



## IN THIS ISSUE

## Meet a Tipping Point Trooper

**Please welcome one of our newest team members!**

**Name:** Abu Nur Muhammad Kaiser Zillany, commonly known as Zillany.

**Where are you currently based?** Dhaka, Bangladesh

**What do you do at your job?** Lead and manage the Tipping Point Bangladesh team, communicate and coordinate with the CARE USA team, and provide support to the field team and project staff

**What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** Listening to songs, getting updated on the news, and traveling

**Fun fact:** I have extreme love for CARE that sometimes I can't differentiate between CARE and life partner

**Welcome to the team, Zillany!**



- Team Member Profile
- International Day of the Girl
- Religious Leaders' Workshop in Nepal
- Donor Visit to Nepal
- Girls' Summit in Washington, DC
- Bangladesh Advocacy Efforts
- Knowledge Fair and Girls Conference in Nepal
- Celebrating 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh
- What's New on the Website?
- Exciting New Resources

## Celebrating International Day of the Girl in Nepal

International Day of the Girl was celebrated in Nepal in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu districts. Girls from the Tipping Point Project presented their achievements, challenges, and leadership experiences. The three-day fun-fair brought together a range of adolescents from different geographical locations to discuss the issue of child marriage. The event included documentary screenings, life skill sessions, painting, music and interactive games. CARE-supported adolescents gave



presentations about the prevalence of child marriage and the ways they felt it can be dealt with in their communities. Participants were able to form friendships with girls from other districts and stand in solidarity in their common beliefs and shared experiences. The encouragement received by adolescents to take on

leadership roles helped them build their self-confidence and they left the event with an improved self-image.

## Religious Leaders' Workshop in Nepal

One of Tipping Point's objectives is to build strong relationships with key influential leaders to encourage a shift in the power balance in favor of adolescent agency. With this goal in mind, the Nepal team hosted a Religious Leaders Workshop from November 28-29<sup>th</sup>. The objective of the event was to provide

participants with a common understanding around CEFM and to mobilize them to promote adolescent empowerment. It also celebrated the positive practices of religious leaders that contribute to adolescent empowerment in their community. During the event religious leaders made action plans for working together to

eliminate child marriage and promote the worth of the girl child. This event successfully engaged community leaders and participants left with action items to reduce the prevalence of child marriage in their communities.

## Donor Visit to Nepal

Dena Kimball, the executive director of the Kendeda Fund, visited Nepal from November 11-16<sup>th</sup>. She was accompanied by Andie Bobb, Nidal Karim and Suniti Neogy from the CARE USA Tipping Point team. The trip included meetings with partner and CARE teams, visits to several project communities, interactions with girls and boys from adolescent groups, and discussions with community leaders who have been advocating for adolescent girls' rights and against CEFM. The trip concluded in Kathmandu with a convening of key civil society stakeholders in Nepal who are working on CEFM to discuss innovative activities and ideas for future programming. Despite a packed schedule and one longer than anticipated walk to Ekala to visit a project community, the Tipping Point team returned with an emboldened view on the positive impact Tipping Point activities are having.



*Visitors from the Tipping Point Project and the Kendeda Fund strike a pose with the adolescent project participants at Baluhawa*

### KEY QUESTIONS EXPLORED DURING THE STAKEHOLDER MEETING IN KATHMANDU

- What needs to be tackled in this work that no one is yet tackling?
- How can we collectively engage that governmental champions as best as possible?
- Who are other potential allies we could try to engage?
- What are people most excited about?
- What do funders most need to understand about working in Nepal in general or on this issue in particular?



*The Parivartan Drama Group performing in Ekala*

## Third Annual Girls Summit in Washington, DC

The summit took place in Washington, DC on October 20<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the International Day of the Girl. The event was moderated by Dr. Kakenya Ntaiya from the Kakenya Center for Excellence. Tipping Point videos were

shown to participants. Doris Bartel participated in a panel and discussed the need for greater attention to gender and power dynamics in both research and implementation, the need for comprehensive

sexuality education, and the need to work to address inequitable gender norms. The theme of the summit was “Keeping Our Promises to Adolescent Girls”. A recording of the event can be accessed [here](#).

## CARE Bangladesh in the News

The Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 was presented to the Bangladesh Parliament which sets the official minimum age for marriage at 18 for females and 21 for males. This bill also includes a provision that allows marriage before the minimum age for “special circumstances,” but language around what would qualify as a “special circumstance” is quite broad. Due to the potential for this legislation to contribute to child marriage rates, CARE Bangladesh in partnership with Girls Not Brides Bangladesh, the National Girls Coalition, and UN agencies have participated in advocacy activities to remove this clause from the legislation. The advocacy efforts of



*Protestors of the Child Marriage Restraining Act outside the Press Club in Dhaka in November*

CARE Bangladesh was highlighted in various news sources including New Age Bangladesh and The Daily Star. Unfortunately, the “special circumstance” clause was still present when this legislation passed in February. However, the Tipping Point team continues to advocate against child marriage and for adolescent rights. Keep up the great work CARE Bangladesh!

## Knowledge Fair and Girls Conference in Nepal

On December 30, CARE Nepal hosted a Girls Summit entitled Balika Sava. The objective of this event was to empower adolescents to advocate for their rights. This event was well attended by local government officials who gave speeches on the importance of eliminating child marriage. A total of 193 individuals participated in the summit, including 55 girls and 49 boys from CARE-supported adolescent groups.

The following month, CARE Nepal hosted a two-day Knowledge Fair which included games, activities, plays, dancing, and a solidarity march to Bhanu School in Bhairahawa. These activities highlighted adolescent empowerment, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and



*Participants of the knowledge fair*

information dissemination. Over 100 participants, including adolescents, parents, religious leaders, and district level stakeholders, marched in solidarity to echo the theme of the event: “I take responsibility to end child marriage.” This event was highlighted in an article by Newok entitled [“Knowledge Fair for Adolescent Empowerment”](#).

## Celebrating 16 Days of Activism in Bangladesh

In celebration of the UN’s 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, CARE Bangladesh organized various activities including a cycling race, rally, and gender role shifting games. Participants also discussed ways to combat gender-based violence in their communities.



*Participants of the cycling race. One of the events celebrating “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence”*

## What's New on the Website?

### *Stories of Change*

The Tipping Point Website highlights numerous “Stories of Change” including “Together We Stand,” a story of two sisters, Shushila and Gongotri Yadav, who have been positively impacted through their participation of a CARE supported adolescent group, which discusses the negative social and physical repercussions of marrying early. The sisters shared what they learned with their parents and community and they are working to shift social norms in



*Sisters Shushila and Gongotri Yadav*

Nepal. Shushila said “We absolutely need to collectively support one another to fight against this social ill.” To view “Together we Stand” and additional “Stories of Change” please visit the Tipping Point Website.

## Exciting New External Resources:

### INTERACTIVE MAP

The Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Scoping Report and Evidence Gap Map is an interactive resource that compares sexual and reproductive health interventions and their outcomes. Results can be narrowed by region, country, study design and population.

For additional news and information please visit the [Tipping Point website](#).

### REPORT

USAID recently published a report titled Adolescents in Bangladesh: A Situation Analysis of Programmatic Approaches to Sexual and Reproductive Health Education and Services. This report discusses effective and ineffective programming relating to ASRH in order to determine best practices. Detailed findings and recommendations are presented.