



## The Spotlight Tipping Point News



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Defending dignity.  
Fighting poverty.

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## Introducing a Tipping Point Trooper

**Name:** Urmila Simkhada

**Where are you currently based?**  
Kathmandu

**What do you do at your job?** Since I'm a development professional, I've had opportunities to work with many INGOs (Action Aid, Practical Action, Water Aid, Helvates and also UN). My work has always been related to gender and women's empowerment. As the head of women's sector in Action Aid, I had opportunities to implement many Women's programs including women entrepreneurship. I joined CARE Nepal in 2016 as Gender Advisor in Earthquake Response Program, but since mid-February 2017, I have taken the new role of Thematic Coordinator (LEAD) Women and Girls' Leadership and voice with great interest and excitement. I've multiple roles both programmatic and managerial.

**What drew you to girls' rights work?** Using my knowledge, experience and skills for providing better opportunity for adolescent girls with poor and marginalized parents. Working with girls' rights provides opportunity to eradicating poverty, injustice and inequality passing through generations. I believe that process of social transformation should start from the

young age. Working with young girls always inspires me and provides more energy and satisfaction by their smiles, simplicity and hardship. I can learn many lessons from their life.

**What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?** Reading spiritual books, moral stories. I enjoy cooking, Nepali dishes (alukoachar, Greens, and mutton, chicken and vegetable curry) cleaning and talking with people.

**What is one thing about you that others may not be able to guess or know?** I believe in nature and am highly influenced by the "Law of Nature", cosmic power and positivity. Positive thinking has great power and negativity kills our creativity. Helping helpless people is my motive of life.



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## CARE sponsored side-event to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Tipping Point team members participated in various meetings and events surrounding the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in New York from March 13-24<sup>th</sup>, joining more than 20 other CARE staff and partners from around the world. The theme of this year's CSW was "*Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work.*" The official outcome of the event was an "Agreed Conclusions" document, which can be found [here](#).

A key CSW highlight was a well-attended side-event on March 20<sup>th</sup> organized by CARE and NGO partners and co-sponsored by the governments of Zambia, Nepal and Colombia. The theme of the event was "*expanding pathways to economic justice for adolescent girls and young women.*" Key speakers included the First Lady of Zambia, the Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare from Nepal, the Colombian Deputy Ambassador to the UN and the African Union Goodwill Ambassador for ending child marriage, as well as a number of civil society representatives. The



Pictured: HE Mrs. Ester Lungu, First Lady of Republic of Zambia; Ms. Nyaradzaya Gumbonzvanda, Goodwill Ambassador for Ending Child Marriage African Union; and Ms. Monica Oguttu, Executive Director Kisumu Medical and Education Trust

discussion touched on solutions to structural issues that undermine girls and women's access to economic opportunity, including unequal access to decent work, unpaid care work, harmful gender norms, practices such as child marriage and lack of sexual and reproductive health services and information. CARE was represented on the panel by Viviana Osorio, Regional Advocacy coordinator

for Latin America, who shared CARE's work with domestic workers' movements in Latin America. The Tipping Point team played an important role in getting the Nepal government to co-sponsor and participate in the event, together with the governments of Zambia and Colombia.



Pictured: Mr. Bishnu Lamsal, Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Republic of Nepal

## “Tipping Point” greeted the CARE CEO Michelle

CARE CEO Michelle Nunn recently visited the communities where Tipping Point is implemented in Bangladesh. She had meetings with the CARE Bangladesh team, ERAW forum members, as well as an adolescent girls’ group. The work that CARE Bangladesh is doing in relation to the Tipping Point project was extensively discussed during the trip.



Michelle meeting with an adolescent girls’ group in Sunamganj, Bangladesh

## Child Marriage Restraint Act 2016: What’s Next?

In response to the Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) 2016, CARE Bangladesh has organized various national level advocacy events. This act allows marriage at any age below 18 under “special circumstances,” but the circumstances are not specified. This legislation would make girls more vulnerable to child marriage. Statements by the Prime Ministry suggest

that special circumstances could include rape and accidental pregnancy in order to protect the honor of the family and the girl. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs organized consultation meeting with national, international, and UN organizations to discuss CMRA. CARE proposed that the Ministry needs additional consultation with NGOs who are working on child marriage issues in

Bangladesh. The minister and secretary of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs were present for the meeting. CARE Bangladesh has also partnered with the University of Dhaka to conduct a comparative study to examine the impact of this type of legislation in other countries.

## Girls Football tournament in Bhairahawa, Nepal

CARE Nepal organized an all-girls football tournament in Kapilvastu District. This event brought together teams of adolescent girls from all over the district and attempted to challenge the social norm that only boys play football. The event drew public attention and was covered by local news.



Participants in the tournament

## PhotoVoice in Bangladesh and Nepal

PhotoVoice, an evaluation method to assess Phase 1 of the project, was launched in Bangladesh and Nepal. Cameras were distributed to adolescents and their parents, and they were instructed to take pictures based on specific prompts such as “Please take pictures of girls (or boys) doing things in their homes and communities.” Participants then provided an explanation of why each picture was taken. Meetings were also hosted where participants discussed their



Participants learning to use their cameras

favorite pictures, the changes they have witnessed in their communities, and how Tipping Point has impacted their lives. Gathered information will be used to compile reports on the findings in each country.

## Defying the “Ideal” in Nepal

In the article “Defying the Ideal”, Ayushma Basnyat recounts the story of Dhana Kumari Chaudhary Tharu, a monitoring and evaluation officer at Siddhartha Samudyik Samaj, which partners with CARE Nepal. Dhana explains how she was personally impacted by an early marriage and how she uses her experiences to influence her work. Dhana said, “an ideal daughter also is much more than someone who merely obeys others. An ideal daughter also is someone who stands up for what is right.” Dhana and the CARE Nepal team continue to work towards their mission despite setbacks and difficulties. Read more about Dhana’s story and what CARE Nepal is doing to create positive shifts on the [Tipping Point website](#).



Dhana Kumari Chaudhry Tharu taking part in One Billion Rising, a global movement to end rape and sexual violence against women

## Women’s Economic Empowerment: Investing in Emerging Priorities

CARE Bangladesh organized a conference on March 16<sup>th</sup> on Women’s Economic Empowerment. The key topics discussed during the conference were: women and market, women and dignified work, and women and financial inclusion. A mobile based learning app on financial literacy called “Shonchita” was also launched during the event. Guests of honor included Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki, honorable state minister of the Minister of Women and Children Affairs and Christine Hunter the Country Representative of UN Women. This conference highlights ways in which we can draw on women’s economic empowerment to build programming for adolescent girls as well.



Participants listening to a presentation during the conference

## What's New on the Website?

### *Stories of Change*

The Tipping Point Website highlights numerous “Stories of Change” including “When Football Challenges Stereotypes,” which tells the story of Pooja, an adolescent girl from one of the Tipping Point villages, who was able to continue her education, and Urmila who was able to pursue her interest to play football. Once Urmila used to believe that football was just a game for boys, but “now we realize that it is a game for both sexes.” To view when



*Urmila and her friends show how they wrapped their shawls around their bodies so they could play football*

Football Challenges Stereotypes” and additional “Stories of Change” please visit the [Tipping Point website](#).

## Exciting New External Resources

### PHOTO ESSAY

The photo essay [“10 Powerful Photos that Expose What’s at Stake When Child Marriage is the Norm”](#) highlights the dreams of ten girls from the Terai region in Nepal. By asking each girl to complete the statement “One day I will...” the girls explain the future that they envision for themselves. This project was conducted as part of UNFPA’s international campaign to end child marriage.

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