Our Mission: Educate the Children works with women and children in Nepal to improve health, welfare, and self-sufficiency by building skills that families can pass down to later generations.

ETC is Increasing its Impact!

ETC is deeply engaged in research and planning for our new program cycle in four high-needs wards of Ramthuni Municipality in Sunauli District, with a total population of 20,178. Activities are slated to begin in mid-2020 and run through mid-2022, and include:

- Children’s Education – supporting schools through teacher training, physical/structural improvements, classroom supplies and furniture, scholarships and supplies for children, and extracurricular activities
- Women’s Empowerment – serving 1,000 or more marginalized women through women’s groups, cooperative formation and support, literacy and numeracy training, entrepreneurial training, health training and support (including sanitary toilet construction)
- Sustainable Agriculture – enabling 1,000 or more marginalized women and their families to establish thriving kitchen gardens, and providing hands-on horticultural and livestock training and resources for aspiring women farmers for food security and income generation

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed program implementation in Sunauli, we are not at a standstill. In addition to the distribution of masks and soap to 1500 families, we are already jump- ing in with modified versions of our usual ICD model. Through June 2021, our education program will mainly be focused on coronavirus prevention activities and educational materials supporting disadvantaged students. Women’s empowerment will concentrate on group formations, capacity building activities, and health education. And in agriculture, we’ll emphasize income generation through different types of livestock management programs.

Message from the Directors:

A little more than a year ago, we were beginning to wrap up our six-year program cycle in Lapilang, Babare, and Lamjendra VDCs of Dalesahi District. (You may recall that this was originally intended as a five-year cycle, but the spring 2015 earthquakes gave rise to new needs and conditions, thus adding a year.) The plan for the summer of 2020 was to phase out of Dalesahi and begin phasing into a new, larger, and more populous geographic area in Ramthuni Municipality of Sunauli District. In this new area, we’ll work as usual with the most highly disadvantaged women and families. We have a great local partner lined up – Save the Earth, which has been in the area for more than two decades and is eager to begin working with us – and we’ve begun forming strong relationships with local government personnel, school headmasters, and other people of influence in these villages.

And then, as we know, the COVID-19 pandemic took center stage. While the effects were not as immediately apparent in Nepal as elsewhere, we knew that it was only a matter of time before they would be. The federal government imposed a series of moderately strict to very strict lockdowns, the longest of which ran from March to June. Even during the periods when no official lockdown has been in place, such logistically important activities as transportation and supply sourcing have often been more challenging than usual.

Since then, we have nearly wrapped up in Dalesahi. Our local partner there (Pratiksha Social Services), along with our women’s groups and cooperatives, remain. As in past project areas, these entities will ensure that the work of the past several years will be sustainable indefinitely.

Although it wasn’t yet possible to start our regular work in Ramthuni in July as planned, we were able to complete a COVID-specific project in conjunction with Save the Earth. We purchased and distributed washable masks and a three-month supply of antiseptic soap for 1,500 Ramthuni families. We also provided instruction on proper hand-washing.

In January 2021, it became possible to start some of our regular activities in Ramthuni – always with the health of our staff and the target population clearly in mind, and taking into account that some of the priorities have changed or intensified since we did our baseline study in January 2020. For example, food security among the marginalized people of these villages was already a big problem, and it has become worse since many families have seen their already scanty incomes diminished. Quick-impact agricultural activities will therefore be important both immediately and in the months and years to come, to improve the availability of nutritious food as well as to provide women with a way to earn extra income where possible.

As of mid-February 2021, we have:

- Formed 22 new women’s groups with 322 members
- Begun to supply the women’s group members with resources for their kitchen gardens
- Started working with the teachers and headmasters of 13 schools

By the time summer is over, we’ll be working with more schools, have formed more women’s groups, and be offering more agricultural activities (resources/training). As always, we thank you for your continued support, especially during these extra-challenging times. We truly could not do any of this useful and important work without you.

Please feel free to write to Lisa at director@etc-nepal.org if you have questions or comments about this annual report.

Sincerely,

Mira Rana, Director, ETC Nepal
Lisa Lyons, U.S. Director

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It is amazing to reflect on the progress and accomplishments of the culminating year in ETC’s project area in Dolakha, especially considering that we’ve been wrapping up in the midst of a global pandemic.

$20,563 raised for saving-credit program this year, bringing total to $145,199 from 1,032 members in 46 women’s groups making up 3 women’s cooperatives; >95% of funds loaned for income generating activities. Over 80 participants attended multi-day awareness trainings on Gender Equality and Violence Against Women; 95 pregnant women benefitted from the Maternal Health program, and most members participated in various other ETC trainings, meetings, and events including several hundred women at International Literacy Day. Over one thousand women in Dolakha are now prepared for better futures for themselves, their families, and their communities as we move on to a new project area.

973 women’s group members received seeds and kitchen garden materials. 90 of those members were given additional training in high value crops. 2,918 kivi saplings were supplied to 135 women farmers. 325 women raising livestock generated $30,336 from goats and seed money provided by ETC, and 16 women’s groups cultivated 2,187 pounds of mushrooms just in December 2019. In these times, the 191,551 pounds of produce generated by 650 ETC women’s group member exemplifies that the skills learned and supplies used are now more important than ever to foster sustainable income and food independence for women and their communities.

80 students were sponsored under ETC’s Community Scholarship Program, giving them an opportunity to do well in their studies by providing school uniforms and school bags containing copies of learning materials, paper, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, etc.; 73 students were awarded Higher Study Scholarships and 9 selected for Technical Scholarships. 2,000+ parents took part in pre-primary education meetings covering a wide range of topics. Teachers from 47 schools participated in refresher training in math, science, and English. More than 4,000 Dolakha school children are now able to envision a brighter horizon by prioritizing their studies and realizing their potential.

ETC’s success is made possible by the generosity of friends like you. ETC works side-by-side with disadvantaged people in Nepal to help transform their lives through education, credit, agriculture, and health programs. Your tax-deductible gift ensures the opportunity for thousands more women in Nepal to improve their lives and feed and educate their families. Visit www.etc-nepal.org/donate

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Pamela Carson Society

Named for ETC’s founder, the Pamela Carson Society honors those who remember Educate the Children in their will or estate plan. Legacy gifts insure that our important work remains alive as a life-transforming catalyst in Nepal. To discuss a bequest to ETC, please contact us at info@etc-nepal.org or 607-272-1176.

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