



Creating opportunities and resources for the excluded
Newsletter Volume XVI, November 2023

Making a real difference for marginalized kids in school!

With your donations, we help kids keep studying to avoid child labour and marriages, which perpetuate a family's poverty. Donations to CORE make a difference in the lives of the people we try to help!

Supporting the education of children is a long-term commitment to achieve real impacts on the education, confidence, and well-being of a young person and their family.¹ You can help by donating through CanadaHelps on our website [donation page](#). It automatically sends a Canadian tax receipt.

A sincere thank you to everyone who has supported the work of CORE in so many ways. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers of our partner organizations, for your hard work, planning, constant commitment, and immense compassion for all who are suffering in this time.

It has been 17 years during which we have contributed to helping about 15,000² families or individuals in changing situations with the conflict and two major crises, the 2015 earthquake and pandemic lockdowns.



Thank you to all for your donations, support, or hard work!

Please check [CORE's website](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)



Impact and Monitoring visit

"I have done dozens of trainings and impact studies in education. This is the first time I have seen such positive results in students, parents, and tuition teachers because of holistic support from HIMRIGHTS and CORE international," says Safala Rajbhandari, tuition teacher trainer, who was part of this team.

CORE and HimRights decided it was time for a visit in February 2023 to observe the outcomes of our program – what difference was it making.

We saw an overall positive transformation in children, parents and tuition teachers. Remarkable support from Rural Municipalities in Makwanpur district, principals, and teachers, contributed to this transformation.



¹ A one- or two-year 'project' cannot yield sustainable results.

² Care has been taken to not double count. For instance, students receiving scholarships for several years are only counted once, not every year.



For the past seven years since 2017, CORE International has supported HimRights to implement a holistic project to enhance the education of 100 Chepang and other marginalized children in four schools in Makwanpur district south of Kathmandu.

Besides educational support to Chepang children, we aim to empower and build leadership of Chepang children (and their families) to link them with local government and enable parents' livelihoods to support their children.

The education support includes admission fees, bag, stationary, uniforms worth Rs. 6,000 to each student. As well, we provide monthly food support which adds up to Rs. 360,000 for 100 children per distribution. This year we are distributing food three times instead of twice as in the past.

Tutorial Classes

Two tutors per school give the scholarship children tutorial classes to support them in their homework and encourage them to adapt to school life. It is hard for children to do their homework if their parents cannot read or write. There was also a three-day refresher training for teachers and tutors as part of CORE's support to HimRights for educational support to marginalized children.

The tutorial classes are helping the scholarship children to do very well in their classes. These kids are helping their classmates in their classes too. In the tuition classes, we teach the children through songs, poetry, and games; so learning became fun and exciting. During the pandemic, we raised awareness of the importance of using masks after which, all the students and teachers started to use masks.



Tuition teachers for two schools

Income Generation

For income generation, this year the program distributed 250 local chickens among all the families except those 16 families who received goats last year. The families can sell eggs, chickens, or baby chicks as a source of income.

Voices from the field

Tul Bahadur Sunar, is the Principal of one school.

“CORE and HimRights have supported us for the last seven years. The educational support program has been a big relief to all the children and parents who are part of this project. There has been an improvement in the school and the students. It provides 27 very marginalized children, with all that they need to attend school — tuition, food, uniforms, and sweaters for chilly weather.

“Before, these students had been dropouts or child labourers in very difficult circumstances. Now, they have improved significantly academically. Without tuition class support such visible improvement will not occur only with scholarships.

“During the pandemic, the students kept studying as the tuition classes continued when the schools were closed. The children did not get into bad habits or become vulnerable at this time.

“They also did an awareness dialogue event for parents on the importance of education. There has been a reduction in alcohol consumption and violence in families. The parents send their children regularly to school. There are extra activities, such as a Quiz Competition and public speaking, to make all the children stronger.

“The Chairperson and Vice Chair of the municipality have taken part as guests of honour in some activities. In these events, children have raised their issues to be addressed. The representatives of the municipality are closely monitoring this program.

“This project is very different from other scholarship programs, by providing for the students’ needs throughout the year - fees, stationary, uniforms, sweaters, tuition, food, IG program, etc. I would like to thank everyone very much for their ongoing support.”

Ward representative Hira Bahadur Praja

“This program by HimRights and CORE ensures that the students have a good experience and are encouraged to study even harder. If the students don’t get enough food in their impoverished families, it is hard for them to study. This program ensures that students have the food, bags, and clothing they need to study at school. It also provides the families with goats or chickens to help improve the earnings of the parents to encourage them to provide supportive environment. The parents also feel they are supported. I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to these organisations.”



Support to disadvantaged kids

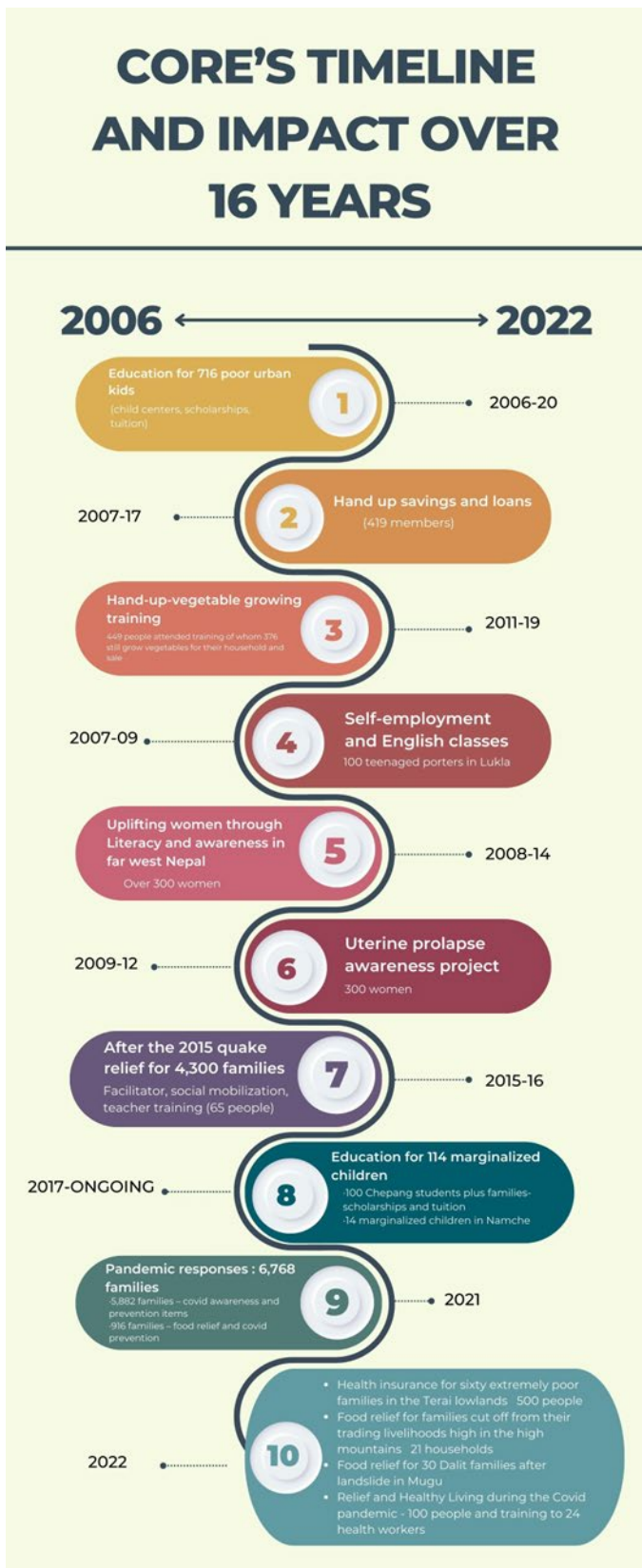
Namche School scholarships

CORE supports scholarships at Namche Community School, now for fourteen students. These disadvantaged kids are mostly the children of people from other districts, who work for wages in hotels and lodges on the trekking route to Everest. There are also several from Dalit (so-called untouchable) families who traditionally do metal work, butchering, and sewing in villages.



Kavre district scholarships

Despite its proximity to Kathmandu, Kavre district has significant numbers of rural poor. For the past three years, CORE has contributed to a scholarship fund run voluntarily by community members who studied with Peace Corp volunteers in the 1960s.



The gift of sharing ...donations as gifts

CORE offers the opportunity to give the gift of sharing. Every donation however large or small helps. You can donate through CanadaHelps on our [donation](#) page. It automatically sends a Canadian tax receipt.

Your gift for your friends and family can support:

- \$150 – food for one disadvantaged student to stay in school for one year
- \$ 350 - scholarship for a child for school for a year
- \$ 2,500 - Pays salaries of four tuition teachers for 4 months

Thank you to ...

- everyone who has [donated](#) in the past 17 years.
- everyone on the ground in Nepal, especially to the staff and boards of Himalayan Human Rights Monitors (HimRights) and Namche School.
- CORE's **board** and advisory members: Wally, Jane, Degju, Fionna, Manisha, and Heidi.
- **Carol** for being our **feet on the ground** in Canada to **keep books**, check mail, and do the banking
- **Neetu** in Kathmandu for administrative support

Reflections and Ways Forward ...

Natural disasters are presenting challenges for people to survive let alone improve their situations. Many of these disasters are the result of excessive rainfall, caused by climate change. Is support to any adaptation measures within the scope of what CORE can do?

CORE helped HimRights to successfully apply for a small grant from the Nepal branch of the returned Peace Corp volunteer association to conduct workshops with parents, teachers, student representatives, and local officials to discuss how the communities can better adapt to changes – environmental, political, economic – and apply for local government support to begin to mitigate these problems.

There is lots of strategic thinking to do... but so far, we see some ways to proceed for the long term:

- More scholarships for marginalized kids
- Continue support to very poor communities and encourage them to find new livelihoods.
- Do more livelihood training and support in rural areas

