



# WACD Nepal

Women and Child Development

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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## Message from the President

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present to you the Annual Report of the Woman and Child Development Organization (WACD) Nepal for Improve Quality of Life and Sustainable Development (IQLSD) project implemented in the partnership with Community Partners International (CPI). The past year has been a testament to the power of collaboration, community resilience, and our shared commitment to inclusive and sustainable development.



Through our integrated programs across Banke and Bardiya districts, WACD has continued its mission to empower marginalized communities, enhance livelihoods, promote health, and strengthen local governance partnerships. Our efforts this year began with a comprehensive Orientation Workshop that aligned our project vision with local priorities and set the stage for impactful community engagement.

We have made important strides in economic empowerment, with micro-enterprise and agricultural trainings that enabled families to launch small businesses, improve farming practices, and increase food security. Health-focused initiatives—including nutrition awareness, home gardening, and community-based health care—reached hundreds of individuals, particularly women and children, with practical knowledge and direct support.

Equally important, our regular monitoring visits and Best Practice Sharing Workshop allowed us to reflect on progress, learn from the field, and gather essential feedback to strengthen our approach moving forward.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our community members, the cooperation of local governments, and the generous support of our donors and partners. Your trust in our vision continues to inspire us to do more—and to do better.

As we look ahead, WACD remains committed to building inclusive, resilient communities where everyone, especially women and marginalized groups, can thrive with dignity and opportunity.

With sincere thanks,

**Tilak Ram Tharu**

**President**

Woman and Child Development Organization (WACD) Nepal

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## About Women and Children Development (WACD)

**Woman and Child Development Organization (WACD)** is a non-governmental organization established in 2007 and officially registered with the District Administration Office, Banke. Originating as a grassroots social movement, WACD is committed to combating exploitation, discrimination, and deprivation faced by women, children, and disadvantaged, marginalized, and vulnerable communities. The organization works through a multifaceted approach that includes **human rights protection, education, mass communication, social mobilization, and community development**. Its overarching goal is *to uplift the livelihood of women, children, and other vulnerable groups* across the Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim Provinces of Nepal—regions often marked by chronic poverty and inequality.

Currently, WACD is actively implementing its programs in **Banke and Bardiya Districts**, focusing on inclusive and sustainable development for communities in need.

**WACD operates with a unique and inclusive governance structure**, led by a committed board committee. The organization adopts a **participatory and decentralized approach** in all aspects of planning and implementation. Activities are designed and executed in collaboration with civil society representatives, women's groups, and youth clubs—who are empowered to develop their own operational rules, ensuring community ownership and program effectiveness.

Board committee members of WACD are actively engaged in program implementation, contributing to **transparency, accountability, and the promotion of good governance** across all levels of the organization.

### Vision

"Creation of Equitable and Free Civil Society"

### Mission

WACD is committed to promoting inclusive and sustainable development through its focus on socio-economic empowerment, human resource development, child development, and emergency relief for disaster-affected families. The organization also prioritizes institutional development, cultural and environmental preservation, youth mobilization, and advocacy efforts—all aimed at building an equitable, inclusive, and free civil society

### Goals.

The living standards of socially excluded groups are improved by ensuring better access to quality basic services and promoting a transformation toward a non-discriminatory and inclusive society.

### Objective

1.To improve the living standards of deprived communities—especially women and children—by enhancing access to quality education, healthcare services, and sustainable economic opportunities.

2.To empower deprived and disadvantaged women, children, and Dalit communities by mobilizing local resources and promoting income-generating activities through the active engagement of youth and women's groups.

3.To empower women and youth, and contribute to the reduction of child labor through the implementation of child-friendly and promotional activities.

4.To strengthen organizational management by building the capacity of board members, enhancing communication and documentation systems, and establishing effective linkages and relationships at the national level.

## Executive Summary

The Women and Children Development (WACD) program implemented a series of community-driven initiatives across Banke and Bardiya districts to promote inclusive development, improve livelihoods, and strengthen community health and resilience. These activities focused on empowering marginalized groups, especially women and disadvantaged households, through orientation, training, support services, and strategic partnerships with local governments.

A one-day Program Introduction and Orientation Workshop was conducted at the Palika level, bringing together 60 participants including Palika officials, ward presidents, stakeholders, and community members. The event introduced the Model Village concept and fostered collaboration between WACD and local bodies, aligning project goals with community priorities and securing valuable feedback for future planning.

As part of community mobilization, a one-day orientation for group formation and reformation was held for 60 members from two registered women's groups—Pragatishil Women Group (Banke) and Dashgharawa Women Group (Bardiya). The training covered group objectives, microfinance, and savings practices. Seed money of NPR 100,000 (NPR 50,000 per group) was distributed, helping strengthen relationships among group members, WACD, and local leaders, and reinforcing commitments toward the Model Village initiative.

WACD conducted a three-day Micro-Enterprise Training for 60 participants to enhance skills in business planning, market analysis, and financial management. As a result, four households launched small businesses, including livestock farming, shops, and produce outlets. A revolving fund of NPR 30,000 was also established to promote business sustainability and income generation.

To improve agricultural productivity, Seasonal and Off-Season Vegetable Farming Training was provided to 60 vulnerable households. Conducted in coordination with DADO, this three-day training introduced modern and traditional farming techniques, targeting flood-affected families, ex-Kamaiyas, and the poorest households with cultivable land. The program significantly contributed to increased food security and household income.

A Healthy Home, Healthy Garden Training was delivered to 60 households over three days, promoting home gardening and healthier lifestyles. Participants learned practical gardening skills and were sensitized on balanced diets, hygiene, and nutrition. Over 100 community members benefited indirectly, reducing dependence on market food and enhancing overall well-being.

WACD also implemented Community-Based Health Care and Nutrition Awareness Training, targeting 60 households. With support from the District Health Office and Palikas, this three-day training emphasized primary health care, disease prevention, and family well-being. Follow-up



home visits by health staff provided additional counseling and services, benefiting over 1,000 individuals, particularly women, children, and the elderly.

Lastly, a Best Practice Sharing and Monitoring Workshop was conducted with 25 stakeholders, including public representatives, donors, and WACD staff. Participants reviewed progress, shared lessons learned, and participated in joint field monitoring. The initiative produced a Best Practices Report and laid the groundwork for future strategic improvements.

Together, these interventions reflect WACD's holistic, community-centered approach to development—building capacity, improving livelihoods, promoting health, and fostering sustainable, locally-led progress in the target areas of Banke and Bardiya.

## Project Activities and Key Achievements

### 1.1 Program introduction and orientation-(1 day)

WACD organized a one-day Introduction and Orientation Workshop at the Palika level in the project's targeted areas of Banke and Bardiya districts. A total of 60 participants—30 from each district—attended the event, including Palika officials, Ward Presidents, representatives from key



Figure 1 Program orientation workshop Banke

stakeholder groups, community members, and the WACD team. The workshop aimed to introduce the Model Village concept, promote active collaboration between local government bodies and WACD, and align project goals with community priorities. Through interactive presentations and dialogue sessions, participants shared their perspectives, identified key local needs, and explored opportunities for joint action. The workshop successfully enhanced mutual

understanding, built stronger working relationships, and secured valuable feedback to inform future planning. This initiative marked a significant step towards creating sustainable, community-led development models in the project areas.

### 1.2. Group formation/Reformation, Orientation and support: 1 day orientation

A one-day orientation program for group members was organized in Banke and Bardiya districts. The program was held on 19 June 2023 in Bardiya and on 21 June 2023 in Banke, with the objective of informing participants about group formation, planned activities, savings and credit practices, the concept of microfinance, and the roles and responsibilities of both the groups and the Women and Children Development (WACD) office. A total of 60 members from the



Figure 2 Group mobilization orientation

*Pragatishil Women Group* and the *Dashgharawa Women Group*, both already formed and registered in Bajjanath-3 (Banke) and Barbardiya-10 (Bardiya) respectively, participated in the sessions. Seed money totaling NPR 100,000 (NPR 50,000 per group) was distributed through local ward representatives. The initiative helped strengthen relationships among group members, local leaders, and WACD, and received strong commitments from Palika officials to support the development of Model Villages. The groups are now active, united, and regularly participating in meetings.

### 1.3 Micro-enterprises training 3 days and support for Livelihood/Livestock farming/Retail shop/Restaurant/Fresh house.

To promote economic empowerment and financial resilience among marginalized communities, WACD organized a 3-day micro-enterprise training program for 60 people in Banke and Bardiya districts. The training aimed to enhance participants' skills in business planning, market analysis,



Figure 3 Group work presentation during training

financial management, and the effective use of local resources. Through the sessions, participants learned how to prepare business plans, manage budgets, maintain financial records, and control cash flow, equipping them with the knowledge needed to start and sustain small businesses. As a result of this initiative, four households were provided with startup support to establish their own micro-enterprises, including livestock farming, retail shops, restaurants, and fresh

produce outlets. To ensure sustainability, a revolving fund has been established amounting NPR.30,000. This initiative contributes to improving livelihoods by increasing productivity, generating income, and raising the living standards of disadvantaged groups in the targeted areas.

### 1.4 Seasonal and off seasonal Vegetable Farming training and support;(3days training)

WACD organized a 3-day community-based training on seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable



Figure 4 Nursery preparing during the training

farming to enhance agricultural knowledge and improve livelihoods among vulnerable populations for 60 Households in Banke and Bardiya. Seasonal vegetables grow naturally in suitable climatic conditions, while off-season vegetables are cultivated using technology to overcome environmental constraints, enabling year-round production. This initiative targeted flood-affected families, ex-Kamaiyas, and the poorest of the poor (POP) households who own at least 3 katthas of cultivable land and were identified through functional committees. A total of 60 households, representing approximately 200 individuals, received support through this activity. Participants were



trained in both traditional and modern farming techniques, including the use of improved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation methods, and agricultural tools. The training was implemented in close coordination with the District Agriculture Development Offices (DADO) in Banke and Bardiya.

Through this initiative, participants gained foundational knowledge in vegetable farming, with a particular focus on off-season production, which has the potential to significantly enhance household income and contribute to long-term food security and economic resilience.

### 1.5 Healthy Home, Healthy Garden training and support: (3 days training)

WACD organized a 2-day community-based "Healthy Home, Healthy Garden" training to support the development of a Model Village through the promotion of home gardening practices. This initiative, aimed at both men and women from 60 households, was designed to foster healthier, more active lifestyles and improve food security, particularly in areas of high poverty. Conducted with technical support from agricultural experts in coordination with the local Palikas, District Agriculture Offices, and other key stakeholders, the training focused on practical skills in home gardening. Home gardens typically include a mix of vegetables, fruits, herbs, flowers, and medicinal plants, cultivated in small plots around households. The training equipped participants with knowledge on growing their own nutritious and hygienic food, which contributes to better health and reduced incidence of diseases such as heart conditions, gastric issues, malaria, typhoid, and seasonal flu. Additionally, around 100 community members were sensitized on the importance of balanced diets, nutrition, and food scheduling in daily life. As a result, participants began consuming more homegrown produce, reducing their dependence on market-bought food, saving time and money, and improving their overall well-being. Beyond health benefits, this activity also fostered stronger social ties and community engagement, contributing to greater social capital at the local and national levels.



Figure 5 A group member presenting during the training

### 1.6 Community based health care and service:(3 days training)

WACD organized a 3-day community-based health care and nutrition awareness training for 60 households, targeting both men and women, to strengthen local understanding of primary health care and promote healthier lifestyles. Primary health care is a comprehensive approach that



*Figure 6 Taking pressure during health care training*

addresses health promotion, disease prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care in a way that is person-centered and responsive to individual needs. This training was conducted in coordination with the District Health Office (DHO) and local Palikas, with expert facilitators providing guidance. As a result of the initiative, 100 parents were made aware of the importance of nutritious diets and healthy living habits. Additionally, WACD's health staff conducted home visits to provide

counseling and basic health support to families, ensuring continued follow-up and care. These visits included education on mental, physical, preventive, and reproductive health, benefiting an estimated 1,000 individuals—including maternal and newborn children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly—either directly or indirectly. This activity underscores WACD's ongoing commitment to improving community health and expanding access to quality health services, especially for women and girls.

### 1.7. Best practice sharing and project monitoring and evaluation workshop- Semiannually and annually (1time)

A one-day Best Practice Sharing Workshop was organized in the final quarter of the project year. This event brought together 25 public representatives, donors, WACD staff, and board members of Banke and Bardiya. Participants shared progress updates, successful strategies, challenges faced, and key opportunities identified throughout project implementation.

In addition, joint monitoring visits were conducted at the field level throughout the year, with active participation from local government (Palika), Community Project Implementers (CPI), and WACD staff. These visits ensured collaborative oversight, timely feedback, and strengthened stakeholder coordination.



*Figure 7 Best practice sharing meeting with stakeholders in Banke*

The key outcomes of these initiatives included the development of a Best Practices Report, documentation of lessons learned, and collection of stakeholder feedback to inform future program design and strategic direction. These efforts have contributed to stronger collaboration among partners, improved implementation at the community level, and enhanced learning to support more effective and sustainable outcomes.

### 1.8 Joint Monitoring Visit

WACD organized joint monitoring visits in the targeted areas of Banke and Bardiya to ensure the effective implementation and oversight of project activities. These visits were conducted with active involvement from local government representatives (Palika officials), Community Project Implementers (CPI), and WACD staff. The main objective of the visits was to assess the progress of field-level interventions, gather feedback from beneficiaries, and ensure that the project remained aligned with its intended goals.

During the visits, stakeholders observed various project components in action, including women's group mobilization, micro-enterprise initiatives, vegetable farming training, home gardening, and community-based health programs. These on-site interactions helped identify implementation gaps, success stories, and areas requiring improvement.



*Figure 8 Joint monitoring visit by local government representatives*

Importantly, the joint visits fostered transparency, accountability, and mutual trust among all involved actors. Feedback gathered during the monitoring process was used to refine strategies, improve coordination, and document best practices. The initiative significantly contributed to maintaining quality standards, strengthening stakeholder collaboration, and ensuring that project activities remained community-driven and outcome-focused.

### Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- **Strong Local Engagement is Key:** Building close relationships with local leaders—such as Palika officials, social leaders, Barghars, and Bhalmansas—is essential for the successful implementation and sustainability of the project.
- **Stakeholder Coordination is Crucial:** Without effective coordination among stakeholders, the project cannot achieve its goals. Collaboration ensures alignment, local ownership, and smoother execution.
- **Leverage Local Expertise:** Coordination with stakeholders helps identify and mobilize subject-specific resource persons, enhancing the technical quality of the interventions.

- **Capacity Building is Necessary:** In addition to program activities, continuous capacity-building efforts for community members and implementing partners are vital to strengthen local skills and ensure long-term impact.
- **Integrated Projects are Needed:** Developing a Model Village requires more than a single project; it demands an integrated, multi-sectoral approach combining health, livelihoods, agriculture, infrastructure, and education.
- **Consider Long-Term Interventions:** Based on feedback from local representatives, the Model Village concept should be supported by long-term programs to ensure gradual and sustained development.
- **Policy and Guideline Updates:** For effective and impactful implementation, it is important to regularly review and update relevant policies and operational guidelines.
- **Short-Term Projects Can Have Long-Term Impact:** Even event-based or short-duration projects can contribute significantly to long-term development when strategically planned and executed.
- **Joint Monitoring and Evaluation is Essential:** Regular joint monitoring and evaluation with stakeholders ensures accountability, provides timely feedback, and keeps the program on track.