



# EMPHASIS Celebrates International Women's Day



Enhancing Mobile Population Access to HIV and AIDS Services, Information and Support

Promise is a Promise: Time for action to end violence against women

Theme for IWD, 2013

Enhancing Mobile Population's Access to HIV and AIDS Services, Information and Support (EMPHASIS), a regional project is implemented by CARE in three countries Bangladesh, India and Nepal to reduce HIV and AIDS vulnerability among cross border migrants from Bangladesh to India and Nepal to India. It works with its focus on its core operating portfolios i.e preventive, referral and care services to cross border migrant communities, capacity building of partners and stakeholders, and evidence based advocacy and these portfolios significantly contribute to some of the key strategic frameworks for EMPHASIS such as continuum of prevention, care and support, women's empowerment and end violence and harassment at source, transit and destination. Thus women empowerment is one of the major impacts that EMPHASIS seeks to achieve from its different interventional models. So,

in coordination with different district, community and local level stakeholders, EMPHASIS celebrated women's day conducting different activities.

### India

#### Kapashera Gaon, New Delhi

- ❖ "I AM A GIRL" rally
- ❖ Game of darts
- ❖ Awareness campaign
- ❖ Video shows
- ❖ Mass event
- ❖ Street play

#### Shalimar Garden and Sarhaul, New Delhi

- ❖ Mobile Health Camp
- ❖ Group discussion

#### Pimpripada and BSP community, Mumbai

- ❖ Group discussion
- ❖ Orientation session with Domestic Workers' group

### Nepal

#### Kanchanpur

- ❖ Consultative Workshop with Advocacy Leaders
- ❖ Women Football Game
- ❖ Rally
- ❖ Signature campaign

#### Achham

- ❖ Consultative Workshop with Advocacy Leaders
- ❖ Rally and Deuda
- ❖ Quiz contest and debate on Women Rights

### Bangladesh

- ❖ Joint rally with department of women and children affairs
- ❖ Discussion session and award ceremony
- ❖ Photo display





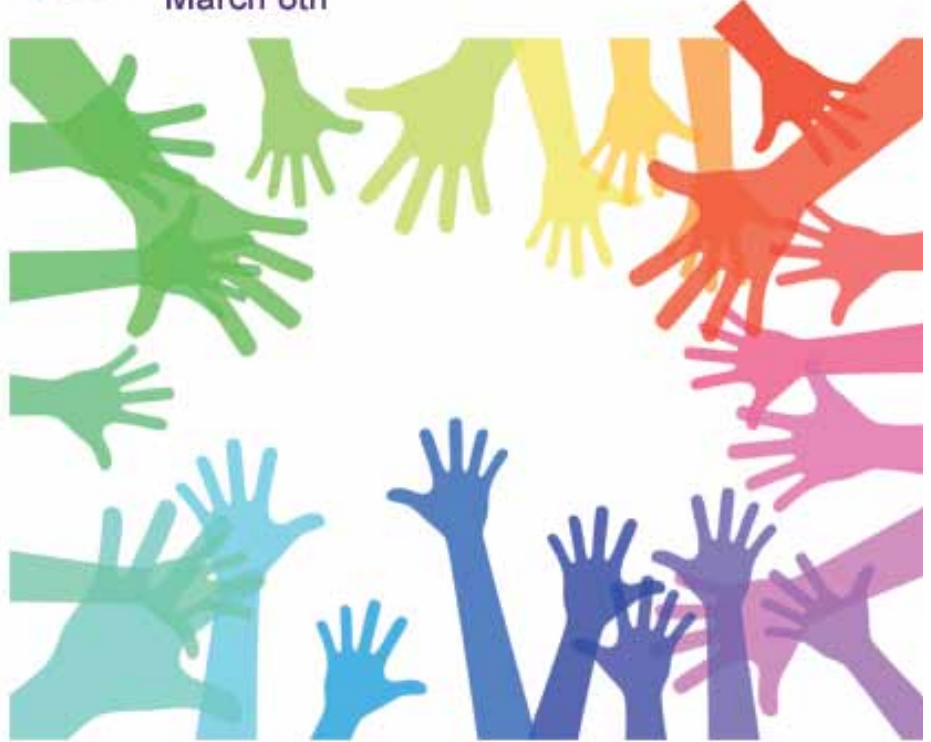
# ABOUT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD)

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women. However, it is also a day to extend solidarity to all those girls and women who continue to be denied their rights and deprived of a life with dignity. The celebration began in 1975, during International Women's Year, when the United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day on 8th of March.

Annually on 8 March, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements. A global web of rich and diverse local activity connects women from all around the world.



International Women's Day  
March 8th



## REFLECTION OF ACTIVITIES FROM THE FIELD...

In all three countries Nepal, India and Bangladesh where EMPHASIS program is implemented, rally were organized indulging the stakeholders, local authority, government body and the partner organization for raising voices to address the issues regarding women and their empowerment.



### Nepal

On 8th March, a rally gathering a huge mass of women from municipality area of Kanchanpur and from various women related organization was organized with the efforts of NEEDS Kanchanpur (EMPHASIS partner).

Another rally took place in Achham in Sanfebagar, Mastamandu and Bayalpata where women from different parts of VDC moved around with play cards and urged to end the social taboos like chaupadi, child marriage, domestic violence.



### India

In collaboration with GRC and the Centre for advocacy on the 6th of March 2013 a rally titled "I am a girl" was organized to raise awareness about women's rights in Kapashera Gaon, New Delhi. The campaign sought to garner public support for creating a safe and enabling environment for women's empowerment. Slogans and playcards carrying messages to end violence and discrimination against women were raised.



### Bangladesh

On 8th March a rally was organized jointly with the department of women and children affairs, other Government departments and NGOs of Jessore District. Day observation coordination committee organized a procession which started from Deputy Commissioner's office. The rally paraded the important roads of the town and ended up at District Shilpokola Academy, Jessore. District GoB official, representative from NGO's and women organizations took part in the rally.

## INDIA:

With the assistance of the peer educators, local youth group, dance troupe, "Unity of Nepal" group, EMPHASIS staffs and the other stakeholders various activities were done which included

### KAPASHERA GAON, NEW DELHI

**Street play:** Street play on the theme "fight discrimination and abuse, to pave the way for a society that promotes equality and tolerance" was conducted. This activity attracted an audience of over 50 Nepali Mobile Populations and was very effective in sensitizing women about their rights and encouraging them to live a life of their choice.

**Game of darts:** A game of darts was played, by which information about prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS and STIs. Women's health, rights and entitlements was disseminated along with prize distribution to the winners.

**Awareness Campaign:** Posters and pamphlets with information on women's rights, health, HIV and AIDS, STIs, EMPHASIS project etc were displayed and IEC materials were handed out. The project staffs generated awareness among the group about the various government schemes for women and ways to optimally accessing the services they are entitled to. Special emphasis was laid on raising awareness of the "Laadli" scheme, which focuses on the girl child.

**Video show:** A movie centred on women, who break the proverbial glass ceiling to be on par with men in all walks of life, was screened. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the film and was also truly inspired.

### NEW SEEMAPURI, NEW DELHI

**Mass event:** A mass event was organized by Anchal Charitable Trust (ACT) team on 8th with the objective to raise awareness among the women on the social evils prevalent in the society addressing them. An infotainment program with combination of many activities such as role play, dance, singing and quiz competitions were organised. The entire event was facilitated by the women community



Educators.

**Street play:** A street play was performed by a group of women showcasing that household work of women considered as unproductive work when compared to the work of a male member of the same family. Through the play, the audience was made aware about the importance of the contribution made by the women in their lives. A message was sent out about changing one's mindset to give women the respect and dignity they deserve. Another street play was organized on how to protect women from violence and sexual assault.

### SARHAUL, NEW DELHI

**Group Discussions:** On the 9th of March 2013, the IWD was celebrated with the NMPs, women belonging to the savings group, peer educators and other stakeholders. A group discussion was held on the topic "Position of Women in Today's Society" in Sarhaul, New Delhi. The women were told about their rights and how they can apply the knowledge in their daily lives to fight discrimination and gender-based violence. As a result they were encouraged not to let repressive societal norms hinder them in pursuing their dreams. Finally the program ended with a floor dance and taking a pledge to collectively stand up for women's empowerment.



### PIMPRIKADA, MUMBAI

**Group discussion:** IWD was celebrated at Pimpripada, Goregaon in Mumbai on the 8th of March 2013. The Shiv Sena party, provide space for conducting the program. An audience of around 200 women gathered who comprised of Nepali migrant women and Goregaon Women's Group, for whom literacy classes are conducted, in collaboration with the



Pratham organization. Orientation on the significance of Women's Day and the progress achieved by women in all spheres of life was given and the attention was drawn towards the plight of women in the 21st century. Following it, discussions were done to become aware about one's rights in order to fight discrimination and lead a life of fulfilment and dignity. Each member of the group reflected and shared their thoughts about Women's Day. An article about the event was also published in the local Nepali newspaper "Nepal News".

### BSP community in Mumbai

**Orientation Session:** IWD was celebrated on 8th of March 2013 at Mumbai, with the domestic workers group among the BSP community. The activities and happenings were orientation to people on HIV and AIDS and importance of women empowerment, people were provided with detail information about the Prevention of mother to child transmission (PPTCT) and ways to prevent the transmission of HIV from a mother to her baby. All the women present, were given flowers as a mark of celebrating womanhood.







**NEPAL:**  
**Consultative Workshop with Advocacy Leaders:**

It was conducted in Kanchannpur and Achham in 11 and 16th of March respectively, in coordination with Women's Right Advocacy leaders in the districts. It was carried out to aware the participants about various issues of women, their problems and position in society and the legal mechanism supporting them. Paper presentations were also done and women were clarified on issues like

- Women empowerment, its need and strategies;
- Paralegal committee, its roles and need;
- Gender Based Violence and its effect on women health;
- Women's Right and support mechanism;

The workshop provided an opportunity for project to collaborate with women activists working at VDC as well as district level so that the bonding will support project to play key role for creating enabling environment for advocacy and protection of rights of women.

**KANCHANPUR**

**Football game:** On 7th March, day before the big day, the women members of NEEDS Kanchanpur including EMPHASIS female staffs formed a team to play football with the theme of women's voice and the goal against violence. The saying was- **"Mahila ko bol hinsha biruddha ko goal."** Three games were conducted and Civil Service Women and NEEDS Kanchanpur were both the winner of the game.

**Signature Campaign:** The signature collection campaign was initiated from the beginning of the month in order to gather support and voice against women violence. Around 300 women support was collected in the form of signature and the document was submitted to Chief District Officer (CDO) Kanchanpur for further action and strategies development.

**Open Ground Program:** An open ground program for raising awareness about stigma and discrimination related to HIV and AIDS was conducted in coordination with Jhalari VDC women development multi-purpose cooperative

organization and FCHV and Sachetan Nari Samaj by EMPHASIS partner NEEDS. The inauguration was done by the chief guest Ex- State Minister NP Saud. The program started with a rally throughout Jhalari VDC and was continued with the sharing of ideas and experiences of participants, folk song competition, and musical chair competition. Few women were also honoured for their contribution in the society. The participants and guests appreciated the program. They expressed and said, "These types of efforts are very much effective to empower women and eliminate their hesitation and make them socially active."

**ACHHAM:**

**Deuda Playing:** After ending rally the formal session of events started where deuda was played in all four VDCs where women were divided in groups based on their respective VDC. Some of major themes of deuda were HIV, safer migration, rights of women and violence. Similarly, in Bhageshor, quiz contest and debate was organized where School children participated and speak out on issue of domestic violence and need of celebrating the Women Day.

**Hotelier's engagement in day celebration:** At Sanfebagar, Hotelier group led the rally and played Deuda highlighting women's vulnerability to HIV and AIDS from her partner, role of women for safe migration. At the end of the event, best performing participants were rewarded.

**"Positive changes have occurred in status of women in present compared to past and we are committed to bring change."- Female activist**



## Bangladesh:

**Discussion sessions:** After the rally a discussion session was held at District Shilpokola Academy Auditorium, Jessore. More than 1500 participants including Government, NGOs, Civil Society and individuals from target population attended the rally program. After the discussion meeting some women were awarded for their contribution to women empowerment in Jessore by the Deputy Commissioner of Jessore. Representatives from different women organizations sang an inspirational song, Anjela Gomej, winner of Magsaysay took the lead of the session. Every one took the oath in favour of women empowerment and to raise voice against harassments of women whenever they encounter any.

**Photo Display:** A photo display booth was set in the District Shilpokola Academy Auditorium, Jessore, by EMPHASIS and its partner organization. IEC/BCC materials were displayed for audiences showcasing the interventions and glimpses of the women empowerment activities in field. Large number of audiences having observed the photo display booth.



## Sunita Raises Voice

### STORIES FROM THE FIELD – HOW EMPHASIS IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## against Harassment

Sunita (name changed) is a 28 year old lady and a mother of three. She is originally from Achham district and has been living in Kirti Nagar Reshma Camp, Delhi since the last 15 years. She earns her living and supports her children by working in a gym. With her needs she was compelled to work beyond her choice.

Sunita in her workplace was always harassed in one or the other way despite of her hard work. The in-charge in the gym abused Sunita verbally. The trouble Sunita was facing was heightened with time and was never reduced. It was fortunate that Sunita was involved with EMPHASIS project in Delhi, through regular domestic workers meeting held

by the project. In the meeting the women and other domestic worker were informed about their rights, ways to fight for their rights, advocate their issues, prevent them from HIV and AIDS, workplace violence and harassment etc. Sunita, became bold enough to share her story to the team. She was encouraged and motivated after getting counseled on how to deal with the situation. She got her courage and could build in her the inner strength and raised voice for herself as an empowered woman.

Boldly, Sunita complained about behavior that was shown to her and told she felt harassed. On directly hearing these words from Sunita the gym in-charge realized that he should not be doing it.

He felt guilty and said sorry to her. He then told Sunita that she would never be discriminated anymore. This step of Sunita and seeing its result, other staffs in the office also got motivated and appreciated Sunita's boldness.

Sunita says, "If I was not oriented about our rights and ways to fight for it, then still today I would be a silent victim. But today, I am able to make other women aware about it and motivate them to fight for their rights as well. So I heartedly thank EMPHASIS program for helping to bring the change in me" (Extracted from Ning, translated)

[www.emphasis.ning.com](http://www.emphasis.ning.com)



# Uniting Women for Safe Remittance in Nepal

Women being contracted with HIV and AIDS by their husband working as a migrant have been a vicious circle in the far west hills of Nepal.

Radha Bishwakarma 35 years of age is a spouse of migrant and lives in the plains of Kanchnapur District in the Far Western Region. Like many other Radha's husband also went to India for work. During his stay, he was diagnosed HIV positive and died because of the same. The darker side apart from her husband's loss was that Radha was also diagnosed HIV positive and was a single parent with the responsibility of her four children as she was contracted with HIV and AIDS by her husband, despite of her innocence. She was left alone to bare her grief.

"Unlike me I don't want my other sisters in the village to be contracted with HIV and AIDS." says Radha. Radha works as a Peer Educator for EMPHASIS project in Bhimdutta Nagarpalika, Kanchanpur. She

actively works for dissemination of HIV and AIDS messages and work together for safer mobility. She involves herself in the activities targeted for prevention of HIV and AIDS, referral, advocating different issues and capacitating others in the community and especially the women groups to strive towards safe mobility and safer living with no HIV and AIDS. Spouse groups have been formed with her support in the district. The groups are united together for addressing various issues so as to enhance safe mobility in a scenario where violence and harassment cases are frequently faced by the returnee migrants, while crossing the transit. The women members in the group were encouraged to open bank accounts due to which robbery and theft cases have been decreased, said Radha.

Geeta's husband was one of the loot victim due to which Geeta was unable to deposit her son's school fees. Geeta in a

very upset voice said, "Since last seven years I have been struggling to receive money sent by my husband and due this time also I was not able to pay school fee of my son." But now, after opening bank account Geeta was able to receive NRs 10,000 sent by her husband from the bank and was overwhelmed. Along with Geeta, it was a cause of happiness for Radha who always wanted to support her sisters in the village.

Radha, a peer educator for the EMPHASIS project thus has become a medium of change in her community. She is self satisfied with what she is doing and says, "I feel happy that I am a part of EMPHASIS project and able to be a factor for joy and happiness of many women like me in the village." She adds on, "If my small effort can make a change in someone's life what more would I wish for."



*"Banking is an easy and trustworthy for safely receiving money. If only I had known about this earlier, I hadn't lose that 5000 also. Spouse of migrant"*  
Spouse of migrant



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