



#### ActionAid Nepal (AAN)

ActionAid is a global justice federation working to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication. ActionAid Nepal is a member of the federation, working for human rights, anti-poverty and gender equality. It is a non-governmental national social justice organisation established in 1982 and working locally in different provinces of Nepal. It is also a part of both national and global social justice movement and other civil society networks, alliances and coalitions.

# REFLECTIONS AND LEARNING

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### actionaid

### Vision

Our vision is a just and equitable society in Nepal and beyond, where every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity and freedom from poverty and inequality.

### Mission

Our mission is to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion and their communities, organisations and movements.

### We Work with

Women & girls, children, landless and smallholder farmers, Dalit, socio-economically marginalised people, young people, alliances, networks and agencies for People Living in Poverty and Exclusion.

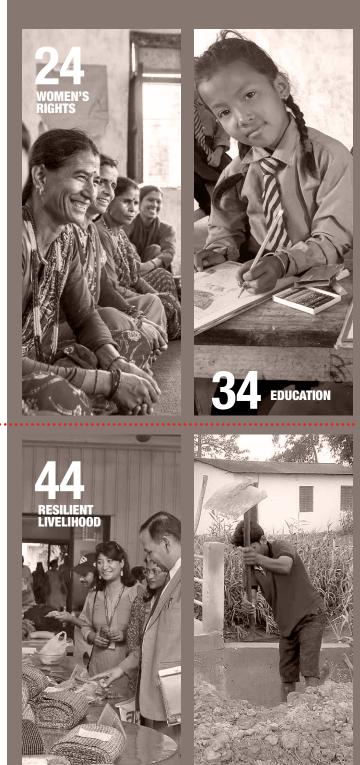
### Our Approach

Shaped and driven by our values, vision and mission, we work for transformative and structural social changes through people's active agencies. We believe in human rights and embrace HRBA to fight against structural causes of poverty, injustice and inequality.

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# ACRONYMS

AAN CCCC	ActionAid Nepal Community Child Care Centre
CER	Citizens Education Report
CRSA	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture
DMC	Disaster Management Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk and Management
GBP	Great Britain Pound
GRPS	Gender Responsive Public Services
HRBA	Human Rights-based Approach
LRP	Local Rights Programme
MAM	Mahila Adhikar Manch
PRS	Promoting Rights in School
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
PVA	Participatory Vulnerability Assessment
REFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy through
	Empowering Community Techniques
SIP	School Improvement Plan
SMC	School Management Committee
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
UCW	Unpaid Care Work
	•
VAW	Violence against Women





# GLOSSARY

**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 and after childbirth, as she is considered impure.

Child Centred Learning: It is a child focused learning approach where the children learn without any pressure through innovative teaching and learning methods. It also refers to children's right to quality trained teachers and right to learn in a peaceful and child friendly environment.

**CRSA:** Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture is a strategy aimed at making small holder farmers less vulnerable and more resilient to future climate shocks. It is based on the science and practices of agroecology, and it contributes to both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**HRBA:** Our human rights-based approach supports People Living in Poverty to become conscious of their rights, to organize themselves to claim their rights, and to hold duty bearers to account. AAN builds on international human rights law, but goes beyond a legal or technical approach, supporting people to analyze and confront power imbalances and take sides with the PLiP.

Kamaiya: Agricultural bonded labourer, particularly those that existed in Western Nepal but abolished after the promulgation of Kamaiya Labour (Prohibition) Act, 2002. **LRP:** Our long-term programmes in particular districts and communities; AAN refers to all of its programmes as rights programmes, which may be implemented at local, national and international levels.

**Off-farm livelihood:** Engagement in formal or informal skill-based works or enterprises that contribute the household incomes. For example: carpentry, mason, plumbing, etc.

**On-farm livelihood:** Direct involvement in the agriculture and/or livestock rearing sector and considering it as a major source of income. For example: vegetable farming, poultry, etc.

**PRS:** It is a framework produced by the Right to Education Project together with ActionAid's International Education Team, aimed at actively engaging parents, children, teachers' unions, communities and local civil society organizations in collectively monitoring and improving the quality of public education. It offers a set of practical tools, to track 10 core rights of school education that can be used as a basis for mobilization, advocacy and campaigning.

**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.



Whor GE

Seema Singh BOARD CHAIR

# MESSAGE



Sujee Li.

Sujeeta Mathema EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### Dear All, Namaste!!

ActionAid Nepal (AAN) has continued its activism on various critical issues of Women's Rights, Quality Public Education, Resilient Livelihood and Disaster Risk Reductions. This document, 'Reflections and Learning 2019' reflects some of our major initiatives and achievements throughout the year and we are pleased to present it in front of you.

After completion of two years of local election and one and half year of provincial and federal elections, a motion can be seen in legislation process. The parliament, provincial assemblies and local governments endorsed a number of different acts and policies in line with the Constitution 2015. AAN was continuously engaged in with all three-tiers of Government to incorporate the unresolved issues of people living in poverty and exclusion in the upcoming acts and policies.

AAN, its partner organizations and the agencies of women and girls like Mahila Adhikar Manch, adolescent groups, community watch groups, child and youth clubs formed by AAN were actively engaged to stop Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The campaign not only built up confidence of the agencies to speak out but also convinced local governments to take preventive measures and stop VAWG.

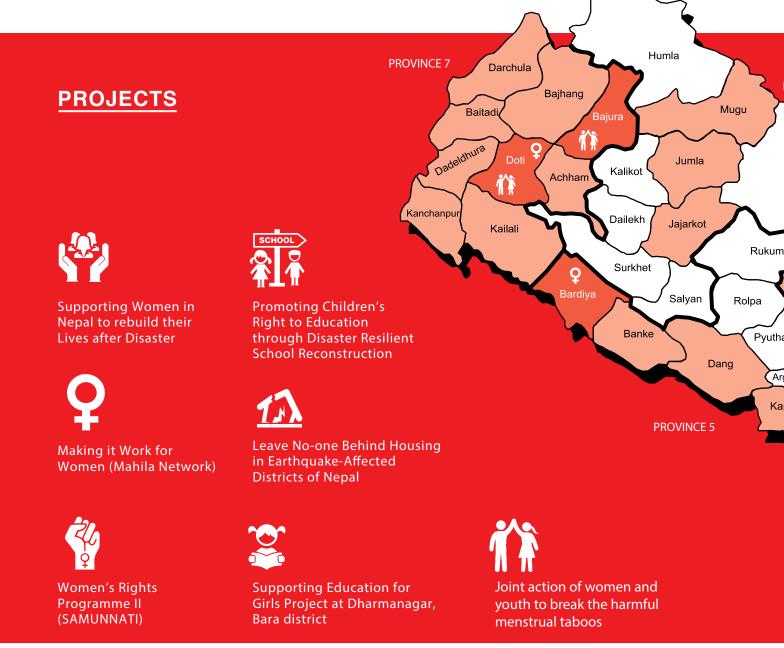
Promoting Rights in School (PRS) framework practiced in AAN working areas has influenced and alarmed key stakeholders to ensure quality education in public schools. It has also become a basis of setting indicators for model school initiative. Model school initiative helped not only to increase the number of students and learning achievement, but it has also helped to gain ownership of parents and local governments in public schools.

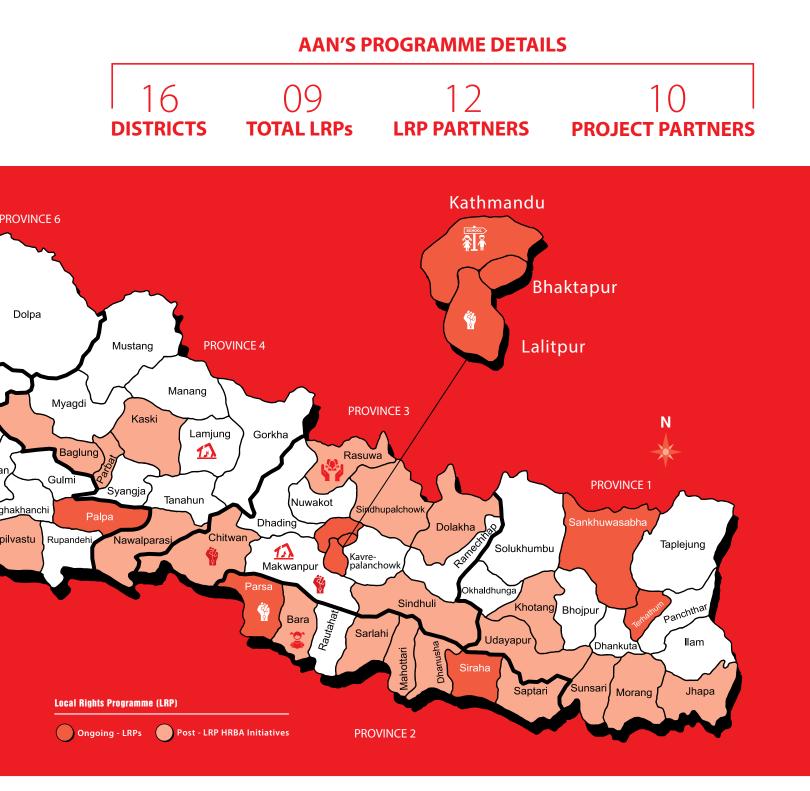
To overcome challenges on the use of chemical fertilizers, AAN is continuously engaged in the promotion of agroecological farming. Similarly, we are also promoting income generating alternatives through women and youth entrepreneurship in both on-farm and off-farm activities.

Similarly, communities were empowered through participatory vulnerability assessment and worked together to build their resilience against disasters. They were also engaged to influence local government for building disaster resilient communities. Further, AAN has also reached people affected by disasters with immediate food and non-food supplies.

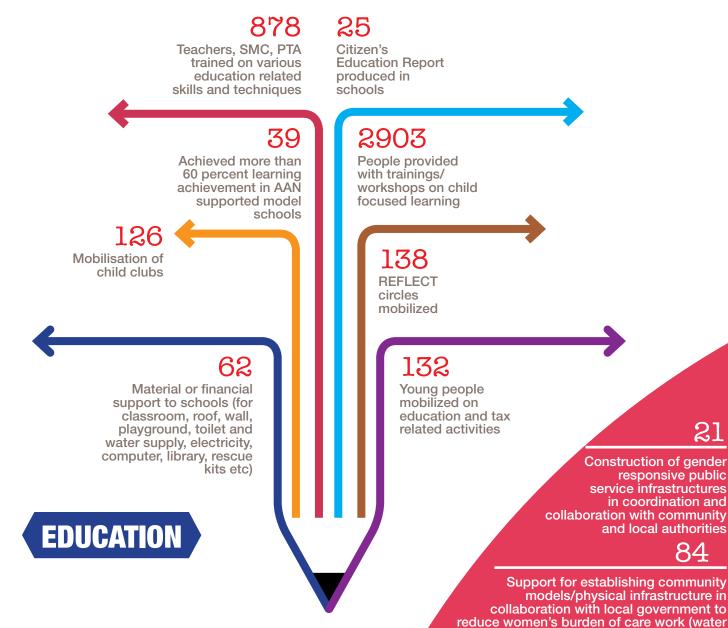
Last but not least, we would like to thank Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen, Social Welfare Council, Central and District Project Advisory Committee, the local communities, our partner organizations, networks and alliances, AAN staff, National Board of Governance and ActionAid International Federation for their continued support and guidance throughout the year. They were indispensable to achieve the results presented in this report.

### WORKING AREAS OF ACTIONAID NEPAL IN 2019





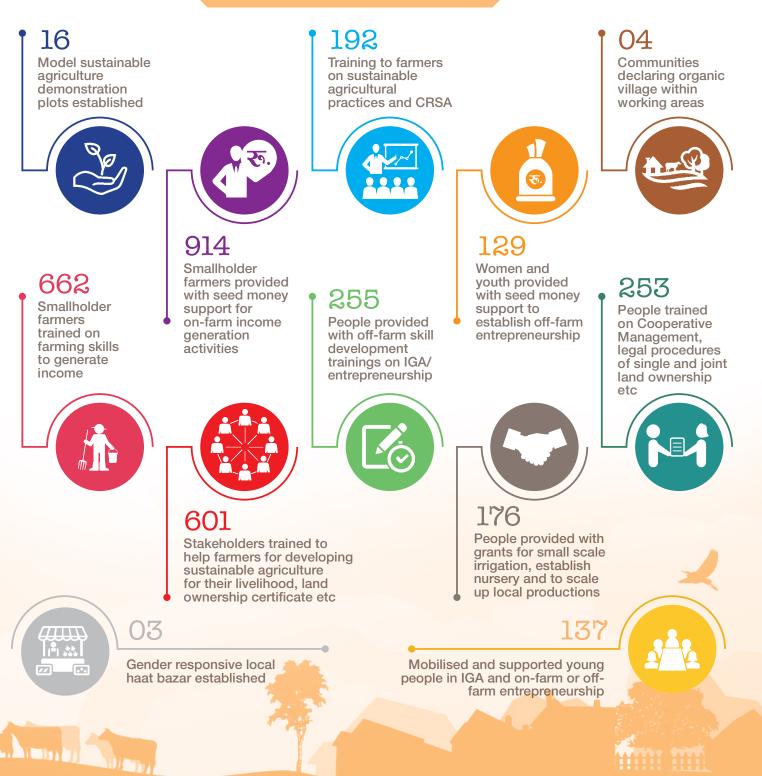
### GLIMPSE OF QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS



tank, child care center, grinding mill, etc.)



### **RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD**





### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ActionAid Nepal (AAN) is working on the grounds through Human Rights Based Approach on four major programme priorities: Women's Rights, Quality Public Education, Resilient Livelihood and Disaster Risk Reductions.

AAN, its partner organizations and the agencies of women and girls like Mahila Adhikar Manch (MAM), adolescent groups, community watch groups, child and youth clubs formed by AAN were actively engaged to stop Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The campaign not only built up confidence of the agencies to speak out but also convinced local government to take preventive measures and stop VAWG. Engagement of men and boys is necessary to transform the social and gender norms that reinforce patriarchy and inequality. So, it is prioritized in each of the VAWG programmes and campaigns.

After continuous advocacy on Chhaupadi from CSOs and women right activists throughout the country, Ministry of Home Affairs circulated local government to take actions by forming An elderly woman of Kathmandu engaged in signature campaign against sexual harassment in workplace.

district committees. In Bajura, Ward No. 6, Kotila of Budinanda Municipality was declared as Chhaupadi free ward. Enhancing adolescent girls and boys on sexual and reproductive rights has helped them to realize their health rights and they have also started discussion within their peer circles on menstruation as a taboo.

After capacity enhancement, women represented in various forums such as school and health post management committees, community forest user committee and so on. This year, 435 women and girls represented in various formal and informal structures and 97 women were able to hold at least one major position at community/ local government level. This has become helpful to refer cases of VAWG to the judiciary committee and also to organize community based programmes and advocacy on local budget allocation for women.

To address Unpaid Care Work of women, orientations and sensitizations in groups and collectives were organized and time diary collection was practiced, which helped them

Mass Rally in Siraha demanding equal education rights between boys and girls and campaign against child marriage and dowry.

to internalize and motivate in workload redistribution linking all 4 Rs (Recognition, Reduction, Redistribution and Representation) of unpaid care work. This tool has helped to understand the perception that women are working much harder but still their work is not recognized including the gender stereotype of labour and how it is inherited in the culture and practice of the society. This is also supporting the campaign to include women's contribution in the National GDP. Further, women and their agencies are also advocating with local government to plan for UCW reduction, allocate budget for it and formulate women friendly policy by the local government.

Community Child Care Centre (CCCC) is one of the most successful initiatives of AAN to redistribute women's unequal workload of taking care of the children. By sending children to CCCC, women are now receiving more leisure time to learn new skills and work outside their homes to enhance livelihood.

On 109th International Women's Day, AAN launched One National Campaign from local to national level with a

slogan, 'Respect Women's Labour, **Development with Social Justice** Forever'. The campaign was launched by women labourers working in informal sector with demands for equal and fair wages without discrimination between men and women, occupational health safety and security, safe and violence free working place and social protection for informal sector workers. One National Campaign throughout the working areas drew attention of local government to implement labour law and ensure occupational safety and security of women at workplace. Further, in majority of the working areas, wage rate of both men and women was made fair for equal amount of work.

Practicing Promoting Rights in School (PRS) framework in working areas has influenced and alarmed key stakeholders to ensure quality education in public schools. It has also become a basis of setting indicators for model school initiative. Model school initiative helped not only to increase the number of students and learning achievement, but it



has also helped to gain ownership of parents and local governments in public schools.

Similarly, 878 teachers, SMC and PTA were trained on various education related skills and teaching-learning techniques like Child Centered Learning Process, SIP formulation, PRS etc. The watch groups with representation from parents, children,



adolescent girls and community people were also formed and mobilized to identify areas of improvement and provide feedback to school authorities.

After series of advocacy, provision of gender desk with designated gender focal person in schools has helped to stop the cases of sexual harassment among adolescent girls. The provision of gender friendly toilets in public schools with the availability of sanitary pads and water supply and effective complaint hearing mechanism in schools has helped to reduce school absenteeism of girls during menstruation. Similarly, orienting them on SRHR encouraged to talk openly with parents and teachers on menstruation.

Tax Power Campaign for Quality Education was organized in AAN

working areas with representatives from local government, teachers, parents, students, civil society organizations, journalists and CBOs. It helped to make them realize the issues of school governance, free and compulsory education and drew attention of local government, law makers and implementors to formulate adequate policies along with their effective implementation.

With enhanced capacity built through leadership skills and mass mobilization, youth and adolescent girls were involved in each of the AAN's campaign and advocacy to fight back existing injustices. They were also mobilized in tax justice campaigns and were trained on Rtl to make use of it. Similarly, 126 child clubs were mobilized throughout AAN's working areas. The children involved were engaged in activities such as: conducting campaigns and awareness raising programmes to stop child marriage, child labour and sexual harassment, school enrollment campaign, publication of school wall magazine and so on. More recently, they are also working as watch dog to monitor school activities.

Empowering and mobilizing landless people to claim entitlement of land and other common resources was one of the key approaches to ensure dignified life of landless, poor and marginalized people through access to and control over it. Regular discussion and awareness meetings about advantage of women land ownership were conducted in REFLECT circles, MAM and farmer's groups. Access on land supported women for their economic empowerment as well as have dignified lives to shift existing unequal power relations among men and women at family and the community.

This year, 662 smallholder farmers were trained on different farming skills such as: sustainable agriculture, nursery training etc. and 914 farmers were provided with seed money support for on-farm income generation activities. Further, to promote sustainable agriculture, modern agro- technologies like drip irrigation, tunnel farming, bio pesticide and shed improvement were practiced and the farmers were also supported with agricultural tools and vegetable seeds.



AAN has also been promoting income generating alternatives through women and youth entrepreneurship development in both on-farm and off-farm activities. For this, preparing business plans and skill development training on running different kinds of small scale agro and non-agro based enterprises such as: mobile shop, tailoring, Allo processing, Dhaka weaving, dairy products, bee keeping, handicrafts etc. were provided.

Promotion of agroecological farming is one of the key approaches in which AAN is continuously engaged in. To overcome challenges on use of chemical fertilizers, AAN is continuously supporting farmers for alternatives. Shed improvement, preparation of compost manure and biopesticides are some of them. These practices have helped to promote the use of organic fertilizers.

This year, 192 smallholder farmers have been capacitated on sustainable agricultural practices and CRSA. Laligurans Municipality of Terhathum has set a goal to declare it as an Organic Agriculture Municipality by 2024 followed by a tripartite MoU between the Municipality, AAN and its local partner, DAS.

Communities are empowered through participatory vulnerability assessment and worked together to build their resilience against disasters. This year, 79 community based DMCs were mobilized at community level and out of them, 41 were led by women.

Entrepreneurship development of women after receiving skill development and business promotion support from AAN.



They were engaged to influence local government for building disaster resilient communities.

A community based mobile siren was established in Sangharsanagar, Bardiya as a pilot activity in collaboration with local government authorities including security forces. By using mobile, community members are able to inform any kind of emergency incidents to their community through siren and report to concerned authorities for taking immediate action. This siren was very helpful for community members to gather and respond emergency abruptly. It also proved helpful to reduce cases of violence against women in the community and report the incidents of wild animal attacks.

This year, AAN reached to 990 households with immediate food and non-food items like educational materials, dignity kits, tarpaulin etc. to support people affected with disasters like flood, fire, cold wave and windstorm.

AAN has been following comprehensive school safety approach in partnership with selected public schools through model school initiatives. School multi hazard risk assessment was conducted in Sankhuwasabha. Bardiya, Palpa and Bajura by setting school safety indicators, which were further linked with school improvement plans.

Banibilas Secondary School of Chapagaun, Lalitpur provided with financial and technical support for the reconstruction of building and playground. The school was completely

As a part of school reconstruction programme devastated by 2015 earthquakes, two schools of Chapagaun and Panga, Lalitpur were reconstructed with approval from National Reconstruction Authority and handed over to the school authorities and local stakeholders. They were both disaster resilient schools with gender friendly toilets. About 1,900 students in total were benefitted from the reconstruction. AAN provided both technical and financial support for it.

AAN's fifth General Assembly was organized on 02 August 2019. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Seema Singh, AAN's Board Chair. It had discussion on programmes and financial updates including the amendment of AAN's constitution.



### The Country Context

After completion of two years of local election and one and half year of provincial and federal elections, a motion can be seen in legislation process. The parliament, provincial assemblies and local governments endorsed a number of different acts and policies in line with the Constitution 2015.

All sectors have put multi-pronged intervention to empower women against gender-based violence, nevertheless, the incidents of violence against women are still mounting in the country. There has also been an alarming rise in the cases of suicide, sexual harassment and mental distress, especially among women and young girls. The GoN's President Women Upliftment Programme has come as an opportunity for social and economic empowerment of women. Under this programme, rehabilitation centres for rescue, relief, psychosocial counselling and legal redress are included.

Recently, ILO adopted a new convention, supplemented by a recommendation on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work. It is an important tool to campaign on fair wages without discriminating between men and women, assure safe, secure and violence free workplace, guarantee occupational health safety and ensure social protection of informal sector workers.

This year, the National Budget allocated 10.68% for education, which is still far behind the political commitment of reaching the target of 20% allocation for education. On the other hand, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of federal government released National Education Policy in October 2019. Its primary vision is to develop 'educated, civilised, healthy and capable human resource, social justice, transformation and prosperity'. It states that 'performance of teachers' will be evaluated by taking 'learning achievements of students' into consideration.

The recent SEE results have displayed poor performance and disappointing achievement of public schools. Private schools' students scored A+ five times more than public schools. Negligence of teachers, weak teaching-learning methodology, lack of infrastructure and political interference in public schools were identified as major causes.

All three-tiers government has emphasized agriculture as high priority which is a good sign for development in the sector. They have initiated various policy and strategy drafting process to promote agriculture. Some pocket areas of special crop were developed in their own initiation. Investment by local government in agricultural tools, equipment and technology was also increased. Similarly, the federal parliament endorsed Land Use Act to regulate land management ensuring its sustainable use throughout the country.

The quantity of food imports has significantly increased in the year 2019. Subsistence agriculture is in crisis and facing huge problem in the country. Unpredictable weather condition, shortage of fertilizer, seeds, irrigation and market are major challenges behind it.

It has been accounted that extreme weather-related disasters increased both in intensity and frequency throughout the year 2019. Windstorm in Bara, heavy snowfall and landslide in hilly regions, thunderstorm and flood in Terai significantly impacted thousands of people and loss of their lives. According to MoHA, approximately 339 people died from disasters in 2019 (Fire-57, Landslide-85, Thunderbolt-90, Flood-67, Windstrom-40) and more than 20,000 family needed emergency assistance because of extreme weather over the year.



#### Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)

The HRBA is central to AAN'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



#### Strengthen resilience against disasters

Strengthening local capacity to reduce the risk of disaster and the impact of climate change

Enhancing effective humanitarian response led by women

Promoting safe school standards through disaster prevention and mitigation measures



Advance feminist leadership and women agency to defeat violence against women and girls and genderbased inequalities

Strengthening women agencies and feminist leadership

Strengthening safety, security, and dignity of women and girls

Advancing women's productive roles and addressing burden of care work

#### Advance quality public education as basic rights for all children

Improving school governance to promote rights in school

Increasing tax base public financing to strengthen public education system



Promote sustainable economic alternatives for resilient livelihood

Strengthening agro-ecological and climate resilient sustainable agriculture

> Promoting women and youth entrepreneurship



## **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**



✓
Celebrating 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in Kathmandu.

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

AAN, its partner organizations and the agencies of women and girls like Mahila Adhikar Manch (MAM), adolescent groups, community watch groups, child and youth clubs formed by AAN were actively engaged to stop Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The campaign not only built up confidence of the agencies to speak out but also convinced local government to take preventive measures and stop VAWG. Engagement of men and boys is necessary to transform the social and gender norms that reinforce patriarchy and inequality. So, it is prioritized in each of the VAWG programmes and campaigns.

For instance, 89 cases of child marriage were stopped in Doti, Palpa, Siraha and Parsa districts and 1,423 people were sensitized on policies and legal provision against child marriage including priests and social leaders. Similarly, Dhangadhimai Municipality of Siraha instructed to mention date of birth of the bride and groom in their wedding card invitation as a monitoring mechanism to check and stop the cases of child marriage. More importantly, Paterwa Sugauli Rural Municipality of Parsa endorsed and implemented Child Protection and Anti-Child Marriage Policy after series of lobby and advocacy.

In Samunnati project, through the Capacity, Opportunity, Motivation of Behaviour (COM-B) diagnosis model, parents were oriented to change the age-old tradition of dowry and do not accept it in their children's marriage. On the other hand, campaign on Beti Bachau, Beti Padhau (Save Girl, Educate Girl) is ongoing in Siraha and Parsa, and during 16 days of activism against GBV, a cycle rally was organized in Siraha with the participation of 2500 women, adolescent girls, social and political leaders, men and young people.

After continuous advocacy on Chhaupadi from CSOs and women's rights activists throughout the country, Ministry of Home Affairs circulated local government to take actions by forming district committees. In Bajura, Ward No. 6, Kotila of Budinanda Municipality was declared as Chhaupadi free ward. Two community libraries were set up in Madhyapurthimi Municipality, Manohara with books on women's rights and movements to enhance women's knowledge on feminist leadership. 29 women of REFLECT circles are reading those books and spending time in enhancing their knowledge in library rather than occupying themselves only in care work at home.

One man in my community discouraged me by saying that women cannot lead user committee for construction work and even suggested me to leave it, but when I was able to complete the same work on time, he congratulated me. It proved that women could do everything that men can" says Ms. Babita BK, member of a REFLECT circle in Chapagaun.

### Case Study

### Ganga Parki...able to stop child marriage in the community, starting from herself

Ganga Parki (17) of Mudegaun, Doti is able to confront child marriage by herself in her family. She lives in a family of 6 with her parents who are both differently abled and their economic condition is too poor to support their living and educate all the children. So, her parents decided for Ganga's marriage and send her to the husband's home. Ganga was completely unaware about it and she was shocked when her friend congratulated for her marriage in advance.

Ganga, who is also leading AAN formed adolescent group had received trainings on child marriage and its consequences. Well empowered about its harms, she opposed her parent's decision and asked to complete her studies first. She also informed her parents that the minimum legal age of marriage is 20 and they could be penalized if she files a case. She also called her about to be husband and conveyed about the legal provision. The adolescent and child club groups supported her in the process and finally, Ganga's parents were convinced to postpone the marriage.

Being a chairperson of adolescent group, Ganga is now advocating against early/child marriage, gender based violence and discrimination in her community. She has initiated a number of street dramas and discussion sessions against the ill practices. In the meantime, she is happy to stop child marriage in the community, starting from herself.



MAM members of Siraha engaged in identifying and prioritizing their development plan for the submission in local government.

### RAISING WOMEN'S RIGHTS LEADERS

After capacity enhancement, women represented in various forums such as school and health post management committees, community forest user committee and so on. This year, 435 women and girls represented in various formal and informal structures and 97 women were able to hold at least one major position at community/ local government level. This has become helpful to refer cases of VAWG to the judiciary committee and also to organize community based programmes and advocacy on local budget allocation for women.

To strengthen MAM and equip them with information on legal process, training on civil and criminal code was provided in Doti, Bajura, Terhathum and Bardiya. As a result, MAM of KI Singh Rural Municipality, Doti facilitated to register 7 domestic violence cases out of which, 6 were finalized through mitigation process and 1 case of polygamy was sent to the court. In Samunnati project, watch group was formed in a school of Chitwan to monitor and take action against violence in the school. This has helped the girls to be assertive of their rights.

The empowered community women leaders have also initiated rehabilitation of freed Kamaiya who are still not being incorporated in the Government's plan. 50 plans were submitted to Rajapur Municipality and Badaiya Taal Rural Municipality, out of which 43 were approved. In Bardiya, 49 women received NRs. 25,000 each from the Province Government to initiate income generation activities. Similarly, a REFLECT group of Kathmandu succeeded to receive NRs. 5,00,000 from the local government for maintenance of existing REFLECT community building and supporting livestock to the needy people.

### Case Study

#### Women are now leading in User Committee

"I was unknown about local development planning process as I never received opportunity to participate in it and was confined to household chores. But when I joined REFLECT circle formed by AAN, I came to learn about it and its importance" says Sita Lagun (42) of Dakchinkali, Pharping.

She knew about the importance of community planning process, steps of proposal writing for it, budget allocation and expenditure, implementation of the development plan and so on in the REFLECT circle. Being an active member of the REFLECT, she was nominated as a treasurer of her community's Drainage Construction User Committee. In this role, she was involved in handing the procurement process, mobilizing labour and work on the effective budget utilization and settlement process.

In the midst of patriarchal mindset of the community, it was not easy for her to lead the committee as a treasurer. The community people, especially men discouraged her in the beginning and also passed comments that women should not be performing such decision-making task. Nonetheless, Sita was committed on her work with a strong willpower. She was also supported by other committee members because of which, they could complete the task on time. The work was inspected by the engineer, who provided positive feedback and congratulated for its quality being maintained.

Sita is now well-known in the community and everyone praises her for being able to prove that women can also perform better in the leadership role if provided with an opportunity.



#### SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACE

Enhancing adolescent girls and boys on sexual and reproductive rights has helped them to realize their health rights and they have also started discussion within their peer circles on menstruation as a taboo. In Terhathum and Doti, 162 adolescent schoolgirls were provided training to make homemade sanitary pads.

A health post of Dhangadhimai Municipality, Ward No. 13 and Laliguras Municipality, Ward No. 5 were supported with health care



Adolescent girls of Doti trained on preparing homemade sanitary pads. The pads turned out cost effective and also helped to reduce school absenteeism of girls during their periods.

In Paterwa Sugauli Rural Municipality, Parsa, the illpractice of playing loud music in wedding and other social ceremonies with lyrics abusing women and girls has been banned after regular advocacy by REFLECT members, MAM and men's network.

instruments and infrastructure like digital thermometer, digital weighing machine, drinking water filter and cupboard so that pregnant women could have access to regular health checkup during pregnancy and for safe delivery.

A rapid survey with 326 people was conducted to measure safety ranking in Chainpur Municipality, Sankhuwasabha. The Municipality and local youth club have signed a MoU to make Chainpur a safe and women friendly city. To monitor abuse, CCTV has been installed in main areas of the city. In Paterwa Sugauli Rural Municipality, Parsa, the ill-practice of playing loud music in wedding and other social ceremonies with lyrics abusing women and girls has been banned after regular advocacy by REFLECT members, MAM and men's network.

In Madi Municipality, Chitwan, 6 men (drivers and conductors) were honored for their contribution and effort to ensure women and girls' safety in public transport. Being the major actors, they were targeted to change their ill-behaviour and follow the rules of public transport, ensure reservation seats and stop harassment in them. Safety Audit was also conducted in Madi and its findings were shared with various stakeholders including local government. In collaboration with Madi Municipality, streetlights were installed in places considered insecure. A steering committee was also formed to monitor public transport regularly and report the cases of harassment and abuse against women and girls.



Husband internalizing the fact that household chores need to be shared by each family member.

### **UNPAID CARE WORK**

192 women from all LRP working areas have reported decreased amount of time spent in UCW. To bring the change, orientations and sensitizations in groups and collectives were organized and time diary collection was practiced, which helped them to internalize and motivate in workload redistribution linking all 4 Rs (Recognition, Reduction, Redistribution and Representation) of unpaid care work. This tool has helped to understand the perception that women are working much harder but still their work is not recognized including the gender stereotype of labour and how it is inherited in the culture and practice of the society. This is also supporting the campaign to include women's contribution in the National GDP.

This year, 8 water taps were established in Doti to reduce the time they spent on collecting drinking water. Likewise, women of 31 families bought gas stoves to save their time of collecting firewood. This has not only impacted to reduce the care work Women are now challenging stereotype on gender division of labour and have started taking lead. They are taking electricity wiring and mobile repairing trainings, which are mostly done by men; and women are proving that they too can perform them. burden of women but has also provided ample amount of time to establish entrepreneurship, both onfarm and off-farm. They are involved in livestock rearing, restaurants, grocery shops, vegetable farming, electric and house wiring, cottage industries of spices, leaf plates and so on. Further, women and their agencies are also advocating with local government to plan for UCW reduction, allocate budget for it and formulate women friendly policy by the local government.

Community Child Care Centre (CCCC) is one of the most successful initiatives of AAN to redistribute women's unequal workload of taking care of the children. By sending children to CCCC, women are now receiving more leisure time to learn new skills and work outside their homes to enhance livelihood. Internalizing its essence, Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya allocated budget to bear all the operational expenses of one AAN established CCCC and Badaiya Taal and Geruwa Rural Municipality allocated NRs. 10,00,000 and 11,00,000 respectively for the purpose. Similarly, Godavari Municipality replicated the learning and approved budget of NRs. 25,00,000 and Myanglung Municipality supported NRs. 4,00,000 for the establishment of CCCC.

AAN organised a workshop in Kathmandu on women's labour in an informal sector. 31 women participated from 13 districts working in various informal sectors. A number of women labour issues such as disrespect, inequality in wages - half pay/ low pay/ no pay, discrimination, sexual abuse and exploitation, unsafe working environment without basic safety measures and many other mental and emotional stresses in the world of work were discussed. The workshop facilitated women to unite and get organised to lead a campaign on it. AAN will be working with them and their groups and coordinate with other likeminded organisations to take the issue and their demands forward.

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND POLICY ADVOCACY

Taking consideration of the needs of women and to analyze whether they are being addressed or not, advocacy on Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) is ongoing. In Morang, a twoday Regional Conference on GRPS was organized, in which papers on gender responsive budget, local, provincial and federal laws, policies and their practice were presented and discussed. At the end, a 15-point declaration was prepared and signed by the Vice Mayor of Biratnagar with the commitment to implement them in the entire Province 1. The conference had 160 participants from 5 districts of the province.

On 109th International Women's Day, AAN launched One National Campaign from local to national level with a slogan, 'Respect Women's Labour, Development with Social Justice Forever'. The campaign was launched by women labourers working in informal sector with demands for equal and fair wages without discrimination between men and women, occupational health safety and security, safe and violence free working place and social protection for informal sector workers.

One National Campaign throughout the working areas drew attention of local government to implement labour law and ensure occupational safety and security of women at workplace. Further, in majority of the working areas, wage rate of both men and women was made fair for equal amount of work.

After series of strong protest and campaign on dalit rights, the situation is gradually changing in Doti. For instance, the MAM's dalit members have started to have their own shops and both dalit and nondalit communities are buying the products. Besides, participation of dalit communities is also increasing in the state's government structure and political parties. Awareness of the community people on vital registration has also been enhanced after its orientation to them. An elderly woman during the community reflection shared her happiness of receiving travel discounts through her elderly certificate and Ms. Sabita Acharya from Badikhel expressed that her son's birth certificate supported him to receive admission in school.

> One National Campaign launched with demands for equal and fair wages, occupational health safety and security, safe and violence free working place and social protection for informal sector workers.





# EDUCATION

#### COMPLEMENTING QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

Practicing Promoting Rights in School (PRS) framework in working areas has influenced and alarmed key stakeholders to ensure quality education in public schools. It has also become a basis of setting indicators for model school initiative. In Palpa, 21 out of 39 public schools completed self-assessment based on these indicators and ensured to maintain regular monitoring and feedback register in school, organise extracurricular activities for children and improve child friendly infrastructure. Similarly, a written commitment to ensure child participation in decision making process of the school was received in Bajura. Model school initiative helped not only to increase the number of students and learning achievement, but it has also helped to gain ownership of parents and local governments in public schools. This year, 62 public schools were supported to construct infrastructures like classroom, girl's toilet, compound wall, drinking water facility, computers,



seating arrangements of classroom, books and stationaries, furniture and Sound, Speech and Picture (SSP) teaching tools. These initiatives contributed to achieve learning achievement of more than 60 percent in 39 AAN supported model schools.

In Bardiya, Geruwa Rural Municipality amended three-year Education Policy to enroll all children who are still out of school and reward the teachers based on learning achievement of students. It also rolled out a regulation to collect 1% of the income from all kinds of Municipal service, paid staff and elected representatives to support public schools. Similarly, KI Singh Rural Municipality approved budget to support 5 schools for implementing model school initiative. A student of Terhathum participating in Inter School Art Competition. She was able to secure first position in it. AAN is working with the school she is studying in.

Model school initiative helped not only to increase the number of students and learning achievement, but it has also helped to gain ownership of parents and local governments in public schools.



✿ Poor and marginalized students supported with school dress and stationeries.

Athrai Rural Municipality, Terhathum has been providing daily meal to children after series of interactions, meetings and advocacy and in Siraha, 6 schools are heading towards model schools with the improvisation in SIP. Citizen's Education Report (CER) has also helped to improve school's internal governance across the working areas. In Parsa and Siraha, learning centres to provide tuition and extra classes were initiated to stop their school dropouts, which were comparatively higher in the districts. The local government also realized and acknowledged the initiative and agreed to provide financial support for its sustainability.

In Bajura, radio programme with messages on maintaining model school was aired throughout the year. This helped to raise the issue of quality education and need of transformation in public schools including the flow of information on school enrollment for new academic year. According to the radio listeners census, the programme reached to more than 5,000 people from 4 Municipalities of the district.

Similarly, 878 teachers, SMC and PTA were trained on various education related skills and teachinglearning techniques like Child Centered Learning Process, SIP formulation, PRS etc. The watch groups with representation from parents, children, adolescent girls and community people were also formed and mobilized to identify areas of improvement and provide feedback to school authorities. For instance in Palpa, they maintained an attendance sheet for teachers to ensure their regularity and punctuality.





A local course curriculum incorporating contents on vocational skills, vegetable farming, DRR and so on was developed in collaboration with the Education Unit of Godavari Municipality, Lele Community Development Centre, partner organization, HomeNet Nepal and more than 36 public schools. In its launching programme, the Municipal Education Committee directed all 36 schools to implement and follow the course content as per the local curriculum.

Community people of Siraha engaged in preparing social map on Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS).

# Case Study

# Community Engagement for School Governance

Jalpa Devi Basic School, one among the seven schools of Kaseni-7, Palpa had very poor infrastructure; it didn't have toilets, the classrooms were very dirty and there was no drinking water supply. Further, both the students and teachers were irregular and there used to be no interactions between parents, teachers and school authorities.

AAN and its local partner organization, SRDCN worked with the community and school authorities to ensure quality education in the school. Mass community sensitization initiatives on the importance of education and their responsibility to lobby for proper school governance were organized. The watch group of parents was also formed to monitor school activities. They prepared a monitoring plan, conducted regular school visits and provided feedback to the authorities. The irregularity of teachers including the School Principal, issues of school dropout, absenteeism, adoption of Child Centred Learning (CCL) etc. were some of the major concerns raised.

As a result, the Principal developed school improvement plan by addressing the issues and shared it in SMC meeting. The teachers were also trained on CCL practices and the school was equipped with CCL teaching-learning materials. A network of all 7 schools in the community was formed. They organize regular meetings and share learning and interventions to improve school education. The Principal of Jalpa Devi Basic School is thankful to AAN and SRDCN for contributing to school's improvement.

# PROMOTING GIRL'S EDUCATION

After series of advocacy, provision of gender desk with designated gender focal person in schools has helped to stop the cases of sexual harassment among adolescent girls. For instance, one of the students of Panga, Kathmandu complained about her incident of being harassed by her house owner. The case was immediately taken action and resolved. Similarly, the cases of bullying and teasing girls in schools were being reported and the culprits were warned. In Parsa, the complaint hearing mechanism in schools helped to stop 2 cases of child marriage.

On the other hand, advocacy on the provision of gender friendly toilets in public schools with the availability of sanitary pads and water supply and effective complaint hearing mechanism in schools are ongoing throughout the working areas. In Aurahi, Terhathum, sexual harassment of girls on the way to school has stopped after effective complaint hearing mechanism. Gender friendly toilet in schools has also helped to



reduce school absenteeism of girls during menstruation and orienting them on SRHR encouraged to talk openly with parents and teachers on menstruation.

As a part of National campaign to ensure access of children in education, enrollment campaigns were initiated in all the working areas in close coordination with the Municipality and local stakeholders including the REFLECT circles, adolescent girls' groups and child clubs. Different awareness raising initiatives such as: context mapping, home visits and community meetings were organized, which not only helped to enhance new enrollments but also encouraged dropouts to rejoin the school.

In Dharmanagar, Bara, the students, especially girls were compelled to leave their studies after Grade 10 since there was no institute for



Students of Parsa organizing School Enrollment Campaign and sensitizing communities to promote girl's education.

higher studies. AAN with financial support from a project to enhance girl's education in the area and from Kalaiya Sub-Metropolitan City constructed a 3-room building and supported for furniture and teachinglearning materials. This helped to ensure education in the area for at least higher secondary level.

# Case Study

# Child retention rate increased in Saday Community

Krishna Saday (12) resides with a family of 7 in Dada Tole, Siraha. Dada Tole is a small community with Dalit settlement, where not a single person completing secondary education was found. Krishna is youngest amongst 2 elder sisters and 2 brothers. Two years back, he discontinued studies and went to support his parents at landlord's field. He was compelled to do so since his parents were daily wage workers and they were unable to fulfill family's basic needs.

In between, AAN and its local partner organization, DJKYC conducted a survey in the area and found that 25 other children were not attending school. The reason behind this was similar to the case of Krishna and some other were also asked to look after the house and cattle when their parents go out for work.

The problem was discussed with parents and local stakeholders. To resolve it, provision in the school like providing day meal, books and stationeries were made available. A community watch group was also formed to monitor children and sensitize people on the importance of education. The initiative was successful to re-enroll all 25 children back in school. Now, they are not only attending the school but are doing better in comparison to others.

Gita Saday, Krishna's mother says, 'Earlier the community had a misconception that studying is not much of use rather working in the field since young age is beneficial. But now, the situation has changed and the parents are empowered enough on the value of education.'

Cases of bullying and teasing girls in schools were being reported and the culprits were warned after provision of gender desk with designated gender focal person in schools was made available.



Tax Power Campaign organized in Terhathum to ensure its proper utilization for effective public services.

Provincial Conference on Strengthening Public Education. It was organized in Butwal in coordination with Ministry of Social Development, Province 5.



# POLICY ENGAGEMENT FOR ENSURING RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In Bardiya, an interaction programme on 'Tax Power Campaign for Quality Education' was organized with representatives from local government, teachers, parents, students, civil society organizations, journalists and CBOs. The participants realised issues of school governance, free and compulsory education and drew attention of local government, law makers and implementors to formulate adequate policies along with their effective implementation. In Bajura, similar type Adolescent girls of Doti discussing on SRHR issues before being mobilized in the school and the community.

of advocacy helped to increase local budget allocation for education in 3 Rural Municipalities, where AAN is working on. Budhinanda Municipality, Bajura has also committed to implement e-attendance in all public schools of the Municipality.

In coordination with National Campaign for Education Nepal, continuous lobby and advocacy at the National level was organized with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance to increase education financing in upcoming National budget. On the occasion of Global Action Week on Education 2019, a flyer with an analysis of the need of Federal Education Act and the impact caused by its delay was published and distributed massively among the government stakeholders, policy makers, parliamentarians and academicians. At local level, campaigns from the REFLECT circles and adolescent girl's groups were successful to tap budget from local government. It was used for community hall construction, model school initiative and so on.



A two-day Provincial Conference on Strengthening Public Education was also organized in coordination with Ministry of Social Development, Province 5. The conference came up with 8-point commitment letter focusing around school governance, allocation of at least 20 percent of National budget in the education sector, ensuring disability friendly schools and maintaining child centered learning approach and quality education to retain students in public schools.

# WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

This year, 126 child clubs were mobilized throughout AAN's working areas. The children involved were engaged in activities such as: conducting campaigns and awareness raising programmes to stop child marriage, child labour and sexual harassment, school enrollment campaign, publication of school wall magazine and so on. More recently, they are also working as watch dog to monitor school activities. In Palpa, the adolescent group of students performed street drama in 6 schools on school governance issues. Its key message was on teacher's behaviour with students in classroom, accountability and transparency of school management. As a result, some bahavioural changes in teachers were noticed like speaking loudly in mobile phone during classes, teasing students and using abusive language was stopped in all 6 schools.

Similarly, in Sova Basic School of Durgamandau Rural Municipality, Doti, the child club members were successful to receive NRs. 100,000 from local government after they raised the concern of library management in their school social audit programme. Likewise, Kailka Secondary School started to provide free sanitary pads in school after advocacy from child club members and in Sankhuwasabha, the child club members were successful to re-enroll 9 dropout students and stop 4 child marriages. In Siraha, the child club members organized an eye treatment camp, in which 500 people were able to receive the check-up.

With enhanced capacity built through leadership skills and mass mobilization, youth and adolescent girls were involved in each of the AAN's campaign and advocacy to fight back existing injustices. They were also mobilized in tax justice campaigns and were trained on RtI to make use of it. Likewise, AAN celebrated International Volunteer Day with a National Conference on Youth

With enhanced capacity built through leadership skills and mass mobilization, youth and adolescent girls were involved in each of the AAN's campaign and advocacy to fight back existing injustices. They were also mobilized in tax justice campaigns and were trained on Rtl to make use of it. Volunteerism, awareness programmes on traffic and road safety, sanitation, silent street demonstration, rally and interaction. They were organized in Kathmandu, Siraha, Bardiya and Sankhuwasava by the mobilization of youth volunteers. In total, 604 volunteers were directly reached through the day celebration activities and 9,516 through mainstream and social media.

This year, AAN also commenced a project, 'Empowering Youth led Volunteering in Local Response' (YLVO) in partnership with EU Aid Volunteers. Total 120 community young volunteers will be developed for locally led response through this project implemented in 4 districts. A five-day Young People's Leadership in Humanitarian Action Training was organized in Kathmandu through the project, in which 18 youth from AAN's partner organizations of Bardiya, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Sankhuwasava and Siraha participated. The aim of the training was to develop young people's leadership and volunteerism in humanitarian context.



Findings of the research on insecurity and uncertainty faced by young people in fragile and conflict affected situations in Nepal shared through National Youth Seminar.

A research report entitled, 'Shifting power to young people - how young people can lead and drive solutions in humanitarian action' was launched in June 2019, in which AAN was a key contributor. It was based on the inputs of 400 young people across 54 countries. The research recommended that school dropout, poor mental health and sexual violence are major challenges for young people and must be prioritized and mitigated. During the times of emergencies, young people are on demand, so they must be empowered and mobilized for effective results.

AAN and YOUR World Research, an action research entitled as 'Insecurity and uncertainty: Marginalised youth living rights in fragile and conflict affected situations in Nepal and Ethiopia' organised a National Youth Seminar on 01 March 2019 in collaboration with Youth Advocacy Nepal. Its objective was to share findings from the research and to ensure the voices of marginalised youth feed directly into policy and practice at local, district, province, and national levels. The research was conducted in partnership with University of London and its overall aim was to generate new knowledge about how marginalised youth perceive, navigate, negotiate and respond to uncertainty and how this might affect their rights and pathways out of poverty in impoverished fragile and conflict affected communities, which might also be prone to natural disasters. The research was a basis for an evidence-based advocacy on the issue.

# **RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD**



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A woman in Bardiya starting up an entrepreneurship on vegetable farming after being trained with technical knowledge on preparing business concept and plan.

I purchased piglets worth NRs. 7,000 through revolving fund from a collective of Terthathum. I earned net profit of NRs. 27,000 by selling them later. I used waste food and grass available in my house to feed them, which helped to minimize my cost and maximize the profit. I have plans to scale up my business further.

- Phulkumari Khawas (35), Terthathum

experiencing increase in their income by using revolving fund in very low interest rate, enhancing skills through trainings on account management and receiving support to start their small enterprise.

# IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

This year, 662 smallholder farmers were trained on different farming skills such as: sustainable agriculture, nursery training etc. and 914 farmers were provided with seed money support for on-farm income generation activities. Further, to promote sustainable agriculture, modern agro- technologies like drip irrigation, tunnel farming, bio pesticide and shed improvement were practiced and the farmers were also supported with agricultural tools and vegetable seeds.

In Palpa, 2 vegetable collection centres are under construction with the support from the Municipalities. This is helping smallholder farmers to link their produces in the market. In Doti, 95 women and through Making It Work for Women Project, 138 women in Bardiya are involved in commercial organic vegetable farming. This has not only helped their families to meet their daily needs but has also supported to minimize abroad migration of their husbands for labour work. In Siraha, Terhathum, Sankhuwasabha and Parsa districts, 127 farmers are involved in livestock rearing. They were provided with seed money support to start up the business and were also trained and supported on shed improvement.

For the promotion of collective members' income generation based on their business plan, a revolving fund was established in Doti. A joint account was opened with a guideline to keep track of fund management and monitor its utilization and operation. As a result, women are



Women group members of Parsa trained on Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) to strengthen their skills on entrepreneurship.

AAN has also been promoting income generating alternatives through women and youth entrepreneurship development in both on-farm and off-farm activities. For this, preparing business plans and skill development training on running different kinds of small scale agro and non-agro based enterprises such as: mobile shop, tailoring, Allo processing, Dhaka weaving, dairy products, bee keeping, handicrafts etc. were provided. For instance, 5 women from a slum community of Kathmandu succeeded to register their business in small and cottage industries providing them additional opportunity to have an access in the market.

"We used to face lots of scarcities when we were Kamaiyas in landlord's house. We were not recognized for our hard work. But now, I feel so glad that I am able to become a member of the collectives, received capacity building trainings and could engage in farming on my own. I feel so proud when the government

recognized our work and awarded as best farmers."

- Rajkumari Tharu, Freed Kamaiya.

AAN, its local partner, ward office and MAM at Kharang, Shankhuwasabha initiated construction of toilet and a separate space to rest in market centre, which increased women's access to market. It was comparatively low before due to lack of space for breast-feeding, menstruation hygiene and rest. Now, the centre runs weekly market, where 500 women from around the village come and sell their products.

In Fagune, Sankhuwasabha, 14 households are now self-employed in Allo cloth production after receiving 45-days weaving training. The provincial government provided financial support of NRs. 2,00,000 Dalit women of Siraha supported with goats to ensure their livelihood alternative.

and the ward office supported NRs. 20,000 for the weaving equipment. The local residents of the community donated 1 Ropani land for the construction of weaving industry. Now, the community is successfully producing Allo clothes and earning a good amount of income. They are able to set up 14 weaving machines.

To explore new possible income generation alternative, homestay was initiated in Bardiya with joint support from Geruwa Rural Municipality. 20 people were initially involved in it and they have formed a homestay management committee for its overall management and effective utilization of collected budget.

AAN has also linked smallholder farmers to represent agriculture network formed by local government followed by their registration in District Agriculture Development Office. This has helped them to be aware about the government's plans and have access to receive subsidies on agricultural seeds and equipment. In Doti, 9 women came forward to get government's land on lease and initiated vegetable farming.





In Siraha, a pickle enterprise was initiated in coordination with MAM for the economic empowerment of domestic violence survivors. This has become a good source of income for them since the products received positive response from the market.

Women in Siraha were trained on driving auto-rickshaw for the livelihood alternative breaking the stereotype gender division of labour.



Grinding mill was supported in Terhathum to reduce the workload of women and utilize the leisure time for having rest or involving in livelihood alternatives.

# Case Study

#### Success of Budhani Tharu

Budhani Tharu (49) lives in Geruwa Rural Municipality, Bardiya with the family of 8 members. She married at a very young age of 16 and worked as Kamlari in the landlord's house till Kamaiya liberation. Due to acute poverty, she was compelled to send her two sons to work as Kamaiya. She had to serve in the landlord's house for 13 years before the Government enacted new policy and offered new rehabilitation package for the freed Kamaiya.

AAN and its local partner, KMJS had formed women collectives with ex-Kamaiya like Budhani and engaged them in different livelihood alternatives. Budhani was provided with trainings on record keeping to manage monthly savings and expenditure of the collective. She was also trained on organic vegetable farming and facilitated to continue it as a livelihood alternative. To start up the business, AAN supported NRs. 2 lakhs for revolving fund of the collective along with agricultural inputs, tools and techniques.

After being involved in vegetable farming and utilizing its income, Budhani is able to extend her business in goat rearing. Earlier, she could hardly afford to buy green vegetables but now, they are grown by herself. She is also able to contribute financial support for her daughter's education who is studying in higher secondary level. Today, Budhani is living a happy life and appreciates AAN for all the contribution and support. Further, preparing dry vegetables and selling them in the market has become the other source of additional income in the district.

Four-day value chain training was organized in Doti to provide technical knowledge on preparing business concept and plan. It would help small entrepreneurs to set up their business by analyzing the context, resource, skill and market. Upon completion of the training, the participants developed action plans for vegetable farming. Similarly, 108 people were trained on micro enterprise development in Terhathum, out of which, 65 of them started small scale enterprises. Besides, the informal workers are also made aware on occupational health and safety, sexual harassment at workplace and social security.

In Kathmandu, an Online Haat Bazaar (Online Market) was initiated in coordination with local partner to disseminate products prepared by home based workers to the wider mass.



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A woman supported by AAN receiving first prize from Dhangadhimai Municipality Chief in an Organic Agriculture Production and Promotion Fair in Siraha.

# CLIMATE RESILIENT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (CRSA)

Promotion of agroecological farming is one of the key approaches in which AAN is continuously engaged in. To overcome challenges on use of chemical fertilizers, AAN is continuously supporting farmers for alternatives. Shed improvement, preparation of compost manure and biopesticides are some of them. These practices have helped to promote the use of organic fertilizers.

This year, 192 smallholder farmers have been capacitated on sustainable agricultural practices and CRSA. Laligurans Municipality of Terhathum has set a goal to declare it as an

# Case Study

# Local Government towards Organic Farming

Laligurans Municipality of Terhathum has made its recognition as pocket area for vegetable farming but there was also a use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, impacting people's health to a large extent. Further, the traditional and local seeds were at high risk of extinction resulting to the loss of biodiversity.

In this backdrop, AAN and its local partner, DAS organized series of sensitization programmes to smallholder farmers on the negative impact of chemical fertilizers. They were also trained on CRSA, shed improvement and the process of preparing compost manure and botanical pest control measures. As a result, most of the farmers have already started using them. The farmers' groups had also lobbied with respective ward chairs and submitted proposals in the Municipality for grants to promote organic farming.

The Municipality has set a goal to declare it as an Organic Agriculture Municipality by 2024 followed by a tripartite MoU between the Municipality, AAN and its local partner, DAS. A 5-member committee comprising of ward chair, farmers, AAN and DAS was formed, which had 9 consultation meetings at ward level. Based on information gathered through the meetings, a strategy drafting process to declare Laligurans Municipality as Organic Agriculture Municipality has been initiated.

Organic Agriculture Municipality by 2024 followed by a tripartite MoU between the Municipality, AAN and its local partner, DAS. A 5-member committee comprising of ward chair, farmers, AAN and DAS was formed, which had 9 consultation meetings at ward level. The information gathered through the meetings are analyzed and strategy drafting process has been initiated. Laligurans Municipality of Terhathum has set a goal to declare it as an Organic Agriculture Municipality by 2024 followed by a tripartite MoU between the Municipality, AAN and its local partner, DAS. A couple of Siraha facilitated to receive joint land ownership, considering the entitlement of land as source of power to live with dignity.

In Bardiya, 138 smallholder farmers were trained on technical skills for sustainable vegetable farming. They were oriented on controlling pests and diseases through biopesticides and adapting tunnel farming. Out of them, 80 have started kitchen gardening and 55 are engaged in commercial vegetable production in tunnel farming. In Sankhuwasabha, campaign on organic farming was conducted intensively. As a result, 83 households adopted it and the village is also moving towards implementing the practice.

A community seed bank was established in Bajura to have control over seeds, to establish and preserve their genetic diversity and to promote local seed production. This year, they produced 600 kgs of diverse seeds. To strengthen the seedbank and to make it more functioning, it was provided with container and support for meeting the operational cost.

In joint collaboration with AAN and other like-minded organisations, Alliance of Agriculture for Food/ Environmental Resources Institute organized a Raithane Khadya Sajh



(Local Food Evening) on the occasion of World Food Day, 16 October 2019. The event was conducted in Department of Agriculture, Hariharbhawan, Lalitpur with a slogan 'HEALTHY DIETS FOR A #ZEROHUNGER WORLD'. Along with an aim of raising the concerns among policy makers and other relevant stakeholders, the event was also organized to promote local and traditional food from Karnali and Terai/Madesh region.

The programme was participated by 500 guests including the federal ministers from Agriculture and Livestock Development; Forests and Environment; Education, Science and Technology; Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation; Vice Chairperson of Constituent Assembly; Member of House of Representatives and Member of National Assembly.

# ACCESS TO LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Empowering and mobilizing landless people to claim entitlement of land and other common resources was one of the key approaches to ensure dignified life of landless, poor and marginalized people through access to and control over it. For

"My husband has stopped insulting me after receiving ioint land ownership

certificate. Now, I have equal rights on property like him. He cannot sell land without my permission. So, I am happy with land ownership certificate."

Agni Tharu from Rajapur Municipality-2, Bardiya.

Smallholder farmer's conference organized in Nepalgunj focusing on the learning and challenges of federal and provincial government's policies and programmes on agriculture.

it, the landless people submitted memorandum paper to the local and provincial government in Bardiya. After series of dialogue and discussion, land registration of 30 Saday people was successfully done in the district.

Regular discussion and awareness meetings about advantage of women land ownership were conducted in REFLECT circles, MAM and farmer's groups. Access on land supported women for their economic empowerment as well as have dignified lives to shift existing unequal power relations among men and women at family and the community.

# POLICY ADVOCACY AND AGRICULTURE GOVERNANCE

In coordination with freed kamaiya network, campaign on their rehabilitation is ongoing at the local and provincial level in Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. Recently, the provincial



government formed a commission on the rehabilitation of freed kamaiya, where one of the social mobilizers. Mr. Bir Bahadur Tharu from AAN's local partner was nominated. With this, the government also announced that all freed kamaiyas will get 1 Lakh rupees to buy timber for their shelter. This year, 2135 ex-kamaiyas received timber from the government and 15 of them were rehabilitated in Bardiya. The total rehabilitation has now reached 10,714 out of 10,797 ex-kamaiyas. Besides the rehabilitation, now the freed kamaiya network has extended its campaign to allocate reservation seats on government services.

A two-day smallholder farmer's conference was organized in Nepalguni focusing on the learning and challenges of federal and provincial government's policies and programmes on agriculture, practice of organic farming, its promotion, learning and challenges of smallholder farmers. Participated by more than 110 smallholder farmers and likeminded stakeholders from 11 districts of Province 5 and Sudurpaschim Province, the conference prepared a 12-point demand and suggestion paper to hand it over to the local and provincial government.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTIONS



# COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Communities are empowered through participatory vulnerability assessment and worked together to build their resilience against disasters. This year, 79 community based DMCs were mobilized at community level and out of them, 41 were led by women. They were engaged to influence local government for building disaster resilient communities. For instance, DMCs of Bardiya secured fund for small scale mitigation such as: culvert construction, maintenance of community safe house for floods and construction of high raised handpump. Three communities of Bajura and Doti established emergency fund and DMCs of Bardiya scaled up existing emergency funds through monthly saving schemes, collecting seasonal crops etc. Understanding the importance of emergency fund, Bansgadhi Municipality, Bardiya allocated 10 lakhs rupees for it. The collected fund was used to respond the immediate emergencies.

In Siraha, Ward No. 11 and 12 of Dhagadhimai Municipality declared open defecation free zone to maintain proper sanitation and reduce health related hazards. They were also provided with financial support to construct toilet. Chainpur Municipality-12, A c bas wa

A community based mobile siren was established in Sangharsanagar,

Bardiya to report emergency incidents of the community to concerned authorities for taking immediate action. It also proved helpful to reduce cases of violence against women in the community and report the incidents of wild animal attacks.

# Case Study

# Emergency Preparedness for Disaster Resilience

Sangharsanagar of Bardiya is located in the bank of Karnali river. Due to this, the settlement is vulnerable to flood and wild animal attacks. Further, it has small huts having risk of fire outbreak. Thus, the community is always exposed to different types of disasters, every year.

AAN and its local partner, KMJS is working in the area with various DRR and emergency preparedness activities. A Community Disaster Management Committee was formed with the leadership of women and they were capacitated with required knowledge and skills on the issue. As a part of risk reduction, participatory vulnerability assessment was also carried out in the community and based on this, a plan of action was prepared to address the risk of disaster by enhancing local capacity and resources.

Beside this, the DMC had also prepared skilled human resources for search and rescue and first aid required during the time of emergency. Moreover, an emergency fund was established to support families under crisis. For this, they raised funds through seasonal crop collection. AAN supported NRs. 12,000 in the beginning to start it up and now, the community is able to add on it and reached NRs. 30,000 in total. The fund usage guideline has also been prepared to ensure its effective utilization. Ms. Suratiya Tharu (50), Vice-chair of Sangharsanagar DMC said, "Emergency fund has become very helpful to respond immediately to the most affected disaster hit people of the community. In the recent fire outbreak, Ms. Chamki Tharu lost almost everything; the kitchen, cow shed, food grains and her 10 goats. She had nothing left for the survival, so the community supported to reconstruct the kitchen and cow shed. She was also supported with NRs. 8,000 in cash to meet her necessities. Earlier, we were not so serious about noticing such a dreadful incident, we have realized its importance now. The incident has become an eye opener for us. We will now further strengthen the fund and DMC of the community."

Sankhuwasabha installed earthing system in 32 houses to protect them from lighting. This was identified in PVA and the local government also provided financial support for it. Apart from them, community people were sensitized on area specific possible disasters and the immediate measures to get rid of them. As a result, annual migration from Chainpur Municipality due to draught, lightening and fire has now reduced. In support of Nepal Red Cross Society, women of Manohara slum community succeeded to construct a stone dam to reduce the risk of floods. This was done based on the PVA conducted in the year 2016. Further, orientation on the use of GO-BAG has benefitted women and children of the slum communities to be prepared on possible disasters. A community based mobile siren was established in Sangharsanagar, Bardiya as a pilot activity in collaboration with local government authorities including security forces. By using mobile, community members are able to inform any kind of emergency incidents to their community through siren and report to concerned authorities for taking immediate action. This siren was very helpful for community members to gather and respond emergency



abruptly. It also proved helpful to reduce cases of violence against women in the community and report the incidents of wild animal attacks.

Three Women Friendly Spaces were established after the Windstorm of March 2019 in Bara and nearly 300 women were involved and mobilised through them. During their operation, interaction programmes on various issues of women related to their safety, protection, violence, disparities and gender related issues were conducted. It has become an opportunity to participate women on community issues, who were often confined to household chores due to traditional gender structure. They used these spaces to build their leadership capacity, access information and take collective action on violence against women and influence decision making process.

# HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Bara and Parsa was hit by devastating windstorm on 31 March 2019, in which the death toll reached 28 and more than 1000 people were injured including the homelessness of thousands of people in the affected areas. The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology stated in its press release that the wind speed was of more than 90 km/hr and it was strongest ever recorded in the country.

The most affected community by windstorm in Pheta Rural Municipality, Bara was supported with Basic Shelter Kits with a demonstration to fix them for temporary shelter.

AAN and its local partner organisations engaged in the immediate relief support and provided Basic Shelter Kits and Shelter Tool Kits to 277 families of Pheta Rural Municipality, Bara. It was the most affected region where 18 casualties were reported. The distribution was also followed by a demonstration to fix the temporary shelter in which at least 5 family members can comfortably stay. Further, dignity kits were provided to 350 women and girls to maintain menstrual hygiene during the crisis.

This year, AAN reached to 990 households with immediate food and non-food items like educational materials, dignity kits, tarpaulin etc. to support people affected with disasters like flood, fire, cold wave and windstorm.



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Orientation on first aid treatment for schoolteachers of Chainpur, Sankhuwasabha with distribution of basic first aid kits.

To enhance disaster information management and humanitarian response, Local Emergency Operation Centre (LEOC) was established in Rajapur Municipality and Geruwa Rural Municipality in coordination with local partner organization and DDMC, Bardiya. AAN provided basic equipment such as computer, TV for information display and lifesaving rescue materials. The stakeholders including DRR focal person and ward chair were provided with an orientation to build understanding on LEOC. This year, AAN reached to 990 households with immediate food and non-food items like educational materials, dignity kits, tarpaulin etc. to support people affected with disasters like flood, fire, cold wave and windstorm.

# PROMOTING SAFETY AND DRR IN SCHOOL

AAN has been following comprehensive school safety approach in partnership with selected public schools through model school initiatives. School multi hazard risk assessment was conducted in Sankhuwasabha, Bardiya, Palpa and Bajura by setting school safety indicators, which were further linked with school improvement plans.

In Bardiya, a mock drill on earthquake safety was organized in school with more than 443 students and support to construct compound wall, water tank etc. in schools was provided. On the way to school in Terhathum, a wooden bridge



Support for compound wall construction in a school of Palpa to save children from accidents in steep slopes.

and ladder was constructed in collaboration with Laliguras Municipality. The way used to be slippery and muddy during monsoon, hurting a number of students in the past. The school was also compelled to close during rainy season, which has now been resolved. As a part of school reconstruction programme devastated by 2015 earthquakes, two schools of Chapagaun and Panga, Lalitpur were reconstructed with approval from National Reconstruction Authority and handed over to the school authorities and local stakeholders. They were both disaster resilient schools with gender friendly toilets. Different committees from among the community people were formed and engaged during construction to ensure transparency and accountability of the work. About 1,900 students in total were benefitted from the reconstruction. AAN provided both technical and financial support for it.

# Case Study

# Kalika School will not be closed during monsoons

Kalika Basic School, established 30 years ago is one of the renowned schools of Purundin in Laligurash Municipality, Terhathum. Geographically, it is situated in the uphill and the road to school was difficult in the past. It used to be worst during monsoon due to muddy and slippery slopes. Many children had hurt themselves because of which, parents hesitated to send them to school. As a result, the school used to remain closed during rainy season.

The problem was discussed during Participatory Vulnerability Assessment by the community. The local government and school authorities were then lobbied to resolve the problem immediately since it was affecting studies of the children. The community people as well as the child clubs result, the ward office and school authorities were convinced and agreed to contribute some amount for the road maintenance. AAN also contributed additional amount for the construction of cemented ladder and a bridge. This has helped to solve the problem and now, the children do not have to miss the school and stay at home just because of the rain.

# DRR AND POLICY ADVOCACY

AAN is continuing its engagement with local governments on influencing DRR policies at local level. With technical support of AAN, Chainpur and Godavari Municipalities developed their local Disaster Risk and Management (DRRM) Act followed by disaster preparedness and response plan. More than 230 people were oriented including local elected representatives through the policy and plan development process. As a result, Godavari Municipality implemented DRRM initiatives such as: developing local disaster and climate resilience plan, establishment of emergency fund and DRR and Climate Learning Centre, providing cash assistance to flood affected families and mitigation support. In coordination with Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law of Province 1, a workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management: Province and Priorities was organized in Biratnagar. The event had 286 participants including Honourable Chief Minister of the province, members of provincial assembly, security personnel, DRR focal persons of the line ministries, CSO representatives and media personnel.

Strengthening related policies of provincial government in order to achieve the national goal on DRR envisioned by the constitution and to have a discourse on the government's commitment in different international platforms were the event's major objectives. Indeed, the workshop was also a step forward to gain solidarity and commitment from all the line ministries and provincial government on formulating necessary DRR policies and ensure their effective implementation.



A three-day workshop on 'Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning' was organized in Kathmandu to enhance the readiness of AAN partners on responding to emergencies in a timely and effective manner. This is also a part of localisation process that promotes leadership and decision making of local partners in humanitarian action so as to better address the needs of affected populations. The workshop endorsed an 'Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning Guideline' by each partner followed by their commitment to fulfill them.

AAN supported to update Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan of Bardiya district in coordination with local partner organization, DDMC and District Red Cross Society. AAN has been taking the role of District Lead Support Agency (DLSA) in Bardiya since 2015. The role of DLSA was effective during coordination and preparedness on humanitarian response programmes. Recently, DDMC Bardiya reviewed and updated district preparedness and response plan in support of AAN. Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management: Province and Priorities organized in Biratnagar in coordination with Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law of Province 1.



AAN's fifth General Assembly organized on 02 August 2019.

# FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AAN's fifth General Assembly was organized on 02 August 2019. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Seema Singh, AAN's Board Chair. It had discussion on programmes and financial updates including the amendment of AAN's constitution.

# INDUCTION FOR THE BOARD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

An Induction programme for the Board and General Assembly members

was organised in Kathmandu on 03 March 2019. It was aimed for 5 new GA members elected in 4th General Assembly and was a refresher to existing ones. AAN now has 22 members in General Assembly including 9 from the National Board. The induction included an overview of AA International, its governance structure and the Global Strategy including AAN's journey till date. The four programme priorities guided by AAN's Strategy 2023 (Women's Rights, Education, Resilient Livelihood and DRR) were individually discussed including updates on finance, HROD and Membership Development Plan process.





Rally organized in Kathmandu on the occasion of 40th Social Service Day.

# NATIONAL SOCIAL AUDIT

AAN is determined for promoting good governance by ensuring accountability and transparency of its programmatic performance and financial efficiency. Thus, it has



been carrying out National Social Audit since 2004. Giving continuity to it, it has organised its 16th National Social Audit on 19 June 2019 in Kathmandu. The event was participated by community representatives, partner organisations, government stakeholders, media personnel, networks and alliances. During the event, products prepared by communities and partner organizations as a part of skill development alternatives were also displayed, providing them an opportunity for marketing.

# 40TH SOCIAL SERVICE DAY CELEBRATION

AAN in coordination with Social Welfare Council and Association of International NGOs in Nepal celebrated 40th Social Service Day in Kathmandu on 23 September 2019. The programme had a rally and stall exhibition with organisational information and achievements as well as the on-farm and off-farm products prepared by home-based workers.

AAN's Board Treasurer, Mr. Pratap K. Pathak addressing in 16th National Social Audit.



# WOMEN'S FORUM

Women's Forum is one of the important forums of AAN, where all the women staff participate and organize sensitization programmes on SRHR and gender based national policies and practices. This is also a forum to motivate each other and establish a women friendly working environment.

The 11th Women's Forum was organized on 28-29 March 2019 with a theme, 'Breaking the Barriers: Equal Thought and Behaviour is the basis for Change'.

# **ANNUAL FINANCIAL UPDATE, 2019**

## **OVERALL INCOME OF AAN IN 2019:**

GBP '000 2019 (ACTUAL) INCOME 2019 (PLAN) **REGULAR GIVING** 1,070 1,174 **OTHER INCOME** 966 753 TOTAL 2,036 1,927

#### The Funding Affiliate wise breakdown and composition of the Regular GBP '000 Giving Income for 2019:

REGULAR GIVING INCOME	2019 ACTUAL	2019 PLAN
ACTIONAID UK	283	419
ACTIONAID SPAIN	-74	-
ACTIONAID ITALY	465	307
ACTIONAID IRELAND	152	145
ACTIONAID GREECE	127	155
ACTIONAID BRAZIL	117	148
TOTAL	1070	1174



GBP '000

REGULAR GIVING INCOME	2019 ACTUAL	2019 COMPOSITION
ACTIONAID UK	283	26%
ACTIONAID SPAIN	-74	-6%
ACTIONAID ITALY	465	43%
ACTIONAID IRELAND	152	14%
ACTIONAID GREECE	127	12%
ACTIONAID BRAZIL	117	11%
TOTAL	1070	100%

AAN's 11<sup>th</sup> Women's Forum organized with a theme, 'Breaking the Barriers: Equal Thought and Behaviour is the basis for Change'.

Expenditure GBP '0			
NATURAL COST CLASSIFICATION	ACTUAL 2019	PLAN 2019	
GRANTS AND COMMUNITY INPUTS	1,473	1,432	
SALARIES AND BENEFITS (STAFF COST)	409	446	
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION	40	62	
OFFICE AND SERVICE COST	84	126	
TOTAL	2,006	2,066	
STATUTORY COST ANALYSIS	ACTUAL	PLAN	
PROJECT COST	1,662	1,749	
FUNDRAISING COST	69	55	
GOVERNANCE COST	28	28	
SUPPORT COST	247	234	
TOTAL	2,006	2,066	



## **VOICES OF WOMEN**

The publication is a collection of 12 success stories of women collectives formed in Bardiya and Doti districts through Making It Work for Women Project. With the support and facilitation from the project, these women came up as entrepreneurs, leaders and change agents of gender equalities. These stories are also expected to motivate others in the wider circle.



YOUTH UNCERTAINTY RIGHTS (YOUR) WORLD RESEARCH

AAN conducted an action research on 'Insecurity and uncertainty: Marginalised youth living rights in fragile and conflict affected situations in Nepal and Ethiopia'. It is a detailed large scale qualitative and participatory research with over 1000 of the most marginalised young people (500 in Nepal and 500 in Ethiopia) across eight fragile environments of the two countries; four in each country. The research was done in 2016-2019 and in May 2019, its International Report on Findings and Impact was published.



### CHILD CARE CENTRE & WOMEN'S ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT

This publication depicts the efficacy and utilities of Child Care Centres to reduce unpaid care

work burden based on the experiences of women, men, local government and other stakeholders in Bardiya. It also presents the roles of local government in childcare centres, their status, cost and benefits, scalability and replicability, challenges and recommendations.



#### REFLECTIONS AND LEARNING 2018

It is an annual report of 2018 with programmatic achievements, financial details, case studies and progresses over the year.



#### FLYER ON CHHAUPADI

The publication is an overview on Chhaupadi including the context, our interventions and achievements till date and way forward including the case studies.

# ANNEX 1

# LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME (LRP) PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS – 2019

District	Long-term LRP Partner
Bajura	Human Resource Centre (HRC) PeaceWin
Terhathum	Dalit Awareness Society (DAS) Deurali Society (DS)
Kathmandu	HomeNet Nepal (HNN) Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj (NMES)
Bardiya	Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj (KMJS)
Sankhuwasabha	The Society Touch (TST)
Doti	Equality Development Centre (EDC)
Siraha	Dalit Jana Kalyan Yuba Club (DJKYC)
Palpa	Social Resource Development Centre Nepal (SRDCN)
Parsa	Dibya Yuba Club (DYC)

# **PROJECTS MANAGED BY ACTIONAID NEPAL IN 2019**

SN	Projects	Donor	Implementing Partner	Duration
1	Supporting Women in Nepal to Rebuild their Lives after Disaster	Alborada Foundation	Rasuwa: Nepal Agroforestry Foundation (NAF)	Aug 2016 to Jul 2019
2	Women's Rights Programme II (SAMMUNATI)	Irish Aid	Chitwan: Chitwan Sakriya Mahila Samuha (CSMS) Makwanpur: Makwanpur Mahila Samuha (MMS) Parsa: Divya Yuwa Club (DYC) Lalitpur: Prerana (Secretariat of Mahila Adhikar Manch)	Jan 2017 to Dec 2021
3	Making it Work for Women	UK Giving Club	Doti: Equality Development Center (EDC) Bardiya: Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj (KMJS)	May 2017 to Aug 2020
4	Promoting Children's Right to Education through Disaster Resilient School Reconstruction	The Ramboll Foundation and UK major donor	Kathmandu: Home Net Nepal (HNN)	Aug 2017 to Apr 2019
5	Leave No-one Behind Housing in Earthquake- Affected Districts of Nepal (Consortium Project with Practical Action and Center of Resilient Development)	DFID	Makwanpur: Center for Community Development Nepal (CCDN) Lamjung: Committee for the Promotion of Public Awareness and Development Studies (COPPADES)	Sept 2018 to Aug 2020
6	Supporting Education for Girls Project at Dharmanagar, Bara district	Trish & Gerry Kerr	Bara: Rural Development Center (RDC)	Oct 2018 to Jul 2019
7	Joint action of women and youth to break the harmful menstrual taboos	ActionAid Denmark	Bajura: PeaceWin and Human Resource Centre (HRC) Doti: Equality Development Center (EDC)	May 2019 to Apr 2021

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