



A 20-year journey of renewal

Towards a just, equitable, inclusive and happy society

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As RENEW completes 20 years, we dedicate this book to Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck in celebration of her vision and leadership in making Bhutan a happier and more inclusive society.





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Introduction

RENEW was founded to empower vulnerable women, particularly victims of domestic violence and sexual and gender based violence.

Today, two decades after inception, thousands of people across the country have benefitted from its support services, the development of which was to a large extent, led by survivors of domestic violence.

This publication, presented in a coffee table format, attempts to offer a glimpse of RENEW's evolution and impact since 2004, through stories, pictures and graphics.

To give it context, the publication begins with the early days of RENEW when domestic violence was

tolerated and considered a private matter. The main section highlights the direct support services that includes counselling, legal aid, shelter, scholarship, micro finance and livelihood skilling as well as the role of volunteers, community and RENEW in promoting a more just and equitable society.

The closing section is on RENEW's priorities in the immediate future.

It is hoped this publication will provide some insight into the incredible and ongoing work undertaken by RENEW and its partners and volunteers to make Bhutan a happier more inclusive society.

Milestones

2004
RENEW established



2005

First counselling center opened in Thimphu for DV/GBV victims

CBSS volunteers' network established

Education scholarship programme launched



2007

Initiated temporary shelter services in Thimphu

Initiated livelihood skills training programme



2008

RENEW HQ in Thimphu inaugurated



2011

National Board for Certified Counsellors and Bhutan Board for Certified Counsellors (BBCC) partnership launched

RENEW Micro finance established

CBSS established in all dzongkhags

DAISAN youth volunteers' network launched



2013

Gawailing Happy Home opened

2014/15

MSTF - CBSS reachout together

Yeshey Dawa mascot launched



2016/17

2nd Nationwide High-level advocacy

RENEW awarded National order of merit

Completes 2nd Nationwide High-level advocacy



2019

Her Majesty receives award of appreciation as UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador



2020

Her Majesty receives Individual Laureate for the 2020 United Nations Population Award

Vocational Training Institute established at Wangsisina



2021

Initiated RENEW Social Enterprise



2022

Temporary community service centres (CSC) opened in Paro, Punakha, Bumthang, Phuentsholing, Tsirang, Samtse and Gelephu



2023

Tsirang Community Service Centre inaugurated

BCC mandates transferred to Bhutan Qualification and Professionals Certification Authority (BQPCA).

Accreditation as an IPPF Member

Three more temporary CSCs opened in Dagana, Trashigang, Zhemgang

Partnership established with Edith Cowan University (ECU)





देखा

Before



Porters carry high level advocacy equipment and materials from Trongsa to Nabji Korphu gewog





The context

Early tales of domestic abuse, especially those perpetrated against women, in Bhutan and globally, was of subservience among women to the dictates of the patriarchal values of the time.

On the cusp of change from its not-so-distant medieval past to a developing nation, Bhutan naturally required men to engage in the public sphere, which in other words, meant limiting women's scope to familial affairs.

By that dint, between the spouse, husbands gained moral authority over wives for the provisions he brought home. To see off a daughter to such a prospect was a matter of reassurance for a woman's family. In doing so, however, it denied women the opportunity to financial resources and subsequent independence that came with it.

The scope of authority, engendered by such a social structure, sometimes spilled over to the darker realms of the relationship, typified by physical abuse, beating particularly, of women by their spouse.

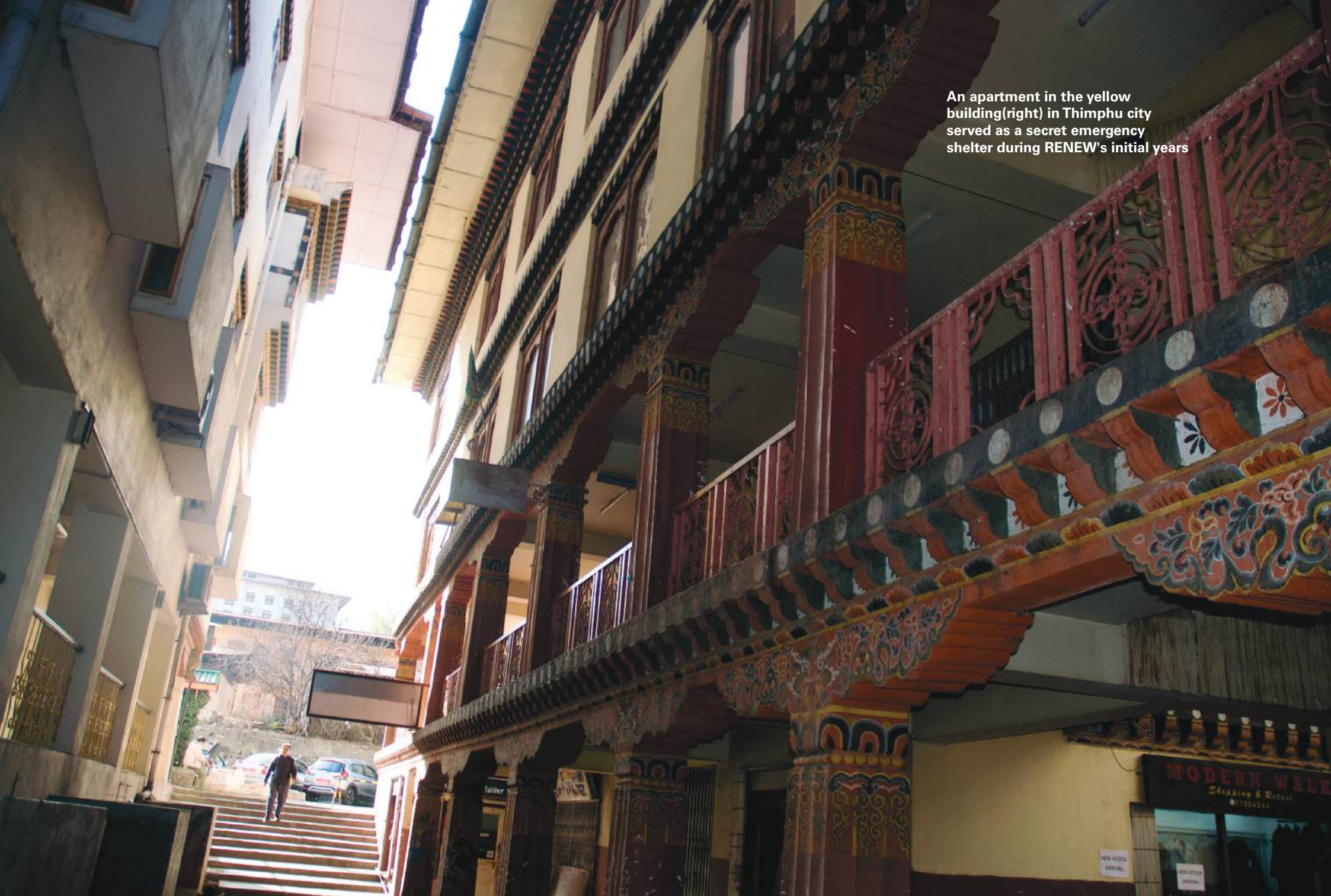
Little wonder that domestic violence was brushed off casually, believed to be a way for husbands to rightfully correct their wives, like they did the children, instilling manners and discipline.

If not that, it was a by-product of alcoholism, many a time in both spouses, to merit any state intervention. A momentary problem that would wear off as quickly as the trip from intoxication was how it was played down.

In worse cases, it was a consequence of actual or suspected infidelity on the part of either of the spouse, with women usually on the receiving end of the domestic abuse, either way.



Advocacy board in a school in Tsirang



An apartment in the yellow building(right) in Thimphu city served as a secret emergency shelter during RENEW's initial years

MODERN WALK
Shopping & Retail
07788242

NEW STOCK ARRIVAL
NEW STOCK ARRIVAL

Early perceptions

Little literature exists, if any, on domestic violence of the early days of Bhutan before RENEW.

Classification of such cases were absent to be booked separately under police records or under medical registry that, like any other physical injuries on a patient, penned its nature and prescribed subsequent treatments.

Police and medical practitioners were hesitant to intervene in what was regarded a private affair between a husband and a wife.

Even the justice system did not really perceive domestic violence as a problem, let alone crime. It was a family matter.

Oral recounts, relayed later to RENEW officials and volunteers by victims of domestic violence, make up for much of the records.

Sources, an overwhelming majority being women, spoke of a custom where, spousal abuse towards women was deemed rather private and had to remain within the confines of the home.

It was a matter of saving face of the family, or in the interest of the children and their future. To hold the family together, no matter what the circumstance, nurturing a glimmer of hope of the partner one day changing, women quietly endured it all.

Passing it to “fate” and “karma”, they would quietly relegate themselves to self-imposed isolation, an abusive relationship and



RENEW's first Executive Director Chimmi Dazer (right) and the organisation's working committee member Dolma represent Bhutan at a global meeting on violence against women

a norm adapted to cultural acceptance.

For anyone outside the family attempting to offer assistance of mediation was suppressed, fearing it might be misconstrued as an intrusion. Besides, attempts to separate a spousal bond was deemed almost of a sin because with it many other ties broke, that of a family's.

Kept hush, the pervasive “culture of silence” among women, coupled with the reassurance among men who felt such violence was acceptable or condoned, allowed domestic violence to be perpetuated in ways that was difficult to tell for a long time.



Why RENEW

While on a high-level tour of the nation advocating sexual and reproductive health of women and children as the UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, on the sidelines of the programme, Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck would engage extensively with women to discuss issues beyond prescribed themes.

One common issue that a vast majority of women from across the country confided in Her Majesty was of abusive relationships many of them were victims to.

One common plea they all put up was for an avenue to vent their personal matters of concerns and seek redressals.

Along came RENEW, a household acronym today,

aptly capturing the essence of its purpose - Respect, Educate, Nurture, Empower Women - and fulfilling the appeals and aspirations of many Bhutanese women across the country.

It started small, in a rented office around Zangdopelri complex of the commonly known Hong Kong Market area, with a team comprising a project director, a counsellor, a finance staff and an administrator.

A separate apartment behind the office was rented for emergency shelter services.

Having only dawned, it opened its limited services to a handful of clients, all women and their children.



Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck interacts with students in Wangduephodrang on World Population Day, 2008



The beginning

In the process of taking issues of reproductive and sexual health to a national audience of Bhutanese women and children in many remote corners of the country, a few brave women would open up to Her Majesty about abuses and violence many of them were victims of.

Deeply moved by their narratives, Her Majesty conceived RENEW in 2000 to address this critical issue.

Initial funds were generated through a fashion show the Textile Museum organised and donations from Friends of RENEW. However, the amount was insufficient to establish the organisation, posing a significant challenge in the early stages of RENEW's development.

RENEW was officially initiated in 2004 through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the health secretary and the UNFPA regional director. The "Empowerment for Women" project under health ministry became a central theme

implemented through RENEW.

While serving as joint director for health, I also assumed the role of honorary project director to lay the groundwork for RENEW from 2004 to 2006.

The initial years were dedicated to recruiting staff, establishing RENEW office and forming committees, and working groups, while also networking and building partnerships. We prioritised sensitisation of public across the country on issues of domestic violence, an effort integrated with Her Majesty's health advocacy tours, ensuring broader reach and impact.

Despite challenges, my journey in RENEW was deeply fulfilling. I have consistently found inspiration in the visionary and compassionate leadership of Her Majesty. The opportunity to witness the positive transformations and contribute to the noble cause of empowering women has been a source of immense satisfaction.



Dr Sonam Ugen is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health, Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences

A proposal to start with

Whoever thought a proposal on “Support for victims of domestic violence through community volunteers” that I wrote in 2004 would grow into a full-fledged nationwide programme and into an organisation.

I feel so honored and privileged to have played a small role in this successful project that helps hundreds of domestic violence victims.

Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck with deep concern and compassion for those suffering domestic violence commanded the then RENEW Working Committee to address the issue.

The committee members conducted a qualitative study on the prevalence of domestic violence. It was made possible through funding Sir Michael Rutland helped secure using his connections with the

United Kingdom’s High Commission in New Delhi.

Focus group discussions with a cross section of Thimphu residents clearly indicated the prevalence of domestic violence. The study not only validated our cause but also provided essential insights into the magnitude of the issue, laying the groundwork for subsequent actions.

This was followed by a workshop for stakeholders to present a proposal on community support for victims of domestic violence through volunteers. An overwhelming number of participants offered to become volunteers.

My fervent prayers to the program as it grows from strength to strength is to, one day, realise the end of domestic violence from our GNH country.



Former nurse Ugen Doma was a member of RENEW’s working group in its initial years and an active member of the Friends of RENEW



Friends of RENEW and early awareness

In the absence of various social media platforms to create visibility and awareness on its services to its target audience, the organisation had to fall on friends.

An odd ensemble of office goers – engineers, lawyers, architects, doctors, teachers, public servants – took to the trusted good old oral tradition of spreading the word, RENEW and its noble aspiration of educating and empowering women and children.

The critical sections of the population formed an essential piece to help realise Bhutan's all-inclusive, overall socio-economic development goals.

Alongside, RENEW officials charted out their own scheme of activities to take the organisation to the larger Bhutanese audience, introducing the organisation and creating word-of-mouth awareness on its purpose.

It took off from the capital city of Thimphu in 2005, reaching out to residents in its numerous pockets of

Kabesa, Taba and Zilukha up north and Changzamtok and Babesa to the south.

Since issues of domestic abuse and gender-based violence were fairly new to the Bhutanese, RENEW officials broke into the subject through the sexual and reproductive health messages, a matter made more than familiar by Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck since 1999.

By the second year of its establishment, the organisation received more than 20 clients.

Thereon, the awareness campaign moved to the neighbouring districts of Chhukha, Paro, Punakha and Wangduephodrang.

The number of walk-in clients trebled to 60 by the third year.

The soaring numbers were a sign of the need for greater awareness to the greater parts of the society.

RENEW officials took to a nationwide campaign, garnering support and gathering volunteers along the way.



CBBS member Dechen conducts an advocacy meeting in Thimphu, 2008



Building direct support services

When RENEW first opened to service, little did it realise the provision of one support would elicit the need for another and unfold demands for numerous others.

Many a time, clients visiting the office were victims of some form of violence needing protection, or those fleeing an abusive relationship.

One of the first needs, and a pressing one at that, was a shelter. A separate apartment behind the RENEW office was rented for victims in dire need at dire circumstances.

That was before the RENEW office around lower Motithang was established and much before the Gawaling Happy Home was built.

At the shelter, victims would receive counselling, in the course of which, some would have already made up their minds to move on from a relationship sunk in domestic abuse and violence.

That required legal intervention and the organisation had

no choice but to include the service among its existing ones. It began with provision of legal advice and counselling.

For those housed in the organisation's, later, full-fledged shelter home, a roadmap of sort had to be charted out so they would reintegrate into the society on leaving the facility. Skilling programme – tailoring, weaving, embroidery, baking, floriculture – was introduced for inhabitants.

Children who accompanied their mothers to the shelter enjoy the dual benefit of acquiring the skills and the privilege of scholarships to public schools with boarding facilities that include pick up and drop services.

Just so they find an avenue to sell their skills on the day of their exit from the facility, RENEW had to arrange a financial scheme, RENEW Micro-Financing, which could be availed as grants for business start-ups.

Together, these services make up RENEW today.



Dr Meenakshi Rai at an advocacy campaign in rural Thimphu



CBSS volunteers conduct an awareness campaign at the RBA campus in Shaba, Paro

CBSS, the critical conduit

The nation-wide awareness campaign on RENEW that began in 2005 was completed by 2011.

Over the course of six years, a ripple created among a small circle of friends, family members and relatives, grew into a wave of network that the organisation had to institute a volunteers' group.

Community-Based Support System (CBSS), which was initiated in 2005 boasted of more than 5,000 volunteers from across the country, 400 of whom are active members represented by 50 percent each of men and women.

The volunteer network serves the purpose of representing RENEW and its cause at the grassroots, taking its basic services of creating awareness on domestic violence among people in the remote corners of the country and helping identify instances of such abuses.

The network also reflects the concerns and issues of the people in the grassroots for the organisation to act on.

Today, the network carries the mantle of being both the face of the organisation and the voice of the people in the communities.



The first study

While on tour of the nation as the UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador advocating for better and safer sexual and reproductive health, many Bhutanese women at the campaign in various parts of the country confided in Her Majesty of the abusive relationships they were victims of.

For a large section of the society still unable to come to terms with this long-clinging custom woven with its cultural norm, a study, Her Majesty deemed, was merited.

Perhaps the first on the prevalence of domestic abuse and gender-based violence in the country, RENEW initiated a study in 2007 in Thimphu, the melting pot of Bhutanese from across the country.

Residents, male and female, of both rural and urban communities of Thimphu made up the respondents.

A staggering 77 percent of the respondents said they faced some form of domestic violence, mostly physical abuses in the hands of their spouses.

When the report was made public, short of disapproval, many were skeptical of the outcome of the study.

Triggered by the findings of the study, three years later in 2010, the Gross National Happiness Commission conducted its own survey, broadening the scope country-wide.

Its findings were close to that of the RENEW's, recording Gender-based violence prevalence in the country at 68 percent.

Subsequent studies by National Commission for Women and Children and the health ministry in the following years validated the findings of the previous ones, recording 72 and 74 percent prevalence of domestic abuse and gender-based violence nationwide.

When RENEW first began acting on behalf of its clients against incidents of domestic violence, it was dubbed a "family breaker".

The studies, spurred by RENEW's first, did not just break the allegation but went on to leaving a greater national impact of setting in motion a national drive of the need for a legislation.



Focus Group Discussions on April 24, 2005, to initiate the first domestic violence prevalence study in Thimphu



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Today



RENEW headquarters in Thimphu





RENEW today

RENEW today has evolved and grown into the country's leading civil society organization operating at the grassroots and in partnership with local communities to empower vulnerable individuals and children, with a focus on survivors of sexual, domestic and gender based violence.

Over the past two decades, it has built a robust support system that provide comprehensive services encompassing advocacy, counselling, legal aid, shelter homes, education scholarships, livelihood skilling, and micro financing, enabling victims of domestic violence to make informed decisions and become independent. Services are readily accessible through the community service centres established in 10 districts

and a shelter home in Thimphu provides a safe sanctuary for vulnerable individuals and children.

Beyond its direct services, RENEW has built a vast network of community volunteers who provide emergency and protection services and advocacy. It has also established strong partnerships with government entities at various levels as well as with international agencies and development partners that support its mandate for a happier society.

Today, sexual and gender based violence is openly discussed, enabling victims to seek help and avail services, reflecting a significant change in attitude from a time when such matters were accepted as family matters and concealed from the public eye.

School children with the Yeshey Dawa colouring book





SOCIAL PROTECTION

Counselling

Counselling is one of the first services initiated by RENEW, given free of cost to individuals, couples and families.

Clients walk in to avail services and the initial sessions assess risks and immediate needs to ascertain whether the home environment poses a threat to safety, and if shelter services is required.

While couples and men also avail the service, almost 80 percent of clients are women.

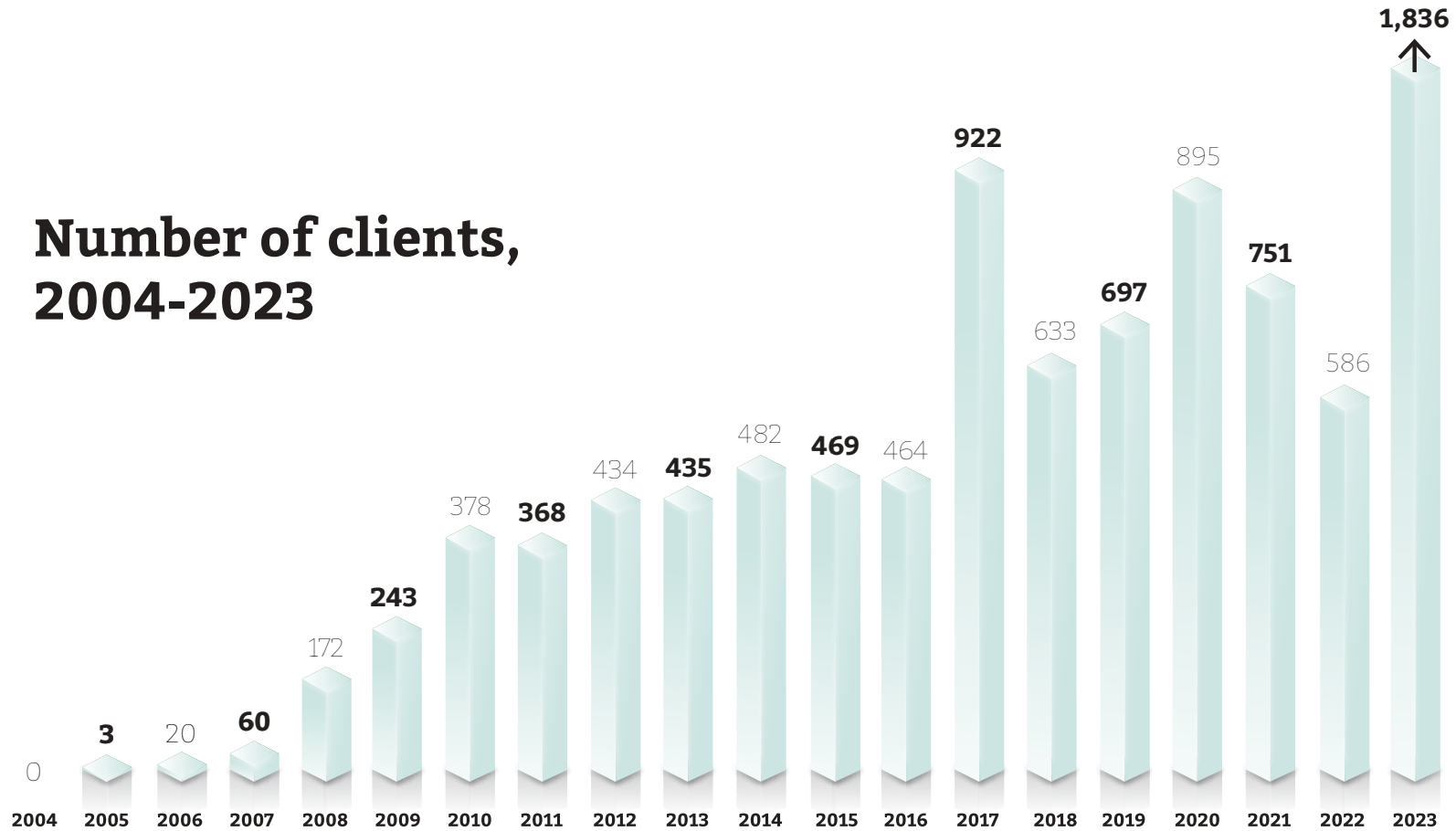
In recent years, RENEW counsellors have also taken on case management, which is a new approach to address needs of an individual seeking protection. The individual and their family are supported by a case worker through direct support and referrals. Counselling services and case man-

agement is available in 10 districts through the community service centres.

RENEW also has a helpline for clients who cannot walk in to avail of services, which was particularly useful during the COVID 19 Pandemic lockdown period.

In 2013, under the patronage of the president of RENEW, the Bhutan Board for Certified Counsellor (BBCC) was established to develop counselling services in diverse areas including career, suicide, child abuse, violence, substance abuse and depression. Certification of mental health professionals began in 2017, and until 2019, more than 400 peer, master, supervisory and associate counsellors have been certified.

Number of clients, 2004-2023



215,936

Number of services provided

9,848

Total number of clients



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Keeping families together

RENEW is not a place where one hears happy stories, according to counsellors who invest significant time in understanding clients' situations, assessing risks and identifying immediate needs. Through counselling, every effort is made to preserve families on the verge of disintegration due to physical and emotional violence, often exacerbated by economic challenges and alcohol abuse.

Many clients walk in distressed, unable to think clearly and take decisions. Counsellors take time to calm them down before hearing them out. In numerous instances, victims

urgently require protection, along with basic necessities like food, shelter, and clothing. Counselling is deferred until these essential needs are addressed and the client is emotionally prepared to receive support.

For counsellors, listening to the traumatic stories of clients in confidentiality takes an emotional toll over time. "You do feel bogged down, and at night you tend to reflect a lot," said Tshering Deki, the petite and gentle 29-year-old resident counsellor at Gawaling Happy Home in Wangsisina, which shelters children, youth, and vulnerable adults. Counselling families of victims presents its

own challenges, which gradually ease over multiple sessions and the passage of time.

The most rewarding moments occur when a sheltered adult is ready to return home, and the family is willing to accept them back. In the past year, 16 women returned home, some of whom are now applying the livelihood skills they acquired at the shelter. "Some former residents call to say how they are doing," said Tshering Deki. A husband called to say his wife, who was at the shelter, had been admitted to rehab as she had relapsed into drinking.

Some individuals may never return



The most rewarding moments occur when a sheltered adult is ready to return home...

home due to psychiatric issues, with families unwilling to take them back. These residents receive regular medication and counselling when they are receptive and engage in livelihood training programmes.

Tshering Deki is hopeful for more adults at the shelter to be successfully reintegrated in the coming year. “What is needed is time to heal and move forward,” she said. She anticipates support for two permanent residents who have completed class XII, to pursue further education or vocational training of their choice.



Counsellor Tshering Deki at the Gawaling Happy Home



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Legal Aid

As part of counselling services, RENEW also provides free legal aid to clients, most of whom are illiterate and struggle to navigate the legal system. Almost all clients require legal aid in some form, from writing legal letters to representation in court.

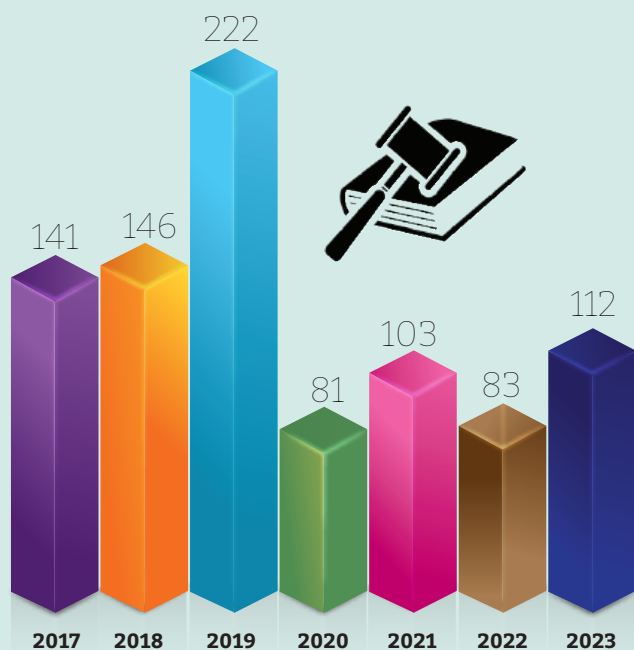
RENEW's approach to legal aid is centred on facilitating, rather than enforcing legal rules. The goal is to foster reconciliation and, through counselling sessions, prevent the recurrence of the issue.

Most clients, however, come to RENEW at the last moment when their personal situation or

relationship has already failed and the next logical step is legal intervention usually pertaining to child custody, alimony, visitation rights and co-parenting.

The service started in 2004, offering legal advice and consultations and in 2006 para-legal services were initiated. In 2017, legal mediation and negotiation was started, which could be accessed by couples and for family conflicts. In 2020, a private legal firm was hired to provide legal representation for those in a critical situation.

Legal services provided, 2017-2023



A 20-year journey of renewal

Legal Aid to the Rescue

Contrary to popular perception, men are not always the perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence; sometimes, they are the victims. Take, for example, Sonam Penjor's* case. The 23-year-old, employed in the kitchen of a restaurant in Thimphu, was falsely accused of rape and could have ended up in jail had he not reached out to RENEW's support system.

One night, as it was time to close up, Sonam encountered a drunk woman in the restaurant where he worked. She could barely stand up, so Sonam assisted her in hailing a cab and dropping her home. Two days later, the woman accused Sonam of taking advantage of her while she was intoxicated. Sonam considered reporting the allegation to the police, but he feared that it might jeopardize his visa to the Middle East, where he planned to work.

He attempted to negotiate with her

and even paid a certain amount, but the threats did not cease; she continued to blackmail him, demanding more money. Her threats gradually took a toll on his personal and professional life, and people around him began assuming he might have raped her, given his willingness to comply with her demands. That was when he turned to RENEW for help.

With RENEW's legal assistance, the police conducted a thorough investigation into the case. It had already been two weeks since the night he dropped her home, and there were no medical signs of forceful intercourse. After a meticulous investigation, the police found no evidence of rape, and the case was not registered due to a lack of evidence.

Today, Sonam is in the Middle East, earning a living, and supporting his family thanks to the support provided by RENEW.

**Name changed to uphold confidentiality*



Happy and at peace

Sancha Maya Rai, 44, who lives and works at the Wangsisina integrated agriculture technology farm is one of several survivors who availed of all services offered by RENEW.

She was brought to the temporary shelter in Thimphu from Wangdue, with her four children in tow, by a member of the film industry, who knew of her plight with an abusive husband.

After few weeks in the shelter, Sancha underwent counselling sessions and decided to divorce for her safety and that of her children's. RENEW's legal service helped her attend court, where her husband was also summoned to legally divorce.

Sancha and her children had nowhere to go and so

they stayed in the shelter and moved to the Gawaling Happy Home when it opened in April 2013. After three years of being sheltered by RENEW, she felt pressured to earn a living for the sake of her children and requested RENEW for some avenues.

The following year the integrated technology farm opened just below Gawaling and Sancha and another survivor with children, moved there as caretakers. "Since then, it has been many years of peace and happiness," said Sancha. She lives in a shed built by herself, a daughter has married, two children are still in school and the eldest son, who is mentally challenged, lives with her. "I am now confident that I can protect myself and I know where to seek support in case of an emergency."

”

I am now confident that I can protect myself and I know where to seek support...”

-Sancha

Sancha has been working at the integrated farm for the past 13 years





SOCIAL PROTECTION

Ready to return home

Every once a while, in the midst of tending to the gardens at the Agri-tech farm in Wangsisina, the past, like the frigid winter winds, come stinging at Bishnu Maya's thoughts, one of RENEW's few extreme cases of domestic violence.

The occasional sharp pain around the 47-year-old's knees as she squats to nurse vegetables around the farm, is a haunting reminder of the vividly grim past. So is her compromised vision, having lost her left eye to forced neglect.

They are only a few visible scars of many over Bishnu's body, marks she carries from an abusive relationship she endured for almost two decades with her previous husband in Gelephu.

"I reported my abusive husband a dozen times to the police," she said, adding he returned home after a few days of being locked up, enraged. "In front of police, as in the presence of my relatives, he would apologetically promise to never do me harm again," she said. "When actually he would be fuming that I reported him."

One evening, after reporting a physical abuse case against her husband Bishnu sneaked out of the house and fled to the woods.

"I left home with a throbbing wound on the head, a fading

vision on the left eye and a baby in the womb," she said, making do for a few days with supplies her friends quietly dropped for her in the woods.

A RENEW volunteer, with help of the police made arrangements to send her to RENEW shelter on the next bus leaving for Thimphu.

When she was only 17 years, around early '90s, Bishnu Maya was wed off to her previous husband, a relative of her stepfather.

Bishnu's father died when she was still a child. Her mother passed away, Bishnu claimed, from the guilt of having entrusted her life to an abusive husband.

Of her five children from the previous husband, four have settled down in different parts of the country and with families of their own. The child she carried in the womb when she fled from her abusive husband is a 14-year-old, studying in Thimphu. She has a two-year-old boy from her present husband.

One of RENEW's clients who availed of all its services from counselling to legal aid and skills training, after more than 12 years since leaving Gelephu, she hopes to soon return to work the plot her late brother left her around Jigmeling.

”

I reported my abusive husband a dozen times to the police... he returned home after a few days of being locked up, enraged.

-Bishnu Maya

Bishnu Maya was wed off when she was only 17





SOCIAL PROTECTION

Shelters

Shelters are an integral service RENEW provides to individuals and families facing an emergency situation.

RENEW began providing emergency shelters a year after its inception, when some walk-in clients were in immediate need of safety and protection. For several years,

RENEW operated a secret shelter in Thimphu city before the Gawaling Happy Home in Wangsisina opened in 2013. Today, it provides emergency shelter services in 10 districts.

Since 2005, more than 1,000 women and children have availed of RENEW's emergency shelter services.

Gawaling Happy Home beneficiaries from 2013-2023

Year	Female Child	Male child	Women	Men	Total
2013	86	13	21	0	187
2014	85	66	77	0	228
2015	82	24	40	1	147
2016	104	36	31	0	171
2017	135	36	24	9	195
2018	135	34	32	0	221
2019	135	24	19	0	178
2020	264	31	32	0	327
2021	30	15	14	0	59
2022	16	11	34	0	61
2023	26	2	24	0	52



SOCIAL PROTECTION

A home to call own

Perched on a hill, propped up by a nunnery below and an old-age refuge, is nestled a “Home”, hedged by the common pine all around.

Lively as the frolicking children within and snugly as its cordial residents rescued from the tumults of the world outside – half-hour drive from the city and safe distance away from the nearest road head – the RENEW shelter literally manifests its name, “Gawaling” (Land of Happiness).

Established in 2008, Gawaling Happy Home is a sanctuary of peace and wellness, in terms both of physical and psychological, a crisis refuge for victims of domestic violence, who no longer have a home to claim.

The lush backyard gardens, trimmed lawns and equipped playgrounds outside complement the swanky six-room furnished duplex, each room accommodating four or five girls, subjects of neglect from domestic abuse or actual victims of such a violence.

Modern amenities include adequate heating and cooling facilities, common closets, laundry rooms with washing machines, a sunroom that also serves as altar space, a library, a lounge with TV and an IT lab. Little stuffed toys strewn around are a bonus.

Adult inmates and boys are housed separately in accommodations adjacent the playground, where children frolic the day by and the

common dining, where they cook their own food of choice.

The facility also has a centre for livelihood development and skills training to engage inhabitants in crafts of their interests, a programme designed to help them re-enter society on leaving Gawaling.

The facility is home to 46 inhabitants, 27 of whom are children, permanent to Gawaling, studying in nine different boarding schools across the country. Some 27 other inmates, who on resolution of their cases will exit the home to reintegrate into the society.

So far, Gawaling saw a maximum of 52 inhabitants and a minimum of 10.

With a counsellor, a property manager and caretakers engaged full time within the well-maintained compound, the happy home also extends its service to local residents in the area, stretching as far as Genekha on the Thimphu-Paro highway.

Premised by electric fence, secured by police personnel and backed by CCTV presence, it is little wonder that people of the community, mostly farmers, entrust their children with the facility that has an Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) for children of its inmates.

Likewise, elders and parents around the area also gain from the shelter’s skills training programmes.



The administrative block at the entrance to the Gawaling Happy Home at Wangsisina



SOCIAL PROTECTION

A special place

Wearing a grey and white jumper, short hair tied in a pony tail, she looks like one of the youths who find sanctuary at the Gawaling Happy Home shelter.

She is not one of them anymore, but she was once.

Lhaden, now 28, was among the first children sheltered by RENEW in 2008, when it was operating out of a three roomed apartment in the centre of Thimphu city. One of the rooms served as a temporary shelter and Lhaden, aged 10, and a class III student, arrived from Dagana.

When the Gawaling shelter came up in 2013, she was among the six children that moved there. “I grew up here,” she said, speaking slowly and thoughtfully. “Gawaling is my home.”

Through the RENEW scholarship programme, she completed class XII in 2017 and signed up for the Desuup volunteer programme where she trained in Massage and Spa services. Along with another trainer, she established the TP Spa in Thimphu, which was on the verge of take off when the pandemic hit, leading to its closure. When RENEW

enquired if she was interested in working at the shelter, she took up the offer.

Today, Lhaden has transitioned to a role of caregiver at Gawaling Happy Home. Fondly referred to as Aue (elder sister) Lhaden by the children there, she finds joy and fulfilment in watching them grow up alongside her.

Lhaden is happy to return to Gawaling and to the people there. “It is an opportunity to give back to my home and family,” said Lhaden. “The time has come to contribute to the place that holds a special place in my heart.”

Lhaden with Zoey at Gawaling

”

I grew
up here...
Gawaling is
my home

-Lhaden



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Scholarships

The RENEW scholarship programme has been providing educational support to vulnerable children since 2005. These children are survivors of domestic violence and sexual and gender-based violence and children who have been abandoned and neglected.

The programme provides financial support to students from the pre-primary level until the 12th grade. After 12th grade other means of support are sought such as college scholarships and sponsorships to continue education or take up vocational training.

Initially Friends of RENEW supported scholarships for children in need. In 2011, it became a full-fledged programme with the long term support of the AHF

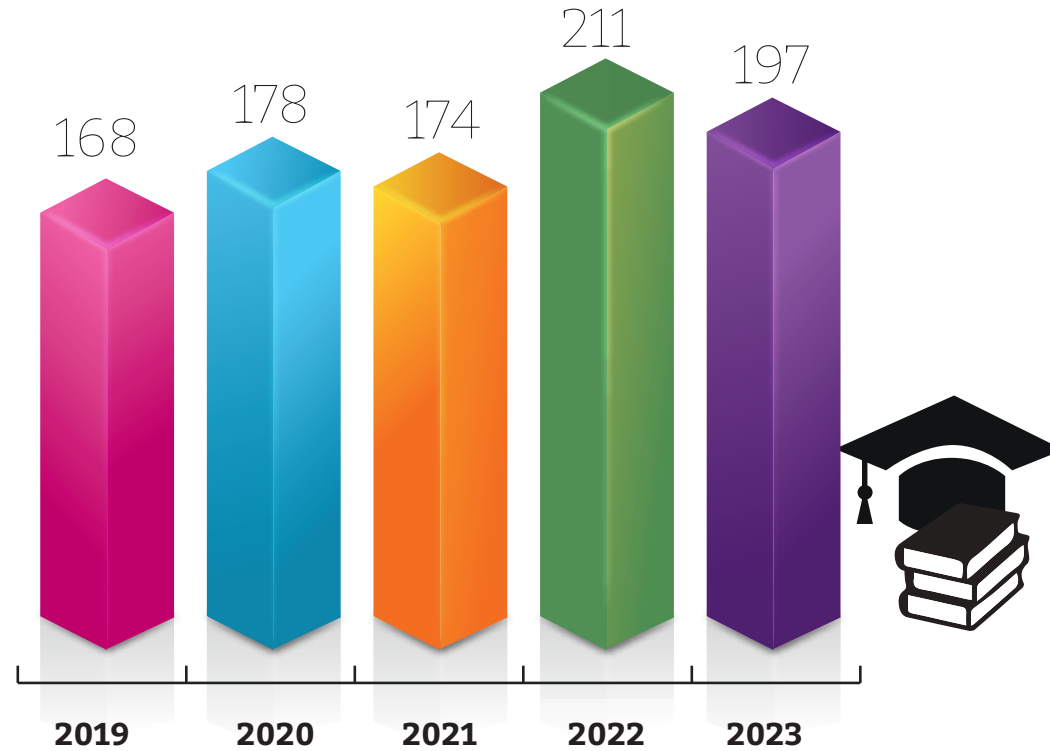
(Australian Himalayan Foundation).

Across the country there were 197 students under the scholarship programme in 2023, with 27 students living permanently at the Gawaling Happy Home shelter in Thimphu.

The CBSS, schools and RENEW staff on field trips make referrals on children that should receive educational support. A number of referrals were also made during Her Majesty's high level advocacy tours across the country. Information is also gathered from social media. Monitoring visits are made twice a year to schools that have scholarship children.

A 20-year journey of renewal

Scholarship recipients, 2019-2023





SOCIAL PROTECTION

Determined to do better

Whenever her thoughts drift to the dark days of childhood, it makes her even more determined to do better.

Today, as a contract teacher in a primary school in Kanglung, Nidup Wangmo is valued for her excellent work and multi-tasking abilities, despite the absence of formal training. “I enjoy what I do,” she says, exuding a quiet confidence. “In teaching children, I learn so much to be a better me.”

For the 25 year old, childhood took a drastic turn when her father, a businessman, died in a motor crash. She was 10 and lived with her father and paternal grandparents with her parents having parted ways when she was six months old. Soon after her father’s tragic death, her step grandmother began physically and emotionally abusing

her, apart from making her work long hours at the family restaurant. Despite the abuse, she remained focused and excelled at school, where she shared her plight at home with the teacher counsellor.

The abuse was reaching a point where her step grandmother planned to take her out of school and she had to run away to appear the final paper of the class VI board examination. “That was the moment when I reached out,” she recalled.

A friend’s family provided her refuge during her darkest days and with the intervention of officials of the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC), she came under the care of RENEW in January 2011, joining five other girls at the temporary shelter, in Thimphu. Under

the RENEW scholarship programme she continued her schooling in Genekha and in Paro and spent her winter holidays at the Gawaling Happy Home with the other children. After completing higher secondary from Ugyen Academy, she won a scholarship to study Food Science at Chitkara University in Punjab, India.

“I am grateful to RENEW and all the people who helped me along the way to become the person I am today,” said Nidup who is eager to pursue Postgraduate Diploma in Education and Counselling at the Samtse College of Education. “As a victim and having come through that path, I feel I am the right person to take up counselling to support children and youth experiencing violence at home.”



”

I am grateful to RENEW and all the people who helped me along the way to become the person I am today

-Nidup

Nidup Wangmo holds an outdoor class for primary students in Kanglung



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Community Service Centres

Since 2022, RENEW has established Community Service Centres in the districts to widen access to its services. These centres provide emergency and protection services, advocacy and sensitisation and livelihood training.

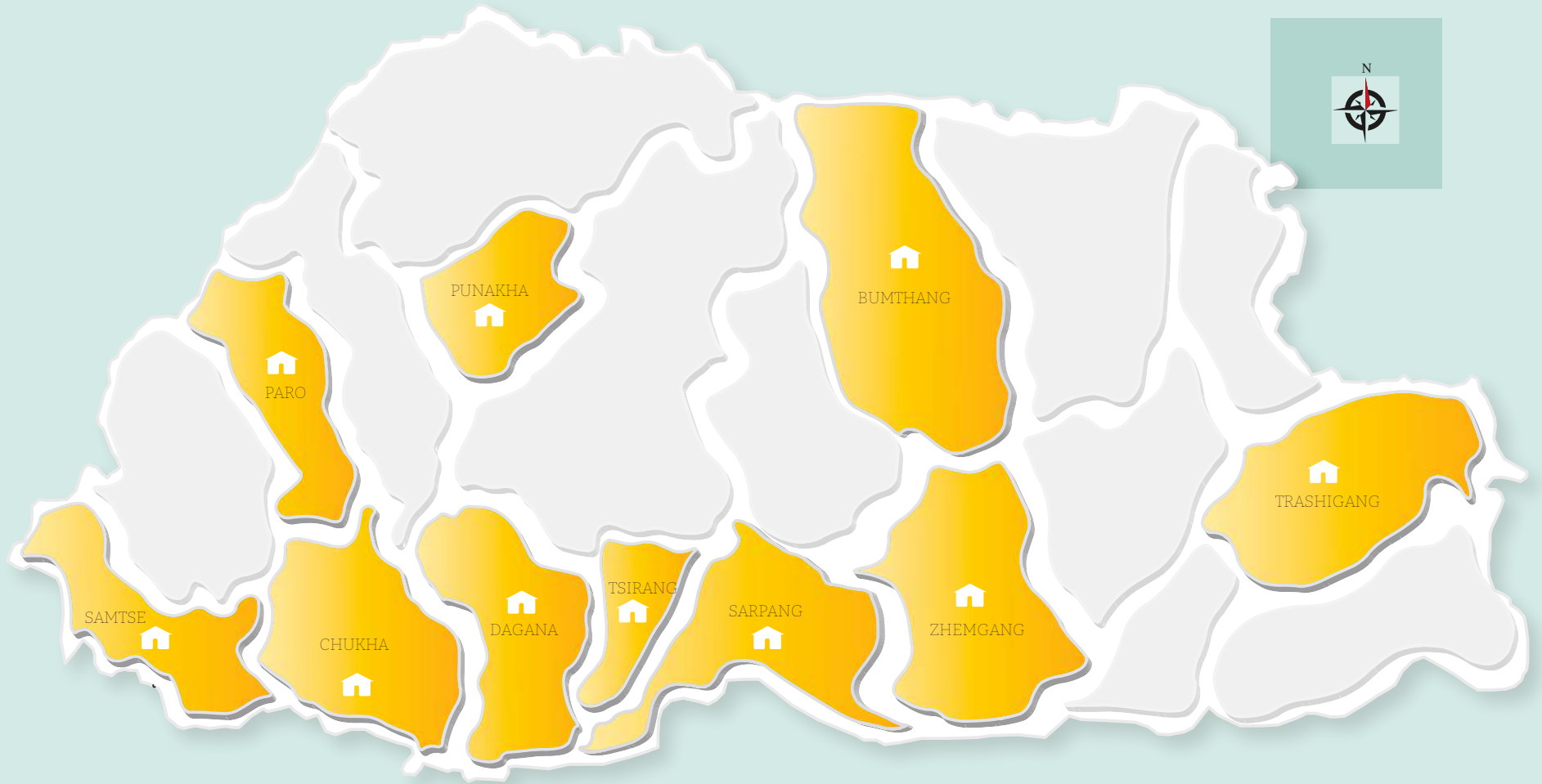
The first three centres were established in 2022 in Tsirang, Paro and Bumthang, which were reporting the highest number of domestic violence and gender based violence cases. Some of these centres were set up in vacant infrastructure in the gewogs and districts and operated by the local community with support from the local gov-

ernment and dzongkhag administration.

Establishing community centres is part of a broader strategy to collaborate and involve local and district authorities in addressing the issue and to sustain operations with the community taking up ownership. The Tsirang Community Service Centre, which was inaugurated in May 2022, is the first structure to be built by the district administration.

Today, Community Service Centres have been established in 10 districts and the plan is to have a centre in the other 10 districts within the next five years.

10 community service centres





Achieving more together

“A year went by in a wink,” was Paro’s first community-based support system (CBSS) manager for RENEW, Anu Rai’s impression of her time at the district.

A graduate of psychology, Anu, 28, from Tsirang joined the organisation in 2023 to head the centre, a blue cottage that blends with the lush surrounding paddy fields in summers and stands out during the barren winters.

About 300-metre away from the closest road point over a dirt road, the centre was established in the face of rising domestic abuse cases during the global pandemic.

The first few months of her new career entailed networking with district administration, including heads of local government and building rapport with various school authorities, along with the women and child protection unit of the police.

The organisation had to fall on the local administration for support related to logistics and infrastructure. Similarly, local government heads helped reach out to the communities for advocacy and awareness programmes.

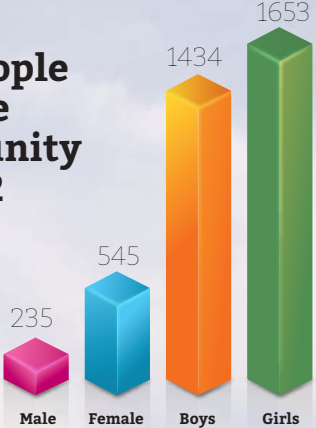
The centre’s first client was a nine-year-old girl and her single father, unable to enroll the child in school for issues related to registration. That’s where the centre’s established partnership proved critical. With help from local government officials and school authorities, scaling all the way up to the district administration, it sorted out the hold up and enrolled the girl in a nearby school.

Over the next few months, the centre received similar cases and many of child neglect, most of which it helped resolve in partnership with the district authorities. Including cases of domestic abuse and gender-based violence, Paro CBSS dealt with more than 24 cases a month in the later parts of the year.

The centre’s case manager, 30-year-old Kunzang Chopel from Wangphu in Samdrupjongkhar, who joined the organisation around September 2023, vividly remembers that fall season when the centre saw a deluge of clients from early hours until dusk.

“At one point of time I felt like I was going to faint,” he said, “Registering clients, classifying cases, lending ears to the venting and counselling them.”

Number of people reached by the Nemjo community centre in 2022



The community service centre in Paro

The Tsirang Community Service Centre is the first structure to be built by the district administration



The community service centre at MDP, Phuentsholing



The community service centre
at Jalikha, Bumthang





EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Harnessing volunteers

Empowering communities lies at the core of RENEW's mission to foster a happier society and a dedicated network of over 5,000 volunteers plays a pivotal role in advocating against domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

These volunteers, comprising community members, school teachers, local government officials, housewives, youth, as well as religious and faith-based leaders, actively contribute to supporting and assisting the community.

Through strategic partnerships with these volunteers, RENEW has successfully established a Community-Based Support System (CBSS) nationwide. This initiative aims to ensure the safe-

ty and security of domestic violence survivors. Volunteers receive basic training to offer basic counselling and identify issues of violence within households.

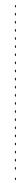
The collaboration between CBSS and the district-level Multi-Sectoral Task Force (MSTF), established by Her Majesty Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck in 2001 to address public health concerns, became a significant milestone in 2014. This united effort has been instrumental in advancing the nation's response to combat HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), domestic and gender-based violence and other social issues that demand multi-sectoral partnerships.

A 20-year journey of renewal



400

Active volunteers



5,000

Total volunteers



”

People are
thankful for our
support

-Chokey Dorji

**Chokey has been an active
volunteer since 2009**

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

An active volunteer

In the summer of 2009 Chokey Dorji, then the health coordinator of the Moshi Primary School, Trashigang, attended a five day training workshop on domestic and gender-based violence and basic counselling.

Since then, he has been an active member of the community-based support system (CBSS) volunteer network, which has close to 5,000 members nationwide, who serve as RENEW's frontliners in aiding families troubled by violence and other forms of abuse.

In the past 13 years he has referred 15 cases of domestic violence, including child abuse, to relevant authorities after family members reached out to him. "I could not do much in Moshi," said Chokey Dorji who is now in Nganglam school as a general teacher in-charge of student support services. "But after I moved to Nganglam I worked together with a nurse, also a CBSS volunteer, to help families experiencing violence and abuse."

According to him, it was mostly women reaching out for help and extra marital affairs and alcohol consumption usually led to physical violence and emotional harassment. "We don't get between them," said Chokey. "We listen and give them information of what to do next and the client follows up on their own." But there have been instances where the victim had to be brought to the emergency shelter for safety.

In one recent case, a husband was regularly beating his wife who was drinking all the time. A relative reached out and Chokey took the assistance of the police to assess the situation. After a counselling session with the police the situation was amicably resolved.

Chokey said that physical violence had come down, but emotional violence was still rampant.

"People are thankful for our support," said Chokey Dorji. "And it brings me immense satisfaction to have made a difference."



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The youth network

Engaging youth is a crucial aspect of RENEW's advocacy against domestic violence and its promotion of adolescent reproductive health and rights. This engagement primarily occurs through the Druk Adolescent's Initiative on Sexual Awareness Network (DAISAN), an all-youth group established in 2011 and managed by RENEW's youth volunteers.

Originally conceived as a student action group with 25 members, DAISAN has significantly grown. It now operates in 41 schools with 919 members spanning primary to higher secondary levels, functioning as a club system.

The network collaborates with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, aligning with the existing Peer Helper network in schools and Y Peers in colleges and training institutes. Peer

helpers undergo training to provide peer support, while the DAISAN network focuses on awareness, promoting mental health and adolescent reproductive health and rights through Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE).

DAISAN's focal persons, typically teachers, receive training in early identification, safe referral and CSE. This knowledge is then imparted to student members during club hours, which have evolved into more recreational sessions where awareness is fostered through activities led by youth. While the core focus remains on sexual health awareness and advocating against gender-based violence, DAISAN also addresses a broad spectrum of youth issues, including mental health, substance abuse and leveraging technology.



DAISAN members during the 3rd annual camp in Tsirang, 2019



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Catching them young

Like most teenagers, Ugyen Samten Chophel knew in passing of abuse and violence in homes. But it only became starkly apparent after he joined the Druk Adolescent's Initiative on Sexual Awareness Network (DAISAN), a volunteer network that advocates on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and domestic violence.

"Joining DAISAN was a revelation," said Ugyen, 17, who currently studies at Desi School in Thimphu. "It opened my eyes and offered an avenue to tackle social problems."

He became a volunteer at 16 as a class XII student of Bajo Higher Secondary School in Wangduephodrang, after hearing of its mission to aid youth navigate complex social

issues from a schoolteacher.

As the school's DAISAN club coordinator, Ugyen led numerous awareness initiatives. From organising dramas to crafting informative posters and flyers, he and his 16 fellow volunteers disseminated crucial information twice a year to peers and to the community.

Ugyen also helped a grade 10 girl student grappling with depression stemming from her parents' imminent divorce. Unable to open up to her teachers, the class X student even resorted to taking sleeping pills to end her life.

Recognising her distress, Ugyen devoted time to listen to her, provided a supportive

presence and referred her to the school counsellor for professional assistance. Through subsequent sessions and support, she gained insight into her situation and gradually began to heal.

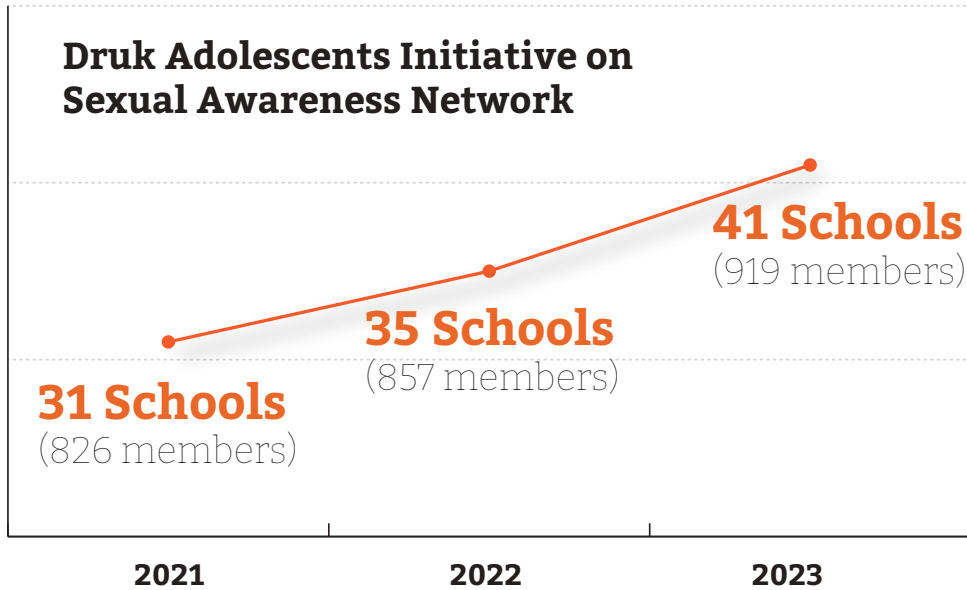
"The youth conclave last year was a pivotal moment," Ugyen recalls with pride. "It was incredible to see DAISAN clubs from different schools coming together, eager to learn and effect change."

The only constant challenge according to Ugyen was in balancing the demands of being a student with commitments to DAISAN. "But being able to empower your peers keeps you going," he said.



Joining DAISAN was a revelation...
It opened my eyes and offered an
avenue to tackle social problems

-Ugyen, 17



Youth volunteers educate Tsirang residents along Damphu town



DAISAN members enact a skit on domestic abuse at the former Taxi parking, Thimphu



2nd DAISAN youth leadership camp at
Gawaling Happy Home in 2017



LIVELIHOOD

Economic independence

Livelihood skilling was never part of the plan when RENEW opened office to provide advocacy and counselling services. But soon enough, there were victims who needed immediate safety and protection, so shelters services were initiated. When the shelters started to receive many clients, livelihood skilling was initiated as a reintegration programme.

Today, more than 3,000 women, men, boys, people with disabilities, including members of the LGBTQI community have availed of RENEW's livelihood training since it started in 2008.

The basic tailoring programme that offers skills in sewing clothes is the most popular and has reached 15 dzongkhags.

Other trainings include traditional weaving using the Pangtha, Thritha and the Assamese loom, basic baking, cooking, mushroom cultivation and floriculture. In 2023, caregivers training was initiated to provide skills in taking care of the elderly and children.

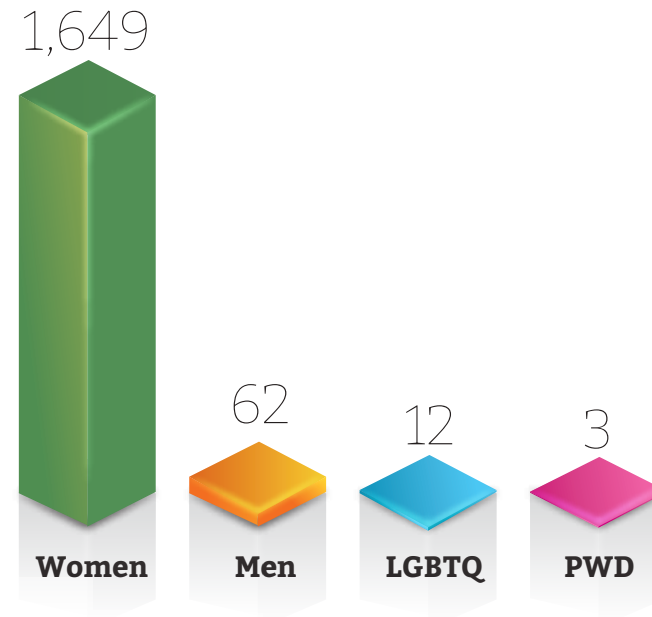
The livelihood trainings have benefited many clients who have gone on to set up their own businesses and become economically independent.

Tailoring is the most popular training





Livelihood skilling participants, 2015 - 2022



Yang Yang Weaving House owner Kencho Zangmo prepares to work on the freshly dyed warp. RENEW helps market her textiles to buyers within and outside the country.





LIVELIHOOD

Sangay's world

From its unassuming exterior, one would never guess the vibrant and colorful world thriving within. In a single room at Gyedoe Kuenjung Tailoring in Babesa, Thimphu, four sewing machines hum rhythmically. Thangkas framed by dark blue brocade grace the white walls, and samples of cloth bags and pouches sway from the ceiling. It's a lively scene, brimming with activity and energy.

This is the realm of Sangay Wangmo, a 37-year-old single mother who operates the tailoring business, which also serves as a training ground for interested individuals.

Six years ago, Sangay Wangmo, then

married to a police personnel, enrolled in a tailoring course offered by RENEW for non-formal education learners. She initially worked from home, taking on small projects for friends and neighbors.

Sangay Wangmo opened her shop two years ago, determined to achieve economic independence for her two children after her husband left her for another woman. "The RENEW livelihood training was a true blessing," said Sangay Wangmo, who is from the central district of Zhemgang. "It gave me the courage and confidence to venture out on my own."

The business, which now employs

11 women working in two shifts, some learning on the job, has become a symbol of empowerment for those who know Sangay. Her monthly earnings range between Nu 40,000 to Nu 50,000, with Thangkas being the top-selling item, particularly among customers going abroad.

Sangay Wangmo's aspirations extend beyond personal success. "I hope to provide training opportunities to more women and girls who aspire to lead independent lives," she said. "I want to support single mothers, like some of my employees, in sustaining their households."



“

The RENEW
livelihood
training was a
true blessing

-Sangay Wangmo

Sangay guides a new recruit



LIVELIHOOD

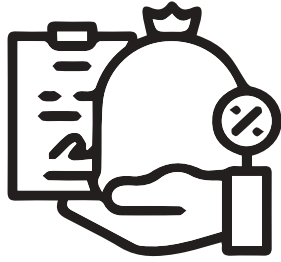
Micro Finance

Another important initiative to empower vulnerable individuals and families achieve economic independence is the RENEW Micro-finance, which was established in collaboration with the Deutsche Sparkassenstiftung für internationale Kooperation (DSIK) in 2011.

RENEW Microfinance Private Limited (RMF) is the first and the largest microfinance institution in Bhutan to have received Deposit Taking

Microfinance Institution License and was later incorporated as Private Limited Company under the Companies Act of Bhutan 2016. With the blessings of Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, RMF till date covers 11 Dzongkhags and 103 Gewogs. With 435 access points, RMF offers those vulnerable and low income women and their families with the facilities to save money, avail loan and financial literacy

A 20-year journey of renewal

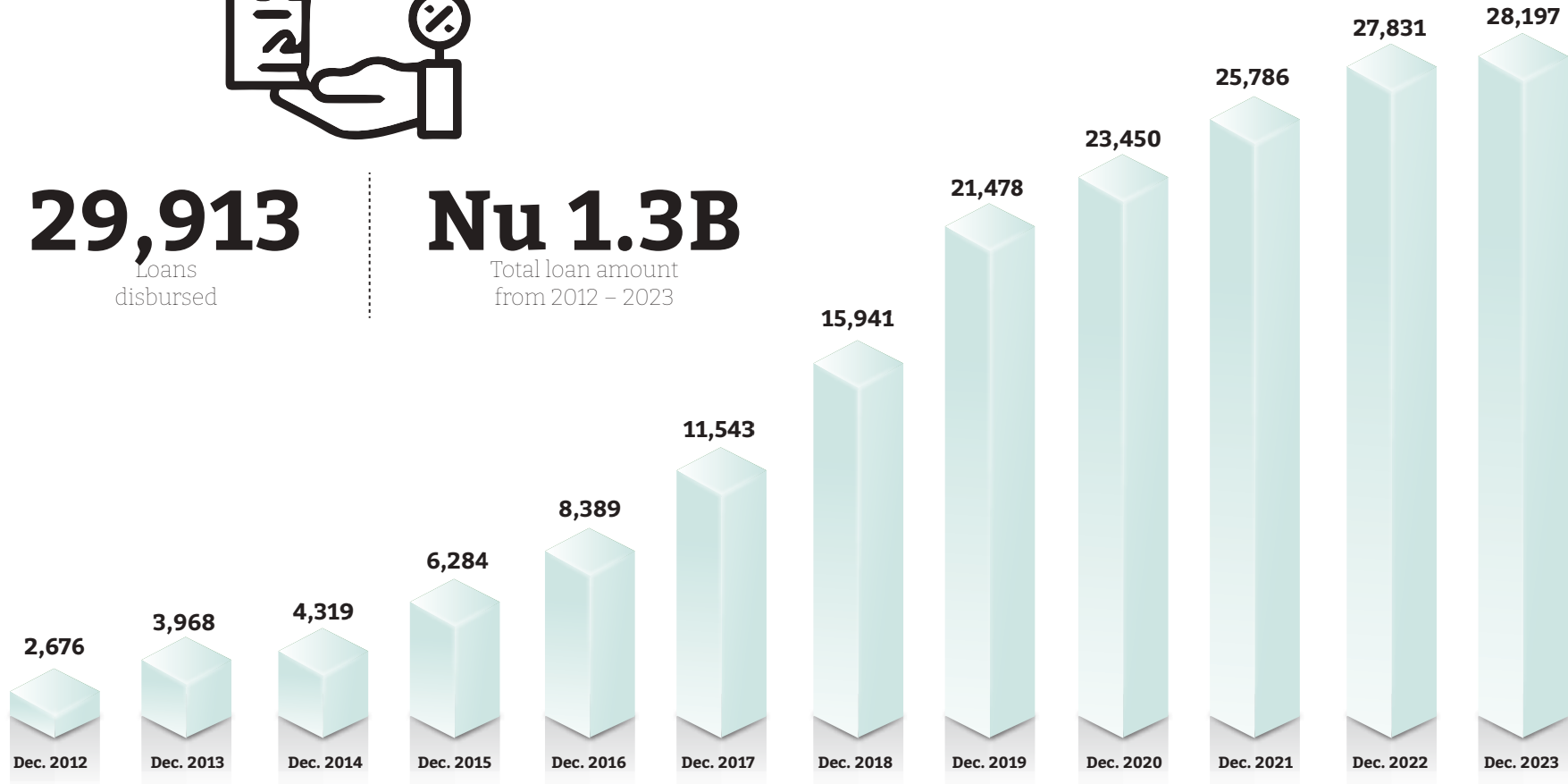


29,913

Loans
disbursed

Nu 1.3B

Total loan amount
from 2012 – 2023



Member/Client/Customer



Fueling economic freedom

In the next few months Tashi Dema, 49, hopes to sell her harvest of oyster mushrooms at the Punakha vegetable market, her first after availing a loan of Nu 150,000 from RENEW micro finance at a 2% interest rate.

“Selling is not a problem, preparation and cultivation is because it involves a lot of work,” said Tashi who took the loan last year but could not start cultivation because of health issues.

The collateral free loan, which has to be availed as a group scheme to ensure repayment, was used to buy an air conditioner as mushroom cultivation requires moderate temperature, plastic, cotton, rubber band and other items to prepare the mushroom spawning bags.

This is not the first time Tashi has availed credit from RENEW micro finance that was established in 2011 to bank the unbanked rural populace. She took her first loan of Nu 40,000 years ago to expand her grocery shop in Lobesa,

which she repaid. Then five years ago she took another loan of Nu 100,000 to stock and expand her shop, which she also repaid.

Her interest in mushroom cultivation sprouted several years ago after attending a training by the National Mushroom Centre. She cultivated mushrooms at her farm in Omtekha and last year decided to go full time. “It was getting difficult to manage the shop and the farm, so I shut the shop in Lobesa, rented out the space and moved to the farm, said Tashi, who is helped by her husband. All her three children are outside the country.

Tashi has taken loans from other financial institutions in the past but prefers RENEW micro-finance as it is “more easily accessible for women”. Extensive documentation is not required and micro finance officials go to the client to give the loan which has a ceiling of Nu 200,000.

A 20-year journey of renewal



Tashi Dema has availed of RENEW loans thrice



(RENEW micro-finance)
... more easily accessible
for women

-Tashi Dema



ADVOCACY

Equity and Equality

While the Constitution bestows the same rights and duties on all citizens, deeply held socio-cultural perceptions of the role of women and their position in society has influenced access to education, employment and public decision-making.

In recent decades though, there has been a visible shift in such perceptions and civil society organisations (CSOs) have played an important advocacy role in driving this change. Advocacy has furthered legislation in the protection and promotion of women and influenced new approaches to development.

RENEW has focused on the empowerment of vulnerable women and served as a platform to

bring women to the forefront by advocating for equity, access, protection from and prevention of domestic violence and sexual abuse, in keeping with the country's guiding philosophy of Gross National Happiness.

RENEW has been a party to any dialogue regarding women and children and engages with members of parliament and the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) to lobby for relevant legislation. Specifically, RENEW played an active role in the adoption of Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA) 2013 and the Child Care and Protection Act.

Yeshey Dawa

To bring an informal awareness on the legal rights and remedies available to women in Bhutan, RENEW created a character by the name of Yeshey Dawa who believes in fairness and equality.

She is a young, educated woman who chooses to live in rural Bhutan and empower women around her. Her name is taken from one of the former forms of the Goddess Tara, an embodiment of compassion and liberation.

Yeshey Dawa has appeared in the national newspaper, Kuensel, advocating on statutory rights for women and girls and an animation series on Marriage Act, Domestic Violation Prevention Act and Childcare and Protection Act on the national television station. Colouring and comic books based on Yeshey Dawa have also been developed for primary school children.





ADVOCACY

Breaking barriers

Over the past two decades Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, president and founder of RENEW, and UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, has travelled the length and breadth of the country meeting and interacting with people and advocating on priority public health and social issues.

These high level advocacy campaigns, which included two nationwide tours, and numerous dzongkhag visits, have been instrumental in breaking down barriers to get people to open

up about sensitive issues, social stigmas and discrimination, and make informed decisions.

The high level advocacy helped create an enabling environment and encouraged women and girls to use the health services available for better health for themselves and their family.

It also garnered multi sectoral support and brought together local leaders and community members to address health and social priorities in their lives and communities.

Her Majesty Galyum Sangay Choden
Wangchuck during the high level advocacy
campaign at Lunana in 2022





A milestone achievement

Of the 39 Acts that came into being by the end of the first democratically elected government's tenure, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act of Bhutan, 2013, was a significant one.

First tabled as a bill at the summer session of 2012, the draft legislation was mired in disagreement among members of the parliament.

The push for the legislation among a handful of women parliamentarians was met with disagreement from the larger male representation of the house.

One of the concerns revolved around the need for additional establishments, which weighed heavy on the human and financial capitals, resources the nation was already facing a dearth of.

The draft legislation leaning heavily on women's protection,

disregarding those of men's, who were as much victims of such violence, was another concern. So was the possibility of the law being taken advantage of to break up families.

A few others believed existing laws already had provisions on domestic violence prevention needless for a separate one.

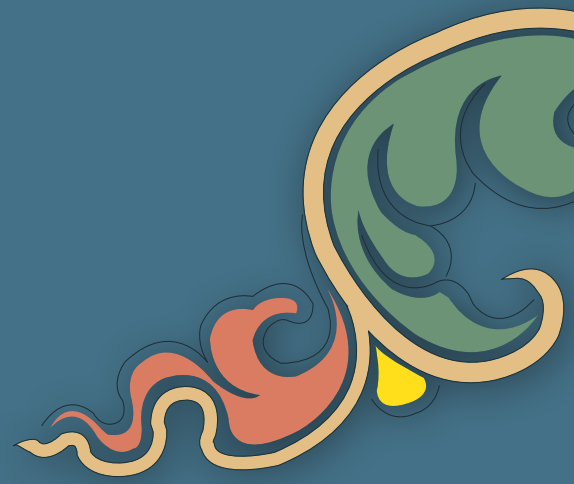
Tweaked to address all loose ends of the draft, the Domestic Violence Prevention Bill was passed in the spring of 2013, during the last session of the first elected government.

A large group of RENEW volunteers were at the parliament on the day to witness the elected representatives pass the bill as the Domestic Violence Prevention Act. It gained the favour of the majority, with only one of the 47 members abstaining and another voting "no".



ལྷན་ཁག

What Next





We have extraordinary qualities that define us as Bhutanese"

Sincerity	Diligence
Astuteness	Resilience
Timeliness	

Tsirang DAISAN volunteers with advocacy tool kits



The next five years

Making services more inclusive, client-centred and easier to access, to support reintegration of survivors of sexual and gender based violence, including vulnerable individuals and communities, is a key priority for RENEW in the next five years (2024-28).

RENEW will also strengthen quality of services by ensuring all staff have specialised skills to perform optimally as part of the overall strategy to boost the organisation's effectiveness and operational efficiency and sustainability.

Expanding public private partnerships with national and international partners, and with communities is another priority for the next five years. At the community level, the target is to have more community volunteers with improved skills in responding to sexual and gender-based violence and participating in livelihood skills to enhance ownership and inclusivity.

Piloting social enterprises and establishing a training centre with a fee structure that provides professional, therapeutic and skilled based training is also planned to sustain the organisation's operations.

A 20-year journey of renewal



While we acknowledge the laurels of our achievements, there is still much more to be done. At this juncture, we cannot risk complacency as it could very easily undermine all the advancements we have made so far. I believe we must continue to focus on promoting women's empowerment, gender equality and SRHR in Bhutan and beyond.”

-Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck

Highlights of RENEW strategic plan for 2024 - 2028

80%

Proportion of clients satisfied with services received



690

beneficiaries, equipped with new skills



35

micro and small businesses to be established



2,500

specialised volunteers' network by five core service areas of work to be operationalised across 20 districts



20

Volunteers' committee to be established and fully functional in all districts



2

high level symposiums to be organised



20

Establish community service centres in all districts and equip them with a pool of specialised service providers



25%

increase in revenue generation from the social enterprise







Widening focus

In the next five years, RENEW will widen its focus to work towards empowering vulnerable women and families.

One is by prioritising health of women and girls. They must have access to information and knowledge to make informed decisions about their health. A woman in good health ensures the well-being of the entire family.

The other is by providing more practical skills training, particularly for vulnerable women and girls, to be able to stand on their own feet and become financially independent. Economic independence can address almost everything related to family.

RENEW will also work towards empowering women by leveraging technology to make them more prepared for the 21st century. Technology facilitated gender based violence and abuse is serious and a big challenge. That is why it is crucial for girls and women to equally advance and be prepared.

International Partners





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