



TIPPING POINT NEPAL ADVOCACY WIN

How Adolescent Girls Persuaded Local Government to Allocate Official Budget for Girls' Programming

An advocacy win by Girls' Rights Forums (GRF) in Nepal.

June 2023



What was the win and how was it achieved?

In the Rupandehi and Kapilvastu districts of Nepal, adolescent girls from 11 Municipalities successfully secured funds from the local government after advocating for themselves through **Girls' Rights Forums (GRFs)**. Through this process, girls advocated for a budget to support services that empower girls' rights and individual agency.

The estimated reach is around 62,055 adolescent girls from 11 Municipalities.







Girls' Rights Forums (GRFs) are groups of 11-25 girls dedicated to gender-equal activism within their own communities and beyond. They have a network present at ward, municipal, and district level. The concept of forming GRFs was facilitated by CARE as a part of making girl groups sustainable for advocacy in the long run through network building.

CARE's [Tipping Point Initiative](#) has been working with girls in various communities throughout Nepal since 2013. Over the past five years, GRFs in their respective Municipalities of the Lumbini province have been building strong relationships with local government authorities. Through various advocacy efforts such as campaigns, rallies, and interactions with government stakeholders, the girls at the ward level (the smallest level of a Municipality) worked with CARE and WOREC to convince their local government of the need for empowerment of adolescent girls. In early 2022, GRF leaders representing at the Municipal level were invited to participate in the annual 7-step local-level planning process to secure a Red Book budget, the authentic budget allocation process of the Nepal government, for adolescent girls' programming.

GRF leaders from four municipalities participated in the district-level meeting where they proposed and pushed for activities that the new budget would fund. On 15 July 2022, the committee of each respective Municipality endorsed the budget, and the girls' program budget was enlisted in the Red Book for the fiscal year from 17 July 2022 to 16 July 2023.

The GRFs were able to enlist a budget of 4,600,000 Nepali Rupees in the Red Book, which funded programming across 11 Municipalities—six of which are in the Rupandehi district and five in the Kapilvastu district.

Some of the programming activities enlisted in the Red Book includes:

-  Pad-making training
-  Life-skill training
-  Self-defense training
-  Awareness-raising campaigns against child marriage and dowry
-  Basic computer training
-  Awareness-raising campaigns against gender-based violence and abuse

What is the anticipated reach?

The estimated reach is around **62,055 adolescent girls from 11 Municipalities**.

The resource has been fully implemented in all 11 Municipalities of Rupandehi and Kapilvastu districts, and the secured funds and activities can be utilized by all the girls in the municipalities, not only GRF members.

The lives of 1,958 girls affiliated in the GRF of ward-level and Municipal-level are potentially improved.

Around 10,000 community people along with girls' family members are also reached through this win.

What was CARE's role?

Since Phase I of the [Tipping Point Initiative](#), CARE has continuously worked to center women and adolescent girls within all its programming. CARE Nepal has been conducting various capacity development initiatives to promote girls' agency, relationship building, and influence the structure which affect their lives. In this particular advocacy win, CARE's role was to make GRF members aware of the 7-step local level planning process for securing a budget from the Nepal government.

CARE and WOREC served as mentors for the GRFs throughout this process, with CARE financially and technically supporting the girls' advocacy initiatives. This means that CARE has not directly influenced the local government, but has indirectly coordinated with them to advance discussions and progress towards addressing the girls' issues.

What made this outcome possible?

Through the third phase of Tipping Point, girls learned to identify the issues they faced. They chose to continue their advocacy work in five areas: Fight against child early and forced marriage (CEFM), along with control over sexuality and mobility restriction; education opportunities for girls; and fight against sexual assault and gender-based discrimination. This advocacy win by girls in Nepal was possible due to years of trust and relationship-building between the GRF and the local government, with support and mentorship from CARE and WOREC. The win demonstrates that girls with the tools to lead their change can create real, positive outcomes.

This win represents a pivotal shift for girls leading their own change, as the local government is now acknowledging and valuing adolescent girls' needs.

Where are we going next?

The desired outcome here is to empower adolescent girls to continue to address their issues with support from the local government so that they receive a Red Book budget annually. This will allow girls to continue their efforts after the project has been phased out. CARE has planned to provide further trainings on the 7-step planning and budgeting process to district-level GRF members so that an even greater number of girls have the knowledge and tools to advocate for themselves and their rights in front of local government.

This budget allocation from the local Nepal government is a pioneer for other girls in the community who are looking to put forward their agenda and advocate for their rights. CARE continues to promote the impact of girl-led activism and advocacy models for women and girls to create their own change.



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