

Annual Report

2081B.S



Make a Difference Nepal
2024/25

Annual Report of Make a Difference Nepal (April 2023 – March 2024) (Nepali Year 2081)

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Make a Difference Nepal (MDN) is a community-focused organization committed to improving the well-being of children through education, awareness programs, and targeted support initiatives. MDN works closely with schools and local communities to create safe, supportive, and engaging learning environments for children from underserved backgrounds.

BACKGROUND

The year 2081 BS marked an important period of growth and expansion for Make a Difference Nepal (MDN). Building on the steady progress of previous years, the organization strengthened its ongoing initiatives while expanding its reach to serve more children in need.

One of the most significant achievements of this year was the expansion of MDN's program to Nishakot Basic School in Dhading District, allowing the organization to extend its educational and awareness-based support to a larger number of students. This step represents MDN's continued commitment to reaching underserved communities and improving children's access to supportive learning environments.

Throughout the year, MDN remained focused on promoting children's well-being, health awareness, and educational engagement through school-based programs and community collaboration. The progress made during this reporting period reflects the dedication of teachers, community members, and MDN's team working together toward a shared goal of improving children's futures.

WORKING DISTRICT

Dhading District is located in **Bagmati Province of central Nepal**, bordering Kathmandu to the east and extending toward the Himalayan region in the north. Dhading is the only district in Nepal that ranges geographically from the **Ganesh Himal mountain region to the Chure and Terai belt toward Chitwan**. Despite its proximity to the capital, many parts of the district remain underdeveloped, with hilly and remote settlements lacking adequate infrastructure,

education, and health services. The district has a population of approximately **325,710 (Census 2021)**.

The population distribution varies across the district, with **Brahmin and Chettri communities in the southern region, Tamang and Gurung communities in the northern hills, and Newar communities in the central areas.**

Among the municipalities of Dhading, **Dhunbesi Municipality** represents a small hilly administrative unit with **nine wards and a population of 29,149 (Census 2021)**. The municipality is predominantly inhabited by **Tamang and Gurung communities**, whose livelihoods depend largely on **small-scale agriculture, daily wage labor, and subsistence farming**. These livelihoods are highly vulnerable to climate conditions and market fluctuations. Limited income opportunities and difficult geography continue to contribute to persistent poverty and restricted access to education, health, and sanitation services.

Health conditions in these communities remain fragile, with children particularly affected by **poor sanitation and preventable diseases**. Through its field engagement over the past few years, MDN has observed that **access to safe drinking water and proper hygiene practices remains limited**. Similarly, the **education sector faces challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, limited learning materials, and low attendance rates**.

MDN specifically focuses on **Ward No. 9 of Dhunbesi Municipality**, which has a population of approximately **5,923 (Ward Office data)** and is among the least developed areas in the municipality. The ward is primarily inhabited by **Tamang and Gurung communities living in scattered hill settlements**. Poverty, limited awareness, and lack of accessible facilities contribute to **low school attendance, poor hygiene practices, and increased vulnerability among children**.

There are **three primary schools** in this ward:

- Seti Devi Adharbhut (Basic) School(53students)
- Nishakot Adharbhut (Basic) School(31 students)
- Barahi Devi Adharbhut (Basic) School(42 students)

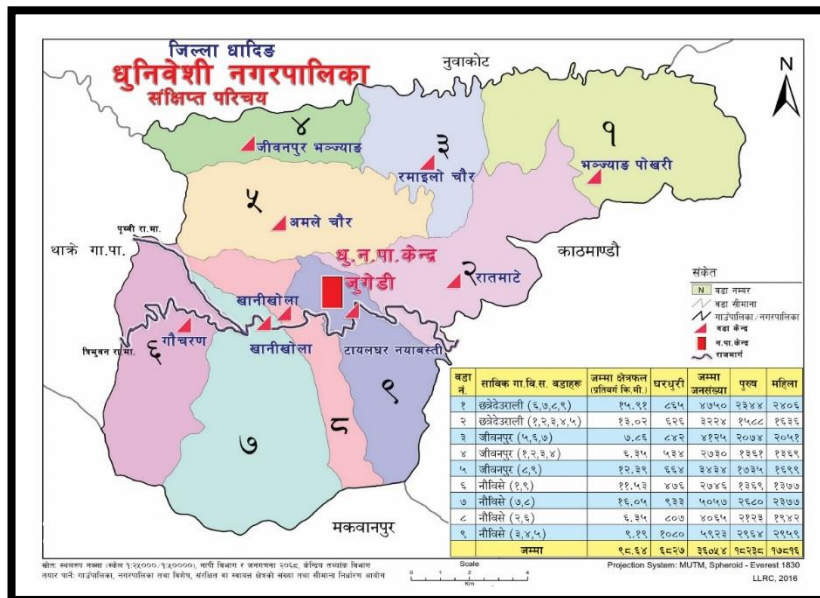
MDN is currently working with **Seti Devi Basic School and Nishakot Basic School**, with plans to reach all three schools in the near future.

Most parents in these communities work as **daily wage laborers** and struggle to make ends meet, which limits their ability to support their children's education and health needs. **Many households are led by single parents**, as family members often migrate in search of employment.

Despite these challenges, teachers in all three schools demonstrate **remarkable dedication and commitment** to improving the learning environment. During MDN's field observations,

students were found to be **enthusiastic, cheerful, and eager to learn**, with many showing exceptional potential. With the right support and opportunities, these children can make meaningful contributions to their communities in the future.

AREA MAP



PROGRAM

1. MEETINGS

MDN conducted regular staff meetings throughout the year to ensure effective program implementation, coordination, and organizational planning. Staff meetings were held on **April 15, 2024** and **June 7, 2024**, providing opportunities for the team to review ongoing activities, discuss challenges, and plan upcoming programs. In addition, a **meeting with a financial consultant was held on November 14, 2024**, focusing on strengthening financial management and organizational sustainability. These meetings played an important role in improving program monitoring, internal coordination, and overall operational effectiveness.



2. JUNKIRI PROJECT

The **Junkiri Project** continued to be one of MDN's flagship educational awareness initiatives, playing a vital role in nurturing curiosity, awareness, and life-skills learning among children. **This year marked an important milestone as MDN successfully expanded the Junkiri Project to Nishakot Basic School**, allowing the organization to reach more children and extend its educational impact within the community. The sessions not only strengthened children's understanding of important topics but also encouraged confidence, creativity, and enthusiasm for learning.

Junkiri sessions conducted during the year included:

- **April 28** — Season and Weather of Nepal
- **June 3** — Season and Weather of Nepal (First Junkiri Session at Nishakot School)

- **July 3** — Communicable Diseases and Dengue Prevention
- **August 12** — Food and Nutrition (Nishakot School)
- **November 9** — Recurring Common Diseases in the Working Area
(Facilitated by Consultant Mr. Ravi Vitrakoti)

Through these sessions, children gained **practical knowledge about health, hygiene, environment, and daily life practices**, while enjoying a supportive and interactive learning environment. The expansion of the Junkiri Project and the introduction of creative learning tools made this year's implementation particularly impactful and memorable for both students and teachers





3. PROJECT “LITTLE HEARTS”

The **Little Hearts Project** focuses on supporting children from urban poor communities in Kathmandu.

Kathmandu, while vibrant and growing, is home to many families struggling with poverty. For many children in these communities, education becomes difficult due to financial hardship. Despite these challenges, resilience and hope remain strong within families and communities.

One example is **Shibani Chowdhari**, a young girl whose family migrated from the Terai region to Kathmandu. Her parents work as a **construction laborer and house helper**, striving to support their children’s education despite financial hardship. Shibani is curious, imaginative, and eager to learn, though she had never owned proper toys.

MDN provided **books and toys** to support her learning and creativity. Though small, this gesture represents MDN’s commitment to encouraging children to dream and believe in their potential. The Little Hearts Project aims to continue supporting children like Shibani through small but meaningful interventions.



CONTRIBUTION

Whiteboards and Markers

MDN focused on making contributions tailored to the specific needs of the schools we support. After assessing the condition of the whiteboards at Seti Devi School, which were in a state of disrepair, we recognized the critical need for new ones. Understanding the importance of proper teaching tools for effective learning, MDN provided the school with six new whiteboards along with some markers. This

timely contribution will significantly aid teachers in delivering lessons more effectively and enhance the overall learning environment for the students.



Electric Fans and Floor Carpets — Nishakot School

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting educational institutions in under-resourced communities, MDN provided electric fans and floor carpets to Nishakot School, which has been facing significant infrastructure challenges. The school building, constructed with galvanized sheet roofing, experiences extreme heat during the summer season. These conditions have posed difficulties in maintaining concentration and overall well-being within the classroom. The donation aims to help alleviate these conditions by improving classroom comfort of 40 students along with teachers working there. The provision of fans is expected to help reduce the indoor temperature to some extent, while the carpets will create a cleaner and more comfortable floor surface for daily use. This initiative reflects MDN's broader mission to promote equitable access to quality education by addressing basic infrastructural needs in marginalized communities.



Stationery Distribution

As part of one of MDN's regular educational support programs, stationery materials—including notebooks, pencils, and educational chart boards—were distributed to the students of Nishakot School in Dhading District. This initiative aims to support their academic learning by providing essential resources that facilitate classroom engagement and day-to-day studies.



Christmas Clothing Distribution

In line with our ongoing commitment to the well-being of children from underprivileged backgrounds, MDN distributed fleece jackets and trousers to all students of both Nishakot and Setidevi schools in Dhading during the Christmas season. The majority of these children come from economically disadvantaged families, primarily from labor-based communities, who often face significant hardships in meeting basic needs. Through this initiative, approximately 100 children were able to receive warm winter clothing—an essential support for students who often lack access to adequate seasonal wear. For many of them, this was not just a set of clothes, but a source of comfort and joy during the harsh winter months. Fortunately, the effort coincided with a time of year traditionally celebrated with family and warmth, and it was our pleasure to present these items as Christmas gifts. The clothing was received with great appreciation by the students, many of whom rely on such donations to get through the colder season. During our regular visits for the Junkiri program, we observed several students still wearing the same sets of donated clothing, which speaks to their ongoing utility and importance. The response from both teachers and students was deeply heartfelt and encouraging, reaffirming the value of such initiatives in improving the day-to-day lives of the children we serve. The shared sense of joy and

gratitude made it a truly meaningful and memorable Christmas for both the students and the MDN team.



OTHER

Farewell to Mr. Pramod Basnet

This year, MDN bid farewell to our valued colleague **Mr. Pramod Basnet**, who is pursuing further studies in London. We are grateful for his dedication and contributions and wish him continued success in his academic journey.



CONCLUSION / WAY FORWARD

The year **2081 BS** has been one of **expansion, innovation, and strengthened community engagement** for MDN. The addition of Nishakot School, implementation of the Little Hearts Project, and continued Junkiri sessions reflect MDN's growing impact.

Moving forward, MDN aims to **expand its programs, reach additional schools, and continue supporting children's education, health awareness, and overall well-being** in underserved communities.
