

# WOMENS AWARENESS CENTER



**Location:** Makwanpur District, Nepal

**Partner:** International Development Exchange (IDEX)

**Issue Areas:** Universal Education, Economic Sustainability

**Points of Interest:** Women's Empowerment, Credit co-operatives, Environmental Sustainability

## The Organization

Women's Awareness Center (WACN) was established by a group of women who were interested in rural women's development. WACN's goal is to improve the economic and social status for disadvantage people, especially women. Their programs focus on helping women participate in the local economy. WACN runs savings and credit co-operatives that provide women with the opportunity to work together and to run a "formal" financial organization. The women's savings and access to loans often provide them with greater voice in family decision-making. WACN reinforces the lessons learned through the co-operative activities with training on issues like income generating skills and women's health. WACN also advocates for the elimination of all forms of discrimination, violence, and sex trafficking of women and girls through action programs.

## Why the Need?

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, with almost one-third of the population living under \$1 a day. Poverty and malnutrition are widespread and 18 percent of the population is estimated to be without access to safe water. Since February 1996, when the leaders of the Maoist United People's Front began a violent insurgency with the aim of overthrowing the monarchy. Nepal's political instability has made the level of poverty even worse, affecting the most vulnerable groups. There has been a rise in human trafficking affecting women and girls in Nepal and the use of children for military service. Many health facilities in rural areas have been damaged or destroyed completely. The conflict disrupted the majority of rural development activities, since the Maoists effectively controlled most of rural Nepal. (IDEX)

## How Team Efforts Translate to Impact

Funds NGC Teams raise for WACN will help support three different programs for this year.

Three day savings and credit training. The goal of this training is to educate women on how to save and use credit to build strong and successful businesses. The cost of this program is \$13 for one woman to attend.

Revolving credit fund for 37 women to invest in goat-raising, buffalo-raising, agriculture, incense production and small trade shops. The cost of this program is \$40 for each woman.

Five-day training on business planning to 15 women to prepare a business plan for incense production. The cost for each woman to attend is \$47.

## The Partner

International Development Exchange (IDEX), is a San Francisco based non-profit organization that partners with grassroots groups in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, while actively engaging North Americans in the challenges facing communities in these regions. Since 1985, IDEX has channeled over \$3.3 million to fund more than 500 self-help community projects working from social change and economic independence for all humanity, particularly women, children, and indigenous peoples.

## NGC's Approach to Sustainable Global Change

NGC and our Global Partners believe that people in communities all over the world are the real experts and know their community and solutions to their problems. We want to advocate and educate others on behalf of this model of sustainable global change. Additionally, we seek to empower our grassroots Global Projects with the financial resources to create change at the grassroots level. 100% of funds your team raises are sent to the Women's Awareness Center.

By sending your team's funds directly, your project organization has the power to decide the best way to use the money. Since money will be spent in the community, your funds will also support the local economy.

The WACN is designed to address the specific issues facing women in Makwanpur District in Nepal. WACN works to educate women in investing in the local community and how to use their skills to create sustainable income.

## Additional Resources

Partner Website: [www.idex.org](http://www.idex.org)

CIA World Factbook (Nepal): <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/np.html>

Embassy of Nepal: <http://www.nepalembassyusa.org/index.php>

Related news: <http://www.idex.org/blog/2008/01/nepali-women-rising.html>

**See your team binder for more ways to educate your team about your project.**