



EDUCATE THE CHILDREN NEPAL

ETC's original purpose was to ensure that disadvantaged children could receive a formal education as a stepping stone to a better life. We soon realized that our efforts would be even more effective if we also provided useful training and resources for the children's mothers, and ensured that the children and their families have enough nutritious food to eat. Since the mid-1990s, ETC's *integrated community development (ICD) model* has included these three mutually supportive components, with exact activities in each geographic area depending on the specific needs of the target population:

- Women's empowerment: Through participation in ETC-sponsored women's groups, women learn important skills such as handling money and keeping records, establish small businesses (usually agricultural in nature) to earn more money, increase their self-confidence, and become more active and respected in their communities. Members manage their groups' microsavings funds, and group members' children receive support to ensure their continued school attendance. The groups are eventually combined into legally recognized cooperatives run by the women themselves.
- Children's education: ETC provides support to ensure that children from pre-kindergarten age through the teen years can attend school – with a focus on girls, who are more likely than their brothers to be kept home or to drop out. We also improve schools physically and qualitatively by training teachers; launching early education programs; providing classroom supplies such as educational games, maps, charts, and musical instruments; and building new classrooms and toilets.
- Sustainable agricultural development: ETC training and resources improve nutrition and food security while increasing families' incomes. All women's group members start kitchen gardens, which include crops rich in vitamins and minerals and can be grown year-round in small spaces. Many women start market gardening and livestock businesses that enhance the nutrition of entire communities and contribute significantly to families' incomes, indefinitely.

ETC goes where we are wanted, needed, and invited to come. We work intensively in a predefined geographic area for several consecutive years, providing training and resources as well as helping local residents develop the leadership skills and confidence that will enable them to manage the activities on their own. We actively engage the target population – primarily socioeconomically marginalized women and their families – throughout the planning, implementation, and evaluation of a program cycle. During the final year, we phase out our direct involvement; subsequently, residents can manage and support the ongoing activities, and ETC begins working in a new set of villages.

In 2020, we began working in four wards of Ramdhuni Municipality, Sunsari District in southeastern Nepal. As of 2023, we have established 44 women's groups (1,025 total members) and are working with 23 schools and affiliated early education classrooms (2,500+ students enrolled). To learn more about our progress in the current program cycle, please visit us online:

- Our website is www.etc-nepal.org – be sure to check out our photo gallery!
- You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (search @ETC_Nepal).
- Visit our [YouTube channel](#) (click link or go to YouTube and search for Educate the Children Nepal).

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