



Friends of ADWAN Nepal ADWAN IMPACT REPORT 2025



ADWAN WOMEN
RESILIENCY, ADVOCACY
GIRL EDUCATION
LIVELIHOOD

MOVING FORWARD

*Want to make
a difference?*

**DONATE
NOW**

ADWAN IMPACT 2025

GREETINGS FROM NEPAL!

As we step into 2026, we are honored to share the ADWAN Impact Report 2025, made possible through the continued generosity, trust, and partnership of our donors and supporters. This report highlights the collective impact of Friends of ADWAN Nepal and Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN), showcasing how your support has translated into meaningful change for Dalit women and marginalized communities across Nepal.



A Shared Path Forward

The progress highlighted in this ADWAN Impact Report is a testament to what is possible when communities and committed partners stand together. Every life transformed, every voice amplified, and every barrier challenged has been made possible through your belief in ADWAN's mission.

Yet, the journey toward equality and dignity for Dalit women in Nepal is far from complete. Systemic discrimination, gender-based violence, and economic exclusion continue to threaten hard-won gains. The need remains urgent—and so does the opportunity to create lasting change.

We invite you to take action today. Your contribution—whether a renewed gift or a first-time donation—directly supports grassroots programs that empower Dalit women and marginalized children through education, economic opportunity, survivor-centered advocacy, and community leadership. U.S. donors can make a tax-deductible contribution through Friends of ADWAN Nepal, a U.S.-registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Please consider making a donation or renewing your support as we enter 2026. Together, we can expand ADWAN's reach, strengthen local women leadership, and ensure that progress continues where it is needed most.

Stand with ADWAN. Invest in dignity. Help build a more just and equitable future for Dalit women and marginalized communities in Nepal.

With gratitude, we thank you for your continued partnership and generosity.

Dr. Bishnu Maya Pariyar, Hon. DLitt.

Founding President, ADWAN

President, Friends of ADWAN Nepal

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INSPIRING NEW LEADERS:

ADWAN Hosts 27th Annual General Assembly and Elects 7th Executive Committee

Exclusive: Chitwan, Nepal- The Association for Dalit Women Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN) successfully convened its 27th Annual General Assembly (AGA) alongside the election of its 7th Executive Committee at Rhino Hotel & Lodge, Chitwan, on August 13, 2025. The landmark gathering marked a proud and significant milestone in ADWAN's continuing journey to uplift Dalit and marginalized women, advance social justice, and strengthen grassroots leadership across Nepal. >>

Hope in Action



The ADWAN-supported sanitary pad enterprise run by rural women of the Navapaluwa Koshish Women's Sanitary Pad Entrepreneurs Group in Shahid Lakhan Rural Municipality-5, Jumli Chautara (Taklung), Gorkha, is successfully producing and branding Navapaluwa Sanitary Pads, advancing women's livelihoods while promoting menstrual dignity.

ASSOCIATION FOR DALIT WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT OF NEPAL (ADWAN)



एड्वान नेपाल



Bishnu Maya Pariyar, Hon. DLitt.
FOUNDING PRESIDENT & CHIEF PATRON

Executive Committee 2025-2028



Bindu Thapa Pariyar
President



Tirtha Kumari BK
Vice President



Sapana Sunar
General Secretary



Ram Maya BK
Secretary



Sapana Thapa Pariyar
Treasurer



Pampha Pariyar Gurung
Senior Founding Member



Kunjani Pariyar Pyasi
Member



Manju (Susmita) Pariyar
Member



Bina Majakoti
Member

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ADWAN Leadership (2025-2028)

- Chairperson: Bindu Pariyar Thapa
- Vice-Chairperson: Tirtha Kumari BK
- General Secretary: Sapana Sunar
- Secretary: Ram Maya BK
- Treasurer: Sapana Sunam
- Senior Founder Member: Pampha Pariyar Gurung
- Members:
- Kunjani Pariyar Pyasi
- Manju Pariyar
- Bina Majakoti

<<The Annual General Assembly brought together members, advisors, advocates, and supporters from across the country to reflect on ADWAN's achievements, assess ongoing programs, and chart a strategic course for the future. The successful election of new leadership reaffirmed the organization's commitment to democratic governance, transparency, and inclusive representation.

The newly elected team will guide ADWAN into its next phase, further strengthening initiatives in education, advocacy, literacy, livelihoods, and gender equality, while building upon the organization's consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and its extensive community-based networks.

A Legacy of Empowerment and Social Justice

Timeline of ADWAN 1998-2025	
<i>Adwan's 27-Year Crusade for Equality and Empowerment</i>	
1996	Ms. Bishnu Maya Pariyar, 21, started five women's groups in her own village Taklung, Gorkha with \$150 (Rs. 10,000) from a group of Americans expats with the support of her parents and sisters.
1998	Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN) was established by Ms. Bishnu Maya Pariyar and her friends.
1999	Ms. Bishnu left for the USA for further study but continuing leading the organization. Bishnu and Eva Kassel met in Nepal in 1998, after which the Kassel family helped Bishnu to continue her education in the U.S.
2000	ADWAN continues to work towards equality and empowerment in Dalit and marginalized communities but still in its fledgling stage.
2003	Ms. Bishnu and Eva Kassel co-founded EDWON in United States as a project to raise awareness in the West, and to fund ADWAN's works in Nepal.
2011	ADWAN continues to expand its education, advocacy and empowerment works. It transitions into livelihood training, and entrepreneurship development.
2015	Dr. Bishnu Maya Pariyar founded Friends of ADWAN Nepal (FAN), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit, to serve as the fundraising arm of ADWAN in the United States.
2023	ADWAN is celebrating its silver jubilee. Since its inception, more than 25,000+ students and more than 150,000+ Dalits, Indigenous and marginalized women and their families have been benefited from various programs conducted by ADWAN.
2024	ADWAN has been officially granted consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) — a significant and well-deserved recognition on the global stage!
2025	ADWAN celebrates its 27th Anniversary. From its humble beginnings with one small women's savings and loan group in 1998, ADWAN has now grown to 6,200 women in 253 groups, impacting the lives of more than 153,000 people across Nepal. This transformation has been made possible through the unwavering spirit of rural women — and the generous support of friends like you.

For more than a quarter of a century, ADWAN (Association for Dalit Women Advancement of Nepal) has stood as a beacon of hope and resilience in Nepal's movement for equality and empowerment.



thank you FRIENDS OF ADWAN NEPAL DAY OF CHARITY



thank you

For being part of ADWAN's 27th Anniversary Celebration, your presence made the occasion truly unforgettable for all of us. On behalf of ADWAN's 6,200 women in 253 groups and the 25,000+ students whose futures you have helped shape through your unwavering support and dedication — we extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation.



with deepest gratitude,
Dr. Bishnu Maya Pariyar, Hon. D.Litt.
Founding President, ADWAN
President, Friends of ADWAN Nepal

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WWW.ADWANNEPAL.ORG

Nepali Womens Success Story— ADWAN's 27th Anniversary Celebration in Jersey City Inspires Community

Exclusive — Jersey City, NJ: The Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN), one of Nepal's leading rights-based organizations championing the empowerment of marginalized women and girls, celebrated its 27th anniversary on November 8, 2025, in Jersey City, New Jersey, United States. More than two hundred well-wishers gathered to honor ADWAN's transformative journey from a single women's savings group to a national movement for justice and social change.

Source: <https://www.nepalism.com>

A Movement That Began With One Group — Now Transforming Thousands

Founded in 1998 with one small savings and loan group, ADWAN has expanded into a robust grassroots network:

- 6,200 women organized in 253 groups
- 25,000+ students supported
- 153,000+ lives impacted across Nepal

ADWAN's story continues to inspire Nepali communities across the world, demonstrating that when women rise, families, communities, and nations rise with them.

ADWAN's 27th Anniversary NEPALI WOMEN'S SUCCESS STORY

एडवानक २७ वर्ष



www.nepalism.com

The 27th Anniversary celebration was honored by the presence of His Excellency Ambassador Lok B. Thapa, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, Chair of UN ECOSOC who graced as Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker. He praised ADWAN's long-standing contributions to gender justice, rural women empowerment, children education and social transformation. >>

ADWAN IMPACT 2025



<<ADWAN's Founding President, **Dr. Bishnu Maya Pariyar**, Hon. DLitt.,who also serves as President of Friends of ADWAN Nepal (FAN) USA, delivered a heartfelt speech recounting ADWAN's origins—rooted in her lived struggle, community experiences, and a desire for dignity and social justice.

Event Chair **Dipti Parmar** welcomed attendees, while **Sumitra Manandhar**, Director of FAN, outlined the collaborative programs jointly implemented by ADWAN and FAN. ADWAN's current President **Bindu Thapa** concluded the formal session with an expression of gratitude.

The celebration was honored by the presence of **His Excellency Ambassador Lok B. Thapa**, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, Chair of UN ECOSOC who graced as Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker. who praised ADWAN's long-standing contributions to gender justice, rural women empowerment, children education and social transformation.

The event commenced with the national anthems of Nepal and the United States, symbolizing solidarity and cross-cultural unity.

Prominent speakers included: **Hon'ble Basundhara Bhusal**, Prominent Nepali Actress, **Hon'ble Senator Angela V. McKnight**, New Jersey State Senate, **Hon'ble Delegate Harry Bhandary**, Maryland House of Delegates, **Hon'ble Mayor Ravi Bhalla**, Mayor of Hoboken & NJ State Assembly Member-elect, **Dr. Jenine Bloomfield**, FAN Board Member; former Senior Scientist, Environmental Defense Fund, **Prof. Dr. Diana Fox**, FAN Board Member; Chair, Anthropology Department, Bridgewater State University, **Melisha Gurung**, Founding Youth Chair, Hamro Ama Inc., New York, **Yuv Raaj Sapkota**, Teen youth leader. Their remarks, filled with encouragement and admiration, emphasized the global significance of ADWAN's grassroots model of women's empowerment. >>



AWARD CEREMONY HONORS EXCELLENCE AND SERVICE

<<A central highlight of the evening was the ADWAN 27th Anniversary Awards presentation, recognizing individuals whose contributions have uplifted communities in the fields of arts, advocacy, public service, and youth empowerment.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Mrs. Basundhara Bhusal, Legendary Nepali actress—revered as the Hasya Samragyi (Queen of Comedy)—recognized for her monumental impact on Nepali cinema and cultural heritage.

Commendation Award: Senator Angela V. McKnight, Honored for exemplary leadership and dedicated public service in New Jersey.

Commendation Award: Mrs. Sherry Singh, CEO & Founder, Whole Spectrum Autism, Recognized for lifelong advocacy and exceptional service within the special needs community.

Commendation Award: Prominent Singer Sapana Shree, Awarded for elevating Nepali music and culture on global stages.

Commendation Award: Prominent Singer Jagdish Samal Magar, Honored for his powerful artistic journey and contributions to Nepal's musical landscape.

Commendation Award: Dinesh Sunar, 21-Times Guinness World Record Holder, Pro Parkour Athlete, Gymnast & Stuntman, celebrated for his extraordinary achievements and inspiration to youth worldwide.

Commendation Award: Purna Paija Magar, Recognized for his relentless commitment to community service.>>



A Night of Culture, Music, and Celebration

<<The celebration featured vibrant performances that captivated the audience.

Notable performers included: **Sapana Shree** (Singer), **Jagdish Samal Magar** (Singer), **Rangita Gurung** (Actress/Model), **Kabina Maharjan**, President, International Nepali Artist Society NJ Chapter, **Mahadev Tripathi**, Comedian, **Dinesh Sunar**, Guinness World Record–holding stunt performer, **Shiva BK**, Renowned Choreographer, **Usha Lama**, **Ushika BK**, **Urbashi BK**, performers

The event was expertly hosted by **Sharda Thakuri** and **Pradeep Thapa**, who kept the program engaging, informative, and energizing.

More Than an Anniversary — A Call to Action

As speakers reflected on ADWAN's 27-year journey, one message rang clear: This celebration marked not just a milestone, but a renewed commitment to justice, equality, and the empowerment of the most marginalized. And, that ADWAN's work is far from finished.

The anniversary was not just a celebration—it was a renewed call to action for justice, equality, and inclusion.

ADWAN's story continues to inspire Nepali communities across the world, demonstrating that when women rise, families, communities, and nations rise with them.

Friends of ADWAN Nepal (FAN) and **ADWAN** extend their heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders, distinguished guests, co-sponsors, artists, and volunteers for making the 27th anniversary celebration a truly unforgettable event.

ADWAN ECOSOC STATUS



ADWAN
Empowering Women & Educating Girls



ECOSOC
Economic and Social Council



We are thrilled to announce that the Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN) has been officially granted consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) — a significant and well-deserved recognition on the global stage!

ADWAN is the only organization from Nepal to receive this prestigious status in 2024, joining a distinguished group of just 6,786 NGOs worldwide. This milestone means ADWAN, a non-governmental, non-profit organization, can now formally contribute to the vital work of the United Nations.

With a grassroots network of 6,263 women in 253 groups, ADWAN is positively impacting the lives of over 153,000 people across Nepal. From confronting caste discrimination and gender-based violence to tackling illiteracy, these courageous women are transforming intergenerational injustice into dignity, empowerment, and self-reliance.

This achievement not only amplifies the voices of Dalit women at the global level but also inspires us all to keep fighting for a just and inclusive world.

Congratulations to the entire ADWAN team and community! Your unwavering dedication continues to change lives and shape a better future for all.

Dr. Bishnu Maya Pariyar, Hon.DLitt.
Founding President,
ADWAN



ADWAN Women Resiliency

ADWAN Women stand as a powerful example of how rural Dalit women and other marginalized women—along with their families—can transform adversity into collective strength and become a driving force for social change. ADWAN is dedicated to empowering women from underserved and excluded communities to reclaim their dignity, resilience, and voice. Grounded in the principles of social justice, equity, and human rights, the program focuses on building resilience among women who face systemic discrimination, poverty, violence, and social exclusion.

Through education, skills development, livelihood and leadership training, and psychosocial support, ADWAN equips women with the tools they need to overcome adversity and emerge as agents of change within their families and communities. The program emphasizes economic independence, access to education, awareness of rights, and collective empowerment as essential pathways to sustainable and long-term transformation.

ADWAN also fosters safe and supportive spaces where women can share their experiences, heal from the trauma of caste-based untouchability, and build solidarity. By strengthening confidence, self-advocacy, and community leadership, ADWAN not only uplifts individual women but also helps break cycles of inequality and discrimination for future generations.

At its core, ADWAN believes that when women are empowered, communities thrive—and lasting social change becomes possible.



ADWAN Completes Livelihood Project Empowering Dalit and Marginalized Women

Chitwan, Nepal- Association of Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN) has successfully completed the first phase of its project, *"Improved Livelihood and Economic Opportunity for Dalit and Marginalized Women,"* in Khairahani and Kalika Municipalities of Chitwan District, with support from Karuna Trust UK and Friends of ADWAN (FAN), USA.

The project aims to strengthen the economic resilience and well-being of 570 Dalit and other marginalized families through livelihood support and technical training in both agro- and non-agro-based enterprises. Beyond skills development, the initiative integrates women's leadership, rights awareness, social activism, and the transformation of harmful gender norms, alongside training in business models, value chains, financial literacy, and marketing.

Since its launch in January 2025, the project has combined training with practical interventions, including seed funding for group farming and small enterprises. Women's groups have been supported to establish savings and credit mechanisms, open bank accounts, obtain Permanent Account Numbers (PAN), and register formally, enabling them to access local government resources and services.

As of December 2025, 60 women have completed transformative social mobilization training, while 30 women received financial literacy training. A further 150 women participated in skills development programs in tailoring, goat rearing, vegetable farming, beauty care, and small-scale trading. To date, 128 women have started small businesses, contributing to increased household incomes, largely invested in children's education and healthcare—reflecting growing respect and recognition of women's roles within their households.



ADWAN Expands “Learning Champion” Project to Support Education and Livelihoods in Palpa and Rupandehi

Palpa/Rupandehi- Association of Dalit Women’s Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN) is implementing “**Learning Champion**,” an expansion of the pilot project *Strong Girls I*, in Rambha Rural Municipality of Palpa District and Kanchan Rural Municipality of Rupandehi District. The project is supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Karuna Trust Deutschland, and Karuna Trust UK, and is being implemented through a consortium partnership with Green Tara Nepal and the Rural Education and Environment Development Centre Nepal (REED Nepal).

The project, which began in August 2022 and will continue until August 2027, aims to re-enroll all out-of-school children—particularly girls from Dalit and marginalized communities—and ensure their access to quality education. ADWAN’s specific role focuses on strengthening the economic resilience of families whose children dropped out of school due to financial hardship.



SARU'S STORY

The project has also produced inspiring livelihood success stories. In Kanchan Rural Municipality, Rupandehi, Ms. Saru Adhikari, owner of Saru Beauty Parlour, is successfully running her business, saving regularly, investing in her children's education, and actively using social media to expand her customer base. Her journey reflects not only economic empowerment but also psychosocial healing and renewed confidence after significant personal hardship.

SUCCESS STORY LIVELIHOOD

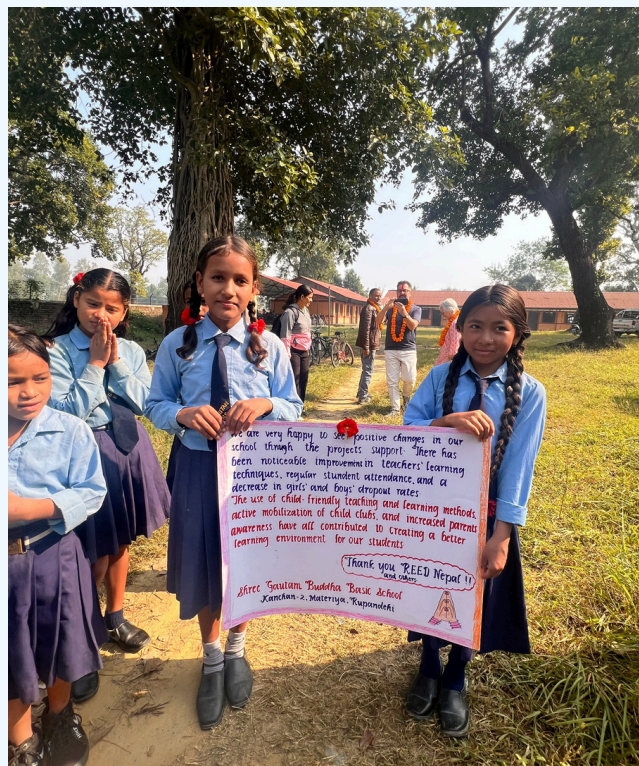
<<As of December 2025, all 30 women's groups have been formed, comprising 584 members. Of these, 28 groups have initiated group-based production and business activities, benefiting 415 women. Members have mobilized NPR 2,663,977 through savings and credit mechanisms. Group farming and enterprise activities—ranging from vegetable, mushroom, ginger, turmeric, and Akabare chili farming to tailoring and beauty services—have generated monthly incomes between NPR 1,250 and NPR 23,050. In addition, 68 women have started individual businesses, each earning at least NPR 12,500 per month.





SUCCESS STORY DIGNITY CENTERS

<<ADWAN has organized mothers into 30 women's groups and supported them through livelihood activities, while simultaneously facilitating children's re-enrollment through Dignity Centres. These centres function as safe spaces for learning, counselling, psychosocial healing, and coordination with schools, with a special focus on dropout children and adolescent girls.



By December 2025, 141 dropout girls had been re-admitted to school, many overcoming severe personal and social challenges. One girl, who dropped out for four years due to family breakdown, has re-enrolled and is now studying in Grade 10, consistently ranking first in her class. Common causes of dropout identified include economic vulnerability, family disruption, bullying, early marriage risks, and domestic and school-based violence.>>



SUCCESS STORY

PANCHE BAJA

<<In Rambha Municipality, Palpa, a group of 15 Indigenous Magar women challenged traditional gender norms by training in **Panche Baja** music under the slogan “*We can do what men do.*” After completing the training, they established Panche Baja performance as a collective business and are now earning income through performances at weddings, festivals, and community events, transforming a traditionally male-dominated and stigmatized occupation into a sustainable livelihood.



Overall, the livelihood support program has been highly effective, with strong group cohesion, regular savings, access to credit, and increased bargaining power with local governments. The positive collaboration with local authorities and the visible confidence and motivation of women’s groups signal strong prospects for the project’s long-term sustainability and continued impact on girls’ education and women’s empowerment.



The center offers two daily meals, in the morning and evening, and provides dedicated academic support through a full-time teacher who assists with homework and delivers tuition across all grade levels.

ADWAN DAY CARE CENTER EMPOWERING MARGINALIZED GIRLS

Ratnanagar, Chitwan— Five years ago, ADWAN established and began supporting a Day Care Center in Ratnanagar Municipality in Chitwan to improve learning outcomes for girls aged 10–16 from highly marginalized and economically disadvantaged families. Many of these girls had low academic performance and were repeating grades due to limited support at home, as their parents primarily worked as daily wage laborers with insufficient income to meet educational needs.

With the generous and continued support of a sponsor in the United States, ADWAN has successfully sustained the center, providing a safe, nurturing environment and consistent academic assistance.

Currently, the Day Care Center supports 10 girls from diverse caste and ethnic backgrounds—Kumal (1), Pariyar (3), Bhujel (1), Darai (2), Praja (2), and Kushwa (1)—who are enrolled in Grades 3 through 10. Students graduate from the center upon completing Grade 10.

Through this holistic approach, ADWAN continues to strengthen educational access and opportunities for some of the most vulnerable girls in the community.



Sponsorship Support: 27 Years of Educational Commitment

ADWAN has been providing educational sponsorship support for the past 27 years, benefiting more than 26,000 students across Nepal. This long-running initiative focuses on children from highly vulnerable and marginalized backgrounds, helping them stay in school and pursue their academic goals.

Education Support to Children

ADWAN Expands Sponsorship and Blue Shirt Campaign Impact

For nearly three decades, the All Dalit Women's Association of Nepal (ADWAN) has remained steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that education reaches the most vulnerable children in Nepal. Through sustained sponsorship programs and innovative initiatives like the Blue Shirt Campaign, ADWAN continues to remove barriers that prevent marginalized students—especially Dalit children—from accessing quality education.

Blue Shirt Campaign: Restoring Dignity and Equality in Schools

The Blue Shirt Campaign addresses one of the most common yet overlooked barriers to education in rural Nepal: the lack of proper school uniforms. In public schools across the country, the blue shirt is a standard uniform, and not having one often leads to embarrassment, exclusion, and irregular attendance.

With the support of Friends of ADWAN Nepal (FAN), ADWAN successfully distributed school uniforms to students in Gorkha and Chitwan districts, targeting Dalit and marginalized communities. The initiative promotes education, equality, and self-confidence by ensuring that children can attend school with dignity.>>

INVESTING IN EDUCATION



Impact

In 2025, the campaign reached the following schools:

1. Rameshwori Secondary School, Gorkha – 216 students
2. Saraswoti Primary School, Gorkha – 115 students
3. Sinjali Secondary School, Gorkha – 212 students
4. Janahit Secondary School, Chitwan – 453 students
5. Primary School Bankatta, Chitwan – 287 students

Total beneficiaries: 1,283 schoolchildren

Measurable Impact on Students and Communities

<<As a direct result of the Blue Shirt Campaign, students experienced multiple benefits:

- **Attending school with dignity:** Proper uniforms reduced embarrassment and social exclusion, fostering pride and a sense of belonging.
- **Reduced financial burden on families:** The initiative eased the cost of school attire for economically vulnerable Dalit households.
- **Promotion of equality and inclusion:** Uniforms helped minimize visible caste and socio-economic distinctions within schools.
- **Improved educational engagement:** Access to essential school materials increased attendance, participation, and motivation to learn.

Looking Ahead

ADWAN's Blue Shirt Campaign has demonstrated clear and measurable impact in advancing educational access, inclusion, and equity for Dalit and marginalized students in Nepal. Building on this success, ADWAN has committed to continuing the campaign, reinforcing its broader mission of education for all.

Through sustained sponsorship support and community-driven initiatives, ADWAN—together with Friends of ADWAN Nepal—continues to transform lives, one child, one uniform, and one classroom at a time.



Impacts

1998-2025

ADWAN BENEFITTED

- 01 Women Groups: 253, or, 6,200 members
- 02 And, Families: 25,000+ members
- 03 Girls Education: 26,000+ girls (and, boys)
- 04 Livelihood: 23,140+ members
- 05 Rights/Advocacy: 26,464+ women
- 06 COVID-19 relief: 26,326+ people
- 07 Earthquake relief: 6,379 households
- 08 Earthquake relief: 25,496+ people
- 09 ADWAN HAS BENEFITED SO FAR:
- 10 TOTAL: 153,000 + PEOPLE

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TO BE CONTINUED...