

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



Striving for Big Impact Through Small Efforts!



WORDS FROM CHAIRPERSON

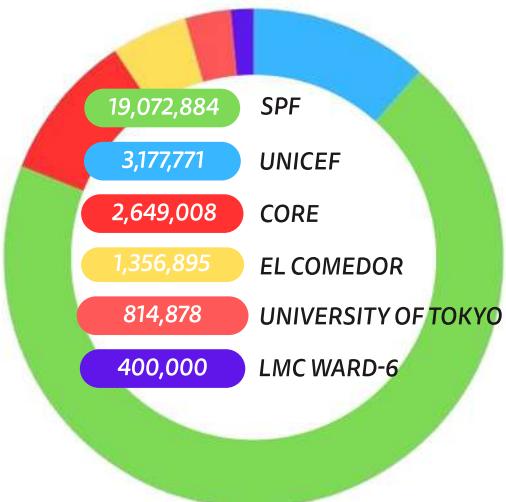


Rakesh Lal Singh
chairperson

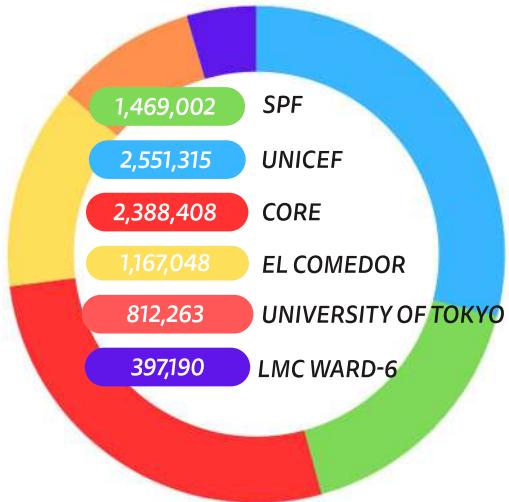
It's our immense pleasure to present this Annual Report of the year 2023-24. Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) is on a journey of 22 glorious years with continuous service to community and needy people, gaining a lot of experiences and learnings from the ground. This year, UEMS focused its effort in serving the urban and peri-urban population, especially marginalized and vulnerable population through its works in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Water treatment technologies and Empowerment of Women through skill enhancement. The achievements and progresses made are due to the continuous and collective efforts, partnership and collaborative interventions. We are thankful to Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC), Sécurité populaire français (SPF), communities and other partners for their support and cooperation.

However, the economic crisis has affected globally in recent years, global funding is limited and this has made the situation challenging for organizations in sustaining. Nevertheless, these matter have not affect us from achieving our goals and UEMS never give up for achieving its goals. Lastly, I hope our collaboration with wide range of stakeholders will continue this year too so hope to achieve even better success in coming days.

Income



Expenditure



Key Projects and Programme Achievements

Empowerment and capacity building of earthquake affected women in Khokana, Lalitpur

At the newly built crafts center 'UEMS Multiplex', with fund support by Secours Populaire Français (SPF) in partnership with Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) is implementing the project 'Empowerment and capacity building of earthquake affected women in Khokana'. The project aims to run women's capacity-building economic empowerment programmes and to construct a multiplex for running women's entrepreneurship activities relating to local crafts. Capacity building activities for the women of Khokana were conducted as per the demand of the community in coordination with ward office. So far, fabric weaving, wood carving, bamboo craft as well as paper craft trainings were organized in UEMS multiplex, Khokana. Women have been actively engaged in the craft making, especially fabric weaving and paper craft. At present, products marketing is in progress as the programme is in early stage.

Regular steering committee meeting is being held and the committee members are always positive and ready for supporting and providing guidance for running the programme more effectively

Budget: NPR 1,769,884

Improvement of drinking water quality and capacity building on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Uttargaya Public English Secondary School in Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot, Nepal

With fund support from El Comedor Estudiantil Giordano Liva, Italy, a WASH programme focused to improvement of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene together with school's capacity enhancement on WASH was successfully completed in Uttargaya Public English Secondary School (UPESS) in Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot, Nepal. UEMS conducted assessment of existing WASH situation, facilitated re-formation of WASH Committee in the school in accordance to the School WASH Guidelines, 2074 BS (2nd Review in 2076 BS), Ministry of Education Science and Technology, Government of Nepal, installed a large bio-sand filter with UV disinfection system and child-friendly water points connected to the water purification system, renovated the existing water points in the school compound and in the hostel. In addition, orientation training on water management, storage and monitoring and maintenance in accordance to 'Water Safety Plan' concept to the School WASH Committee members of UPESS and workshop cum training to adolescent girls for making their fabric sanitary pad, prepare and distribute basic hygiene kit to all school students through the school WASH committee were carried out. For hygienic behavioral change among students, 400 basic hygiene kit consisting of eight items (hand washing soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, nail clipper, comb, mirror, towel, hand-sanitizer) were provided to the WASH Committee for distribution to all students in the UPESS.

Budget: NPR 1,356,895

The Programme/Projects in Year 2024-25 (2081/2082)

- Continue Empowerment and capacity building of women in Khokana affected by the 2015 earthquake
- Continue Women's Empowerment through Entrepreneurship Development (WEED) in Lalitpur
- Continue Sa Pucha led waste management (using compost bins at the household level) and Rooftop farming

Cleaning Program in Lalitpur Metropolitan City

With the financial support from Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC), UEMS successfully conducted the Cleaning programme from 12 Poush 2080 to 30 Baisakh 2081(28 Dec 2023 to 13 May 2024) in ward no.6 of LMC. The main programme activities conducted in ward no.6 were the orientation which focused on WASH, distribution of cleaning materials for each women group, regular monitoring of the market area during the project period, providing seed money for each women group for the continuity of cleaning in their own area and the WASH awareness rally. Altogether 15 women groups of ward 6 benefitted from the orientation which was focused on the personal hygiene, household and environmental sanitation, segregation of waste and composting technique. After the programme, the women groups of ward no.6 regularly cleaning their area, some groups clean their community weekly, some twice a month and some monthly basis.

Budget: NPR 400,000

Women's Empowerment through Entrepreneurship Development (WEED) in Lalitpur

With fund support from Secours Populaire Francais (SPF), purchasing a land in UEMS name in Siddhipur, ward 6 of Mahalaxmi Municipality, Lalitpur for Women's Empowerment through Entrepreneurship Development (WEED) programme is in process.

Budget: NPR 17,303,000

Arsenic Testing and Arsenic Removal Filters Dissemination in Nepal

With fund support from the Environment and Resources Governance Lab, Department of International Studies, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, the University of Tokyo, Japan, UEMS assessed deployment and effectiveness of the Arsenic Biosand Filters (ABFs) distributed in arsenic affected communities in Nawalparasi district. Survey was conducted in 1,061 households in three municipalities and four rural municipalities to gather information of filter condition and its performance, amount of iron nails present, maintenance practices by the users, provider roles etc. Results from 1,061 households indicated that 17% used raw water with arsenic levels above Nepal's maximum permissible level of 50 ppb. While ABFs effectively reduced arsenic to safe levels in 74% of these cases, inconsistent iron nail weights and sporadic maintenance practices highlighted challenges in sustaining filter efficacy. A total of 30 new ABFs were also installed free of cost to economically poor families and some for local government offices. Likewise, the project supported for 25 ABFs that needed maintenance and media change for its operation.

Budget: NPR 814,878



UEMS Nepal

The Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) is working with deprived communities, primarily on sustainable community-based infrastructure development in areas such as water, sanitation, education, and income generation. Its approach emphasizes empowering these communities to take the lead in managing their own activities. However, the integration of economic growth and business development is seen as essential for sustaining these efforts. In light of this, UEMS Nepal, an independent not-for-profit company, has recently been established as a complementary entity to UEMS. Its primary goal is to support communities and their organizations in achieving economic growth and empowerment, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation. The company will assist in business development, production, and marketing of goods related to community enterprises. Furthermore, it enables UEMS Nepal to extend its support to communities beyond the Kathmandu Valley, which was previously limited for UEMS due to government regulations allowing only local NGOs registered within the district to operate. "

Making income from fabric weaving

Ms. Gyani Shova with six members in her family, affected from devastating earthquake of 2015, has been living in nearby farm area in Khokana with agriculture as main livelihoods. A permanent resident of Khokana, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, ward number 21, she was one of the participants of the basic fabric weaving training organized by UEMS in 2022. She got informed about the fabric weaving training using handloom from a local women group as well as 21 ward office. Gyani says "Before training, I did not have any knowledge on the fabric weaving. It was a very good opportunity for me to join the training and learn fabric weaving". At the beginning, she worried seeing the tools to be used that were not familiar to her before. After practicing for over a month, she started enjoying playing with threads, tools and handloom. "Now, I can weave fabrics myself without help of others", says Gyani.



As per Gyani, days before joining the fabric weaving, her daily activities were mostly limited to household tasks and sometimes gossiping with neighbours. She adds, "I come to UEMS Multiplex every day for fabrics weaving and days pass so quickly. I am very glad for being able to make some earnings from fabric weaving and support my family. I want to thank UEMS for this".

The attendance record shows, amongst all who had completed the fabric weaving training, Gyani is the one who has never skipped coming to UEMS complex. As per trainer of the training, her weaving skill is turning finer with time with quality products, and she will become expert on this soon if she continues devoting like now.

Key Achievements

Empowerment and capacity building of earthquake affected women in Khokana, Lalitpur

- Women empowerment and capacity building program, especially in fabric, wood carving, bamboo craft as well as paper craft was conducted for Khokana women. The program initial phase of developing local women entrepreneurs found very worthwhile. Now the women regularly visit UEMS Multiplex for the preparation of crafts especially the fabric and paper.

Improvement of drinking water quality and capacity building on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Uttargaya Public English Secondary School in Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot, Nepal

- Provision of safe drinking water to school family with the installation of drinking water filtration system and child-friendly drinking water points in the school. Renovation or maintenance of water points used for bathing and washing, and maintenance of broken basin taps in toilets helped students to access the existing facilities. Re-activation of School WASH committee, orientation and trainings related to WASH has helped the school for WASH improvement and behavioral change towards improved hygiene.

Arsenic Testing and Arsenic Removal Filters Dissemination in Nepal

- Database of 1,061 households of arsenic affected communities in Nawalparasi district, which is useful for arsenic mitigation programme. Contributed in prevention of health damage of the people through ABFs distribution as well maintenance for arsenic safe water for consumption.

Women's Empowerment through Entrepreneurship Development (WEED) in Lalitpur

- Acquisition of land in the name of UEMS has added not only organizational fixed property but also paved the way for construction of the building for future programmes.

Cleaning Program in Lalitpur Metropolitan City

- For the time being, the women groups of ward no.6 regularly cleaning their own area, as per their commitment and the availability of the time.

Snap Shots



Nepal and France Inter Cultural Exchange Program



Sanitation Campaign at ward No. 6



WASH program in Uttargaya Public English Secondary School in Nuwakot



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