

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION INTERVENTIONS

Promote active citizen participation, in which people and organisations together obtain knowledge, take responsibility for and act upon local, national or global challenges. The interventions must bolster popular participation, volunteering and civil organisation in developing countries as well as in Denmark.

PLEASE NOTE BEFORE WRITING THE APPLICATION:

- **NUMBER OF PAGES:** The application text must not take up more than 10 pages (Calibri, font size 11, line spacing 1.0, margins: top 3 cm, bottom 3 cm, right 2 cm and left 2 cm). Applications exceeding this length will be rejected.
- **LANGUAGE:** The application text must have been drawn up in cooperation between the local partner(s) and the applicant Danish organisation. Accordingly, there must be a document available in a language of relevance to the local partner. The actual application, however, can only be submitted to CISU in Danish or English.
- **CONTEXT:** Remember that the application will be assessed depending on whether the intervention will take place in a stable or fragile context. Section 2.4 in the Guidelines outlines how to analyse and describe how fragility is expressed in the particular context. You can also read more on CISU's website (in Danish) www.cisu.dk/nexus
- **THE SUSTAINABILITY MODEL:** in the sustainability model in section 1.2.7 of the Guidelines you can find inspiration on how to describe your intervention and how to address climate- and environmental sustainability as well as social justice.

GUIDANCE on submission of applications is available at www.cisu.dk/skemaer (the website is presented in Danish, but many documents are also available in English, French and Spanish).

NB: DELETE THIS GUIDE BOX WHEN YOU ARE READY TO SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION.

Danish organisation	WAWCAS International
Title of the intervention	Local NGO, WAWCAS Lamjung
Partner name(s)	Slisha Nepal
Amount applied for	498.958 DKK
Country(ies)	Nepal
Period (# of months)	30.08.2022-30.08.2024 – 24 months

1. Objective and relevance (the world around us)

The **purpose** is to support the WAWCAS women in the Lamjung region to establish a strong Local NGO (LNGO), in which they feel empowered and strong enough to run to implement relevant activities. This is based on the WAWCAS learnings from the 16-month program, the organizational long-term strategy, and learnings from the Local Changemakers intervention.

A formally registered LNGO will empower the women to look critically at their communities and identify the opportunities and challenges that they have, to work with. Through the previous intervention the women were connected across WAWCAS groups and regions and have realized the big opportunities they have as a community to take responsibility in and codevelop their local communities, their businesses, and their daily lives. This includes improving exchange of experience, resilience of the women's businesses, implementation of activities as defined by the women for them and their children, and common and structured efforts for Women's Rights in general. The women are living under circumstances, in which discrimination based on caste, gender and social status is dominating. Their challenges include lack of access to basic Human and Women rights, as being victims of early child marriage, gender discrimination, social, physical, and mental violence, social control from family members and communities, political instability, lack of information about environmental consequences, etc.

Overall context

Even though the WAWCAS program 'leaves' the women personally and socially empowered and financially stronger compared to the ultra-poor living conditions they dealt with before, the women still are part of contextual vulnerability. They have new capacities in terms of knowledge, resources, motivation, and competences to develop and run a business and create income. But the women still live under cultural influence and are subjected to a vulnerable context, where gender inequality and caste discrimination is structurally inhabited. The vulnerability of the context of Nepali women is manifold. *Firstly*, there is a large degree of social and political vulnerability because the women lack access to express their needs and require their rights to authorities. As rightsholders, the channel to duty-bearers is blurred due to practical, cultural, and political factors. The geographical and infrastructural circumstances in the mountains restrains the women's direct access to local authorities and resources; Furthermore, the lack of governmental social security can force children out of school and women to stay at home, in case of shifting circumstances, that require special attention to the household or family. This taps into the economic vulnerability many women are suffering. Looking at the individual- and group-aspects, women enrolled in or exited from the WAWCAS program (WAWCAS community), are relative less vulnerable to cultural circumstances as caste-systems and patriarchic structures. This because they have increased access to support and means that enable them to increase their agency. Furthermore, a large part of the WAWCAS training is focused on destabilizing structural discrimination of particularly low-caste societies and women. Thus, the women can be identified as less fortunate and substantially vulnerable to be victims of discrimination based on gender, caste, and social status.

Through the new LNGO we wish to strengthen the organizational capacities of the mobilized WAWCAS community by offering strategic services expressed as needs from the women. The Local Changemakers intervention mobilized more than 900 WAWCAS women in the Lamjung district of Nepal to be trained in 'taking lead' in local changes and organize as a group. During substantial mobilization, information meetings, and workshops, WAWCAS identified a large interest in and motivation for establishing a women-run formal, platform for the WAWCAS community to grow and support each other from.

Specific context

In terms of the contextual circumstances, the women have identified several potential challenges in relation to forming an LNGO. Because they will be responsible for the establishment and operation, the women highlighted both external and internal factors that potentially compromise their operation. Specifically, they

highlighted the following potential internal threats: lack of support from local community and family, LNGO internal conflicts, miscommunication, and negative perceptions about the LNGO. Further, they initiated a discussion on the context and the fragility of the Nepali society where they identified bad infrastructure, risk of economic crisis, natural disasters, and political instability as potential obstacles. Firstly, the geographical and infrastructural circumstances in the mountains restrains the women's direct access to local authorities and resources and could potentially complicate the inclusion of the women groups that are living far in the mountains. Secondly, Nepal is located on two tectonic 'plates', which increases the risks of earthquakes and therefore contributes to big environmental vulnerability. Thirdly, due to the dry lands of the mountain areas and the seasonable monsoons, many businesses in agriculture, livestock, or production, are very vulnerable to climate changes and pollution. Fourthly, COVID-19 served as an example of the government's power to execute sudden changes as lockdowns and restrictions on assemblies, potentially threatening their businesses.

The discussion with the women about the identified challenges, highlighted the opportunities within an LNGO to work on resilience of their businesses in terms of political and natural circumstantial changes. These discussions increased the motivation and interest in the LNGO, and this momentum has been acted upon as fast as possible through the establishment of regional and central committees during the reporting period of the Local Changemakers Intervention. As described in the final reporting of the Local Changemakers Intervention 7 regions where WAWCAS is implementing the program have joined and elected their regional committees, whereas the whole LNGO is represented by one Central Committee with a Chairperson, a vicechair, a treasurer, a secretary and one representant from each region. They are currently finalizing the formal registration to be able to collect membership fees and start activities.

In this registration process, new needs are identified as the women need support from WAWCAS LPLs when approaching local authorities, developing articles of association and Administrative and Financial Guidelines, and implementing appropriate measures to ensure Code of Conduct, Anticorruption, and PSEA politics. Further, the women will not be able to mobilize resources in the beginning of their term due to lack of experience in project-writing, contact to authorities, and funding in general. Thus, not only the trainings identified by the women are necessary for building the strength of the LNGO, but also additional trainings identified by the WAWCAS team.

The **long-term development objective** of WAWCAS is to increase women's and children's access to universal rights, by raising awareness of their opportunities and challenges, and ways to utilize both in a democratic society.

The project operates through three important mechanisms that impact Civic Participation on different levels: individual, societal, and organizational:

Firstly, by training WAWCAS women in leadership, cooperation, and NGO management we encourage motivation, and supplies with knowledge for the women to build a strong platform for mobilized efforts. Thus, inspiring the women to take lead, be role models, and require more direct access to civic rights as individuals.

Secondly, by advancing civil organizing, and motivating the women to mobilize and co-developing the community, the women gain access to a range of rights to government funding, direct contact to police authorities, activities, advocacy etc. This will show the women how to utilize local resources to ensure that their own and their children's rights are implemented as needed. It also shows them how practically to exercise their freedom of assembly on a local level to increase advocacy, through a democratically established NGO that practices a 'healthy' culture.

Thirdly, by anchoring the women's capacities from the WAWCAS program, the LNGO supports long-term sustainability of the WAWCAS impact. This through more resilient businesses and a larger social security net. By rooting the learnings locally and creating a platform/space from which the women can mobilize within and across groups the women's ability to withstand being subjected to previous social norms is increased.

These three strategic mechanisms that describe the importance of the LNGO can be translated into two Immediate **objectives, each with three outcomes:**

Outcome	Activities
Immediate objective 1: <i>The committees of the LNGO has built their capacities and competencies in management, funding, strategic planning, and activity implementation.</i>	
1.1 Understanding of LNGO guidelines and how the content is made based on previous workshops.	Activity 0 Activity 1 Activity 9
1.2 Central Committee has strengthened capacities in management, financial management, and resource mobilization.	Activity 2 Activity 3 Activity 8
1.3 The regional committees will be strengthened in mobilizing members and be sustainable.	Activity 4 Activity 10
Immediate objective 2: <i>The LNGO is a democratic entity representative for the WAWCAS.</i>	
2.1 The members will feel ownership of the LNGO.	Activity 0 Activity 2 Activity 7 Activity 9
2.2 The Central Committee and Regional Committees has capacity to reach the remaining and new WAWCAS women	Activity 0 Activity 4 Activity 5
2.3 The majority of the remaining 22 groups of exited WAWCAS women will become members of the LNGO.	Activity 4 Activity 5
2.4 The members will be presented with opportunities to increase their competencies.	Activity 6

To understand the mechanisms behind the relationship between activities, outcomes, and target groups, see the activity details on page 6.

The **contribution to civil society organizing** is implicit in the establishment of the LNGO as it is the main objective of the whole project to create a platform for the WAWCAS women to perform their democratic rights and participation as citizens as they wish. Specifically, a Local women-run NGO will empower the WAWCAS women and encourage them to look critically at their communities and discover possibilities within their groups. Thus, the interventions' focus on leadership training contains several mechanisms from a rights-based and participatory approach: from the detailed situation analysis and mapping of needs, problems, opportunities, and root causes in the marginalized groups, to the development of strategic partnerships where the target group is recognized as key actors in their own development. By including the rights of the child and environmental conscience as priorities, we furthermore enhance the chances of an intergenerational and intersectional change. The long-term development goal and its rights-based methodology reaches beyond the focus of SDG 1, 2 and 4 about poverty, hunger and education and taps into SDG 5, 10 and 11 concerning less inequality and sustainable local communities codeveloped by its inhabitants. This underlines that the goal is to enhance the WAWCAS women's ability to require and understand their and their children's universal rights in the context of Nepal. This point underlines that the goal is to enhance the WAWCAS women's ability to require and understand their and their children's

universal rights in the context of Nepal, to increasingly exercise their rights (and duties) as citizens of Nepal, to build on top of their knowledge from WAWCAS with advanced business and social trainings, and to, as a united force in a LNGO, increase the resilience and sustainability of the local communities and local lives.

2. The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

The WAWCAS Program was developed and established by Nina Schriver and Sangeeta Shreesta in 2007. Based on their common experiences and discussions of the strategic development, the two partners identified a pressing need for financial strengthening of the Nepali women hand in hand with social development. They wished to empower the Nepali women to be financially secure and break free from dependency on their husbands. This was chosen as a strategy to show the Nepali women how much potential they possessed. Furthermore, financial stability and independence were identified as necessary conditions for them to properly claim their rights not only as citizens but most of all as women with a right to a life without violence, poverty, and insecurity about their children's future. In 2008 the Program was anchored in the partnership between WAWCAS International (DK) and Slisha (NP), in 2012 the Program received its first public funding from the Danish and German Embassy to increase the personnel capacity of Slisha to include more women in the Program. Today Slisha has 24 employees in Nepal and WAWCAS International is run by two part time employees, 15 volunteers, and several contributors that support the program with both finances and knowledge.

In the LNGO WAWCAS Lamjung project Slisha has a developing, *implementing* and monitoring role, whereas WAWCAS International has a developing, *administrative, consultative*, and monitoring role. The pedagogical structures for the training, the reflection tools, and the frames for the reports are developed in cooperation as well as the focus of each training. This content is based on material provided by the WAWCAS women and previous WAWCAS material proved to work well with the WAWCAS women's resonance. WAWCAS International will be main responsible for utilizing this information to develop learnings and outcomes, and to describe a model that combines the Local Changemaker Intervention, the period of registration, and the current LNGO WAWCAS Lamjung project. WAWCAS International has substantial knowledge of international standards and procedures in terms of the UN SDG's and 2030 goals, applying a HRBA in development work, monitoring- and evaluation-requirements from donors and official entities. Slisha has a vital contextual knowledge of not only cultural circumstances but also circumstances dependent on environment, economy, health, and politics. Not to forget a substantive training experience. These insights will guide how to: motivate and train the WAWCAS women, how to guide them in their opportunities when mobilizing, supporting them in their implementation. All within the framework described above and *realistic* in terms of structural capacity, time management, political priorities, resource mobilization, and not to forget logistics.

3. Target groups, outcomes, and expected results

The target group of the intervention is the women who have enrolled in and exited the WAWCAS 16-month training program in Lamjung, Nepal. The primary target group is the Central Committee consisting of 11 members, a Chairperson, a Vicechair person, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and one representative from each of the 7 regional committees. Further, in some activities 2-3 more representatives from each of the 7 regions are included in the training. The secondary target group is threefold; firstly, it consists of the **934** women who have submitted their membership to the LNGO; secondly it consists of the remaining **304** women who have not yet submitted their membership but are living in the Lamjung district and have exited the WAWCAS program; thirdly it consists of **22 groups** who have not yet shown their interest. Even though not being a secondary target group the children of the WAWCAS women are also on the lists of beneficiaries, as we see children as a prioritized topic to work on in the LNGO when established. The overall target group of the LNGO includes future WAWCAS women exiting the 16-month Program.

The activity list below specifies the direct beneficiaries of each activity, the specific outcome each activity contributes to and which indicators to be measured in the collected documents (results).

Startup phase for committees

Activity 0: LNGO management training + finalization of internal procedures - during application period (application was delayed due to financial requirements).

Short description:	After developing the guidelines for the LNGO, the women are ready to manage activities and decision-making procedures. But as described above, the women need and wish for further training in areas relating to management, leadership, and operation. One training will be a full 5-day training, with topics as administration, record keeping, vouchers, financial management, coordination, requisitions, code of conduct, different leadership areas, identifying different kinds of leadership-levels, motivating members, and mobilizing women, delegating responsibility, creating a common vision, and addressing issues, challenges, and opportunities.
Timing/duration:	AUGUST2022 (9 working days for all involved).
Driver of activity:	PD, PM, and 2 LPLs
Participants:	11 Central Committee members and 3 additional representatives from each of the 7 Regional Committees, 32 women.
Outcomes and Results:	The committee members will increase their knowledge and skills on several issues that practically prepares them to take on more responsibility and manage a formal entity and provides them the necessary confidence and support to feel empowered to use it for their own good. The cocreation of a shared vision, that all women will sign further enhances their feeling of ownership and responsibility towards taking active part in the implementation. The results will be a signed 'vision' to hang on the wall of the LNGO office, and a strategy for the LNGO to implement their vision.

Activity 1: Follow-up on activity 0

Short description:	To make sure that the committees have passed on the information correctly and are applying their learning regarding representativeness, there will be a follow-up on activity 0. The LPLs will visit and/or call the women in the women groups. The Local Change Makers intervention showed us, that not all women are completely used to the role of representing others yet, why we find it crucial to support them in transferring the information correctly.
Timing/duration:	SEP2022. An exact day or time cannot be identified since it depends on when the committee members have their meetings and how long it takes for them to go back to their respective groups (two working days).
Driver of activity:	LPLs LNGO representatives.
Participants:	LPLs, the regional committees, and the women from all the groups involved.
Outcomes and Results:	The topics and discussions from the meetings in activity 0 will be ensured to have reached all the women in the LNGO.

Activity 2: Training in funding and activity planning

Short description:	As sustainability of the WAWCAS impact and co-development of an independent entity is the primary motivation for the LNGO establishment, financial resource mobilization is crucial for the women to learn. WAWCAS will support them operationally with finances, but the Central Committee needs to be trained in
--------------------	--

identifying, researching, submitting to, and reporting to local authorities and other relevant entities for funding. This training not only emphasizes the importance of the formal requirements for funding, but also trains the women in writing project proposals, making strategic choices, and planning and implementing activities. The importance of the activity requires substantial follow-up with meetings in all regions and going with the women to the authorities to motivate them, ensuring that they prioritize their funding, and to support as an advocacy role to ensure that the women understand the importance of this.

Timing/duration: Four-day workshop, SEP2022, 2 follow up days pr. committee through meetings.

Driver of activity: 2 LPL's (follow up) and PM, PD (preparation) shared implementation.

Participants: Central Committee members and four additional representatives from each Regional Committee (39 members).

Outcomes and Results: The committee members will increase their practical knowledge on how to identify and apply for financial support, they gain a direct access to local decisionmakers, they will be introduced to making strategies for creating impact, and they will learn to coordinate and implement activities. The result will be training reports made by the LPLs after the trainings, and an application submitted to the local authorities by the women within the fiscal year.

Including more groups in the LNGO

Activity 3: Mobilizing 19 of the remaining 22 groups

Short description: We want to reach the remaining 22 groups that did not initially join the LNGO. 19 of these groups decided to wait to submit their membership until the structure and purpose of the LNGO was established. The activity will contain 2 meetings in each of the 19 groups in the 4 regions, where the groups are introduced to the LNGO purpose, vision, guidelines, and opportunities. At the second meeting, the groups will decide who should be there representative in the regional committee.

Timing/duration: JUL2022-DEC2022.

Driver of activity: Regional Committee

Participants: 304 Group members from the 19 groups, LPLs in the respective areas, PD.

Outcomes and Results: The groups will have been presented to the opportunity to join, their rights and responsibilities in relation to joining, and the overall structure of the LNGO. Further the outcome is to train the regional committees to mobilize members to the LNGO. The result will be meeting minutes from all 19 meetings, where half of them will state the name of the representative chosen for the regional committee. In case some groups choose not to join, the minutes will not include the name of a representative but a clear statement on the decision not to join.

Activity 4: Mobilizing 3 of the remaining 22 groups

Short description: 3 of the remaining groups have experienced some challenges and the team in Nepal chose to wait to include them. The activity will contain outreach activities as information sharing meetings, phone calls and home visits to properly investigate what support is needed for the women to be an active part of the LNGO.

Timing/duration: AUG, SEP2023, (two full days pr. group for both visits, phone calls and home visits).

Driver of activity: PD and PM

Participants: LPLs and all representatives in Lamjung District, remaining groups.

Outcomes and Results: The outcome is spreading the word of the LNGO and mobilizing the women to be interested in joining and contributing to the community. We recognize the substantial

risk of these not being able to participate in the LNGO due to their challenges, but we wish to initiate the process. The result is a schedule of meetings with all 3 groups.

LNGO activities

Activity 5: Business training

Short description: An important need addressed by the women was to use the LNGO to advance their business management to increase their profit, work better together, and ensure resilience towards the fragile contexts. This is a 2-day training for 50 participants. There will be provided a training 4 times a year (four in 2023; one in 2024).

Timing/duration: MAR2023, JUN2023, SEP2023, DEC2023, MAR2024 (every training requires four working days, one for preparation, two for training and one debrief).

Driver of activity: Central Committee + LPLs and WAWCAS business expert

Participants: Min. 25 pct. of the LNGO members (pr. JULY 1ST 2022).

Outcomes and Results: The outcome is for the women to increase their net profit, by for example developing additional businesses to ensure a good cash flow and be more prepared for times of crisis, the women are expected to pass on their knowledge to the remaining. The result is training reports made by the LPLs about the outcome for the women.

Activity 6: LNGO event

Short description: One-day event planned by the LNGO where all women in the LNGO are invited for an event in Lamjung to share experiences, hear inspirational speakers, work in groups, and reflect upon their situation. The event will both consist of group work and speeches. We will suggest the women to make exercises that gives the opportunity to 'try out' leadership and different roles. It will be a requirement that the approach is participatory, in which we will support them very closely.

Timing/duration: NOV2023

Driver of activity: LNGO

Participants: LPLs, 80 pct. of all members of the LNGO, PD, PM, IPD, IPM, speakers

Outcomes and Results: The outcome is for the women to feel connected and as a strong community, sharing their experiences, and reflect on the LNGO purpose. This way the women who are not in a leading position also can try to test taking on more responsibilities in the group work. The result is two short women-made cartoons where they draw their most important achievements within the LNGO.

Activity 7: Money to be budgeted by the Central Committee

Short description: This is a free fund for which the LNGO will have to plan, implement, and report. As we wish to supply the women with a small amount of money that they themselves distribute. It is a crucial part of the democratic procedures to understand the processes and responsibilities behind handling a budget as a group representing more than 900 women AND their children.

Timing/duration: 2 years

Driver of activity: FO, Central Committee

Participants: Central Committee (making the budget), all member (activities that are planned)

Outcomes and Results: The women will have an increased understanding of democratic decision-making processes, prioritizing money, and financial reporting. The result will be annual budgets and financial reports from the Central Committee.

Transition from old to new boards

Activity 8: General Assemblies

Short description:	The General Assembly (GA) is a meeting of all LNGO members. It is the sovereign body of the LNGO which has the power to decide the programs. Without approval from the GA, program implementation is illegal. The GA is after the completion of each Fiscal Year. The main Outcomes are to get approval for the coming year's plan and strategic directions of the organization, and approval of the previous year's progress. Each member has the right to ask questions.
Timing/duration:	SEP/OCT2022 and 2023.
Driver of activity:	Regional Committees and the Central Committee (with support from LPL).
Participants:	LPLs, women groups, committee members.
Outcomes and Results:	The outcome is to learn and practice a democratic procedure of election and candidacy. An important outcome is for them to understand and refer to the Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct, and the Anti-Corruption code by using correct and agreed procedures. Another outcome is to provide the women who at the beginning did not have the confidence of taking lead, the opportunity to do so. The result will be new board papers showing that 7 Regional Committees and the Central Committee have been at GA and an approval of the coming year's plan.

Activity 9: Training of Regional Committees

Short description:	When new women enter the Regional Committees there is need for training like the ones conducted in activity 3 and 4. These are provided by the members from the existing and the previous committees with support from the LPLs. The training content will be developed in cooperation with the committee members.
Timing/duration:	APRIL MAY 2023 and 2024 (four-day training), in field.
Driver of activity:	LPLs and Previous Regional Committee members.
Participants:	PM, LPLs, regional committee members.
Outcomes and Results:	The outcome is a successful hand-over process to be implemented easily each time the committees get new members. This will increase sustainability and increasingly include the women in developing and facilitating trainings themselves. The results will be training agendas and agreed procedures for the hand-over.

Systematizing experiences

Activity 10: Model development

Short description:	Based on the accumulated experience from Activity 1-7 WAWCAS will prepare a report and guideline to be used in other areas where WAWCAS is implemented. This guideline or LNGO model will be based on the ongoing M&E made by the Danish PM and PD. The M&E will consist of collecting the relevant 'results' from each activity, second-weekly meetings with the Nepali PD and PM, and two monitoring visits during the 2,5 years.
Timing/duration:	Ongoingly
Driver of activity:	Frederikke Thorning
Participants:	PD, PM, and International Program Director, LPLs, LNGO members.
Outcomes and Results:	The outcome is to prepare to expand the LNGO concept into other Nepali regions in which WAWCAS works and to have all learnings documented, and to properly monitor and document the learnings from the intervention. The result is the LNGO Model that will be a step-by-step guide to 'rolling' it out in other regions in Nepal.

4. Supplementary financing

Supplementary financing is included in the intervention to cover activity 1, 2, 7 and un-planned needs and adjustments according to changing circumstances and the needs of the women. This financing has already

been secured before submitting the current application to CISU. The supplementary financing is a prerequisite for sudden changes, adjustments or identified needs that cannot be planned and described beforehand. We have used supplementary financing for the reporting period of the Local Changemakers Intervention was made, to sustain the momentum and enthusiasm of the women in the villages.