

Business start-up support for 570 Dalit and marginalized women in Nepal.

Summary:

The project is to help 570 Dalit and most marginalized women from the remote areas of Kalika and Khairahani Municipalities, Chitwan district in Nepal to become small entrepreneurs that enhance women-led economic activities. This will not only break the barriers from the poverty trap, gender inequality, economic dependency but also leads to transformative development. By supporting on-farm and off-farm based business start-ups together with business skills, knowledge enhancement and access to resources and services, the family would achieve greater resilience.

Your hard-earned money will provide essential business startup support enabling these women to launch small businesses and earn a sustainable income. While training in Transformative Social Mobilization, livelihood skills, knowledge and financial literacy and other services will be fully funded by UK-based charity, Karuna Trust, your contribution goes directly to the hands of women and girls to translate their skills and knowledge into actions, become small entrepreneurs, support their children's education, health care and transform to a dignified life from systematic exclusion, poverty and marginalization.

Challenge:

In Chitwan District, especially in Kalika and Khairahani, Dalit and marginalized women continue to face deeply entrenched structural barriers, such as caste-based discriminations, injustice, absence of just and democratic governance and social exclusion. These are manifested in all the human development index, poverty index and other development indicators. These segments of the society greatly suffer from lack of economic opportunity. Despite enhancing vocational skills, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship, many of these women are unable to translate their knowledge and skills into action. One of the most pressing challenges is the lack of access to start-up capital. Most of them have no connection to formal financial institutions, no collateral to secure loans, and they come from families with low or no income. As a result, they are unable to invest in basic tools, materials, and initial supplies to start a business. Their hands-on skills remain idle, their confidence diminishes over time and their potential remains untapped. Without seed funding, the very foundation needed to apply what they've learned is missing. This financial gap not only hinders their individual growth but also prevents the project from achieving its core goal—lifting these women and their families out of poverty and into a life of dignity, stability and self-reliance.

Solution:

This project will provide seed fund to 570 trained Dalit and marginalized women to start small businesses in tailoring, handicrafts, agriculture products (seasonal/off-seasonal vegetables and species), and other locally viable trades. While the training components—covering entrepreneurship skills, financial literacy, and transformative social mobilization—are fully funded by Karuna UK, the start-up capital remains a critical need. Every dollar you donate goes directly into the hands of these women entrepreneurs, enabling them to apply their skills to generate income leading towards economic self-reliance.

To implement this initiative effectively, the project will organize 38 women farmers groups each comprising **15 women member**, fostering a strong support network, shared learning and collaborative decision-making. These groups will serve as the foundation for community-led economic development and mutual accountability. Each group will receive a start-up fund USD 500 (five hundred USD) to initiate group-based economic activities, with a focus on group farming and small-scale enterprise. This collective approach not only enhances the women's ability to invest and grow together, but also strengthens their bargaining power, market access, and long-term sustainability. By investing to this project, you are not just funding small businesses, you are investing in a powerful movement that builds community, fosters independence and transforms lives.

Long-Term Impact:

Your support will help establish 570 + women-led businesses, increase household incomes, and strengthen community resilience. By enabling financial independence, the project promotes gender equality, reduces poverty, and improves the socio-economic status of women and their families for generations.

What We Need:

We're raising \$28,500 over the next four years — just \$7,125 per year, to distribute in small seed grants to the women group. Your donation, big or small, directly funds a woman's business directly.

For example:

- \$50 Support 1 woman's business start-up
- \$100 supports 2 women's business start-up
- \$200 supports 4 women's business start-up
- \$300 Supports 6 women's business start-up
- \$400 Supports 8 women's business start-up
- \$500 Support 10 women's business start-up
- \$750 Support 15 women's business start-up
- \$1000 Support 20 women's busintss start-up

How You Can Help:

Your contribution will go into a dedicated fund managed by the Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN) an experienced grassroots organization committed to transparency, empowerment and community development. The funds will be distributed openly and fairly, with strong accountability mechanisms. Disbursements will take place in the presence of local government officials, including the Mayor, deputy Mayor, Ward Chairpersons, ward members and respected social leaders from the community. This participatory approach not only ensures full transparency but also reinforces local government accountability to the women farmers groups.

In addition to financial support, ADWAN will provide ongoing mentoring and monitoring, helping each woman navigate their entrepreneurial journey. Through regular field visits, progress tracking and personalized guidance, the organization will ensure that the women are not only supported but also celebrated as change-makers in their communities.

Every donor will receive regular updates, impact reports and inspiring stories of transformation showcasing how your contribution is directly uplifting lives, enabling women to build businesses, educate their children and break the vicious cycles of poverty.

Final Note:

Without access to seed capital, these women, though trained, skilled and eager are unable to take the crucial first step toward building their own businesses. Their potential remains untapped, and their dreams deferred. Your support can change that by providing the missing piece start-up funding, you help transform training into tangible outcomes. Join us in turning knowledge into action and survive towards success. Be a part of their journey toward dignity, independence and lasting change.

Call to Action:

Empower a woman, Fund a dream, Change a life by Donate today.