

WAWCAS Annual Program Progress Report 2024/2025



developed by
SLISHA (Nepal)
and
WAWCAS International Denmark

October 2025

CONTENT

CONTENT	2
ABBREVIATIONS	3
SUMMARY	4
INTRODUCTION	5
About WAWCAS International	5
Key Numbers	7
Activities of The Year	8
16-Month Program Activities	8
Child Groups Activities	8
LNGO Activities	9
Organisational Development	10
Data	10
Staff & Leadership	10
Visits	11
Program Development	11
Fact of the year	11
RESULTS & IMPACT	13
16-Month Program Results	13
Net Income	13
Household Balance	13
Husband's Attitude	14
Husband's Alcohol Consumption	14
Violence	14
School Expenditure	15
Scrapbooks	15
Child Group Data Development	16
Long Term Impact of WAWCAS International	16
CHALLENGES & SUSTAINABILITY	17

Frontpage picture: First Local NGO meeting in Kathmandu, April 2025

ABBREVIATIONS

CSPP: Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy

DAO: District Administration Office

DEO: Development and Evaluation Officer

DK: Denmark

FO: Finance Officer

IPD: International Program Director

IPM: International Program Manager

IRD: Inland Revenue Department

JD: Job Description

LNGO: Local Non-Government Organisation

LPL: Local Program Leaders

NP: Nepal

Nrs: Nepalese Rupees

PCA: Pocket Chart Analysis

PD: Program Director

PM: Program Manager

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

SWC: Social Welfare Council

TA: Technical Assistant

TD: Task Description

TL: Team Leader

WAWCAS: Women at Work Children at School

SUMMARY

WAWCAS (Women at Work Children at School – WAWCAS) is a Program for women living in deep poverty in Nepal. The Program consists of three main activities: a 16-Month Entrepreneurship Program (16-Month Program), Local NGOs (LNGO/LNGOs), and WAWCAS Child Groups (Child Groups). The WAWCAS Program in Nepal is implemented jointly by WAWCAS International and Nepalese NGO SLISHA. This report covers the activities of WAWCAS International 2024/25. WAWCAS empowers each woman involved to develop social change and economic independence through business development, business training, and training in social development.

2024/25 is the 18th year since the launch of the **16-Month Program**. In 2024/2025, 978 new women enrolled in the 16-Month Program, in line with the 2024-2028 strategy. The program provided comprehensive training in both social and entrepreneurial subjects. 911 women graduated from the 16-month Program in the year 2024/25 with the following highlights. Average net income increased from NPR 0 at the start to NPR 17,600 by program completion. Household balance improved from a deficit of NPR 3,340 to a surplus of NPR 9,255. Negative husband attitudes dropped from 79 to 4 cases, with participation rising from 157 to 421. Alcohol consumption declined significantly, and the number of non-drinkers increased from 343 to 534. Violence incidents reduced sharply across all categories, while women reporting no violence rose from 262 to 680, reflecting a strong social impact.

The **Child Group** component experienced remarkable growth, with 419 new children enrolled across 17 newly established groups. This represents a 118% increase in new child participation compared to the previous year's 192 new enrolments. Total Child Group participation reached 491 children across 34 groups, more than doubling from 372 children in 17 groups the previous year.

This expansion reflects growing community recognition of the Child Groups' value and increasing demand from mothers who have witnessed positive changes in children from existing groups. The program's approach of providing safe spaces for learning, play, and rights education has proven particularly effective in engaging both children and their families.

Initial data were collected from 87 children across four districts (Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Lamjung, and Rautahat) to assess the impact of our program on child development, rights awareness, and behavioural change who finished their Child Group. The results indicate positive outcomes across multiple indicators. The data suggested high awareness of rights (69%) and gender equality at home (71%), alongside strong leadership and communication skills (90%). Financial literacy was well-developed, with 78% managing savings and spending. Health and hygiene knowledge and practices were good (67–63%), while violence awareness highlighted a need for further support, with 47% exposed to violence and only 56% consistently knowing appropriate responses. These findings thus seem to show effectiveness in enhancing child development, awareness, and skills development, while also identifying areas for continued focus, particularly in gender equality and violence prevention.

The **Local NGOs (LNGO)** play an important role in empowering women and fostering community development. The LNGO organisations enable women to examine their communities, identify development opportunities, and engage in collective advocacy. WAWCAS facilitates the formation and management of these LNGOs, promoting a rights-based, environmentally responsible, and democratic approach to community development. Currently, we are implementing in three districts, with a total of 3372 women and 182 official committee members. Out of the total, 412 women and 32 committee members belong to Kathmandu where the LNGO is in the process of formal registration.

LNGO WAWCAS strengthened women's networks across Lamjung, Tanahun, and Kathmandu. Lamjung maintained 2,310 members with active committees and fundraising; Tanahun grew to 650 members, conducted Management Training, and organised health services; Kathmandu launched early with 500+ participants, establishing committees and Regions to guide organisational development.

In 2024/25, long term data (Review Data) has been gathered with answers from 280 women, who exited 10 years ago. Data analysis shows strong program sustainability and long-term impact. A 96% business continuation rate reflects genuine entrepreneurial development. Average monthly income remains NPR 28,218, indicating ongoing business growth. Social outcomes include reduced violence (73% reporting none) and sustained financial control (71% always managing finances), demonstrating lasting empowerment. Life satisfaction averages 8 out of 10, reflecting overall improvements in financial, social, and personal well-being.

We also gathered data from 692 children. The distribution tells us that 45% of the children are in school, and 44% are employed. Importantly, we know that 98% of children in school going age of 6-18 years of age attend school. This shows us that WAWCAS children either attend school or secure employment after school.

INTRODUCTION

About WAWCAS International

WAWCAS International (Women at Work Children at School) is a Program for women living in deep poverty in Nepal. The Program consists of three main activities: a. 16-Month Entrepreneurship Program (16-Month Program), b. Local NGOs (LNGO/LNGOs) and c. WAWCAS Child Groups (Child Groups).

In the **16-Months Program**, WAWCAS empowers each woman to develop social change and economic independence through business development, business training, and training in social development. The goal of the Program is to support the women to live dignified lives, decrease the gender gap, and secure their children's education – and through that – strengthen their possibilities in the future. We focus on building the women's capacity to both develop and run a business; support their ability to undertake social mobilisation and make the women able to ensure their children's good schooling. The combination of social mobilisation – women and children's rights, non-violence, no misuse of alcohol, increased health, nutrition and business training – and financial and personal development is based on the belief that to be able to undergo big sustainable changes, you need to work with and be empowered in all aspects of life: Financial, Personal, Social and Cultural. Organising women in a democratic group of 20-25, the women are socially and financially responsible for each other forming a social security net and a strong support among the women enhancing the chances of long-term success, also to their families and local community to grow out of poverty. In the Program, Seed Money is given to each woman for establishing and running a successful business. The Seed Money along with their contribution is paid back over 12 months which is used for new women. In this way, not only do the women lift themselves but also contribute to uplifting another woman in future groups.

Local NGOs are formally established entities led and run by women who have exited the 16-Month Program. As of June 2025, two among the five districts operate LNGOs, wherein the women have taken the lead as local changemakers to influence and develop their communities and themselves in business. WAWCAS supports and trains the women to develop and run the LNGO at the regional and district level through representative committees.

WAWCAS Child Groups are for children whose mothers are enrolled in the 16-Months Program. The Child Groups are for WAWCAS children between the age of 8 to 14 years. The groups focus on strengthening the children's knowledge and understanding of their human rights, including their special rights as children, and their ability to take part in supporting the development of the condition of children. The groups offer the children a safe space for leisure time. The Child Groups are coordinated and managed by WAWCAS Local Program Leaders (LPLs), and the training takes place twice a month for 10 months.

Nina Schriver and Sangeeta Shrestha founded WAWCAS in 2008 and started their passionate journey together. In June 2025, 7,909 women from the poorest parts of Nepal have been empowered through the WAWCAS Program and are now a part of the WAWCAS Community (see definition in footnote 4). These women are the inspiring mothers of 15,708 children that experience second-generational empowerment and ensured schooling and education.



Nina Schriver, International Program Director
WAWCAS International Denmark
CVR nr. / DK VAT no: 35957960
E-mail: nina@wawcas.com
Website: www.wawcas.com

Sangeeta Shrestha, Program Director
SLISHA, Kathmandu, Nepal
E-mail: sangeeta@slisha.org.np
Website: www.slisha.org.np

Key Numbers

Below is an overview of key numbers carried out by WAWCAS during the year highlighting numerical achievements, program activities, organisational and program developments in both Nepal and Denmark.

S.no	Key Numbers	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
1	Number of New Women ¹	978	935	917
2	Number of Graduated Women ²	911	903	559
3	Total Number of Women Groups ³	326	287	250
4	Number of women in WAWCAS Community ⁴	7909	6931	5996
5	Number of Businesses established this year ⁵	975	928	897
6	Number of New Saving Members ⁶	3	7	20
7	Number of Dropouts ⁷	24	14	-
8	Number of New WAWCAS Children ⁸	937	808	813
9	Number of Children in WAWCAS Community ⁹	16,645	15,708	14,900
10	Number of New Children in Child Groups ¹⁰	419	192	180
11	Total Number of Children in Child Groups	791	372	180
12	Total number of Child Groups ¹¹	34	17	9
13	Number of WAWCAS Team Members implementing WAWCAS in Nepal	22	25	23
14	Number of Districts WAWCAS being implemented	5	5	5
15	LNGO Members-Lamjung ¹²	2310	2310	1905
16	LNGO-Tanahun ¹³	650	-	-

- The number refers to the women included in the WAWCAS Program during the year. This includes both the saving members and members taking Seed Money to start their business.
- The number refers to the women who have successfully exited the program during the year (excludes women in 7).
- The number refers to the total number of women Groups formed till the year of the report.
- The number refers to the total number of women who have been included in the WAWCAS program from the beginning.
- The number refers to businesses started during the year by the new women.
- The number refers to the women who were included in the WAWCAS program during the year who have chosen not to take the Seed Money but only save in the women groups and participate in the training.
- The number refers to the women who were enrolled in the WAWCAS Program 2023/24 but did not complete the entire program. Data for such women does not exist for all three milestones hence, removed from the analysis.
- The number refers to the children of the new WAWCAS women mentioned in 1.
- The number refers to the total children of the women mentioned in 4.
- This refers only to the number of children included in the new Child Groups during the year.
- The number refers to the Child Groups formed to date.
- The number refers to the total number of women who are members of the LNGO WAWCAS Lamjung till the year of the report. There have not been additions in the members during the year 2024/25 as we consciously decided not to include the groups before they exit the WAWCAS Program.
- The number refers to the total number of women who have been members of the LNGO WAWCAS Tanahun till the year of the report.

The Annual Program Progress Report 2024/25 is based on the 911 women who started in 2023/24, and successfully completed the full 16-Months Program, encompassing comprehensive training in social and entrepreneurial subjects. While 935 women enrolled in 2023/24, 24 did not finish-17 women from Kathmandu, 5 women from Lalitpur and 2 women from Rautahat left the Program before 16 months. 16 women went abroad for employment (Gulf Countries), 6 women went out of contact with us, 3 women migrated back to their village, and 1 woman had to drop out due to their health issues, a woman's death and a husband's death, respectively.

In 2024/25, 978 new women enrolled in the 16-Months Program, in line with the 2025/2028 strategy. 3 among them are saving members.

Activities of The Year

Nepal leads in the implementation of programs, continuous mobilisation of women and the community, and data gathering. Together we work on strategic development, Organisational development and Management, Data and Model Development. Likewise, Denmark leads in compliance and quality checks including Fundraising, Curriculum Development, Finance on WAWCAS International and Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluations.

16-Month Program Activities

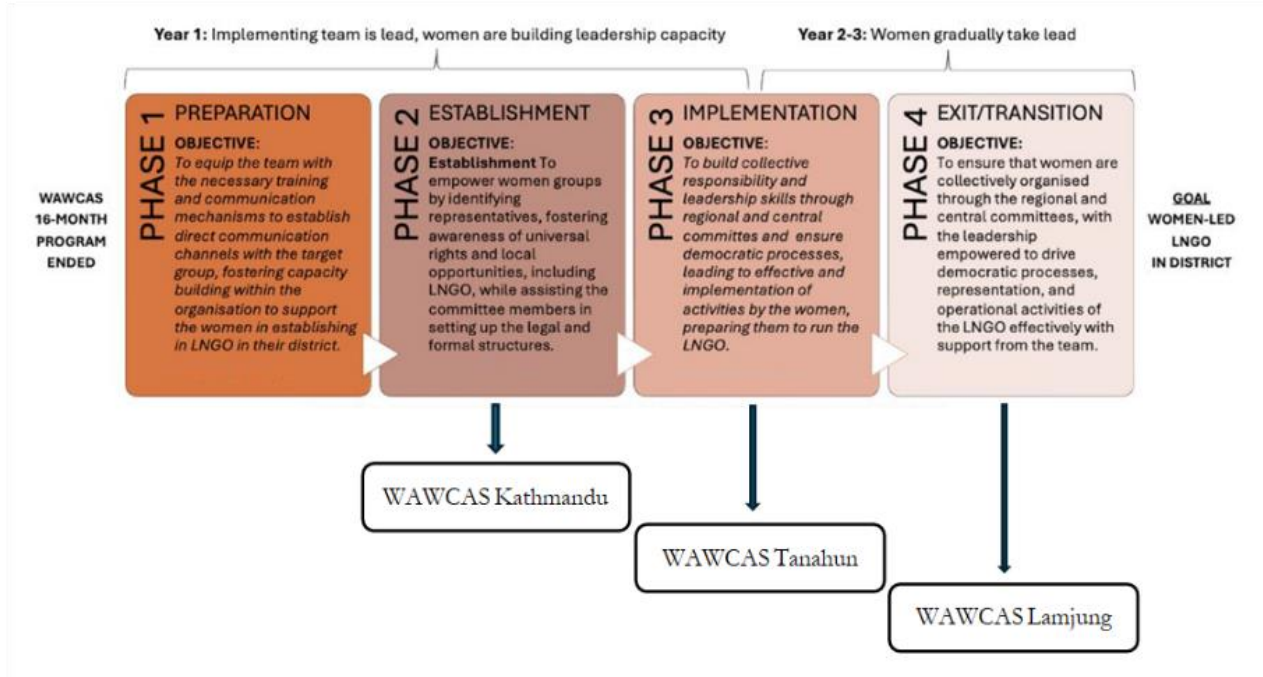
- A total of 39 Women Groups formed with 978 women enrolled in the Program (Kathmandu-5 groups, Lamjung-10 groups, Lalitpur-5 groups, Tanahun-8 groups and Rautahat-11 groups) among which 3 are saving members.
- Total of NPR. 27,025,000.00 invested as Seed Money to 975 women with a repayment rate of 101.58%.
- Issue Based Trainings, Saving and Collection Meeting, Visits (Business and Home) have been conducted on a monthly basis as planned.
- 4 days of Livestock Management and Operations Training were provided to the groups formed in Lamjung and Tanahun. For the training in Rautahat, we have coordinated with the Local Authorities.
- Conducted 2 Residential Workshops for 76 women, a Gender Workshop with 81 husbands and In-Laws Workshops with 68 mothers-in-law participating. The in-laws' workshop was not conducted for the Lalitpur groups as there were a few women with their mother-in-law.
- 818 cases of livestock illness were treated by the Vet Technicians during the year with a 98.5% success rate.
- Coordination meetings were conducted in all 5 districts.
- GIRL Project was initiated in Rautahat advocating against Early Marriage and Dowry. A 3-day ToT was conducted with 10 organisations participating. 70 groups formed have conducted street dramas, rallies, household visits, parent's meetings and campaigns against child marriage. WAWCAS also submitted a "Declaration" to Local Authorities starting strict rules against child marriage and its effective implementation. All the participating organisations signed the Declaration stating their commitment to implement.

Child Groups Activities

- 17 Child Groups (Kathmandu-3, Lamjung-5, Lalitpur-1, Tanahun-4 and Rautahat-4) with 419 children.
- Bi-Monthly Trainings have been conducted. Recreational Materials were also provided to excited groups in all 5 districts.
- 2 Scrapbooks finalised and printed for one group each of Lalitpur and Rautahat.
- A joint Child Event was conducted for the excited groups from Lamjung and Tanahun.
- Data collection for 5 of the excited groups, one from each district, and a detailed report has been prepared based on the findings and analysis of data.

LNGO Activities

WAWCAS has successfully established LNGOs across three districts in Nepal-Lamjung, Tanahun and Kathmandu creating a network of over 3,460 women engaged in community-led development initiatives. These LNGOs represent different stages of organisational growth, from the well-established Lamjung with 2,310 members involved in cooperative businesses and entrepreneurship programs, to the newly formed Tanahun organisation with 650 members, and the emerging Kathmandu initiative encompassing 500 women across four regions. Through formal committee structures, partnerships with local government, and diverse activities ranging from health camps to income generation projects, these organisations demonstrate how grassroots women's movements can evolve into sustainable, locally owned institutions driving meaningful social and economic change in their community. See our phase objective for the LNGO below:



Below is an overview of the phase of the active LNGOs, with highlights following on next page:

	WAWCAS Kathmandu	WAWCAS Tanahun	WAWCAS Lamjung
Phase	Although planned for 2025/26, the formation of LNGO WAWCAS Kathmandu was initiated this year. During the Women Mega Event (500 participants), women emphasised the need for the organisation. Representatives from the Municipality and Ward offices committed their support.	Formally registered on 14 August 2025 with 650 women members from groups established since 2017. The LNGO now operates with 8 Regional Committees and a Central Committee ratified by the General Assembly.	Formally established on 12 April 2022; currently has 2,310 women members. No new members added this year as new groups have not exited.

Highlights 24/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identified potential women leaders and discussed required training. ● Prepared action plan for LNGO registration. ● Formed ad hoc Regional Committees (4 regions) and the Central Committee. ● Coordination with local authorities for formal registration by Aug–Sep 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducted 5-day LNGO Management and Operations Training. ● Finalised 10-Year Vision: <i>“Empowering deprived women entrepreneurs to lead a just and recognised society nationally and internationally.”</i> ● Organised Free Health Camp (294 women participated). ● Fundraising events held in 7 regions, including cultural programs. ● Held Sponsors Meeting for LNGO funding and expansion to new districts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regular quarterly meetings with Central and Regional Committees. ● Conducted General Assemblies for all 11 regions and reformed committees. ● Strengthened coordination with local authorities, securing financial support. ● Fundraising events in 5 regions, including a Women’s Football Tournament. ● Received NPR 500,000 from TEWA for Business Training on “Period Panties”; 7 of 12 trained members started production, contributing 10% profit to LNGO. ● 7 regions engaged in cooperative farming and incense production.
-------------------------	--	--	--

Organisational Development

Data

- 16-Month Program: Data on Financial and Social parameters for all the women enrolled in the Program are collected at various milestones to measure changes. Women who are enrolled in the program exit the following year. Data for the women exited are the basis for the analysis which is part of the Annual Report.
- Review Data: As a part of the second review data, we gathered data from 280 women to measure long term impact of the Program in five sectors 1. Children, 2. Entrepreneurship, 3. Empowerment, 4. Group and Community.
- Child Group Data: Data for 87 children were collected to measure the impact of the program in the children in 4 sectors 1. Child Rights and Participation, 2. Gender Equality, 3. Skill Development and 4. Health, Hygiene and Community.
- WAWCAS Data System-Revision and Optimisation: The Revision and Optimisation process of the WAWCAS Data System has been initiated to ensure maximum utilisation and analysis of the data we collect.

Staff & Leadership

- 4 new LPLs are in the process of hiring.
- Continued training of the team has been conducted on Long Term Business Development and Expansion as well as Data-General Collection and Capturing.

- The Child Safety and Protection Policy (CSPP) have been finalised and approved by the boards from SLISHA, Nepal and WAWCAS International, Denmark.
- In Nepal, effective from July 2024, the Program Manager and Deputy Program Manager have been given a new leadership position as Program Director and Program Manager respectively.
- Specialisation of the team has continued to be a focus area in the 2025-2028 strategy as well as we plan to spread the responsibilities with support from the management.
- In Denmark, the Program Director and Program Manager work 40% each, while the Program Associate works 20% alongside the board and accountant.

Visits

- From Nepal: Sangeeta Shrestha, the Director, visited in January 2025. Together with Nina Schriver, they both focused on the book about the entire WAWCAS Journey.
- From Denmark: Nina Schriver, International Program Director and Soren Schriver, volunteer in Business Development, visited Nepal in Feb-March 2025. A book on 'the WAWCAS journey' and 'Business Concept' were their respective foci.

Program Development

- The LNGO model has been developed with team training to support staff and women in starting up the LNGO with the aim of gradually easing into running the organisations themselves. The model includes team and women's capacity training and planning tools as well as advanced business manuals.
- A manual on "Poultry-from GOOD to GREAT" has also been developed to enhance women's capacity in Poultry farming to support the women with the Poultry business.

Fact of the year

WAWCAS's 2024–2028 strategy is built on four pillars—Community, Entrepreneurship, Empowerment, and Children—that together create lasting change for women, families, and communities. By fostering **Community**, women connect through groups that evolve into local NGOs, enabling leadership, advocacy, and collaboration with authorities. **Entrepreneurship** empowers women with financial independence, business skills, and creative problem-solving, strengthening local markets. Through **Empowerment**, women gain confidence, recognise their rights, and influence decision-making within their households and communities. **Children** are engaged as future agents of change, participating in safe learning spaces, rights campaigns, and community advocacy. By integrating these pillars, WAWCAS ensures sustainable progress that benefits current and future generations.

The 2024/25 Annual Activities Plan shows that most of the planned activities were successfully achieved, with some additional unplanned accomplishments and a few planned activities not completed.

Planned and achieved

- Reaching 900 women in the WAWCAS Program.
- Completion of the Annual Program Progress Report 2023/24.
- Establishment of 17 Child Groups and successful in-laws and husband workshops across several districts.
- Conducting livestock trainings in Lamjung, Tanahun, and Rautahat.
- Organising Child Event – Lamjung, review meetings, and reporting to WAWCAS International.
- Holding data system meetings, team reflection sessions, and completing Review Data Phase 2.
- Successful registration and monitoring of WAWCAS Tanahun and Lamjung, external audit, organisational renewal, coordination with local authorities, and leadership and capacity-building training.

Not Planned but Achieved

- Child Group Data Collection – to measure the impact of Child Groups.
- Child Event – Tanahun – organised due to similar timelines and proximity with Lamjung.
- Initiation of WAWCAS – Kathmandu (KTM) – started due to strong local interest from women.

Planned but Not Achieved

- In-laws Workshop – Lalitpur – not conducted as few women live with in-laws.
- Tuition Classes – Rautahat – not held due to distant location of women’s groups.
- Training for LINGO WAWCAS – Tanahun – postponed as the committee focused on coordination, marketing, and local event organisation.



Rural women's football match, 115th International Women's Day, March 2025

RESULTS & IMPACT

16-Month Program Results

The part shows the impact of the WAWCAS Program across social and financial changes over various milestones in the 16-Months program.

Parameter	Milestone 0	Milestone 6	Milestone 12
Net Income	0	8,152.17	17,599.63
Household Balance	(3,042,625.00)	3,935,965.00	8,431,203.00
Husband's Attitude			
Against	15	2	1
Jealous	18	10	1
Sceptical	46	21	2
Indifferent	105	31	5
Supportive	504	450	392
Participating	157	320	421
N/A	6	17	29
Alcohol Consumption			
Daily	213	69	12
Weekly	101	79	37
Monthly	90	99	47
Occasionally	102	194	210
Never	345	403	534
N/A	77	84	88
Violence			
Daily	181	25	1
Weekly	109	85	12
Monthly	100	112	22
Occasionally	268	320	182
Never	262	367	680
N/A	8	19	31
School Expenditure	2121.46	2220.69	2271.69

Net Income

Net Income is the amount of money a woman earns from her business, calculated by deducting their costs from actual sales. This measure includes the business stock valuation, particularly relevant in the livestock business where not all sales occur within the Implementation Phase of the 16-Month Program. It also represents the amount she would have if she had closed her business at the milestone she exits the program.

As can be seen in the table, the average net income per woman at the time they started in the program stood at 0 as they did not have any businesses then. In 6 months of their business, the amount had increased to NPR. 8,152.17 which further increased to NPR. 17,599.63 by the time she exited. However, if the income is still at par with the market still remains unclear. Hence, the closest comparison would be with the wage rate set by the government for the Domestic workers which is NPR. 13,450.00 (<https://wageindicator.org/salary/minimum-wage/nepal>).

Household Balance

Balance is understood as the leftover from the household after all private expenditure and savings. An increase in balance can be interpreted as more income from business and as less expense due to more financial responsibility or increased income from the husband. A positive balance gives the woman an opportunity to invest more in her business.

As seen in the table above, the balance was negative by NPR 3,339.87 showing that the women had to manage their household expenses either from credit or local lending adding them with additional interest cost. The amount was measured at positive NPR. 4,320.49 already compensation the deficit from the previous milestone as a result of the training in identifying and cutting down their unnecessary expenses. The amount was measured at NPR 9,254.89 by the time women exited the program.

Husband's Attitude

In rural Nepal, women are primarily confined to household duties, rarely venturing into business and if they do, often lack support from their husbands. Addressing this, the program actively engages husbands, aiming to change their attitude and make them understand the benefits of their wives starting a business.

At the start of the program, a total of 15 husbands were against their wives being in the program and starting their businesses. Likewise, 18 were jealous, 46 sceptical and 105 indifferent. 504 were supportive of their wives being in the program and starting the business though not being participative. The participating husbands counted to 157 stating their direct involvement in the women's businesses.

In 6 months into the program, the changes seen were: 2 against from 15, 10 jealous from 18, 21 sceptical from 46 and 31 indifferent from 105. Supportive husbands too reduced to 450 from 504 as they turned to participating ones doubling the participating husbands to 320 from 157 showing more husbands being involved in the women's businesses. By the time women exited the program, 4 husbands were the total count for "against", "Jealous" and "sceptical" were 4 and only 5 husbands were seen as indifferent. Supportive husbands further decreased to 392 shifting towards participating ones which was counted at 421.

Husband's Alcohol Consumption

We have experienced that the women's husband's alcohol misuse is a significant social problem affecting family finances and increasing the likelihood of domestic violence. The 16-Months Program, directly engaging the husbands, addresses this issue by providing women with the training in personal finances and highlighting the adverse effects on health, finances, and family well-being which has resulted in a decrease in the issue. As a result, women and the family experience higher savings, better health, less violence, and improved family relationships.

Initially, 213 husbands were daily drinkers, 101 weekly, 90 monthly, 102 occasionally and 343 never drank. Within 6 months, daily drinkers reduced to 69, weekly to 79, monthly to 99 and occasional to 194. Likewise, husbands who never drank increased to 403. By the time women exited the program, daily drinkers further decreased to 12, weekly to 37 and monthly to 47. Occasional drinker counted to 210 while those who never drank further increased to 534.

Violence

Violence, interdependent with other parameters like Husband's Attitude and Alcohol Consumption, is one of the major social and personal issues that most women face. It has a deep impact not only on the physical and mental state of the women victimised but also on other family members. In WAWCAS, we therefore work with an understanding of violence in four dimensions: physical, mental, social and financial.

At the start of the program, a total of 181 women faced violence daily, 109 faced it weekly, 100 monthly, 268 occasionally, while 262 stated they never faced any violence. In 6 months into the program, women facing

violence daily were 85, monthly were 320, occasionally were 268 and never to 367. Here, an increase in monthly and occasionally should be read positive as the shift from daily and weekly. By the time women exited the program, women facing daily violence were 1, weekly at 12, monthly at 22, occasionally at 182 and 680 women did not face any violence. The 16-Months Program's effectiveness in creating a safer and more supportive environment for women and empowering women.

School Expenditure

Children are a vulnerable group needing support for their well-being and educational compliance. Education is vital not only for improving individual lives but also for anchoring sustainable development across generations. Financial constraints often lead to education being deprioritised. As a key part of the WAWCAS Program is the "CAS"-Children at School, the mothers must save for their children's good and stable schooling priorities and send them to school.

In the table, the average schooling expenses stood at NPR. 2,121.46 which in 6 months into the program increased to NPR. 2,220.69. The expenses further increased to NPR. 2,271.69. The change, though not huge, shows a modest and positive shift towards prioritising children's education.

Scrapbooks

A scrapbook is an important tool reflecting the feelings of the children and women, what they have learned in the program, the changes they have accomplished and the impact of the changes. For the Child Groups, the book is prepared in various themes like Friendship, Family, Festival, Rights and Violence. Children's scrapbooks not only allow us to follow the individual child but also give us an indicator of how the learnings during the 10 months of Child Groups are internalised by the children.



This is a picture drawn by a child from a Child Group. The child has started saving his pocket money in a piggy bank instead of spending it. Even the money is happy that it is being saved. The friends are appreciating his habit of saving.

This picture shows the rights children should have, and – importantly – the duties that children have.



The picture shows the mental trauma a girl goes through because she is being bullied and harassed by her friends. She has tears in her eyes.

The women's scrapbooks are focused on 7-Days Training and allows us to get an inside into which parts of the 16-Month Program they initially are drawn to.



The picture shows how a woman has planned her daily routine. Time Management is one of the topics discussed during the 7-Day's Training



The picture shows a Women Group having a meeting.

Child Group Data Development

Initial data were collected from 87 children across four districts (Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Lamjung, and Rautahat) to assess the impact of our program on child development, rights awareness, and behavioural change who finished their Child Group. The results indicate positive outcomes across multiple indicators. The data suggested high awareness of rights (69%) and gender equality at home (71%), alongside strong leadership and communication skills (90%). Financial literacy was well-developed, with 78% managing savings and spending. Health and hygiene knowledge and practices were good (67–63%), while violence awareness highlighted a need for further support, with 47% exposed to violence and only 56% consistently knowing appropriate responses. These findings thus seem to show effectiveness in enhancing child development, awareness, and skills development, while also identifying areas for continued focus, particularly in gender equality and violence prevention.

Long Term Impact of WAWCAS International

In 2024/25 long term data (Review Data Sample 2) has been gathered with answers from 280 women, who exited 10 years ago from four districts (except Rautahat), and their 692 children. Therefore, this data does not represent the entire WAWCAS women, but a step towards developing the final model for the long-term impact of the WAWCAS Programs. The data analysis shows strong program sustainability and long-term impact. With 96% business continuation after 10 years, this data reflects genuine entrepreneurial development. The average monthly income remains NPR 28,218, indicating ongoing business growth. Social outcomes include reduced violence (73% reporting none), sustained financial control (71% always managing finances), and husband support (75% proud of their wives running the business), and taken together this demonstrates lasting empowerment. Life satisfaction averages 8 out of 10, reflecting overall improvements in financial, social, and personal well-being. Of the 692 children, 89% of the children are in school or employed. 98% of

children in the school-going age of 6-18 years of age attend school, while all the children who are employed are 19 years old or older. This shows us the generational impact of the WAWCAS work, as the women not only continue to run their businesses but also keep sending their children, while those who become adults find employment themselves.



LNGO creative sharing and engagement, June 2025

CHALLENGES & SUSTAINABILITY

The following table outlines the **challenges and mitigation work** carried out in 2024/2025.

Challenge	Description	Mitigation
Local authorities	Difficulty in obtaining the approval letter from program implementation, causing delays and hurdles in executing plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity building for the team in coordinating with the local authorities. 2. Conduct regular coordination meetings detailing the program. 3. Regular Visits.
Weather	Extreme weather conditions, including heat and monsoon, are affecting the regular functioning and scheduling of activities especially follow ups and monitoring.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not plan for groups during the monsoon and cultivation season. 2. Trainers living in the field areas.
Staff turnover	Resignation of trainers can lead to disruption as their groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruit staff from local areas.

	are handed over to other trainers which might influence the flow of the training and the trust relation with the women for a period.	2. Hire 1-2 more trainers than required.
Meeting/training space	Especially in Kathmandu and Lalitpur, the space for conducting meetings and training is difficult to find	1. Coordinate with locals (people, schools, local authorities) for space.

The sustainability of the WAWCAS Program lies in its holistic, community-driven approach empowered through entrepreneurship while ensuring children's education. WAWCAS equips the women to run successful businesses and achieve social and economic changes for a stable life emphasizing group support, Seed Money repayment, and the creation of LNGOs ensuring long-term impact in addition to the 16-Months Program.

- **16-Months Program:** The Women Groups continue to save and also contribute to a new woman. Their savings are invested within the group repayable in 3 months along with minimal interest. The group generates income which is again invested.
- Gender and In-Laws workshops also play an important role in the program creating a participatory environment in the women's lives enabling them to have sustained businesses.
- **Child Group:** After exit from the WAWCAS Program, groups are registered in the Municipality/Ward offices as Child clubs opening an opportunity to draw resources for conducting various activities. Additionally, the GIRL project, with a tie-up with other organisations, has been able to expand the reach which would not have been possible if done alone by WAWCAS.
- **LNGO:** Most of the women, after exiting the 16-Months Program, join the LNGO which is well on track coordinating with the local authorities and other organisations. They have succeeded in receiving grants twice for conducting training and starting businesses.



Meera, Local Program Leader and daughter of a WAWCAS Woman – read Meera’s story in our May newsletter on our website [here](#).