

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022 - STORY FEATURE SERIES

Woman's Leadership in Disaster Mitigation Works A case of Community Learning and Action Centre Thakurbaba

Experience shows that women and girls face greater vulnerability and risk to disasters due to socio-economic conditions, cultural beliefs and traditional practices. Women as actual and potential contributors to disaster risks reduction and management (DRRM) whether in a leadership position or first respondents are largely untapped assets in DRRM. To address these issue, USAID's Tayar Nepal in collaboration with Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj Nepal (KMJS) is implementing a program titled 'Promoting inclusive equality and indigenous practices in Disaster Risk Reduction Mitigation activities (RUPANTARAN) in Thakurbaba, Bardiya. The primary objective of this project is to establish a disaster resilient system that addresses the issues of the most vulnerable groups like Freed Kamaiya (ex-bonded labor), Dalit women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and women.



Women working on bio-engineering works-Photo KMJS for USAID

Soniya Chaudhary is one of the trainees and member of the community learning and action center from, Besharmafata -2, Thakurbaba, Bardiya. After the training, she has been able to lead the bioengineering works as chairperson on the river side of Ambasa River. The river swells during monsoon and inundates the village nearby. She even learned some construction skills like gabion net weaving and making gabion boxes by working for 3 months at the site. She is proud and grateful for the opportunity to lead the bio-engineering work leading to DRR preparedness. Before receiving support from Tayar Nepal, they were hesitant to speak in public forums, but they can now voice their opinions. They have also been working as laborers and receiving pay in parity with the male counterparts. "I had a bitter experience of receiving lower daily wages than male workers. But this time I got NRs. 550/- per day which exceeds local standard of NRs 517/- I invested my income on my day-to-day expenses and agriculture. Hopefully, in the coming days I will be able to sell the produce for regular income to fulfill my requirements in life," says Harikala Pun from the



Soniya Chaudhary. Photo credit:
Tayar Nepal for USAID

same community learning center.

Tayar Nepal will continue to provide support to encourage women in DRRM and contribute to fulfill the gaps of woman leadership in DRRM in Nepal.

This is part of USAID's Tayar Nepal's International Women's Day 2022 - *Gender Equality today for Sustainable Tomorrow*- Story Feature Series. We are honoring and celebrating the success stories of women who are leading and contributing to various roles for disaster risk reduction and management thus helping build safer communities

Disclaimer: This story feature series is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID.) The contents of this (specify) are the sole responsibility of Tayar Nepal, and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.