

May 2026

Daayitwa

GEEP

Gandaki

Enterprise Promotion Trade Fairs Conclude in Five Rural Municipalities.

Under the Growth Entrepreneurship and Employment Promotion (GEEP) Program, Enterprise Promotion Trade Fairs were successfully held in five rural municipalities; Badigad, Hupsekot, Jaljala, Myagde, and Siranchowk, featuring 10 selected enterprises in each location.

A standout success was beekeeper Mr. Chet Bahadur Thapa Magar of Badigad Rural Municipality, who generated impressive sales of NPR 135,500 during the exhibition. His achievement highlights the fair's true impact, empowering local entrepreneurs to reach new customers, expand market access, and turn their craft into thriving businesses.



Fig: Mr. Chet Bahadur Thapa Magar showcasing his products at the Badigad Mela stall



Fig: Entrepreneurs getting exhibition-ready for the Jaljala Enterprise Promotion Fair.

Koshi

Exposure Visit and 3-Day Residential Leadership & Management Course.

Under the GEEP Program, the top 10 entrepreneurs from Gauradaha Municipality and Phakphokthum Rural Municipality came together for an immersive 3-day Residential Leadership and Management Course. The training strengthened essential skills in leadership, communication, business planning, financial management, marketing, and decision-making through interactive sessions and group activities.

The program also included exposure visits that connected learning with practice. Phakphokthum entrepreneurs visited NMC to gain firsthand insights into successful practices in agriculture, livestock, dairy production, financial services, and marketing, while Gauradaha entrepreneurs toured a milk processing factory to learn about production systems, quality control, value addition, and market linkages.

These experiences enhanced participants' understanding of commercial agriculture, agribusiness, value chain management, and cooperative-based financial services, inspiring them to apply new skills, ideas, and best practices within their own enterprises and communities.



Governance Lab

**Nepal Action Research for Tourism
Solutions — Phase 1 Findings
Shared with Industry Partners**

The Governance Lab team recently convened hoteliers, trekking and tour operators, guides, restaurateurs, and academics to present the seven key findings from their Khumbu tourism value chain study.

The discussion surfaced critical pressure points across the sector: permit fragmentation is creating a structural competitive disadvantage for compliant operators; tourism revenue is leaving the region without mandated return to the communities that sustain it; porters remain without any dedicated legal framework protecting their welfare; and fragmented, non-real-time data is blocking evidence-based decision-making at every level of governance.

The team is grateful to all industry partners and academics who joined and contributed their on-the-ground perspectives to the conversation.

With Phase 1 now complete, Governance Lab is pleased to announce that funding is being secured for Phase 2, which will move from gap identification toward structured reform design in collaboration with government, private sector, and community stakeholders.



Meeting with the IR and Tourism Committee: Taking Research into Parliament

The Nepal Action Research for Tourism Solutions team presented Phase 1 findings to MP Anushka Shrestha from the International Relations and Tourism Committee. The conversation moved quickly from findings to action.

Discussions focused on how the research can directly inform the new Tourism Act currently before parliament — on permit reform, fiscal decentralisation, and labour protections for porters and guides. The Committee expressed strong interest in the evidence base the initiative has built and identified concrete areas where the findings can support the legislative drafting process.

We are grateful to MP Shrestha and the Committee for the engagement and look forward to continuing this work as Phase 2 gets underway.

Executive Policy Leadership I - Successfully Completed in Lumbini Province

Governance Lab successfully concluded the first Executive Policy Leadership (EPL I) Course under the Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Governance (GRIG) through Leadership, Fellowship, and Institutional Strengthening Program, supported by UN Women through the Hamro Sahas Program.

The two-day residential course, held in Butwal, brought together more than 40 local government leaders and officials, including Deputy Mayors, Chief Administrative Officers, Planning Officers, and representatives from Women and Children Sections from 10 local governments across Lumbini Province.

The course featured distinguished resource persons, including Dr. Baikuntha Aryal, Former Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal; Ms. Nigma Tamrakar, a seasoned expert in Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and local-level planning and budgeting; and Mr. Utpal Misra, leadership trainer and governance expert.

A key highlight of the program was the panel discussion, "From Awareness to Action: Behavior Change in Governance," facilitated by Ms. Rakshya Silwal, Senior Governance Coordinator at Daayitwa, which explored practical pathways for fostering inclusive and responsive governance through behavioral change.

The course aimed to strengthen the leadership, governance, and policy implementation capacities of local government executives, contributing to more gender-responsive and inclusive public institutions.

To learn more about the program,

visit: <https://www.govlab.com.np/project/gender-responsive-and-inclusive-governance-through-leadership-fellowship-and-institutional-reform>

Mission Aasha



Gauradaha Field Visit - Impact Pioneer and Organizer
Pooja Luitel

“My maternal grandfather dreamed of doing something for the country, which went partially unfulfilled. After moving to the US at a young age, thirty years later, I am happy to say that I have been able to contribute to that dream through Mission Aasha by leading the campaign in Delaware. Recently, I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Daayitwa's active field site in the Koshi region, which also happens to be my hometown. Staying in my grandfather's house and witnessing this work firsthand was a profound, full-circle moment for me.

Meeting the entrepreneurs was a very inspiring and humbling experience—knowing that a small effort from us could make such a huge difference for people who wish to do something for their country. I visited a honeybee farm that multifolded its growth in just four years, and a local boutique that expanded from two sewing machines into a big enterprise.

The entrepreneurs I met didn't want to migrate abroad; they want to actively build their futures here and are grateful for the chance. I am eager to do my part in raising funds for Mission Aasha, and I encourage all of you to join me in supporting this cause." - Pooja Luitel

IEN

Survey of Women Politicians Across The Country

IEN has begun implementing the Baseline Survey for the Women's Network project. The survey is currently being conducted through phone interviews with women politicians and politically active women across Nepal, including current and former elected representatives, past candidates, and aspiring future candidates.

To date, the team has successfully completed surveys with more than 3,000 respondents across 68 districts and 547 municipalities nationwide; data collection will continue in the coming weeks. The survey continues to map women's political networks, electoral aspirations, barriers to participation, experiences of backlash, and interest in participating in the Women's Network intervention. Early implementation has demonstrated strong respondent engagement and broad interest in the Women's Network platform, particularly as a space for peer connection, experience-sharing, and mutual support among women in local politics. The ongoing baseline survey will help inform the design and rollout of the larger intervention by identifying existing support structures, gaps in political networks, and opportunities to strengthen women's participation and leadership ahead of future local elections.

GEEP Fellowship :

GEEP Fellowship 2026: Fellows Progressing from Learning to Action

Following orientation and placement, GEEP Fellows have actively begun contributing to local entrepreneurship and employment promotion efforts across partner municipalities and provincial offices.

First Deliverables Completed

Fellows have successfully completed and submitted their first deliverables, including the review of local policies, programs, and budgets related to entrepreneurship and employment. To share their findings and learning, fellows also participated in a virtual presentation session with the Daayitwa team, presenting key insights from their policy and program reviews.

Fellows Engaging in Field Activities

Moving beyond desk review, fellows are now actively engaged in entrepreneur data collection and profiling, supporting municipalities in strengthening local enterprise databases for evidence-based planning.

Across municipalities, fellows are also:

- Participating in Udhyam Mela and entrepreneurship-related events
- Supporting entrepreneurship trainings and capacity-building activities
- Planning for upcoming Udhyam Sambad (Entrepreneur Dialogue) to foster collaboration among entrepreneurs and local stakeholders
- Assisting in data entry and municipal information management systems

Through these engagements, fellows continue to strengthen local governance systems while gaining hands-on experience in entrepreneurship promotion and local economic development.

The fellowship journey continues as young professionals work closely with local governments to build stronger entrepreneurship ecosystems and contribute toward employment generation at the grassroots level.



Shanti Pandey, Placement- Hupsekot; **Facilitated Entrepreneur business plan & Canva session-one to one mentoring and helped entrepreneurs to make business plan- Day 1**



Udyam Mela, Hupsekot – Engaged in interactions with entrepreneurs, conducted observation, participated in event activities, and provided facilitation support with Fellow Shanti.



Udyam Mela, Myagde – Engaged in interactions with entrepreneurs, conducted observation, participated in event activities, and provided facilitation support with Fellow Subekshya Sharma

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Nepal Leadership Academy



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