



Quarterly Newsletter

Stakeholder Visit, Pokhara



On 2 April 2026, SETU Nepal organized a stakeholder coordination meeting in Pokhara under the UNTF-funded project. Representatives from Pokhara Metropolitan City, the ART Centre, OCMC, CBOs, and other stakeholders reviewed project progress, strengthened collaboration, and discussed ways to improve coordinated support for communities. The event also included interactions with beneficiaries to gather feedback and inform future interventions.

April-June Highlights

- 2nd April– Stakeholder Meeting, Pokhara
- 3rd April – LGBTIQ+ Orientation, Pokhara
- 4th April – Community Awareness Program, Pokhara
- 16th April – New Year Hike, Budhanilkantha
- 28th April – Candle-Making Workshop, Aarati Home
- 22nd May – ICIMOD Living Mountain Lab Visit
- 23rd May- Photography Lessons, Aarati Home
- May- Staff Sound Bowl Healing Session
- 25th May– Farewell to Volunteer Amelie
- 28th May – Passing on the gift
- 9th June – World Environment Day Tree Plantation
- 10th June – Multi-Stakeholder Workshop, Pokhara

Small steps, big impact

LGBTQIA+ Health, Rights and Inclusion Orientation – Pokhara

On 3 April, SETU Nepal, in coordination with Pokhara Metropolitan City, conducted an LGBTQ+ Health, Rights and Inclusion Orientation in Pokhara, bringing together community members and stakeholders to discuss health, rights, HIV prevention, stigma, discrimination, and access to inclusive services.

A key highlight of the program was the first public screening of a documentary featuring Rajani Thakali, Project Coordinator of Naulo Bihani, showcasing powerful lived experiences from the LGBTQ+ community. The screening was followed by an interactive discussion that encouraged participants to share their perspectives and strengthen community dialogue. The program concluded with remarks from Mr. Arjun Chhetri, Public Health Officer, Pokhara Metropolitan City, reaffirming the importance of inclusive and accessible services for all.



A New Year, a New Adventure

What better way to welcome the New Year than a hike to Budhanilkantha? The children climbed to the stupa, laughed, shared a picnic, and came back with stories they won't soon forget. Despite the heat, the smiles never faded. A new year that begins with movement, connection, and joy — that's a good start.



Little Hands, Big Creativity

Aarati Home was glowing, literally. The children dove into a candle-making workshop guided by our wonderful volunteers Smarika and Stella, crafting beautiful flower-shaped candles that were as unique as each child who made them. The room buzzed with laughter, color, and the kind of joy that only creativity brings. A heartfelt gratitude to Smarika and Stella, for making it so memorable.



Community Awareness Program, Pokhara

On 4 April 2026, SETU Nepal, under the United Nations Trust Fund (UNTF)-funded project, conducted a Community Awareness Programme on gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV/AIDS at Kaukhola Community in coordination with Pokhara Metropolitan City. The interactive session brought together 40 community members to strengthen awareness of GBV, gender equality, HIV prevention, stigma reduction, and available support services. Through open discussions and participatory learning, participants explored their shared responsibility in preventing violence, promoting inclusion, and creating safer, healthier communities. The programme also reinforced collaboration with local government to strengthen community engagement and access to essential services.



Learning from the Mountains: Visit to ICIMOD's Living Mountain Lab



On 15 May 2026, SETU Nepal's team and the children of Aarati Home spent an enriching day at ICIMOD's Living Mountain Lab in Godawari, exploring sustainable farming practices designed for mountain ecosystems. Over a guided two-hour tour, they explored eco-friendly farming techniques, land use innovations, and practical approaches to resource management in mountain ecosystems.



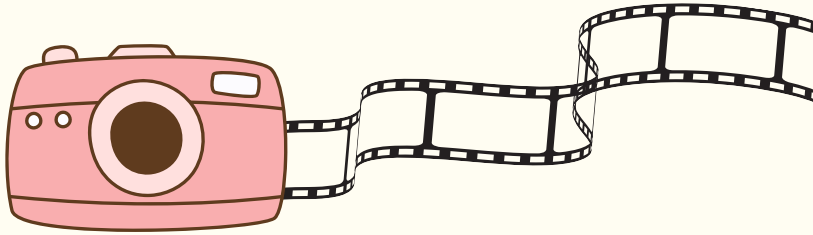
For the children, it was an adventure filled with wonder. For the team, it opened new possibilities for SETU Nepal's own farm initiatives. Thank you, ICIMOD, for the warmth, wisdom, and big dreams you inspired.

The World through a Lens

Bright flashes, wide eyes, and a whole lot of curiosity — that is what photography lessons look like at Aarati Home. With volunteer Amelie guiding the way, the children learned the basics of photography and then turned theory into practice.

Importantly, the session also covered photography ethics, teaching the children the value of seeking consent before taking someone's photograph.

One group headed outside to shoot, while another began crafting a photo wall for their home, turning their memories and their world into art.



Passing on the Gift: Empowering Women, Sustaining Change

SETU Nepal recently supported 15 women—including women living with HIV (WLHIV) and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV)—with **NPR 20,000 in seed money** to strengthen their livelihood activities. The initiative goes beyond financial support.

Beneficiaries work together in groups, maintaining a joint account where they save regularly, share experiences, and support one another. Every two months, they meet at the SETU office to review

their progress and strengthen their collective journey. What makes this model unique is its sustainability. After **18 months**, the original seed money is returned to SETU, allowing another group of women to receive the same opportunity. This simple yet powerful approach—**"Passing on the Gift"**—ensures that one investment continues to create opportunities for many more women.



"Before, we worked alone. Now, we save together, plan together, and grow together. The group has given us confidence and a path forward."

— Beneficiary, SETU Livelihood Group



Farewell to Volunteer Amelie

Six months go by fast, but the love lasts. After half a year of showing up with full heart, Amelie Wohlgenannt from Luxembourg bid farewell to the SETU Nepal family. The children gathered to sing dedication songs, share their most cherished memories, and gift her handmade keepsakes and crocheted stars to carry home.

From field visits and content workshops to photography lessons and farm days, Amelie poured herself into everything she touched here. She came as a volunteer but stayed as family. We are grateful beyond words, and we are sure a piece of Aarati Home will travel with her always.



Thank you, Amélie, for your tireless energy, and for leaving a piece of yourself with our family forever!

Planting Hope at Changu Farmhouse

On World Environment Day, the SETU Nepal family rolled up their sleeves and got their hands in the soil. Staffs, the children of Aarati Home, and Shan Thulung from GreenGold Solutions came together at Changu Farm House for a tree plantation drive, led by Executive Director Ranju Pandey.



It was a quiet but powerful reminder that every small action counts. One sapling at a time, we are growing a greener future.

Staff's Sound Bowl Session

SETU Nepal team gathered for a sound bowl healing session, setting aside the busy pace to breathe, reflect, and restore. The session helped release stress and mental fatigue, filling the room with mindfulness and calm. Because we know this: we can only pour from a full cup. Caring for ourselves is how we keep caring for others.



Strengthening Partnerships for Survivor-Centered Services in Pokhara

SETU Nepal brought together 27 participants in Pokhara—including local government representatives, healthcare professionals, service providers, and community stakeholders—for a UNTF-supported Regional Multi-Stakeholder Workshop. The workshop focused on strengthening survivor-centered support services, empowering women living with HIV (WLHIV), and advancing efforts to prevent gender-based violence (GBV).



Participants reflected on achievements, explored emerging needs, and reinforced a shared commitment to creating communities where every person has access to safety, care, and dignity. A key theme emerged: the widening gap between increasing community demand and limited field resources. Participants strongly advocated for extending the program beyond 2026 and improving referral pathways between the OCMC and community focal persons.

"This workshop brought everyone together to understand what SETU Nepal has achieved despite limited resources. We look forward to continuing our collaboration."

— Mr. Toran Bahadur Baniya, Ward Chairperson No. 15



Pride Month: Krishna's Story

This Pride Month, we celebrate Krishna Gautam from Pokhara-01, who turned a Rs. 10,000 seed fund from SETU Nepal's livelihood support program into building his very own clothing business.



Scan the QR code to watch the full story.



His story is a reminder that inclusion is not just a word. When someone is truly given a chance, incredible things can grow from it.