

**Media Advocacy Group (MAG)
Annual Report
FY-2019/2020**



Address

Media Advocacy Group (MAG)
Kathmandu

Tel no – + 977-01-5535070

Fax - +977-01-5535070

Email: maggroup08@gmail.com

Website: www.mag.org.np

Table of Contents

Organization Background:	6
Vision:	7
Mission:	7
Goal:	7
Objective of the Organization:	7
Organizational Structure:	7
Networking and Partners	8
International/UN Partner Organizations:	8
Government Alliances:	9
3. Program Details	9
A. FHI 360 supported Program	9
Title: Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Project (CS:MAP)	9
Activity 1. Event report on GESI Checklist orientation to the local representative of Rasuwa District	10
Activity 2. GESI Policy Development Workshop	11
Activity 3. Event report on ‘Interaction among the local representatives on the GESI Checklist’	11
Activity 4. GESI Orientation to the local representatives of Kathmandu and Lalitpur Metropolitan City:	12
Activity 5. Policy Dialogue with Parliamentarian on Citizen Social Organization Bill from GESI Lens:	12
Activity 6. Interaction on Concept and Implementation of RTI with local representatives: ---	12
Activity 7. GESI Recommendations for Bill to Amend and Unify the Law on Media Council -	12
Activity 8. GESI Recommendations for Bill to Amend and Unify the Law on Media Council -	13
Activity 9. #MaBolchu	13
Activity 10. Interaction among Local Representatives on GESI Checklist (Dhading)	13
Activity 11. Discussion on Social Security Fund (SSF)	14
B. European Union supported Program	14
Activity 1. Airing of PSA and Radio Jingles	15

Activity 2. Development and Airing of Radio Program	16
Activity 3. Social media campaign using Facebook and twitter	18
Activity 4. Support Journalist to explore and publish analytical news articles	18
Activity 5: Media dialogue program on CBD issues with policy makers, NHRIs and CSO actor	19
C. UN Women Supported Program-----	20
Activity 1.Organized Consultations with Relevant Local Level Stakeholders on Gender Responsive Multi-Purpose Community Center (MPCC).....	21
Activity 2. Developed Training Curriculum incorporating gender and DRR components	22
Activity 3: Organized National level ToT on Gender & DRRM to WFDM members	23
Activity 4: Provided orientations to the Networks/groups/local consortium of women, socially excluded and vulnerable groups on Gender and DRR at the local levels	23
Activity 5: National Level “Training on Capacity Building of Municipal Government for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management”	24
Activity 6: Organized interaction sessions with multi-stakeholders to finalize inputs/recommendations for local level disaster plans and policies	25
Activity 7: Organized roundtable discussion with media at the community level	26
Activity 8: Gender Profile of 7 project municipalities	26
Activity 9: Guidelines for Strengthening Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Legal and Institutional Mechanisms of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management at Local Levels	27
Activity 10: Desk Review on local level DRM Acts, plans, policies and Guidelines from GESI perspective	27
Activity 11: GESI Responsive Disaster Preparedness Radio Public Service Announcement (PSAs) Aired through 5 different radio broadcasting services.....	27
Activity 12: Proposed amendment 3 columned draft (Tin Mahale) document on GESI responsive local level DRRM act, plans, policies and guidelines for 7 project municipalities	28
Activity 13: Radio Program: GESI responsiveness in Health Pandemic Disaster Risk Reduction: Preparedness, Prevention, Response and Recovery.....	28
D. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Nepal (FES) Supported Program -----	29
Activity 1: Impactful Journalism during the COVID-19 Pandemic- One day training program for Women Journalists	29

Activity 2: Impactful Journalism during the COVID-19 Pandemic- One day training program for Women Journalists 30

Abbreviations:

MAG: Media Advocacy Group

CSOs: Civil Society Organizations

NGOs: Non-Governmental Organizations

INGOs: International Non- governmental Organizations

GESI: Gender and Social Inclusion

RTI: Right to Information

UNSCR: United Nations Security Council Resolution

ToT: Training of Trainers

FES: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

SAWF: South Asian Women's Fund

UNDP: United Nation Development Program

PSP: Parliament Support Program

FHI 360: Family Health International 360

SMJT Nepal: Samjhauta Nepal

CS: MAP: Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Project

MPCC: Multipurpose Community Center

NFN: NGO Federation Nepal

FNJ: Federation of Nepalese Journalists

PSA: Public Service Announcement

USAID: United States Agency for International Development

EU: European Union

FCA: Finn Church Aid

NNDSWO: Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization

GESI: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

DRRM: Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

WFDM: Women Friendly Disaster Management

PWDs: People with Disability/ Disabilities

Organization Background:

MAG is a Not-for-Profit Organization established in 2008 by a group of experts in the domain of media, advocacy and management. It has been particularly established to help support the endeavors to maintain democracy and freedom to exercise the rights of all the people. It has been extensively working for the rights of the women and the people from the socially excluded groups. Besides, it has been reviewing the existing laws and policies through the gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) perspectives and makes lobby to the concerned policymakers for the policy change. In addition, it also works to improve the confidence of the CSOs and Media towards each other and also works for the promotion of Safer Migration and Right to Information. After the Massive Earthquake of April 2015 in Nepal, it has been working in the Disaster and Post-Disaster period as a member of WFDM, a loose network of Women led Non-profit organizations that lobby for the incorporation of GEEW agenda in the DRR and Disaster Preparedness Effort of Nepal.

The target groups of MAG are the Parliamentarians and the policy makers related to women; information and communication, media persons, grass root communities with focus to marginalized group such as women, and socially excluded groups.

To meet its mission and vision, MAG organizes policy dialogue and interactions with the Honorable Parliamentarians, Policymakers, CSO leaders and media persons; review the existing laws and policies through gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) perspectives for the policy gap and recommend for the policy change. It organizes workshops, seminars, capacity enhancement training ,orientations and for the capacity building of journalist and target audience on contemporary issues such as Gender Equality and Social Inclusion; Gender based violence, Adolescent issues, Civic education, right to information, safer migration, UN security council resolution 1325, 1820 etc. Above than this, MAG has been organizing media campaigns on above issues for broader dissemination and awareness creation from grass root level to policy makers.

Most importantly, MAG was involved as core consulting member for finalization of Five years strategic plan of National Information Commission, which is related to implementation of right to information. MAG also conducts research and study wherever relevant and publishes the findings for dissemination. The organization promotes publications on various issues related to women and gives priority to women's articles through newsletters, feature publications, books, etc. It has a strong network of journalists in all the strategic locations of the country.

Legal Status:

Status of NGO	National NGO
Legal Status	Registered as Non-profit social welfare organization according to Nepalese act 1977.
District Administration Office (Kathmandu district) Registered No.	997 (2008 A.D)
Social Welfare Council Registered	25010

No.	
Permanent Account Number (PAN):	303094184
Organization's financial auditing system	MAG carries out its financial audit annually through registered auditor and report submits to Tax office and District Administrative Office.
Contact	P.O.Box: 897, Anamnagar-Kathmandu Tel:+977-01-5535070 Fax:+977-01-5535070 Email: maggroup08@gmail.com
Website:	www.mag.org.np

Vision:

A well-informed and empowered society where every individual can take equal benefit of democracy and can feel proud to be a citizen

Mission:

Advocate on prominent issues related to Gender, Media, Women, Migration, Democracy, Peace & security through Right to Information (RTI)

Goal:

Create well informed, peaceful and gender equal society

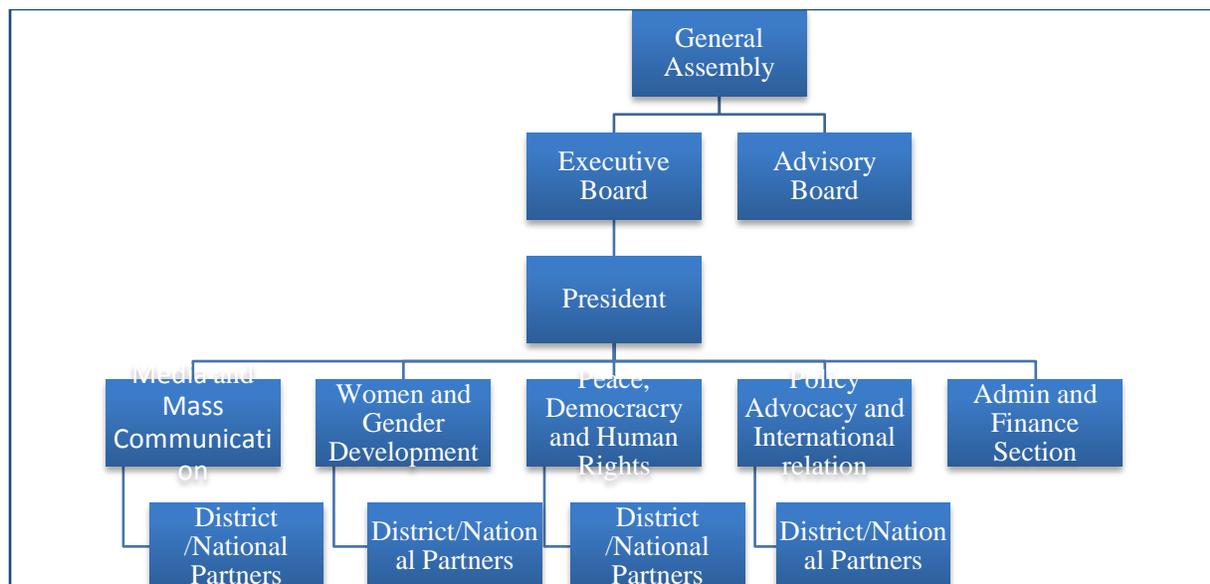
Objective of the Organization:

- To advocate issues related to Gender, Media and Access to Information
- To advocate on issues of women and marginalize group through the media.
- To advocate on right to information (RTI) and international instruments in relation to women issues such as Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), CEDAW, UNSCR 1325 & 1820 for strengthening democracy.
- To advocate and lobby for effective implementation of national laws policies and action plans related to women
- To advocate for safe migration
- To bridge the gap between media and civil society
- Provide management services to development program implementation

Organizational Structure:

The organization consists of a seven-member Executive Committee comprising professionals from media and development sector. MAG is led by woman having expertise in media, mass communication, gender development and right to information. The organization has also a three

member Advisory Committee to provide necessary guidance to achieve organization's Vision, Mission, and Goal and longer term strategic plan.



Networking and Partners

MAG has good relationship with various national and regional/international networks working in the area of women and gender equality, information and media.

Networking

- Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ)
- Online Journalists Association Nepal (OJAN)
- Global Network of Women Peace Builders (GNWP)
- Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG)
- Working Committee of the Shadow Report Preparation of CEDAW in Nepal
- National Network for Beijing Review in Nepal
- National Network on Gender and Climate Change
- National Network Against Domestic Violence
- National Network for Safe Migration(NNSM)
- 1325/1820 Action Group
- SancharikaSamuha

International/UN Partner Organizations:

- UN Women
- UNESCO

- UNDP/ (PSP)
- USAID FHI360
- EU
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)
- Geneva Global
- South Asian Women's Fund (SAWF)
- Centre for International Studies (CECI)
- HELVITAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal
- NDI (National Democratic Institute)
- WWF Nepal

Government Alliances:

- Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction
- Ministry of Labor and Foreign Employment
- Ministry of Information and Communication
- Information Department
- Social Welfare Council
- Controller Office of Certification
- National Women Commission
- National Information Commission
- District Coordination Committee

3. Program Details

A. FHI 360 supported Program

Title: Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Project (CS:MAP)

Duration: Jan 2016- Dec 2019 (3 years)

Project Background:

CSOs' movement in Nepal has been successful in defeating several rules and regulations restricting CSO activities in Nepal. NGOs, one of the key CSOs that appear in the forefront of democratic movements, have been defamed and portrayed as *corrupt* and as *less transparent*. They are also charged for not being gender sensitive and inclusive in their approach. Change in the attitude needs to be targeted along within the legal framework of CSOs including media which will increase respect for women and marginalized population and decrease the gap in between CSOs/media and the public.

Existing laws and legal frameworks are restricting CSOs in many ways and hence, CSOs' governance standards are always in question and misinterpreted when it comes to bring women on board in the decision-making process or give the share of development. Meaningful participation/analysis/discussion and making changes in the current legal framework are the responsibilities of CSOs/media including policy makers, parliamentarians, media /CSOs coalitions to create a doable self-regulatory mechanism agreed by CSOs and policy makers ensuring full representation of women and marginalized population. This is important to create an environment of confidence among all- CSOs/policy makers and the public- which is at the top.

The Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Project (CS:MAP) is a five year project (April 2016- April 2021) supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by FHI 360. CS:MAP's **goal** is to foster a more legitimate, accountable, and resilient Nepali civil society that is capable of advancing the public interest.

To this end, Samjhauta Nepal will serve as a platform for CSO collaborative action while MAG for media's collaborative action through Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) perspective to achieve the following three key objectives:

Objective 1: Improved legal and policy framework, based on international standards, to create an enabling environment for civil society and media

Objective2: Improved public understanding and confidence in the role of media

Objective 3: Improved self-regulation of the sector and internal governance of CSOs and media

Activity 1. Event report on GESI Checklist orientation to the local representative of Rasuwa District

We organized 'Interaction program among the local representatives on GESI checklist' on August 9, 2019, at Kalikasthan, Rasuwa. There were altogether 49 participants (female 28, male 21) including Ward Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons, Members, Dalit Women Members, Head of the Women, Children and Social Welfare Units, Head of the Planning Division, Chairpersons of Judicial Committees, Members of Executive Committees, Chairperson of District Federation of Nepali Journalists and Representative of Community Development Centre, a local CS:MAP implementing partner of *Kalika and Uttargayagaunpalikas* in Rasuwa. Mr. Dipak Shrestha provided the orientation on the GESI and Ms. ManjuAdhikari give an orientation on GESI checklist to the participated local representatives. The local representatives shared their updates of lawmaking in their area.

Major Objective:

- The interaction was organized with the objective to provide orientations to the local representatives on the GESI checklist that they need to consider while developing and discussing the laws and policies at the Local Government.

Activity 2. GESI Policy Development Workshop

Samjhauta Nepal and MAG organized the “GESI Policy Development Workshop” from August 18-20, 2019 at Dhulikhel, Kavra for the CSOs and Media to help them develop their own institutional GESI Policy. There were altogether 33 participants from different CSOs including NFN and the members from its district chapters and few of the representatives from media organizations including FNJ. The GESI Policy Development committee from NFN was also involved and shared their draft GESI Policy in the workshop. The participants were divided into three groups who then developed draft GESI Policy and shared with the participants. The participants provided feedback on the draft GESI Policy. The participants were quite excited and requested Samjhauta Nepal and MAG to develop a template of GESI Policy and shared with them. The organizations then add as per the situation and requirement of their organizations. The participants committed that they will develop the GESI Policy for the organizations and approved it from their General Assembly of this year to implement it.

Major objective:

- The major objective of the program was to help the CSOs and Media to develop their own institutional GESI Policy

Activity 3. Event report on ‘Interaction among the local representatives on the GESI Checklist’

Samjhauta Nepal and MAG organized ‘Interaction among the local representatives on GESI checklist’ on September 22, 2019, at Pulchowk Lalitpur. There were 29 local representatives from Kathmandu metropolitan city and Lalitpur metropolitan city. Ms. Babita Basnet provided the orientation on the GESI and GESI checklist to the participated local representatives. The local representatives shared their updates of lawmaking in their respective municipalities and other problems they have been facing in their municipalities being the member of GESI cluster.

Main Objective:

- The interaction was organized with the objective to provide orientations to the local representatives on the GESI checklist that they need to consider while developing and discussing the laws and policies at the local level.

Activity 4. GESI Orientation to the local representatives of Kathmandu and Lalitpur Metropolitan City:

Samjhauta Nepal and MAG organized 'GESI orientation to the local representatives of Kathmandu and Lalitpur metropolitan City' on September 22, 2019 at Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The orientation was organized based on the GESI checklist developed by Samjhauta Nepal and MAG. There were 29 local representatives participated from Kathmandu and Lalitpur Metropolitan City.

Major Objective:

- The orientation was organized with the objective to make the laws and policies in the local government GESI friendly

Activity 5. Policy Dialogue with Parliamentarian on Citizen Social Organization Bill from GESI Lens:

Samjhauta Nepal and MAG organized 'Policy Dialogue with Parliamentarians on Citizen Social Organization Bill from GESI Lens' on September 27, 2019 at Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The Policy Dialogue was organized with the objective to share the concerns of CSOs on the Citizen Social Organization Bill from GESI Lens. The CSOs concerns were shared by Mr.Jitram Lama, NFN chairperson and the GESI review by Ms.Shova Lama, GESI expert. There were 45 participants including policy makers, CSOs representatives and media persons.

Activity 6. Interaction on Concept and Implementation of RTI with local representatives:

Samjhauta Nepal and MAG organized 'Interaction on Concept and Implementation of RTI with local representatives' on September 29, 2019 at Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The Interaction was organized on the occasion of the 'International Day for the Universal Access to Information'. There were 45 local representatives participated from Kathmandu and Lalitpur Metropolitan City. The interaction was facilitated by Ms.BabitaBasnet, media person and RTI expert.

Main Objective:

- The interaction on RTI was organized with the objective to help the local representatives as demanded by them to access the information from the local bodies by the use of RTI

Activity 7. GESI Recommendations for Bill to Amend and Unify the Law on Media Council

Samjhauta Nepal and MAG organized policy dialogue with the members of Sub Committee formed by the National Assembly's Legislative Management Committee to hold discussions with the concerned stakeholders on the controversial issues of the Bill to Amend and Unify the Law on Media Council on November 21, 2019 at Pulchowk, Lalitpur. There were 35 participants in the program including the sub-committee members, FNJ, journalists, CSOs working for media. The report has already been submitted to CS:MAP.

Activity 8. GESI Recommendations for Bill to Amend and Unify the Law on Media Council

Samjhauta Nepal and MAG had published GESI checklist with the objective to review the laws and policies from GESI perspective in 2018. The checklist was already posted to the 754 local and 7 provincial government. This year Samjhauta Nepal and MAG provided orientation on GESI checklist to the four local government: two from Kathmandu valley, and each from Dhading and Rasuwa. Samjhauta Nepal and MAG organized the orientation to the elected representatives of MaddhepurThimi Municipality on November 22, 2019 at Bhaktapur. There were 34 participants in the program. The report has already been submitted to CS:MAP

Activity 9. #MaBolchu

The world mark the month of November for the campaign against Gender Based Violence. 16 days of activism against GBV is celebrated from 24th November to 10th December every year. This year the world celebrated 16 days of activism on the theme 'Stand Against Rape'. Samjhauta Nepal and MAG organized #MaBolchu Campaign where the key speakers spoke their personal stories of victimization from Rape and other stories related to Gender Based Violence. The key-note speakers of the event were Ms. Uma Shah, President of SAATHI, one of the pioneer organization working against GBV and Rape; AnujRai Peter from Blue Diamond Society; Ms. Kamala Khadka from Sex Workers and Allies South Asia (SWASA Nepal); Mr. BikashRauniyar-Photojournalist; Ms. NeelamVerma-Vice Chairperson of RastriyaJanata Party (RJP). Ms. BimalaTumkheva, poet and journalist and Ms. NeelamVerma recited their poems having the theme of Gender based violence. Ms. Uma Shah shared her personal stories on how she faced gender based violence within an elite family where people hardly believe that any forms of GBV ever exist to women. Ms. Kamala Khadka shared her personal story of victimization of rape and how she is forced to take prostitution as her profession. AnujRai Peter shared the story of how transgender people face sexual exploitation or marital rape in their everyday life. Mr. BikashRauniyar shared his personal story on how men can support women for their empowerment and advancement. Ms. NeelamVerma shared how women in politics face discrimination and exploitation from her personal stories. The stories were shared among the audience from different sectors including the S.P from Women, Children and Senior Citizen Directorate of Nepal Police Headquarter; elected local representatives from Kathmandu and Lalitpur Metropolitan City.

Major Objective:

The main objective of the program was to celebrate the 16 Days of Activism against GBV by creating the platform for the persons from different sectors to share their stories of opportunities and challenges from their personal and professional life

Activity 10. Interaction among Local Representatives on GESI Checklist (Dhading)

Samjhauta Nepal and MAG had published GESI checklist with the objective to review the laws and policies from GESI perspective in 2018. The checklist was already posted to the 754 local and 7 provincial government. This year Samjhauta Nepal and MAG provided orientation on

GESI checklist to the four local government: two from Kathmandu valley, and each from Dhading and Rasuwa. Samjhauta Nepal and MAG organized the orientation to the elected representatives of Nilkantha Municipality of Dhading on November 15. There were 25 participants in the program. The report has already been submitted to CS:MAP.

Activity 11. Discussion on Social Security Fund (SSF)

The government has started Social Security Fund and requesting all the employers to enroll in the Fund. However, the employers including CSOs are hesitating to enroll voluntarily in the Fund. The employers claimed that there are certain provisions in the Fund that makes them hesitant to enroll. So, Samjhauta Nepal and MAG organized the Discussion on Social Security Fund in collaboration with NFN Kathmandu Chapter on December 13, 2019 at Pulchowk, Lalitpur. There were 64 participants in the program. The executive director of Social Security Fund The report has already been submitted to the CS:MAP.

B. European Union supported Program

Title: Supporting Collective Voice and action against Caste-Based Discrimination in Nepal- SAJHA AAWAJ

Consortium Partners: Fin Church Aid (FCA), Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO)

Duration: November 2017-November 2020

Target District: Mahottari, Siraha, Surkhet, Jajarkot & Kalikot

Project Brief:

Dalits in Nepal are historically state victimized disadvantaged communities who have been compelled to lag at the bottom of the social structure and excluded from national development mainstream due to the Hindu caste system. According to the government's figures, Dalits comprise 13.2 percent of Nepal's total population. Caste Based Discrimination (CBD) is not only denial of equality and freedom but also isolation of basic human rights. CBD affected people have to face prohibition and discrimination in every aspect of their lives from labor to civic amenities. The physical and psychosocial violence is a major threat for their human rights and freedom. The limited support system at societal and institution level, makes their access to justice difficult and constitutes grounds for vulnerability, poverty and exclusion from public life.

The project is thus designed to combat CBD, a pressing human rights and governance challenge in Nepal. Under the overall funding support of European Commission, and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Nepal National Dalit Solidarity Welfare Organization (NNDSWO), Media Advocacy Group (MAG) is going to implement the project through media advocacy in the five districts; Surkhet, Kalikot and Jajarkot situated in province-6 represent the issues of Hill Dalits and Mahottari and Siraha situated in province -2 represent the issues of Terai Dalits. The

overall objective of the action is to contribute to the elimination of caste-based discrimination (CBD) and promotion of human rights of all Dalits and non-Dalits people.

Media advocacy is one of the crucial components in combating the fight against CBD and untouchability. In 2019, MAG has initiated the following activities:

- i) Supported the local journalists to support and cover news and articles that are more accurate, in-depth and evidence-based grassroots CBD issues.
- ii) Mobilized the local media including community radio, print, online and electronic media, and social media to create enabling environment at grass root level among Dalits and non-Dalits, by disseminating relevant information through TV PSAs and radio jingles, and creating mass public awareness through radio programs and news articles based on CBD, thereby, contributing in bringing a positive social change.
- iii) Conducted media dialogue program with policymakers, Dalits and human rights activists to promote public debate on the current status of Landless Dalits to make necessary changes in laws and policies, thereby supporting in advocacy endeavors that facilitate placing CBD issues on national agenda.

MAG's major achievements of July 15, 2019 to July 15, 2020 can be summarized as follows:

1. PSAs were broadcasted 228 times through national TVs while radio jingles were aired 10,637 times through community radio partners.
2. Altogether 73 episodes of radio programs were developed by radio partners at 5 project districts. Contemporary Dalit issues were covered in the radio programs such as allocation of the local budget for Dalits, Dalit representative in local levels, issues of Dalit women representatives, scholarships for Dalit students, CBD incidence in public places and social functions, citizenship issues, Dalits access to service, information, and resources including land rights.
3. Media dialogue program on the Issues of Landless Dalits with policymakers, NHRIs, and CSO actors was successfully organized and the recorded program was broadcasted through a national TV for the larger audience outreach.
4. Trained journalists cover 166 news articles on Dalit, CBD and Untouchability issues through print media including national and local newspaper, weekly, and electronic media including online news portals, TV and FM radio.
5. Strengthened coordination with local stakeholders including governmental and non-governmental organizations, human rights organizations, FNJ, and media houses. MAG also improved coordination with FNJ Chapters of 5 districts. FNJ district chapter, President of Kalikot and Jajarkot even published articles under Fellowship program. MAG has provided support in facilitating Public Hearing program by coordinating with district FNJs.

Activity 1. Airing of PSA and Radio Jingles

In 2019/2020, TV PSAs were telecasted 228 times through national TV stations -Nepal TV, Kantipur TV, News 24 and Himalaya TV. Radio jingles were aired in the project implementing partners through 5 local community radios. In 2019/2020, radio jingles were aired 10,637 times across the project implementing districts. Though MAG has already reached the target, MAG will continue the airing of PSA and radio jingles.

Activity 2. Development and Airing of Radio Program

As part of media advocacy, MAG in coordination with radio partners have developed and aired SAJHA AAWAJ radio program in partnership with local community radios as mentioned above.

The Objectives of the radio programs are:

- To engage communities (both Dalits and Non-Dalits) in discussion, interaction and information sharing process by providing a common platform;
- To disseminate information related to Dalits and Right to Information, and SAJHA AAWAJ updates;
- To call for participation of local stakeholders including government officials, Human rights activists, police and media for a collective action to address issues of Caste-Based Discrimination and Untouchability;

Issues Covered:

Each radio episode covers different Dalits related issues. Radio programs have been successful in raising contemporary Dalit issues such as allocation of the local budget for Dalits, Dalit representative in local levels, issues of Dalit women representatives, scholarships for Dalit students, CBD incidence in public places and social functions, citizenship issues, Dalits access to service, information, and resources including land rights. During the 2019 flood at eastern Nepal, the radio program aired by Siraha and Mahottari shared information about flood and impact on Dalits as most of the victims were Mushar communities in those areas who live in squatters and muddy houses. Along with this, the radio programs include interview with local government representatives, questioning their roles and responsibilities and made them accountable, took their commitment to resolve the CBD issues and pushing them to prioritize Dalit issues in their developmental agenda. Also, MAG continued to raise Dalits issues and CBDU through radio programs over the lockdown period. Around 40 episodes of radio programs were aired during the lockdown period. In this way, the radio program has provided a common platform for Dalit and Non-Dalits to address the agenda of CBD and Untouchability.

From July 15, 2019 to July 15, 2020, 73 radio episodes were developed and aired by radio partners as follows:

S.N	Radio Partners	Districts	Episodes of Radio Program aired
1	Jagaran FM	Surkhet	18
2	Radio Jajarkot FM	Jajarkot	5

3	Radio Malika FM	Kalikot	15
4	Radio Rudraksha	Mahottari	18
5	Radio Samagra	Siraha	15
Total Episodes of radio program aired			73

The themes of radio program during the lockdown period are as follows:

Themes	No. of Episodes
COVID-19 awareness, updates on current situation, effect of lockdown on livelihood of Dalit community in particular daily wage workers, Dalit women headed household and Dalit women, slum dwellers, relief distribution process and transparency, Dalit's access to relief materials and so on.	15
Dalit's Access to Law and Justice	4
Coverage of Nawaraj BK Killing Case/ Intercaste marriage related CBD	4
Local-level budget and program for Dalits in Karnali Province	4
Dalit Children: child marriage, the effect of lockdown on Dalit children, home education	3
CBD situation in quarantine facilities	3
Role of Dalit activists	2
Dalit rights	3
UPR related	1
Dalits' Access to health	1
Total	40

Some of the anecdotes from the community that testify the usefulness and effectiveness of the radio programs:

"Radio program and radio jingles on CBD have been a motivation to Dalit community. Airing of daily radio jingle carrying message of legal provisions on caste based discrimination and untouchability has helped to change behaviour of non-Dalit. The radio message against untouchability and discrimination has improved the status of Dalit community in the society."

Mr. Sakichandra Yadav, HRAA coordinator of Mahotari.

"Radio programs provide platform to raise voice on Dalit issues which helps to create social goodwill. As radio program also provides an updates on activities of rural municipality, more local journalists are motivated to cover news related to Dalit issues in other media platforms. It is seen that Dalit issues of Sakhuanankati rural municipality are more covered in media than before."

Mr. Kedarnath Yadav, Sakhuanankati rural municipality.

Sudip Mishra, Program Coordinator of SAJHA AAWAJ radio program of Radio Rudrakshya said that they have become more sensitive regarding Dalit related news after CBD news were covered through the program.

Activity 3. Social media campaign using Facebook and twitter

In order to reach out to larger stakeholders and to develop solidarity among them on issues concerning CBD and Untouchability, MAG created SAJHA AAWAJ page in Facebook and Twitter. Through these social media platforms, project related activities from districts and media coverage on CBD, issues faced by CBD affected communities linking with constitutional and legal were shared. Dalit related news and articles along with the project updates have been shared extensively in SAJHA AAWAJ facebook page. In 2020, the number of page likes and followers has reached 1000 and 1054 respectively. Still, we need to develop a strategy to leverage the full power of social media campaign for the successful accomplishment of SAJHA AAWAJ project.

Activity 4. Support Journalist to explore and publish analytical news articles

MAG supported local journalists to collect analytical articles around CBD issues through SAJHA AAWAJ Fellowship program. MAG invited local journalists of project districts to apply for the fellowship by making call for Fellowship application through facebook and sending emails to local journalists and FNJ chapters. In 2019/2020, 14 journalists (Male: 10; Female: 4) received fellowship and 14 CBD related articles on hidden CBD issues were published through national and local media.

After our fellows cover the news, there were some positive actions that are documented as follows:

Bishnu Prasad Neupane, a participant of explorative journalism training received SAJHA AAWAJ Fellowship as well. He covered an investigative article on the exclusion of Dalit leadership in a local political party. The news was published in Annapurna Post on Biashakh 15 under the heading "Dalit leadership shunned within Party" which highlighted a struggle of a Dalit leader Dinesh Chadara within his party. Dinesh, though a competent and visionary leader, was neglected by his party members', majority of who were high caste people such as Thakuris. Chandra was often denied the party ticket to represent the party just because of his caste. After the news was covered in a national paper, there was a serious discussion on this issue within his party. Finally, Dinesh Chadara got the ticket to represent the party and eventually elected as a President of Tilgufa Municipality of Kalikot district.

Activity 5: Media dialogue program on CBD issues with policy makers, NHRIs and CSO actor

MAG organized 'Media Dialogue Program on Issues of Landless Dalits' on 26th Sep 2019 in Kathmandu in the presence of 37 participants representing stakeholders from Dalits Rights CSO, Human Rights Organization, media, and project partners.

The main objective of the media dialogue program is to contribute in media based policy advocacy effort to bring state and non-state actors for strengthening for implementation of legal frameworks for the actualization of Dalits rights in Nepal. The program sensitized the policymakers, government representative, Dalits activists, HR activists, and media representatives on the status of landless Dalits and highlighted this issue through the media for ensuring the Dalits' rights envisioned in the constitution. Therefore, the media dialogue program was focused on *article 40(5) and 40(6)* of Dalit Rights enshrined in the Constitution.

40. Rights of Dalit states that

(5) The State shall once provide land to the landless Dalit in accordance with the law.

(6) The State shall, in accordance with the law, arrange a settlement for the Dalit who do not have housing.

Additionally, the program touched upon other issues such as Dalits' access to education, services, and benefits from the State and analyzed the link between these issues i.e. how the absence of land rights and settlement affect the realization of other Dalit rights.

There was a video presentation on 'Issues of landless Dalits' which was developed by MAG from Surkhet, Jajarkot, Siraha, and Mahottari. This was followed by panel discussion and interaction with the participants. The panelists for the program were Honorable MP Rekha Sharma, the Member of the Parliament and Former Minister; Dr. Usha Jha, Member, National Planning Commission; Mr. Gopal Giri, Under-Secretary & Information Officer, Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA), and Mr. Trilok Chand Vishwas V.K, President, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO).

The program was recorded and broadcasted through News24 channel on Oct 20, 2019. It was also uploaded in YouTube for visibility and media coverage of the Dalit issues. The program was also covered by print and online media.

SN	Date	Beneficiary					Remarks
		F	M	Total	Dalit	Non-Dalit	
1	26 Sep 2019	24	13	37	8	29	The beneficiaries do not include panelists and MAG staff.

Following recommendations were suggested by the Panelists and participants in the program:

- Data on landless Dalits from 5 project implementing districts should be collected and shared.
- Landlessness of Dalits is linked with other Dalit issues such as access to education, services, and opportunities. Due to the lack of land and proper settlement, Dalits are deprived of their rights.
- While making plans for Dalits and marginalized communities, the National Planning Commission should include Dalit representatives on the team.
- The media dialogue program should be organized at Provincial and local level as well so that the voice of grassroots Dalits can be heard and addressed by Provincial and local governments.
- Instead of integrated law, a separate law is required to address the issue of land and settlement of Dalits.

Media play an important role in disseminating the information on Constitution Provisions of Dalit rights, making concerned government stakeholders accountable through media advocacy and bringing a public voice for social change.

C. UN Women Supported Program

Title: Promoting Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Province 3

Donor: UN Women Nepal Country Office

Duration: August 2019 – April 2020

Target District: 7 districts of Province 3 (Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Sindhupalchowk, Dhading, Rasuwa and Dolakha)

Total Budget: NPR 53,76,161

Project Brief:

Nepal is one of the most disaster-prone countries in South Asia. The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act formulated in October 2017 replaced the Natural Calamity Relief Act of 1982. The Act focuses on the role of the government in the disaster management cycle – prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Although there are gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) specific clauses in the DRRM Act, there is no such mechanism in place to ensure mainstreaming of gender responsive DRRM strategies at the local level. Likewise the National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2018 and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Plan 2018-2030, recognize the participation of women in all aspects of DRR; but there is no significant or clear implementation mechanisms provided to strengthen gender mainstreaming in DRR. Therefore, there is a need for capacity building on GESI responsive DRRM to ensure the vulnerable groups are inclusively addressed in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) plans and policies.

In this context Women Friendly Disaster Management (WFDM) group and MAG in partnership with UN Women Nepal are jointly implementing a 9-month project to Promote Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Province 3 to achieve following objectives:

- Strengthen capacities of the local government officials and the community groups to formulate gender-responsive plans and policies related to DRR, including capacity on gender responsive planning and budgeting and gender-friendly housing and construction.
- Strengthen capacities of women's network at the local level to advocate for gender responsive DRR
- Strengthen the DRR plans and policies of seven local government units (LGUs) in province 3 from a GESI lens

This project aims to support local government units to mainstream GESI in DRR policies, implementation, and monitoring mechanisms so as to enable vulnerable communities to mitigate, prepare for, effectively respond to and overcome the impact of disaster and its multiple dimensions.

The key strategies include (1) Capacity development of rights holders and duty bearers at the provincial and local level to mainstream gender responsive DRR; (2) Policy advocacy and (3) Knowledge building and evidence generation.

In the reporting period from 1st August 2019 – 31st December 2019, MAG as a Secretariat of the WFDM gender-inclusive group has accomplished most of the project activities in the seven districts namely Kathmandu (Shankarapur Municipality), BhaktapurChangunarayan Municipality, Lalitpur (Bungamati Ward), Sindhupalchowk (Sangachowkgadi Municipality), Rasuwa (Gosaikunda Rural Municipality), Dhading (Neelkantha Municipality) and Dolakha (Bhimeshwor Municipality) which has been briefly discussed below.

Activity 1. Organized Consultations with Relevant Local Level Stakeholders on Gender Responsive Multi-Purpose Community Center (MPCC)

In this reporting period, WFDM & MAG conducted five Consultation Workshops in five districts namely Dhading, Kathmandu, Rasuwa, Bhaktapur and Sindupalchowk. Through these workshops **141** key stakeholders (**Female: 89, Male: 52, Janajati: 50, Dalit: 19 & PLWDs: 12**) were sensitized on the need and importance of gender-responsive infrastructure, DRR and humanitarian principles. The stakeholders included government officials, CSOs, construction companies, construction labor, local-level women, socially excluded and vulnerable groups, political parties, local disaster management groups in project districts.

Main Objectives:

The main objectives of the consultations were:

- To develop checklist on Gender Responsive Community Centers/ Evacuation Center

- To gather feedback and inputs from key stakeholders on Gender Responsive Community Centers/ Evacuation Center checklist
- To inform participants about the needs and scope of MPCC
- To build awareness of key stakeholders on GESI responsive MPCC and advocate for improved MPCC facilities to cater to the needs vulnerable groups through local level DRRM fund

Prior to organizing consultations, a gender consultant was hired to develop a checklist for gender-responsive Multi-Purpose Community Center (MPCC). The draft checklists were shared with the Steering Committee/ WFDM core group, UN Women and IOM for necessary feedback. The draft checklist was shared during the consultation and suggestions received have been incorporated to finalize the checklist. The final checklists will be shared with IOM as a recommendation. Few of the key recommendations are listed as below:

- Establishment of information system which considers gender, ethnic diversity as well as differing needs of people with disability/ disabilities (PWDs)
- Gender Friendly Budget should be formulated and the ability for effectively utilizing it should be strengthened.
- Compulsory Gender audit of every programs should be done
- Prioritizing gender related chapters in annual and quarterly reports and review meetings.
- Mainstreaming GESI in the planning and development processes of all regional and thematic ministries.
- Municipal level gender equality and social inclusion policies should be formulated and implemented to help ensure the proper flow in all municipal level programs.
- From a disaster point of view, it is suggested to prepare segmented statistics for gender and age groups and on that basis, prioritize their needs at all stages- before, during and after the disaster.
- Identify marginalized communities within the municipality and formulate disaster mitigation and management plans.
- Gender assessment should be made compulsory in every program
- Comply with the physical infrastructure and communication services guidelines 2069 accessible to persons with disabilities in the course of physical construction
- Priority should be given to social (gender) issues during annual and monthly reviews
- Mainstreaming of disaster and gender equality and social inclusion in the planning cycle and development plan of all the regional and thematic ministries

Activity 2. Developed Training Curriculum incorporating gender and DRR components

MAG developed a three -day training manual that was used as the primary resource for delivering ToT on DRR and GESI to potential facilitators from the WFDM core group member

organization. The manual was validated by a total of 20 experts in the field of gender equality and social inclusion from within the WFDM core group. The manual has also been incorporated as a “Gender Mainstreaming in DRRM module in the overall DRRM training manual developed by IOM. Furthermore, the manual was finalized by IOM together with Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MOFAGA) and made available online so that the package can be used in all provinces and municipalities.

Activity 3: Organized National level ToT on Gender & DRRM to WFDM members

MAG organized a National Level Training of Trainers (ToT) for mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) from 21-23 October 2019 in Lalitpur. The program was facilitated using a 3-day Gender and DRRM training manual prepared by the same Consultant. The training program focused on five key components- Common Understanding on GESI terminologies and DRRM terminology, existing policies, and framework on DRRM, effects of the disaster, gender mainstreaming and challenges.

21 representatives (**Female: 19, Male: 1, Other:1, Janajati: 2, Dalit: 2, PLWDs: 3**) from WFDM core group member organizations participated in the ToT on Gender & DRRM. 3 selected trained facilitators from the pool of 21 potential facilitators in turn facilitated the training organized by IOM to enhance the capacity of the Local Government Unit's (LGUs) representation on gender-responsive DRRM and preparedness. The pre and post-test result of the ToT on Gender and DRRM was carried out by MAG which reflected the improved knowledge of participants on GESI mainstreaming in the DRRM cycle.

Activity 4: Provided orientations to the Networks/groups/local consortium of women, socially excluded and vulnerable groups on Gender and DRR at the local levels

MAG organized seven orientations to improve understanding of the local networks/groups/local consortium of women, socially excluded and vulnerable groups on the importance of gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction and management at the local level. Altogether **243** participants (**Female: 128, Male: 115, Janajati: 128, Dalit: 26 & PLWDs: 2**) from local networks and groups participated in these initiatives. The key agendas for the program was to orient the participants about the GESI and DRRM terminologies, reflect on the importance of gender mainstreaming at the local level plan, policies, guidelines and budget, orient the participants about the national and local level mechanisms on DRRM and also inform them about the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS). Moreover, the program also sensitized the participants on the unequal repercussion of disaster on the vulnerable groups (as categorized by the Constitution).

Along with this, MAG developed a roster of the local organization, network and group working on Gender and DRRM in each of the 7 municipalities.

Activity 5: National Level “Training on Capacity Building of Municipal Government for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management”

IOM organized two events of a three-day National level " Training on Capacity Building of Municipal Government for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management" from 25th – 27th November 2019 at Kathmandu and from 2nd – 4th December 2019 at Kurintaar. The program at Kathmandu (Cluster 1) included 3 municipalities; namely, Sangachokgadi Municipality (Sindhupalchowk), Shankarapur Municipality (Kathmandu) and Bungamati Ward (Lalitpur Metropolitan City). The program at Kurintaar (Cluster 2) included Gosaikunda Rural Municipality (Rasuwa), Changunarayan Municipality (Bhaktapur) and Gorkha Municipality (Gorkha).

Main Objectives:

The main objectives of the program was to improve the understanding of local government officials (policymakers) on DRR and Gender so that they can develop local-level gender-responsive DRR. Hence, the topics included familiarizing the participants on;

- Importance of GESI in regards to DRRM (Agenda for Humanity- Leave No-one Behind)
- Ensuring the GESI lens in IRA and MIRA
- Mainstreaming DRR in the Development Process (7 Step Planning Process)
- Maintaining Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Camp Coordination and Camp Management Post-Disaster (Protection from Gender-Based Violence in DRRM)
- Importance of Sex, Age and Diversity Disaggregated Data

Key Recommendations from the facilitators:

- Experts should be mobilized to collect data as a preparedness measure for Initial Rapid Assessment to be gender equal and socially inclusive
- This is an opportunity to be an example and encourage all the 753 municipalities to ensure inclusive plans and policies
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion should be simultaneously incorporated in the local level activities
- collaborative work with intergovernmental as well as nongovernmental should be done
- GESI must be highlighted in every stage else it will invite gaps and loopholes
- Practicality of the action plan should also be reflected on through GESI perspective
- GESI should not be treated differently from DRRM as it is an integral part of the entire DRRM cycle to reach the goal of decreasing overall mortality rate and eminent risks
- Transcend from formal equality to substantive equality
- Ensure flexible gender funds to address multidimensional nature of GESI
- Address the sustainable development goals
- Disaster is also an opportunity

- Incorporate GESI responsiveness in the education system itself
- Sustainability and climate change is also a major concern and needs to be worked on before it turns into disaster

The training was catered to the LGU's representatives of who most were the policymakers. A total of **32** local level representatives (**Male 25, Female 7; Brahmin 5, Chettri 6, Janajati 19, Dalit 2**) participated in the training program at Kathmandu. Whereas, in Kurintaar a total of **28** local level representatives (**Male 19, Female 9; Brahmin 12, Janajati 14, Dalit 2**). The training strengthened their capacity on Gender and DRRM to develop gender-responsive plans, policies, and strategies that are still underway in most of the municipalities.

The Gender Module to the LGU representatives was facilitated by 3 facilitators (WFDM members) who were selected from the National Level ToT in Gender and DRRM trainers based on specific criteria.

Activity 6: Organized interaction sessions with multi-stakeholders to finalize inputs/recommendations for local level disaster plans and policies

MAG organized a half-day interaction with the municipal-level policymakers and local stakeholders to gather recommendations from multi-stakeholders to be incorporated in the local level disaster plans and policies and finalize the inputs on local level disaster plans, policy, and guidelines from a gender perspective. In this quarter, MAG & WFDM conducted 5 events of interactions in 5 project districts namely Dhading, Kathmandu, Rasuwa, Bhaktapur, and Sindupalchowk. Altogether **139** LGU's representatives (**Female: 57, Male: 82, Janajati: 52, Dalit: 24 and PLWDs: 2**) participated in the interaction.

A desk review of the existing local level disaster plans, policies, and guidelines from Gender perspectives were carried out and the half-day consultative workshop was organized with relevant to share the findings from the desk review and finalize inputs in each of the seven locations. The inputs are being compiled to be provided to the local government to be incorporated in the local level disaster plans, policies, and guidelines.

As a result of the implementation of the project activities, MAG strengthened partnership with WFDM group member organizations, Local Government Units (LGUs), Local CSOs, CBOs, and networks working on Gender and DRRM, and local media representatives as follows:

- Partnership with LGUs:*** The “Interaction sessions with multi-stakeholders to finalization gender responsive inputs/recommendations for local level disaster plans and policies” supported in developing strong coordination with the LGUs for providing the inputs in the Local DRR plans and policies to ensure that the majority of inputs are addressed and incorporated at local level DRR plans and policies. LGU committed that they will ensure that disaggregated information is maintained at the local level and they will also develop strategies to be more inclusive and capacitate the marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Commitments:

- The Ward Chairperson of Dhading, Mr. ShivarajGiri committed to providing platforms to home-based workers who made cloth sanitary pads after realizing that during the time of the disaster, solid waste management is a major concern and cloth sanitary pads are rather manageable compared to regular pads.
- Shankarapur Municipality, LGU representatives agreed on the collective effort and inclusive participation of local community stakeholders.
- At Neelkantha Municipality, under the participation of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Ward Chairpersons; they expressed that GESI related gaps in the Act will be discussed and amended in the next council's meeting.
- At Sangachowkgadi Municipality, representative of Ward 10 expressed that the local government law regarding DRR drafted last year will be amended to include gender-responsive provisions.
- As Gosaikunda Municipality, the representatives acknowledged to incorporate the suggestions over the DRRM act of Gosaikunda Rural Municipality to make it GESI friendly. Additionally, they agreed to manage the disaggregated data management system with inclusive participation.

Activity 7: Organized roundtable discussion with media at the community level

MAG conducted 7 events of roundtable discussions with media at the community level. Altogether **144 media representatives** and journalists (**Female: 64, Male: 80, Janajati: 54, & Dalit: 11**) participated in the interaction. The objective of the program was to enhance the understanding and knowledge of local media representatives and journalists at district and local levels on their role in promoting gender responsive DRR and preparedness programs, plans and policies. Local-level media plays an important role in disaster risk reduction, especially in pre-disaster preparedness and mitigation through awareness-raising that targets different community groups. After the discussion, the few of the journalists even signed commitments to proactively monitor activities related to mainstreaming of GESI in DRRM plans and policies.

Gender Responsive Disaster Preparedness Radio Public Service Announcement: MAG further developed a radio PSA for gender responsiveness during the disaster. The radio PSAs will be disseminated through the local radio in 5 districts; Rasuwa, Dolakha, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, and Kathmandu (common radio channel in Lalitpur and Bhaktapur) in the next quarter.

Activity 8: Gender Profile of 7 project municipalities

MAG together with Gender and DRR Consultant developed Gender Profile for all of the 7 municipalities accumulating the most relevant and available quantitative data in its correlation to the qualitative data. The gender profile incorporates the most updated data on the respective

municipalities which is expected to be best used by the municipal government while formulating the plans and policies to ensure GESI responsive reformations.

The objective of the Gender Profile is to act as a brief reference point for the municipal government on the gender status of their respective municipalities to make necessary developments as seen necessary. Moreover, they can also review and explores further the existing gaps, opportunities and needs as reflected in the Gender Profile.

Activity 9: Guidelines for Strengthening Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Legal and Institutional Mechanisms of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management at Local Levels

The Gender and DRR Consultant for the task reviewed and analysed the local and national level policy documents to conclude with a series of policy guidelines to ensure gender responsive DRRM. The Policy Guideline document will assist the local level government to identify the existing loopholes in their legal and institutional mechanisms of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management at the local level to ensure and strengthen Gender Equality and Social Inclusion at all level of DRRM cycle

Activity 10: Desk Review on local level DRM Acts, plans, policies and Guidelines from GESI perspective

A desk review of the existing local level disaster plans, policies, and guidelines from Gender perspectives were carried out and the half-day consultative workshop was organized with relevant to share the findings from the desk review and finalize inputs in each of the seven locations. The input was then incorporated into the GESI policy guideline in Local DRRM and proposed amendment 3 columned draft (Tin Mahale) document on GESI responsive local level DRRM act, plans, policies which has been shared with the municipal government.

Activity 11: GESI Responsive Disaster Preparedness Radio Public Service Announcement (PSAs) Aired through 5 different radio broadcasting services

MAG partnered with Ujyalo 90 network, Radio Rasuwa, Neelkantha FM, KAlinchowk FM and Radio Sindhu to broadcast radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) on Gender Responsive Disaster Response which has been broadcasted an impressive 8780 times from its initial plan of 500 times. The primary objective of the PSA is to sensitize the community members on Gender Responsive Disaster Response in temporary shelter facilities to facilitate Humanitarian as well as GESI responsive and sensitive community who can themselves facilitate GESI responsiveness in times of disaster.

S.No.	Radio Stations	Duration/ Number of Broadcasts	Total
1.	Ujyalo 90 Network (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur)	4 times a day/ 2 months	240 times
2.	Radio Rasuwa (Rasuwa)	20 times a day/ 4 months	2440 times (exclusive

			of 3 months complementary broadcast until August)
3.	Neelkantha FM (Dhading)	15 times a day/ 4 months	1830 times
4.	Kalinchowk FM (Dolakha)	15 times a day/ 4 months	1830 times
5.	Radio Sindhu (Sindhupalchowk)	20 times a day/ 4 months	2440 times
Total			8780 times

Activity 12: Proposed amendment 3 columned draft (Tin Mahale) document on GESI responsive local level DRRM act, plans, policies and guidelines for 7 project municipalities

MAG assigned a legal consultant, also apt in Gender and DRR, who helped formulate the proposed amendment 3 column draft document (*Tin Mahale*) which can be directly utilized by the government to make the suggested amends. The 3-column draft document is the legally accepted practice in Nepal for amendment of a policy-level document as it is easier for comparison between the gender blind clauses and GESI specific needs. The document has been reviewed by the WFDM members, DRR and gender experts as well as the legal consultant. MAG believes that this document can be a steppingstone to direct change at the policy level as due to its clear distinction for needs on minimum GESI responsive standards for DRRM cycle. The documents have been recently shared with the municipal representatives and MAG will follow-up on it soon. The government acknowledges and amends local level institutional mechanisms to make it more GESI responsiveness as deemed suitable

Activity 13: Radio Program: GESI responsiveness in Health Pandemic Disaster Risk Reduction: Preparedness, Prevention, Response and Recovery

With the onset of Covid-19 and realization of impending disaster/s, MAG used the radio program as a platform to aware the community on the disproportionate impact of disaster and health hazard such a COVID-19. The radio program was used as a tool to redirect the attention of the policymakers and community members towards disaster preparedness. The radio program was also utilized to understand how the GESI concerns during a disaster are being prioritized and to simultaneously aware the community on the importance of GESI mainstreaming.

MAG conducted an 8-episode radio program called, Jiban Rakshya which was broadcasted through 13 different radio channels in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Dolakha, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk, Dhading, Bake, Sunsari, Kaski, Kanchanpur, Sarlahi and Surkhet. CIN has a nationwide reach of more than 11.5 million all over Nepal. MAG teamed up with CIN Network and planned on broadcasting the radio program with an ongoing program called Jivan Raccha (Save Lives) as it already had a follower base. Alongside the nationwide radio coverage, CIN also has a following of more than 92,000 its Facebook page. MAG opted for listener's feedback to acquire the reach of the program among community members which has been noted below.

The key objective of the radio program was to:

- Aware individuals about the importance of GESI responsive disaster risk reduction and management in correlation to COVID-19.
- Inform the masses about the impact of a health hazard on the excluded and vulnerable population. Additionally, to inform the importance of policy advocacy for the government to incorporate proper humanitarian standards in shelter management and response.

D. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Nepal (FES) Supported Program

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), established in 1995, is working with partners such as trade unions, media, academia, political parties, and NGOs for capacity building on issues of social justice, human rights, rule of law, and inclusion. Furthermore, it holds discussions on current political and economic topics providing opportunities for cross-party dialogues and exchange between representatives of the government and civil society. It also provides civic education program/training to the people. FES Nepal, has been partnering with MAG in providing different training to the women journalists to enhance their capacities.

Activity 1: Impactful Journalism during the COVID-19 Pandemic- One day training program for Women Journalists

MAG in support of FES Nepal organized one day training program with an aim to capacitate the women journalists on impactful journalism during the COVID-19 pandemic regarding its preparedness, coverage and response on 11th June 2020. Since, the whole country was in a state of lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic, this training was organized and completed virtually via Zoom app. Public health expert, Dr. Rabindra Pandey delivered a session on basic concept of COVID-19 and safety procedures/measures for the media. Senior journalist Mr. DevprakashTripathi presented on COVID-19 reporting issues and angles and gave examples of different COVID-19 reporting issues and angles. Similarly, Dr. MahendraBista trained the participants on different COVID-19 reporting guidelines and Code of conduct for the media. The training session was very informative and interactive and was successfully conducted. All together there were around 40 participants which consisted women journalists of various media platforms from various districts of Nepal.

Major Objective:

- The major objective of the program was to capacitate women journalists for impactful journalism during the COVID-19 pandemic regarding its preparedness, coverage and response

Activity 2: Impactful Journalism during the COVID-19 Pandemic- One day training program for Women Journalists

Mag in support of FES Nepal organized one day interaction program with an aim to to assess the personal security protocols for safety of women journalist while covering Covid-19 and also the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on their professional security on 2nd July, 2020. Since, the whole country was in a state of lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic, this training was organized and completed virtually via Zoom. Media Scholar, Dr. SamikshaKoirala was one of the resource persons of the program. She presented mostly on the theoretical aspects of safety and job security during a pandemic. She spoke about online harassment and harassment at workspace. Second resource person, Ms. Anita Bindu shed light on the current situation and practices relating to safety and job security in COVID-19 situation. The program was mostly interaction based. The interaction was focused on how after the pandemic, life of women journalists have become unstable and full of different kinds of professional and personal challenges. The program was successfully conducted with 36 participants and generated some concrete recommendations to ensure safety and job security of women journalist in a crisis.

Major Objectives:

The major objectives of the program were:

- To assess the personal security protocols for safety of women journalist while covering Covid-19 related news
- To assess the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on professional security of women journalists