

Annual Report

2020





Our Vision

DCA has a vision of a world without hunger, poverty and oppression, in which popular and political powers constantly work strongly and actively for a just and sustainable distribution and use of the earth's resources.

Our Values



Compassionate



Proactive



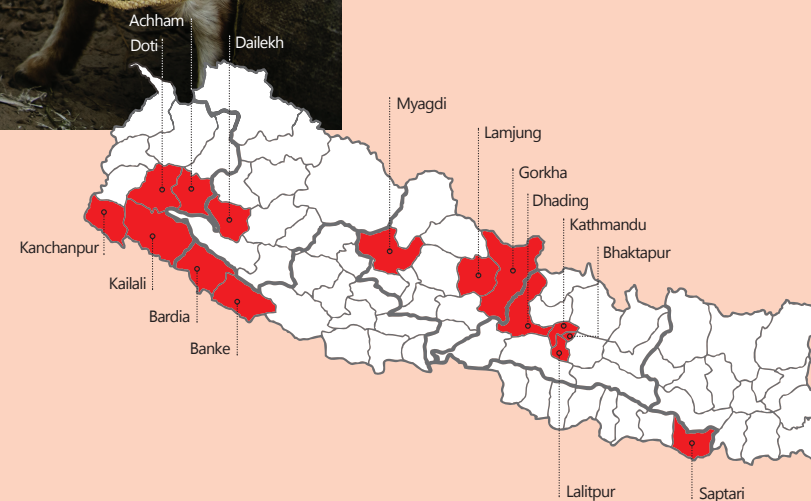
Responsible



Respectful

Working area map

In 2020, DCA worked on 18 development projects and 2 humanitarian projects.



About DCA

DCA is a non-governmental, faith-based non-missionary development and humanitarian organisation aimed at supporting the world's poorest. DCA has been supporting development work in Nepal since the 1980s. The Country Programme Document (2017-2021) is the guiding framework for DCA's programmes and operations in Nepal. It was developed in line with the development plans of the Government of Nepal (GoN), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and DCA's International Strategy. It lays the foundation for meeting DCA's global goal of fighting extreme inequality, building resilient communities and saving lives. In Nepal, these three areas are defined as (i) Active Citizenship, (ii) Resilient Livelihoods and Sustainable Food Security, and (iii) Humanitarian Response and Disaster Risk Reduction.

2020: Tackling COVID-19 pandemic

DCA's Response Overview

Considering the COVID-19 scenario in Nepal, DCA focused on reaching out to the most vulnerable segment of the communities in close coordination with Local Government through its partners. Reallocation of budget from the approved projects, modification of activities and frequent assessments were carried out for an informed COVID-19 response. The response activities were focused around three strategic priorities:

- I. Support GoN to prevent the spread and respond to COVID-19.
- II. Address the immediate needs of people affected by/at-risk of COVID-19 through food, WASH and livelihood interventions.
- III. Raise awareness and sensitise communities against the COVID-19 pandemic

Initially, DCA started life-line communication programmes using radio and communicating about the risks of COVID-19 through social media and mobile based applications including the Smart Palika App. Various public service announcements (PSA) were produced and broadcasted; celebrities including actors and public health experts were engaged in spreading awareness reaching out to more than a million people. A radio discussion show 'Sajhedari' was run through local FM stations, which provided a platform for people to ask questions to experts on the various aspects of COVID-19. An information pack covering different elements of COVID-19 and emergency numbers for assistance was also produced and distributed to more than 5,000 households (HHs).

In June 2020, DCA conducted a socio-economic survey to understand the impact

of the situation at a deeper level and plan accordingly for the recovery. A telephonic survey, with the involvement of 204 HHs, was carried out to collect primary information from Kanchanpur, Kailali, Doti, Achham and Dailekh Districts.

The onset of monsoon in mid-June worsened the situation. In Kailali District, the flood affected 6,657 HHs across four municipalities - Bhajani, Janaki, Tikapur, and Joshipur. DCA immediately launched an integrated flood and COVID-19 response aiming to restore the livelihoods of the affected population and reached 500 families with different types of support. The major highlight was the cash-based intervention which proved to be most relevant in the context.

In order to support individuals experiencing mental stress during the pandemic, DCA set up psycho-social desk in Kailali District for counseling purposes. Radio and social media platforms were employed where psycho-social experts were invited to discuss and raise awareness on the various aspects of mental issues, accommodating phone-in questions.

In September 2020, a study on "COVID-19 Impact on Migrant Workers in Sudurpaschim Province" with 1,572 migrant returnees was also conducted. The report highlighted that 98.7% of migrant returnees lost their household livelihood.

Following the study, DCA altered some of its regular development programmes to early recovery interventions for the people affected by COVID-19, with major focus on areas such as distribution of food packages, hygiene kits, quarantine centres management, support to health centres, awareness raising, among others.



Relief support



Food Packages
4,380 HHs
Rice, Dal, Salt, Cooking oil, tea leaf, sugar



Hygiene Kit
3,663
(bucket, jug, sanitary pad and personal hygiene materials)



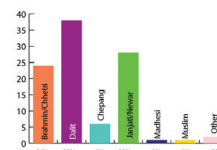
455
Nutritious Food for pregnant and lactating mothers (eggs, ghee, Kaju, Suji; in addition to food package)



665 HHs
Multi purpose Cash Grant

Beneficiaries according to gender, caste and ethnicity

50 % Male 50 % Female



173
Hand Washing Stations at Public Places



17
Toilets



26
Bathrooms

DCA's COVID-19 Response 2020

Quarantine Centres



44

(beddings, food package, medical supplies, spray tank, PPE sets)

Health centres



86

(PPE Set, Thermal gun, Surgical mask, N-95 Mask, Sanitiser, Medical gloves, disinfected kit)

Awareness



Psychosocial Counselling at quarantine centres, Safe house and Municipal offices



Radio jingles and life line programme through FM stations



Smartpalika Mobile Application



Social Media (DCA & Partners') Facebook and Twitter



Information Booklet



300
Cash and Voucher Assistance for Women/GBV Survivors

DCA also supported its partner-INSEC, to conduct a study on the "Situation of Human Rights Defenders during the COVID-19 pandemic in Nepal" which highlighted the physical and psychological impacts of the pandemic on health workers. In Karnali Province alone, more than five dozen media outlets were shut down during the lockdown, leaving more than 80 media workers and 60

media house workers without jobs. Human rights activists reported that the early stages of the COVID-19 made it difficult to carry out routine work, and the situation had been exacerbated by the lockdown. The result findings supported DCA and partners to secure more funding to protect and promote the rights of Human Rights Defenders in the face of crisis such as that of COVID-19.

Active Citizenship

The thematic area of Fight Extreme Inequality states that “Women, Dalits, returning migrants/families, human rights defenders and other marginalised groups have improved access to state and non-state resources and services, have increased their representation and influence in decision making fora, face less discrimination and have enhanced their access to justice”.

Key Interventions

Established and Strengthened groups and networks of vulnerable communities:

75 women groups with 1,126 members and 12 dalit networks with 259 members were established and strengthened in Banke, Kailali and Achham Districts to fight against violence, inequality and injustice. Additionally, 3 vulnerable group networks (single women, senior citizen and PWDs) were established and strengthened in Dhading District. Groups and networks meet monthly to discuss different issues related to rights, entitlements, governance mechanism, among others.

Established and strengthened the networks of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs):

9 District level HRD networks in Sudurpaschim Province and 3 Provincial level HRD networks in Sudurpaschim, Karnali and Lumbini Province were established and strengthened to voice for the rights and protection of the most vulnerable people and the HRDs.

Scaling up Civic Education Platforms:

Civic Education platforms being vital for “Right to Information”, 8 Chhahalf Chautari (Community forums) in Banke, Dhading and Kailali and 72 Good Governance Schools (Doti and Achham) were established and operationalised, mainly to improve access to information and resources for the vulnerable people.



Strengthening the institutional mechanism of Local Government (LG): Technical support was provided to the LG to develop 24 policies and guidelines which includes the GESI policy, Thematic Committee Operational guideline, NGO Mobilisation directives, Public Hearing guideline, Multi-stakeholder Platform Operation guideline, Grievance Handling Mechanism guideline etc. Similarly, 5 Palikas (includes

municipalities and rural municipalities) were supported to introduce e-governance mechanism. 4 Community Information Centre were established in Doti, Achham and Kailali.

Fight against GBV and untouchability: Under this broader heading, a multipurpose cash grant was established in close coordination with the LG (Kailali), operated Human Rights help-desk and emergency fund support in

Sudurpaschim, Karnali, Lumbini Provinces to provide a holistic, as well as financial support to HR survivors, including Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors, to access legal aid, mental and physical health support. Similarly, the Human Rights Violation (HRV) reporting system was digitised to strengthen real time reporting. Similarly, different campaigns on discrimination free zones, child marriage, Chhaupadi were organised.

Our Impact

Individuals, role models and communities have increased skills and knowledge, and are linked to strong networks and alliances at different levels to reduce caste-based/gender discrimination and to monitor and enhance their access to resources, services, and justice. 601 women from marginalised communities have been appointed as leaders in various community level forums, of which 157 hold vital decision-making positions. 129 GBV cases and 1 case of caste-based discrimination were registered, of which 68% got justice during the reporting year. Similarly, 554 Chhaugoths (isolated menstruation sheds) in Kailali, Doti and Achham were demolished, because of which more than 1,000 women and girls could stay at home during their menstruation. 1,530 individuals from marginalised group got their vital registration, which included 494 citizenship certificates, 689 birth registrations, 228 marriage registrations, 1 divorce registration and 118 death registrations. This has opened opportunities for individuals to access 2,595 Social Security Allowances, 74 Sponsorships, 2,597 Nutrition Support for Children, 3,214 Livelihood Support. Various networks of vulnerable groups were able to submit joint proposals to the LG for funding support.

As a result of the support provided by DCA and partners in developing the policies and guidelines (GESI policy, Public-Hearing guideline, Grievance Handling guideline), the vulnerable communities have started registering grievances to receive entitlements from the LG, 547 out of 606 grievances were addressed. The networks and associations of vulnerable communities submitted 196 community action plans to the LG, resulting in resource leveraging equivalent of NPR 22,946,533. The LGs in the project districts have started organising public hearings on their own and have allocated resources for the same purpose. Doti and Achham have started using a mobile based application called Smart Palika App, which promotes wider information dissemination and interaction between the citizens and the LG. In addition, the GBV survivors have found their way to normal life through improved income generation/start-up support in Kailali. The human rights yearbook 2020 published by INSEC, has reached a wider audience informing and supporting decision making to reduce HRV cases in Nepal.



Teaching Governance

Good Governance Schools (GGS) in the Far West region of Nepal are helping illiterate and women from deprived communities understand the governance structure empowering them to seek the constitution governed rights and services from the authorities. This initiative is part of the Participation, Inclusion and Wider CSOs' Actions for Responsive, Transparent and Accountable Local governance in Nepal (PARIWARTAN) project, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by DCA with local partners Equality Development Centre (EDC) in Doti, Malika Development Organisation (MDO) in Achham and technical partner, Institute of Local Governance Studies.

As part of the good governance programme, local communities are provided with informal and formal classes for half an hour, two days a week, where they are informed about the various aspects of the governance system, constitution, their rights and functions.

Satya Kumari Joshi, a facilitator of the GGS

shares that it was difficult to convince women to attend the GGS classes but after attending one session, they were excited to join the classes.

"I was hesitant even to say my name until I joined this Good Governance School," says Tara Devi of KI Singh Rural Municipality. "But now I can stand and talk about what I have learned in the session."

Indra Paligi of KI Singh Rural Municipality adds that few months back, she went to the ward office and asked them about the procedures to get her children's nutrition allowances. "I didn't even know about the allowances until I joined this school," she says. "Now, I get NPR 800 and 400 each for my two children every month. I am able to buy them nutritious food and milk with it."

The participants share that they are now able to go to the ward offices seeking information about the budget planning and ask the ward committee to ensure their presence for their demands to be heard.



Resilient Livelihood and Sustainable Food Security

The Resilient Livelihood and Sustainable Food Security theme has the objective that “Poor, vulnerable and marginalised right holders, especially small-scale farmers, landless, ethnic minorities; migrants/returnees have economically empowered, increased resilience, and diversified livelihoods and able to manage disaster and climate risks.”

Key Interventions

Strengthen farmers groups, cooperatives and support members for value- chain development and market-based livelihood: 253 farmer/producer groups and 15 cooperatives in Bardiya,

Kanchanpur, Doti, Achham and Dailekh District were provided with training, inputs, grants and social mobilisation support. 174 HHs received goat, 2,450 HHs vegetable seeds, 194 HHs ginger and turmeric rhizomes and 284 HHs mushroom cultivation training and inputs. 6 cooperatives received a grant of NPR 3.8 million to support its members for income generation activities. All these inputs and support has helped farmers to strengthen the production and marketing of fresh vegetables, onion, potato and milk. The programme has also supported 3 solar lift irrigation systems, 34 recharge ponds and 1 surface canal irrigation system to groups and cooperative members that helped 230 HHs to irrigate 150 hectares of land.

Economic recovery and inclusion of vulnerable groups: Under the PURNIMA-Building an Inclusive and dignified community by protecting Human rights

Augmenting Nondiscrimination and Integration most vulnerable community (BIHANI) project in Dhading supported by DFID/ Mott McDonald, 4,223 vulnerable people (PWDs, single women, elderly people, food insecure families in remote areas and returnee migrants during COVID-19 lockdown) received skill based training, enterprise development support, cash and in-kind support for income generation opportunities.

Enhancing CSOs capacity and knowledge on climate affairs: Under its EU Funded Enhanced Action of Inclusive CSOs for Participation in Climate Resilient Economic Growth (UTHAN) Project 4 municipalities in Dailekh and Kanchanpur District received training and orientation on Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) tools and Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan (LDCRP) guideline. 40 elected representatives

from 4 LG received training on local disaster risk reduction climate change plan and environment friendly local governance framework and the establishment of the green fund. The project assessed the capacity of 80 CSOs on climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster management and green farming technologies and have developed a capacity development plan.

Promotion of climate resilient agriculture practices and green enterprise development:

70 HHs participated in rice-duck farming that enhanced the rice production and raised additional income and nutrition of the households through duck farming. 118 HHs constructed improved cattle shed to manage the cattle dung and urine and applied it for making bio-pesticides. 28 HHs were trained on riverbed cultivation to enhance their income from the riverbank. Additionally, 72 HHs constructed a 100-meter-long bio-engineering wall to protect their land from the river.

Under the New and Affordable Building Materials Promoting Sustainability in Nepal (NABIN) project supported by Nordic Climate Facility (NCF), 19 entrepreneurs (10 men and 9 women) have established CSEB enterprises that helped construct 550 low-cost houses and create 130 jobs as a green alternative to carbon-intensive fire bricks in Nepal.

Our Impact

Community organisations and CSOs have increased capacity and documented evidence to effectively influence local and national duty-bearers for increased access to rights and entitlements related to food security, responsible business, climate change, natural resources and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) - 6,885 people were organised into 268 CBOs with 253 farmers groups and 15 cooperatives, of which 84% are women. They lobbied and advocated with duty-bearers to improve their services and provision on food security, climate change and DRR related issues affecting their livelihoods. The CBOs have registered with the government and have started to receive information on government schemes/provisions and have applied for benefits. Out of 268 CBOs, 62% have already received government grants and inputs as a subsidy to enhance their livelihood and income.

The annual outcome survey 2020 reported that 76% of the respondents knew about the government benefit schemes related to food security, climate change and DRR and livelihood support; of which 36% received support from the LG. The 15

cooperatives have formed a capital of NPR 32.38 million, allowing the mobilisation of credit among its members for income generation activities. In total 1,101 members of the cooperatives, which is 25% of the total members, received credit of which 72 % were female. The outcome survey also revealed that 82% of the respondents practised saving and credit and 48% of them have received credit facility.

6,885 members of the group and cooperative have increased their skills and capacity for economic empowerment. They have diversified their livelihood options, increased income, connected with the market and private sectors, and used innovative and climate resilient agriculture technologies, 54% of the respondents were aware of the climate change and DRR consequences and have adopted one or more measures to combat the impacts of climate change. 42% of respondents had food sufficiency period of more than 12 months from their own production. 4,223 people received economic recovery support through skill based training, in kind and cash support for income generation activities in agriculture and off-farm sectors.



Building Blocks for Success

The Rajapani Three Sisters Interlocking Brick Industry (Udhyog) has five shareholders, three of them women, who were earlier mostly involved in farming and household chores.

“A year ago, my husband came across a facebook post about the NABIN project. Post-earthquake, many houses had to be rebuilt and the video talked about how you could build an earthquake-resistant home at an affordable price,” informs Subhadra Karki, one of the shareholders. Subhadra along with her husband pitched the idea to some of their family members who agreed to join the company.

All five of them got training on the production of Compressed Stabilised Earth Bricks (CSEB) and further technical support from Build Up Nepal as part of the NABIN project, funded by Nordic Climate Facility. “Initially, when we started learning about production, it was extremely challenging. I did not know how to use the machine and had trouble

taking the brick out of the machine. We received training for four days, but the constant technical support helped us hone our skills,” states Saraswati, another member of the group.

When they first started producing inter-locking bricks, the company struggled to find buyers. To make people aware of the bricks, they placed boards with their company's information and about the benefits of CSEB bricks. This helped in market outreach tremendously. “One of the attractive features of CSEB to the prospective clients was the affordability and earthquake-resistant technology. When people saw the board, they would call us to enquire about it,” informs Subhadra.

Now, on an average, the company produces nearly 3,000 bricks per month and has supplied bricks for the construction of many houses. To increase their market outreach, they have also purchased a tractor to deliver the bricks to the client's location. “When people call us for orders, we can now deliver the bricks to their doorsteps,” Subhadra says.

Humanitarian Response and DRR

Under its Save Lives themes, Nepal Country Programme has the objective “Communities are resilient and have enhanced capacity to cope with disaster, respond effectively and save lives and properties.”

Key Interventions

Advocate for and scale up of humanitarian cash in Nepal: As the lead for Cash Coordination Group (CCG), DCA contributed significantly to lobbying and advocating on emergency cash during the COVID-19 response. Major outputs included the roll out of cash operation guideline to the humanitarian community, providing technical support to develop the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) model guideline under the leadership of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA).

Strengthen and scale up Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) system: DCA introduced the SRSP model in collaboration with Saptakoshi municipality, Saptari District intending to build SP systems for an effective disaster response. The key idea was to strengthen the pre-and post-disaster response by engaging the SP mechanism for the humanitarian cash transfer with the assistance of the state's welfare system at the Saptakoshi municipality. Furthermore, the project generated knowledge and evidence for making the existing SP system more shock responsive. The project has made strong linkages of cash with SP programmes and system at the municipal level by developing guideline and Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for SRSP, inclusive CVA programme, training on CVA to LG authorities, and orientation to financial services providers. The project also facilitated to open bank accounts for potential beneficiaries who were not covered by the SP system.



Policy dialogue on Safer City amid the COVID-19 context: Urban DRR dialogue webinar series was launched by the “Safer City Initiative” led by DCA in collaboration with Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) platform /MoFAGA. The dialogue series was attended by large number of relevant audiences from this field and a policy brief on “Urban disaster and resilience building amid COVID-19” was produced. It aimed at providing professionals, practitioners and academicians including researchers with a summary of key policy messages gathered through large-scale of desk reviews followed by sharing of knowledge and experiences by municipal leaders and other participants.

Promote and strengthen Women Humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction leadership: DCA supported the Women Humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction Platform (WHDRRP) to establish WHDRRP

at Sudurpaschim Province to create a learning and sharing forum and to foster women leadership in humanitarian action and DRR. The platform includes women from the government level, different organisations and communities who come together for different approaches in terms of collaboration, capacity building, policy advocacy on issues and leadership management to work on disaster. The initiative has promoted women leadership through training in humanitarian response and DRR in coordination with municipalities, communities and provincial stakeholders. DCA local partner DWRF has been taking the secretariate role in the Sudurpaschim Province of this platform.

Strengthen urban DP/DRR in selected municipalities: 15 Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMC) have received training and network development support. DCA and local partner NNSWA

were actively engaged with Bheemdatta municipality to promote a safer city initiative through urban DRR interventions. The key DRR strategies and measures included disaster preparedness and response plan, established Local Emergency Operation Centre (LEOC) with SOPs and equipment (16 items), conducted urban risk assessment through a participatory process where 125 persons (83 men and 42 women) took part, trained metro police and frontline responders (total 65 where 36 were metro police) on light search and rescue in coordination with Nepal Armed Police Force and Nepal Red Cross Society led by the municipality.

Relief and early recovery support to flood and landslide affected households in Western Terai and Mid-hills: Digital cash transfer using the IME digital solution (one of the largest and most popular digital cash-transfer solutions in Nepal) in flood response was done in collaboration with LG. DCA supported 34 landslide affected HHs with cash in Achham and Dailekh District and distributed multi purpose cash grants to 494 flood affected HHs in Kailali- Bhajani and Kailari RMs.

Our Impact

As an outcome of the Urban DRR webinar series, a policy brief with key messages on evolving dynamics of urban disaster, resilience building, and present day challenges posed by COVID-19 was also produced.

The piloting of SRSP system facilitated the access of 425 flood vulnerable households into the government registry and financial systems. District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) Saptari and Kanchanpur District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC) were supported to review and update the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) which enhanced the capacity of district level stakeholders and LG representatives in both districts. DCA was also able to pilot several modalities of digital cash transfer, such as multi purpose cash assistance, conditional and unconditional cash assistance.



Reaching out to people during difficult times

Unlike previous years, Sunar Bati BK, a 75 year old resident of Umar Tole of Saptakoshi municipality Ward 3, Saptari District did not have to face difficulty as the cold wave hit his family this year.

With the support from DCA and its local partner Koshi Victim's Society (KVS) and in close collaboration with Saptakoshi municipality, BK received NPR 2,000 to purchase clothes and essential food items to feed his family of six.

BK, who belongs to the Dalit community, a historically marginalised and vulnerable group, had a bitter experience two years ago when his five-year-old grandson was hospitalised due to the cold. "It was a really tough time for our family. We didn't have money to purchase food and warm blanket and clothes," recalls BK. "This year, we received everything within a week of a cold wave hitting our area."

The support was provided through cash

transfer, using the existing Social Protection (SP) system for the cold wave response. This combination of using cash transfer and integrating it with an existing SP system is a pilot project initiated by DCA in collaboration with the municipality.

"This pilot for Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP), opens up opportunities to collaborate with INGOs like DCA and local NGO like KVS, by using our SP to reach the disaster-affected population," stated Uttam Kumar Sharma, Mayor of Saptakoshi municipality.

Although it was implemented on a small scale, DCA with its local partner KVS and the Saptakoshi municipality mapped the Vulnerability Index at household level to areas that are vulnerable to hazards such as flood, cold wave, and others. With the pre-disaster database which includes the SP and households and their vulnerabilities in one system, in any event, the municipality can quickly release assistance in the form of cash.

Change is Possible - Key change areas observed

- **The Local Government share about their expenditure and programme to the people through accountability events:** Despite the context of COVID-19, 3 public hearing guidelines and tools, 3 multi-stakeholder platform meeting guidelines, and 3 grievance handling mechanism guidelines were formulated and handed over to the respective Palika. To implement these guidelines, orientation was provided to the officials and representatives of the LG in each of the three local units. Following this, three local units in Dhading conducted public hearing events.

- **Community people in DCA's working areas systematically and actively participate in the local decision-making processes:** Women groups/networks and associations of youths were provided with capacity building sessions on leadership and on accessing the resources from the local government. Such networks submitted proposals (196) to local government and accessed funding for income generation activities amounting to NPR 22,964,533 during the reporting period. The right holders were able to access different services such as Social Security Allowance (2,595), Sponsorships (74), Nutrition Support to Children (2,597), Livelihood support (3,214).

- **Youth, women, marginalised engaged in producer groups, cooperatives and individual enterprises continued income generation and enterprise development:** The CBOs were able to provide credit support to at least 25% of their members. The groups and cooperative members received technical training, door to door visits from technicians and received vegetable seeds, goat shed and live goat and buck, ginger and turmeric rhizomes and mushroom production spores. In total 1,101 members of the cooperatives (25%), received credit for livelihood and income support, of which 72% are female.

- **Community engaged in different value chains continue for better income through marketing:** DCA provided seeds and

technologies so that the right-holders can increase their income despite COVID-19 pandemic. The outcome survey suggested that at least 50% of the right holders have increased their household income due to the external support received during the crisis period. In total 3,896 HHs received support from the programme to engage in vegetable production and 52 farmers received value-chain and business management training.

- **Risk profiles are prepared at ward level:** Through the innovation grant, DCA supported the development of ward-level risk profiles that include information on at-risk communities. The risk profiles were digitised for the registry to be utilised in case of flood in the area. As the flood did not occur, the risk profile was used to distribute cash assistance in response to cold waves in the same area. This was a successful pilot despite the COVID-19 related challenges including restrictions on movement and mass gathering.

- **DCA deploys efficient cash and voucher assistance through preparedness and in response:** DCA and partners used the digital cash transfer - IME digital solution as a key approach during the flood response. The response was an example of using a digital payment system in collaboration with financial service providers, LG and humanitarian partners in an emergency. The cash transfer was safe and efficient amid the COVID-19 crisis. The project reached 2,933 people (70% female and 30% Male). During the implementation of project activities, DCA applied gender and diversity sensitive analysis in the beneficiary selection, including the targeting of women-headed households, pregnant or lactating women, single women, PWDs, senior citizens, people facing caste-based exclusion and COVID-19 affected/at-risk people.

Road to Success- Our approaches

Working closely with the Local Government:

As a trusted partner of the LG, DCA works closely with the local authorities to align all its projects and programmes with their priorities and policies. During the pandemic, DCA focused on supporting at risk/affected households to help resume their normal lives. The partners signed an MoU with the LG to promote resource leveraging and cooperation from the government.

DCA supported Government owned health facilities with medical equipments. A total of 86 health centres were supported with PPE sets, thermal guns, surgical masks, sanitisers medical gloves, disinfection kits together with the training to use them.

DCA improved the basic facilities and management of the Government established quarantine and isolation centres. 44 quarantine centres were supported with beddings, food packages, medical supplies, spray tanks, PPE sets, upon the recommendation of the LG. Relationship with the LG greatly improved, and as a result, they were welcoming of DCA and partners to jointly design economic recovery interventions. The engagement DCA had during the COVID-19 crisis in the most affected areas provided a greater opportunity to quickly picture and design appropriate recovery activities for the same area.

As the federal structure is relatively new to Nepal, the newly formed LG faced many challenges including having only limited policies in place. The municipal council members were oriented on the content and application of grievance handling mechanism policy and communities were sensitised on the policies and the role of the citizens in accessing the benefit of the policies. The most vulnerable people registered grievances to the LG based on the policy and received relief items to meet basic needs during the lockdown. Thus, the good governance



practice of LG got much recognition as they committed to use the policies and raise awareness among citizens to lodge grievances and claim their rights and entitlements.

Capacitating and mobilising local partner:

DCA was most successful in mobilising local partners and the associated CBOs for income and livelihood recovery, thereby contributing to resilient communities. Despite the restricted mobility of partners and DCA staff during the lockdown, the programme was able to work with cooperatives and production groups to mobilise the resources and services to its members. LG played a key role in managing the planned support during the lockdown. The most important lesson learned from the above success is that the enhanced capacity of LG and CBOs are the foundation for building community resilience.

The DCA programme focused mainly on the local market and short value-chains while designing a market-based production that worked during the crisis as the distant market was not accessible to the producers. For example, in Dhading District DCA coordinated with the LG,

transportation service providers and local service providers of poultry to buy and sell chicken in the nearby market. Based on the training provided by DCA, the partners were able to coordinate with the LG and other relevant stakeholders during the response and implement the project effectively with minimum supervision.

In addition, regular weekly meetings conducted with partners helped to produce weekly SITREPs on the COVID-19 response, conduct two studies namely “Socio-economic impact of COVID-19” and “COVID-19 Impact on Migrant Workers in Sudurpaschim Province”. This was quite encouraging and well-appreciated by the wider stakeholders in Nepal.

Mixed modality of cash based programming:

Through its humanitarian support to flood/landslide/COVID-19 affected households, DCA was also able to pilot several modalities of digital cash transfer- multi-purpose cash assistance, conditional and unconditional cash assistance. Food assistance or unconditional cash transfer was provided to cover food expenditure baskets to flood and COVID-19 affected households. In-kind support and cash assistance for food was

conducted following the relief package standard suggested by the GoN. Considering the risk of COVID-19, the vulnerable households who lost their houses or whose houses were destroyed by the flood in 2020 in Kailali District were provided a conditional cash grant for repairing/maintenance/ construction of the house, facilitating the process for vulnerable people to own a house.

Joint procurement by partners where possible:

For an effective and swift procurement process during COVID-19, a joint procurement plan was prepared in coordination with all partners. Following it, a potential vendor list was collected, compiled and a material list with specifications was prepared. NNSWA, DCA's local partner, led the process. Request for Quotation (RFQ) was prepared and sent to potential vendors by email and samples were collected in pictures in emails due to the lockdown. One great learning from this process was that we could procure good quality material at a reasonable cost, and the saved money was immediately used to procure more items to reach a wider community. Moreover, it helped to innovate new ways of going through this process in a participatory way which was very transparent justified and ensured value for money.

Weekly partners platform: Regular weekly meetings were conducted by the Humanitarian Response Team of DCA with partners, where guideline/SoPs on COVID-19 such as the one-pager guideline to ensure protection during a response, multi-purpose cash guideline for GBV survivors, etc. helped the partners to respond effectively during the COVID-19 and flood response. The platform was able to support and build the capacity of partners in their institutional, technical, and networking competencies for facilitating the empowerment of right-holders to dialogue and engage with duty-bearers and other development actors. The weekly meetings were organised between April and December 2020, which supported strengthening the bond and promote a culture of sharing among partners.

Strengthening Our Cross-Cutting Priorities

Empowering and mobilising youths

Youths are one of the primary stakeholders in all our projects and they play a vital role in our response. Youths were mobilised to collect data, which was presented to the LG and was later utilised to distribute relief items, as was the case in Dhading District. Similarly, in Western Nepal, they were mobilised to conduct two studies and door to door visits to raise awareness among the most vulnerable population who did not have access to radio/other messaging services.

For income generation support and to empower the youths, migrant returnees in Far Western Nepal were provided with appropriate income generation activities and business start-up support such as hair-cutting salon, sewing machine, vegetable seeds, mushroom seeds, goats, chicken, etc. The Compressed Stabilised Earth Brick (CSEB) project also engaged youths and created employment for many.

Climate talks matter

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, DCA and Prakriti Resource Centre (PRC) organised several webinar series inviting various national and international experts to discuss the climate mitigation and adaptation agendas. One of the series focused on the revised Nationally Determined Criteria (NDC)

and its implementation status in various sectors.

Agro-ecological practices such as rice-duck and rice-fish farming continued to progress in Western Nepal. The CSEB technology was scaled up in nine additional districts and the LGs were supported to develop policies to support climate friendly construction materials. DCA also started an EU funded project which has a strong component on climate change mitigation and adaptation, supporting the local government to promote green enterprises, training the local CSOs

and youths on the issues of DRR and climate change, promoting climate smart agricultural practices and technologies among others.

Innovations at various levels

DCA continued to identify, test and scale up innovative approaches and solutions. The Smart Palika App is something new that DCA and partners introduced in 2019 and continued in 2020, it is an integrated software system to give Binayak municipality in Achham District its first digital shift to strengthen its

e-governance system. The purpose is to save time and effort of day-to-day staff for information management, ward service, grievance handling, vital registration system, municipality profile, open data, news notice and events, e-planning, information sharing and connecting elected representatives with citizens. More specifically, the e-governance system will allow municipalities to better manage dynamic database where the most important ward level and municipality level services can be taken online. Similarly, the system is extended to an additional 5 more Palikas.



Proactive engagement towards gender equality

DCA programme continued to strengthen women and dalit group and networks who are capacitated in different legal and women rights and are equipped with skill to manage GBV cases. For example, DCA lobbied with the LG to establish a gender friendly quarantine management centre, as a result Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan established women friendly quarantine centre for the returnee migrants from India, which was the first women friendly quarantine centre in Nepal. Similarly, three Human Rights help desks were established in Sudurpashchim, Karnali and Lumbini Province, through which Human Rights

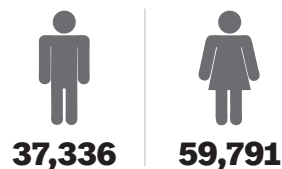
Localisation and Charter 4 Change

DCA and partners were actively engaged in the localisation of DRR and humanitarian action at the national and subnational level. Strategic partnership with DPNet provided an enabling environment for CSOs, humanitarian and DRR sectors.

The working modality through alliance and consortium such ACT Alliance, Association of International NGOs (AIN) and different thematic AIN working groups are examples of collective policy advocacy and resource generation through a continuous process. DCA has also been an active member of the national consortium to promote the localisation agenda in Nepal.



Total number of people reached by DCA in 2020



Total
97,127

Violation survivors (domestic violence and sexual harassment) were provided emergency support including financial, legal aid, counselling and relocation.

Women groups/networks and associations of youths were provided with capacity building sessions on leadership and on accessing the resources from the LG. Such networks submitted proposals (96) to LG and accessed funding for income generation activities amounting to NPR 22,964,533 in 2020.

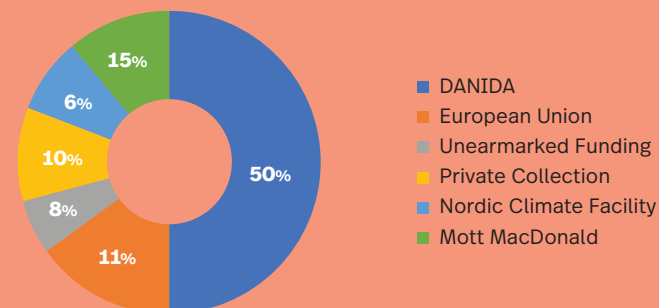
On Charter 4 Change, several meetings and online forums were created/conducted to develop the capacity of partners. Online trainings were conducted for 16 partners which focused more on the areas of financial and procurement management, compliance management of EU funded projects, HR management during an emergency and effective management of humanitarian response projects.



FINANCE

The Nepal country programme budget for FY 2020 was DKK 23 million (3.2 million EUR). The total amount spent in FY 2020 was approximately DKK 21.5 million (2.9 million EUR), or around 94% of the total funds raised by DCA, mainly due to COVID-19-related restrictions that hampered access to the field and impacted on project implementation.

Donor- wise fund allocation - 2020



Our Donors



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK
Danida



M
MOTT
MACDONALD



DANMARKS INDSAMLING

Our Partners



DanChurchAid (DCA)

Ward No-2, Lalitpur Metropolitan City

GPO Box 4844

Jhamshikhel, Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone: +977 1 5533550 +977 1 5553505

+977 1 5524808 +977 1 5526508

Mail: dcanepal@dca.dk

W: www.danchurchaid.org/where-we-work/nepal



DCA
actalliance

www.facebook.com/DCA.in.Nepal

[DCA_Nepal](https://www.instagram.com/DCA_Nepal)