

SAPANA VILLAGE SOCIAL IMPACT

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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Preface

As Sapana Village Social Impact completes its Twelveth year of service to marginalized communities in Chitwan, this Annual Report 2025 stands not merely as a record of activities and achievements, but as a testament to the power of collective effort, sustained commitment, and unwavering belief in the dignity of every human being. Alongwith these pages, we invite you to see beyond the projects and programs to the human faces they represent, each statistic tells a story of courage; each achievement rests upon countless small acts of determination. May this report serve as both a reflection on lessons learned and an invitation to continued partnership. The journey from vulnerability to resilience, from exclusion to empowerment, from subsistence to sustainability continues. We walk this path together. Looking forward, SVSI is poised for continued growth and success. Our future strategies are designed to capitalize on emerging opportunities while ensuring sustainable and responsible practices.

About

Sapana Village Social Impact (SVSI) is a non-profit organization that is active in Chitwan, Nepal. We focus on six pillars of success and development i.e. Education, Economic Empowerment, Health and Hygiene, Wash and Sanitation, Women Empowerment and Environment Conservation.

Mission and Vision

Alleviate poverty, uplift, and Empower women to become independent which promotes sustainable output and ownership in a participatory manner.

Goal

Uplift the mindset of people by empowering and educating them on the importance of natural resources and quality of life.

Message from the Chairperson

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for what we have accomplished together. This year marked a decade of transformative work in some of Nepal's most vulnerable communities, particularly among the Chepang people in the hills of Chitwan. Our journey this year was defined by collaboration, innovation, and unwavering commitment to sustainable development. From completing the Dream School in Bharang to distributing over 4,200 biomass stoves, from conducting free pediatric health camps serving over 1,000 children to establishing coffee nurseries and community forests, each initiative represents lives transformed and communities strengthened.



The completion of Dream Homes provided safe shelter to marginalized Tharu families. Our Lunch at School program ensured nutritious meals reached hundreds of children daily. The Comprehensive Community Development Programme, supported by FEMI Foundation Netherlands, continued to build resilience across 13 villages, benefiting 7,411 people. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our funding partners whose faith in our mission makes this work possible. I am equally grateful to our local government partners, community members, dedicated staff, and volunteers who work tirelessly on the ground.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our vision of empowered communities where every individual has access to education, healthcare, sustainable livelihoods, and dignity.

With warm regards,
Dhruva Giri

Our Working Areas

Working Areas outlined:



OUR FRAMEWORK — SIX Pillars OF DEVELOPMENT

Education	Economic Empowerment	Health & Hygiene	WASH & Sanitation	Women Empowerment	Environment Conservation
School infrastructure, teacher training, meals & technology	Vocational skills, coffee farming, livestock, entrepreneurship	Free health camps, medicine donations, nutrition support	Drinking water, latrines, smokeless stoves, WASH clubs	Single mothers' programme, beauty training, financial literacy	Plantation campaigns, agroforestry, biodiversity seed fairs

Annual Plantation Campaign

Fodder seedlings (Tanki, Epil, Bakaino, Chiuri, and others)	Fruit seedlings (orange, lemon, guava, lapsi, mango, lychee)	Amriso/broom grass for income generation	Coffee saplings for commercial crop
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TOTAL SEEDLINGS PLANTED: 71,467

Dream School Project — Shree National Basic School, Bharang

Funded by: FEMI Foundation Netherlands, Fresh Leaf Charitable Foundation

Partner: Ichhakamana Rural Municipality **Location:** Bharang, Chepang Hills, Ichhakamana Rural Municipality **Beneficiaries:** 275 students, 10 teachers



The Dream School Project at Shree National Basic School in Bharang represents a decade long aspiration finally realized a safe, permanent, and child friendly learning environment for one of Nepal's most geographically isolated and educationally underserved communities. Funded by FEMI Foundation Netherlands and Fresh Leaf Charitable Foundation, and implemented in partnership with Ichhakamana Rural Municipality, the project culminated in 2025 with the completion of a two-story, eight-classroom building that now serves 275 students and 10 teachers in the remote Chepang hills at an elevation of 1,650 metres.

Project Completion

The completion of the Dream School in 2025 marks the end of a chapter defined by hardship and the beginning of one defined by possibility. For years, students at Shree National Basic School were taught in infrastructure heavily damaged by the 2015 earthquake crumbling structures where multiple grades were crowded into shared spaces, roofs leaked through the monsoon, and heavy fog forced school closures through the winter months. Children walked long distances along steep and dangerous trails only to arrive at a building that posed its own risks. The new

two-story structure replaces all of that with eight dedicated classrooms serving Grades 1 through 8, a designated Early Childhood Development room, and a combined office and library space. WASH facilities appropriate for different genders and age groups have also been established, addressing a critical gap that had long undermined parental confidence in sending children particularly girls to school.

Impact

The transformation in the school's environment has had immediate and measurable effects across the community. Student attendance has improved significantly, dropout rates have declined, and the quality of daily learning has been elevated by the simple but essential change of studying in a safe, weatherproof, and well-structured space. Parents who had previously hesitated to enroll younger children or keep older ones in school now demonstrate far greater confidence in the institution. The new facilities also lay the groundwork for the school's long-term ambition to expand into secondary education, which would spare students the grueling journey of up to three hours each way to attend higher grades in distant villages. What is equally significant is how the project was built: the community contributed over 70 percent of the labor, transforming the construction process itself into an act of collective investment and ownership that has deepened local pride and commitment to the school's future.

Teacher Testimony

When I first arrived in 2022, I was shocked by the poor condition of the school building. Multiple grades shared the same space. During rainy and winter seasons, school often closed due to leaking roofs and heavy fog. Now, with the support of SVSI, teaching has become much easier and the learning environment is safe and peaceful. We have seen significant improvement in student attendance.

— Bulbul Thapa Magar, Teacher



The Dream School at Bharang is more than a building; it is a declaration that children in the most remote corners of Nepal deserve the same safe, dignified, and inspiring spaces to learn as children anywhere else in the world.

Dream Homes | Sapanaka Gharharu

Funded by: Riksja Travel, Wilde Ganzen **Location:** Ratnanagar Municipality, Ward 6

Beneficiaries: Economically disadvantaged households, single parent families, and persons with disabilities



The Dream Homes Project, known locally as Sapanaka Gharharu and funded by Riksja Travel and Wilde Ganzen, is built on a simple but powerful conviction: that safe, dignified housing is not a luxury but a foundation for everything else; health, security, education, and self-worth. Implemented in Ratnanagar Municipality Ward 6 this year, the project targets the most vulnerable households in the community, including economically disadvantaged families, single-parent households, and persons with disabilities who have long been living in unsafe or crumbling temporary shelters with no viable path to improvement on their own.

Achievements

This reporting period marked the successful completion of 7 permanent homes for marginalized Tharu families, bringing the cumulative total of homes built through the program to more than 50. Each structure was constructed using earthquake resistant techniques and quality materials, replacing the vulnerable mud and stone dwellings and leaky tin roofed shelters that had previously left families exposed to the elements, wildlife, and structural collapse. Beyond the physical build, community members participated actively in the construction process; an intentional approach that shows local ownership, deepens pride among beneficiaries, and strengthens bonds of cooperation within the

neighborhood. Every completed home includes basic living amenities, ensuring that families move not just into safety but into a space that supports a dignified everyday life.

Impact

The impact of the Dream Homes Project extends well beyond four walls and a roof. For the families who receive homes, the change is profound and immediate; children sleep safely at night, parents no longer fear seasonal flooding or encroaching wildlife, and households can invest their energy in livelihood, education, and community life rather than daily survival. The use of earthquake resistant construction methods also ensures long term resilience, protecting families not only from daily hazards but from the kind of catastrophic loss that Nepal's seismic history has repeatedly inflicted on vulnerable communities. Over time, the cumulative effect of more than 50 homes built through this program has reshaped the social fabric of the communities it serves, elevating dignity, social inclusion, and collective wellbeing in measurable ways.

Beneficiary Story

Ram Kumari Chaudhary, 35, is one of the families whose life has been transformed by the Dream Homes Project. Before the intervention, she and her five family members lived in a mud and stone house with a leaking tin roof, enduring daily exposure to rainwater, insects, snakes, and wild animals; conditions that made every night a source of anxiety rather than rest.

Now, I no longer have to worry about rainwater entering the house or the danger of snakes and insects. My children sleep peacefully at night, and I feel proud to welcome my neighbors. I live with dignity.

— Ram Kumari Chaudhary, Beneficiary



Her words capture what no statistic can fully convey that behind every home built is a family reclaiming safety, pride, and the simple joy of belonging to their community without fear.

The Dream Homes Project stands as a testament to what becomes possible when compassionate funding, community participation, and a commitment to human dignity converge one home, one family, one transformed life at a time.

Lunch at School Program

Funded by: Riksjä Travel, Chance for Nepal, Local Government

Location: Schools in Ratnanagar Municipality and Ichhakamana Rural Municipality



The Lunch at School Program, supported by Riksjä Travel, Chance for Nepal, and Local Government, addresses one of the most fundamental barriers to children's education and wellbeing in rural Nepal; food insecurity. Recognizing that hunger at home is a leading cause of school dropout and irregular attendance, Sapana Village Social Impact launched this initiative to ensure that marginalized children receive at least one nutritious, substantial meal each day. The program operates across schools in Ratnanagar Municipality and Ichhakamana Rural Municipality, where meals often represent the most significant daily nourishment that children receive.

Program Development

This reporting period saw meaningful enhancements in both the reach and quality of the program. A scientifically designed weekly menu was developed in close consultation with Green Food Foundation, ensuring that meals are nutritionally balanced and grounded in evidence based dietary guidelines. The menu prioritizes locally available ingredients, supporting both nutritional adequacy and community economic engagement. The program was also extended to Shree Rastriya Aadarbhut School in Jamunapur, bringing its benefits to an additional cohort of children who had previously lacked access to regular school meals. As government subsidies cover only NPR 15 per student far below

the actual cost of a nutritious meal; SVSI continues to bridge this gap, ensuring that no child's health is compromised by funding shortfalls.

Impact

The program's impact has been visible across multiple dimensions of children's lives. Schools participating in the initiative have recorded increased student attendance and measurable reductions in dropout rates, as the promise of a daily meal provides a compelling and practical reason for families to send their children to school consistently. Improved nutrition has translated directly into better concentration, stronger academic performance, and enhanced overall health among participating students. Chronic conditions linked to food insecurity including malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies have shown meaningful declines, reflecting the program's role not just as a meal initiative but as a public health intervention embedded within the education system.

Special Initiative: Chestnut Challenge

In a creative effort to promote local nutrition and cultural pride, SVSI organized the Chestnut (also known as KATUS in Nepali) Challenge at Bharang and Rangchurang schools; a chestnut collection and eating competition centered on *Castanopsis indica*, a nutritious local fruit known for its immune boosting properties and benefits to bone and heart health. The initiative encouraged children to engage directly with the natural resources of their own environment while learning about the health value of indigenous foods. The competition was enthusiastically received, with top performers including Som Maya Chepang and Ashwin Chepang, whose participation highlighted the energy and curiosity that the program has inspired among students in these remote communities.



The Lunch at School Program continues to demonstrate that nourishing a child's body and nourishing their future are one and the same endeavor and that sustainable, community rooted solutions can close the gap where systemic support falls short.

Comprehensive Community Development Programme (CCDP)

Funded by: FEMI Foundation Netherlands **Location:** Kalika Municipality (Wards 10–11), Ichhakamana Rural Municipality (Ward 1)

Partners: Kalika Municipality, Ichhakamana Rural Municipality

Beneficiaries: 1,289 families (7,411 individuals), primarily from the Chepong community



Comprehensive Community Development Programme (CCDP), funded by FEMI Foundation Netherlands, represents Sapana Village Social Impact's far-reaching and integrated intervention. Implemented across Kalika Municipality (Wards 10 and 11) and Ichhakamana Rural Municipality (Ward 1), the programme reached 1,289 families totaling 7,411 individuals primarily from the marginalized Chepong community. By simultaneously addressing WASH infrastructure, livelihoods, and community capacity, the CCDP embodies a holistic development model designed to deliver lasting improvements in health, income, and resilience.

WASH Infrastructure



Access to safe water and dignified sanitation formed the foundation of CCDP's community health agenda. Two drinking water projects were successfully completed in Parang and Byartesh, extending clean water access to 16 households comprising 83 individuals. To advance sanitation coverage across the

programme area, 61 household latrines were constructed, while 113 smokeless stoves were installed to reduce indoor air pollution; a persistent cause of respiratory illness in rural households. Complementing these physical improvements, five WASH Clubs were established in local schools, each conducting weekly sanitation campaigns that promoted hygiene awareness and cultivated positive behavioral change among students and their families.

Livelihood Initiatives



The programme's livelihood component focused on moving households from subsistence farming toward market-oriented production. Thirty-three farmers received support to develop vegetable nurseries for commercial farming, and 50 farmers were provided with piglets; two per household to generate additional income through livestock rearing. Seven plastic tunnel houses were constructed to enable off-season vegetable cultivation, and 18 improved goat sheds with integrated compost pits were completed to promote sustainable livestock management. The cumulative impact of these efforts was substantial: 200 households successfully transitioned from subsistence to commercial vegetable farming, marking a transformative shift in economic self-sufficiency. In parallel, five youth received hospitality training, three of whom secured employment at Sapana Village, demonstrating the programme's effectiveness in translating skills into tangible job outcomes. Similarly, Four primary stakeholders were supported with grocery shop, 1 primary stakeholder was supported with Tailor Shop.

Capacity Building



Strengthening local leadership and technical skills was central to the CCDP's long term sustainability strategy. Orientation programmes were organized for 45 Village Improvement Committee and Mother Group leaders, building their capacity in community governance and participatory decision-making. Vocational training sessions yielded outstanding outcomes most notably Rijan Praja, who achieved 239.5 marks and earned a Grade 'A' certification in Masonry, Plumbing, and Steel Fixture. Hospitality training was conducted producing 5 skilled youth, with 3 employed at Sapana Village Lodge, eight women received beauty parlor training to expand their income opportunities and financial independence. Specialized training sessions on goat rearing, pig rearing, and silage-making further enhanced local agricultural knowledge and household productivity.

Success Story

Dil Bahadur Chepang harvested 250 kg of beans in his very first commercial harvest after receiving vegetable seeds through the CCDP initiative. His story captures the programme's transformative potential turning subsistence farmers into confident commercial producers and demonstrating that with the right support, rural communities can achieve meaningful and measurable economic change.



The CCDP stands as a model of integrated, community-centered development one that simultaneously strengthens infrastructure, livelihoods, and local capacity to build a resilient and self-sustaining future for Chepang families across the programme areas.

Integrated Resources Management of Water and Ecosystem (IRMWE)

Funded by: International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) **Partners:** Kanchan Nepal, Li-Bird **Location:** Ichhakamana Rural Municipality (Wards 1–2), 5 Rain Communities



The IRMWE project, funded by the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) and implemented in partnership with Kanchan Nepal and Li-Bird, is actively transforming livelihoods and ecological resilience across five Rain Communities in Ichhakamana Rural Municipality. Working within Wards 1 and 2, the project integrates water management, agroecological farming, biodiversity conservation, and community capacity building to foster sustainable rural development. The reporting period witnessed a rich portfolio of activities across agriculture, forestry, financial empowerment, and climate adaptation.

Agriculture and Food Security



A total of 50 farming families across the project area received vegetable seeds including tomato, cucumber, kidney beans, bitter gourd, Akbare chili, and cauliflower to promote sustainable family-level agroecological production. Building on this, vegetable nurseries were established in the Ghurkesh, Kaule, and Chhapdada Rain Communities, where six vegetable varieties are being cultivated under protective tunnel farming. Plans are underway to extend this initiative to the remaining two Rain Communities. To support organic soil nutrition, 23

beneficiaries in Ghurkesh received hands-on training in Jholmol preparation, a liquid organic fertilizer produced from three sources: cow dung, compost, and green manure. This training is central to reducing community dependence on chemical fertilizers and transitioning toward fully organic farming systems. Complementing these efforts, five polytunnels were established across the project communities, producing diverse vegetable seedlings using Jholmol fertilizer and drum-based sprinkler irrigation systems, directly addressing chronic water scarcity challenges in the region.

Biodiversity Conservation and Community Seed Systems



On April 24, 2025, a Community Seed Fair was held in Tobang, bringing together 18 farmers for the exchange of 34 varieties of indigenous seeds, including 7 rare varieties at risk of extinction. A seed bank was established at the SVSI office to preserve these endangered varieties, showing the project's commitment to safeguarding agricultural biodiversity for future generations. This initiative reinforces the broader vision of food sovereignty and ecological resilience embedded in the IRMWE framework.

Livelihood Diversification: Beekeeping and Coffee Farming



To diversify income sources, 28 beehives were distributed to 14 model farmers on April 18, followed by a comprehensive two-day beekeeping training for 26 farmers. The training combined theoretical instruction, farm visits, and practical sessions, equipping beneficiaries with the knowledge to generate income through honey production while also supporting crop pollination across farming areas.

Simultaneously, the project advanced coffee farming as a promising livelihood option. On May 17–18, 25 local farmers participated in an exposure visit to the National Tea and Coffee Development Board in Pokhara, where they received training on cultivation techniques, processing methods, and industry best practices, including visits to established coffee farms. A coffee nursery was subsequently established at Kolbhanjyang at 1,650 meters elevation, and seedlings were distributed to interested farmers, laying the foundation for a local coffee value chain.

Financial Literacy and Community Empowerment



In partnership with Good Return Australia, the project launched a Financial Literacy Program targeting all five Rain Communities; Ghurkesh, Kaule, Chhapdada, Hattibang, and Tobang. A Training of Trainers (ToT) session was conducted on April 17, followed by orientation programs on April 20–21 for primary stakeholders. These sessions are designed to strengthen financial decision-making capacities among rural households, particularly women, enabling more informed and confident engagement with savings, investments, and economic planning.

Community Forest Management and Climate Resilience



A one-day community forest management training was organized in collaboration with the Subdivision Forest Office, Kurintar, bringing together 23 participants from Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) in Hattibang, Tobang, Ghurkesh, and Chhapdada. Participants were engaged on sustainable forest use,

legal responsibilities, and protection measures. Additionally, practical tunnel construction training was conducted in Hattibang, Chhapdada, and Ghurkesh, facilitated by Mr. Legans Ghimire, an M.Sc. student from the Agriculture and Forestry University. This training equipped farmers with skills for off-season vegetable production, serving as a key climate adaptation strategy in the context of growing weather unpredictability.

Collectively, these initiatives reflect IRMWE's integrated approach linking water, ecosystems, livelihoods, and community agency to build a resilient and self-sustaining future for communities in Ichhakamana Rural Municipality.

Health and Nutrition Programs

Partners: Riksja Travel, FEMI Foundation, Medical Checks for Children Netherlands, Bharatpur Hospital

Coverage: Kalika Municipality (Wards 10–11), Ichhakamana Rural Municipality (Ward 1), Ratnanagar Municipality (Ward 7)

Access to quality healthcare remains one of the most persistent challenges for communities living in Nepal's remote hills and rural lowlands. Sapana Village Social Impact's Health and Nutrition Programs address this gap directly bringing medical expertise, essential medicines, and targeted nutritional support to populations who would otherwise have less to no access to these services. This reporting period saw a significant expansion of health outreach, spanning free pediatric and adult health camps, medicine donations to a remote health post, and a dedicated nutrition initiative for young children and their mothers.

Free Pediatric Health Camp



From November 19 to 24, SVSI organized a six-day Free Pediatric Health Camp in partnership with Bharatpur Hospital and Medical Checks for Children Netherlands, reaching a total of 1,017 children across five locations. The camp operated in Kalika Ward 10 (Nibuwatar), Kalika Ward 11 (Rantesh), Ichhakamana Ward 1 (Bharang, over two days), Metrang, and Ratnanagar Ward 7 (Sauraha); a deliberate spread designed to ensure that children in both hill and lowland communities received care without having to travel. Each camp site offered comprehensive services including medical consultations, general health check-ups, nutritional counseling, and dental care awareness. Beyond clinical services, warm clothing was distributed to children at the camps, acknowledging that health and protection from the elements are inseparable concerns for families in these areas.

Adult Health Camp



Recognizing that community health cannot be addressed by focusing on children alone, SVSI also conducted an Adult Health Camp on November 21 and 22, extending medical services directly to the doorsteps of remote communities. More than 100 adults received consultations and care led by Dr. Krishna Poudel, Superintendent of Bharatpur Hospital. By bringing a senior medical team into the heart of these communities rather than requiring patients to travel long distances to access care, the camp removed one of the most significant practical barriers to healthcare uptake and affirmed that every member of these communities, regardless of age or mobility, deserves timely and dignified medical attention.

Medicine Support to Bharang Health Post



To strengthen the long-term healthcare capacity of one of the most remote communities in the programme area, SVSI donated medicines and medical supplies valued at NPR 321,000 to the Bharang Health Post with the support from Riksja Travel. The donation included vitamins, nutritional supplements, antibiotics, and first-aid materials and essential items that had previously been difficult or impossible to obtain locally. This contribution meaningfully improved access to primary healthcare for the residents of Bharang and surrounding areas, reducing the need to travel to distant facilities for basic medical needs and ensuring that the health post is better equipped to respond to common illnesses and emergencies.

Nutritious Food Distribution



Complementing the clinical health initiatives, SVSI distributed Sarbottam Pitho; a locally produced multi-grain food powder made from soybean, chickpeas, corn, and wheat to 250 mothers of children aged six months to five years with the support of Riksja Travel. This nutrient-dense supplement was selected for its

effectiveness in addressing early childhood malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies during a critical window of physical and cognitive development. The results have been visible and encouraging: children receiving Sarbottam Pitho have shown healthier physical development and improved overall appearance, offering tangible evidence that targeted nutritional support, delivered consistently and at scale, can make a real difference in the earliest years of a child's life.

Together, these health and nutrition initiatives reflect SVSI's commitment to meeting communities where they are bringing care, knowledge, and essential resources directly to those who need them most, and building the foundations of a healthier future from the ground up.

Educational Support and Development

Partners: Riksjä Travel

Coverage: Government schools across Ichhakamana Rural Municipality and Ratnanagar Municipality

Focus Areas: Teacher capacity building • Learning materials • Student welfare • Technology access • School infrastructure

Education is the thread that connects every dimension of SVSI's development work and this reporting period saw a broad and deliberate investment in strengthening the quality, reach, and equity of educational opportunity across the communities it serves. From training kindergarten teachers and distributing learning materials, to supporting individual students with technology and keeping children warm through the winter months, SVSI's educational initiatives reflect a conviction that meaningful change in schools requires attention to teachers, students, resources, and infrastructure alike.

Pre-Primary Teacher Training



A three-day comprehensive training program was conducted at Sapana School for 20 kindergarten teachers drawn from schools across Ichhakamana Rural Municipality and Ratnanagar Municipality. Facilitated by Dr. Meenakshi Dahal, a renowned expert in early childhood education, the training focused on integrated teaching methods aligned with curricular goals equipping teachers with practical, research grounded approaches to child-centered learning. Investment in pre-primary educators is an investment in the very foundation of children's educational journeys, and training of this quality, delivered by a facilitator of Dr. Dahal's caliber, directly elevates the classroom experience for young learners.

Stationery and Educational Supplies



Access to basic learning materials remains a significant barrier in underresourced government schools. This year, SVSI distributed 1,500 copies of educational stationery to schools including Bacchauli, Chitrasari, Jhuwani, Malpur, Badrahani, Rangchurang, and Bharang. A further 105 students at Jamunapur received supplies in partnership with REBAN, and educational materials were also distributed to Debauli and Debari schools. These distributions ensure that financial hardship does not become an obstacle to learning, and that students across even the most remote schools have the basic tools they need to participate fully in their education.

Winter Sweater Distribution



In recognition that children's health and their capacity to learn are inseparable, SVSI distributed warm sweaters to 329 students across schools in Ichhakamana Rural Municipality Ward 1, with a particular focus on marginalized children who are most vulnerable during the winter months. Cold weather is a well documented driver of school absenteeism in rural Nepal, where children from low-income households often lack adequate clothing. By ensuring that students are warm and physically comfortable, this initiative directly supports attendance, concentration, and the overall wellbeing of some of the community's most vulnerable young people.

Technology Support

SVSI extended individual technology support to Sanjay Chepang, a Veterinary Science student, through the provision of a laptop enabling him to pursue his studies with the digital tools that higher education increasingly demands. This contribution reflects SVSI's understanding that access to technology is no longer a luxury but a prerequisite for educational and professional advancement, particularly for students from marginalized backgrounds who face the widest gaps in digital access.



Sapana School

Sapana School continues to serve as a model of what child centered; 21st-century education can look like in the Nepali context. Operating through small group learning that enables personalized attention for each student, the school integrates local culture and community knowledge with modern pedagogical approaches producing graduates who are both globally equipped and deeply rooted in their own identity. This year, the school also completed construction of a new boundary wall, enhancing the security and safety of the campus for students and staff. Admissions are now open for the 2026 session,



inviting families to enroll their children in an educational environment built on quality, care, and community.

Across every initiative from a teacher's classroom to an individual student's laptop SVSI's educational work is guided by the same principle: that every child, regardless of geography or circumstance, deserves a genuine and supported opportunity to learn.

Planting for Life — Phase II

Funded by: Wilde Ganzen, Riksja Travel **Location:** Ratnanagar Municipality

Beneficiaries: 8 families directly, 46 families (240 individuals) indirectly



Planting for Life, funded by Wilde Ganzen and Riksja Travel, is a living demonstration of what it means to invest in the long-term health of both people and the planet. Now in its second phase and operating in Ratnanagar Municipality, the project weaves together ecological restoration, community food security, and sustainable livelihoods into a single, rooted endeavor. Phase II directly benefits 8 families and extends its positive reach to 46 families, 240 individuals who gain indirectly from the ecological and agricultural improvements the project creates in their shared landscape.

Phase II Progress



This phase has seen the planting of more than 25 species of indigenous and fruit-bearing trees, including mango, jackfruit, litchi, guava, custard apple, avocado, cherry, pomegranate, amla, lemon, rudrakshya, papaya, ficus, banyan, mulberry, moringa, stone apple, monkey jack, catechu, Indian blackberry, camphor, nim, and cinnamon. This diversity is intentional, each species contributes differently to the ecosystem and to the food and income security of participating families, creating a resilient, multi-layered canopy that produces fruit, medicine, timber, and shade across seasons. A new plot was also cleared of invasive species and planted with coffee seedlings, introducing a high-value crop that complements the project's broader agroforestry vision. Soil health has been actively improved through the application of decomposed elephant dung, a nutrient-rich organic amendment that enriches the land without chemical inputs.

Community members have embraced two-story agroforestry as a practical and productive approach to land use, intercropping mustard and turmeric between the trees to maximize yields from the same plot while the tree canopy matures. Beekeeping has also been integrated into the project area, adding another layer of ecological and economic benefit supporting pollination across the planting site while providing families with an additional source of income through honey production. Together, these practices reflect a sophisticated understanding of how agriculture and ecology can reinforce rather than compete with one another.

Environmental Impact



The environmental significance of Planting for Life extends well beyond the boundaries of the project plots. The restoration of diverse, native tree cover actively rebuilds natural habitats for both resident and migratory bird species, reversing the habitat fragmentation that threatens biodiversity across the region. The growing root systems improve soil structure and dramatically enhance water retention, a critical benefit in a landscape increasingly vulnerable to the effects of erratic rainfall and seasonal drought. The project also contributes to the formation of forest corridors that allow wildlife to move through the landscape safely, supporting broader ecosystem connectivity. During periods of drought, the established trees and enriched soil serve as ecological buffers, sustaining moisture and organic life in the land long after rainfall has ceased.

Planting for Life is proof that restoring the earth and improving human livelihoods are not competing goals; that when communities plant with purpose and diversity, they grow not just trees, but resilience, food security, and a living legacy for generations to come.

Plantation Week — Annual Environmental Conservation Campaign

Campaign Period: June 30 – July 6 **Collaboration:** Local Governments, Division Forest Office Chitwan, Community Members

Coverage: Ichhakamana Rural Municipality (Wards 1–2), Kalika Municipality (Wards 10–11), Ratnanagar Municipality (Ward 8)



SVSI's annual Plantation Week, held from June 30 to July 6, is one of its most visible and far-reaching environmental commitments; a coordinated, community-wide effort to restore degraded land, strengthen ecological systems, and expand livelihood opportunities through the power of planting. Conducted in

partnership with local governments, the Division Forest Office Chitwan, and community members across three municipalities, this year's campaign reached Ichhakamana Rural Municipality (Wards 1 and 2), Kalika Municipality (Wards 10 and 11), and Ratnanagar Municipality (Ward 8), ensuring that the benefits of reforestation were distributed across both hill and lowland ecosystems.

Planting Achievements



The scale of this year's campaign was significant. A total of 40,600 fodder seedlings were planted, including Tanki, Epil, Bakaino, Chiuri, Badar, Chaap, Bottlebrush, and Dhupi; species selected for their value to livestock, their adaptability to local conditions, and their contribution to canopy cover and soil stability. Alongside the fodder plantings, 6,031 fruit seedlings were distributed and planted, comprising 3,850 orange, 1,700 lemon, 60 lime, 100 guava, 300 lapsi, 15 mango, and 6 lychee seedlings; a diverse fruit portfolio that will provide participating families with nutritional variety and marketable produce for years to come. A further 15,000 seedlings of Amriso, or broom grass, were planted to support income generation through the traditional craft and broom-making industries. The campaign also included 600 coffee saplings, advancing the region's growing engagement with coffee as a high-value commercial crop well-suited to the hilly terrain.

Environmental and Livelihood Impact

The ecological impact of Plantation Week is felt across multiple dimensions of the landscape. The large-scale planting of diverse species directly restores degraded land that has been stripped of its natural cover through deforestation, agriculture, and urban expansion. Root systems from the newly planted trees and grasses bind the soil, preventing erosion and reducing the risk of landslides; a particularly critical function in the hilly communities of Ichhakamana and Kalika, where steep

terrain makes settlements acutely vulnerable during the monsoon season. Across the range of species planted, biodiversity is enhanced and the ecological web of insects, birds, and soil organisms that sustains healthy land is gradually rebuilt.

In Ratnanagar Municipality, the plantings serve an additional strategic purpose: mitigating the pressures of rapid urbanization along the boundary of Chitwan National Park. As built development encroaches on the buffer zone, strategic tree planting helps maintain green corridors that protect the park's edge ecosystems and reduce human-wildlife conflict. In the hilly regions, the combination of fodder, fruit, and agroforestry species supports a shift toward more sustainable and diversified land management — one where families can meet their own needs while stewarding the land for future generations.

Through Plantation Week, SVSI and its community partners demonstrate year after year that environmental restoration is not a passive act, it is a deliberate, collective investment in the health of the land, the resilience of communities, and the future of the ecosystems upon which both depend.

Empowering Single Mothers

Funded by: FEMI Foundation **Location:** Ichhakamana Rural Municipality

Beneficiaries: Single mothers from marginalized Chepang communities



Single mothers in Nepal's rural and hill communities face some of the most acute economic vulnerabilities of any household type; carrying the full weight of family care and income generation with limited assets, restricted mobility, and few institutional safety nets. SVSI's Empowering Single Mothers initiative, funded by FEMI Foundation and implemented in Ichhakamana Rural Municipality, directly

addresses this reality through a targeted goat distribution program designed to place sustainable income-generating assets in the hands of women who need them most. The initiative recognizes that economic independence is not given but built and that with the right resources, training, and recognition, single mothers can become some of the most determined and successful entrepreneurs in their communities.

Initiative Progress

This reporting period marked the delivery of the program's second installment, with 2 goats distributed to each of 10 single mothers who had demonstrated dedication and measurable progress since receiving their first animals. The decision to deliver a second installment to these particular women was itself an act of recognition; an acknowledgment that their commitment to the program and the care they had invested in their livestock had earned continued support. The phased approach of the initiative is deliberate by building on demonstrated capability rather than distributing resources uniformly, the program incentivizes responsibility and creates a pathway from initial support to genuine self-sufficiency. Paired with training on goat rearing and livestock management, each distribution equips women not just with animals but with the knowledge to grow a herd, manage animal health, and make informed decisions about when and how to sell.

Success Story



No story better captures the program's transformative potential than that of Surya Maya Chepang, 43, from Dinglang. When she received 4 goats in the program's first phase, she applied herself fully to their care attending training sessions, applying what she learned, and dedicating the time and effort that livestock rearing demands. Her results have been remarkable. By this reporting period, she

had grown her original 4 goats to a herd of 21, strategically sold 4 adult males to generate income, and now maintains 17 goats with clear plans to expand further. In the second phase of the initiative, she received an additional 2 goats in recognition of her outstanding progress.

Surya Maya's journey from a household of vulnerability to one of visible economic agency is a testament to what becomes possible when marginalized women are trusted with real resources, supported with practical knowledge, and given the space to lead their own recovery.

The Empowering Single Mothers program affirms that economic empowerment begins with dignity and that when women are seen, supported, and given something to build with, they build not just livelihoods but futures for themselves and their children.

Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Support

Partners: Riksjä Travel

Focus: Women's economic empowerment, skills-based enterprise, and agricultural livelihoods

Coverage: Ichhakamana Rural Municipality, Ratnanagar Municipality, and Kolbhanjyang

SVSI's Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Support initiatives are rooted in a simple but powerful conviction: that sustainable economic change begins when people are equipped with practical skills, connected to real markets, and trusted with the resources to act on their own ambitions. This reporting period saw a rich portfolio of livelihood programs spanning food production, agriculture, skilled trades, and home-based enterprise each designed to transform existing community strengths into viable and lasting income sources.

Mustard, Pickle and Jam Factory



The Pickle Factory initiative is a community-led enterprise built on the knowledge that many local women already possess; the traditional skill of preparing Nepali pickles. By formalizing and expanding this home-based capability through structured training in the production of pickles using locally available ingredients such as fish, chicken, and mango, SVSI is helping women turn a cultural practice into a sustainable livelihood. In addition to these traditional practices, SVSI has trained women to make western recipes such as Mustard sauce and various jams. In the same time, this hub has been acting as a center focal point for farmers to sell their organic products to local markets. The initiative not only generates income but preserves local culinary heritage, creating products that are rooted in place and identity. What began as a kitchen skill is steadily becoming a community enterprise with the potential to reach broader markets.

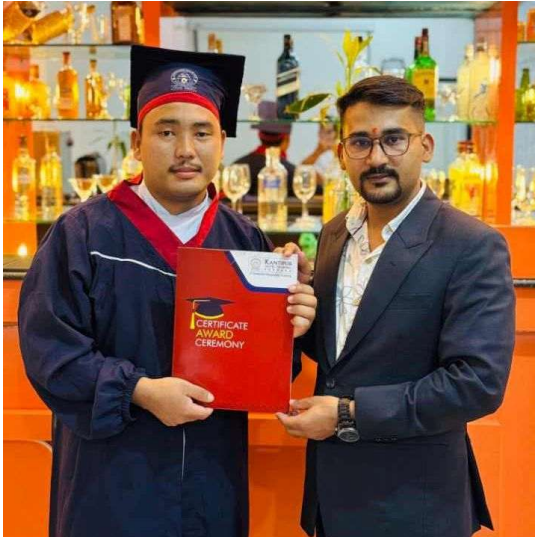
Coffee Farming Initiative



Coffee farming has emerged as one of the most promising livelihood pathways in the project area, and SVSI has invested substantially in laying the foundations for a local coffee value chain. A coffee nursery was established in Kolbhanjyang at an elevation of 1,650 metres; ideal conditions for quality Arabica production. Multiple training sessions on cultivation techniques, processing methods, and sustainable farming practices were conducted, complemented by a field visit to established coffee farms in Pokhara that gave participating farmers direct exposure to what success in this sector looks like. Coffee seedlings were subsequently distributed to interested farmers, and in a significant show of

commitment, SVSI has pledged to purchase farmers' harvests removing the market access barrier that so often undermines smallholder agricultural investment and giving farmers the confidence to grow.

Bakery Training and Production



SVSI sponsored Mr. Ishwor Chepang to complete professional baking training at the Kantipur Training Center in Pokhara, and the investment has already delivered meaningful returns. He now leads the baking department at Sapana Village, producing nutritious bread made from whole wheat, bran, millet, and buckwheat; ingredients selected for their health value and accessibility in the local context. His baked goods are currently supplied to schools in the Chepang Hills, where they contribute to child nutrition alongside the Lunch at School program. Looking ahead, Mr. Chepang has plans to establish his own bakery, extending the reach of quality, nutritious, locally produced bread to a wider community and creating a model of skills-to-enterprise development that others can follow.

Herbal Soap and Candle Making



A 10-day intensive training program in herbal soap and candle making was facilitated by Mrs. Janaki Chaudhary, an expert in herbal productions, with a deliberate focus on women's economic independence. The program was designed to be practical and immediately actionable equipping participants with skills they can apply at home, with low start-up costs and clear market demand for handcrafted, natural products. Participants praised the accessible and hands-on approach of the training, and the program has opened a credible pathway to home-based enterprise for women who may face mobility or caregiving constraints that limit participation in more formal employment.

Entrepreneurship Support



Individual entrepreneurship support was extended to Singh Bahadur Lama through the provision of seed money for the purchase of a small tractor. Access to mechanized farming equipment represents a transformative shift for smallholder farmers who have long depended entirely on manual labor reducing the physical burden of cultivation, expanding the area that can be farmed productively, and improving the timeliness and efficiency of agricultural operations. This targeted investment reflects SVSI's commitment to meeting farmers where they are and supporting the specific tools that will make the greatest practical difference to their livelihoods.

Across pickles, coffee, bread, soap, and tractors, SVSI's entrepreneurship programs share a common thread: they begin with what communities already know, deepen it with training and resources, and connect it to markets and opportunities that turn capability into lasting economic independence.

Emergency Support and Special Initiatives

Partner: Riksja Travel **Coverage:** Ichhakamana Rural Municipality, Kalika Municipality, Ratnanagar Municipality

Focus: Disaster relief • Clean water access • Institutional recovery

Resilience is not only built through long-term programs, it is also sustained through the capacity to respond swiftly and effectively when crisis strikes. SVSI's Emergency Support and Special Initiatives reflect an understanding that development work must be complemented by a readiness to stand beside communities in their most vulnerable moments, whether that means providing food after a disaster, restoring access to clean water, or helping an institution recover so that it can continue serving its people.

Emergency Food Support Program



In partnership with Riksja Travel, SVSI operates an Emergency Food Support Program out of a dedicated storage facility in Kolbhanjyang, Ichhakamana Rural Municipality Ward 1. The facility maintains a standing supply of essential food items; rice, lentils, grains, cooking oil, salt, sugar, and soya chunks that can be deployed rapidly when families are struck by natural disasters, house fires, or other sudden crises that strip them of their food security overnight. To date, the program has assisted 150 individuals, providing immediate relief at moments

when communities have nowhere else to turn. The existence of a stocked, locally based emergency store means that response times are short and the support is grounded in the real nutritional needs of the communities it serves not generic aid distributed from a distance, but a neighbor reaching out in a moment of need.

Kalyanchaur Drinking Water Project



Supported by Riksja Travel, the Kalyanchaur Drinking Water Project addressed one of the most labour intensive and time-consuming burdens carried by women in rural communities; the daily collection of water from distant sources. Through the installation of a pipeline running from natural water sources to a large central storage tank, the project brought clean water access directly to 35 households. The practical impact of this infrastructure reaches far beyond the tap. Time that was previously consumed by water collection often hours each day, almost always borne by women and girls has been freed for family care, income-generating activities, and community participation. By reducing this invisible but exhausting burden, the project has meaningfully expanded women's agency and capacity to engage in the broader life of their community, making it as much a women's empowerment initiative as an infrastructure one.

Support to Ratnanagar Ward 7 Office



When the Ratnanagar Ward 7 office was left without functioning equipment following a period of nation-wide Gen-Z protest, SVSI stepped in to enable the restoration of essential citizen services. One computer, a 3-in-1 printer, an office table, and two office chairs were provided to the ward office; basic but indispensable tools for an institution that serves as the primary point of administrative contact for the residents of Ward 7. The ability to process documents, respond to citizen requests, and maintain records is foundational to local governance, and without functional equipment, even a physically intact office cannot serve its community. By providing this targeted support, SVSI helped ensure that ordinary people could once again access the administrative services they depend upon, and that the ward office could resume its role as a working institution rather than an empty building.

From emergency food relief to clean water pipelines to office chairs; SVSI's special initiatives demonstrate that meaningful community support often lies in the practical, the immediate, and the unglamorous: simply being present with the right resources at the right moment.

Government Partnerships and Advisory Co-ordination



In 2025, SVSI held productive Municipal Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) review meetings with the leadership of both Kalika Municipality and Ichhakamana Rural Municipality. These meetings served as structured platforms for reviewing the progress of ongoing initiatives, aligning SVSI's programming with local government priorities, discussing implementation challenges, and identifying collaborative solutions. The MPAC process has become an important mechanism for strengthening mutual understanding and shared commitment between SVSI

and its government partners ensuring that the organization's work is embedded within and accountable to the local governance structures that shape community life.

Impact Stories

A Decade of Transformation: Story of Sunu Maya Chepang



As SVSI marks its tenth year of service, two stories from the communities it has accompanied over that decade stand as powerful evidence of what sustained, long-term engagement can achieve. Sunu Maya Chepang, 33, from Kalika Ward 11 in Kholagau, first connected with SVSI in 2016 through the 'One Step in the Development of Siddhi by Preserving Nature' project. Over the decade that followed, through a series of integrated socio-economic empowerment activities, she has built a thriving ginger cultivation enterprise on her own farmland, now harvesting and selling directly in urban marketplaces near Siddhi. Her journey from beneficiary to independent producer captures what a decade of sustained awareness-building and support can quietly, steadily accomplish.

A Decade of Transformation: Story of Ram Bahadur Lama



Ram Bahadur Lama's story tells a similar arc. He received fruit tree seedlings and agricultural training from SVSI in 2017, and through continued engagement across the 'One Step in the development of Siddhi,' CAFE Initiative, and current CCDP program, he has become a successful fruit farmer who has been harvesting and selling produce for the past three to four years. His family's livelihood is now stable and growing, a testament to SVSI's commitment not to quick interventions but to the kind of patient, layered investment that produces genuine and lasting transformation.

Annual General Meeting



SVSI's 12th Annual General Meeting was successfully convened on December 15, 2025, at the multifunctional building of Sapana School, chaired by Founder Mr. Dhruva Giri and graced by Ms. Vianney Katakam, FEMI Country Director for Nepal, as Chief Guest. Full participation from board members and staff enabled a

comprehensive review of annual progress, financial performance, and strategic planning for the year ahead.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

2025 brought with it a set of recurring and familiar challenges but each challenge was met with a practical response; strengthened local partnerships, adaptive scheduling, strategies, a deepened emphasis on community ownership, and improved internal communication systems.

The lessons distilled from a decade of work are equally clear. Projects in which communities contribute substantially such as the Dream School, where community members provided manual labor support consistently demonstrate the strongest outcomes and the most durable sense of local ownership. Integrated approaches that address WASH, livelihoods, education, and health simultaneously produce impacts that exceed what any single intervention could achieve alone. Traditional knowledge from indigenous seed varieties to the nutritional value of the native katus chestnut holds underutilized solutions that become more powerful when combined with modern practice. When women gain skills and income, entire families benefit. And above all, transformation takes time: the stories of Sunu Maya and Ram Bahadur are not the product of a single project cycle but of a decade of patient, consistent presence; a proof that sustainable change requires not just programs, but relationships.

As SVSI enters its next decade, it carries forward the conviction that guided its first: that lasting change is not delivered to communities, but built with them; one relationship, one season, one harvest at a time.



Thank you
for making a difference

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