



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Mahila Udhhami

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

PROJECT GOAL

Increase the engagement of Nepalese women in profitable businesses and self-employment ventures.

COVID-19 has led to widespread job loss and exacerbated the economic burden faced by women in Nepal who were already vulnerable to poverty. Lutheran World Relief and SAHAMATI are collaborating on the Mahila Udhhami (“women’s entrepreneurship”) project to empower women in eight rural municipalities in Gorkha, Tanahun and Nawalparasi districts to become successful entrepreneurs. The project provides business management and operations training, coaching on business plan development, and support to formally register businesses. Mahila Udhhami works with microfinance institutions and banks to increase women’s access to credit while advancing financing solutions appropriate to women, who often do not own land to use as collateral. Targeting Dalit women, single women, and women who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19, the project not only promotes entrepreneurship within cooperatives to allow for continued mentorship and knowledge transfer but also establishes

market outlet centers for women to sell their goods and to strengthen local networks.

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 and food security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian assistance, LWR is committed to advancing programming to empower and enable women to support themselves financially.



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EXPECTED RESULTS

- **500 women entrepreneurs** established or strengthened their businesses with 320 entrepreneurs trained in business management and financial literacy
- **300 women** connected to digital trade and marketing platforms
- **250 women** accessed financial services from cooperatives, microfinance institutions and banks
- **200 women** coached to develop sustainable business plans
- **100 women** trained on business operations, management and financial literacy
- **20 women** trained on branding, labelling and packaging
- **5 innovative business ideas** provided with seed capital
- **2 market outlet centers** established to improve women's access to markets



The Corus Effect

Lutheran World Relief works in concert with Corus International, an ensemble of global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance. In addition to Lutheran World Relief, the Corus subsidiaries include global public health agency IMA World Health, U.K.-based technology for development company CGA Technologies, impact investing firm Ground Up Investing, and direct trade company Farmers Market Brands.

We operate as permanent partners, integrating expertise, disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome global health challenges, develop productive and stable economies, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.



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