

act:onaid



REFLECTIONS & LEARNING



2013



Disclaimers

The materials and the geographical designations in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ActionAid International Nepal concerning the legal status of the country, zones, districts, municipalities, village development committees or areas or concerning the delimitation of its boundaries.

Copyrights

ActionAid International Nepal (AAIN) reserves all rights of ownership (copyrights) of this document. Therefore, no part of this document can be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, without written permission of AAIN.

However, readers are free to make use of it for non-commercial purposes in course of development work. AAIN asks, however, that proper acknowledgements be given whenever this document is so used, and that a copy of any document produced with the assistance of original materials quoted from this document be sent to AAIN for inclusion in its Library or Documentation Centre.

DESIGN & PRINT PROCESS:

TheSquare Design Communication Pvt. Ltd.
business@thesquare.com.np

Printed in Nepal.



VISION

“A Nepal without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys his or her right to a life of dignity.”

MISSION

“To work with people living in poverty and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice.”

WE BELIEVE

Poverty is a denial and violation of human rights stemming from a historical process of exclusion and injustice. It is a complex, dynamic and multifaceted phenomena associated with social constructs such as gender, caste, ethnicity, location, physical ability and class.



WE WORK WITH

Women, Dalits, Highly Excluded Indigenous People and People Living in Poverty

OUR APPROACH

We adopt a human rights-based approach as our overarching framework to fight poverty, injustice and inequality and believe the state is the primary duty bearer for the dignity and well-being of its citizens.





Contents

> Acronyms	04
> Glossary	06
> Country Director's Message	08
> Working areas of AAIN	11
> Executive Summary	13
THE CONTEXT	16
PROGRAMME OVERVIEW	18
> Natural Resources and Livelihood	19
> Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness Response	26
> Participatory Democratic Governance	31
> Women's Rights	36
> Quality Education in a Safe and Equitable Environment	41
> Other Organisational Initiatives	48
ORGANISATIONAL PROCESSES AND CHANGES	50
LEARNING AND CHALLENGES	56
GLIMPSE OF QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENT 2013	57
LRP PARTNERS ORGANIZATIONS	59
PROJECT MANAGED BY AAIN IN 2013	60
AAIN IN MEDIA / AAIN PUBLICATIONS IN 2013	61

Acronyms

AA	ActionAid
AAIN	ActionAid International Nepal
APB	Annual Plan and Budget
BDRC	Building Disaster Resilient Community
CCL	Child Centred Learning
CDC	Curriculum Development Centre
CDO	Chief District Officer
CER	Citizens Education Report
CFUG	Community Forest Users' Groups
CO	Country Office
CRC	Central Resource Centre
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office
DAO	District Administration Office
DD	Deepening Democracy
DDC	District Development Committee
DDRC	District Disaster Relief Committee
DHM	Department of Hydrology and Meteorology
DM	Disaster Management
DMC	Disaster Management Committee
DoE	Department of Education
DPAC	District Project Advisory Committee
DPHO	District Public Health Office
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ERC	Eastern Resource Centre
GBP	Great Britain Pound
GoN	Government of Nepal
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
HROD	Human Resources and Organisational Development
INGO	International Non-governmental Organisation
IT	Information Technology
LDRMP	Local Disaster Risk Management Plan
LGCDP	Local Governance and Community Development Programme
LRP	Local Rights Programme



MAM	Mahila Adhikar Manch
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare
NBC	National Building Code
NCED	National Center for Educational Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRs.	Nepali Rupees
PDI	Participatory Democracy Initiative
PIL	Public Interest Litigation
PLiP	People Living in Poverty
PMA	Participatory Monitoring and Accountability
PNGO	Partner Non Government Organisation
PPP	Participatory Planning Process
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
PRS	Promoting Rights in School
PTA	Parent Teachers' Association
PVA	Participatory Vulnerability Assessment
PWD	People with Disabilities
RC	Resource Center
REFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques
ROTA	Reach Out to Asia
RTI	Right to Information
SIP	School Improvement Plan
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
SMC	School Management Committee
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
SSRP	School Sector Reform Plan
UCW	Unpaid Care Work
VAW	Violence against Women
VDC	Village Development Committee
VEC	Village Education Committee
WRC	Western Resource Centre
WRF	Women Rights Forum

Glossary

- Bigha** Unit of measurement of land in the Terai. One bigha is equal to 0.67 hectare/6,772.63 m²
- Birta** A land grant made by the state to individuals, usually on a tax free and inheritable basis.
- Chhaupadi** A conservative social practice for women in certain districts of Western Nepal, which prohibits a woman from participating in normal family and community activities during menstruation as she is considered impure.
- Dalit** A person or community considered to belong to so called "lowest caste" in the Hindu caste hierarchy. The Dalits are also often referred to as untouchables.
- DDC** A committee of members elected to serve (in accordance with the District Development Committee Act, 1992) as the executive body of authority in each of the 75 districts of Nepal. Candidates for election to a DDC represent the VDCs (VDCs) within that district.
- Dhur** Unit of land measurement in the Terai. One dhur is equal to 16.93 m²
- HRBA** Our human rights-based approach centres support People Living in Poverty to become conscious of their rights, to organise themselves to claim their rights, and to hold duty bearers to account. AAIN builds on international human rights law, but goes beyond a legal or technical approach, supporting people to analyse and confront power imbalances and take sides with the PLiP.
- LRP** Our long-term programmes in particular districts and communities AAIN refers to all of its programmes as rights programmes, which may be implemented at local, national and international levels. From 2012, AAIN has been referring to all its DA/DI as LRP to ensure consistency.

Kamaiya	Agricultural bonded labourer, particularly those that existed in Western Nepal. Abolished after the promulgation of Kamaiya Labour (Prohibition) Act, 2002.
Kamlari	Female bonded labour Kamaiya.
Kattha	Unit of measurement of land in the Terai. One kattha is equal to 338.63 m ²
Madhesi	The Madhesi are the native people of Nepal who reside in the southern, plains or the Terai which they also refer to as Madhesh. The Madhesis comprise about 40 per cent of the total population of Nepal.
Musahar	A caste-group within the Dalit community in the Terai.
Next Step	A sponsorship mechanism in which child sponsors from the United Kingdom have the option to transfer their support from one particular area of funding to unrestricted funds after completing five years of support.
PLiP	We avoid talking about “poor people” which has an element of condescension. “PLiP” emphasises a common humanity and poverty being a state that people are living in, which ActionAid is trying to end.
REFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques – an innovative approach to adult learning and social change, which focuses on the theory of Paulo Freire and uses participatory rural appraisal methodologies.
VDC	A committee of members elected to govern a certain village development area (in accordance with the VDC Act, 1992). Candidates for election to a VDC represent the wards into which the VDC area is divided.

Country Director's Message



Dear All,

Namaste and Warm Greetings!

It is my pleasure to share ActionAid International Nepal's Reflections and Learning 2013 with you. The year has seen AAIN deepen and further its HRBA approach to achieve wellbeing and social justice in Nepal through the second year of implementation of its fourth Country Strategy Paper "Equitable Actions to End Poverty".

ActionAid is a learning organization – therefore, as well as engaging in various actions for desired changes, we do continuously engage in critical reflections over actions and draw on learning. We call it a 'praxis mode of HRBA actions', in which we keep on sharpening our 'theory of change'. We have learnt that there is huge

need for critically analyzing the emerging macro and global contexts, at the same time, social and ecological justice initiatives need to get built from local community level. AAIN's local rights programmes (LRP) continue to focus on achieving the rights and sustainable solutions for people living in poverty (PLiP), women and other marginalized groups through its four strategic objectives. In 2013, AAIN entered two new LRP's in Doti and Sankhuwasabha districts to set its new journey in those regions. With the engagement of our local CSO partners, strategic partners, local community groups, REFLECT circles, networks and cooperatives, AAIN has been promoting seed banks, organic farming, land ownership campaigns, disaster resilient systems and mechanisms in schools and communities. LRPs also aim at addressing women's rights issues at local level including

community campaigns on VAW, safer city campaign, promoting care economy for wider justice, right to education, quality education and child centered learning and reinvigoration of popular education.

As well as building and strengthening CSO partnerships, ActionAid strongly believes in and also practices constructive engagements with governmental agencies from local to national level. In 2013, by recognizing our long experience and expertise AAIN was approached by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development as a lead agency to develop Social Mobilization and Local Accountability component of LGCDP-II, which we completed quite successfully. AAIN has also continued to partner with institutional and high-value donor agencies during the year. AAIN has been successful to win an EU funded multi-country project 'Strengthening Women's Collectives' being implemented in Nepal, Bangladesh and India. Another similar initiative was Aid-Match project funded by Dfid aid match funds. Early Childhood Development Centers funded by Guy Foundation were also implemented in 2013.

Envisioning a poverty-free, democratic and truly prosperous Nepal, AAIN in partnership with Institute for Governance and Development (IGD) organized the second

"International Participatory Democracy Conference" in 2013, which provided a common platform to facilitate and trigger discourses on critical issues and aspects of democratic nation-building, as well as ways of promoting democratization at all level. The evolution of "Forum for Participatory Democracy" at national level has connected itself to similar initiatives and discourses in the eastern and western regions of Nepal.

I hope you will find this report informative and reflective of the collaborative efforts of our staff and partners with people living in poverty on their quest to lead secure and dignified lives. I would like to thank and acknowledge the support and commitment of our rights holders, partners, supporters, donors, national board of governance, staff and other stakeholders including the government agencies for their continuous and unwavering support. We look forward to your continued support in 2014.

Best wishes,



Bimal Kumar Phnyal
Country Director



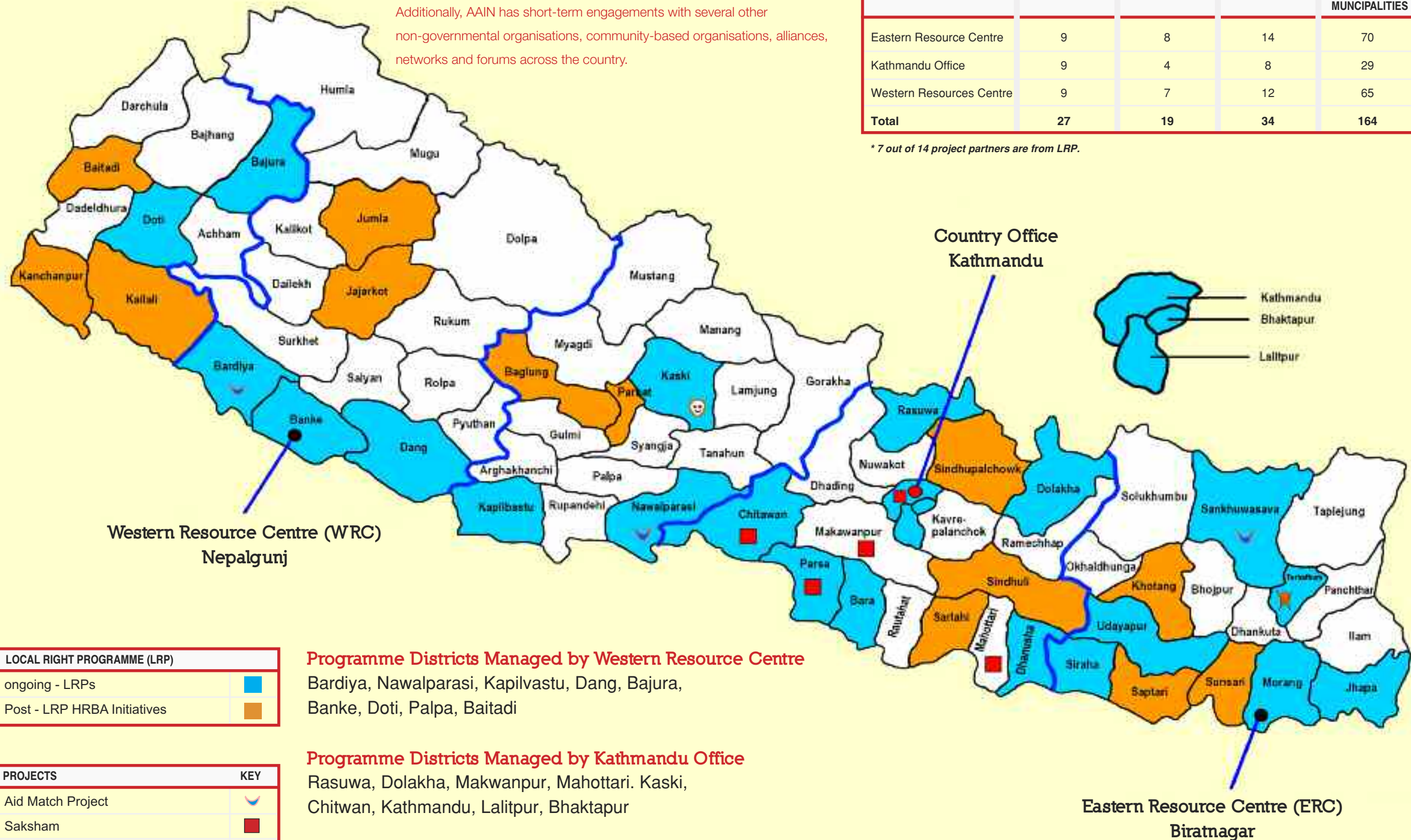


Working areas of ActionAid International Nepal

ActionAid International Nepal's (AAN's) long-term partnership programmes and projects at the field level are currently being implemented in 27 districts. Additionally, AAIN has short-term engagements with several other non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, alliances, networks and forums across the country.

MANAGED BY	LOCAL RIGHT PROGRAMME AND PROJECTS				
	DISTRICTS	TOTAL LRPs	LRP PARTNERS	VDCs & MUNICIPALITIES	PROJECT PARTNERS
Eastern Resource Centre	9	8	14	70	
Kathmandu Office	9	4	8	29	14*
Western Resources Centre	9	7	12	65	
Total	27	19	34	164	14

* 7 out of 14 project partners are from LRP.



LOCAL RIGHT PROGRAMME (LRP)	
ongoing - LRPs	■
Post - LRP HRBA Initiatives	■

Programme Districts Managed by Western Resource Centre

Bardiya, Nawalparasi, Kapilvastu, Dang, Bajura, Banke, Doti, Palpa, Baitadi

PROJECTS	KEY
Aid Match Project	
Saksham	
Strengthening Women's Collectives	
Early Childhood Development Centre	
Empowerment and Democracy	

Programme Districts Managed by Kathmandu Office

Rasuwa, Dolakha, Makwanpur, Mahottari, Kaski, Chitwan, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur

Programme Districts Managed by Eastern Resource Centre

Siraha, Dhanusha, Morang, Jhapa, Bara, Parsa, Udayapur, Terhathum, Sankhuwasava

Executive Summary

AAIN adopts a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) which encourages the conviction of people living in poverty (PLiP), women, Dalits and other marginalised people to ask questions, claim rights, make decisions and hold institutions to account. It reaffirms the role of popular struggles, social justice movements and civil society actions for rights conscientiousness conscientisation and the transformation of unequal power relations.

AAIN refers to all its programmes as rights programmes, which is being implemented at local, national and international levels. From 2012, AAIN has been referring to its long-term partnership programmes and projects at the field level as Local Rights Programmes (LRP). A Total of 27 LRPs are being implemented now with two new LRPs that were initiated in Doti and Sankhuwasabha districts in 2013 where as, two LRPs of Batadi and Dang were phased out in 2013.

Agriculture is the mainstay of Nepalese livelihood system. In 2013, we continued our focus towards the promotion of sustainable agriculture for sustainable livelihood. Sustainable agriculture is based on the principle of agro-ecology, and farming practices based on farmers' knowledge, skill and local inputs are promoted across AAIN's working areas. AAIN closely worked with different farmer groups/cooperatives and networks to help build capacities in sustainable agriculture. Promotion of community seed banks, organic farming, and collective farming are some of the areas of intervention for the promotion of sustainable agriculture. At community level, an integrated method of community seed bank has been initiated to improve the farmers' access to quality seeds.

Land is more than monetary value since one cannot live without land nor labour without an access to it. It is a major source of power which determines the status of the people in society. In 2013, AAIN and its partner organizations continued a joint land ownership campaign underscoring women's rights to land which gained momentum with a focus on community sensitisation to pressurise political parties and government officials along with

land reform agenda. Various local groups like REFLECT Circles, Jana Sarokar Munch, Land Right Forum, farmers group, Mahila Ahikar Manch (MAM) and freed Haliya network were active in organising and mobilising the community people. AAIN with the LRP partners have been facilitating joint ownership on the land campaign aiming to protect women's rights to land. As a result, altogether 2093 women within our programme areas received joint or single land-ownership-certificate in 2013.

Nepal's geography, geology, climate and lack of proper infrastructure planning make the country extremely vulnerable to various types of disasters. In terms of building resilience to disaster, it implies to improving the capacity of the communities with respect to understanding resources, knowledge and skills. Taking all these into account, AAIN along with its partners carried out different initiatives and programmes with the disaster vulnerable communities to build resilience system and mechanism. A total of 1251 PLiP (especially disaster vulnerable communities), social mobilisers, students, and teachers from different LRPs received various components of disaster risk reduction training to fight against vulnerability such as Participatory Vulnerability Assessment (PVA), Disaster Management Plan (DMP), importance of early warning system etc. Through the Building Disaster Resilient Community (BDRC) project with Practical Action as the consortium partner 400 people (especially local government and school officials) were provided orientation on structural and non-structural vulnerability in Pokhara (Kaski).

AAIN's strategy on women's rights focuses on the integrated process for bringing about transformation in communities by engaging in women's sexual and reproductive health rights linking with VAW in both private and public sphere and overall economic justice to women with increased meaningful participation of women in decision-making level building their agency. Keeping strategy at the centre, AAIN works for the formation of agency of women and especially marginalised rural and urban poor women so that their contribution to the

institutions like family, community and the state is valued and recognised. Women's network/groups, Reflect circles, Mahila Adhikar Manch (MAM), VAW networks have been organised and capacitated to explore and address issues related to VAW and women's rights. A series of capacity building initiatives have been taken at the LRP and national level and as a result of which 560 women have been developed as women's rights leaders. These leaders are now actively engaging in ensuring women's political, social and economic rights by working together with women's movement to foster access to various services provisioned by the state and ensuring women's rights.

The concept of safe cities and public space is discussed and established in this year in order to address incidents and issues of VAW and girls and sexual harassment in public space including public transportation. Pilot initiatives of safe cities programs and campaigns are operationalised in Kathmandu, Morang, Chitwan and Makwanpur districts informed by participatory audience insight research and development of programming framework of safe cities. The issues related to sexual harassment and VAW and girls in public spaces and public transportation are massively discussed in REFLECT Circles, women's group at community, national level and the issues were also conversed with drivers, conductors, trade unions, police and other employees of transport sectors to sensitize them and also to make them accountable towards issue. An awareness campaign was also carried out using various tactics and also through social media building coalition with wider women's movement, networks and organizations. Two safe houses have been established in Chitwan and Makwanpur, initiated through Sakcham project, in order to provide victims a secured shelter, counseling and other services.

One of our major objectives is to make society sensitised about the contribution of women which can be achieved through due recognition, redistribution and reducing of workload of women that have been meted out to them in an unjust manner. Unpaid Care

Work (UCW) is about focusing on care economy for wider economic justice. Number of different training and capacity building initiative took place on UCW covering its framework and understanding in 2013. The capacity building workshops brought together government officials from MoA, Department of Social Security Fund, Labour department, CBS, National Women Commission, partner organisations. These workshops and trainings were an opportunity to develop an advocacy strategy on UCW that ActionAid and partners could roll out to make women's UCW visible in Nepal. Our partner organisations also took this understanding and concepts in local level as well. UCW, though regarded as new issue during 2012 is now being massively discussed giving rise to some perceptible impacts. A total of 7,123 PLiP have been sensitised on Unpaid Care Work (UCW). The process of time diary has also been playing a major role in ascertaining the evidence of time spent by women on UCW.

The objective of quality education focuses on integrated response to advance free and quality education at basic level and reinvigorate popular education. Quality education ensures education that is essential in the holistic development of an individual. It focuses on learning which strengthens the capacities of children to act progressively on their own behalf through the acquisition of relevant knowledge, useful skills and appropriate attitudes. Child Centered Learning (CCL) is one of the approaches that are promoted in 206 schools in the working areas for maintaining the standard and quality of education. Schools are applying this approach while trainings are being provided from different organisations working in the field of education. Some students from private school have also shifted to community-managed schools in Morang and Tehrathum due to the CCL approach and English medium teaching.

Right to Education (RTE) is promoted with frameworks like Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS), CER (Citizen Education Reports) and MOST (Mobile Onsite Support Team). The REFLECT participants, LRP partners and education watch groups are using PRS as a framework to improve quality of learning. The

process is equally contributing to enhance the participation of parents, children, teachers' unions, SMCs/PTA, communities and local civil society organisations in collectively monitoring and improving the quality of public education.

Along with the promotion of quality learning, and strengthening public education system, AAIN also aims to provide safe education to school going children. More than just assessment of the school system, in facilitation of the PNGOs, 129 schools conducted PVA of schools to address potential hazards and climate change. An initiative was also taken for such concept to be incorporated in the school curriculum.

REFLECT Circle is a platform for the PLiP and marginalised people, especially women to reflect upon their situation and take a collective action to solve their issues and problems identified in their communities. The Circle focuses on the dissemination of popular education which is regarded as one of the most effective tools of adult empowerment. This Circle apart from being an empowerment tool also concentrates on adult education, especially educating women. 2070 participants have been able to read and write through REFLECT Circles while 8149 rights holder are well-informed about civic education.

AAIN engagement on Mahakali, Gandak and Koshi river campaigns was continued this year as well in partnership with Forum for Local Development in Kanchanpur, INDRENI in Nawalprasi and Abhiyan Nepal in Koshi. Water commons is a national and cross-border issue and is linked to water politics. AAIN and its partners have been organising various workshops, meetings and trainings from local to national level to amplify the issues of water commons.

AAIN in partnership with Institute for Governance and Development (IGD) organised "International Participatory Democracy Conference" in December 2013. The conference was a step forward towards participatory democracy discourse building on the experiences from "National Conference on Participatory Democracy in Nepal" held in 2012. The evolution of a platform "Forum for

Participatory Democracy" at national level has connected itself to eastern and western regions of Nepal too. It was envisioned to establish forum as a common platform to trigger discourses contributing to national development strategies of democracy and democratisation, develop web-based information sharing platform, continue research through fellowship, development of popular primers and issue based discourses to develop and strengthen critical mass on democratisation of democracy.

AAIN took lead in the Social Mobilisation and Local Accountability output of LGCDP-II in Strategic Implementation Plan development process. AAIN proposed a Livelihood Improvement Programme in Citizen's Awareness Center (REFLECT), harmonisation of social mobilisation tools and techniques, Ward Citizen's Forum as entry point for development activities, institutionalisation of democratic practices such as reformation of Ward Citizen's Forum as well. Government has appreciated the constructive engagement of AAIN in developing the strategic implementation plan. It has also seek the support to develop the training materials and capacity development of stake holders in implementation of social mobilisation and local accountability initiatives of LGCDP-II.

AAIN continued its engagement in promoting social audit as a process of ensuring accountability and transparency practice. In this light, AAIN held its 10th National Social Audit in 2013 with representatives from concerned government line agencies, various networks, federations and alliances, representatives from other I/NGOs, representatives from bilateral and multilateral donor communities, and media representatives.

AAIN's long-term partnership programmes and projects at the field level are currently being implemented in 27 districts. Additionally, AAIN has short-term engagements with several other non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, alliances, networks and forums across the country.

Executive Summary

AAIN adopts a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) which encourages the conviction of people living in poverty (PLiP), women, Dalits and other marginalised people to ask questions, claim rights, make decisions and hold institutions to account. It reaffirms the role of popular struggles, social justice movements and civil society actions for rights conscientiousness conscientisation and the transformation of unequal power relations.

AAIN refers to all its programmes as rights programmes, which is being implemented at local, national and international levels. From 2012, AAIN has been referring to its long-term partnership programmes and projects at the field level as Local Rights Programmes (LRP). A Total of 27 LRPs are being implemented now with two new LRPs that were initiated in Doti and Sankhuwasabha districts in 2013 where as, two LRPs of Batadi and Dang were phased out in 2013.

Agriculture is the mainstay of Nepalese livelihood system. In 2013, we continued our focus towards the promotion of sustainable agriculture for sustainable livelihood. Sustainable agriculture is based on the principle of agro-ecology, and farming practices based on farmers' knowledge, skill and local inputs are promoted across AAIN's working areas. AAIN closely worked with different farmer groups/cooperatives and networks to help build capacities in sustainable agriculture. Promotion of community seed banks, organic farming, and collective farming are some of the areas of intervention for the promotion of sustainable agriculture. At community level, an integrated method of community seed bank has been initiated to improve the farmers' access to quality seeds.

Land is more than monetary value since one cannot live without land nor labour without an access to it. It is a major source of power which determines the status of the people in society. In 2013, AAIN and its partner organizations continued a joint land ownership campaign underscoring women's rights to land which gained momentum with a focus on community sensitisation to pressurise political parties and government officials along with

land reform agenda. Various local groups like REFLECT Circles, Jana Sarokar Munch, Land Right Forum, farmers group, Mahila Ahikar Manch (MAM) and freed Haliya network were active in organising and mobilising the community people. AAIN with the LRP partners have been facilitating joint ownership on the land campaign aiming to protect women's rights to land. As a result, altogether 2093 women within our programme areas received joint or single land-ownership-certificate in 2013.

Nepal's geography, geology, climate and lack of proper infrastructure planning make the country extremely vulnerable to various types of disasters. In terms of building resilience to disaster, it implies to improving the capacity of the communities with respect to understanding resources, knowledge and skills. Taking all these into account, AAIN along with its partners carried out different initiatives and programmes with the disaster vulnerable communities to build resilience system and mechanism. A total of 1251 PLiP (especially disaster vulnerable communities), social mobilisers, students, and teachers from different LRPs received various components of disaster risk reduction training to fight against vulnerability such as Participatory Vulnerability Assessment (PVA), Disaster Management Plan (DMP), importance of early warning system etc. Through the Building Disaster Resilient Community (BDRC) project with Practical Action as the consortium partner 400 people (especially local government and school officials) were provided orientation on structural and non-structural vulnerability in Pokhara (Kaski).

AAIN's strategy on women's rights focuses on the integrated process for bringing about transformation in communities by engaging in women's sexual and reproductive health rights linking with VAW in both private and public sphere and overall economic justice to women with increased meaningful participation of women in decision-making level building their agency. Keeping strategy at the centre, AAIN works for the formation of agency of women and especially marginalised rural and urban poor women so that their contribution to the

institutions like family, community and the state is valued and recognised. Women's network/groups, Reflect circles, Mahila Adhikar Manch (MAM), VAW networks have been organised and capacitated to explore and address issues related to VAW and women's rights. A series of capacity building initiatives have been taken at the LRP and national level and as a result of which 560 women have been developed as women's rights leaders. These leaders are now actively engaging in ensuring women's political, social and economic rights by working together with women's movement to foster access to various services provisioned by the state and ensuring women's rights.

The concept of safe cities and public space is discussed and established in this year in order to address incidents and issues of VAW and girls and sexual harassment in public space including public transportation. Pilot initiatives of safe cities programs and campaigns are operationalised in Kathmandu, Morang, Chitwan and Makwanpur districts informed by participatory audience insight research and development of programming framework of safe cities. The issues related to sexual harassment and VAW and girls in public spaces and public transportation are massively discussed in REFLECT Circles, women's group at community, national level and the issues were also conversed with drivers, conductors, trade unions, police and other employees of transport sectors to sensitize them and also to make them accountable towards issue. An awareness campaign was also carried out using various tactics and also through social media building coalition with wider women's movement, networks and organizations. Two safe houses have been established in Chitwan and Makwanpur, initiated through Sakcham project, in order to provide victims a secured shelter, counseling and other services.

One of our major objectives is to make society sensitised about the contribution of women which can be achieved through due recognition, redistribution and reducing of workload of women that have been meted out to them in an unjust manner. Unpaid Care

Work (UCW) is about focusing on care economy for wider economic justice. Number of different training and capacity building initiative took place on UCW covering its framework and understanding in 2013. The capacity building workshops brought together government officials from MoA, Department of Social Security Fund, Labour department, CBS, National Women Commission, partner organisations. These workshops and trainings were an opportunity to develop an advocacy strategy on UCW that ActionAid and partners could roll out to make women's UCW visible in Nepal. Our partner organisations also took this understanding and concepts in local level as well. UCW, though regarded as new issue during 2012 is now being massively discussed giving rise to some perceptible impacts. A total of 7,123 PLiP have been sensitised on Unpaid Care Work (UCW). The process of time diary has also been playing a major role in ascertaining the evidence of time spent by women on UCW.

The objective of quality education focuses on integrated response to advance free and quality education at basic level and reinvigorate popular education. Quality education ensures education that is essential in the holistic development of an individual. It focuses on learning which strengthens the capacities of children to act progressively on their own behalf through the acquisition of relevant knowledge, useful skills and appropriate attitudes. Child Centered Learning (CCL) is one of the approaches that are promoted in 206 schools in the working areas for maintaining the standard and quality of education. Schools are applying this approach while trainings are being provided from different organisations working in the field of education. Some students from private school have also shifted to community-managed schools in Morang and Tehrathum due to the CCL approach and English medium teaching.

Right to Education (RTE) is promoted with frameworks like Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS), CER (Citizen Education Reports) and MOST (Mobile Onsite Support Team). The REFLECT participants, LRP partners and education watch groups are using PRS as a framework to improve quality of learning. The

process is equally contributing to enhance the participation of parents, children, teachers' unions, SMCs/PTA, communities and local civil society organisations in collectively monitoring and improving the quality of public education.

Along with the promotion of quality learning, and strengthening public education system, AAIN also aims to provide safe education to school going children. More than just assessment of the school system, in facilitation of the PNGOs, 129 schools conducted PVA of schools to address potential hazards and climate change. An initiative was also taken for such concept to be incorporated in the school curriculum.

REFLECT Circle is a platform for the PLiP and marginalised people, especially women to reflect upon their situation and take a collective action to solve their issues and problems identified in their communities. The Circle focuses on the dissemination of popular education which is regarded as one of the most effective tools of adult empowerment. This Circle apart from being an empowerment tool also concentrates on adult education, especially educating women. 2070 participants have been able to read and write through REFLECT Circles while 8149 rights holder are well-informed about civic education.

AAIN engagement on Mahakali, Gandak and Koshi river campaigns was continued this year as well in partnership with Forum for Local Development in Kanchanpur, INDRENI in Nawalprasi and Abhiyan Nepal in Koshi. Water commons is a national and cross-border issue and is linked to water politics. AAIN and its partners have been organising various workshops, meetings and trainings from local to national level to amplify the issues of water commons.

AAIN in partnership with Institute for Governance and Development (IGD) organised "International Participatory Democracy Conference" in December 2013. The conference was a step forward towards participatory democracy discourse building on the experiences from "National Conference on Participatory Democracy in Nepal" held in 2012. The evolution of a platform "Forum for

Participatory Democracy" at national level has connected itself to eastern and western regions of Nepal too. It was envisioned to establish forum as a common platform to trigger discourses contributing to national development strategies of democracy and democratisation, develop web-based information sharing platform, continue research through fellowship, development of popular primers and issue based discourses to develop and strengthen critical mass on democratisation of democracy.

AAIN took lead in the Social Mobilisation and Local Accountability output of LGCDP-II in Strategic Implementation Plan development process. AAIN proposed a Livelihood Improvement Programme in Citizen's Awareness Center (REFLECT), harmonisation of social mobilisation tools and techniques, Ward Citizen's Forum as entry point for development activities, institutionalisation of democratic practices such as reformation of Ward Citizen's Forum as well. Government has appreciated the constructive engagement of AAIN in developing the strategic implementation plan. It has also seek the support to develop the training materials and capacity development of stake holders in implementation of social mobilisation and local accountability initiatives of LGCDP-II.

AAIN continued its engagement in promoting social audit as a process of ensuring accountability and transparency practice. In this light, AAIN held its 10th National Social Audit in 2013 with representatives from concerned government line agencies, various networks, federations and alliances, representatives from other I/NGOs, representatives from bilateral and multilateral donor communities, and media representatives.

AAIN's long-term partnership programmes and projects at the field level are currently being implemented in 27 districts. Additionally, AAIN has short-term engagements with several other non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, alliances, networks and forums across the country.



THE CONTEXT

NATIONAL

Long awaited election of Constitution Assembly (CA) concluded along with unexpected political topsy-turvy. Candidates from both First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) and Proportionate Representation (PR) system representing various political parties have been confirmed; however inclusiveness like in earlier CA could not be achieved this time. This has become a major political shift in a country as it has also given a hope for development and completion of constitution making process. The alliance led by CPN-Maoists, a breakaway party of UCPN (Maoist) boycotted the election questioning the legitimacy of the electoral process as interim government was led by serving Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The periodic election gave opportunities for political leaders to once again reach ground and connect with people. They were welcomed for making election happen, but also in the meantime subjected to wrath of people for not being able to write constitution within the stipulated time. This situation also brought some opportunities for national and local level programmatic interventions.

PROGRAMME

Even though Nepal is said to be an agricultural country, the perception of the youth towards agriculture has not been positive as the statement per se. Land still has not been perceived as an opportunity by the youths of country. Agriculture still is less attracted sector when it comes to employment for the youth today. However, progress has been observed and low income household, marginal farmers, wage labour are making their livelihood from both on farm and off farm. Women's collective action and their progress such as farming akbare red chillies or weaving the dhaka fabric can be taken as some examples when it comes to changing the perspective of agriculture (off farm/ on farm) and employment opportunity.

Migration of the youth to the urban areas and foreign countries has increased for better services and employment. This migration phenomenon though contributed in income and better lifestyle of the households, has also directly increased the workload of women in the community. Now women besides working as homemakers are also subjected to agricultural works.

With increased number of farmers shifting towards organic production practices, safe and healthy products are available in the local towns and in the villages. However, use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides still remains an issue. Farmers have diversified their livelihood options such as vegetable farming, grocery shop, akbare chilli production, stinging nettle (sisnoo), production and marketing and dhaka weaving. These activities are mainly initiated by the women of the working areas. Notwithstanding the improvement in the quality of the products as mentioned above, the Nepalese farmers are not getting fair price as per the production cost due to the open boarder policy, where products are easily and cheaply brought in, from India.

Enhancing the internal efficiency and quality of education still remain a big challenge. There are lots of challenges to bring the public school education on right track because the accountability is hardly observed in public schools. Education in Nepal has been recognized as fundamental right of every citizen. But, a large majority of students' right to free education is violated as they are unable to pay users fee levied in different pretext largely due to government inability and inconsistency to monitor and adequately finance basic education. The physical infrastructures of the schools do not meet the bare minimum requirement for the delivery of quality education.

The influences of private schools are increasing as compared to the community and government schools even in rural and remote areas. Given this scenario, there is wider criticism that the government's huge investment for quality education is yet to yield satisfactory results. There is a growing realisation that all the education stakeholders should engage in the discourse of quality education of public school from local to national level to fulfill the gap in the days to come.

Engagement of National Women Commission (MWC) on various women's rights agenda including monitoring of VAW should be considered more active than earlier. Some major discourse on the issues such as abortion of girl child, property rights and women's rights in civil code could take place at national level. Likewise, UCW and even development of women's forum and networks are some major milestones. The various organisations including MAM got together to deal with various forms of exploitations; verbal, physical, and sexual among others thereby providing solidarity to this movement. Freed Kamlaris exerted pressure from ground to national level and became successful in influencing the government that gave rise to the 10-points-demand.

ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW

Mid-term Evaluation of AAIN by Social Welfare Council

ActionAid as a development organization is working in Nepal since 1982. It has signed a "General Agreement" with SWC as continuation on earlier agreement for another five years, spanning from December 2010 to December 2015. This mid-term evaluation is the outcome of the provision of the "General Agreement" and covers AAIN's operation and programmes. A group of consultants from SWC visited the programme areas of AAIN for the evaluation in June 2013 and report being produced and shared with AAIN and SWC.

Governance and Democratisation Programme (GDP)

Governance related initiatives like Participatory Democracy Initiative (PDI), Deepening Democracy (DD) and Health Governance were managed by Governance and Democratisation Initiative (GDI) team along with the thematic support to deliver the CSP objective on promoting good governance. This initiative was also taken up as a knowledge hub of the governance programme which contributed in the National Development Strategy. The past experiences have informed us to expand this work in LRP with elaborated knowledge and programme initiatives. By the end of 2013, it went through a phenomenon which led to the initial idea of integrating its aspects into the LRPs having cross cutting understanding of participatory democratic governance in other programmatic areas and now named as GDP.

AIDMATCH

The AIDMATCH project is funded by Irish Aid, covering Bardiya, Nawalparasi and Sankhuwasabha districts with Kamaiya Mahila Samaj, Inderni Social Development Forum and The Society Touch Nepal as the partner NGOs. The project has already begun delivering its services from August 2013 and will run through July 2016. The project has focus on the vulnerability of the women and youth pertaining to disaster. The project has an objective of making people resilient towards disasters vis-a-vis mitigating the effect of the calamities. It promotes the skills while developing capacities of these target groups. Besides disaster and mitigation, it covers the areas of food security livelihood and aspects of climate change education and awareness. The risk reduction and mitigation process involves many of the indigenous methods as well.

Strengthening Women's Collective Project

The SWC project is funded by European Commission covers Tehrathum district with

Dalit Awareness Society, Deurali Society and Prerana as the partner NGOs. The project has begun delivering its services and facilitation from March 2013 which will run through February 2016. The objective of the project is to increase women's equal access to and control over their incomes. This action will also make an important contribution to women's social and economic empowerment within their households, communities and decision-making structures from local to national or government level.

Expansion of LRP areas

Two LRPs in Doti and Sankhuwasabha districts started this year where AAIN carried out the appraisal of the area to initiate long-term partnership programme. An appraisal is an exercise undertaken to explore and understand the context, feasibility and value of new long-term partnerships and programmes on the basis of financial, technical and political considerations. It also includes in depth analysis of potential long term partners with possibility to meet requirements of different types of available funding and availability of technical capacity to make the programme a success.

ROTA: Quality Education through Disaster Resilient Schools

The ROTA project along with its local partner Forum for Awareness and Youth Activities Nepal (FAYA Nepal) concluded services in September 2013 in Kailali. National learning and sharing workshop was held in January at Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu where 64 participants that comprised of government officials, academicians, education journalists, representatives from donor agencies and INGOs attended the workshop. The project publications and video documentary were also displayed and disseminated during the workshop.

Building Disaster Resilient Community (BDRC)

BDRC Project with Practical Action as the consortium partner and Siddhartha Club and Community Support Group as local partners implemented DDR from January 2012 to December 2013 in Pokhara Sub-metropolitan in Kaski. An agreement was signed later for final evaluation following a preliminary draft report received from SWC evaluation team after field visits. The project was extended by one month in order to wrap up the project activities.

HROD Policy and Operational Documents

The HROD Policy was developed in line with new CSP IV. After various consultation process with staff, board and in an international level, the policy has been approved by AAIN's national board of governance. The HROD Policy will be ready to be rolled out in the first quarter of 2014. Along with the HROD Policy, many operational guidelines were also revised and developed in 2013. These included operational documents on recruitment of outsourced human resources, publication guidelines, department profiles, and HROD procedures, guidelines on development positions and annual performance review guidelines. These documents are being fine-tuned and aimed to be rolled out in 2014.

Handover of CRC managed LRPs

With the closure of Central Resource Centre (CRC) office which was based in Bharatpur, Chitwan, in 2012, the management of the CRC based LRPs have been handed over to Eastern Resource Center (ERC), Western Resource Center (WRC) and Kathmandu Country office (KCO). A review of the both Resource Centers was done during the last quarter of 2012 with assessments on programme operation, cost effectiveness and overall value addition. In 2013, based on the assessment the allocation of LRPs which was under CRC was handed over to concern Resource centers.

PROGRAMME Overview

AAIN has set its programme priorities building on the context of various levels, reviewing the performance and experience of its previous interventions. PLiP are always at the centre of its intervention. AAIN focuses its programmes and organisational priorities while designing plan and budget. It focuses on result based intervention which is ensured through various systems, structures and frameworks.

This objective will centre on building an integrated response to enable people living in poverty and marginalised people to ensure food security and resilient livelihood systems, covering both "on and off farm" opportunities. We will facilitate this by empowering people living in poverty and marginalised people to claim and enjoy economic rights and advance policy propositions to ensure: i) suitable agriculture for public investment; ii) pro-poor economic policies, institutions and infrastructures; iii) an end to gender discrimination around ownership of resources and wages; iv) rights to natural resources and their sustainable use for ensuring food security; v) accountability of service providers; and viii) the sustainable use of natural resources.

Objective 1

Ensure improved livelihoods and build disaster resilient communities by enabling people living in poverty and marginalised people to claim productive resources.

This objective aims to build an integrated response for overall democratization of policy spaces and governance mechanisms, and for transforming the attitudes and behavior of duty bearers and social elites. We will do this by enabling and empowering people living in poverty and marginalised people to claim and enjoy their rights and advance policy propositions to: i) advance political representation and participation in decision-making bodies; ii) facilitate public accountability seeking mechanisms; iii) build capacity to influence the state's annual planning process; iv) monitor and advocate for quality and equity in basic services; v) facilitate alternative policy forums and critical discourses for national development strategies; and vi) link politics of mobilization with alternative knowledge-building.

Objective 2

Facilitate political advancement of people living in poverty and marginalized people to hold duty bearers to account, develop propositions for national development strategies and deepen democracy

Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)

The HRBA is central to AAIN's fight against poverty and injustice, and the empowerment of people to claim and exercise their rights. In order to enjoy their rights, people need to understand and be empowered to claim them, with the solidarity and support of others. It always ensures PLiP at the center of its programme interventions

Objective 3

Engage with women and girls to build their active agency to challenge and take action against all forms of discrimination and injustice against their body, sexuality and unequal burden of work

This objective focuses on building an integrated response to changing women's conditions and positions and to identifying, analyzing, challenging and taking action against patriarchy in all its forms. We will do this by building the active agency of marginalised women to claim and enjoy their rights and advance policy propositions to: i) have their productive contribution to the family, community and state recognized; ii) challenge patriarchal values and harmful traditional practices; iii) address gender-based discrimination and violence in public and private realms; iv) facilitate national development strategies from a feminist perspective; v) ensure female participation in decision-making bodies at all levels; and vi) facilitate leadership-building of marginalised women.

Objective 4

Support all children to attain quality education in a safe and equitable environment

This objective aims to build an integrated response to advance free and quality basic education and reinvigorate popular education. It strives to enable children and young people from poor and marginalised communities to develop into drivers of change and harness the potential of adult literacy towards broader democratization of society. We will do this by enabling and empowering citizens' groups, people's organizations and social justice movements to advance education rights and policy propositions to: i) advance accountability in public schools; ii) promote child-centered learning; iii) mainstream the Promoting rights in schools framework in selected public schools; iv) promote a culture of safety in public schools; and v) reinvigorate popular education.

Review

NATURAL RESOURCES AND LIVELIHOOD

Agriculture is the mainstay of Nepalese livelihood system. Therefore, our main focus will be towards the promotion of sustainable agriculture for sustainable livelihood.

However, given the context of natural resources for agricultural production (water and land) getting scarce, other economic alternatives for improving the situation of pro-PLiP should not be undermined. Land is more than monetary value since one cannot live without land nor labour without an access to it. It is a major source of power which determines the status of the people in society.

Land and Agrarian Reform Movement and Engagement in Policy Formulation

Land and agrarian reform movement deals with farmers' rights to land and overall progress of agriculture sector. The land right movement focuses on tenancy rights, women rights to land and land for shelter for the squatters. Land reforms are not only about demanding their

rights to land but responsibility of taxes incurred while using land. These taxes paid open up opportunities for landless farmers to access government services.

Women rights to land speaks about women's single and joint land ownerships along with the whole system of state handling land and its endeavours of land reform. Since 2012, the joint land ownership campaign underscoring women's rights to land got momentum with focus on community sensitisations to pressurise political parties, government officials along with land reform agenda. Various local groups like REFLECT Circles, Jana Sarokar Manch, Land Right Forum, Land learning centres, farmers group, MAM and freed Haliya network were utilised actively in organising and mobilising the community people. They conducted awareness programmes and networking for legal orientation, mass conscientisation through media and policy discourse with key stakeholders.



Vegetable nursery training

AAIN contributed to this national level policy formulation remaining a part of the working committee formed for the reviewing of the national land policy. The policy has been prepared and circulated by the government for comments for which discussions on the draft have taken place at the village and district level with experts on land and natural resources. Dialogues and suggestions were integrated in the process to ensure the voices and needs of the local farmer from different levels.

The long awaited Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) was formulated and submitted to the government. There were many debates and discussions around the ADS formulation process and its content as well. Citizens' perspectives were submitted to the government to review the strategy and make it farmer- friendly where AAIN and its alliances were actively involved.

Despite such movement in progress, we still cannot close our eyes to the male dominated society which limits women's access to land. Here again, patriarchy might not be the sole responsibility for the limited access of land rights to women. Lack of awareness, the legal provision and discriminative thinking towards women's ownership of land can be major challenges.

Land is not considered only a means of production, but a major source of power and prestige to the people. Therefore, AAIN with the LRP partners have been facilitating the campaign for joint ownership on land aiming to protect women's right to land. After series of orientation, social mobilisation and policy discourse with key stakeholders,

advocates and land activists different land related forums have shown their solidarity to achieve this common goal. Land Rights Forums in various districts are spearheading a campaign for joint land ownership and single land ownership of women to ensure their rights to land.

As a result, altogether 2,093 women have received joint or single land-ownership-certificate. The ownership of land by women resulted into a practice of including women in household decision making processes. It has not only enhanced their confidence but also the elevated increased number of women having legal title to land has ultimately increased women's stake in family and enhanced their dignity in society. It has provided a room for women whereby they can involve in income generation activities such as taking bank loan, starting small entrepreneurs in order to live a dignified life.

Access to and Control over Natural Resources

Natural resources (land, water, forest etc)

are the key sources of livelihood for PLiP and marginalised people although access and control over natural resources of those communities are still questionable across the working areas. Most of the resources are captured by elite masses. When we talk about access to resources, community forest is one of the most important natural resources for rural population. With an aim to ensure PLiP and marginalised people's access to and control over natural resources, partners NGOs have been advocating and working closely with concern government authorities and groups and alliances. As a result of continuous advocacy and lobbying, community people have increased their access to community forests throughout the LRPs. This indicates access of people especially women, small holder farmers to community forests at a significant level.

A total of 39 PLiP have been able to make a net income of NRs. 5,600 from selling bamboo canes and mango fruits after leasing 3 hectares land of Aishwarya Ban Batika of Lalgadh, Dhanusha.



Community involved in farming

Likewise, Saraswati REFLECT Circle has been able to make NRs. 25,000 as net income from selling fishes while leasing a pond of Bhimsen CFUGs at Hadiya VDC in Udayapur. A total of 35 women have been able to represent and take leadership roles in CFUG in Tehrathum district. Similarly, Thami community of Kalingchowk and Khopachu VDCs of Dolakha succeeded in reaching an agreement for leasing 10 hectares of land for 10 years with Gaurishankar Conservation Area for collective herbal farming. They have earned NRs. 350,000 this year directly benefitting 65 families.



Thami community involved in herbal plantation

Acquisition of Identity Card

The government announced to provide 5 (1690 square meter) to 10 katthas (3380 square meter) of land to each of landless squatter families in villages and 5(84.645 square meter) to 10 dhurs (169.29 square meter) to each of such families in the urban areas as per the recommendations of High-Level Landless Squatters' Problems Resolution Commission. Unfortunately, the Commission has already been dissolved prior to the implementation its recommendation by the incumbent government. Thus, 10,636 landless people submitted application in facilitation of AAIN's partner organisations for recognition as landless squatter dwellers in concerned districts, except Tehrathum. Even amid political dispute and instability in different districts, some of the districts have been able to identify squatter landless people. After verification by district committee, 2,333 landless squatter families out of 10,636 received squatters identity cards including around 358 people in Dhanusha, Udayapur and Morang districts.

Bonded Life of Haliya

Haliya is a label given to an agricultural bonded labour who works on land owned by others. Haliya the bonded labour are counted to be 20,000 in total who are living under miserable conditions in mid and far-west regions of Nepal. Despite government's historic declaration of liberating Haliyas, their status is still disconsolate. It has come to public notice that the good numbers of freed Haliyas are still subjected to bonded labour in Bajura due to the dominant power of landlords associated with loan which is legally prohibited. The local partners in Bajura have launched campaigns to take the Haliyas out of loan as per policy provisions. As a result, 175 out of 234 Haliyas have been freed from their loan amount of NRs. 15,76,000 in working VDCs. Starting from 2013, their identification and loan free campaign has been carried out intensively and 771 out of 1,365 Haliyas have received Haliya identification card due to regular discussions at Reflect Circles.

Promoting Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable agriculture as a movement is directly concerned with farming methods based on peasants' knowledge and local inputs across working the LRPs. AAIN closely worked with different farmers' groups, cooperatives and networks to help build capacities of local farmers in areas of sustainable agriculture. Promotion of sustainable agriculture takes into account the technical aspects of farming such production, processing and marketing, agro-biodiversity management and other aspects such as, gender, farmers institutions. With increased awareness about the sustainable use of natural resources and safety and quality of products from organic farming, considerable number of farmers in the LRP areas are in the process of transforming to the sustainable way of farming.

The availability of quality seed plays a vital role in enhancing sustainable agriculture. While looking from the livelihood perspectives, production or the quality of production depends up on

sustainable methods of agriculture. There is also a need for promoting the aspects of agro biodiversity to ensure food security in few working areas that are reeling under food scarcity problems.

At community level, community seed banks have been initiated to improve the farmers' access to quality seeds. Community seed banks are important initiatives in agro-biodiversity conservation for food security. Seeds bank is very essential in promoting sustainable agriculture which is used for preservation of the local seeds that is aimed at strongly discouraging hybrid seeds. Seven community seed banks have been initiated by LRP partners namely SSDC, SN, HRC, Peacewin and Muslim Samaj. Two community seed banks are established in Jumla by RDGP. Altogether 13 varieties of local seeds have been collected and stored in these banks. This initiative is the beginning for the realization of seed rights and food security and has also supported farmers groups besides knowledge building for seed rights and sustainable agriculture. It has been observed that such concept, methodology, management and policy advocacy of community seed bank initiatives should be further strengthened in LRPs. Nevertheless, LRPs are taking initiative bringing together the stakeholders and communities in terms of promoting seed rights and promoting sustainable agriculture practices.

Registration of framers group is an aspect that binds the small farmers and framers group to get institutionalised thereby persuading the government to become accountable by providing various services entitled to the framers. The process of registration itself is a major aspect in empowerment of the farmers. Therefore, the framers in coordination and facilitation

of partner organisations have registered their groups in respective district development offices. The outcome of this programme was the engagement of farmers groups getting involved in collective farming in barren land or cultivating on lease-land while securing necessary inputs from different government and non-government organisations. Farmers are now able to secure their budget for quality agriculture services and inputs which includes information on seeds, seed banks, fertilisers, technical supports in irrigation from the VDCs itself.

The promotion of kitchen garden has also been gaining momentum in the working areas. Establishment of kitchen garden has contributed to improved nutritional status of the family through diversified food intake and also contributed to family income by selling the surplus.

PNGOs have been helping impart skill and knowledge on sustainable agriculture to the small holders. After knowing the adverse effects of chemical fertiliser and pesticide on ecology and economy, 102 small holders have minimised the usage of chemical fertiliser. Altogether 65 farmers have been trained in compost making under 'One house, one compost pit' campaign. Out of which, 30 households have prepared and are using compost in their fields in Udayapur.

The above mentioned initiative has helped PLiP and marginalised communities across the working areas of AAIN lessen the expenditure in purchasing vegetables and fertilisers. Besides improving food security at community and individual levels, sustainable agriculture practices practice have contributed to improved ecological health and empowered many landless and small holders,.

CASE STUDY

SEED BANKS SPROUT IN JUMLA

With an aim of protecting local seeds and help promote institutional capacity of community seed banks, an initiative was taken by RGDP, Jumla. The initiative had focus on creating a linkage between the farmers group underscoring framers' rights to seeds and sustainability of farming per seed rights.

In 2013, RGDP expanded its capacity to supporting framers group, educating the framers on networking as well as awareness and capacity building. Two community seed banks were established in Depalgau and MahatguaVDCs. Together 55 community members, comprising 28 females and 14

males from Dalit community got associated with the programme. This initiative also provided trainings and orientation on farmers' rights to seeds, treatments of seeds and seed banks management. As a result, 15 varieties of local seeds were collected in the seed banks. It also brought different organisations working in the protection and preservation of seeds together to form a network which later transformed into district network with 17 members from 14 different community seed banks in Jumla. A workshop organised by DADO with different other organisations such as DDC, World Vision, RDGP and NARC recommended adoption of separate strategy for the promotion of seed banks and their sustainability.

CASE STUDY

AKARKARA; A MEDICINE FOR IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD

"I earned 75,000 rupees by selling akarkara, a medicinal herb, in the last season. The earnings had been of great help in supporting livelihood of my family and also buying stationeries for my son. I am feeling great!" says Manita Uraw, 25, who lives in Biruwaguthi village of Parsa district with her husband, a son and father and mother-in-laws.

Manita continues, "I had a small agricultural field where I used to grow wheat that would sustain only 3 months in a year. For the rest of the year, I would resort to labour works and faced difficulty in fulfilling all the needs of my household.

As informed by Manita, they have a REFLECT Circle named 'Women's Claim Centre' where 29 women from the village are involved. Here women come with pens and exercise books to learn, read and write for an hour followed by a discussion on alternative ways of earning livelihood that lasts another one hour. While discussing, one day they came up with two

alternatives, either farming tobacco or medicinal herbs. As tobacco causes harm to human health, they thought of opting for medicinal herb. During the discussion they identified a medicinal herb called akarkara which was being used by a large factory in their district to produce herbal products.

"With proper idea and orientation from ActionAid, we went to the factory and put forward our thoughts", Manita recalls, "The factory got interested and sent their experts to test our soil. The test gave us a green signal. Following the testing phase, the company gave us the seeds for free. We cultivated it and sold the root (the main herbal part) to the factory at 450 rupees per kilo. The akarkara farming has not improved my life alone but also of 15 other women."

**Promoting Women as entrepreneur**

AAIN along with its local partners gives priority to indigenous skills and traditional technical skills such as knitting the dhaka fabric or growing akbare chilly in its working areas. Hatbazar being the local market for both men and women traders, accessing to its management committee is still far-fetched for women given the existing social norms and non-recognition of their productive role.

Thus one hatbazar management committee has been reformed in Morahang VDC of Tehrathum to enhance women's involvement in economic

activities and in market sphere in close coordination with VDC office. The committee comprises of 21 members where 9 members are from women collectives while 3 are government representatives. The market is also supported with construction of 8 stalls where 3 stalls are allocated for local women traders and women farmers. A proper area for haatbazar is also fixed in coordination with Agricultural Development Area Office and VDC.

Promoting Secured and Sustainable Livelihood

AAIN along with the partner organisations while identifying local potential

indigenous knowledge and its market strategy, promoted different levels of technical off/on-farm capacity building trainings to PLiP across its LRP for better livelihood.

AAIN and its partners initiated a mechanism called "Start and improve your business" to develop entrepreneurship capacities for sustainable livelihood. Such action helps build understanding about the importance of entrepreneurship development and its connection with women's economic empowerment. They can also build their knowledge and skills on market understanding, analysing the risks and opportunities associated with business, building relationship with market and developing their business plan accordingly. Such initiatives help promote capacities of PLiP and eventually transform them into entrepreneurs.

After realising the potential areas of business such as akbare chilli and ginger cultivation, dhaka weaving, wool production, poultry farming, stinging nettle production, candle making, herbal plantation, fisheries, and pigs/ goats rearing, partner organisations designed different levels of capacity building activities including exposure visits for the groups. This has opened up avenues for women to identify the areas of their expertise, interest and knowledge in order to kick start potential businesses.

As a result, a total of 160 small farmers successfully indulged in collective farming in Morang, Dhanusha, Kapilvastu, Dang, and Bara districts where each of them could make earnings of approximately

CASE STUDY

I AM ABLE TO FEED NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO MY FAMILY

"I am very happy with the increased income through vegetable farming. This year I have earned 10,000 rupees in one season, however, I'm growing more vegetables now. With increment in my income I need not take loans to meet medical expenses of my family, rather I am able to feed fresh nutritious foods to my family. I am very happy to live a life of dignity," says Ashakali Tharu, 35, from Shivpur village in Kapilvastu.

Ashakali has five members in her family including two sons. Her two children study in class ten and seven while her spouse works as an agricultural labourer. Ashakali continues, "This (increased) income has really helped in my children's education and health. But,



situation was not same in earlier days. I had difficulties to meet household needs from the sole income of my husband. I thank ActionAid for providing training on vegetable farming which opened a new source of income to women like me."

ActionAid along with the local partners has provided two-days-long vegetable farming training to 100 people of Kapilvastu. Among them 50 people are doing commercial vegetable farming which has helped them to boost up their income.

NRs. 10, 000 per month. The farmers in Rasuwa have started collecting and producing medicinal herbs that fetches them a whopping NRs.27,00,000. Similar case has surfaced in Udayapur where small farmers are harnessing economic benefits by converting stinging nettle into ready-to-eat-powder. Fish collection centres initiated by three communities; Mahji, Musahar and Bote have even started earning NRs. 21,000 every season.

Such initiatives are not only promoting the ideas for secured livelihood but also sharing the importance of collective actions for better results. The module for collective farming and selling the products collectively is getting popularity.

While entrepreneurship being promoted, the gap of market areas has also been fulfilled with the introduction of Haatbazar Management Committee in Morahang VDC of Tehrathum. This concept in coordination with VDC has directly increased the involvement of women in

economic activities. This haatbazar (a local market-place) boasts eight stalls where placements for three individuals are reserved for local women traders/farmers to help involve them in economic activities. Likewise, Bajura Entrepreneur Promotion Committee has been established to promote local production and now they are in process of establishing three small entrepreneur promotion centres selling local woolen clothing, agro-based and other handmade products.

Food Security Campaign in Bajura

Food security situation is severe in the hills and mountains of mid and far-western regions of Nepal. AAIN has been working with the local partner organisation in Kolti of Bajura district to reduce the plight of food scarcity. The state of food scarcity is attributed to many factors, mainly socio-economic conditions, political and natural environment. AAIN and the LRP partners of Bajura have engaged in the process of mass conscientisation and empowerment of groups, networks and alliances pertaining to the agenda of food security and sustainable agriculture.

"I realised after the exposure visit that it (akbare) is not just a chilli but a precious red gold, and we can harvest more if we work collectively and labouriously."

– Devi Maya Shrestha, Bipun Women Collectives, Ambung

"We want to make our dhaka weaving group as a model group in our VDC."- Shantila Khapung, Īaktanglung Women Collectives

With an aim of overcoming this food scarcity situation, Hunger Free Campaign was launched in July 2013 in Kolti through a concerted effort of MAM in coordination with HRC, PEACEWIN and PUSH Bajura. Altogether 200 community women and inhabitants of Kolti participated in a rally chanting slogans like "Adha roti khaiyo, abhayanma aiyo" (We rather eat half piece of bread but we support the campaign), "Rati rati chamal bechna paidaina adhikarko hanan garna paidaina" (you cannot snatch away our rights, by selling rice during the night) and so on. Given the shortage of rice (to use as seeds) during the paddy plantation season, community people worried about the production of paddy until its harvest. More than 80 per cent populace from 11 VDCs depend entirely on Khadya Dipo (a state run store for food grains) the entire year except 3 months of their own domestic production.

Through the campaign people protested against unavailability of food grains at food store as well as unaccountability of local authority towards fulfilling people's basic needs and also pressurised the store for quick service by giving them an ultimatum of 3 days. Otherwise, they would protest until their demands are responded by the authorities. In this way, Kolti Khadya Dipo relayed the people's demand to District Agricultural Office in Martadi and the latter eventually took the issue to the highest authority in Kathmandu. As soon as the demand letter was submitted to the aforementioned authorities, a total of 200 quintals of rice got transported from Surkhet to Kolti.

Work Equal, Pay Equal

A provision for the fixation of minimum wage is enshrined in The Labour Act (1992) as per the recommendations made by Minimum Wage Fixation Committee. Despite continuing efforts by partner organisations, equal and fair pay for women and men still remains an issue across the working districts. PNGOs along with Agriculture Labour Union and other stakeholders have worked together several times on inclusive representation and fair wage practices. They also discussed the matter frequently and pressurised the concerned authorities to implement fair wages at local level.

Advocacy and lobbying efforts eventually resulted in the increment of wages by NRs. 50 to NRs. 200 across the working areas. Likewise, one kilogram of food grains increased for agriculture labour in working areas of Dibya Yuba Club in Parsa, a local partner of AAIN. Now, a labour receives 7 kilos of wheat or rice as a daily wage.

The wage rate for women increased from NRs. 250 to NRs. 300 in Bajura; from NRs. 150 to NRs. 320 in Nawalparasi; from NRs. 350 to NRs. 375 in Bardiya and from NRs. 250 to NRs. 350 in working VDCs of Kapilvastu as per the wage rate fixed by District Wage Fixation Committee. Mobilisation of the Land Rights Forum, Jana Sarokar Manch, land right activists and REFLECT Circles is proving to be instrumental in advocating equal and fair wages in Nawalparasi.

The wage rate practiced relatively higher than that set by the committees in particular areas needs to be reviewed periodically with consultation of wage

labour community. There is a gap between strategic campaign plan and policy analysis of fair and equal wage.

Securing Shelter for Freed Kamaiyas (FK)

AAIN has continued supporting low cost housing for freed Kamaiya families. In 2013, a total of 25 houses were constructed in Dang through local partner RHERI with the financial support of First Hand Charity Challenge based in the UK. It has not only ensured their rights to shelter but also saved them from monsoon and wild animals hazards. Besides, it has created opportunity for their children to attend school regularly thereby increasing their attendance in the community schools. The low cost housing programme was effective in four districts namely Bardiya (RKJS), Kailali (FAYA NEPAL and SBBM), Kanchanpur (NNSWA) and Dang. All together 1150 houses have been built so far since 2004.

Most of the freed Kamaiyas are still fighting for livelihood, thus, are compel to work as wage earners at local landlords' farm, brick kiln, or construction site in the urban area to meet their basic necessities. AAIN has facilitated income generating activities such as on/off vegetable farming, poultry farming and also enhanced vocational skills to promote alternative employment opportunities for freed Kamaiya families of Gangapraspur VDC in Dang.



Shelter and drinking water support for freed kamaiya

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE

Nepal's geography, geology, climate and lack of proper infrastructure planning make the country extremely vulnerable to various types of disasters. These are evident by the exponential rise in the frequency as well as severity of disaster impacts that hit the nation. People's ability to be resilient and to claim their rights will be essential for them to adapt to climate change, respond to and rebuild after disasters.

Building resilience means understanding and addressing the root causes of vulnerability (social exclusion, lack of access, lack of access to natural resources and lack of assets and economic opportunities) with an integrated approach. In terms of building resilience to disaster, it implies to improving the capacity of the communities with respect to understanding resources, knowledge and skills. Taking all these into account, AAIN along with its partners carried out different initiatives and programmes with the disaster vulnerable communities to build resilience system and mechanism.

CAPACITY AND KNOWLEDGE BUILDING ON DISASTER

Capacity and knowledge building is crucial in mainstreaming DRR into development. A total of 1251 PLiP (especially disaster vulnerable communities), social mobilisers, students, teachers etc from different LRPs acquired knowledge on various components of disaster in order to fight against its vulnerability, through PVS, DMP, importance of early warning system etc.

CASE STUDY

AWARENESS BUILDING IN FIRE AFFECTED COMMUNITY

Ram Udgar Yadav of Aurahi 5, Siraha deems disaster preparedness to be very essential because a small carelessness can result into a big disaster. A total of 461 houses were ravaged by fire rendering many families displaced. The inferno incurred huge collateral losses also claiming a life of one child. Ram Udgar expressed that, had they had the skills and knowledge of rescue operations they would not have suffered that much. Addressing this community's need a three-day-long disaster preparedness orientation and fire fighting training was facilitated by LRP partner Dalit Janakalyan Yuwa Club to help build the community capacity building on disaster preparedness.

Promod Kumar Rajak, one of the participants of training is now engaged in spreading his learning from the training with other community members to prevent losses and reoccurrence of such disasters. He along with other participants are organising meetings to spread basic messages for preparedness like keeping match boxes far from reach of children, keeping a bucket of water in the kitchen, putting off fire properly after cooking

especially if the kitchen is inside the house. Bamboo houses must be covered with mud to keep away fire. The results of such efforts are now seen in the community, as they are now applying the messages in daily lives.

Gangaram Yadav of Aurahi 6, another participant expresses that during disaster the priority be given to rescuing pregnant women, elderly people and children. It is necessary to plant trees around the house for safety. Amerika Devi suggests that they need to keep essential contact numbers of Red Cross, police, District Disaster Relief Committee, ambulance, fire brigade for the reporting and rescue purposes.

Community members are now practicing their learning about disaster preparedness, to ensure safety. They are now taking up household campaigns for awareness rising on disaster preparedness. Community level disaster management committee is also formed to discuss on disaster related issues and create disaster management fund in the community. All 461 houses gutted in the fire are now rehabilitated and the households have also opted for improved local stoves for cooking discarding the traditional ones.

Through Building Disaster Resilient Communities (BDRC) project in Pokhara, 400 people (especially local government and school officials) were provided orientation on structural and non-structural vulnerability. This sort of capacity building programme imparted great amount of awareness and knowledge on how to take preventive modes for being safe and secured. They

also understood the significance of PVA and use of this assessment to develop local early warning mechanism.

PARTICIPATORY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT (PVA)

PVA can be referred to as a tool, process or a mechanism where communities get involved to identify their vulnerability due to disaster. In the due process community

people are educated on possible hazards and mechanism to minimise the impact by creating groups to inform the community about local early warning system, establishing emergency funds, developing disaster management committees and plans. Altogether 86 PVAs were conducted in various communities of the LRPs and project areas. The process helped the communities prepare the disaster management plan (DMP) in order to cope and reduce the possible hazards.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN (DMP)

Though disaster is the natural phenomena (natural hazard) we can reduce the risk and can be safe to an extent. After the conduction of PVA, disaster management plans were prepared in order to reduce the risk faced by the vulnerable communities. In this regard, our partner organisations facilitated the communities prepare DM plan and as result of this, they have been able to prepare 83 DM plan in different LRPs and project areas. The retrofitting of some schools which are in risk, establishment of emergency fund, construction of retaining walls and dams are some measures needed to be carried out for safer and protected livelihood. Therefore, with facilitation of DMCs, the activities listed in the DM plan were incorporated in VDC planning.

Emergency Fund

Establishing emergency fund has been coming up as a good practice, in order to reduce or mitigate the hazard faced by marginalised and vulnerable communities and provide immediate response/ relief to the disaster victims. With initiation by AAIN's local partner HRC, airlines services sectors and local stakeholders of

CASE STUDY

PVA AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS

"It's not a single risk; we are rather entangled with many risks of disasters. We came to know this really during the participatory vulnerability analysis. We, the dwellers of our tole prepared the vulnerability map in-front of all by drawing lines on the ground as per the guidance of BDRC facilitators. The map showed the areas of risks in our tole and its vicinity," recounts Sunita Chhetri, 24, of Pokhara Sub- metropolitan, Ward No. 11, Subhakamana Tole. According to the women gathered during the interaction for case-study the elderly people in the PVA shared their experiences of disasters that occurred in thier tole and its neighbourhoods in the past. But, the women as a group had a transect walk of the tole from the top to the bottom, observing the possibility of disasters in every nook and corner. "We like the PVA methodology as everyone avails not an opportunity to put forward his or her opinions and views in identifying the foremost risks but also come up with suggestions or means for protecting the community from possible disasters. Therefore, the PVA methodology is very

effective", opine the residents of Subhakamana tole.

Lok Darshan Koirala, VDC Secretary of Ward No. 9 of Pokhara Sub-metropolitan deems the project's strategy of conducting PVA exercises an effective means. He reiterates, "The project has organised PVA exercises in schools where many people gathers at a given point of time or the vulnerable communities that are always at the perils of disasters. Moreover, the PVA exercises conducted at ward level witnessed an encouraging participation of people of all quarters, that included the elderly people who had experiences of the devastating earthquake of 1934 (1990 B.S.) to people representing different political parties, social workers, women, youths as well as people from vulnerable communities." In PVAs, the participants not only discussed disaster or post disaster situations but also found to be keenly discussing about measures to be adopted in pre disaster situations. This helped PVA participants develop better understanding of disasters vis-a-vis protecting themselves in the events of disasters.



Participatory vulnerability ranking exercise

Kolti, the 21st council meeting of Bajura has formally established an emergency fund titled “district level emergency disaster management fund”. A total of NRs. 231, 000 was collected for emergency responses over the period of 2013. Four disaster victims have been supported by this fund. This has been a good practice for generating local resources, building solidarity on disaster management and encouraging the private sectors to uphold their promises of corporate social responsibility as well. Likewise, in most of the LRPs, communities have been able to establish emergency fund thereby getting immediate response in case of disaster occurrence. BDRC project supported NRs. 15, 00,000 for establishing DM fund in the Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City. Municipality has allocated additional amount of NRs. 10, 00,000 which has certainly brought about trust within the



Community involved in road maintenance after being affected by flood in Bardiya

Support to DDRC/DEOC in Disaster Preparedness and Response Planning

There are trained human resources with the DDRC (in the security forces) but as the DDRC/DEOC lack rescue equipments and gears, they have not been able to mobilise the human resources during emergency. While responding to their request, the BDRC project has provided rescue gears and other equipments that can be used during earthquake, fire and flood for the team of 50 rescuers. Additionally project has provided some equipment that can be used to rescue the people from gorge and sink holes, a very recurring accident in Kaski district. Some equipment such as deep water diving and power cutters are in the procurement process and will be transferred once available. This whole process has made the rescue team very confident. They expressed that now they are comfortable and confident while rescuing during the time of disaster.

government system while discharging relief mechanism to vulnerable communities.

Humanitarian Support for Disaster Victims

AAIN supported relief materials for 613 disaster victims this year. The Aurahi fire victims (2063 persons) have not been reported in this report since the incident occurred in 2012. However, the relief package was continued this year too. AAIN distributed relief supports to 134

families affected by the flooding in the Karnali River and supported nutritious foods to 15 women after their delivery period. Similarly bags and stationary were supported to around 200 flood victim children of Rajapur area through AAIN's LRP partner KMJS in coordination with District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC). AAIN and its partners have also extended their supports to the victims of fire outbreaks in various working areas. A fund amounting to NRs. 4000 has been secured and 75 kilos of rice accumulated



Simulation for Earthquake preparedness

by DMC in Aurahi in Siraha district. Around 1705 saplings were planted in Sundarpur VDC in Morang district. A total of 26 disaster management committees have been headed by women.

National Building Code in Pokhara

The Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City has taken lead role in the implementation of building code despite the big challenges in construction fields. BDRC project provided financial and technical supports

for effective implementation of the building code. Process guideline for implementation of NBC within municipality was prepared and approved by municipal board. Municipality has set forth minimum criteria, rules and regulations for construction of new buildings.

Action plan for NBC, focusing on its major processes facilitated the implementation. Compulsory registration and license system for contractors working in municipality for construction of new

buildings found very effective to ensure the safe building construction. The compliances of NBC at fields very much depend on capacity building of masons /contractors vis-a-vis orientation/ counseling to house owners rather than the stringent permit processes. Overall, safe building construction should be a common interest of community people to enforce NBC at ground level. BDRC project backed-up technically and financially while conducting major activities in this regard. Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) programme in the leadership of municipality and with technical and financial support of BDRC has also greatly contributed in awareness raising on safer construction and necessity of NBC.

Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City is moving forward with successful implementation of NBC in building permission and construction processes. It has set a good example of effective enforcement of NBC among the municipalities of Nepal after Lalitpur, Dharan and Byas municipalities.

National Building Code (NBC)

Nepal National Building Code is a set of standard practice document, in compliance with Building Act and Building Regulation and approved by Government of Nepal, which comprises of earthquake resistant design and construction technology taking in account of Nepal's geology, environment using locally available construction materials and technology as much as possible. It is an engineering tool for ensuring structural safety of buildings keeping in mind convenience of occupants. The main purposes of the building code are to protect public health, safety and general welfare as they relate to the construction and occupancy of buildings and structures. Nepal National Building Code has made provision that earthquake loads have to be considered along with the vertical loads when carrying structural analysis and design of buildings.

CASE STUDY

SITA YADAV; AN AGENT OF CHANGE

"The initiation of DMC formation has opened up an opportunity for community women to exercise their rights to participation and decision making on various issues," shares Sita Yadav, DMC Chairperson. According to her freedom for girls is confined within the socio-cultural cage, where a woman or a girl has to hide their faces behind the veils restricting themselves from participation and articulating their concerns in domestic and public spheres. She herself had been

subjected to punishment several times while trying to break the shackles of the patriarchy.

The same practice was evident during the initial stages of the DMC formations when women participation was very much restricted and discouraged on the basis of myths on gender role and abilities. Speeding up consultation amongst community women, Sita was able to upscale women participation during village gatherings that collectively demanded reforms in the DMC formation, as a result of which the present DMC have a good representation of

women, not only in terms of numbers but also as active and key position holders.

This initiation was a turning point to make solidarity of women that intervened the VDC planning process persuaded the duty bearers to allocate NRs. 116,000 for skill and capacity development of the community women. Now under the able leadership of Sita, community women are assuming the role of agents of change and are involved in vital registration, education campaigns and asserting their rights for development.

CASE STUDY

YAM MAYA'S MISSION OF MITIGATING DISASTER

AAIN in consortium with Practical Action have been implementing Building Disaster Resilient Communities (BDRC) project in Pokhara to act in reducing risk of disaster. This project has been working in collaboration of local government and two other local partner organisations (Community Support Group and Siddhartha Club).

Yam Maya Giri, 61, of Shankar Tole, Pokhara Sub-municipality Ward No. 1, sporting a black coloured bag tells that the bag has been apparently working as an office for her since last year. Fishing out a file from the bag she shows a copy of a minute of group discussion dated 16 December 2013 wherein a decision was taken to formulate a plan to protect the settlement from possible disasters. The decision includes, requesting Sub-metropolitan Office for inclusion of programme and allocation of budget in its central level programme in order to prevent erosion caused by Bhushe (a narrow and deep stream) to be implemented and completed in the coming fiscal year, sub-metropolitan level plan and programme for appropriate drainage system

and ward level programme for cutting down the old simal tree.

Yam Maya reiterates, "Plans and programmes about mitigation of disaster risks should not be treated as ones that can be implemented slowly or in a time consuming way, instead, they should be implemented and completed in a short period as far as possible, but it is getting too late."

Yam Maya was in favour of disaster risks reduction programmes implemented in her tole with facilitation of CSG and BDRC project since the very beginning. She recalls, "CSG conducted Reflect in our tole to learn about disasters, disaster risks in the community and measures on risks reduction. We learned many important things about disasters through the group discussion. We also learned how to be safe during the event of earthquakes or rescue the people stranded in floods. Though, I have been involved in tole reform committee since long period, but the programme initiated by BDRC helped me understand disaster risks reduction better and encouraged to work on that area."

Yam Maya encourages the community people to understand about disaster risks reduction

thereby involving in united action. "In early days, when I requested community people to participate in interaction programme related to disasters and disaster risks reduction, many didn't follow it. I even tried to convince them by visiting door to door. Some would pretend of headache while other would say that they were not free as they had to take care of their wards. But things have changed a lot now. People value it, thus, is not so difficult to convince them, as earlier," Yam Maya shares elatedly. She is suffering from orthopedic problems. Her eldest son Raj Kumar Giri says, "She has pain, but she has not given up her work." When quizzed about her health she says, "One should work for the social welfare." Her husband too has full praise for his spouse's relentless work. "It's fine, engaging oneself in social work is far better than languishing idle at home," he compliments.

Sobha Gurung, 24, Chairperson of DMC (Disaster Management Committee) of Shankar Tole looks up to Yam Maya as the pioneer of this campaign and shares, "She is not working for her personal interest, wherever she goes she puts forward the agenda of disaster risk reduction for the benefit of the community."



Masson Training in Pokhara

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

AAIN believes in the values of just and democratic governance needed to create active citizenry with their meaningful participation in social movement to ensure accountability of the government towards its citizen.

Democracy is all about 'downloading power' - as well as continuously building and strengthening citizens' power.

Democracy and democratisation are the ubiquitous phenomenon. It's continuous movement which starts from the people's heart and mind for the popular sovereignty and dignity of the people.

The process of empowerment to PLiP is initiated by providing information through different formal and informal groups like REFLECT. The participation and representation of people is ensured through campaign and community mobilisation along with the dissemination of information. With community being empowered accountability of the duty bearers is ensured with tools like social

audit, RTI, social security, vital registration, community score card, citizen charter, participatory planning process etc. Such tools enforce the government to provide the basic services to the people (health, education, agricultural services etc.) they are entitled.

The active citizenry is also the part of society and is directly or indirectly related with the discourse that plays a pivotal role in influencing public policy or delivery. These factors also include the issues related with national development strategy which has people at the centre. Therefore, AAIN as an organisation plays a part of breaking the limits and strive on ensuring inclusive policy from the rights perspective.

MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Underscoring the central value of democratisation, participation is given priority to influence any kind of decision being taken for the people by the system.

To ensure the values of meaningful participation forums like REFLECT, ward citizen forum (WCF), and trainings are facilitated by the LRP partner organisations. The interactions and discussions revolve around different issues having direct links with the transformation of the community.

Participatory Planning Process (PPP) is a bottom up planning process. It decentralises the planning process, allowing the local people and other stakeholders to identify their needs and plan accordingly for fulfilling these needs. It aims to promote the participation of the people themselves in the planning process and to make optimum use of the local resource. It also stresses in the cooperation and coordination of all the key stakeholders and believes that discussion and interactions among them will solve the problems they are facing.



Community based planning process

The platform and groups have contributed in empowering the people in community to claim or enjoy their rights and live a life of dignity.

Communities are being mobilised in the participatory planning process (PPP), where LRP partners conduct and facilitate the campaign to empower PLiP with 14 steps discussion about PPP through REFLECT. This process increased the number of inclusive representation and meaningful participation in decision making process including government programmes and services.

A total of 7,874 (including 2,891 women) PLiP actively participated in ward level planning while 21,810 people participated in village council in the local planning process. Community groups/ networks/ PLiP submitted 759 proposals through planning processes amounting to NRs. 5,35,71,550 whereas 489 proposals amounting to NRs. 3,90,56,656 approved by the local government. For instance, a Dalit community became successful in building 10 toilets for individual households and 42 toilets for public while 115 women increased their income by taking hosiery training. Likewise, women group from Khatiwada VDC of Doti have been able to gravel the road of their VDC and also constructed two community buildings. Along with this they have been able to get 236 solar system bulbs for their 236 household in Doti district.

Such empowerment and participation have increased and enhanced the leadership quality of the people in the AAIN working areas with the facilitation of partner organisations. The participation and representation of women definitely

CASE STUDY

A JOURNEY FROM A VICTIM TO MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT CANDIDATE

Like many young girl in Dalit-Madhese community, Radhika Pasi, 23, of Badauli VDC, Kapilvastu was a victim of early child marriage system. She got married at the age of 9 with a boy from neighbouring country, India. After the marriage she stayed in her natal home and completed SLC (grade ten) examination. When aged 17, she had her *gauna** and sent to her husband's home in India. Her dream of a happily married life went on vain when her in-laws and husband started torturing her. Her education had been the greatest issue for jealousy accusing her of being over educated. Finding it unbearable to withstand every day torture she ran away to her natal home. No one from her husband's family ever came to take her back. Now, she is living with her parents and passes her days engaging in social transformation works for her community.

In her initial days of return, Radhika would stay forlorn. During the institutional programme of Shikhar Organisation in partnership with KSSC Kapilvastu, a partner organisation of AAIN, some social mobilisers came across Radhika while forming groups in the village. They asked her to be in the group but she refused. But, with regular follow-ups and consistent motivation, she agreed to be a member of the women's group. Gradually, she transformed her loneliness into the groups' activities and later became the chairperson of that group. Seeing her active participation and dedication, Shikhar Organisation selected her in their board members committee.

During her involvement, she got opportunity to receive various trainings and workshops. Once she got opportunity to represent her organisation in the interaction programme of Women Advocacy Forum organised by KSSC. There she came across the cases of violence meted out to women in their houses which reminded of her own story. There, she

vowed "Now, I will form a Women Advocacy Forum in my own village and will fight violence against women". After coming back home from the programme, she started going to each house of her village and proposed the women to form women's group. Her immense dedication and motivation came out to fruition some months ago when she formed a local level Women Advocacy Forum under her chairmanship with 13 women members. At present, there are 28 women members in the forum and the forum is actively engaged in mitigating VAW and claiming women's rights. KSSC identified and appreciated her contributions for social transformation and provided her the REFLECT Circle facilitator role in Badauli REFLECT Circle in connection with Participatory Democracy Initiative (PDI) project. She received training on community development facilitator from AAIN. She is also a trainee of fellowship project of AAIN and has completed her 3 modules of training.

"There has been no woman VDC secretary till today and the election can only make a way for women to be nominated from Badauli village," she had reiterated... This statement was soon realised when she got nominated by Nepal Sadbhawana Party for Proportional Representation (PR) in the recent elections for CA. She has not only participated and represented herself in various groups, committees and party activities but in the meanwhile motivated other women of her community to participate and represent in various groups and committees.

(**Gauna is a custom and the ceremony associated with the consummation of marriage. It is associated with the custom of child marriage. The ceremony takes place several years after marriage. Before the ceremony the bride stays at her natal home. Marriage is considered only as a ritual union and conjugal life begins only after gauna; that marriage is consummated only after the gauna ceremony.*)

increased in different forums like forest users' groups, drinking water groups, WCFs, health facility management committees and school management committees. The formal and informal groups along with women led groups have been able to submit proposals for funds to VDC and municipality for carrying out trainings, capacity development programmes and skill development workshops. These programmes have made a positive impact on women who are now able to engage themselves with income generating activities. Such transformation has not only led to enhancement of representation and participation but also contributed in empowering women in the communities.

ENSURING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND ITS QUALITY

Social services are the fundamental rights which are to be delivered effectively and efficiently to the PLiP and marginalised people. AAIN with the partner organisations aim to hold local government accountable using various participatory monitoring and accountability tools to ensure quality, equity and gender responsive public services.

Social audit is one of the tools for transparency and accountability which has been practiced by the duty bearers with the facilitation of our partner organisations. Public hearing creates a space for our marginalised community to raise their voice, express their views which ultimately support to regularise the system of service delivery in a transparent manner. With the facilitation and support of partner organisations 346

Participatory monitoring and accountability tools (social audit, public hearing, citizen charter, public audit, participatory planning process, community score cards etc.), ensures the transparency and accountability of public services that being provide by the government.

events of social audit and public hearings have been successfully conducted by different service providing organisations.

Owing to relentless efforts of LRP partners and service providers themselves, the trend of showcasing citizen charter in government offices like health posts and VDCs, organising social audit and public hearing increased this year indicating the service providers to have become more transparent. The culture of practicing accountability tools and processes by local institutions has also been improved. In 2013, altogether 346 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and local institutions conducted their social audit. This endorses seriousness of local institutions towards accountability and transparency. Changes in perception and attitude of local institutions and government authorities can be termed as achievements of this initiative. The regularity of VDC secretaries, presence of service providers in health posts and teachers in schools have improved in many districts after the use of Community

Score Card (CSC). A series of interaction/consultations with district authorities (health post, schools etc) were conducted before evaluation as per CSC process.

In Bardiya, 2 VDCs and one veterinary office are in process of placing citizen charter. In Bajura, Asal Shasan Club and Samundrapal Gadi Youth Club organised public hearing on the services provided by the DDC and VDC which has pressurised them to be transparent. The LDO in Udayapur instantly provided 50 pieces of wires and constructed embankment as the result of discussion and sharing during public hearing programme.

Similarly, owing to its space for sharing opinion about the services, community score card is used for measuring the quality of services for the community people while involving the service providers in the process. The community and service providers set forth indicators in order to measure and monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery in the community. The impact of the community score cards was seen in Bajura where the farmers were earlier ignorant about the services of Agricultural Service Centre (ASC). A community discussion was organised between the community and ASC to provide 11 VDCs of Kolti region access to the agricultural services of. As a result, the framers availed services like distribution of seeds on time and small scale irrigation. Likewise, registration of farmers' groups was made.

AAIN shared experience on Community Score Card process to improve local service delivery based on the evidences

generated from the field. A paper on "Evidence Based Advocacy through Community Score Card" has been shared with wider audiences during First National Conference on Health organized by Ministry of Health and Population and development partners.

Social Security Allowance

A total of 17,658 PLiP received social security allowance across our programme areas. Despite the state's policy of provision for allowances, the local government apparatuses sometimes refrain from providing such allowances in time. Therefore, our partners and communities keep monitoring their activities to make them accountable.

REFLECT Circles have become effective means of monitoring services of local government. RTI is another effective tool in monitoring the distribution of social security allowances. For example, a local youth group in Siraha recovered expenses that were illegitimately misused by one VDC secretary. The VDCs in Dhanusha districts are now distributing the social security allowances promptly and properly owing to series of campaigns organised in the leadership of local community. Such campaigns are organised in collaboration and solidarity with other like-minded organisations.

CASE STUDY

LIFE CHANGES THROUGH COMMUNITY SCORE CARD

"Progress programme in the health sector is of paramount importance that supports the service providers to be accountable, transparent and qualitative. This also raises interest among service receivers towards health post services," argues Yam Prasad Bhusal, Secretary of Narayani VDC in Nawalparasi.

Since last 20 months, 'Loktantra Majbut Banau' (deepening democracy) programme has been implementing different activities in Narayani VDC to make service providers participatory, accountable, responsible and transparent. Regarding this, from last few months, CSC method is being implementing in the community to ensure qualitative service which also shows positive impression on the community level.

Earlier, through video documentary and posters the community was made aware about the services provided by the government. Discussions were facilitated in the community among community people and the health workers for the improvement of the existing services. This resulted in

qualitative and effective service delivery. Therefore, CSC method got spread over 9 more VDCs.

"After CSC, there has been drastic improvement in service delivery. Earlier, only 15 – 17 patients would come seeking the services whereas the number reaches up to 35 -40 daily", informs Tola Bhurtel, in-charge of the health post. The CSC has made aware all the groups including Dalti, Jananjati and other marginalised people about the services, facilities and medicines delivered at the health post.

Similarly, CSC's engagement in Shivpur Health Post has helped ensure quality service of health post for the local people. CSC has been widely practiced in health posts across all LRPs. Besides the health posts, SEED have practiced it in District Agriculture Development Office and SSDC in Kopuwa VDC. This year, CSC was practiced in 14 government offices from all the working areas of LRPs. Owing to the impacts of CSC, Agriculture Service Centre provided seeds and appointed Junior Technical Assistant (JTA) in Bajura. Similarly, Malika Agricultural Group also got NRs. 100, 000 for small scale irrigation.

Janasarokar Manch

Janasarokar Manch has been established as civil society network in 11 working districts to provide a common platform for debate/dialogue/discourse/discussions on public concerns. Service providers, policy makers, media, civil society organisations/networks and rights holders are using this platform for discourse and improved action. Project and LRP partners are working closely under this umbrella. Minimum Condition and Performance Measure (MCPM), SLC examination, quality education, child friendly VDC, improved agriculture and health services, PPP, women's rights, open defecation free (ODF) areas, water rights, equal wages, voters' education, CA election observation, campaign against GBV and right to information (RTI) were the issues addressed by Manch. One RTI centre has been established in Doti district in joint collaboration of Janasarokar Manch and National Commission for Right to Information.

Right to Information (RTI)

A RTI Centre has been established in Doti district with joint initiation of Janasarokar Manch and National Commission for Right to Information. Through the campaign, people have become aware about their rights and using RTI as an effective tool to avail information from concerned duty bearers and public institutions which is crucial in collection of evidences for advocacy purposes. A total of 600 RTI activists are now actively contributing and advocating through social media especially the facebook. Rastriya Dalit Network and Dalit Network Udayapur mobilised 22 district/village level Dalit networks to achieve and strengthen inclusive public policy. An orientation on inclusion was provided to 45 clubs, women's groups and local institutions in Udayapur.

CASE STUDY

RTI COMPELS VDC SECRETARIAT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

"We approached the VDC secretariat for the budgetary information but we were turned deaf ears. Later we tried more officially tendering an application, but we failed again. Next time with the help of toll free number of National information Commission we submitted the copies of application and citizenship certificate for the information. But to our surprise, the VDC called us and provided concerned information."

Basanta Sada and Bijay Sada chairpersons of Child Rights Club of ward No. 2 and 4 of Badai VDC respectively, came to know about the budget allocation for the capacity development programme for children through the leadership programme provided by Dalit Janakalyan Youth Club. They decided to reach out for the budget that they were entitled to.

When they approached their VDC they were told that the distribution period was already over. However, they collectively asked about the amount of resources that was allocated through an application but the application was rejected saying that such information was not for sharing. However, they did not give up. They collected email address and contacted National Information Commission and approached the affiliated organisation Dalit Janakalyan Youth Club and its advisor Ashok Kumar Kamati. He emailed the commission the copies of all applications along with a copy of citizenship certificate.

They have become successful in receiving an amount of NRs.17, 200 for both the child clubs (NRs. 8600 for each). With this financial support they have successfully organised different training programmes, quiz contests and cultural programmes.

CASE STUDY

MOBILE CAMP FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN REMOTE AREAS

District Administration Office Bajura organised an integrated mobile camp about the services pertaining to citizenship card, social security allowance, health, veterinary and agricultural services in Piluchaur, Rugin and Kawadi VDCs. Programme staffs facilitated these services from the camp considering hardship of villagers, women and people with disability, PLiP and marginalised people living in geographically remote areas. As a result, they received citizenship cards and availed the health examinations from the camp. Similarly elderly, people with disability, PLiP, Dalits and women received their citizenship cards owing to regular information facilitation and access to camp. The camp was organised for Rugin and Bichhiyan VDCs in Kawadi at the first stage while 9 VDCs in Piluchaur were taken for second stage. Through this mobile camp a total of 675 people got citizenship cards, 200 cases of death got reported, 50 people took migration certificate, 356 people availed veterinary medicines services for their pets while 6 men and 3 women acquired land ownership certificates.



Participatory Community literacy mapping

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

AAIN's strategy has clearly stated patriarchal dominance of the social, political and economic domains in Nepal which has led to unequal distribution of power to women. They have less authority than men in decision-making and little control over their sexuality, bodies, movements and lives. Women's reproductive and productive roles in the family are not duly recognised by the family/community or state. This has perpetuated different forms of VAW. Keeping strategy at the centre, AAIN works for the formation of agency of women and especially marginalised rural and urban poor women so that their contribution to the institutions like family, community and the state is valued and recognised. The male dominated society has created an unjust environment for women who are subjected to violence and gender based discrimination. The organisation hence works with the women for creating a just society for them, while they fight for inclusive representation at decision making level to enjoy the rights entitled to them.

Women's Awareness on Reproductive Health Rights and Control over their Body

Tradition and the culture of our society have violated women's rights to bodily integrity, sexuality, sexual autonomy and other fundamental freedoms. With an emphasis on sensitisation, AAIN and its partner organisations have been facilitating various programmes and discussions to sensitise women and girls on the issues of women's reproductive health rights, sexuality and its impact, sexual abuse to teenage girls and control

“Uniting the power through women collectives has filled us with guts to fight against any kind of challenges and violence” – Laxmi Khapung, Jaktanglung Women Collective, Morahang

over their body. A total of 6348 women and girls are educated through different formal and informal institutions. Students have started taking part in discourses and protest pertaining to any forms of gender-based violence and discrimination. Likewise, the numbers of pregnancy tests, cases of safe delivery and other health check-ups have increased comparatively.

Awareness and education have created space where girls and women can openly discuss about their bodily rights with other members of community. The hesitation to speak about the matter is not an issue any more in many of the communities we work with as it is understood as their rights and nothing to be ashamed of.

Women Voicing out on “Violence Against Women”

Street dramas, door-to-door awareness programmes, posters, wall paintings, interactions with stakeholders and PLiP were carried out. MAM capacitated on the legal aspects of domestic violence and regular supports by the LRP partners strengthen MAM thereby empowering women to raise the cases of violence. Owing to several levels of interactions, orientations on women's rights, VAW and GBV, womanhood has become vocal for all the unjust and violence they are going through. The numbers of reported cases of VAW found to be increased due to empowerment of women. Two safe houses have been established in Chitwan and Makwanpur, initiated through Sakcham project, in order to provide victims a secured shelter, counseling and other services.



Women discussing on their issues

CASE STUDY

MAKING CHHAUPADI A HISTORY

AAIN's LRP partners PEACEWIN and HRC including district level stakeholders and religious groups jointly conducted anti-chhaupadi campaign in Bajura. Religious groups were formed in 5 VDCs and were mobilised to raise awareness in the working areas of Peacewin. Similarly, in working VDCs of HRC, a VDC level committee to implement 7 point Kolti chhaupadi declaration was formed where 105 members of WRF and adolescence groups participated from 5 VDCs. They have been mobilised around their villages demonstrating chhaupadi slogans written on placards to ensure their reproductive rights. Similarly they have demanded for their rights stipulated in the interim constitution, CEDAW and international treaties.

In this programme they performed street play and sang songs onstage as well. Local level political leaders and other participants also expressed their commitment for 7 point chhaupadi Kolti declaration. Similarly, the process, for declaring chhaupadi free VDC committees was expedited with monitoring from stakeholders. A brief discussion was also made with community. As a result, Bramhatola VDC was declared the first chhaupadi free VDC in the district. In addition to this, Dewalkot of Sappta and Kolti 2 were also declared as chhaupadi free communities. Beside this, Kolti Ward No. 3, Gurdauli Gotri Ward No. 9, Pandusen Ward No. 6, Baadhu Ward No. 7 and Jagannath Ward No. 5 are in process of declaring them chhaupadi free wards.

Safe Public Space / Safe Cities

In Nepal, AAIN had been laying groundwork for Safe Cities Program for the past two years. In 2012, as part of a multi country research, AAIN initiated an action research program focusing on use of public transportation by urban women and girls. The major issues identified in the research were sexual harassment and insecurity of girls and women in public spaces. Discriminatory cultural values and norms, weak legal and justice system, weak public service policies, implementation gaps and violation of basic rights and entitlements are the major reasons behind this problem. As continuation of this work, in 2013, AAIN introduced safe cities campaign to raise public awareness. Numbers of capacity building training/workshops and policy dialogues were carried out to raise

awareness and education on safe cities. The participants were also capacitated on safety audit participatory toolkit and action plan was prepared to conduct the safety audit in the working area.

AAIN along with its partners and community women conducted a workshop to show solidarity in an action that goes beyond raising awareness about violence to feature how grassroots women and women's organisations partner with government authorities to concretely build safer cities. Minister for Women, Children and Social welfare, Director General of Transport Division of Government of Nepal, the Senior Superintendent of Police from Nepal police, Chief Executive Officers and representatives of 5 different municipalities namely, Kathmandu metropolitan city office, Bhaktapur

municipality, Lalitpur sub-metropolitan city office, Madhyapur Thimi municipality and Kirtipur municipalit and Program Manager of UNHabitat Nepal were present as main speakers. Apart from them various representatives from women rights organizations, colleges/ university, media and community women and men were present. This has shown the commitment for safer cities and raised awareness among different stakeholder. The document developed out of the initiative has been shared nationally and globally at both organisational and policy maker's level.

AAIN launched the second report in the series, Women and the City II: Combating violence against women and girls in urban public spaces – The role of public services. It highlights how lack of access to public services such as transport, street lighting and electricity, along with proper housing and sanitation, increases women's vulnerability to violence and often exacerbates the consequences of that violence. The report was launched by the Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare. A research team of 9 members from various departments of AAIN and Activista Nepal was formed for Safe cities audience insight research as well. Interviews of various stakeholders were taken and the reports were submitted to the international research team. An international report has been launched after the analysis of the compiled data. The research findings will be a basis for preparation of campaign document and designing the international campaign of the year 2014. Along with this AAIN's safe cities programming framework was also developed.

The concept of safe city and public space are discussed in order to identify the

issues on violence against girls and women in public space and transportation. Pilot initiatives of safe city are seen in Morang, Chitwan and Makwanpur districts. An advocacy campaign for safe shelter is underway in Kathmandu as well.

The issues related to VAW and girls in public space and transport are massively discussed in REFLECT Circles and the issues were also conversed with drivers, conductors and other employees of transport sector. An awareness campaign was also carried out by different activities such as disseminating pamphlets, mobilise youth, etc.

Unpaid Care Work

One of our major focuses in women rights is to make society sensitised about the contribution of women which can be achieved through due recognition, redistribution and reduction of workload of women that have been imposed to them in an unjust manner. Unpaid Care Work (UCW) is about focusing on care economy for wider economic justice. Number of different training and capacity building initiative took place on UCW covering its framework and understanding in 2013. Different LRPs and National level partners are working on building awareness by sensitising community regarding UCW.

A total of 7123 women and men have been sensitised on UCW and tool like time diary (time diary collection is a process/survey to ascertain more concrete evidences and numbers that show the amount of time that women, in particular, spend on UCW and other kinds of work to build understanding and perspective on care economy and economic justice. The adoption of tool like

Research on Women's Unpaid Care Work

Over the past two years AAIN piloted the UCW programme which aimed to recognise and value women's unequal responsibility for UCW. The participatory research was one major aspect of this program and it showed that rural women in Nepal spend close to 5 hours on household chores while men spend 56 minutes only. Women spend more time on subsistence agriculture than men and have only 24 minutes per day to participate in social and cultural activities such as community discussions, while men have nearly 2 hours per day for the same purpose helping them to build their social power. As a result, women in the communities have little time to engage in paid work and also to take rest which is also needed for their good health. These findings are from ActionAid's report titled Making Care Visible. In addition, UCW Resource Guide has been translated into Nepali to support LRPs engage in this work. Findings of the scoping were also widely shared with partners and stakeholders, which guided and helped in understanding engagement issues of UCW at policy level.

time diary is playing a major role in ascertaining the evidence of time spent by women on UCW to show difference of women's and men's engagement in UCW and its wider impact on attainment of women's rights along with their increased participation in decision making level.

It was evident that UCW was obstructing women's participation in different social, economical and political spheres thereby excluding them from getting involve in decision making process. In order to redistribute and reduce the work hours of women in UCW at community level and to shift them from UCW to paid work and engage in other productive activities plus allocating time for their own selves 2 pilot community child care centres have been established at Shreejung and Phakchamara VDC in Terhathum in coordination with Singadevi and Makhamali women's collectives, VDC level MAM and VDC office. Likewise, other 2 model community child care centers are established in Parsa and Mohottari districts. The outcome of this initiative (child care centers) in relation to UCW is yet to be seen.

"The initiation of community child care centre is really appreciable. Political parties and local government are also positive towards its establishment. We will support the collectives best to our ability to make this centre effective and sustainable." – Ishwori Prasad Bhattarai, Principal of Shreejung Higher Secondary School.

CASE STUDY

A TIME DIARY OF SABITRA TOLANGI

"Whatever hardship I have experienced, it is done now. I don't think I will be able to do more (laughs). Now it is time for us to sing, dance, play and forget all those hardships."

Sabitra Tolangi 47, belongs to a strict Dalit community in Ward No. 6 of Hamarjung VDC in Tehrathum. She is married and has two sons and a daughter. Her daughter too is married whereas her sons are yet to get unmarried. She is involved with ActionAid's UCW programme where she keeps and monitors a time diary on a regular basis to track the different activities she has been engaging over a year long period. Women who participate in the programme meet regularly at REFLECT Circle known as "Abhiyan Chautari" to discuss their UCW and the impact it has on their livelihoods and wellbeing.

She wakes up at 3 am in the morning, as she puts in her own words "as soon as the

rooster alarms her the dawn too has waked up". She fetches water from a tap close to her house and makes breakfast for her family. She then sweeps the house with a broom and cleans the mess made by the pets and takes care of the cattle. She adds, "However, our [women's] work is never seen." According to her time diary, she spends six hours a day on household chores such as cooking, cleaning and washing dishes and clothes. She also spends over four hours a day working on the family farm. Since she is alone in the house with her son, she is responsible for all the works inside and outside of the house.

Sabitra says that she has not seen any change in her neighborhood regarding the recognition, reduction and redistribution of work and women still face a lot of hardships. She believes that in order to end these hardships women need skill development trainings to earn their own livelihood so that both the women and their work are respected.

"I wish somebody would say you worked a lot, you might be feeling tired, so, take a rest for a while." –
Dilmaya Khapung,
Āktanglung Women
Collective, Morahang
"Collective meeting has provided a space for us to take rest for a while from the daily household chores, learn new things and also build on synergy for taking actions against VAW."- Naina Kala Shrestha, Ambung

Women; The Rising Leaders

AAIN CSP has clearly indicated that developing leadership qualities in women are by supporting their access to and control over decision making bodies at local and national levels, enabling them to demand justice on the issues of violence are some of the key areas to be performed. To achieve this goal, a series of capacity building initiatives have been organized by AAIN along with its partner

organization at the national and local level. Different women from women's groups, networks, MAM, Saving and Credit groups, REFLECT circles etc., were capacitated through this initiatives. This year total of 560 women have been developed and capacitated as women's rights leaders. Now these women have been able to be the member of different formal groups i.e., School Management Committees, Parents Teachers

Associations, VDC councils, Community Forest Users Groups etc. 39 women from different working areas of AAIN are holding key positions as chairperson, treasurer or secretary. Their accession to such positions has provided them opportunities to make decision in their favour and confront unequal power relation. With their representations in such committees and groups, they are now in the position to advocate or lobby

VDC/municipalities budget in favour of women. These leaders are now actively engaged in ensuring women's participation, involvement in different local to national level decision making process. They have been progressively coming ahead with the demand for justice on the issues of VAW.

Strengthening MAM

This year too AAIN continued its support to MAM (a national network of women's agency for change) to build and expand its network by organising different level of capacity building initiatives and collaborative works. It has been able to create space for marginalised women and strengthen their network locally and nationally. MAM has not only strengthened its network but through collaboration and coordination with other various women's network and organisation for solidarity and joint action, it is evolving as a strong women agency. MAM has been actively engaged in different Local to National campaigns such as campaign against witchcraft

allegation, Chhaupadi, child marriage, campaign on Safe cities, Land Rights campaign, Ensuring quality education for children, International women's day, 16 days activism etc. MAM in consultation with district chapters and AAIN has been able to develop and consolidate demands of rural women and pointed out gaps in the present implementation of gender plan and policies. This has also been submitted to Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and this will be worked into 10 years strategy paper being prepared by them in collaboration with different stakeholders. AAIN in coordination with MAM developed women's proposition to use as tool during the times of election of constitution assembly to lobby on agendas of women at local level. MAM engagement from local to national level are well recognised by the policy makers and women's rights organisations thus consulted for several national agendas like 33% representation of women on election process, national level campaigns like One Billion Rising and other policy discourses as well.

Policy Level Engagement for a Just Society

With constructive engagement with National Women's Commission (NWC) and Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW), a final draft of 'Crime Investigation Manual' has been developed incorporating recommendations collected through consultation meetings with various stakeholders at different levels.

Ongoing advocacy with consultation for the enforcement of verdicts on Dowry and to pass the bill on witchcraft related crime is in the process. Policy lobby has been done with ministry to consider the bill on witchcraft developed earlier is going on. This work is a coordinated effort with SAKCHAM project as well.

Partnership with ASMITA and MAM for national policy advocacy and national women's forum and Women's conference for identity, power and transformation. It has created a platform for women's rights activists and academicians to generate discourse to improve knowledge, build perspective and consciousness in women's movement. The program generated a discussion around women's rights issues and brought academicians, development practitioners and activists on the same platform of different generation. The forum discussed on 25 different papers receiving comments from wider audiences which later will be come out in the form of feminist book.



Signature campaign on VAW

QUALITY EDUCATION IN A SAFE AND EQUITABLE ENVIRONMENT

This objective of quality education focuses on integrated response to advance free and quality education at basic level and reinvigorate popular education. It strives to enable children and young people from PLiP and marginalised communities to develop into drivers of change and harness the potential of popular education towards broader democratisation of society. As organisation we are working towards enabling and empowering citizens' groups, people's organisations and social justice movements taking into consideration the key issues such as accountability in public schools, child-centered learning, and using promoting rights in schools framework in public schools.

Quality Education and CCL approach

Quality education has been promoted in a rights-based framework, documented in Promoting rights in schools, which outlines a charter of 10 basic rights that all schools should respect. It puts the rights of the child, and all children, at the centre in all aspects of the school and its surrounding education community. Along with these aspects, improving the quality of learning is area coverage of quality education. Child Centered Learning (CCL) is one of the approaches that are promoted in 206 schools in the working areas for maintaining the standard and quality of education. REFLECT participants and LRP partners organised meetings and interactions with SMC/PTA and head teachers in the schools of their respective working areas on the importance of child friendly learning practice and need for CCL approach of learning in

CCL- Quality Education Improved at Slum Areas

The children living in slum areas have improved their quality of education. This was made possible through child learning centre established to support quality education of the children living in slum area and children of home based workers. Most of the parents in such areas are uneducated and are away from home for daily wages labour or work, due to which they have very limited time to look after their children. Three CLCs (Child Learning Centers) have been established in LRP 32 that benefitted 192 students. The Saturday classes helped the children do their home assignment vis-à-vis participating in extra curriculum activities. CCL process has helped transform the teaching- learning practice at schools, from teachers centered to child centered. This has also supported increase child's retention at school while enriching his or her learning.

the community. Schools are applying this approach while trainings are being provided from different organisations working in the field of education. Some students from

private school have also shifted to community-managed schools in Morang and Tehrathum due to the CCL approach and English medium teaching.

Supports for English and Computer Lab improved teaching learning process

ROTA project implemented by AAIN trained English teachers teaching in grade 4 to 7 to support public schools provide better quality English education. A total of 36 teachers (32 male and 4 female) from 22 secondary level schools were provided trainings through two simultaneous sessions in June 2013. The training was facilitated by a team of trainers from NELTA (Nepal English Language Teachers Association). Besides the training, project supported the schools on their efforts of improving the conditions of classrooms to make suitable for English labs. As a consequence of this, 5,773 students from grade 4 to grade 7 from 22 schools are benefitted by English lab.

Similarly, ROTA project supported six project schools to introduce computer education for quality education. More than a computer classroom, the lab served itself as a place where students and teachers alike could search/research according to their need. These schools are now role models for other schools in the surroundings. During reporting period, 7 teachers from 6 schools received trainings on Information Communication Technology (ICT) based education and use of computer in teaching. The project also supported the schools on the management of ICT based education through regular visits of IT personals and interactions with teachers. The selected project schools namely Rastriya SS in Daharberiya, Janjagrati HSS in Tikapur and Mohanyal SS in Joshipur received a set of IT equipments (one laptop, seven desktop computers, one printer, one multimedia projector, one UPS and one internet router). Besides this, Karnali HSS in Narayanpur received computer maintenance support for 6 computers alongside a multimedia projector while Karmeshor HSS in Lalbojhi and Rastriya HSS in Khailad received a multimedia projector.

"Nowadays the children are more active in learning process. The regularity of students is increased and dropouts also have been reduced significantly in our school. It is due to the adoption of CCL, we also changed ourselves, and our behaviour is more child friendly after getting training on CCL." Ramita Bohara, CCL teacher

School Governance

Right to Education (RTE) is promoted with frameworks like Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS), CER (Citizen Education Reports) and MOST (Mobile Onsite Support Team). The REFLECT participants, LRP partners and education watch groups have been advocating for the adoption of PRS framework to improve quality of learning by organising meetings, interactions and discussions with the resource persons, SMC/PTAs and school teachers. Other frameworks like MOST are used to strengthen governance in schools, by identifying the gaps, developing action plan and henceforth materializing it.

CER is another tool and a process follow up of the school operating system. It is a participatory product of PRS through community assessment, individual interview with SMC/PTAs, teachers, guardians, stakeholders, child club

members, and administration and finance staffs based on 10 education rights assessing the overall governance and accountability. The LRP partners of AAIN, DSS in Dhanusha, DJKYC in Siraha and CBC in Udayapur carried out the PRS in 3 schools to produce CER.

School improvement plan (SIP) is another statutory document that schools need to develop and update every year with supports of school stakeholders. With facilitation of the partners the schools are formulating and operationalising the school code of conduct. Orientation of the education act and policy to the teachers, PTAs and SMCs was conducted bringing about the changes like active participation in participatory school assessment planning process and making school code of conduct in ROTA project areas in Kailali. Similarly, social audit is another process to enhance transparency and accountability while improving school governance.

School governance has improved progressively in LRP working areas holding accountability in preparing school improvement plan, conducting social audits and preparing code of conduct at schools. LRP partners facilitated and supported for updating their SIP throughout the LRPs. Some notable achievements have surfaced in the school governance due to the mobilisation of PLiP and local people in formulating and implementation of school policies and programmes. Participation of the teachers, guardians, school management committee, parents teachers association and child clubs have supported in strengthening governance system of schools.

"Before, people had never thought about their support in School Improvement Plan. But, since we adopted the participatory process we have been getting results that prove otherwise." Sant Ram Chaudhary, head teacher, Shiv PS

Ensuring Free Education

Free education as fundamental rights, free education campaign along with school enrollment campaign at community, school, VDC and district level has been led by the LRP partners and their alliances for the easy access and to promote free education. School-going-age-children from freed Kamaiya, Muslim, Haliya and Dalit communities were enrolled in various schools through intensive school enrollment campaigns at various levels. Child clubs, networks, women education committees, VDC education committees, REFLECT Circles, SMCs, PTAs were mobilised for free education campaign in the working districts. Door-to-door visit was also done taking child club members to influence other children to join school. As a result, 323 community and government schools have been declared completely free and they are providing quality education owing to continuous campaigns by rights holders under the facilitation of PNGOs.

School Assessment Board

All 75 project schools of Kailali have established self-assessment board as a tool to monitor school's status on rights to education and school safety. There are 13 indicators for self-assessment. The schools decide about the status after arriving at consensus among teachers, students, SMC and parents. Self-assessment board has helped in facilitating regular review and assessment to improve overall school performance and ensure quality and safe learning environment. Similarly, 75 project schools have prepared and been adhering to school code of conduct that clearly defines the role and responsibility of teachers, SMC, PTA and the students in order to strengthen school management practices. The code is displayed either through visual narrative or displaying the board in the schools.

Governance of the schools is checked and balanced as well progressively in the working areas where SIP, SA and code of conducts are prepared and implemented. As a result, many achievements have surfaced noticeably in the school governance owing to the mobilisation of PLiP and local people in formulating and implementation of school policies and programmes. Participatory involvement of the teachers, guardians, SMC, PTA and child clubs have supported in strengthening governance system of schools.

In Bajura, a VDC level SMC has been formed for strengthening school governance to improve quality education at schools. Likewise, district level SMC networks have been reactivated in Banke, Dang and Kapilvastu whereas new district level SMC networks have been set up in Bajura and Banke. Five VDC level free education committees in Bajura are functioning to improve school governance and quality of education. Social audit committees are actively engaged in carrying out SA in their respective schools.

Seven district level SMC networks and 5 VDC level networks in Sankhuwasava are also active to ensure good governance in schools. Altogether 1296 SMC members have been oriented about their roles and responsibilities through 27 events to strengthen school governance. Now in Dulari of Morang district SMC/PTA, school teachers and resource persons are jointly developing and effectively materialising the SIP. A total of 340 schools have developed participatory SIP with the active involvement of SMC/PTA and teachers.

Safe School

Along with quality learning, dissemination of education and governance of the schooling system, AAIN also aims to provide safe education to school going children. More than just assessment of the school system, in facilitation of the PNGOs, 54 schools conducted PVA of schools to address potential hazards and climate change. An initiative was also taken for such concept to be incorporated in the school curriculum. Series of discussions were held with Department of Education (DoE) in

Kathmandu and DEO in Kaski to make that happen. The DoE and DEO are expected to finalise the curriculum within project period.

At Community level, REFLECT has been mobilised to hold interactions between PLiP and school team to make safe environment for effective learning by constructing earthquake resistant schools with safe compounds. Though LRP partners have not been able to initiate the local curriculum development on climate change and DRR, however, DRR

orientation for schools and mock drill (duck-cover-hold) practice have been successfully carried out. The dissemination of information in such manner led to some immediate precautions such as cutting down of old and breakable trees from school compound, preparing 'GO BAG' to protect important documents and goods such as citizenship cards, land ownership certificates, gold or valuable ornaments from loss and damage. Other essentials such as some money, medicines and some ready-to-eat-food also kept in the bag. Similarly, it was noteworthy to find children engaging themselves in awareness raising among their parents while practicing for early preparedness.

Engagement with the ministry to develop DRR resource book

AAIN ROTA project constructively engaged with CDC, NCED at national level for lobbying and advocacy to develop the DRR resource book, learning materials and ToT manual for teachers on DRR education in schools. Following the signed MoU with Ministry of Education and its departments, the three sub committees led by CDC and NCED were mobilized with its consultation meetings for preparing DRR resource book, learning materials and ToT manual. Finally they finalized all documents in technical support of Co-Action, advocacy partner of AAIN. After field test and finalization of all documents, the project printed and disseminated DRR resource book, learning materials and ToT manual for teachers' training to all project schools and national and district level government stakeholders. These publications have been supporting to the schools for DRR education in schools. The publications are forwarded by concerned governments- CDC and NCED. Now, these publications are widely accepted for DRR education in schools.

CASE STUDY

MAINSTREAMING DRR IN EDUCATION

AAIN ROTA project had adopted two prong strategies for lobbying and advocating for inclusion of DRR and safe schools. The project facilitated DEO and education resource centre of Kailali district to assess the need of local curriculum in primary grades as per the prevailing education policy; and in national level the project engaged with Curriculum Development Centre (CDC), National Center for Educational Development (NCED) and Ministry of Education for lobby and advocacy to develop the DRR resource book, learning materials and Training of Trainers (ToT) manual for school teachers to mainstream the DRR education in schools.

After the series of consultation meetings with education resource centre and DEO, a meeting of the social study teacher of Bhajani resource centre was conducted to discuss on the need and scope of local curricula in schools. The meeting was concluded by forming a 9 member's task team for local curricula under the leadership of Resource Person of Bhajani education resource centre where the technical

support was provided by the project team and education supervisor of DEO, Kailali. Following the series of discussion and consultations the task team drafted the local curricula to incorporate DRR education for grade 4 and 5 under the provision of 20% local curricula. After developing the draft of local curricula for DRR education, a meeting of SMCs of all community schools under Bhajani resource centre was organized to discuss on inclusion of DRR in local curricula. That meeting unanimously approved to include the local curricula finalized by Task Team.

After the approval from SMCs at education resource centre level an orientation on use of local curricula for DRR education was conducted where District Education Officer also oriented teachers. Now the local curriculum for DRR education has been adopted by 36 public schools under Bhajani resource centre in Kailali district. The project has supported to DEO, Kailali, Bhajani Resource Centre for printing and also provided the learning and resource materials to the schools as reference materials for classroom teaching-learning.

Ensuring Disaster Management Plan programme in SIP

Community managed schools have incorporated the DMPs in their school improvement plans. Action plans have also been developed to ensure safe school environment and physical structures. A total of 128 Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) received a budget of NRs. 925,000 from DDCs and VDCs in Morang, Parsa, Siraha and Udayapur districts to ensure safe physical infrastructures. They are also lobbying with DEOs to allocate earthquake resistant building construction block grants. Bandhu Secondary School has planted tree saplings on the school grounds whereas Pancha Laxmi Primary School has retrofitted to two-room blocks.

The project schools piloted by ROTA

“There were lots of risk in school’s area but we did not understand the cause nor had capacity to analyse the risk factor. After orientation, we did vulnerability and capacity analysis and prepared a preparedness and response plan as part of school improvement plan. It helped us make safer school for our students.”

— Bhim Bahadur Chaudhary, Head Teacher, Krishna Dhoj Chand Secondary School



Child center learning approach

project have conducted vulnerability assessment through participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methodology through the use of tools like context mapping, seasonal calendar, disaster timeline, disaster ranking, problem tree analysis, physical observation inside schools for non-structural vulnerability assessment. A community and focus group discussion was held with school stakeholders including child clubs members, teachers and SMCs in facilitation of the project team and LRP. Following an orientation on PVA, they successfully analysed the hazards, vulnerability, capacity and resources of the schools in their areas. They also identified both disaster risks and safe places for timely evacuation in the event of emergency. These reports were made available to the schools to help them prepare DP plans and SIPs.

While identifying the risk and developing plan to mitigate the possible risks, PVA reports have set a baseline in schools carrying out safety audit against the vulnerability status. Adopting the tool of

safety audit, the teachers, students, SMCs and parents review their plan, which are earlier prioritised during the PVA in schools. They assess the variability and risk through safety audit annually wherein they analyse any shortcoming to reduce the disaster risk as well as how capacities are being developed at local level.

overburdened with my household chores that I hardly get free time to sleep. In my early days in school children would laugh at me finding an old lady in their classroom. Now they are my friends." She passed grade one with second position in her class. Therefore, she has been upgraded to class three directly. She tells that her husband supports her in household chores. Her children also encourage her to study.

"Seeing my enthusiasm on studies, other women are also encouraged to join school. This year, twenty seven years old Jasuda Chaudhary also enrolled in class eight. In my opinion age should not be a limitation for education," Sita concludes.

Capacity building activities have given rise to significant changes in schools and growth in the level of awareness among students, teachers, parents and local communities have been observed significantly. Trained DRR taskforces for search and rescue, early warning and communication, emergency fund mobilisation and first-aid are taken in place to respond the disaster situations.

Similarly, 'education in emergency' tool has trained teachers about INEE (Interagency Network for Education in Emergency) and its standards, developing contingency plan during and post disaster situations to ensure the rights of children in the event of emergency. The participants have gained theoretical knowledge and practical skills in different stations. In schools, trained teachers and students have effectively utilised their skills while administering the first-aid in schools. Life jackets, stretchers, helmets, megaphones, emergency lights etc., were supported to the schools located in flood prone areas. Through the

CASE STUDY

ENROLLED AT 50

Sita Pantha, 50, from Gajaheda village has joined school last year in class three. Sita elucidates "After participating in REFLECT Circle formed by ActionAid, I was encouraged to join school. I learned about our rights to education in the REFLECT. Now, I feel that education leads us to self development and also provides us skills and confidence." According to Sita she has six members in her family with three sons and one daughter. All her sons are abroad for labour work. So, she is bound to depend on other people to communicate with her sons if she is left illiterate. Now, she can send emails to her sons abroad. "I am very happy," she recalls, "But the days were not same earlier. I was so

she has chilly, cucumber and other vegetables in her kitchen garden from which she earns NRs. 12000 in one season.

"I would get nervous even to tell my name but now I can talk in mass", she shares with a confidence, "When looking back I see how unintelligent I was. REFLECT has taught me many things and availed me many opportunities that brought about huge change in my life. Now I have realised that there are two kinds of poor people, one from heart and other from wealth. I belonged to the first category before."

CASE STUDY

REFLECT FOR CHANGE

Anurupa B.K. of pokhara sub-municipality used to work in others houses and would bring home left-over foods for her children. But, after getting engaged in REFLECT organised by Siddhartha Club, AAIN partner organization, her attitude towards life and work has changed completely. Initially, she would ignore the facilitators who would call her to join the REFLECT Circle.

Later, she got interested in a programme called 'one house one kitchen garden' where she got training on kitchen garden and bought chilly saplings worth NRs.2000. Now,

simulation exercises in schools, the students, teachers and parents were orientated to use the safety materials while practicing the safety exercises (drills) every six months. Now, the school communities have been resourceful with essential materials for safety operations and also have been using the materials and equipments during the floods for rescuing. The materials are also made available to community people and government's emergency responders.

REFLECT as Platform for Empowerment

REFLECT Circle is a platform for the PLiP and marginalised people, especially women to reflect upon their situation and take a collective action to solve their issues and problems identified in their communities. It is a platform where issues related to their communities are discussed openly in order to come up with a collective solution for the overall development of empowered communities. AAIN along with its partner organisations has been facilitating the Circle from its very beginning. The Circle focuses on the dissemination of popular education which is regarded as one of the most effective tools of adult empowerment. This Circle apart from being an empowerment tool also concentrates on adult education, especially educating women. With 316 REFLECT Circles in working areas, 1,755 participants have been able to read and write while 8149 rights holder are well-informed about civic education. The empowerment and education are very necessary to inculcate the idea of meaningful participation to the participants which ultimately make participants to understand the importance of democracy while deepening its practices.

REFLECT Circle in a community is a platform where discussions and interactions lead to self analysis of the community sharing ideas and experiences. These Circles are actively involved in discussing social and political issues that are pertinent in their communities.. Women of REFLECT Circles are actively engaged in various campaigns and activism such as fight against chhaupadi engagements is civic education, participation and representation in decision making bodies / committees, PPP, fight against VAW, budget tracking and mobilisation of VDCs and DDCs, campaigning for ODF areas, free education, equal and fair wages for same work, women's rights to land across the LRPs. Such campaigns have been organised by REFLECT to ensure their access to health services and management as well as productive natural resources such as access to and control over land by landless people and tenants to ensure their rights to food and livelihood.

Policy Engagement

AAIN facilitated policy workshop on School Sector Reform Programme (SSRP) extension document at the national level bringing together key stakeholders in education including teachers' union, student representatives, representatives from Karnali region, representatives from different state-level commissions like National Women's Commission, National Dalit Commission as well as education related media people and organisations working for rights to education. The workshop also reflected on AAIN's critical and constructive engagement with government since it was organised in partnership with National Campaign for Education (NCE) Nepal and in collaboration with Ministry of Education

(MoE). The MoE presented a draft on SSRP SWAP extension document that availed the participants an opportunity to review and reflect on the document. A detail feedback was also submitted through NCE Nepal to be incorporated in the document. As a result of this initiative, MoE has started inviting NCE-Nepal in its major education policy discussions deeming NCE-Nepal a representative of CSOs.

A round-table-dialogue on 'Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Children' was organised in solidarity with Global Campaign to frame post-2015 development agenda. The programme was jointly organised by AAIN with Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and SOS Children's Village Nepal. It brought together over 120 stakeholders from across the country including government officials, international organisations, civil society organisations, academic institutions, I/NGOs, universities and youth organisations. The outcomes and recommendations of this round-table are expected to contribute to the global discourse on post-2015 development agenda. A resource book has also been published contributing to the thirteen periodic plans of the country. Furthermore, the recommendations were submitted to the Chairperson of the erstwhile interim council of ministers to have reflect on outcomes prior to Nepal's representation at the UN Summit.

CASE STUDY

GOING HIGHER IN EDUCATION

Sangita Chuahan, 17, lives in Prasuram VDC in Parsa district. She passed the SLC examination in second division from Kanya Secondary School of Parsa. She is a member of child club formed under local rights programme implemented by Divya Youth Club in partnership with AAIN since 2004. She is actively engaged to promote awareness for child rights, child education and elimination of early child marriage. She herself was proposed for marriage when aged 14. However, she became successful in convincing her parents that she was very young and eager to achieve higher education. If she had married she would have quit for sure her dream of pursuing higher education. Given the hardship of daily life her parents suggested her not join the higher education. But, DYC provided her an education support of NRs. 4000 that enabled her to enroll for higher education.



School enrollment campaign

CASE STUDY

PRABHA IS EMPOWERED

“REFLECT HAS ENCOURAGED ME. IT HAS OPENED WINDOWS OF VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES AND BOOSTED UP MY CONFIDENCE”, PRABHA TIMILSINA.

Youngest of four children, Prabha, 25, lives in Shikarpani Tole of Churiyamai VDC with her mother Devaki Timilsina and her four siblings. She was very young, when her father deserted her mother for another woman, which brought emotional and economical crises in the family. Being a single mother of four children, Prabha's mother and elder siblings had to work in other people's houses for income. Thus, they dropped out of school to sustain household expenses.

Soon after Prabha's older sister got married, her mother became sick that prevented her from going to school as well. At a tender age of 17, she

decided to take a loan of NRs. 5000 from a cooperative and started restaurant business at small scale. During this very time she became an active community member by getting involved in Diyalo Janamukhi Sikhshya Kendra (a REFLECT Circle) of Makwanpur Mahila Samuha (MMS). She enthusiastically participated in discussions and other activities organised by the group. Her enthusiasm to work for women was soon recognised by her community members. Therefore, she stood for the post of president of Wada Nagarik Manch (Ward Citizen Forum), and won the election. Now, she is also a member of VDC level network and secretary of VDC level Women's Network. Even though she is involved with many organisations, she still manages time to attend skills development training programmes. She undertook a three-months-long training course on house-wiring organised by MMS in coordination with Government of Nepal's Self-employment Fund Campaign. Standing resolute

on her commitment she challenged the notion that women could not undertake technical jobs by successfully completing level 1 and level 2 trainings. This training has imparted on her technical knowledge while uplifting her economic conditions. She has also received SIYB training to scale up her business with enhanced technical knowledge. Now, she makes an earning of NRs. 15,000 per month through electrical works. She is also planning to open her own electric shop in coming days.

“The credit for my success goes to my struggle and hard work. Now, I have realised that life is not just a path of thorns. I am happy for the fact that people look up to me as an example that women can excel in technical jobs. I am thankful to my mother and REFLECT for supporting me. I keep on working for women's rights in my society,” Prabha concludes with a smile.

OTHER ORGANISATIONAL INITIATIVES

Strengthening Campaign on Water Commons

Engagement of AAIN on Mahakali, Gandak and Koshi river campaigns was continued this year too in partnership with Forum for Local Development in Kanchanpur, INDRENI in Nawalprasi and Abhiyan Nepal in Koshi. Water commons is national and cross-border issue and is linked to water politics. AAIN and its partners have been organising various workshops, meetings and trainings from local to national level to amplify the issues of water commons. Moreover, linkage of water commons with disaster is crucial. The events of water commons are confined within certain areas in the region lacking solidarity with concerned stakeholders within Nepal and India. The strategic partners engaged in the issues of water commons are amplifying this issue in coordination with Indian journalists. It is disheartening that various major political parties are least bothered to prioritise these very pertinent issues in their election manifestos. However, national and international pressure play an important role in pressurising Government of India (which should be our priority too) and AAIN and its partners are moving forward to make this happen. Indo-Nepal Saptakoshi Jal Adhikar Manch (a water rights forum) was formed on 6 April 2013 in Supoul Simrahi, Bihar in India involving 13 members (7 from Bihar and 6 from east Nepal). It aims to create pressure about the issues of the Saptakoshi River up on both Nepalese and Indian governments to make justice through internationalisation of the issue. The forum has summoned its second meeting-cum-workshop at Human

Resource Development Centre in Tarahara, Nepal in 2013. A five-member code of conduct drafting committee was also formed to draft the code of conduct for smooth functioning of the forum. Similarly, Nepal was entrusted the responsibility to lead the forum for first two years. Abhiyan Nepal is equally mobilising local committees and affected communities living in the river basin of the Koshi River.

Water commons is national and cross-border issue and is linked to water politics. AAIN and its partners have been organising various workshops, meetings and trainings from local to national level to amplify the issues of water commons.

Likewise, various groups have been organised and mobilised to engage in the reviewing of bi-lateral river treaties. The water rights campaign has been grounded and widened from local to national level. Through this initiative, umpteenth youths are organising and amplifying the issues with widespread solidarity for water rights campaigns. An initiation has been made to create critical masses among the college-going students through series of interactions and water related dialogues. Owing to continued pressure by such groups, the

canal survey work at Chadani and Dodhara has been initiated by Government of Nepal. Furthermore, some of the VDCs; Masuriya and Gadairya in Kailali; Chadani and Dodhara in Kanchanpur and Lali in Darchula along with DDC Kanchanpur have allocated budget for interaction and research work on water rights. Likewise, maintenance work has started in the Gandak basin areas as demanded by Gandak Struggle Committee. Besides this, a blacktopped road is under construction over the canal side of Nepal in connection with the implementation of 21 points agreement. However, monitoring the quality of construction work is still a challenge given weak bilateral coordination between India and Nepal. With the initiation of REFLECT Circle of Gandak, water rights initiative has been successful in sourcing an amount of NRs. 240,000 for culvert construction from District Development Committee, Nawalparasi. A workshop titled 'Strengthening Peoples' Perspectives on South-Asia Water Commons' was also organised in 2013. The workshop, after rigorous and enriching discussion, concluded by setting and clarifying objectives for the comprehensive study on water commons as a regional initiative boasting of study design, methodology and framework, expected outputs and outcomes, risks and challenges, and way forward, within a clear timeline. This initiative is expected to take this movement more effectively.

International Conference on Participatory Democracy

AAIN has adopted the concept of participatory democracy a practical

means for democratic development of the country. AAIN in partnership with Institute for Governance and Development (IGD) organised "International Participatory Democracy Conference" in December 2013. The conference was a step forward towards participatory democracy discourse building on the experiences from "National Conference on Participatory Democracy in Nepal" held in 2012. As an outcome a publication on "Participatory Democracy- Issues and Reflection" was published. The evolution of a platform "Forum for Participatory Democracy" at national level has connected itself to eastern and western regions of Nepal. It was envisioned to establish forum as a common platform to trigger discourses contributing to national development strategies of democracy and democratisation, develop web-based information sharing platform, continue research through fellowship, development of popular primers and issue based discourses to develop and strengthen critical mass on democratisation of democracy. Nepal moving ahead in the constitution making process makes the discussion more contextual and relevant. AAIN has acknowledged the value of just and democratic governance as a major component for development. AAIN in its CSP IV corresponds the participatory democracy as the strategic direction in achieving the just and democratic society. The local stakeholders presented their views on participatory democracy at local level in regional PD conference in eastern and western regions. They discussed about the challenges and the opportunities that lay ahead in making the democracy visible and compatible to the people's aspiration.

The papers with visions and deeper

analyses on various issues were comprehended by substantive discussion throughout the conference. Contextual issues "Inclusion and Democratic Governance in Nepal", "Democratisation of Local Governance", "Civil Society, Nation Building and Democratisation", "State Building for Democratic Governance", "State, Women and Democratisation", "Multiculturalism, Peace and Democracy in Nepal" were the Nepal specific topical papers presented and discussed. Furthermore, the experience from Nigeria and South Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe on participatory democracy added ingredients for the quality deliberation.

The notion of participatory democracy emphasises on promoting active citizenship. It highlights the need for continuously innovating and indigenising democratic means and mechanisms. Participatory Democracy can also be perceived as a continuous popular movement towards deepening and widening democracy, rather than advocating for a particular democratic model.

Involvement with LGCDP-II

AAIN took the lead in Social Mobilisation Local Accountability output of LGCDP-II

in Strategic Implementation Plan development process. Some of the good practices such as district meet of transformative social mobilisation practitioners, formal cooperation with local bodies through MoU, mobilisation of loose forum (Janasarokar Manch) have been incorporated in the document. Moreover, implementation of Livelihood Improvement Plan in Citizen's Awareness Forum/REFLECT, harmonisation of social mobilisation tools and techniques, Ward Citizen's Forum as entry point for development activities, institutionalisation of democratic practices such as reformation of Ward Citizen's Forum etc have also been proposed. Government has appreciated the constructive engagement of AAIN in developing the strategic implementation plan.

Fellowship for Deepening Democracy

The fellowship for deepening democracy project is all about capacity development of PLiP specially focused on youth development through revitalizing and re energizing adult and civic education. It aims to enhance the capacity of the youth to facilitate the democratization process at local level and adds value in terms of deepening and widening democratic practices. The project has targeted 100 master fellows to build their abilities to perform function, solve problems and achieve objectives through linking the capacities works in social mobilisation process. In 2013 100 master fellows from 48 districts who are performing as a front line activists associated with LRP, projects, network and alliances are obtaining different courses and modules of HRBA to development.

Organisational Processes & Changes

Sponsorship Supporter Retention

Child Sponsorship is one of the major funding sources of AAIN. Retention of supporters is the key priority of the organisation. Therefore, AAIN took various initiatives to improve supporter communications – child sponsorship reports and child message.

AAIN conducted series of sponsorship trainings for the PNGOs to strengthen their skills on child sponsorship aiming to improve child sponsorship reports and the quality of child message. It also organised an inter-LRP exposure visit for PNGOs for cross sharing and learning best practices and a pilot drawing training in one of the

PNGOs. All these have significantly contributed in improving the quality of the supporter communications and we believe all these have helped in retaining the supporters.

Growth Rate of Sponsorship

The growth rate of the links for 2013 is 2.22 per cent. The reason for the growth is due to unplanned supporter transfers from ActionAid China and ActionAid Haiti. Not considering this transfer, AAIN would have seen a negative growth of 3.74 per cent. AAIN plans to maintain its current link levels in 2014 through continuation of the supporter retention initiatives and by adding 1100 new links.

REGULAR FUNDING MECHANISM	AS OF	LINKS
Child Sponsorship	Dec 2013	10,208
Next Step (Non-child sponsorship)	Dec 2013	2,660

The growth rate of the links for 2013 is 2.22 per cent. The reason for the growth is due to unplanned supporter transfers from ActionAid China and ActionAid Haiti.



Changes



Programme - Led Funding Plan (PLFP)

PLFP was developed with the input from programme directorate and other programme colleagues. This exercise allowed the fund raising team to develop a deeper understanding of programme and programmatic needs in planning funding strategy and priorities. The process has also supported to develop a channel for enhancing the relationships with funding affiliates, both around institutional and high value funding opportunities. Based on our need and donor intelligence, we can devise donor engagement strategies in order to meet AAIN's objectives.

Project Management Initiative

The objective of this initiative was to improve AAIN's contract and grant management system. AAIN's Country Director, senior management team members, project management staff, finance staff, and other colleagues gathered and contributed to critical and participatory deliberations around project management practices.

The workshop was organized to analyse the historical to present involvement of AAIN in different projects. This workshop proved to be highly successful and efficient. Over the course of the workshop, it became clear that: 1) a lack of consolidated learning vis-à-vis project management has been an organisational setback and 2) AAIN absolutely needs a common understanding of department linkages around project management and this fact needs to be endorsed across the organisation.

Cost effectiveness

Good working environment and timely logistics support for different workshops, meetings etc. and timely procurement of the required items with cost effectiveness and quality as well as eco friendly, or value for money are ensured. Following the 'go green' campaign, AAIN staffs are more conscious to save the electricity, fuel, paper and encourage the group travel through go green concept.

Financial Management

Ensuring the timely and quality reports, all financial reports are received from LRP partners and project partners (where

required), within 5th of following month (with very few exception) and quality assurance is done by the assigned finance focal persons. If any errors are identified same is communicated to the partner immediately. This has resulted into capturing of the accurate financial information which again will lead to strong financial system.

Regular bilateral meetings with LRP partners and in case of project partners' coordinate with RCs and internal audit along with visits from CO finance resulting to minimisation of finance risk. Audit recommendations are ensured to be implemented immediately and complied with. This has resulted into more strengthened internal control system thereby minimising financial risk.

AAIN annual financial update

Actual Regular Giving Income in 2013 was GBP 1.893 million, which is in line with 2013 actual. There has also been a decrease of around 12 per cent in the actual other income (partnership) as compared to the previous year. The overall income position of AAIN for the year 2013 is as follows:

- GBP '000

INCOME	2012 ACTUAL	2013	
		PLAN	ACTUAL
Regular Giving Income	1,894	1,821	1,893
Other Income	1,857	1,718	1,636
Total Income	3,751	3,539	3,529

The funding Affiliate wise breakdown of the Regular Giving Income for 2013 is as follows:

REGULAR GIVING INCOME	2013 PLAN	2013 ACTUAL	COMPOSITION 2013
ActionAid UK	538	557	29%
ActionAid Spain	397	335	18%
ActionAid Italy	468	560	30%
ActionAid Ireland	213	207	11%
ActionAid Greece	205	234	12%
Total Cost	1,821	1,893	100%

In 2013, 32 per cent of AAIN's Regular Giving Income was obtained from unrestricted sources (Next Step & Big Step) and the remaining 68 per cent has been restricted to LRPs. Out of the five funding Affiliates, the largest funding Affiliate for Nepal in 2013 was Italy with a contribution of 30 per cent of the total income followed by the UK and Spain which contributed 29 and 18 per cent respectively.

Expenditure

The actual expenditure of AAIN for 2013 increased by around 5 per cent from the year 2012. Of the total actual expenditure in 2013, 79 per cent was spent under grant and community inputs. Salary and benefits for the year stood at 15 per cent,

4 per cent was spent on office and service costs whereas 2 per cent of the actual expenditure was spent on transportation. The statutory cost analysis suggests that 88 per cent of the overall expenditure in 2013 was made for project costs, 5 per cent for fundraising costs, 6

per cent for support costs whereas 1 per cent was spent for governance. The total expenditure stood at 3.2 million. The comparative expenditure chart is as follows:

NATURAL COST CLASSIFICATION	2012 ACTUAL	2013	
		PLAN	ACTUAL
Grants and Community Inputs	2,339	2,550	2,528
Salaries and Benefits (staff costs)	522	700	493
Travel and transportation	76	102	76
Office and service costs	129	170	123
Total	3,066	3,522	3,220
STATUTORY COST ANALYSIS			
Project Costs	2,640	2,986	2,832
Support Costs	224	292	186
Fundraising Costs	179	215	173
Governance Costs	23	29	29
Total	3,066	3,522	3,220

Information Technology (IT)

Hard disk base multisite backup system has been implemented in ERC and CO office to ensure data availability with upgraded internet speed in all locations for smooth operation of video conference and remote assistance tools like Skype, Team viewer etc for remote support.

IT also involved itself in programme through training sessions for school teachers on office application and other useful tools to conduct IT class in school. Four community schools were equipped with Desktops, Laptop, Printer, Scanner and internet service. IT designed IT course for fellowship training and supported to manage IT lab and IT training throughout fellowship training.

CSP Monitoring Framework

Country Strategy Paper of AAIN; Equitable Actions to End Poverty – 2012 to 2017 has clear milestones with concrete results by end of 2017. AAIN has worked on producing CSP monitoring framework ensuring its result areas and focuses for all strategic objectives and organisational priorities. The process had been initiated in consultation with different departments, functions and units. Workshops were organised in resource centres and Kathmandu country office to discuss on the framework writing a draft as per the inputs received. Along with this, the Organisational Effectiveness Department developed a coverage table format to capture quantitative information. The content of the format focuses on the quantitative indicators identified in CSP monitoring framework. It will support us to get informed about the quantitative achievement according to our programme interventions.

Ensuring monitoring mechanisms

AAIN systematised the process of quarterly performance plan and report to track the performance of programme and function in line with annual plan and budget (APB). In AAIN's CSP we have made a strong commitment to deepen and show the impacts of our work more explicitly on the lives of people we work with (women, Dalits, highly excluded indigenous people and PLiP) holding collectively accountable to delivering on our strategic objectives and strengthening our participatory monitoring and evaluation system. To be able to meet this commitment to show impact, we developed two levels of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements; i) frameworks, guidelines, LRP strategies etc. ii) monthly management brief, Quarterly Performance Plan (QPP), Quarterly Performance Report (QPR), PRLM reports, event and time bound based reviews and reflections, annual learning documents etc.

QPP is in line with our APB, which ultimately is in line with our CSP. QPP will provide a lens to explore on our activities and give directions to achieve desired results for the period we have committed in our APB. QPR gives us an idea whether the particular department or unit is able to perform desired key performance indicators or not.

Programme Audit

AAIN introduced programme audit as a holistic approach of auditing (Social, Financial, Programme and Governance). AAIN initiated 'programme audit' of partners to develop the internal control system identifying the gaps between policies and practices. The concept of programme audit is to observe the

programme from efficiency, governance, financial and accountability point of view to ensure the partnership programme is effectively functioning.

Programme audit is an important element to assess the effectiveness of the programme implemented by the organisation and develop the internal control system to identify the gap between policies and practices. In AAIN context, programme monitoring and evaluation has always been a core component to see the achievements and to track the impact in the PLiP with positive transformative changes in their lives. AAIN has always valued its accountability towards PLiP, governments, supporters and donors and other stakeholders in the process of empowering PLiP.

In 2013, one programme audit was carried out in Rasuwa district as a piloting process. The process has educated and informed us to assess the programme audit aiming to observe the programme from efficiency, governance, financial and accountability point of view to ensure the partnership programme is working as anticipated to provide areas of management or programme response. The programme of any organisation should be guided by the system and policies to make it sustainable. Therefore, this visit was very crucial to identify strengths and weaknesses along with insights for days to come regarding partnership programme management.

Ensuring effective financial management and strong internal control system

Out of 46 planned internal audits, the unit has been able to conduct 47 audits which

includes few unplanned audits as well which were in demand by other departments and units. Regular audit has supported to ensure timely flow or remittance and receipt of monthly financial report. Audit follow ups have become an integral part of regular review by the programme personnel which is very important and has helped in maintaining financial discipline and accountability. Governance audit is also an integral part of internal audit which ensures good governance system and process in the partner organization. This process has supported to strengthen the internal control system. Celebrating finance day has become a very important event in all partner organisations. This has been introduced in 2013. This initiative supported to create awareness regarding importance of financial management to the non finance human resources.

Ensuring Organisational Accountability

AAIN has been promoting Social Audits at all levels within its system and among its partners not only for proving its own accountability but also as a forum for advocating transparency and accountability to improve and strengthen good governance. The objectives of social audit are to become accountable and transparent, receive critical feedback from stakeholders and create advocacy space for rights to information.

AAIN held its 10th National Social Audit in 2013. National social audit primarily targets various external stakeholders at national level i.e. representatives from concerned government line agencies, various networks, federations and alliances, other I/NGOs, bilateral and

multilateral donor communities, media representatives. Along with this, representatives from our partners and PLiP were also present during the process. It supports us to learn from our experiences and we review our work, accomplishments and reflect on them in a critical way. This process allows us to draw lessons from our actions that build our knowledge about power, change and human rights-based advocacy. With these insights we arrive at a position to revise our plans and strategies.

Staff Management

The HROD department facilitated the recruitment process and 10 positions were filled in 2013. Leadership development through internal development processes was carried out and staff movements were implemented accordingly. The HROD team underwent a job evaluation training after which job evaluation of positions was institutionalized as a part of the HROD system.

In order to strengthen team spirit amongst staff and to foster team culture, a team building exercise was carried out for staff at the six monthly programme reflection and learning meeting. Fight-back training was conducted for all women staff to better equip women to tackle any form of violence at public spaces. This training was organized as a part of AAIN's annual women's forum which is a platform for all women to deliberate on the issues of gender sensitivity at workplace and to look at AAIN's policies and practices from women's perspective.

Registration of AAIN in Nepal

In 2013, discussion about the most appropriate form of registration was taken forward in consultation with relevant government officials, stakeholders and staff members. Following this, it was decided that AAIN will be registered as a national NGO, and the process to be facilitated from 2014.



AAIN's tenth national social audit

LEARNING AND CHALLENGES

- The government of Nepal has made the provision to give discount for making joint land ownership certificate (male and female). The women joint land ownership campaign has already started however there is need of further strengthening the campaign providing model for women's economic security. Dissemination of information and campaign for joint land ownership needs to be reinforced. Such issues should be regularly discussed at REFLECT Circles and Community Based Organisations (CBOs). Lack of legal awareness with discriminative perception towards women regarding the transferring of ownership is foremost hurdle. Besides this, mass awareness and dissemination of information on policy provisions to rural women is still a challenge.
- Development of sustainable agricultural models in the ground is very important as the present sustainable agriculture schemes and plans do not cater the need of small holder farmers and is just seen as technical issue completely missing out rights action. Specific sustainable agricultural models are to be developed as examples for policy advocacy and also to advocate government for the replication of such through their plan and budget.
- The replication of kitchen garden or organic farming at larger scale, along with seed banks has technical hurdles. This can also indicate the potential of knowledge and training at that level. Budget allocated by the government is not sufficient to ensure the sustainability of agriculture.
- Mainstreaming the disaster risk management through participatory planning process (PPP) of Village Development Committee (VDCs) and District Development Committees (DDCs) is a major challenge over the period. For its effective mainstreaming, disaster preparedness and response plan should be more focused on preparedness reflecting on local development process. At the same time, our intervention needs to enhance the understanding on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change to the wider stakeholders.
- Despite the continuous effort on eliminating bonded labour-Haliyas are still found working to pay off their debt. It points out the existing loopholes as well as helps to direct government and policy makers to provide an alternative and permanent rehabilitation mechanism. The collaboration of likeminded organisations is equally important to support the initiative of the government in this respect.
- There is a huge gap on equal wage rate for equal work. A strategic campaign plan and policy analysis is required to establish fair and equal wage.
- With the awareness of budgetary provisions and participatory planning process, submission and approval rate of community proposals has increased whereas the budget ceiling of VDCs has not increased as per the demand of the community.
- The issue of Talaki (divorce) women in Muslim community and its social implications have not been mainstreamed which act as hurdle to get social security services. It has been observed that many of the cases that are filed are withdrawn only because of the lengthy process one has to go through.
- The concept of the UCW is facing difficulties to grow in the community due to the strong hold of the patriarchal structure. Therefore, proper training and orientation of time diary and its use is crucial and essential. Mechanism to recognise, redistribute and reduce UCW for women is essential for its sustainability. Due to lack of ownership, government has not mainstreamed UCW in the process of development and has not accepted to incorporate in the VDC level planning. However, use of tool like time diary is playing an important role for sensitising and realising the work overloads for women.
- Dowry related crime has spread rapidly in all communities. Tendency of taking and giving dowry is influencing other communities (ethnic/indigenous communities and other castes). Efforts have been done to reduce this social evil but still challenge lies there given the absence of control mechanism.
- Despite various improvements and implementation of free education, challenges still prevail. The process of liberal promotion has not been ensured at school resulting into decreasing child learning achievement. When youth and child club members are involved in the enrollment process the campaigns are much effective. The village education plan is never effective as long as the village education committee does not function well.

GLIMPSES OF QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENT - 2013

The table below shows the highlights of the quantitative achievements of 2013 as per four strategic objectives of AAIN's CSP IV: Equitable Actions to End Poverty.

OBJECTIVE	QUANTITATIVE COVERAGE
<p>1. To ensure improved livelihoods and build disaster resilient communities by enabling PLiP and marginalised people to claim productive resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 4,309 people have increased access to and control over natural resources (i.e. community forest, buffer zone fishing pond) ➤ 2,093 PLiP got joint and single land ownership certificate ➤ 2,211 land rights activists developed and mobilised in land rights movement. ➤ 7 community seed banks established ➤ 27 LDRMP developed at community level. ➤ 83 community level DM plans developed. ➤ National Building Code implemented in Pokhara Sub-metropolitan.
<p>2. To facilitate political advancement of PLiP and marginalised people to hold duty bearers to account, develop propositions for national development strategies and deepen democracy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 16,840 PLiP had representation and participation in different groups, forums, committees, networks etc. ➤ 2,786 PLiP acquired leadership position. ➤ 759 Community Planning submitted to VDC out of them 489 approved ➤ Transparency and accountability practices at local government institutions (108 Citizen Charters, 346 Social Audit, Public Audit and Public Hearing). ➤ 8991 PLiP access to local services (Education/ health/ agriculture) ➤ 17,658 PLiP are successful to acquire social security allowance and 7523 received citizenship and voter ID.

OBJECTIVE	QUANTITATIVE COVERAGE
<p>3. To engage with women and girls to build their active agency to challenge/ take action against all forms of discrimination and injustice against their body, sexuality and unequal burden of work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6,348 women and girls sensitised on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights ➤ 7,123 women and men sensitised on unpaid care work ➤ 739 VAW cases reported and 245 received justice throughout LRPs and project areas. ➤ 2 safe houses established in Chitwan and Makwanpur, information desk & one door crisis management committee formed. ➤ 4 model community child care centres established in Parsa, Mahottari and Terhathum. ➤ 560 local women activists developed in LRP working areas.
<p>4. To support all children attain quality education in a safe and equitable environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 65 schools use PRS framework to improve the quality of public education in community and government schools. ➤ 24 schools' citizen's education report (CER) developed ➤ 65 schools updated SIP ➤ 1,027 out-of-school-children enrolled. ➤ 82 freed Kamaiya children and 29 Kamlahari received scholarships through ROTA project. ➤ 5,773 basic grades students benefitted from English and computer lab. ➤ 129 schools conducted PVA and prepared DM Plan. ➤ 75 schools executed safety audit to monitor risk reduction plan. ➤ 62 schools' infrastructure constructed to meet safe school standard and building code. ➤ 8 school buildings retrofitted and 3 earthquake resistant schools built in Pokhara. ➤ 2,070 PLiP became able to read and write their names through REFLECT Circles. ➤ 4 youth information centres established in coordination with Activista.

LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME (LRP)

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

LRP14 (Rasuwa)	Manekor Society Nepal (MSN) Nepal Agro forestry Foundation (NAF)
LRP 15 (Dolakha)	Ecology Agriculture and Rural Development Society (ECARDS) Human Rights Awareness and Development Centre (HURADEC)
LRP 16 (Kapilvastu)	Sahaj Nepal (SN) Siddhartha Social Development Centre (SSDC)
LRP 17 (Parsa)	Arunodaya Yuba Club (AYC) Divya Yuba Club (DYC)
LRP 18 (Siraha)	Dalit Jana Kalyan Yuba Club (DJKYC)
LRP 19 (Dang)	Society for Environment and Education Development (SEED) Boat for Community Development (BCD)
LRP 21 (Dhanusha)	Dhanusha Sewa Samiti (DSS) Social Development Path (SODEP)
LRP 23 (Kaski)	Siddhartha Club (SC) Children and Women Empowerment Society (CWES)
LRP 24 (Nawalparasi)	Indreni Social Development Forum (ISDF) Majhi Musahar Bote Kalyan Sewa Samiti (MMBKSS)
LRP 26 (Bara)	Janchetana Jagaran Abhiyan (JJA) Rural Development Centre (RDC)
LRP 27 (Morang)	Madan Bhandari Memorial Academy Nepal (MBMAN) Nari Bikash Sangh (NBS)
LRP 28 (Udayapur)	Nepal Social Development People Empowerment Centre (NESPEC) Chelibeti Club (CBC)
LRP 29 (Bajura)	Human Resource Centre (HRC) Participatory Effort at Children Education and Women Initiative Nepal (Peacewin)
LRP 30 (Banke)	Bheri Environment Excellence Group (BEE Group) Nepal Muslim Samaj Bikas Chetana Kendra (NMSBCK)
LRP 31 (Terhathum)	Dalit Awareness Society (DAS) Deurali Society (DS)
LRP 32 (Kathmandu Valley)	Homenet Nepal (HNN) Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj (NMES)
LRP 33 (Bardiya)	Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj (KMJS)
LRP 34 (Sankuwasabha)	The Society Touch (TST)

PROJECTS MANAGED BY AAIN IN 2013

PROJECTS	DONOR	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	PROJECT PERIOD
1. Kamaiya Housing Project	AA UK	Dang: Rara Human and Environmental Resource Development Initiative	November 2012 to November 2013
2. Saksham	Irish Aid/ActionAid Ireland	Mahottari: Community Development Project, Parsa: Dibya Yuba Club, Makwanpur: Makwanpur Mahila Samuha, Chitwan: Chitwan Sakriya Samuha, Kathmandu: Mahila Adhikar Munch	January 2012 to December 2015
3. Quality Education through Disaster Resilient Schools	ROTA	Kailali: Forum for Awareness and Youth Activities, Nepal (FAYA)	September 2010 to September 2013
4. Building Disaster Risk Resilient in Pokhara Sub-metropolitan (Consortium with Practical Action Nepal)	DFID	Kaski: Siddhartha Club, Child and Women Empowerment Society Nepal	April 2012 to March 2014
5. Citizens Actions for Improving Basic Health Care Services	HPAF-OXFAM	Makwanpur: Rural Women Service Centre (in technical assistance of The Patan Academy of Health Sciences)	April 2012 to October 2013
6. Promoting Access to and Control over Free Basic Health Services at Local Level through Citizens Participation in Governance Process	IGT/AAI	Banke: Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj Nawalparasi: Indreni Social Development Forum Sindhupalchowk: Rural Community Health Center Siraha: Dalit Jana Kalyan Yuba Club	December 2011 to May 2013
7. Participatory Democracy Initiative	Danida AA Denmark	Doti: Equality Development Centre, Samaj Sewa Doti Kailali: Rastriya Dalit Network, Banke: Centre for Women's Development, Dalit Welfare Organisation, Kapilvastu: Kalika Self-reliant Social Centre, Siddhartha Social Development Centre, Palpa: Social Resource Development Centre Nepal, Women Welfare Association, Nawalparasi: Vijaya Development Resource Centre, Bara: New Young Star Club, Udayapur: Apang Bikas Sangh, Muldhar Mahila Sewa Kendra, Feminist Dalit Organisation, Dalit Network Udayapur, Nawa Prabhat Nepal	January 2012 to December 2013
8. Deepening Democracy	DANIDA	Palpa: Social Resource Development Centre Nepal Nawalparasi: SAHAMATI Morang: Santhal Indigenous Upliftment Association Nepal, Sunsari: Underprivileged Children Association Nepal	January 2011 to June 2013
9. Strengthening Women's	EC	Terhathum: Dalit Awareness Society Deurali Society Collectives Project	March 2013 to February 2016
10. Aid Match Project	AAUK, DFID and Aid Match Fund	Bardiya: Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj Nawalparasi: Indreni Social Development Forum Sankhuwasabha: The Society Touch, Nepal	August 2013 to July 2016
11. Early Childhood Development Centre	Guy Foundation	Kaski: Community Support Group	January 2013 to October 2014
12. Fellowship to Deepening Democracy in Communities in Nepal	DANIDA AA Denmark	Capacity building of Fellow (area not specified)	January 2013 to December 2014

AAIN in Media / AAIN Publications 2013

मेरो दिनचर्या
पारिश्रमिक बिनाको सेवासल्लाह

गुणस्तरीय शिक्षा
र
बालकेन्द्रित शिक्षण विचार

Citizens Education
2013

विद्यालयमा रिपट जोसिम
एडिग बालक एडिग बाला रिपट

Earthquake-resistant technology
trained masons not in demand



The Himalayan



Why Public Institutions Fail In Nepal
Growing Moral Crisis

हिमालय
दैनिक

महिला शिक्षाबिहिन कानून न्यायन साथ
१५ दिन अघिमात्र सार्वजनिक



act:onaid

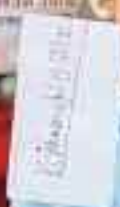
REFLECTION
LEARNING

FROM FOR PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY
**PARTICIPATORY
DEMOCRACY**
Issues and Reflections

act:onaid



विद्यालयलाई
प्रभावकारी बनाउने उपाय



**STORIES of
CHANGE**
SCHOOLSHIP PROGRAMME

परिवर्तनका
कथाहरु



act:onaid

ActionAid International Nepal

ActionAid International Nepal is an anti-poverty, human rights-based organisation established in 1982. We are an associate member of the ActionAid International federation, and we aspire to become a full affiliate at the beginning of this strategy period. ActionAid International is active in over 45 countries across Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe, with international secretariat in Johannesburg, South Africa. We have worked in partnership with more than 100 civil society organisations, social justice movements and people's organisations in 27 districts to fight against poverty and injustice.

act:onaid

COUNTRY OFFICE

Apsara Marga, Lazimpat
Ward No. 3, Kathmandu, Nepal
P.O. Box. 6257
Tel.: 977-1-4002177
Fax: 977-1-4002118
Email: mail.nepal@actionaid.org
Website: www.actionaid.org/nepal

EASTERN RESOURCE CENTRE

Panchali, Ward No. 16
Biratnagar, Morang, Nepal
Tel.: 021-470575, 471637
Fax: 021-472635
Email: infoerc.nepal@actionaid.org

WESTERN RESOURCE CENTRE

Belaspur, Sanchayakosh Marga
Ward No. 16, Nepalgunj,
Banke, Nepal
P.O. Box: 75
Tel.: 081-526298, 524245,
Fax: 081-522536
Email: infowrc.nepal@actionaid.org