

Annual Report 2024/25



Striving for Big Impact Through Small Efforts!





Rakesh Lal Singh
Chairperson

WORDS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

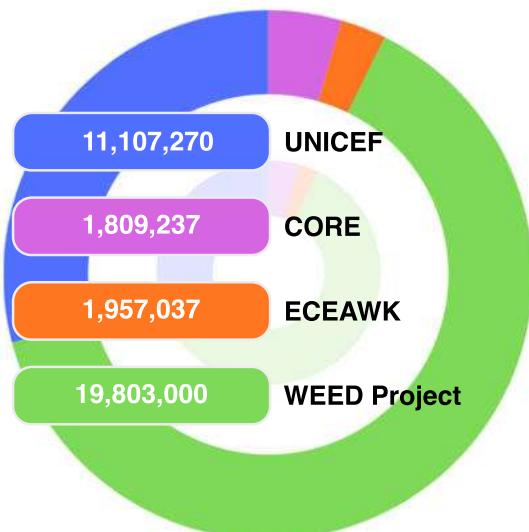
It gives us great satisfaction to present the Annual Report for 2024–25. The Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) has proudly completed 23 years of service to communities in need, gaining valuable experience and learnings along the way.

In 2024–25, UEMS focused on serving urban and peri-urban populations, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups. Our work primarily centered on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), promoting water treatment technologies, and empowering women through skill enhancement initiatives. These achievements are the result of collective efforts, strong partnerships, and collaborative interventions. We sincerely thank our partners Sécurité Populaire Français (SPF), UNICEF Nepal, Godawari Municipality, Mahankal Rural Municipality, Bagmati Rural Municipality, Konjyosom Rural Municipality, Mahalaxmi Municipality, and local communities for their invaluable support.

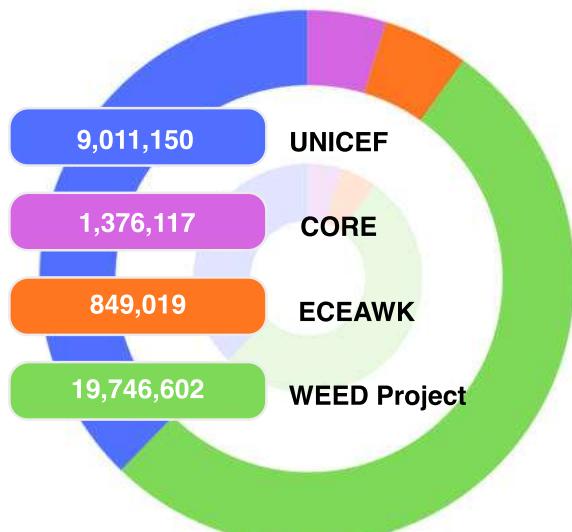
The global economic crisis and shrinking funding opportunities posed challenges, but these trials have strengthened and motivated us, inspiring resilience, innovation, and a continued commitment to empowering communities. UEMS remains unwavering in its mission, confident that meaningful change is possible even in adversity. Every challenge has reinforced community power and reaffirmed our dedication to those who need us most. We are confident that continued collaboration with stakeholders will enable us to achieve even greater milestones in the years ahead.

Thank you.

Income



Expenditure



Key Projects and Programme Achievements

Empowerment and Capacity Building of Earthquake-Affected Women (ECEAWK), Khokana, Lalitpur

UEMS, with support from Secours Populaire Français (SPF), is implementing the ECEAWK project to empower earthquake-affected women in Khokana through capacity-building and entrepreneurship in local crafts.

Training programs were tailored to the needs identified by the community and ward office, and included fabric work, wood carving, bamboo craft, and paper craft, along with women's empowerment sessions to build confidence and leadership skills.

Women are now actively engaged in craft production, particularly fabric, bamboo, and paper items. While market engagement is still in the early stages, the steering committee provides regular guidance and support to strengthen the initiative's impact and sustainability, fostering both economic opportunities and community development for the participants.

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

Siddhipur, in Mahalaxmi Municipality, Lalitpur, is home to approximately 5,000 residents, predominantly of Newar ethnicity, where economic opportunities for women are limited.

In the first phase, UEMS acquired a 177 m² plot of land connected to a motorable road, supported by SPF and UEMS's own contribution. The second phase will see the construction of a three-story multi-purpose building, serving as a permanent office and a Women's Entrepreneurship Centre.

The centre will provide training, mentorship, and hands on practical opportunities, promoting women's economic empowerment in Siddhipur and Mahalaxmi Municipality. Through this initiative, UEMS aims to strengthen women-led enterprises and contribute to the overall social and economic development of the community in collaboration with the municipality.

Humanitarian WASH intervention in Bagmati Province

With support from UNICEF Nepal, UEMS implemented the Humanitarian WASH Intervention Project in four municipalities of Lalitpur District—three rural and one urban municipality officially declared flood-affected by the Government of Nepal. The project focused on rehabilitating water supply systems, restoring sanitation services, and promoting hygiene awareness to establish water-safe communities. Key achievements included the rehabilitation of seven water supply systems and the construction or renovation of 102 toilets, directly benefiting 2,000 people.

Capacity-building efforts included training on Water Safety Plans (WSP), Child-Centred Risk Mapping (CCRM), water quality testing, and NWASH, along with orientations for government officials on Water Quality Monitoring and Water-Safe Community Guidelines. A major milestone was the declaration of Pangre and Jamire (Ward No. 2, Bagmati Rural Municipality) as Water-Safe Communities, demonstrating resilience and sustainable WASH practices in disaster-affected areas.



The Programme/Projects in the Year 2025–26 (2082/2083)

1. Continue capacity-building and economic empowerment initiatives for women in earthquake-affected Khokana.
2. Construct a multi-purpose UEMS building in Siddhipur and sustain women's empowerment efforts through the WEED program.
Continue Sa Pucha-led waste management initiatives, including household composting and other income-generating activities.
4. Continue exposure opportunities for Nepalese youths through SPF led 'Copain du Monde' events.

Other Noteworthy Events

Nepalese children to the Paris Olympics 2024

Secours Populaire Français (SPF), a long-standing partner of UEMS, has supported cultural exchange visits of Nepalese children and youth to France since 2015 to promote solidarity and global understanding.

In 2024, a team of five Nepalese children led by Dr. Sichu Singh Maharjan visited Vaucluse, France, from 21–31 July at SPF's invitation to participate in Olympic-themed solidarity and sporting activities. The team—Sadik Shakya, Samyam Maharjan, Manjima Maharjan, and Ojashwi Singh—also attended a live Rugby match at Stade de France during the Olympic Games.

The visit offered invaluable exposure to international cultures and the Olympic spirit, enabling the children to proudly represent Nepal on a global stage. It showcased the potential of Nepalese youth and reinforced the power of sport as a bridge for unity, development, and intercultural dialogue, further strengthening the friendship between Nepal and France.

Participation in Ward-Level Exhibitions – Ward No. 21, Khokana

UEMS actively participated in ward-level exhibitions organized by Ward No. 21, Khokana, showcasing craft products made by local women to the community and visitors. The first exhibition, held on 5th and 25th September 2024, provided a platform to engage potential customers, gather feedback, and increase visibility. Building on this success, a subsequent exhibition on 4th and 5th June 2025 further promoted the products, fostered community engagement, and strengthened UEMS's presence in the local market. Both events played a vital role in enhancing community interaction and supporting the growth and sustainability of our initiatives.

Participation in the 115th International Women's Day

On 8–9 March 2025, UEMS actively participated in the 115th International Women's Day celebration organized by Lalitpur Metropolitan City. Sharing a stall with Craze Fashion (Boutique), we showcased products made by local women and highlighted initiatives promoting women's entrepreneurship and skill development.

The event provided a platform to engage community members, local leaders, and stakeholders, enhancing the visibility of products and programs. It also fostered networking, knowledge exchange, and strengthened UEMS's presence in initiatives supporting women's economic empowerment in the region.

Engage, Explore, Plan: UEMS Board Learning Visit

On 15–16 February 2025, UEMS Board Members, along with staff, undertook a field visit to Salyut and Kalinchowk. The visit provided an opportunity to observe the local context, engage in team interactions, and reflect on ongoing initiatives. A formal board meeting was also convened, during which members deliberated on key organizational priorities, reviewed progress, and outlined strategic directions for the future.



Case Study: The Joy of Learning Bamboo Craft

In Khokana, Lalitpur, many women face limited livelihood opportunities due to lack of skills and income-generating options. Ms. Sunita Maharjan (Shrestha), 36, originally from Dhankuta, was one such woman who, after her marriage and relocation to Khokana six years ago, devoted herself to household responsibilities and caring for her five-year-old daughter.

Nominated by Ms. Helen Shova Maharjan, female representative of Ward No. 21, Sunita attended a three-day orientation on Gender and Women's Empowerment organized by UEMS, boosting her confidence and awareness of economic opportunities. She then joined a 10-day bamboo craft training, where she learned to design and produce table lamps, ceiling lamps, and fruit baskets.

The training revealed her creativity, increased her confidence, and enabled her to earn income to support her household. Beyond immediate earnings, Sunita gained a sustainable skill with long-term potential in the eco-friendly craft sector. Reflecting on her journey, she shares, "I never thought I could create such beautiful products from bamboo. This training has given me confidence and a way to support my family. I am grateful to UEMS for this opportunity."



UEMS Nepal: Extending Development Beyond the Valley

UEMS Nepal, established as a profit not distributing company, aims to promote economic growth, support community enterprises, and expand activities beyond the Kathmandu Valley while complementing UEMS's ongoing charitable work.

This year, UEMS Nepal successfully implemented three short-term projects in Bardiya, Jumla, and Nawalparasi, addressing pressing local needs: skill development of Ex-Kamaiya women to promote income generation in Bardiya, provision of drinking water and educational support in Jumla, and arsenic water treatment at schools in Nawalparasi. These initiatives focused on WASH improvements, educational support, and women's empowerment, strengthening social and economic participation. Through these projects, UEMS Nepal reinforced its commitment to sustainable community development in marginalized regions of the country beyond Kathmandu valley.

Key Achievements

① Empowerment and capacity building of earthquake affected women in Khokana, Lalitpur

UEMS's capacity-building program enabled Khokana women to enhance craft skills and generate income, supporting economic empowerment and self-reliance.

② Women's Empowerment through Entrepreneurship Development (WEED) in Lalitpur

The acquisition of land in UEMS's name at Siddhipur, Lalitpur, has strengthened the organization's assets and paved the way for the construction of a dedicated building to support future programs.

③ Humanitarian WASH Intervention in Bagmati Province

With support from UNICEF Nepal, UEMS rehabilitated seven water supply systems, renovated or constructed 102 toilets, built community and institutional capacity, and declared two communities as Water-Safe, directly benefiting 2,000 residents in flood-affected areas of Lalitpur District.

Snap Shots



Women stepping up through empowerment training



Nepali children explored France during the Olympic Games



Local communities joined hands to enhance quality water access



Municipality and UEMS Executive Committee members on a monitoring visit



Board members exploring and learning



Together for transparency: Social Audit in action



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