# Women as Change Agents

6 December 2021 Bal Kumari Gurung





# **Sharing Outline**

- ✓ Personal Inspiration
- ✓ Context overview
- ✓ Work Experience

# Personal Inspiration







# World context



#### ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

#### **WOMEN'S EQUAL PARTICIPATION**

IN DECISION-MAKING IS CRUCIAL FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY,

BUT GENDER PARITY REMAINS FAR OFF



**WOMEN REPRESENT** 



IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS



IN LOCAL Government



IN MANAGERIAL POSITIONS
(2021)

#### **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

PERSISTS AT UNACCEPTABLY HIGH LEVELS AND IS INTENSIFIED BY THE PANDEMIC



#### 1 IN 3 WOMEN (736 MILLION)

HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE

At least once in their lifetime since the age of 15









IN ADDITION TO THE 100 MILLION WHO WERE PROJECTED TO BECOME CHILD BRIDES BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

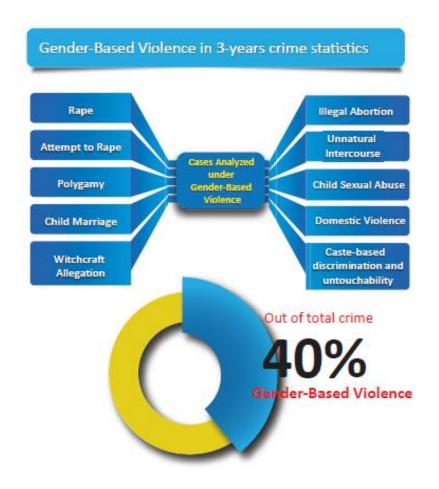


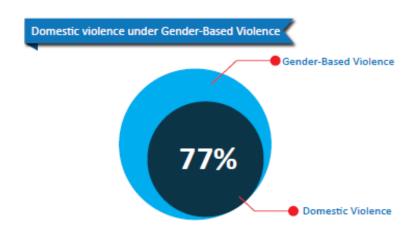
PANDEMIC IS ADDING TO THE BURDEN OF UNPAID DOMESTIC AND CARE WORK AND SQUEEZING WOMEN OUT OF THE LABOUR FORCE

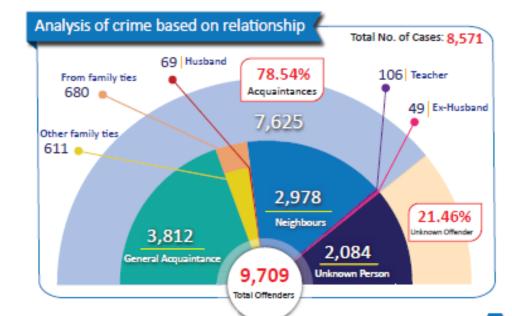
WOMEN ALREADY SPEND ABOUT 2.5 TIMES AS MANY HOURS AS MEN ON UNPAID DOMESTIC AND CARE WORK



#### Nepal context (2017-20)

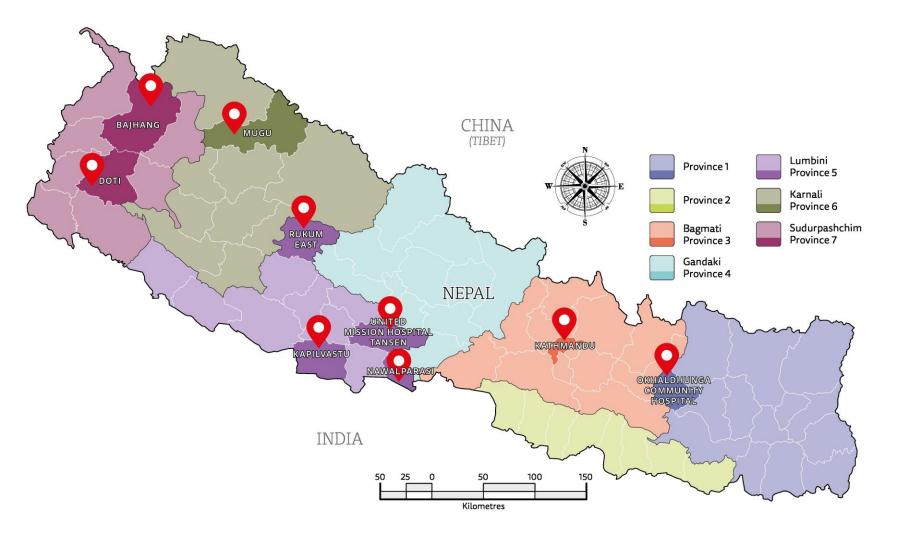






# Church experience







## **UMN** working areas

#### **Work Experience: Combating HTPs**

**Project:** Combating Traditional Practices that are Harmful to

**Women and Girls** 

**Duration:** Five years (March 2015-December 2019)

Goal: To enable equitable and harmonious families and

communities to develop in Bajhang

Purpose: To encourage men/women and boys/girls to

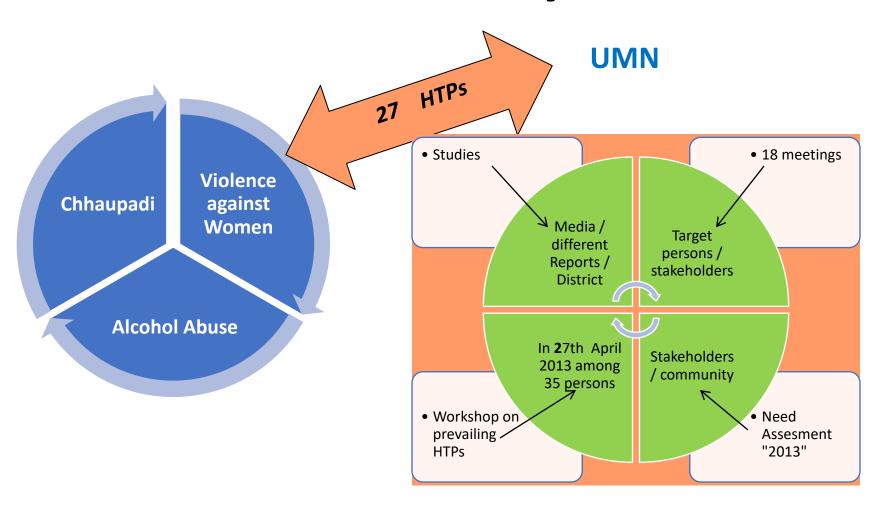
develop more positive, supportive, and equitable

gender attitudes and practices.

Area: Four VDCs, Bajhang District



#### **Problem Analysis**









#### Key approaches:

- -Group mobilisation
- -Capacity building
- -Engaging power holder
- -Partnership with media



Social norms in alcohol abuse transformed







•Leaving "chau" sheds (menstrual huts)











Violence against women reduced:

"We have witnessed changes in behavior of men towards their women. Due to presence of the united force of women groups, the men of the village now hesitate to act violently against their wives and daughters. An unseen but a "social alert system" has been strongly established by the women groups to address cases of violence against women, which is also supported by the local police." –KII respondent, SafaltaWomen Group, Sunikot

"I now take care of my children and help them getting ready for school, even accompany them to school" -Brother's group member, Sainpasela



Womenconfident andempowered











