In addition to that, procurement of warm clothes like blanket and shawls and other clothes completed for cold wave survivors' women and excluded groups and stored at warehouse in Gaur, Rautahat. Those materials were procured after getting pre-approval from UNWOMEN and covered from the remaining amount of total NPR 1786669.00 under heading procurement and distribution energy saving/solar energy equipment (NPR 1164169.00) and NPR 622500.00 for 1000 beneficiaries.

Furthermore, 51 (39 females, 12 male) counsellors trained on psychosocial and mental health problems, skills to counsel people. They are now engaged in collecting data of excluded group or relevant excluded and vulnerable group women in the community who requires psychological first aid, and referral services by using a checklist in coordination with respective municipalities and ward representatives and all their information are kept confidentially. For that, 51 (39 females, 12 male) counsellors for Rautahat (26) and Kailali (25) districts were selected and trained on counselling through face-to-face mode and in a small group and by maintaining social distancing a COVID-19 safety measures and protocol of the government of Nepal.

#### **Case-8 Inclusion of women and excluded groups ensured by the programme**

*“Through observation, women and community people from excluded groups seems happier during rapid need assessment. While interacting with them, they expressed that it is the first time their names were included in the priority list, they expect to be supported this time. Before that their names were not included by local governments and other organizations, despite they requested for the support by sharing their feelings and emotions of food crisis faced by them during lockdown period. Even local governments biased them to whom they trust”*

*“During the interaction with beneficiaries after receiving relief package, women and people from excluded groups expressed their vote of thanks to local governments, UNWOMEN and Mandwi as they perceived that they were mainstreamed first time in their communities in response to relief package. Before that, lots of programmes and organizations came, however, they were excluded by them despite they were needy one. Even they were excluded by local governments in terms of relief package distributed during lockdown period. They were unhappy with local governments because that time they were in food crisis due to unemployment opportunities, waged labor during lockdown period. Now they are happy and smiley face of beneficiaries especially women, and elderly people observed after receiving a relief package.*

***Case-9 Comprehensive relief package is very much helpful especially for single women, pregnant and lactating women and elderly people as food is ensured for them for at least three months***

*“During the interaction a part of rapid beneficiaries satisfaction survey, local government and ward representatives expressed that this comprehensive relief package is very much helpful especially for single women, pregnant and lactating women and elderly people from excluded group as food is ensured for them and their family members for at least three months, they are needy one because they are facing food crisis during and after lockdown in the absence of daily wages and local employment opportunities. They shared that this type of comprehensive package had not been supported by any organization before. The support provided by local governments and other organization covered maximum for a week. That was insufficient.”*

## **2.8 Girls Education Project**

**“Girls Education Project (Zakat)”** is being implemented by Mandwi with the technical and financial assistance from Penny Appeal in Paroha and Gaur Municipalities of Rautahat district, Nepal. The project aimed to ensuring favorable learning environment for girls for inclusive quality education in Rautahat district of province no.2 Nepal. Further, the projected intended to improve favorable learning environment for girls in schools through enriching physical infrastructure and at home through economic enhancement of their parents for equitable participation of girls in basic education. The project was started in Rautahat from 28 December 2020 and completed by 30 June 2021.

The project targeted to increase access of 140 marginalized girls in two schools of Gaur and Ishnath municipalities of Rautahat district of Province No.2 Nepal through enriching physical infrastructure (including gender responsive school classroom, toilet, desk/bench, bookshelves with learning boosting books, and fencing around parameter of school ground). Similalry, the project will increase daily/monthly income of 55 Most Marginalized Muslim Zakat eligible women through vocational skill training and small business support. Finally, the project will directly reach 140 girls through school infrastructure improvement (36 girls of Ratan Kanya Basic School, Sirsiya-9 of Gaur Municipality, 104 girls of Shree Milat Primary School, Proha Municipality of Rautahat district) and indirectly to 10 teachers, 18 School Management Committee members, 18 Parent Teacher Association members, 30 local government level stakeholders and 700 family members of girls.

The major outputs achieved in this reporting periods were:

### **Classroom renovation for gender sensitive and inclusive school infrastructure**

- MoU with local government and concerned schools signed
- Local government and school management committee decided to construct a new school building
- Design of classroom construction finalized with local education authority
- Construction committee under School Management Committee formed
- All the required materials purchased and stored
- Construction work for 8 classrooms (4 rooms in each 2 schools) in progress

### **Gender sensitive and inclusive toilet with waste management support**

- MoU with local government and concerned schools signed
- Local government and school management committee decided to construct a new toilet

- Design of toilet construction finalized with local education authority
- Construction committee under School Management Committee formed
- All the required materials purchased and stored
- Construction work for 2 toilets (one in each 2 schools) in progress

#### **Desk/bench seating arrangement support**

- MoU with local government and concerned schools signed
- Design of desk/bench finalized with local education authority
- Vendor finalized
- All the required materials purchased and stored

#### **Bookshelves with learning boosting books support for renovated classrooms (4 in each two schools)**

- MoU with local government and concerned schools signed
- Design of bookshelves finalized with local education authority
- Vendor finalized
- List of learning boosting books finalized

#### **Fencing support at one school around parameter of school grounds**

- MoU with local government and concerned schools signed
- Construction committee under School Management Committee formed
- All the required materials purchased and stored
- Construction work for fencing in progress

#### **Hand Embroidery training (15 Days) to 10 Muslim Zakat eligible women**

- Coordination with two local governments established
- MoU with two local governments signed
- Selection of 10 eligible beneficiaries completed
- All the required materials procured and stored
- Trainers finalized

#### **Lac Bangles (15 Days) training to 10 Muslim Zakat eligible women**

Due to the absence of trainer for Lac bangles in those areas, doll making training was finalized in coordination with local governments and demand from beneficiaries

- Coordination with two local governments established
- MoU with two local governments signed
- Selection of 10 eligible beneficiaries completed
- All the required materials procured and stored
- Trainers finalized

#### **Making Mask (15 Days) training to 10 Muslim Zakat eligible women**

- Coordination with two local governments established
- MoU with two local governments signed
- Selection of 10 eligible beneficiaries completed
- All the required materials procured and stored
- Trainers finalized

#### **Sanitary Pad making training to 10 Muslim Zakat eligible women**

- Coordination with two local governments established
- MoU with two local governments signed

- Selection of 10 eligible beneficiaries completed
- All the required materials procured and stored
- Trainers finalized

#### **Procurement of required materials for small business support**

- Coordination with two local governments established
- MoU with two local governments signed
- Selection of 15 eligible beneficiaries completed
- A procurement committee formed

#### **Case-10 A mobile bangle shop support enabled marginalized Muslim women improving daily income and meet the food desire of families.**

Khairun Nesha aged 41 years is living in Gaur Municipality of Rautahat district in Province No.2. She is representing from Muslim community which is religious minority in the context of Nepal. She has total eight members in her family. Her monthly in was about 4000 previously. Her husband ususally engaged in daily wages. Through this small income it was very difficult for her to manage and met the food desire of family members. During the lockdown led by COVID 2<sup>nd</sup> wave, she was in a trouble because there was no opportunity of labor work that consequences scarce of cash income and manage food for family. In the mean while, enumerator of Mandwi visited her during rapid need assessment for bebeneficiaries selection for this projetc where she shared her problems and expressed her interest of starting a small mobile business of bangles in her community in response to improved her income to meet food desire of her families. During RNA she knew about the programme of Mandwi and Penny Appeal that is exactly in line with her need. Finally, she enlisted her name for such a support through concerned ward commission to Mandwi. Upon the recommndation of local government, Mandwi supported materials her to start mobile bangle shop.

With this small support, she started a mobile bangle shop. She usually visits to her communties households and sale bangles. She goes with her convenient time of community people. This helped her to esablish a good rapport in the community. Further community people is appreciating her because she is providing services to people at their own place with costeffective way. Because for this business she has not to pay a rent. Hence, the cost for bangles is low in comparision to other retail shop.



Through this business, she improved her income. She is also saving a samll amount. She became able to meet the food desire of her families. She is happy now and has a plan to add more products as per the demand from community people.

#### **Case -11 A small beautifying shop enabled Momina to improve her income, saving, and meeting food desire of the family members**

Monina Khatun is living with her family members in Paroha municipality of Rautahat district in Province

No. 2, Nepal. She has seven family members. She is 44 years old. She is illiterate. She is from economically deprived and religious minority community of Nepal. She has no sufficient land to farm. Her family is dependent on income from daily wages. Momi families faced economic crisis during lockdown period in the absence of an opportunity of labor work. Due to that, it was very hard for them to survive and manage food for their family members.

Her family had not received any support from local governments' relief package for the families who suffered from the food crisis led by COVID.

However, her name was recommending by local government to Mandwi and Penny Appeal for the small business support so that she became able to start her small business in her community and earn some money in response to fulfill the food need of their family members during lockdown period. She was also interested for that.



Finally, this program supported her bangles and other beautifying materials to start a small shop. She started a small business with this support and added materials from her side as well. Through this small business she improved her monthly income by 6000. She is earning up to 10000 in a month, however, her total monthly income was about 4000 initially. In this way, a small business enabled her to improve her income, saving, and meeting food desire of the family members. She is happy now and thanked Mandwi and Penny Appeal organizations for their praiseworthy assistance.

**Case-12 Through a small business support Samimun has not only improve her income but also become able to feed her family members.**



Samimun Nesha is 49 years old. She has nine family members. She is living with her family members in Paroha municipality of Rautahat district of Province No.2, Nepal. She is representing from religious minority community of Nepal. She is illiterate. She has no sufficient land to farm. Her family is dependent on daily wages income. She is also economically deprived. Due to that she was facing a problem of food crisis as food was not sufficient for them throughout

the year. The second wave of COVID and continued lockdown for a 3-4 months long brings a double trouble for them as there was a scarce of employability and labor work led to economic deprivation and food crisis for their family members.

*In response to economic uplift, her name was recommended by ward commissioner to Mandwi and Penny Appeal. Enumerator from Mandwi visited to her house, met her, and interacted with her for the need assessment. She expressed that she was interested to start a meat (butcher) shop in her community as it was highly demanded. Usually people went to the market to buy meat in the absence of such a shop in the community.*

*Finally, the project supported her materials to start the shop. With a small support she started a meat shop in the community. Now a day people are buying meat from her shop. People are appreciating her work of butcher and providing services of meat supply with a minimal service charge/benefit to them. It is cheaper than the market with same quality. Through this her daily income has been increased now. She became able to feed her family now. Besides that, she is saving a small amount daily and has a plan to expand her shop in near future. She is happy now and thanked the organizations for the valuable support.*

## **2.9 Feed our World Project**

Mandwi implemented Feed Our World Project in Ishnath and Paroha municipality of Rautahat district with the technical and financial assistance from Penny Appeal from March-May 2021. The overall objective of the project was to distribute food packs, non-food items, and hygiene kits to marginalized Muslim people (poor, elderly, pregnant and lactating women, single women, and people with disability) suffering from food crisis led by flood and COVID-19 in Province No.2 of Nepal. Through Ramadan Food Distribution Mandwi reached 240 Muslim marginalized people in Ishnath (100) and Paroha (140) Municipalities of Rautahat district of Province No.2 Nepal and they met their nutrition desires in the holy month of Ramadan Also, 160 Pregnant and Lactating Mothers reached through Nutritious Food Distribution in Ishnath (67) and Paroha (93) and they met their nutrition desires. Similarly, Covid-19 Hygiene Material distributed to 400 marginalized people (240) and pregnant and lactating women (160) that helped to meet their hygiene kit desires. Out of them 22 were single women, 13 people with disability, 996 children, and 27 elderly people. In addition, 100 selected marginalized Muslim people accessed to seed bag and food storage box that met their seed and food storage desires in flood affected, and COVID-19 pandemic impacted area. In doing so, following major project activities were carried out by Mandwi:

- Coordination with DDMC and local governments for beneficiaries' selection
- Procurement of required food, non-food, COVID hygiene, and seed bags materials
- Prepare food, non-food, COVID hygiene, and seed bags set (one for each selected beneficiary)
- Food, non-food, COVID hygiene, and seed bags distribution to marginalized people
- Monitoring of food, non-food, COVID hygiene, and seed bags distribution by local governments
- Reporting of food, non-food, COVID hygiene, and seed bags distribution

### **Case-13 Food support to single women prevented from malnutrition, spread of COVID, and economic burden.**

*Najima Khatun, aged 43 years old from Ishnath Municipality ward no. 3, Rautahat, is a single woman having 4 sons and 1 daughter. Her husband left her before 6 years. Her life is very difficult since she has look after 5 children in her family. She does not have any land for farming and must work in other farm. She depends on daily wages work. It is very difficult to survive as being faced the COVID 19 pandemic and very less opportunity for work. At the same time, Ramadan festival to be celebrated in the month of April*

2021, a month-long festival of Muslim community, and it was difficult to buy the food as she is very poor and woman headed family since her husband left.

MANDWI is with the financial assistance from Penny Appeal supported her with foods under the Fed Our World (FoW) Project. The supported items were totally different from others, and it included altogether 13 items including Rice, Cooking Oil, Ghee, Dates, Gram Flour, Lentil, Soyabean, Raisins, Cereal, Sugar, Horlicks, Cashew Nuts, Almond as well as sanitary items including Soap, Detergent, Mask and Sanitizer. Those were nutritious food and for hygiene. She became very happy and able to celebrate the holy Ramadan festival happily. In addition, she became able to meet her nutritious food and hygiene desire. It had not only contributed to preventing her from malnutrition but also spread of COVID. Similarly, she did not need to manage or borrow money this year for buying food and the managed money for festival that reduced the additional economic burden.



Finally, she felt happy and would like to thank MANDWI and PENNY APPEAL for this kind of support which really made her festival in festive mood, and she wish such kinds of support in coming days too.

**Case-14 Support of seed and crop storage box build a confidence of Jarina to cope with loss of crops by flood.**

Ishnath Municipality is one of the flood prone area in southern part of Rautahat linking with india border. Flood damages loss of lives and farming every year due to heavy flood, water logging problem, and blockage by Indian dam surrounding India Nepal Border. People from this area are facing problem to store grains, food, and seed. Additionally, people are struggling with COVID 19 pandemic as well. Jarina Khatun is one of them to suffer from flood and waterlogging every year. Jarina is 47 years having 3 sons and 4 daughters in her house. Mrs Jarina has very less land and straw house. Due to that, she is not able to buy a seed box and store seed and crops safety so that she can grow it or consume during rainy season.





*In response to make people resilient and establishing a disaster smart seed and food storage system for needy and marginalized Muslim women, MANDWI with the financial backing from Penny Appeal, has recently supported her seed bank through “Feed Our World” programme where she can store seed and free from burden and able to grow crops after the flood.*

*Now, Mrs Jarina is very happy with this support and would like to thank MANDWI and PENNY APPEAL to such humanitarian assistance in the flood prone area and focusing Muslim ultra-poor. She wishes for continuous support in coming days too. With this little support, she has been able to store food for their families that will be essential during upcoming monsoon/rainy season.*



## **2.10 Sustainable Food Project**

Mandwi has been implementing Sustainable Food Project in Paroha and Ishnath Municipalities of Rautahat district of Province No.2 Nepal the technical and financial assistance from Penny Appeal and in close coordination with local governments. The overall objective of the programme is to increase access of flood and COVID-19 impacted marginalized farmers to solar bore pump and climate resilient seeds for solar climate smart early crop production and harvesting with a disaster smart seed and food storage system. Through this project the following achievements were made:

- 300 flood and COVID-19 impacted marginalized farmers group members of 20 farmer groups (20\*15 members) identified to access over solar bore pump
- 300 flood and COVID-19 impacted marginalized farmers group members accessed to climate resilient seeds for solar climate smart early crop production and harvesting with a disaster smart seed and food storage system
- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is in place with local government
- A strong and functional coordination established at local government level
- A local government committed for the coordination support that makes implementation of project effective and efficient
- Villages with high level of poverty, unemployment, food crisis, and malnutrition and of solar bore pump and climate resilient seeds for the marginalize people affected by flood and COVID-19 pandemic in Ishnath and Paroha municipalities of Rautahat district selected
- 20 solar bore pump management committee (SBPMC) formed
- SBPMC ensued participation of female representatives
- A SBPMC signed MOU
- A beneficiary selection criteria developed
- SBPMC assisted in the process of beneficiary’s selection
- List of potential beneficiaries prepared
- 300 beneficiaries finalized based on the criteria by SBPMC
- A procurement committee formed
- The list of required materials prepared

- Required materials purchased and stored
- 300 needy households received climate resilient seeds and bags
- The quality of the distribution process ensured by ward chairperson/local government representative

**Case-15 Maximum women participation ensured in Solar Bore Pump Management Committee (SBPMC)**

Mandwi has been implementing the "Sustainable food project" under the financial support of Penny Appeal since April 2021, in Ishnath municipality of Rautahat district. This project aims to increase access of flood and COVID-19 impacted marginalized farmers to solar bore pump and climate resilient seeds for solar climate smart early crop production and harvesting with a disaster smart seed and food storage system. There was a provision of forming Solar Bore Pump Management Committee for the effective and efficient implementation and monitoring of the project.

For that, Mandwi forward an official letter to municipality & its ward offices. This letter described over the project purpose, beneficiaries type, operation modules & financing modality. After getting the Municipal approval, Mandwi called a mass meeting for formation of solar bore pump management committees (SBPMC). In the meeting, 10 female & 20 male rural community people were participated. Among them, 17 belongs from religious minority & rests were from Madhesi (other marginalized) communities.

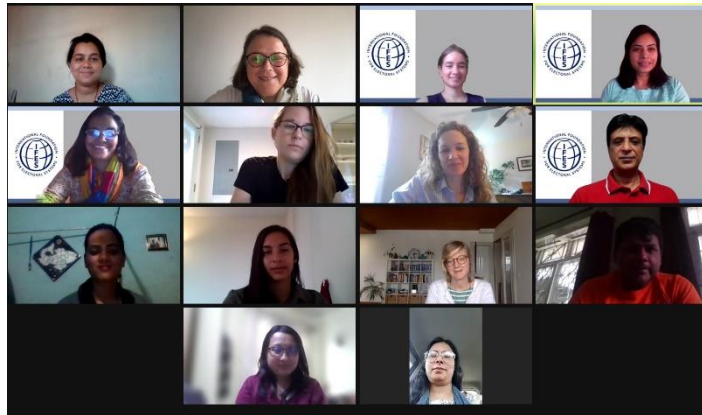


The program was chaired by Mr. Ram Laxman Sah, (Chairperson, ward # 2, Ishnath Municipality) where Mandwi representative Mr. Pradyumna Kandel took the role of facilitator. Mr. Kandel elaborated the all project process, including financing, installation of borehole, and operation of solar bore pump to the meeting participants. After giving detailed information about the project, the formation of solar bore pump management committee was discussed. Finally, a nine members' committee was formed. Out of the total nine members of the committee, five were women. In this way, 55 percent of women participation ensured by the project in SBPMC.

**2.11 She Leads Project**

In 2017, the Nepalese Constitution necessitated the election of 35,041 local officials. In these elections, women made up 40.96 percent of the electorate, filling crucial local government positions that had been vacant for 20 years. Quotas have resulted in the appointment of 14,352 women to local leadership positions, with the majority serving for the first time in Nepal.

Dalit women, the most discriminated against population group in local governments, were included in 20% of the seats according to the reservation principle for elected seats. Even after four years in office, elected women at the ward level describe being excluded from meetings and told that their roles are just symbolic. In addition, the Covid-19 outbreak put pressure on municipal governments to respond quickly.



In May, In order to build the leadership capacity of elected women representatives, including Covid-19, to increase support from family and colleagues, and to define and communicate goals for their future leadership responsibilities the International Foundation for Electoral Systems selected Mandwi as an implementing partner of in Province Two to implement the “*She Leads: Strengthening Capacity and Leadership of Elected Women Representatives for Meaningful Political Participation*” from 12 May 2021- 11 November 2022 in Dhanusha, Mahottari, Rautahat, Sarlahi and Bara in 28 Palikas to empower 600 elected women representatives’ with technical job skills and leadership skill for a meaningful political participation, and gender equality in the decision making process.

In this reporting period, Mandwi established strong rapport with the ward offices, local authorities, and engaged in preparatory activities such as getting approval letters from the Palikas, recruitment of staff, participant profiling of the elected women representatives to implement the project. The nationwide lockdown 2.0 imposed due to the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic on April 29 caused some delay in acquiring the pre-consensus letters. However due to strong network and regular coordination with the ward, Mandwi was successful in acquiring the pre-consensus letters to move ahead with the preparatory activities.

### 3. Learning

- During the school building construction inauguration ceremony by the chairperson of Muslim Commission Nepal, Muslim community people were not only prayed for the betterment of the chairperson (represents from Muslim community) but also prayed for president of Mandwi (represents from non-muslim community) because of welfare work done by them for Muslim people, children, and community. In this way, ***it does not matter to which religion or community people represents, if anyone works for the betterment of the people or humanity, the people honored.***
- Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration (3Cs) with local government and COVID adaptation strategy works properly in completing the projects in pandemic situation. Due to that local government cooperated in coordination and monitoring of project activities and allocated local resources as a match fund because it is the requirement of the citizens and fulfilled the need of community.
- The program area in Rautahat district was visited and observed by Muslim Commission Nepal. After his observation of the programs, interacted with community people and local

government, he enthusiasm by seeing happy Muslim community people with the support of Mosque and other activities assisted by the project like, shallow tube well, vocational skill trainings, seed money for small enterprises and agro-business, and integrated WASH support including community safe drinking water, toilets for marginalized households, health facility and school WASH facility improvement and so on. He was also amazed with the cooperation of non-Muslim community people in the socio-economic enhancement of Muslim people. Ultimately, he cannot stop his limit of pleasure after knowing that there is huge support of local governments, i.e. more than 50% of community contribution in all those activities. Finally, he conveyed his gratitude thanks to local governments, the provincial and federal government of Nepal as he found that the support was as expected from the Muslim Commission Nepal for the Muslim Rights. He further thanked the praiseworthy assistance of Penny Appeal and Mandwi as well for this great work. In this way, the joint efforts for uplifting socio-economic status of Muslim people of local government and Penny Appeal in coordination with Mandwi was highly appreciated and acknowledged by Muslim Commission Nepal. This contributed in trust building of Mandwi in the community and establishing a reputed organization in those areas. From, this Mandwi learned that **the acknowledgement and appreciation of the work from the recognized organization and person is also essential in terms of trust building of the community people on organization.**

- During the pandemic like COVID, mobilization of local volunteers and close coordination of local government are essential to proper response the needy people.

#### 4. Future Plan

- Mandwi will continue the legal aid services to women and poor who they have no access to justice and they are suffering from injustice in next year also.
- Mandwi will process and get approval from Mediation Council to provide mediation services for FY 2077/78.
- Mandwi will continue coordination and collaboration with national, province, district and municipality based key stakeholders, line agencies, like-minded organizations (including media) for effective and efficient program implementation.
- Mandwi will approach different program proposal especially focus on access to justice and security as well as COVID response, child protection, disaster risk management, early warning, climate resiliency and livelihood for socio-economic empowerment, women and youth empowerment, women overall leadership development, food and nutrition security, good governance, animal rights and welfare (animal safe shelter), education (Madarsa), health, WASH to diversify the program and its expansion if the project districts especially in the Terai.
- Mandwi will develop IT and data protection policy, branding and marketing guideline, finalize fund raising plan, prepare communication policy, develop a separate sub-award management policy guideline.
- Mandwi will establish a smooth CRFM system at organizational level.
- Mandwi will start a social audit practice of the organization.

## **Details of Mandwi Offices:**

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### **Project Offices**

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