

**Project title:** Supporting a Community Child Care Centre within the 'Strengthening Women's Collectives' project  
**Location:** Sudap Village, Terathum District, Eastern Nepal  
**Project duration:** October 2015 – March 2016



**Thank you for your support.**

Thanks to the generosity of the Soroptimist International Oxford and District Club, we've given the women of Sudap Village the opportunity to earn their own living outside of the home, by making sure their children are taken care of during working hours.

**We hope that you enjoy reading about the difference your support has made.**

## Context:

Sudap Village in the Terathum district lies in the eastern hills of Nepal. Terathum has a population of 101,577 (54,426 female). 59% of the population is literate, but men have greater access to education with 71% literate, compared to only 48% of females.

## Unpaid care work:

Illiteracy levels amongst women are largely due to the cultural challenges women face in Nepal, where women are expected to stay at home to look after domestic chores and take care of the children, whilst their husbands earn a living. This unpaid care work is perceived to be less valuable than paid work. It is ignored and not considered to be “work” even by the women and men who engage in and benefit directly from it. **Women living in poverty are disproportionately affected by this responsibility.** Many women also carry the dual responsibilities for both unpaid care work and earning an income. **Women’s responsibility for care leads to the violation of their basic human rights** to an education, political participation, decent work and leisure. It also contributes to persistent gender inequalities.

## The Project:

To fund the construction of a Community Child Care Centre in Sudap Village, Nepal.

## Objective:

To support the members of Makhamalai Women Collectives where there is large number of children below the school-going age, so that they can engage in community level meetings, training, income generation work and also have leisure time.

## What we have achieved:

In September 2014 a Community Child Care Centre was established in Sudap Village in a rented building, however as the community were struggling to fund the rent, the project’s sustainability had become threatened.

Thanks to the funds raised by the Soroptimist International Oxford and District Club, the construction of the Community Child Care Centre has had a huge impact on the community of Sudap Village, where the women need to work to support their families as they live in a very expensive district.

## Phase 1: Construction

- **The management committee** formed of representatives from the community including the women's collectives, parents of the children and female health volunteers, oversaw the construction of the centre with ActionAid to ensure that the local community understood and supported the project.
- **Construction began in October 2015.** ActionAid liaised with various stakeholders in the community in addition to the management committee to get them involved with and excited by the project.
- **The Community Child Care Centre was furnished** with the necessary equipment and materials to make it a child-friendly and safe space for children to enjoy, once the construction was completed.
- **An inauguration ceremony (pictured below)** was organised once the building was completed and fully furnished. The management committee got the entire community involved to ensure that they all felt part of the project and accountable to its sustainability.



## Phase 2: Supporting women & children

- **Nine mothers** are currently benefiting from the centre which is very encouraging because of the remoteness and scattered nature of the settlement. The centre ensures that not only is the responsibility of women's unpaid care work reduced and redistributed at a community level but also enables women to earn their own income and be more economically independent.
- **The women who care for the children** are also provided with a sustainable source of income which means that they can earn a living and provide for their families.
- **The children's health** has improved as some mothers shared that previously they would not get enough time to feed their children or give them the kind of care they wanted for their children. The children's hygiene has also improved as they have learnt to wash their hands and also their mothers have to ensure they have had a bath and are wearing clean clothes before attending the centre.

- **The children have a safe place where they can play** as they're no longer exposed to the dangers of their mother's working environments. The mothers can now leave their children at the centre and know that they are safe and being looked after well.
- **The children are learning from each other** as they are now interacting with other children of their age, a lot of mothers shared that their children have learnt good manners like greeting and talking to people.
- **The women have more time** to dedicate to themselves and running the household. They have time to earn a living, catch up with household chores but most importantly they have some well-earned time to themselves.



Thank you to the Soroptimist International Oxford and District Club for your incredible support and for helping to change the lives of women and children living in Sudap Village, Nepal.