



Pictured: Bhuma Pariyar, a project participant, sews clothes at her tailor shop in western Nepal.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

YOUTH AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

PROJECT GOAL

Improve the economic competitiveness of Nepalese youth and women through entrepreneurial development.

The Youth and Women Entrepreneurship Development Project aims to enhance the economic prospects of young people and women in Nepal by fostering entrepreneurial skills. The project focuses on three main pillars: 1) initiating resilient startups or boosting the profitability of existing small and micro enterprises; 2) creating opportunities for integration into downstream value chain activities through partnerships with private sector firms; and 3) increasing access to necessary financial services.

Recognizing that skilled young people have a higher employment rate than their unskilled counterparts, the project partners with existing skill development initiatives from various agencies, including the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), the Government of Nepal, and other peer organizations. It aims to boost the economic competitiveness of small and micro enterprises led by youth and women from marginalized communities,

enhancing their business networks and relationships with financial institutions, and connecting them with institutionalized markets.

The project is implemented in four municipalities within the Kailali and Bardiya districts through Lutheran World Relief's local partners, the National Environment and Equity Development Society (NEEDS Nepal) and the Dalit Feminist Upliftment Organization (DAFUO). The project directly benefits 500 participants and indirectly supports an additional 2,500 community members.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has worked in Nepal since 2009, championing gender equity in the development and implementation of programs that create linkages along value chains to benefit smallholder farming families. Reaching indigenous, Dalit and marginalized communities with programs in livelihood strengthening, food security, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, Lutheran World Relief is committed to advancing programming to empower and enable women and young people to support themselves financially.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Youth and women have started their own enterprises or improved the profitability of their enterprises
- Youth and women entrepreneurs have established market connections with private sector actors for downstream value chain activities
- Youth and women have improved access to financial services

RESULTS TO DATE

- **500 entrepreneurs** were involved in various on-farm and off-farm enterprises
- **298 youth** were connected with agricultural cooperatives
- **134 participants** accessed financial services from various financial institutions and 84 participants have operational accounts in banks
- **130 enterprises** were registered with the government
- **Partnership with private sector actors** advanced access to financial services and allowed for the training of participants on business plan preparation, market promotion and financial management



The Corus Effect

Lutheran World Relief is part of Corus International, an international development organization that unites an array of nonprofit organizations and businesses, each with specialized expertise — from health to technology to economic development to emergency response. Alongside communities and local partners in fragile settings, our expert teams integrate disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome poverty and suffering for those living in the world's toughest and most difficult circumstances. Our traditional and nontraditional approaches bring together the multi-dimensional, holistic solutions needed to truly achieve lasting change.

Corus features global public health leader IMA World Health, international development and aid organization Lutheran World Relief, technology for development consultancy CGA Technologies, impact investing firm Ground Up Investing, and direct-trade company Farmers Market Brands.



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