

# Tewa

# BI-YEARLY NEWSLETTER

*The latest updates from Jan to June, 2021*



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With ease in the COVID-19 restrictions, Tewa's programs were carried out regularly. However, with the escalation of COVID-19 cases, a consequent lockdown was put in place since April 29, 2021, which is extended till June 21, 2021. This again has caused Tewa to roll back into the virtual modality of carrying out its programs and work.

During this period, Tewa supported grant amount of NRs 6642800.00 was disbursed to 27 organizations of 18 districts.

Through local fundraising, we raised NRs 992, 053/- (USD 9,900) through various events, campaigns, and annual donations.



COVID relief distribution by Fatima Foundation to Bheri Hospital

## GRANT DISBURSEMENT

Even during the unprecedented time, Tewa's grantmaking continued to support women's organizations more than ever. The pandemic has caused adverse effects on the lives of people. At this time, Tewa had to adapt different approaches to reach the community level.

The grants focused on supporting communities through Discretionary grants to address the impact from COVID-19. Apart from this, regular grants were given to women organizations to support different projects at the community level. A total of NRs 66, 42, 800 (USD 65,000) were supported during the period.

The grants had made an impact on the lives of women as well as the communities. The grants benefited single women, women with disabilities, women in politics, young girls, and women from marginalized communities. The projects implemented by our grantee partners addressed many issues of women and girls by developing their skills, monitoring participation of women in politics through media, enhancing livelihood programs, advocacy against violence against women & girls, self-defense training.

We supported marginalized communities to address the COVID 2nd wave crisis and also for survivors of Shindhupalchowk Flood through discretionary grants. Other grants also address the issues of youth girls, disabled women, women politicians, single women and support the women and girls from marginalized communities for leadership and organizational development, various skill development, media monitoring on women politician issues, livelihood programs, humanitarian crisis management, advocacy against violence towards women and girls, self-defense training, menstrual health and hygiene, advocacy for disability rights etc.

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*Sahayatra Nepal, grantee partner distributed COVID-19 relief support to the people from marginalized communities, daily wage workers.*





## LEARNING MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF GRANTS



6 Projects  
evaluated



5 Projects  
Monitored

*Grantee partners sharing their outcomes and learning during the LME visit at Aadhibasi Janjati Mahila Utthan Kendra, Sindhupalchok.*

Amidst the pandemic, monitoring and evaluation of 11 projects mostly under the environmental justice and COVID-19 response theme have been carried out. The projects have been implemented by 11 different grantee partners from three provinces namely, Sudhuraschim Province, Bagmati Province and Gandaki Province. Evaluation was carried out for the completed projects while process monitoring was done for the ongoing projects.

The monitoring and evaluation were carried out through focus group discussions, face to face interviews and online interviews through ZOOM. Additionally, in order to capacitate new grantee partners i.e. grantee partners receiving first cycle samman grant from the fiscal year 2020/2021 were provided with capacity strengthening session on Tewa's Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation Model and Local Fundraising from March 3 to 5, 2021 at Tewa. The projects were observed to have brought changes in the lives of women by informing and educating them about environment, the impacts of climate change.

Moreover, the COVID-19 response was observed to have targeted the most vulnerable and needy people from the community which has supported their livelihood and survival through the course of lockdown period.



# MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

During the period, regular meetings with mentors and mentees are ongoing. The meetings were organized in person when it was convenient and then when the situation didn't favor, we organized virtual meetings with mentors. The regular meetings between mentors help to strengthen the connection among each other as well as update the work, learn from each other, and share the challenges.

Tewa has been always prioritized the needs of grantee partners especially enhancing their skills and knowledge in different topics. Through the mentorship program, we provided legal rights awareness sessions to the mentees and mentors. Mentors and mentee organizations, a total of 34 participants learned about the legal policy processes of Nepal enabling them to share this learning with the community women. They also learned about the legal environment and their legal rights.

The discussion between mentors and mentee organizations on the in-depth understanding of mentorship programs and why it is vital for organizations to grow was organized. This discussion helped the participants reflect on the program and the roles and responsibilities as mentors and mentees.

*Due to the difference in the objective and lack of interest of few of our mentee organizations, we had to conclude this program in these organizations. We selected other three new grantee partner organizations as mentees. They are Griha Shramik Rato Machhindranath, Lalitpur, Sakar Mahila Bahuudheshya Sahakari Sanstha Ltd., Bhaktapur, and Griha Shramik Tamang Mahila Samaj, Nuwakot.*

## LOCAL FUNDRAISING

The pandemic this year has affected us all. During this time, the contributions made by our donors and supporters were of NRs 992, 053/- (USD 9,900). We had initiated Peer to Peer fundraising campaign. This had given us the opportunity to reach out to new donors and we have been raising funds on the regular basis. Along with this, Haat bazaar fundraising campaign is also ongoing and organized time and again, when possible, from the support of Daraz online shopping. We had the chance to organize a fundraising event; Deep Prajwolan and successfully exceeded the target of raising more than NRs 2 lakhs (USD 2,000).



Events  
NRs 376,480/-



Events  
NRs 611,251/-



Events  
NRs 4,322/-

# VOLUNTEER'S PROGRAM

Volunteer's program sought to train, mobilize and engage volunteers in different activities of Tewa. We organized three days of volunteer's training from 19-21 Jan 2021 along with 18 participants. The participants learned about Tewa's practices of local fundraising, the role of volunteers, and also the status of women in Nepal. This has broadened the network among volunteers.

Tewa had also organized a volunteer's gathering for the volunteers from the year 1997 till 2015. The idea was to connect with the volunteers where 36 of them participated and enjoyed the event. The volunteers got the opportunity to interact with each other and with this, we also got the opportunity to update Tewa's work. The other main motto of this program is to keep engaging and mobilizing the volunteers. We had mobilized 207 volunteers during the period through various activities, discussions, and programs. Tewa had organized a panel discussion program and talk program on LGBTI issues. The panel discussion was moderated by Communication and Documentation Officer, Srishti Jayana along with the panelists Bimala Basnet, Sunil Basnet, and Uttara Khanal. The main objective of this program was to connect newly joined volunteers and those who have been involved at Tewa for a longer period, as well as to update them about Tewa's work. The panelists shared about their experiences being Tewa's volunteer.



*Panel discussion for volunteers (L-R Srishti Jayana, Sunil Basnet, Uttara Khanal, Bimala Basnet)*

The guest speakers for the LGBTI discussion were Laxmi Ghalan, Founder, and Sarita K.C, Executive Director of Mitini Nepal. 35 volunteers participated in this program. It was a learning session for them on different topics. They were oriented about the LGBTI issue and the situation, challenges faced by this community in Nepal.

Once the lockdown was imposed, the program had to move virtually. We successfully organized a talk program on census 2078 for two batches of volunteers. The participants learned more about the process and system of how the census is held.

**SINCE TEWA COMPLETED ITS 25 YEARS, THE VOLUNTEER'S COMMITTEE LAUNCHED A VOLUNTEER'S VOICE PUBLICATION AT CAFÉ CHEENO IN PRESENCE OF FOUNDER, RITA THAPA, FEW STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS.**

# PARTICIPATION AND VOICE OF EXCLUDED WOMEN (PAVE)

During the period, the PAVE project focused on three main areas of the program. The first one is developing strategies, the second one is enhancing leadership, and the last one is monitoring and evaluation visits.

The team collaborated with various women organizations to organize an influential campaign strategy. The participants were in leadership positions who contributed their experiences, ideas, and opinions on how any campaigns or movements can be strengthened. The strategy that is developed is aimed to be a document of ownership for organizations to have an impactful foundation and strategy for running successful campaigns.

The leadership development trainings were focused on elected women and women from communities held in two batches. The first batch of training was divided into two events, between Tribeni and Badimalika Municipality's elected women who were affiliated with PAVE project from the start. The training took place in Dhangadi, where trainers were outsourced and were managed by Preet Shah throughout the ten days period.

This training was an imperative part of the project, which was delayed due to several months of pandemic effect. The knowledge and skills learned from this training were an enriching experience and a process to lead them to self-growth. In the second batch of the training, the representatives of the ten community women group members were given a 5-day training to enhance their capacity and build skills of communication, public speaking, gender-based discrimination, advocacy, etc. The trainers were from Bajura itself and it was done in Bajura, Martadi. Three from each group participated, and they will cascade it further to their groups respectively.

The program coordinator visited the women's group from each municipality to understand their engagement in the project as well as to have a fruitful interaction to know their point of view on their own progress ever since their involvement in the project. Most of the diverse group members were positive about their growth and the core finding was that most learned a lot about hygiene and the importance of belonging in a group. Their knowledge expanded as they found a platform to question, experience and share as well as understood financial literacy better as well. These findings were extremely crucial for our project as a whole.



Monitoring meeting for feedback with one of the community women groups of PAVE in Tribeni, ward no:3



PAVE - Participants of leadership development program for community leader representatives in Bajura.

## DEEP YOGINI (TEWA CENTRE)

Between January to June 2021, we hosted programme for 48 days and because of government's prohibitory orders due to COVID 19 pandemic, we had to close our operations for almost two months. In this period we lost our dear colleague Nirjan Shakya to Covid infection.

In the six months, DeepYogini earned Rs.97,057 from sales of its organic vegetables and fruits, mainly to Santoshi kitchen while there were residential guests and these vegetables and fruits are also bought by staff kitchen and DY and Tewa staff.

### In loving memory



We all are deeply saddened to hear about the sudden and untimely demise of our staff, Program Officer,

#### Mr. Nirjan Shakya

He was a helpful, cheerful and a multi-talented colleague. A brother, and a friend to us for many years. His ways of working with everybody with ease and comfort, his positive attitude, his dedication to the core value of Tewa will always remain in our loving memory.

He will always be remembered!

We offer our deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

We pray that his departed soul rests in peace.



Tewa  
Tewa Family

We would like to thank all our funders, supporters, well-wishers and allies who supported us even during this critical hour.



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