

FCA NEPAL ANNUAL REPORT 2020



FCA



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
FCA	4
Introduction	4
Thematic Priorities.....	4
Results framework	4
Vision	4
Modalities	5
COUNTRY CONTEXT	6
GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE	6
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS	7
Right to Livelihood.....	7
Right to Quality Education.....	8
Right to Peace.....	10
COVID-19 Response and recovery programs	11
CROSS-CUTTING SECTORS	12
Gender equality	12
Climate change and adaptation	12
Disability Inclusion	13
COORDINATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT	14
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	15
TARGET GROUPS	15
CHALLENGES AFFECTING THE PROGRAMME	15
PROJECT INFORMATION.....	16
FCA NEPAL PROJECT DISTRICTS 2020	17
FINANCIAL STATEMENT	18
NETWORKS AND AFFILIATIONS.....	19

GREETINGS FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

2020 WAS an extraordinary year for the whole world. For us here in Nepal COVID brought about many challenges. The strict and extensive lockdowns led to already marginalized groups being pushed further into poverty and hardships. Many lost their main source of livelihood and were not able to gain the income they are dependent on.

The way FCA’s partners were able to work through this situation is commendable. The ability to turn our regular long-term development projects around and repurpose funding towards responding to the immediate needs in the wake of COVID is an achievement. Our partners showed that we could quickly adapt new ways of working and doing so in a safe and strategic way. New methods and approaches for humanitarian responses were brought onboard well. The perseverance that was displayed by our teams in the field has acted as a source of inspiration for all of us. From FCA’s side we are grateful to be working with such strong partners who have genuine legitimacy with the target groups and local stakeholders.

2020 taught us to accept that the plans we had made would not always be possible to implement. Our active participation at the UPR process in Geneva through our EU EIDHR funded Sajha Aawaj project is one such example. Again we saw evidence of our teams and project being able to pivot to make the best of a difficult situation.

The new virtual world of being able to attend meetings, webinars, workshops and discussions online and remotely brought about new opportunities. It was also a challenging time for our FCA team, having to balance our work tasks with family life at home. I am proud to be working with such a positive, constructive and resilient team of professionals.

With hope of a brighter future,

Sofia Olsson, Country Director, FCA Nepal

NEPAL’S ECONOMY has been severely affected by COVID-19 pandemic. Vulnerable groups such as women, children, marginalised ethnic groups and castes, people with disabilities, etc. have become increasingly vulnerable since COVID-19 started having effects on society in Nepal. Many such groups are pushed further into poverty due to the vast economic impact COVID-19 has had in Nepal related to the long lockdown, lack of tourism, and an almost complete shutdown of the hospitality sector.

Due to COVID, many of the projects temporarily changed their modalities to respond to the crisis brought about by the pandemic. FCA in collaboration with the community groups/ cooperatives and the local governments supported the vulnerable families in its working areas of Dadeldhura, Kailali, Dhanusha and Mahottari districts with food distribution and in Sindhuli district with cash for work program.

In spite of the challenging situation in 2020, FCA continued to implement its programmes on Right to Livelihood, Quality Education and Peace across 12 districts of four provinces, namely: Province 2, Bagmati, Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces.

FCA ensured Right to Livelihood through the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic development that provides people in vulnerable situations, particularly women and youth with increased opportunities for a decent living. Support for small-scale income generation to creation of enterprises and cooperatives, access to affordable finance for sustained business growth continued to be one of the cornerstones. In 2020, several activities were conducted in FCA working districts contributing to the people in vulnerable situations to strengthen their economic status through inclusive and sustainable development approaches and programmes.

Linking Learning to Earning (LL2E) approach has proved to be an effective FCA’s framework for ensuring employment and livelihood outcomes after vocational education. Despite the difficult situation created by COVID-19 pandemic, FCA was able to continue to link the vocational education / training by developing relevant skills for income generation and livelihood outcomes.

A total of 123 events were conducted to address the issues concerning to women, Dalits, ex-bonded labourers and marginalised ethnic groups.

Children have become more vulnerable because of COVID-19. They have fallen behind in education, especially in the rural areas, and this is coupled with a higher risk of child marriages and child labour. In response to the given context, FCA Nepal Country Programme under Right to Education provided educational material support to the marginalized students in the target communities, which helped students continue their education even during the pandemic. In addition, various short-term vocational and Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) trainings were conducted targeting the marginalized target groups, which were made possible by using the virtual platforms.

Right to Peace in Nepal for FCA is transcribed as marginalised peoples’ right to live in harmony maintaining social-cohesion, and thus FCA supported to provide space for meaningful participation and influence in decision-making in society for marginalised groups and people belonging to Dalits, indigenous people and ethnic minorities. Hence, our efforts in 2020 focused on improving economic status reducing Caste-Based Discrimination (CBD) by restoring dignity and environment of non-discrimination, through improving effective participation and access to services and justice of marginalised and CBD affected people.

Gender equality, Climate Change and Adaptation, and Disability Inclusion were significantly prioritized throughout our programme implementation. ■

Introduction

FCA is Finland's largest international development organization. It operates in 13 countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. FCA specializes in three thematic priority areas: Right to Peace, Right to Livelihood, and Right to Quality Education. The work is done with the poorest people, regardless of their religious beliefs, ethnic background or political convictions. As a civil society actor, FCA realizes its mission and vision through development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and advocacy work

We contribute to positive change by supporting people in the most vulnerable situations within fragile and disaster-affected areas. The main funding sources are from private persons and companies, the Government of Finland, and global institutional donors such as various UN agencies, bilateral donor agencies and the EU. FCA enjoys Core Humanitarian Standard certification and is a member of the ACT Alliance.

With a commitment to bring about positive development through collaboration, FCA has been supporting work in Nepal since the 1980s and have had an in-country presence since 2013. FCA's core components for the work in Nepal have always been livelihood and education, both as long-term development projects and disaster response and recovery programs. The current Nepal country program focuses on work in Provinces 2, Bagmati, Karnali and Sudurpaschim.

Thematic Priorities

FCA specializes in three thematic priority areas: Right to Peace (R2P), Right to Livelihood (R2L), and Right to Quality Education (R2QE).

Results framework

Main Objective 1: People and Private Sector – People can claim and enjoy their right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication.

Vision

FCA'S VISION is a world comprised of resilient and just societies where everyone's right to peace, quality education and sustainable livelihood has been fulfilled.

The long-term change that FCA wants to see in Nepal is that marginalized women and youth are socioeconomically empowered and enjoy a decent living. We will work towards this through creating an enabling environment for marginalized people to claim their rights with strengthened capacity of local civil society, community groups and government bodies. All our work will strive towards social cohesion and inclusion. Participatory processes following the Rights-Based Approach (RBA) will be applied. FCA will create strategic partnerships and platforms for dialogues among a variety of stakeholders. Effective and collaborative networks with the government at various levels will be established and linkage with and contribution towards the government's priorities will be at the core of the programme. ■

- 1.1** Youth and young adults in vulnerable situations become economically self-reliant and contribute positively to social cohesion
- 1.2** People in vulnerable situations engage in and benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth

Main Objective 2: People and Governance – People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.

- 2.1** Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory
- 2.2** Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/learning
- 2.3** Disaster affected people have access to essential life-saving assistance

Main Objective 3: People and Civil Society – People fulfill their legitimate and active role for positive change.

- 3.1** Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion
- 3.2** Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change
- 3.3** Vulnerable communities have enhanced adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters

Modalities

The main modality for the year 2020 remained to be long-term development work coupled with humanitarian response, with a specific focus on marginalized groups' participation, empowerment, and equality. Relief and recovery work was also prioritised in the year 2020 supporting the beneficiaries who lost their livelihoods because of COVID-19. Efficient, effective and coordinated support to crisis affected and vulnerable people remained at the core of FCA's humanitarian assistance, with a special focus on women, Persons with Disabilities and children.

Meaningful participation of the target groups has been and continues to be a key strategy for a holistic development leading to prosperity and dignity following the principles of RBA. Working together with the target groups, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and government bodies, to create enabling environments.. Individuals have been informed of their rights through groups that are linked with local, district, provincial and federal level networks.. This has achieved the country programme's aim of creating ownership from both target groups and duty-bearers and thus ensuring the sustainability of our initiatives.

FCA supported local partners' initiatives that strengthened the voice of local communities and supported to facilitate duty-bearers' program implementation. In 2020, we continued to address the challenges faced by people in the most vulnerable position and contributed to putting into practice the principle of Agenda 2030 of "leaving no one behind".

FCA's added value also stems from its agility to respond to crisis and ability to involve crisis affected people in the humanitarian efforts. Based on the Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan (EPRP) and Contingency Plans, FCA is well positioned to provide humanitarian assistance in the case of a humanitarian crisis. ■



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

COUNTRY CONTEXT

VULNERABLE GROUPS such as women, children, marginalised ethnic groups and castes, persons with disabilities, etc. have become increasingly vulnerable and being pushed further into poverty because of COVID-19. The vast economic impact and returning of large number of migrant labourers during 2020 after losing their jobs has ultimately led to more unemployment and increase in number of people suffering from food insecurity.

Children have become more vulnerable and have fallen behind in education, especially in the rural areas where online schooling was not an option during the pandemic. This is coupled with increased risk of child malnutrition and a higher risk of child marriages and child labour.

On the development arena there is higher competition for funding. Donors are stretched due to the needs of COVID-19, and implementers have more projects to be done with less funding available. More time is being spent on raising funds, but the return on investment is in many cases low due to the competition and dwindling funding. Many long-term development projects were halted during the long lockdown in 2020 and social distancing requirements continue to affect activities such as workshops, trainings and conferences at both field and national level that required large people gathering. ■

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

IN 2020, the country programme was implemented in 12 districts of four provinces, namely: Province 2 (Siraha, Dhanusha and Mahottari Districts), Bagmati (Sindhuli and Lalitpur Districts), Karnali (Jajarkot, Kalikot and Surkhet Districts) and Sudurpaschim (Kailali, Kanchanpur, Baitadi and Dadeldhura Districts) provinces.

FCA's local implementing partners:

- Freed Kamaiya Women Development Forum (FKWDF)
- Integrated Development Society (IDeS)
- Sahakarya Nepal
- Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NND-SWO)
- Federation of Woman Entrepreneurs' Associations of Nepal (FWEAN)
- Society of Local Volunteers' Effort (SOLVE) Nepal ■

Right to Livelihood

In Right to Livelihood, FCA continued the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic development that provides people in vulnerable situations, particularly women and youth with increased opportunities for a decent living. Support for small-scale income generation to creation of enterprises and cooperatives, access to affordable finance for sustained business growth continued to be one of the cornerstones. In 2020, several activities were conducted in FCA working districts contributing to the people in vulnerable situations to strengthen their economic status through inclusive and sustainable development approaches and programmes.

Linking Learning to Earning (LL2E) approach has proved to be an effective FCA's framework for ensuring employment and livelihood outcomes after vocational education. Entrepreneurship continued to gain importance in 2020 where Women's Bank has been supporting women's saving and credit cooperatives since 2009. While rural on-farm income diversification and farming as a business remained the mainstay, notable steps were taken in non-farm business creation and leading to improved earnings, which is the result of the implementation of LL2E framework. In 2020, FCA continued to link the vocational education/ training by developing relevant skills with income generation and livelihood outcomes. A total of 84 (17 F, 67 M) individuals successfully graduated from the TVET. Of the total TVET graduates, 31 (37%) are employed and 35 (42%) are self-employed and generating income, and the remaining 18 (21%) are either unemployed or status not known. Additionally, 10 out of 22 Enterprise Development Facilitators (all women) trained in 2018-2019 were recruited by different local governments in 2020; the rest had already been engaged in different jobs in previous years. Similarly, in 2020 additional 573 women and 39 men received short-term livelihood training, and 25 women with Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training enabling them to link their skills and education with earning.

In Nepal, FCA supported the formation of 16 local women's groups, each consisting of 20-25 women. These women

groups are the key local actors to discuss, identify and solve the socio-economic problems of women. The groups have also promoted savings and enterprise development of women in their respective communities and have undertaken several initiatives to ensure women's rights and participation in local decision-making processes. FCA continued to collaborate with community-based cooperatives and financial institutions, both by building their operational and financial self-sufficiency and by supporting their agendas, in their work with the government stakeholders.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 FCA was successful in establishing self-employment for 905 people, exceeding the annual target of 550 and is comparatively higher than 792 self-employments created by FCA in 2019. Of the self-employed, 80% are women which has contributed towards ensuring gender equality through increased independence of women with increased income. This was made possible due to prioritization of programs supporting income generation through skills and access to finance and markets, which was needed in 2020 to bridge the gaps in losses of economic opportunities.

For resilience and sustainability, FCA focused on increased ownership of the target groups where the target groups also contributed either financial and/or in-kind (eg. Poultry) resources, in establishing enterprises and self-employment opportunities. Group enterprises continued to be a key strategy for improving shared learning amongst the target groups. A total of five group enterprises were formed to enable the target groups to start individual enterprises in the future. Similarly, two of the on-farm enterprises received necessary technical services and support (by the Junior Technical Assistant at the local government) through the linkages established with the local government.

FCA continued its support in 2020 to the cooperatives, entrepreneurs and businesses to make them self-sustainable through skills and capacity building, increasing access to markets and finance, awareness raising among others. The 28 cooperatives established and running through FCA's projects have supported in economic empowerment of women through promotion of savings and loans. The loans to the RHs for establishing and expanding their enterprises, and the collateral



free loans that they provide have been significant in supporting the RHs' businesses and incomes. However, in 2020, the cooperatives provided collateral free loans of NPR 129,511,000 (€ 926,347), which is lesser than that 2019 (NPR 148,671,000 – € 1,063,393); the collateral free loan was accessed by 2,347 RHs in 2020. The main reason for this reduction is the COVID-19 created uncertainties in the livelihood sector. Together with access to finance, the entrepreneurs were supported with a couple of product developments (Dhaka clothes, vermicompost) and access to market for their improved performances.

Some local governments in FCA working areas have adapted concept of declaring "pocket areas" for farms. Upon identification of a feasible location for Kiwifruit farming, FCA and partner capacitated the target groups and established the area as a pocket area for Kiwifruit farming. The local government of the area then officially declared it as a "pocket area". Ghusel in Lalitpur district was declared as one of the pocket areas for kiwifruit farming, because of which, the RHs were able to access a grant of NPR 4,773,900 (€ 34,146) from the Agriculture Knowledge Centre for the development of the Kiwifruit farm.

For increased inclusion of women in the economic empowerment activities, one of the partners, SOLVE, developed a guideline called Local Women Economic Development Program, which was submitted to local government of Lalitpur district; an MoU was then signed between SOLVE and the local government to jointly implement the recommendations. This will support in allocating government's funds for the project activities creating synergy and improve the economic growth of target women.

Right to Quality Education

To ensure that marginalized students/children enjoy their right to education, FCA and partners supported to operate the Community Managed Coaching Classes (CMCC). 400 children from the marginalized communities participated in the CMCC and were able to continue with their education. The classes are being managed and overlooked by the women's groups. After COVID-19 these classes could not operate.

Despite the difficult situation created by COVID-19 pandemic, FCA was able to reach 637 RHs through various short-term vocational/SIYB trainings, and 435 marginalised students with educational material support. The training events were possible through adoption of changed modalities of implementation. For example: group trainings were changed to online trainings while larger groups were divided into small groups and trainings were provided maintaining physical distancing. Some group trainings were provided at the communities while some coaching were provided at the doorsteps too. The educational material support to the 435 students (227 F, 208 M) helped students in keeping their zeal to study even during the pandemic where they were detached from education for months.

Raising awareness among the students on the social issue of Caste-Based Discrimination (CBD) and inclusion, in 2020 FCA organized 26 extracurricular events, like debates, in 23 schools reaching 2,150 students. These events have boosted morale of Dalits, thereby created enabling environment at schools.





Right to Peace

Right to Peace in Nepal for FCA is transcribed as marginalised peoples' right to live in harmony maintaining social-cohesion, and thus FCA supported to provide space for meaningful participation and influence in decision-making in society for marginalised groups and people belonging to Dalits, indigenous people and ethnic minorities. Hence, our efforts in 2020 focused on improving economic status reducing Caste-Based Discrimination (CBD) by restoring dignity and environment of non-discrimination, through improving effective participation and access to services and justice of marginalised people and those affected by CBD.

FCA's efforts focused on increasing solidarity between Dalit and non-Dalit communities and supporting the implementation of non-discriminatory legal framework. 27 Human Rights Advocacy Alliances (HRAAs) formed at the ward level and six HRAAs at district level comprising of Dalits and non-Dalits worked to combat CBD at the community level by supporting in creating a conducive environment at communities enabling them to live discrimination-free lives. This resulted in increased solidarity and participation of Dalits and non-Dalits in events like family rituals and increased participation in public decision-making processes. The participation of Dalits in local level planning process and were able to access NPR 10,757,000 (€ 76,863) that was used for capacity building and empowerment of Dalits communities in the project areas. In 2020, seven cases of CBD identified that underwent fact-finding process for necessary legal actions.

2020 has also been the year focused on strengthening the implementation of legal frameworks related to equality and non-discrimination for enhancing effective participation and access to services and justice to persons affected by CBD. 41 Anti-CBD solidarity marches were held in collective participation of community people (Dalits and non-Dalits), government representatives, and CSO members. 2,891 people including 1,454 people from Dalit communities participated in these activities.

FCA brought together key local actors, Dalits and non-Dalits, to act in coherence for the realization of the rights of people

A total of 123 events were conducted to address the issues concerning to women, Dalits, ex-bonded labourers and marginalised ethnic groups.

affected by CBD for equal participation and access to basic services and justice. Engagement with the key stakeholders was done through local, district, provincial and federal level dialogues (including through media) on various issues concerning CBD including the implementation status of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, different campaigns, participatory audit, etc. The stakeholders included government and civil society organisations and the engagement with them was strategically increased creating an enabling environment to implement the constitutional / legal provisions and UPR recommendations related to non-discrimination.

A total of 123 events were conducted to address the issues concerning to women, Dalits, ex-bonded labourers and marginalised ethnic groups. These events resulted in some visible changes in the communities and policies positively affecting the target groups. Some outcomes of the events are: access to citizenship certificates, cash grants and land allotment from local governments to cooperatives for their building construction, office space allotment from the local government in the ward office building for cooperative office establishment, cash grants received from local governments to conduct vocational trainings, and commitments received from local and provincial governments and political leaders to reduce caste-based discrimination, rehabilitate of ex-bonded labourers, economic

recovery of the returnee migrant labourers and reduce gender-based violence. A major achievement is the endorsement of a Dalit Empowerment Bill by Naraharinath RM, Kalikot.

COVID-19 Response and recovery programs

COVID-19 had negative impacts on the lives and livelihood of marginalised communities in Nepal including the communities FCA work with. In response to lessen the affects, FCA provided immediate response and recovery support to its target groups and other groups. FCA partners collaborated with the community groups/cooperatives and with the local governments for identification of the most vulnerable families for providing immediate relief support. The active participation of the target groups and the local governments and the coordination amongst them showed increasing empowerment of the target groups and the accountability of the local governments creating and promoting an environment of inclusive governance and services. The distributions targeted the most vulnerable households with a focus on women, Dalits, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women and returnee migrant workers.

FCA supported 22,493 beneficiaries from 4,190 households with food and handwashing soap support as the response to food scarcity and health crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The distribution directly benefited 11,875 women and 10,618 men, 402 persons with disabilities and 348 pregnant and lactating women. FCA also promoted safe

hygiene practices and raised awareness on GBV during the pandemic through brochures and radio programmes in the working areas.

FCA provided small enterprise start-up material support as part of COVID-19 recovery program to the COVID-19 affected RHs including returnee migrants creating new employment opportunities. FCA was able to reach 4,557 RHs through COVID-19 recovery support enabling them start/continue their enterprises. 1,360 RHs received vegetable farming material support, 339 RHs received poultry farming support; 2437 cooperative share members received savings support, 349 loanees received interest subsidy, and 72 RHs received off-farm enterprise support. The savings support and interest subsidies was a significant economic support to the RHs and the cooperatives. This has supported the cooperatives in mitigating poor financial situation in 2020.

66% of the 695 enterprises supported by FCA in 2019 showed improved performance, and 78.6% of 115 vocational training graduates of 2019 secured employment/self-employment in the year 2020. This improvement demonstrates that FCA's continued support in strengthening enterprises and supporting employments has been significant, despite the difficulties imposed by the pandemic.

FCA, through its engagement in Cash Coordination Group (CCG), supported Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) in developing cash and voucher assistance guideline. FCA through the CCG provided funding and technical assistance in developing the guideline. ■

CROSS-CUTTING SECTORS

FCA worked significantly on its cross-cutting sectors as below.

Gender equality

Women are one of the main target groups of FCA and the project continued to promote gender equality in 2020 as well. Equity is the approach that FCA takes to empower women, hence more than 80% of the target groups of projects are women. Increasing women's productive skills and accessing finance and markets are key strategies undertaken to empower women economically. With new/enhanced skills and access to finance through cooperatives, women are able to establish enterprises or indulge in employment/self-employment and increase their income and confidence.

The participation of women is highly promoted in the cooperatives too with cooperatives' policies also requiring a minimum of 50% of women's participation in their executive bodies enabling them to participate in major decision-making processes of the institution. Out of 28 cooperatives 24 are women led with 100% women in executive committee, and in the remaining four cooperatives, 81% of the board members are women, which greatly contributes towards cooperative policies and services being women-friendly.

As in the previous years, in 2020 the cooperatives continued to play a vital role in promoting women's participation in household decision making and reducing GBV at the household and community level.

The Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sub-committees, formed in some of the project locations, support the GBV survivors (after verification through cooperatives and communities) to access justice and eliminate GBV as one of the means to ensure gender equality. So far, 23 GBV sub-committees (including one in 2020) have been formed who have continued to provide support to the women facing violence, which were supported by another informal watch group called Vigilance Group; three cases of GBV were referred to the judicial committee at the local government office. Community level dialogues were conducted between community men and women to raise awareness on GBV issues. Joining hands in the global event of 16 Days of Activism, FCA also ensured participation of men in the events organised during

the campaign promoting gender equality and to increase awareness amongst men on GBV issues to bring them on board to address the issues of violence.

FCA's partners continued facilitation of weekly meetings with 25 REFLECT groups, each consisting of 20-25 women who discuss, identify and solve the socio-economic problems of all women in their respective communities. The group has also promoted savings and entrepreneurship of women and have undertaken several initiatives for ensuring women's rights and participation in local decision-making processes.

Ten family dialogues and 51 community level dialogues brought together all the family members and communities to discuss on possible ways to share women's workload among other family members and the role of men in doing so. The dialogues were also conducted to reduce GBV during the pandemic, and information on male engagement and legal arrangements were explained to the family members; the same information was also aired through radio programs, and cooperative group meetings. These events have brought visible changes in the male counterparts' and other family members' attitude towards women and supported in increasing women's participation in household decision-making processes. Many men have become the change agents to mitigate women's intense household labour and omit household level violence against women.

Climate change and adaptation

FCA has systematically incorporated climate change related initiatives in its livelihood projects starting from 2020. 1,360 farmers were encouraged to use organic pesticides and fertilizers. Similarly, 52 women received Insect and Pest Management training (IPM), 66 women were trained in vermicomposting to promote organic farming; and after the training, the women were producing and selling these composts commercially. RHs were provided with trainings on using organic materials as the raw materials of their various off-farm products. The products being produced are using biodegradable materials



1,360 farmers were encouraged to use organic pesticides and fertilizers.

like organic fibres and natural materials, which contributes in reducing environmental degradation.

Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis was conducted in one rural municipality of southern Lalitpur district and the findings was shared with the local government to support their climate and Disaster Risk Reduction plans.

Disability Inclusion

FCA prioritised disability inclusion in its projects by capacitating its human resources and partner organizations. The trainees of the Disability Inclusion training familiarized with disability issues and context in Nepal, legal national policies and international conventions. In addition, FCA also conducted disability inclusion survey to identify disability population in the working areas of Sindhuli. FCA has supported six Persons with Disabilities with livestock support to sustain their livelihoods.

Similarly, in Dadeldhura, considering the vulnerability of Persons with Disability during the humanitarian crisis, the project supported 402 Persons with Disabilities with food and handwashing soaps adequate for a month. ■



COORDINATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT

FCA GIVES due attention to coordination with all relevant levels of the government for programming and implementation. In 2020 FCA and its partners increased their coordination and collaboration mechanism with the target municipalities/ rural municipalities, and local and provincial governments in the program implementation, capitalizing the government bodies' skills, knowledge and resources.

Coordination efforts with the local and provincial government through inception meetings, local project advisory committee meetings, regular consultation and government's joint monitoring visits were key to promote ownership of the project at all concerned stakeholders. Three joint monitoring visits were conducted (government officials, and FCA and partner staff) in the project areas. In collaboration with the local government, FCA developed and submitted a guideline on Local Women Economic Development (LWED) programme, which was launched in Southern Lalitpur to financially support the establishment and scaling up of enterprises. Similarly, Vulnerability Capacity and Risk Assessment (VCRA) was conducted and the report produced was presented to the local government to support in preparing their emergency response and mitigation plan.

To build the capacity of the cooperatives, FCA and its partners coordinated with the local government of Lalitpur

and Sindhuli for allocation of local government's resources for necessary skills development.

In regards to COVID-19 response, the food and handwashing soap distributions were done in close coordination with the local governments and concerned stakeholders. All activities were implemented in coordination and collaboration with the respective rural/municipalities and concerned government offices including District Administration Office, District Public Health Office and Police Offices of all intervention areas. The recipients of the support were identified from the list prepared by the local governments. FCA's partners conducted relief distribution program in presence of respective rural/municipality level representatives.

Apart from these, FCA partners submitted project activities and budget plans to the local government in the beginning of each year in order to maintain transparency and to explore possible ways to collaborate. Government officials are invited in all relevant events organised by FCA/partners at all levels. ■

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

DESPITE THE CHALLENGES brought by the pandemic, FCA ensured continuity of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms with emphasis on remote monitoring. For this, the frequency of online meetings with partners was increased and made regular. FCA did regular project activity review and planning with the partners and activity tracking templates were used to track activity progresses. Budget from the cancelled activities was reallocated to COVID-19 response. FCA's partners collected the data for Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey of relief distributions via telephone. The report of the PDM was disseminated to all relevant stakeholders. The relief distribution and project activity process monitoring was done by FCA remotely via photos and videos. Complaint boxes were placed at distribution sites and complaints telephone numbers of FCA and partners were provided to the rights holders for giving them an opportunity to express their complaints, concerns and feedback to FCA and its implementing partners. ■

TARGET GROUPS

FCA WORKS with marginalized women, ethnic minorities, indigenous people, youth, former bonded labourers and Dalits. During the COVID-19 relief distribution special focus were given to pregnant and lactating women and persons with disabilities. ■



CHALLENGES AFFECTING THE PROGRAMME

COVID-19 remained the biggest challenge in 2020. The pandemic invited a crisis in Nepal like in many other countries of the world especially affecting the most vulnerable communities. Most of the project activities could not be conducted as per the plan. Many of them were repurposed to COVID-19 response and recovery programs.

The planned modality of trainings could not be done due to risks of transmission of COVID-19; training modalities were then changed to fit the changed context. Consultations were done at organisation, communities and local governments to identify best possible ways to deliver trainings; on-site trainings at communities, online coaching, and door-to-door consultations, etc.

The target groups informed about the increased domestic violence during lockdown, and to address this radio awareness programmes were aired. Closure of schools created potential risks of children's dropouts, and Community Managed Coaching Classes could not be conducted from April onward that were supporting Dalit children's education.

Additionally, Complaints Response Mechanism (CRM) in place in 3 out of 5 projects was affected by the COVID-19, as no field travel was possible for community consultations and establishment of entry points. However, some efforts were made to incorporate CRM into FCA actions in 2020. This was done by putting complaints desk and complaint boxes in COVID-19 support relief distribution sites. ■

PROJECT INFORMATION

Socio-Economic Empowerment Project (SEEP)

Donors: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland and Women’s Bank, Finland

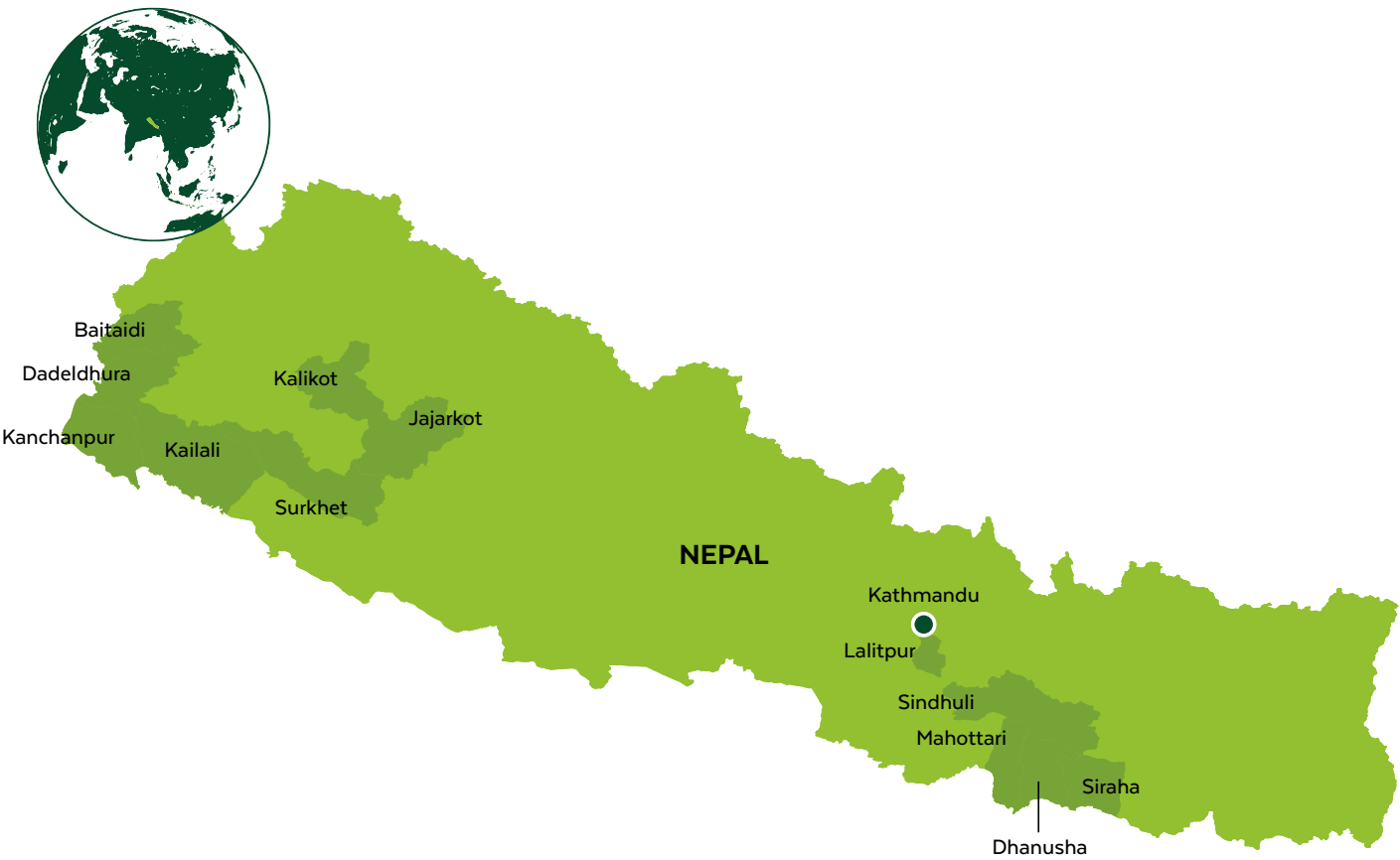
Districts	Local levels (Rural/Municipalities)	Ward No.	Partners
Baitadi	Patan Municipality	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	IDeS
Dadeldhura	Ganyapdhura Municipality	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
	Amargadhi Municipality	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11	
Kailali	Gauriganga Municipality	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10	FKWDF
	Kailari Rural Municipality	2, 5, 6, 7, 8	
	Bhajani Municipality	7, 9	
	Godawari Rural Municipality	1, 5, 8	
Kanchanpur	Shuklaphanta Rural Municipality	1, 11, 12	NNDSWO
Dhanusha	Janakpur Sub-metropolitan city	20, 25	
Mahottari	Ekdara Rural Municipality	5, 6	
	Mahottari Rural Municipality	6	SAHAKARYA and FWEAN
Sindhuli	Dudhauri Municipality	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	
	Kamalamai Municipality	11, 12	
	Tinpatan Rural Municipality	1, 2, 3	
	Hariharpurghadhi Rural Municipality	2, 3, 4, 5	
	Marin Rural Municipality	3, 4	
Lalitpur	Bagmati Rural Municipality	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	SOLVE and FWEAN
	Konjyosom Rural Municipality	1, 3, 4,5	
	Mahankal Rural Municipality	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	
	Godavari Municipality	7	

Supporting Collective Voice and Action against Caste Based Discrimination in Nepal – SAJHA AAWAJ

Donor: European Union

Districts	Local levels (Rural/Municipalities)	Ward No.	Partners
Kalikot	Naraharinath Rural Municipality	1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9	Consortium project of NNDSWO, MAG (Media Advocacy Group) and FCA – led by NNDSWO
Jajarkot	Shivalaya Rural Municipality	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9	
Surkhet	Barahtal Rural Municipality	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	FCA – led by NNDSWO
Mahottari	Ekdara Rural Municipality	1,2,3,4,5,6	
Siraha	Sakhuwanankarkatti Rural Municipality	1,2,3,4,5	

FCA NEPAL PROJECT DISTRICTS 2020



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FINN CHURCH AID FOUNDATION Statement of Financial Position as of 31 December 2020

Particulars	Current Year NRs	Previous Year NRs
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Advance and Receivables	4,428,526	4,446,498
Cash & Cash Equivalents	11,718,006	2,060,235
Total Current Assets	16,146,533	6,506,732
TOTAL ASSETS	16,146,533	6,506,732
LIABILITIES & RESERVES		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	781,331	663,900
Total Current Liabilities	781,331	663,900
Non-Current Liabilities		
Leave provision of staff	2,210,565	1,219,961
Other non-current liabilities	-	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	2,210,565	1,219,961
Accumulated Reserves		
Unrestricted Funds/Accumulated surplus	13,154,637	4,622,871
Total Accumulated Reserves	13,154,637	4,622,871
TOTAL LIABILITIES & RESERVES	16,146,533	6,506,732

Statement of Income and Expenditure as of 31 December 2020

Particulars	Current Year 2020 NRs	Previous Year 2019 NRs
INCOME		
Incoming resources	114,053,394	121,689,335
Other income	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	114,053,394	121,689,335
EXPENDITURE		
Staff cost/expenses	24,801,661	24,321,552
General Administrative expenses	7,267,347	10,304,277
Programme expenses	81,984,386	87,063,507
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	114,053,394	121,689,335
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION	-	-
Income tax expenses	-	-
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	-	-

NETWORKS AND AFFILIATIONS

FCA globally

- Supports the Global Education Cluster’s (GEC) Rapid Response Team by seconding an Education Cluster Coordinator to UNICEF.
- Member of the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Steering Committee and actively contribute to the work of INEE’s working groups. FCA also seconds a staff member to INEE’s Advocacy Team.
- FCA holds the ECOSOC Status with the UN
- FCA is a member of the ACT Alliance
- FCA engages with the UNHCR through annual consultations and participates in meetings of Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Programme.
- FCA is committed to promote impactful, effective and efficient partnerships for the sake of quality programme delivery through targeted, coordinated and well-managed external relations. The focus is on reinforcing the existing partnerships and engaging with new partners, including IGOs, NGOs, academia and the private sector.

FCA in Nepal

- Is a member of the ACT Alliance Nepal Forum. FCA served in the role as Convenor of the ACT Alliance Nepal Forum during 2020.
- Has active participation in the UN Clusters: Food Security, Education, Protection sub-cluster on GBV, Inter-Agency Gender Working Group – Gender in Humanitarian Action Task Team (GIHA-TT), Socio-Economic/Early Recovery, Risk Communication and Community Engagement, Cash Coordination Group and Information Management working Group (IMWG)
- Active contribution in the following Working Groups of Association of International Non-government Organisations (AIN): Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), Livelihood, Task Group on Disaster Management and Climate Change (TGDMCC), Safety and Security, Local Governance and Federalisation, Education, Human Resources, Child Protection, Disability, Information Management, and Provincial Coordination (province 2, 3 and 7). FCA Nepal Country Director is on the Steering Committee of AIN.
- Actively contributes in forums such as the National DRR Platform facilitated by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the DPNET (Disaster Preparedness Network). ■

FCA Nepal Country Office

P.O. Box 23517
Kathmandu-2
Baluwatar
Nepal
www.kua.fi

The FCA logo is a white, irregular, brush-stroke-like shape containing the letters 'FCA' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. It is positioned in the bottom left corner of the image, partially overlapping the green leaves of the plants in the foreground.

FCA