



**DGM**  
NEPAL

# DGM Nepal

DGM Nepal for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities



*Dear Partners and Stakeholders,*

We are pleased to share key developments from the first quarter of 2025. These months reflected DGM Nepal's growing impact on strengthening local institutions, promoting indigenous entrepreneurship, and advancing inclusive access to climate and forest finance.

## Showcasing Indigenous Innovation at National Platform



DGM Nepal-supported grantee, Kanung Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd., participated in the Butwal Industrial and Trade Fair 2081, showcasing eco-friendly handicrafts made from Thakal leaves-locally sourced from the Chure forest landscape. Produced by indigenous women of Devdach Chharange, the products reflected both traditional knowledge and climate-adaptive enterprise. Their recognition with 3rd place in the Women Entrepreneurs Category is a testament to the growing confidence and market visibility of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

**Stall No. 264 | Awarded by the Federation of Commerce and Industry**



DGM Nepal-Supported Small Grantee Sub-Project's Exhibition of Products by the Tharu Cultural Preservation Center Organized on the occasion of Maghi (Khichadi) Festival 2081, the most significant celebration of the Tharu community. Location: Buddhi, Ward No. 7, Buddhabhumi Municipality, Kapilvastu District, Lumbini Province.

## Safeguards Monitoring Strengthened Across 50 Small Grant Sites



DGM Nepal successfully conducted environmental and social safeguards monitoring visits to all 50 small grant sub-project sites across Lumbini and Madhesh Province.

These visits ensured that community-led initiatives are aligned with safeguards standards, promoting inclusive participation, environmental responsibility, and social equity. The monitoring also provided grantees with on-site guidance and support to strengthen implementation and address local challenges.



## Enabling Forest-Smart Livelihoods: Vocational Training Scholarships for IPLCs

DGM Nepal opened a call for applications for its Indigenous Peoples' Scholarship Grant from Falgun 1 to Chaitra 6, 2081 (February 13–March 19, 2025), aimed at enhancing educational access

among marginalized youth. A strategic multi-channel outreach campaign reached diverse regions via:

- Print and social media campaigns
- Indigenous media and language platforms

- Video awareness tools
- One-on-one community-level mobilization

### Find some links here:

- Famous Vlogger: Lex Limbu on Scholarship Grant: [Facebook](#)
- DGM Nepal project Team Leader: Ratna Karki - [Facebook](#)
- Lumbini Provincial Coordinator: Kabita Tamang - [Facebook](#)



DGM NEPAL

डीजीएम नेपाल: आदिवासी जनजाती र स्थानीय समुदायको समृद्धिको लागि दिगो वन व्यवस्थापन

**आदिवासी जनजाती र स्थानीय समुदायमा समर्पित अनुदान संयन्त्र डिजिटल नेपाल परियोजनाको लागि आवश्यक न्यूनतम मापदण्डहरू**

- यस परियोजनाका प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक अनुदानको लागि योग्य मधेश र लुम्बिनी प्रदेशहरूका मात्र लाभग्राहीहरू जो कानूनी रूपमा दर्ता भएका आदिवासी जनजाती तथा स्थानीय समुदाय र समूहहरूमा आवद्ध संस्था तथा व्यक्तिहरू हुनुपर्दछ ।
- आवेदक तथा लघु योजना दुई तरिकाका हुने छन्: (१) सामुदायिक र संगठित योजना र (२) व्यक्तिगत योजना । सामुदायिक योजना अन्तर्गत, आईपीएलसी अर्थात आदिवासी जनजाती समूह र स्थानीय समुदायहरूको संघ, संस्थाहरू, प्रथाजनित संस्था वा समूहहरू, स्थानीय रूपमा दर्ता भएका संस्था अर्थात सीबीओ, सहकारी र किसान समूहहरू, जसले जलवायु अनुकूल साना र लघु उद्यमहरूलाई प्रवर्द्धन गर्ने छन्, त्यसैगरी, व्यक्तिगत उद्यमीहरू अन्तर्गत दलित, महिला, अपाङ्गता भएका व्यक्तिहरू, लैङ्गिक अल्पसंख्यक र युवाहरूले परियोजनाद्वारा निर्धारित मापदण्ड पूरा गरेमा साना अनुदानहरू प्राप्त गर्न योग्य हुनेछन् । साथै स्थायी खाता नम्बर (PAN) वा मूल्य अभिवृद्धि कर (VAT) नम्बर नभएकाले भएकाहरूसंग मिलाएर आवेदन दिन सक्नेछन् ।
- साना तथा लघु योजनाहरूको लागि आवेदन दिँदा नेपालको समृद्धिका लागि वन (Forest for Prosperity) परियोजना संचालन भएका लुम्बिनी र मधेश प्रदेशका तोकिएका पालिकाहरूबाट मात्र आउनुपर्ने छ । तोकिएका कार्यक्षेत्रहरूको नामावली [www.dgmnepal.org](http://www.dgmnepal.org) मा उपलब्ध छ ।

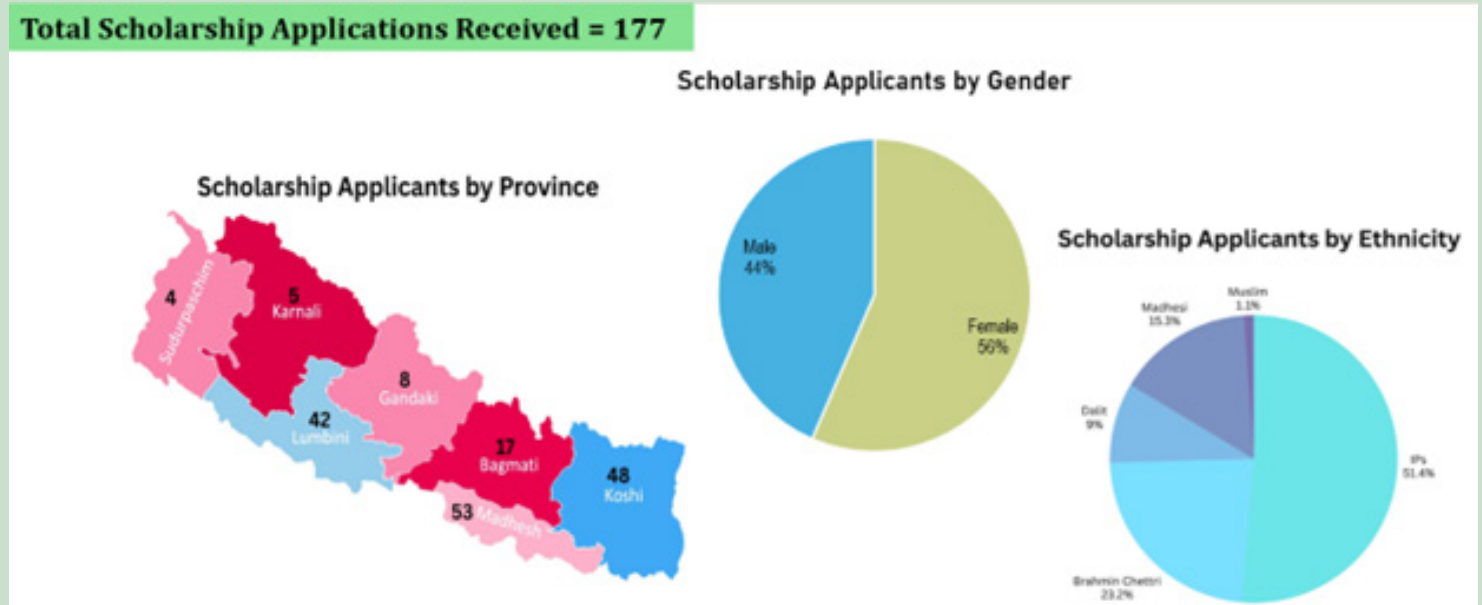
DGM NEPAL DGM GLOBAL CIF CLIMATE FINANCE INITIATIVE THE WORLD BANK RKN Rural Reconstruction Nepal

The response from grassroots communities led to an extension of the deadline to April 17, 2025 (Baisakh 4, 2082), ensuring broader inclusion across remote districts.

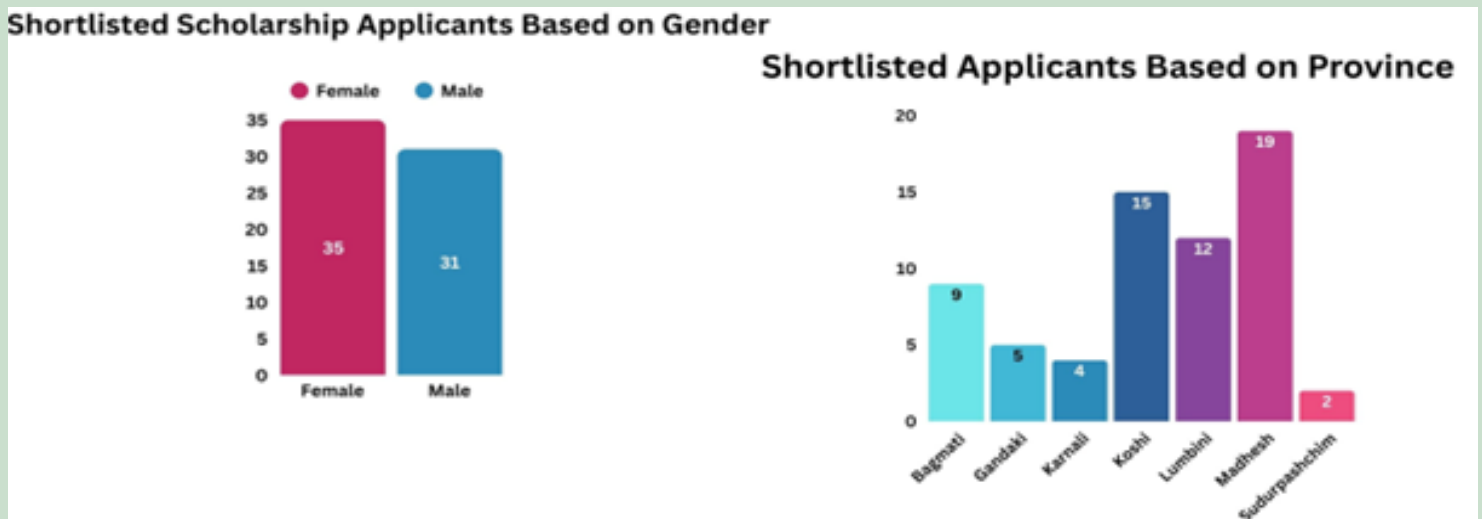
## What is the DGM Nepal Scholarship Grant?

The DGM Nepal Project provides targeted scholarship grants to support individuals—particularly women from vulnerable and marginalized Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)—to pursue vocational training that enhances their technical skills in forest-related sectors. These scholarships aim to empower recipients with practical knowledge to gain employment in sustainable forest management or to start their own green enterprises.

And we received:



And we are happy to let you know that we have more female



## Strengthening Accountability: Mid-Term Evaluation Report Released

The independent Mid-Term Evaluation of DGM Nepal has been successfully completed, providing critical insights into the project's performance and opportunities for adaptive management in its remaining phase.

**Conducted using a participatory approach, the evaluation included:**

- Field assessments in 20 IPLC communities across Lumbini and Madhesh Provinces
- Extensive consultations with local stakeholders, civil society organizations, and government counterparts
- Detailed analysis of program documents and the results framework

The findings offer concrete, actionable recommendations to strengthen IPLC participation in REDD+ and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) processes. The full Mid-Term Evaluation Report is now available to stakeholders and the wider public.

[Read the Executive Summary](#)



**Report on  
Mid-Term Review (MTR)**  
of the Dedicated Grant Mechanism  
for Indigenous Peoples and Local  
Communities in Nepal (DGM Nepal)  
**MTR REPORT 2025**

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## Capacity Building for Enhancing Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities’ Engagement in REDD+ and SFM Governance

A core component of the DGM Nepal Project focuses on strengthening the capacity of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to meaningfully engage in forest governance and climate action. Through a wide range of strategically designed training programs, the project empowers marginalized communities—including women, Dalits, youth, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous leaders—with the skills, legal literacy, and institutional knowledge required to participate in REDD+, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and benefit-sharing mechanisms. These efforts bridge the gap between Indigenous knowledge systems and formal governance processes, ensuring that forest and climate policies reflect the voices from the ground up.

Here are just a few of the incredible capacity-building milestones we’ve accomplished in recent months:

**1. In a major step toward amplifying Indigenous voices in REDD+ and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) processes, the “Strengthening Indigenous Media for Climate Resilience: National Media Literacy and Policy Advocacy Conference” was successfully organized in Lumbini Province.**



This capacity-building initiative brought together over 80 participants—including Indigenous journalists, media institutions, policy makers, and civil society actors—from all seven provinces, with a dedicated focus on the use of Indigenous media for advocacy, information dissemination, and investigative journalism in the context of climate justice, REDD+, and SFM.

## Key Focus Areas and Impact:

- **Understanding REDD+ and SFM through an Indigenous lens:**
- **Amplifying voices through Indigenous media:**
- **Policy advocacy and ethical journalism:**
- **Showcasing success stories and professional challenges:**



## Voices from the Field:

*“We’ve often been subjects of stories, but not storytellers. This conference helped us claim that space in REDD+ and forest governance,”*

- Indigenous Journalist, Karnali Province

*“This platform helped us connect REDD+ policies to real stories on the ground and see our role as communicators in holding systems accountable.”*

-Journalist, Madhesh Province



[Read Full Report here:](#)

## 2. From Forest Roots to Policy Tables: Indigenous Youth Mobilize for REDD+ and Climate Action

National Conference of Indigenous Youths for Climate Justice and Sustainable Development Concluded  
Date: 6th Baisakh 2082 (April 19, 2025), Venue: Siddhicharan Municipality, Okhaldhunga, Koshi Province  
A national-level interaction and capacity-building program titled “Leadership and Capacity Development for Climate Justice, Policy Advocacy, and Sustainable Livelihoods for Indigenous Youths” was successfully conducted.

The event saw active participation from Indigenous youth representatives from all seven provinces, IPLC networks, government agencies, media, experts, and development partners.

### Key Highlights of the Program:

- \* Interactive sessions on climate justice, policy advocacy, and sustainable development
- \* Inter-provincial dialogue among Indigenous youths and relevant stakeholders
- \* Public launch of the “Indigenous Youth Climate Justice Declaration”-based on recommendations from youth representatives across all seven provinces



The program concluded with the issuance of the “Indigenous Youth Climate Justice Declaration”, incorporating the recommendations and long-term advocacy pathways proposed by the youth delegates. This declaration aims to strengthen inclusive participation of Indigenous youths in climate policy and development processes.

This national conference has successfully marked the significance of Indigenous youth leadership while offering fresh perspectives and direction for advancing climate justice and sustainable development.



[Read Full Report here:](#)

### 3. National Policy Dialogue on Forest Governance, Climate Action & Green Economy

Kathmandu | June 3, 2025

Over 450 participants, including 300+ Community Forest User Groups (CFUG) leaders from across Nepal, gathered with high-level policymakers, provincial governments, and development partners at a landmark national event led by DGM Nepal project - with strategic partnership with Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN). The dialogue created a vital space to discuss the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) & Community Forestry Guidelines 2081, REDD+ financing, and the future of community-based forest enterprises in Nepal and internationally.



- Hon. Minister of Forest & Environment joined as Chief Guest
- Former Energy Minister & senior policymakers engaged directly with grassroots voices
- 10 forest enterprise models showcased, led by Indigenous Peoples, Dalits & women including our DGM Grantees
- Concrete policy recommendations emerged on fund flow, fiscal tracking, and enterprise



### 4. Promoting Inclusive Agro-Forestry Enterprises: A Meaningful Step Forward

The National Dialogue on Agro-Forestry and Community Innovation was successfully organized on June 1, 2025 (Jestha 18, 2082) at Alpha Beta Complex, Baneshwor, Kathmandu. The event was led by the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) Nepal as part of its capacity-building activities of the project.





The dialogue brought together diverse stakeholders to promote inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient agro-forestry enterprises, showcasing the rich blend of indigenous knowledge, community innovation, and modern practices.

### 5. Freed Haliya Lead Climate Justice & Dalit Rights Dialogue: Strengthening Advocacy for REDD+ and Sustainable Forest Management

The Provincial Dalit Parliament held in Dhangadhi marked a significant achievement in empowering the Freed Haliya and Dalit communities to raise their voices on climate justice, land rights, and social inclusion.



#### Key Highlights of the Program:

- Secure land tenure essential for community-based forest stewardship
- Inclusive governance and meaningful participation in REDD+ decision-making
- Equitable access to disaster relief and climate adaptation resources





## 6. Provincial Dalit Parliament on Interdisciplinary and Gender-Responsive Climate Policy: Centering Dalit Women’s Voices and Leadership for REDD+ and Sustainable Forest Management Governance

This provincial-level event brought critical focus on the intersection of caste, gender, and climate policy in Nepal. Explored climate change and REDD+ through Dalit and gender lenses, highlighting the disproportionate impact on Dalit women’s health, livelihoods, and mobility. Unpacked the intersectionality of caste, gender, and environmental crises, with insights into REDD+, FIP, and Sustainable Forest Management governance frameworks.



Reviewed policy instruments such as UNDRIP, ILO Convention 169, and local forest policies, analyzing their relevance for Dalit women. Engaged participants in dialogue around the structural exclusion of Dalit and Indigenous women in forest user groups and REDD+ processes. Presented an 11-point Joint Declaration capturing key demands for inclusive representation, climate financing, and policy reforms.



## Empowering Local Enterprise: Business Proposal & Entrepreneurship Workshop Completed



DGM Nepal successfully conducted a Training on Full Business Proposal Writing and an Entrepreneurship Development Workshop for 128 shortlisted small grantee applicants from Lumbini and Madhesh. The training aimed to strengthen participants' capacity to design fundable, climate-resilient business models aligned with REDD+ goals and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).



- Practical sessions on business planning, budgeting, and sustainability
- Guidance on integrating REDD+, SFM, and climate justice principles
- Peer-to-peer exchange and refinement of business proposals
- Focus on community-based enterprises and green entrepreneurship

## SUCCESS STORY

### A DALIT YOUTH'S JOURNEY OF TURNING TRADITION INTO A THRIVING FOREST-BASED ENTERPRISE



"I was all set to migrate to a Gulf country, but the support from DGM Nepal gave me a reason to stay. Now I've turned my mother's traditional leaf plate making into a business generating a monthly profit of NPR 35,000."

Rajeswor Chamar



Coming from the marginalized Dalit community of Madhesh Province, 34-year old Rajeswor Chamar faced several socio-economic barriers, including landlessness, low wages, and a lack of employment opportunities. His family, like many others, traditionally depended on agriculture for livelihood and the forest for fuelwood. The economic challenges had pushed him to the edge of seeking foreign employment in the Gulf countries—an all-too-common path for young men in the country hoping for a better future. However, everything changed when he learned about the DGM Nepal project's small grant through a friend. Inspired by his mother, who used to make handmade leaf plates for traditional occasions, Rajeswor envisioned transforming this age-old

practice into a sustainable business. "My mother used to make leaf plates by hand. I got inspired watching her and thought – why not do it in a better way?" he shared.



[Read Full Report:](#)



For the finest, most organically crafted Duna-Tapari in all sizes at the best rates- contact Mr. Chamar and support a local, eco-friendly livelihood!

*From forest floors to policy forums, DGM Nepal is amplifying grassroots voices where it matters most. Stay tuned for our next volume-more stories, more impact, and more power to the people!*

For more updates, visit our Facebook page:  
DGM Nepal Facebook Page: [Facebook](#)

Warm regards,  
Sadhana Sanba Limbu  
The DGM Nepal Team



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