

**WAWCAS Newsletter, December 2025**



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## Dear Friends of WAWCAS

*By Torben Bjerre-Madsen, Chairman WAWCAS International*

Soon 2025 will come to an end and a new year will begin. In WAWCAS this has been another year with impressive new results. We had a record high number of women entering the WAWCAS Program, the LNOG initiatives are progressing well and starting up in new places and new impressive Review Data to mention a few.

Some of this has been covered in previous Newsletters and Nina and Sangeeta will give you more information in this Newsletter.

Also, from a financial point of view 2024/25 has been satisfactory as I will elaborate below.

All of this has only been possible due the strong support from our donors and a dedicated effort from the WAWCAS Team in Nepal and Denmark. And not the least, the incredible effort from all the women in Nepal – Graduated or in Training, their children - and their relatives.

On behalf of the WAWCAS Board I thank you all for your valuable contributions and the interest you have shown in WAWCAS in 2025 and send you and your families the best wishes for the New Year.

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## Another Meaningful Year with WAWCAS

*By Nina Schriver, International Program Director, WAWCAS International, and Sangeeta Shrestha, Program Director, WAWCAS Nepal.*

As 2025 comes to an end, we look back on another meaningful and busy year in WAWCAS. Our commitment to *Women at Work, Children at School* continues to guide everything we do.

Since the first WAWCAS Woman Group started in 2008 with only 18 women, the WAWCAS Community has grown to more than **8,000 women**. And more than **17,000 children** have been secured quality schooling.



*Roshan 25 years old, proudly shows his vegetable business. His mother Krishnamaya became a member of WAWCAS in 2012 and supported Roshan to start his business.*

To understand the long-term impact of our work, we conducted our second **long-term study** in 2024/25 with 280 women, who exited the program 10 years ago and their 692 children. The results are truly encouraging:

- 96% of women still run an income-generating business after 10 years
- Of the 692 children: 45% are in school, 44% are employed
- 98% of children aged 6 - 18 attend school
- 34% of young people aged 19 - 25 are in higher studies
- All employed children are above 19 years - showing no child labor or school dropouts

These results demonstrate the strong, sustainable impact of the WAWCAS Program on the lives of women and their children.

**WAWCAS Child Groups** remain highly popular—every child offered a place chooses to join. In 2025, **419 new children** became part of **17 newly registered Child Groups**.

We also proudly registered the very first **WAWCAS Child Club** in Rautahat. These clubs are a continuation of WAWCAS Child Groups, run entirely by the children themselves, provide a platform for continued collaboration on children's rights and improved living conditions after they complete the Child Group Program.

**WAWCAS Local NGOs** are now established in Lamjung and Tanahun and are currently being implemented in Kathmandu. Together they involve 3,372 women and 182 committee members - all WAWCAS women

The women show remarkable ownership and leadership, promoting a rights- and duty-based, environmentally responsible, and democratic approach to community development. They are becoming well-recognized and respected by local communities and authorities.



On March 8th – International Women’s Day – some women’s groups of WAWCAS LINGO Lamjung created a celebration unlike any they had experienced before. Instead of gathering for speeches or ceremonies, they stepped onto a dusty field, ready for their very first football match together with other WAWCAS Women Groups.

The local youth club had been training them and teaching the rules. The young players even lent the women their own football jerseys and shoes so they could feel like a real team.

When the whistle blew, the field burst into energy. The women ran, laughed, stumbled, scored, and kept going with determination that drew more and more spectators to the sidelines. Children played around, neighbors clapped, WAWCAS team was there, and many husbands stood proudly among the crowd.

It was more than just a game. It was a moment of courage, joy, and proof that new beginnings can happen at any age, and that a simple football match can become a celebration of strength and change.

This year, we established the **GIRL Power Project** in Rautahat to fight early marriage and dowry practices. We partnered with 10 local organizations, greatly expanding our local reach.

A three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted by WAWCAS, after which 110 girls' groups were formed. These groups are already leading impactful activities:

- Street dramas
- Rallies
- Household visits
- Parents' meetings
- Community campaigns against child marriage and for girls' right to education



*Street drama about child marriage based on a real story from the village.*

We also developed two Declarations—one for organizations and one for youth—with strong commitments against child marriage. These were signed by all partner organizations and local

authorities and displayed at municipal offices to promote accountability and support fighting early childhood marriage.

Looking ahead, we are planning a large youth event for more than 3,000 participants in March 2026 to raise awareness on early marriage.

Young people in both the WAWCAS Child Clubs and the GIRL Power Project are taking responsibility as local changemakers - something we are incredibly inspired and touched by. To see the next generation involve and take responsibility.

The **WAWCAS Child Safety and Protection Policy (CSPP)** has now been finalized and approved by the boards of SLISHA (Nepal) and WAWCAS International (Denmark). This policy guides the team in responding formally and safely to any situation involving violence toward a child.

All visitors are required to read and sign the policy before visiting WAWCAS groups or areas.

We have been working intensively on the **WAWCAS Book** describing our journey from 2007 to today. This has been a deeply inspiring process - revisiting key developments, collaborations, and achievements while honoring the women, children, families, and the entire WAWCAS team in Nepal and Denmark. And all who have supported WAWCAS financially and made the journey possible

In March, a photographer and writer traveled with us in Nepal to develop case stories featuring WAWCAS women, their children, and their husbands, ensuring their voices are at the heart of the book.



*Puspa has been a part of WAWCAS since 2011, and it was so great to hear her share her life story since then.*



Puspa proudly shows her saving books.

We look forward to publishing the book in April 2026, followed by a series of meetings and workshops based on its themes.

Please see Instagram and our website for the book launch.

We are pleased to see the WAWCAS Program—the 16-Month Entrepreneurship Program, the Child Groups, and the LNGOs—running strongly and continuing to meet major targets, including:

- High school attendance among children
- High rates of women running income-generating businesses
- High repayment rates of Seed Money
- Significant reduction in domestic violence

In 2026, we plan to welcome 1,000 new women into the WAWCAS Program.

**A heartfelt thank you to** everyone who has supported WAWCAS in 2025 - whether financially or by sharing your skills and commitment and your time as part of the WAWCAS team in Nepal or Denmark.

We wish you a **Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.**

Warm Christmas Greetings,  
Sangeeta and Nina

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## Where Strength and Warmth Meet – Women of WAWCAS

By Zonta, Århus II

Zonta is an international organization that has worked for over 100 years to empower women around the world. In connection with our fundraising efforts, we decided in 2025 to donate an amount to WAWCAS and their work for women in Nepal.

Since then, we have dreamed of following up on our donation with a visit to the women in Nepal – and in week 45, that dream came true. We were 23 participants from Zonta Aarhus II who set out for the Lamjung region to visit WAWCAS program in the area.



From the very first day, we were warmly welcomed by all the staff at the regional program office, led by one of WAWCAS' two founders, Sangeeta, and the Program Director for WAWCAS Nepal, Sirish – incidentally, the only man among all the women 😊



What followed were two days of visits to the local WAWCAS NGO association and to selected women in their homes and groups. We saw everything from successful farms, shops, jewelry producers, and nurseries to small restaurants – and everywhere we were met by smiling, welcoming, and impressively warm women. Women who, despite widespread poverty, have –

with the support of WAWCAS – managed to lift themselves, their families, and their children from deep poverty to lives of dignity, independence, and self-reliance.

One of the women we met had, over the years, managed to send all three of her children to private school – ensuring at least 12 years of education. An opportunity that would never have been possible without the WAWCAS project.

We also attended meetings in the local women's groups, which typically consist of about 25 women. There, we witnessed how they organize themselves, share responsibilities, support each other through challenges, and develop their business ideas. The local WAWCAS trainers from the regional office made a strong impression on us – they were competent, dedicated, and had the women's full respect. We saw how the group's savings were loaned out to new business projects, how follow-ups were made, and how the shared finances were carefully recorded and accounted for.

In a short time, a close and open dialogue developed between us and the women. There was great curiosity – both from the Nepali women and from us Danes – and we shared many thoughts and experiences along the way. It became a truly unforgettable experience that has left a deep mark on all of us.

We return home enriched by the experience and with deep respect for the work of WAWCAS – but most of all, for the wonderful, strong, and courageous women we have met.

Before our departure, we attended a concert by the first all-female band in the area. Normally, it is the men who play the instruments, but here the WAWCAS women took the stage – and the enthusiasm turned into a celebration that, with photos and warm hugs, concluded two unforgettable days.

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## Annual Finance Reports 2024/25

*By Torben Bjerre-Madsen, Chairman WAWCAS International*

At the Board meeting late November, the Annual Reports for 2024/25 were approved for WAWCAS International and WAWCAS Program and you can find both on the WAWCAS homepage.

When we look at the consolidated numbers for the whole WAWCAS Program the key messages are as follows.

The donations were DKK 1.946.472 - lower than last year as an important donor had decided to give a one-time donation last year and not as earlier in tranches. This of course impacts the bottom line as you can see below.

The costs of Operation the WAWCAS Program were DKK 1.557.915, Program Development costs were DKK 469.877 and Administration costs were DKK 177.024. The Total costs were around 10% higher than last year primary due to higher Program Development costs.

The Financial Items were positive with DKK 154.513, and the Net Result was a small deficit of DKK 103.831.

We have still satisfactory deposits in bank accounts, important partnerships with foundations and companies, and private individuals that support us - and this combined make us confident that we have a strong financial foundation.

During the year DKK 1.351.250 was given as Seed Money to record high 975 new women and more than 99% was repaid in due time.

On our homepage – [www.wawcas.com](http://www.wawcas.com) - you can find more about the consolidated numbers in the “WAWCAS Program 2024/25 Report on Finance and Activities” and in the audited “WAWCAS International Annual Financial Report 2024/25” - the latter focusing on the activities in the Danish entity.

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For more information, visit our website at [www.wawcas.com](http://www.wawcas.com)

or follow us on Instagram at [@wawcas](https://www.instagram.com/wawcas)

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