



REFLECTIONS & LEARNING

2015



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DESIGN & PRINT PROCESS

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Printed in Nepal.



**REFLECTIONS
& LEARNING**



2015

VISION

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

MISSION

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

WE BELIEVE

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

WE WORK WITH

Women, Dalits, highly excluded indigenous people and people living in poverty.

OUR APPROACH

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

INSIDE



Acronyms	06
Glossary	07
Country Director's Message	08
Working Area Coverage of ActionAid Nepal	10
Glimpse of Quantitative Achievements-2015	12
Executive Summary	16
The Context	22
Programme Overview	24
Natural Resources and Livelihood	26
Disaster Risk Reductions and Community-led Reconstruction Programme	34
Participatory Democratic Governance	44
Women's Rights	50
Quality Education in a Safe and Equitable Environment	62
Other Organizational Initiatives	72
Organizational Processes and Changes	78
Knowledge Generation in 2015	84
ANNEX 1: List of LRP Partner Organizations - 2015	89
ANNEX 2: Project managed by AAN in 2015	90

ACRONYMS

AA	ActionAid	LRF	Land Rights Forum
AAI	ActionAid International	LRP	Local Rights Programme
AAN	ActionAid Nepal	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
CCCC	Community Child Care Centre	MAM	Mahila Adhikar Manch
CCL	Child Centred Learning	MoCPA	Ministry of Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation
CER	Citizens Education Report	MoE	Ministry of Education
CFUG	Community Forest Users' Groups	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
CLRP	Community Led Reconstruction Programme	NLRF	National Land Rights Forum
CRSA	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture	NRs.	Nepali Rupees
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	ODF	Open Defecation Free
CSP	Country Strategy Paper	PLiP	People Living in Poverty
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office	PMA	Participatory Monitoring and Accountability
DDRC	District Disaster Relief Committee	PNGO	Partner Non-Governmental Organization
DEO	District Education Office	PPP	Participatory Planning Process
DM	Disaster Management	PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
DMC	Disaster Management Committee	PRS	Promoting Rights in School
DoE	Department of Education	PTA	Parent Teacher Association
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	PVA	Participatory Vulnerability Assessment
ECDC	Early Childhood Development Centre	ReFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques
ELBAG	Economic Literacy and Budget Accountability for Governance	Rti	Right to Information
ERC	Eastern Resource Centre	SIP	School Improvement Plan
GBP	Great Britain Pound	SMC	School Management Committee
GBV	Gender Based Violence	SMT	Senior Management Team
GoN	Government of Nepal	SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
HRBA	Human Rights-based Approach	UCW	Unpaid Care Work
IEC	Information, Education and Communication	VAW	Violence against Women
IGA	Income Generation Activities	VDC	Village Development Committee
LDRMP	Local Disaster Risk Management Plan	WRC	Western Resource Centre
LGCDP	Local Governance and Community Development Programme	WRF	Women Rights Forum

GLOSSARY

CCL: 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.

CER: The report produced at school, district and national level based on communities analyzing school performance against the 10 rights (enshrined in Promoting Rights in School Framework). These reports may focus on particular priorities, for example collecting evidence around discrimination against girls, violation of specific rights or the right to quality teachers etc.

Chaupadi: A conservative social practice for women in certain districts of Western Nepal, which prohibits a woman from participating in normal family and community activities during menstruation, as she is considered impure.

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.

Dhur: Unit of land measurement in the Terai. One dhur is equal to 16.93 m²

Haliya: An exploitative wage system of hiring people for ploughing landlord's land at extremely low wages paid in grains on yearly basis. In some cases, these poor people are simply forced to plough the land as a repayment of loans taken by them or their ancestors.

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.

Kamlari: Female bonded labour Kamaiya.

Kattha: Unit of measurement of land in the Terai. One kattha is equal to 338.63 m²

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.

PLiP: We avoid talking about "poor people" which has an element of condescension. "PLiP" emphasises a common humanity and poverty being a state that people are living in, which ActionAid is trying to end.

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.

COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear All,
Namaste and Warm Greetings!

Since 1982, it has been amazing years for ActionAid Nepal (AAN) towards fighting poverty and social injustices through a human rights based approach of empowering the poor and excluded and make them able to claim and exercise their rights. Being a 'locally rooted and globally connected' organization on one hand and its 'critical but constructive engagement with the government and State agencies' on the other have further contributed AAN to fulfil its mission.

Likewise, 2015 has definitely ended the same way rejuvenating better hopes and opportunities leading towards poverty and injustice free Nepal. It is, thus, my pleasure to share ActionAid Nepal's Reflections and Learning 2015. This is guidance for reflecting on our achievements, learning and to look forward to see what we still need to accomplish.

Nepal witnessed a major turnaround in 2015-the April's 7.8 Richter scale earthquake left devastating effects in the country, its people and much on its cultural heritage. The earthquake might have taken a lot; what it failed to take was the resilience of people, an unified spirit and a common purpose of

raising above adversity; marking 2015 a milestone year in the history of Nepal.

On account of AAN's post-earthquake interventions, within 24 hours of earthquake, we were on the ground discussing about the possibilities of reaching out earthquake survivors. AAN was successful to support 118,885 people with emergency relief materials and the recovery services. Further, keeping in mind, the social, economic and psycho-social reconstruction apart from the physical one, Community Led Reconstruction Programme (CLRP) was thus derived as a long term post disaster reconstruction with an ownership of the community. As well as achieving physical reconstruction, CLRP also

focuses on social, economic and cultural reconstruction - aiming to strengthen women's rights and leadership at all levels, strengthen public education system and ensure land rights and livelihoods for the poor and marginalised social groups in the earthquake affected districts.

Further, AAN and its partner NGOs including its networks and alliances, community based organizations, ReFLECT circles, child clubs and women groups were continuously and collectively engaged in 2015 on various critical issues of land rights and livelihood, post-disaster relief, reconstruction and building resilience, quality public service, participatory democratic governance,





women's rights and quality education rights.

In terms of AAN's and its PNGO's discourses on policy advocacy, approval of the long awaited Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) from the government, endorsement of Anti-Witchcraft Crime and Punishment Act and enactment of National Youth Council Act from the legislative parliament were some of the noteworthy achievements of 2015. Likewise, Poverty Alleviation Policy and Rural Women Policy were being submitted for final approval and endorsement from the government; Disaster Management bill on behalf of

the civil society and the development of social security strategy are on progress.

Further, on behalf of the civil society, AAN and its PNGOs were actively engaged to critically review and provide inputs during 2015 constitution drafting process. As a result, 9 out of 10 points memorandum on women's rights had been incorporated within it; for instance, the constitution has now recognized women's unpaid care work in the national economy. Similarly, free education up to the secondary level in public schools has also been mentioned along with the provision of making the higher education easily available, accessible and gradually make it free.

Followed by two regional conferences on Participatory Democracy in Biratnagar and Nepalgunj, a national one was conducted in Kathmandu in partnership

with the Institute for Governance and Development (IGD). It created a platform for the intellectuals, politicians, journalists, right activists, development workers and government officials to critically discuss on the democratization process with an overview of the new constitution, social justice and social harmony; linking them with HRBA perspective.

On the other hand, construction of Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs) as a pilot project in Kaski was AAN's another significant achievement of 2015. These centres were established with an aim to create a child friendly teaching-learning environment that contribute for the holistic development of children; more often than that of the formal education.

Finally, what we have learnt from these achievements and from the tragedy are two things - the power of resilience and the benefits of working approach to create synergy. We are always thankful to the Government of Nepal, Social Welfare Council, our partner NGOs, AA International Secretariat, AAN's National Board of Governance and the local communities for standing together in the good as well as the difficult times.

I hope you will enjoy reading the document and your feedback for us are always welcome.

Wishing Solidarity and Peace!

BIMAL KUMAR PHNUYAL
Country Director

ActionAid Nepal's (AAN's) long-term partnership programmes and projects at the field level are currently being implemented in 26 districts. Additionally, AAN has short-term engagements with several other non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, alliances, networks and forums across the country.

LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME AND PROJECTS											
MANAGED BY	LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME					PROJECTS			TOTAL		
	DISTRICTS	TOTAL LRPS	PARTNERS	VDCs	MUNICIPALITIES	PARTNERS	VDCs	MUNICIPALITIES	VDCs	MUNICIPALITIES	TOTAL
Eastern Resource Centre	7	6	10	42	12	26	89	18	174	43	217
Kathmandu Office	11	2	4	-	6						
Western Resource Centre	8	6	9	43	7						
Total	26	14	23	85	25	26	89	18	174	43	217

**PROGRAMME DISTRICTS
MANAGED BY WESTERN
RESOURCE CENTRE**

Bardiya, Nawalparasi,
Bajura, Banke, Doti, Palpa,
Baitadi, Kailali

**PROGRAMME DISTRICTS
MANAGED BY
KATHMANDU OFFICE**

Makawanpur, Kaski, Chitwan,
Parsa, Kathmandu, Lalitpur,
Bhaktapur, Rasuwa,
Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha,
Kavrepalanchowk

**PROGRAMME DISTRICTS
MANAGED BY EASTERN
RESOURCE CENTRE**

Siraha, Morang, Jhapa,
Bara, Udayapur, Terhathum,
Sankhuwasabha

Glimpse of Quantitative Achievements - 2015

1,073

People engaged in off-farm
income generating activities



586

Persons trained to
promote seed bank



1,922

Farmers trained on
Climate Resilient
Sustainable Agriculture



1,900

Women having single or
joint land ownership certificate



41

Cooperatives and groups registered
in government authorities



159

Participatory Vulnerability
Assessment (PVA) conducted



102

Communities having
Disaster Management Plan



1,434

Community leaders trainers
developed in emergency
and disaster management



97

Community level
emergency fund set up



LAND, LIVELIHOOD, EMERGENCY & DISASTER

Objective 1

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Objective 2



6,078 PLiP who represent in local level formal and non-formal groups and committees to influence decisions



1,055 Women holding at least one of the major positions at community / local government level



3,564 Community plans submitted



1,474 Community plans approved by VDCs



8,338 PLiP who acquired vital registration and citizenship certificate in the working area



3,942 Persons receiving Leadership Development Training

454

VAW cases reported

22

Communities set up emergency fund to address VAW cases

85

Street dramas/theatres organized to sensitize people on VAW

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Objective 3

243

VAW cases getting justice through legal process

4,110

Women engaged in income generation activities / small scale enterprises

3,391

Women receiving technical off-farm training



4,503

Persons receiving capacity building initiatives on PRS Framework and Charter of 10 rights of school education



219

Schools applying child-centred learning approach



2,432

Children receiving child-focused training



12,778

School-going aged children enrolled in school within the working area



63

Schools conducting PVA and the action plan



3,408

PLiP who have been able to read and write simple sentences and perform simple calculation through REFLECT circles



699

Student and teacher trained on DRR



QUALITY EDUCATION

Objective 4

Emergency Response Programme



18,585

Emergency food relief



7,152

Temporary shelter support



6,443

Emergency shelters



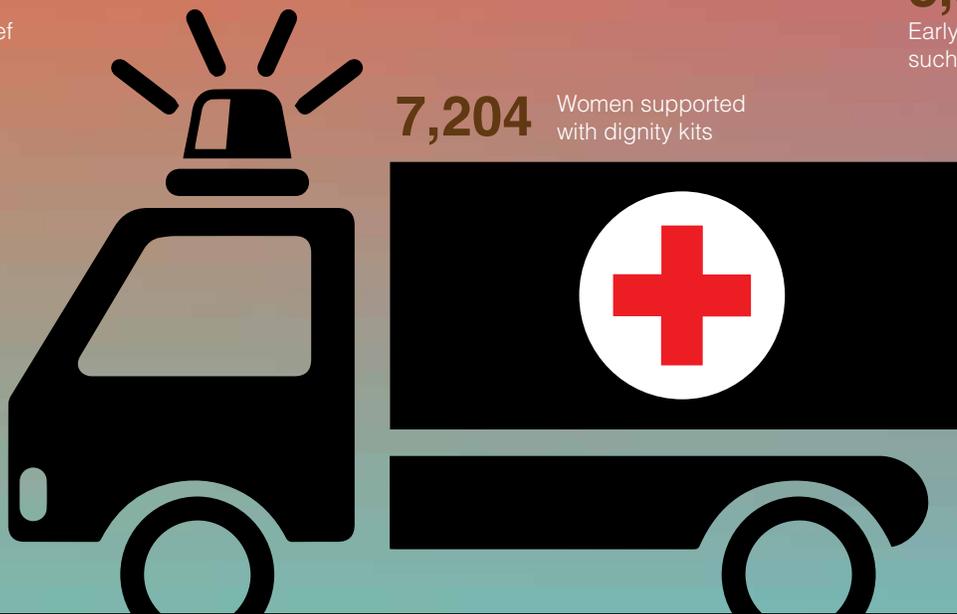
8,835

Early recovery packages,
such as storage bins and spaces



5,581

Cash for Work



7,204

Women supported
with dignity kits



7,200

Psychological
support services



23

Establishment of
community-led Women
Friendly Space



9,318

Children provided
with educational kits



50

Children aged 5 to
12 years facilitated
with temporary
learning centres





1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Being “locally rooted and globally connected” organization, ActionAid Nepal adopts a human rights-based approach with an aim to enhance the capacity of the poor and excluded people to claim and exercise their rights to live a dignified life.

Starting from charity-based work in the 1980s to improve the basic living conditions of the poorest people, ActionAid Nepal has now adopted a human rights-based approach with an aim to enhance the capacity of the poor and excluded people to claim and exercise their rights to live a dignified life. Being “locally rooted and globally connected” organization, AAN has transformed from 'Country Programme' to 'Associate' member and will soon become an affiliate of ActionAid International. It has also legally registered its entity in the concerned Nepal Government's authority.

In the year 2015, AAN broadly worked on five areas: Natural Resources and Livelihood, Disaster Risk Reductions and Community led Reconstruction Programme, Participatory Democratic Governance, Women's Rights and Quality Education in a Safe and Equitable Environment.

AAN's engagement for the promotion of Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA),



↪ Raising awareness on women's joint land ownership.

establishment of community seed banks and strengthening farmer's organizations through the formation of farmer's groups and cooperatives and their coordination and registration in District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) have contributed to enhance PLiP's on-farm livelihood options.

Moreover, the off-farm alternatives too provided improved livelihood opportunities through small enterprises and employment in informal or formal sector; resulting in their initiative to move towards sustainability and self-functioning livelihood alternatives. For this, AAN was engaged in upscaling the traditional skills and creativity of PLiPs by making use of

the locally available resources.

AAN and its partner organization's interventions on land rights have given visible changes in 2015. For instance, 1900 women have received single/joint land ownership that would allow women to be equally empowered as a part of property rights and the government has explored 3 Bigahas of land for the settlement of 65 Kamaiya families in Bardiya. Besides, through the ReFLECT led campaigns and self-help groups, women have become aware of and informed about their entitlements; which ultimately helped to maintain the power balance within the family and the community.

Disaster in Nepal has multi-dimensions beyond earthquake, for instance, fire hazard, flood, landslides, etc.

In terms of policy advocacy, the Village and National Land Rights Forum and the frontline leaders have been contributing to take forward the issue of land rights. Similarly, through AAN's discourses on land rights, the long awaited Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) has been approved by the Government.

Likewise, the scope of agriculture in formal education is inevitable. Therefore, AAN, in partnership with Saishik Namuna Gramin Bikash Kendra, Kavre district, developed a curriculum in sustainable agriculture as a complete package, and a teachers' guide has also been published.

After the devastating April 2015

earthquake, AAN was on the ground within 24 hours of the disaster to discuss about the possibilities of reaching out the earthquake survivors. It was successful to support 118,885 people with the emergency food relief, temporary shelter support, cash for work, psychological support, community-led women friendly space, distribution of dignity kits, educational kits and temporary learning centers for the children.

Disaster in Nepal has multi-dimensions beyond earthquake, for instance, fire hazard, flood, landslides, etc. AAN has made a number of efforts to develop coping strategies and for making disaster resilient communities. For instance,

the community people's engagement in analyzing and prioritizing possible hazards and risks through Participatory Vulnerability Assessment (PVA) and formation of Disaster Management Committees in coordination with local stakeholders were supportive to implement Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives.

Likewise, AAN, in coordination with DPNet was engaged in continued advocacy and lobbying to review and propose Disaster Management bill on behalf of the civil society. AAN is one of the members of advisory committee for this initiative.

Concerning post-earthquake reconstruction, AAN not only refers to the reconstruction of physical infrastructure, but also the social, economic and psycho-social reconstruction of the country. Thus, CLRP was derived from the communities and it has been started as a long-term engagement with the disaster affected communities to transform their lives positively and engage in 'building back better'. The priority interventions of AAN within CLRP are reconstruction, DRR/preparedness, women's rights, education, land rights and livelihoods.

AAN and its partner organizations were actively engaged in developing agencies of the poor and ensuring wider implementation of Participatory Planning Process (PPP) in the settlement, ward and village level planning and development process. Similarly, after series of campaigns, inclusive representation of PLiP in PPP and various other local level groups and committees, such as Ward Citizen's Forum (WCF), Integrated Planning Committee (IPC), Community Forest User Group (CFUG), School Management Committee (SMC), etc. have increased. Further, AAN initiated a civic forum (Janasarokar Manch) of rights holders which has been formed in all LRP districts to engage with the government and advocate on citizen's pertinent issues for quality public services. In a way, it has contributed to raise the concerns from local to national level. These practices have in turn, helped the PLiPs to have their say in the decision making

process and enhance the participatory democratic governance.

With regards to ensuring quality public services, AAN and its partner organizations were actively engaged in ensuring effective implementation of Participatory Monitoring and Accountability (PMA) tools like Community Score Card (CSC), Minimum Conditions Performance Measure (MCPM), and Social Audit/Public Hearing etc. that need to be carried out by various local government institutions. These tools help to check and maintain the quality of public services. Similarly, now the VDC budget is also spent for different income generating and capacity building trainings for 'target group empowerment' as well as for creating

↑ *Community carrying out Participatory Vulnerability Assessment.*

learning environments in schools and women's empowerment programmes.

In terms of engaging with the government and policy advocacy, various campaigns on Right to Information (Rtl), Open Defecation Free (ODF), school enrolment, Haliya Rehabilitation and VAW were organized in the year 2015. Likewise, AAN, PNGO and Nepal





Government worked together to draft 'Poverty Alleviation Policy', which has been submitted to the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation for its review and approval. Further, AAN and its partner organizations are working with the Department of Social Security Fund for the development of social security strategy, which addresses the social protection issues of people working in informal sectors.

With an aim to deepen and widen the understanding of participatory democracy through critical reflection on current practices and to contribute to building democracy in Nepali society, two regional conferences were organized on Participatory Democracy in Biratnagar

and Nepalgunj. Further, in partnership with the Institute for Governance and Development (IGD), a National Conference on the same theme was organized in Kathmandu. A book entitled, '*Participatory Democracy: Perspectives and Practices on Local Governance*' was also launched for wider dissemination.

AAN's intervention in women's rights theme primarily focused on repealing all kinds of discriminatory laws and social practices that perpetuate and reinforce discrimination against women, and combating all forms of violence against women. AAN, in coordination with MAM, other women's groups, ReFLECT groups and child groups are engaged in diverse campaigns against Chaupadi, early/child marriage, VAW, school enrolment and for the promotion of women's rights. MAM has now been extended in 30 districts with approximately 50,000 members. Likewise, women's active participation in different community level committees like that of PTA, SMC, WCF, CFUGs etc. has helped to shift the decision making power from men and elite groups to women, poor and marginalized.

↳ Senior Educationist, Mr. Kedar Bhakta Mathema sharing his views in PD Conference.



With an aim that the safe city campaign ensures and contributes towards achieving the national goal of '*Zero Tolerance to the Gender Based Violence*', mass awareness and advocacy campaigns on the issue were organised from local to national level. The transportation workers, adolescent girls, men and women were given orientation and training on VAW and SRHR regarding safe public spaces. The child clubs were given an orientation to confront against sexual harassment in public places; public toilets were constructed around the crowded public spaces. Further, seat reservation for women in public vehicles was initiated with a provision of penalty for its violation.

After a number of campaigns and advocacy, the new constitution has now recognized women's unpaid care work in the national economy and the 4Rs (Recognition, Reduction, Redistribution and Representation) of UCW have been well internalized by the family and the community. Moreover, by sending children to CCCC and with various skill development trainings on entrepreneurship and on-farm and



↪ Street drama to raise awareness on women's involvement in UCW.

off-farm income generating alternatives, women are now able to engage more in productive work to enhance their livelihood.

The parliament has endorsed an Anti-Witchcraft Crime and Punishment Act in July 2015. MAM, women's rights activists, AAN and PNGOs were the major actors for advocating in favour of the Act since 2011 and were rigorously engaged in the campaign and in its drafting process. Moreover, keeping in mind the socio-political, economic and cultural marginalization of rural women and bringing them in the mainstream, a comprehensive 'Rural Women Policy' has been prepared and is awaiting for final approval and endorsement from the government. Further, during the constitution drafting process, MAM and women's rights activists submitted a 10-point memorandum to incorporate women's rights issues in the constitution; and out of them, 9 were being

incorporated.

Thus, our works on the fight to attain women's rights have empowered many women in the communities. The knowledge that they have gained on their rights has brought confidence on them to fight back against all sorts of injustice and violence and the State's recognition of women's rights and its effort to involve women in the community and State development depicts the shift in power relations. The counterparts of women and their family members have also started supporting women in the household chores and begun to recognize women's involvement in community development processes, which again illustrate the shift in the power relation and structure at homes and in public.

In regard to ensuring quality education, AAN is committed to securing free, compulsory, quality public education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS), Child Centred Learning (CCL), assurance to quality education and improved internal governance were being achieved in most of the schools. The parents, who are involved in the promotion of quality education, have also encouraged the school to prepare a code of conduct between teachers and students, mentioning their separate roles and responsibilities. Likewise, the findings of CER reports were discussed within the community and district level, including District Education Office (DEO) to make an improved change against the identified gaps. Further, Participatory Vulnerability Assessments (PVA) are conducted in schools and based on it, necessary disaster management plans are prepared and implemented to promote safety and DRR in schools.

Considering the right to education and policy advocacy, AAN and its partner organizations amplified their voices during the constitution drafting process and were successful to secure free education up to secondary level in public schools with a provision of scholarships for Dalits, physically challenged and visually impaired and make the higher education easily available, accessible and gradually make it free. Besides, AAN has taken a lead role in celebrating Global Action Week (GAW) and amplifying education agenda at the global level and on the other hand, policy discourse on 'Education Financing' and the importance of domestic resource mobilization in education financing are ongoing.

One of the critical concerns in education is a need to promote girls' education. As of

now, the amplitude of reasons for school dropout is a mixture with the responsibility of household chores, lack of funds, menstruation and many others. Now, there has been a significant improvement in girls' education by increasing their enrolment and reducing their absenteeism at times of menstruation and/or reducing their school drop outs. Likewise, in terms of promoting girls' education, Gender Equity and Girls' Education Network has also been a major initiative to improve the school enrolment and make the school more gender friendly.

The socialization and knowledge sharing process is important during childhood since child's development is crucial within 5 years and this also decides his/her latter development. Moreover, it is a time when children cannot claim their human rights by themselves. Thus, three (3) ECDCs were constructed as a pilot project in Kaski to ensure both the education and child rights of under 5 years old children. It is a new approach to child friendly teaching-learning environment, which considers more than just imparting formal education.

The large number of youth force and their possible contribution to nation building is a matter of consideration. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) for mobilizing youth volunteers in earthquake-affected districts helped strengthen the youth engagement with the government. AAN was engaged in the youth movement to form the 'National Youth Alliance for Reconstruction' (NYAR), which was also actively engaged in post-earthquake needs assessment, relief distribution, psycho-social counselling, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Further, AAN, in coordination with Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) prepared a draft of National Youth Policy monitoring tools to ensure effective implementation of the policy and similarly, MoYS formulated Youth Vision 2025 and the legislative parliament has enacted National Youth Council Act, 2072; for which AAN and partner organizations were actively involved to advocate for addressing the issues of the marginalized and vulnerable youths.

Similarly, with enhanced capacity built through leadership skills and mass mobilization, youths are also involved at the community level ReFLECT circles to join hands for fighting back existing community injustices. They were also trained on Rtl and were actively engaged in empowering the rights holders and encourage them to make an effective use of it.

AAN organized forums, 'Reviews, Evaluations and Impact Studies' help us to assess and reflect our performance over a certain interval of time and consider the lessons learnt to plan for the next strategy. These periodic studies also complement the regular M&E work that lead towards a more comprehensive learning cycle. Further, the auditors' recommendations and their effective implementations have become instrumental in institutionalizing the process and contributing for smooth operations of the finance staff and the practice of conducting holistic audit has helped to ensure transparency and accountability in organization's overall programmatic, financial, governance and social/public contexts.

Likewise, conducting Annual National Social Audit in participation with various government representatives, donors, civil society organizations, PNGO representatives, members from various networks and alliances creates a platform to demonstrate AAN's transparency and accountability towards its programme achievements and shortcomings, the cost effectiveness and the organizational systems and structures.



➤ Youth volunteer clearing debris after the earthquake.

2

THE CONTEXT

While Nepal's transformation was on progress with gradual improvement in its several development indicators, the destruction from devastating April 2015 earthquake brought about a huge amount of economic and human loss.



1. THE NEPALESE CONTEXT

After the Constituent Assembly elections held in November 2013, the major political parties held discourse on three key issues: federal structure, system of government and judiciary. When the political parties of Nepal missed the constitution drafting deadlines set by the Constituent Assembly (CA) in 2014, it propelled disappointment among

the citizens towards their elected leaders. However, after a month of devastating April 2015 earthquake, the major political parties resolved their contentious issues on the constitution drafting process as a breakthrough to the long-time political deadlock in Nepal. The major political parties struck a historic deal on a new constitution that would restructure the

country into seven federal provinces, which are yet to be given boundaries and names. In spite of the numerous hurdles, Nepal was successful to promulgate its new constitution in September 2015 with a consensus of more than two-thirds of its CA members and with the provision of model of federalism and federalization process is complete.

While Nepal's transformation was on progress with gradual improvement in its several development indicators, the destruction from devastating April 2015 earthquake brought about a huge amount of economic and human loss. The National Planning Commission estimated that the damage was as high as US\$7 billion. The catastrophe was so huge that more than 8,700 people lost their lives, more than 22,000 people got injured and homes of 5,00,000 were completely damaged. Further, the quakes also damaged nearly 30,000 public and private classrooms (about 8000 schools) across 49 districts, and destroyed 1023 health centres.

After seriously affecting the country's economy, the disaster has further pushed the State's development back by a decade or more, obstructing all its efforts to be upgraded from a "Least Developed Country" to a "Developing Country" by 2022. The government has reported a sharp decrease in people living below the poverty line, from 32% in 2004 to 24% in 2011. Nevertheless, it is estimated that the 2015 earthquake pushed additional one million people to live below the poverty line.

It is estimated that the 2015 earthquake pushed additional one million people to live below the poverty line.

Moreover, while the country was coping with the loss and damage of the earthquake, some of the Madheshi parties (political parties that represent from terai) were dissatisfied with the new constitutional provisions prior to its promulgation. They basically had issues with their citizenship rights, electoral constituencies, provincial boundaries and their proportional representation in government bodies. This soon triggered Madhesh movement followed by an economic blockade in most of the southern borders. The blockade checked trading of basic supplies, including medicines, food and petroleum. The country, which was already paralyzed by the disaster had to again suffer from the extreme livelihood crisis and billions of economic losses.

2. WORKING MODALITY OF ACTIONAID NEPAL

ActionAid Nepal believes that poverty is a denial and violation of human rights stemming from a historical process of exclusion and injustice. It is a complex, dynamic and multifaceted phenomena associated with social constructs, such as gender, caste, ethnicity, location, physical ability and class. In the Nepali context, structural forces perpetuate and exacerbate poverty - namely patriarchy, exclusion, unjust governance and neo-liberalism. Natural disasters and climate change also reinforce poverty.

In this backdrop, the human rights-based approach 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 have to be empowered to claim them, with the solidarity and support of

others. AAN always ensures PLIP at the centre of its programme interventions.

Thus, through the rigorous efforts of the national board, staff members and SMT, AAN has established itself as a legal national entity; which operates as a "locally rooted and globally connected organization".

2.1 Organizational Strategic Objectives

AAN CSP IV (2012-17) has identified the following four strategic objectives:

Objective 1:

To ensure improved livelihoods and to build disaster resilient communities by enabling people living in poverty and marginalised people to claim productive resources,

Objective 2:

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

Objective 3:

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

Objective 4:

To support all children to attain quality education in a safe and an equitable environment.

3

**PROGRAMME
OVERVIEW**

The HRBA is central to AAN's fight against poverty and injustice, and the empowerment of people to claim and exercise their rights.



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

OBJECTIVE 1

To ensure improved livelihoods and build disaster resilient communities by enabling people living under poverty and marginalized status to claim productive resources.

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

OBJECTIVE 2

To facilitate political advancement of people living under poverty and marginalized status to hold duty bearers to account, develop propositions for national development strategies and deepen democracy.

HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH (HRBA)

The HRBA is central to 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 have to be empowered to claim them, with the solidarity and support of others. It always ensures PLiP at the centre of its programme interventions.

OBJECTIVE 3

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

OBJECTIVE 4

To support all children to attain quality education in a safe and an equitable environment.

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

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

4

NATURAL RESOURCES & LIVELIHOOD

The meaning of land and its use is changed by the renewed socioeconomic values. It has been associated with the assets for an individual, economic prestige, monetary value, livelihood with dignity, equality, and power and authority. With regards to women and their access to land and natural resources, the meaning of land and its ownership take a switch from just a form of earning a livelihood to power, equality and dignity. Women's access to, use of and control over land and other productive resources are essential to ensure their right to equality and to an adequate standard of living.

4.1 ACCESS TO LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Various campaigns, such as a joint land ownership campaign, campaign for access to and control over natural resources, campaign for securing tenancy rights, strengthening people's organizations, etc. took place across the working areas. Consequently, 1900 women have received single/joint land ownership certificate and likewise, the government has explored 3 Bigahas of land for settlement of 65 Kamaiya families in Bardiya. Further, 7 Haliya households have been rehabilitated

↳ Construction of a building for freed Kamaiyas.



with new houses and land at Thipuchaur of Bajura; 10 landless people across the LRP areas have secured tenancy rights and 13 landless people have been able to secure shelter rights in Siraha district. AAN also supported to construct 64 low-cost houses in Jantanagar, Bardiya for securing shelter support of freed Kamaiyas.

A number of land rights forums have become wider with the formation of new Village Land Rights Forums (VLRFs) and capacitating the frontline leaders in land

rights have strengthened the movement. The work of the National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) has been recognized by the government, and the members of NLRF have continuously been members of the Landless Problem Solving Commission.

Similarly, the land rights movement has been able to establish LRF as a key player on the land issues and is a part of the national land policy formulation and amendment of the Land Act. The land rights movement now is not only

limited to acquiring land but also linked to livelihood broadening movement. Further, the 4th National conference of the land rights forum was carried out in Kanchanpur district, where 30-member Action Committee has been formed and issued 29-point declaration for further land rights movement. The land rights movement has also promoted agriculture cooperatives, especially of women's increasing access to credit in farming and other livelihood initiatives.

Moreover, capacity building of Haliya groups and strengthening the Haliya / Kamaiya organization are in progress. Besides, Dalit Jana Kalyan Yuba Club (DJKYC), the AAN local partner of Siraha district has formed 13-member land rights forum in its five working VDCs. Within it, more than 100 landless people are organized and are advocating for land rights, shelter rights and fair wages. Further, the squatter landless people have also been organized under their networks, and are facilitated to advocate and claim for securing their land rights. As a result, the scenario of the right to land and its entitlement has improved and institutionalized.

Besides, the ReFLECT circles have played an important role in the overall empowerment process of rights holders and they initiated a campaign for single or joint land ownership to ensure access to land, natural resources and economic empowerment of the poor and marginalized people. Similarly, through the ReFLECT led campaigns and self-help groups, women have become aware of and informed about their entitlements. They have started to demand their share in the family land; prepared vital registrations and are now well aware of their essence.



CASE STUDY

Justice after Nine Years

A 43-year old divorcee Kamala lives with her two daughters at her parent's home. She was married at an early age of 15 and had 3 children with her ex-husband. Unfortunately, she lost her son. Kamala says, "After I lost my son, my in-laws and husband started torturing me-both physically and mentally. Initially, I was just verbally abused for not having son but later when my husband became alcoholic, he used to beat me up without any reason. The life had become hard not only for me but for my two daughters as well." When the situation was out of control, Kamala shifted to her parent's home along with her daughters.

Even at her own home, Kamala did not get any support; she was blamed for failure of her marriage. As a result, she registered a case to receive her property rights from her husband. "I had no support from anyone but for the sake of my daughters I filed the case against my husband for my property rights. Nonetheless, I could not take it forward as I had no money" says Kamala. All circumstances impelled Kamala to a very unstable mental state and she was taken to India for the treatment and returned cured.

Kamala says, "In 2014, five years after being cured, I came in contact with Makwanpur women's group. It gave me an opportunity to become a member of Chisapani Women's group." Makwanpur Women's group then coordinated with District Bar Association to reopen her case. The case was regulated with no monetary charges at the Court. It was after four months of continuous effort of both Kamala and Makwanpur women's group, she finally received a justice. She shares, "I am so thankful to Makwanpur and Chisapani women's group as well as MAM for supporting me to get justice after nine years. I received five dhoor of land as my property rights, out of 13 dhoor land owned by my husband. The same land has now become the only source of income for me and my daughters." Kamala is currently associated with Subhakamana Cooperative and has started vegetable farming from the loan she received from it. She is now engaged with women's group and raising her two daughters independently.

4.2 PROMOTION OF CLIMATE RESILIENT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Development of the lead farmers in sustainable agriculture was the focus on promotion of sustainable agriculture in 2015. The selected farmers from the LRP areas have also entered the capacity building process of CRSA. As a part of the initiative, they were provided with community seed bank training. After the training, the existing community seed banks have improved their management and new community seed banks were established. As a result, the seed banks have contributed to the conservation of agro-biodiversity and hence in the promotion of sustainable agriculture. Moreover, the community seed banks have become important steps for ensuring farmers' rights and food sovereignty. Similarly, campaign, such as Our Seeds, Our Rights was organized for the preservation of native seeds and now the farmers are involved in seed exchanges, seed processing and seed marketing.

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A feasibility study was also conducted on sustainable agriculture and in identifying potential micro entrepreneurs among women. The study mainly focused on the existing practices and the potentialities, new possibilities for entrepreneurship, focusing women, areas of women-led livelihood and income generation initiatives. It has guided the income generation activities by providing recommendations based on the available resources, market and skills. It has also recommended some potential entrepreneurship, such as poultry farming, mushroom farming, vegetables and spices (turmeric, coriander, garlic, etc.) farming and mini food processing industries.

Various initiatives, such as capacity building trainings for lead farmers on organic farming, soil and water management, procedure of making organic pesticides, small grant support, establishment of model plot, technical person-JTA mobilization and coordination with the District Agriculture Development Office were conducted with an aim to promote and adapt the sustainable agricultural practices. Promoted by AAN and its partner organizations, the farmers were asked to visit the nearby model organic farm to gain practical knowledge and exposure, within the training period. There, they got an opportunity to interact with lead farmers who were practicing organic farming and are motivated to practice the same.

Similarly, two collection centres for agriculture products were set up in the working areas of Terhathum, and the District Agriculture Development

Office (DADO) organized agriculture exhibition for gaining marketing skills and encouraging collective farming. Further, the JTAs were mobilized to provide on-the-spot training for improvement of the cowshed, cattle's urine collection and technical advices to control pest and disease at the farm. Consequently, the group/collective members have now improved their cowsheds and are collecting the cattle urine as pesticides and compost manure.

Moreover, the PNGOs are facilitating and coordinating with agriculture office to increase farmers' access to government facilities, sharing information, best practices and cross-learning. The partners are also supporting the farmers by bringing experts on agriculture where farmers get space to discuss their issues. These types of interactions and meetings have encouraged the farmers' groups for commercial and collective farming. Likewise, registrations in DADO

➤ Women's group developing their business plan for entrepreneurship.



have supported the farmers and their groups to receive the facilities and subsidy provided by the District Agriculture Office.

Now, sustainable agriculture has been well adopted in AAN's working areas. The practice of making compost manure and botanical pesticides have significantly increased and practised in the field. For example, in Terhathum district, 27 farmers have completely stopped using chemical fertilizers while 51 others are gradually reducing their use. The community has also practised the process of preparing botanical pesticides through vaporization and fermentation method. As a result, some of the VDCs in the working areas of Terhathum have completely banned the use of chemical fertilizers.

The community has also practised the process of preparing botanical pesticides through vaporization and fermentation method.

CASE STUDY

Disheartened Migrant Returnee Becomes an Entrepreneur

Prem Kumal lives in Pokharathok-4, Palpa with his wife and two children. Kumals are one of the marginalized communities of Nepal; they are historically excluded and have limited access to the resources. Prem Kumal is one of the migrant returnees of his village. He returned from abroad after working for two years. Prem recalls, "Farming was the only source of our income back then; it was sufficient until our children were grown up, but eventually we could not manage their education and our daily lives later." He adds, "Everybody dreams a comfortable life with a cosy home, good food and clothes. Same dream of my life landed me to Malaysia five years back."

While Prem's fertile land stayed barren, he was working day and night in a foreign land with a hope for better future. "My sons were too small to help their mother in fields so my wife did subsistence farming and most of my land remained barren. At the other end, I had to work for nearly 20 hours a day and sometimes I didn't have time to sleep at all. But even though, to my dismay, I was paid too little for all my hard work", shares Prem Kumal.

Thus, Kumal decided to come back home after two years of his struggle and underpaid work in a foreign land. On his return, he found his village engrossed with the trend of vegetable farming. Prem says, "Many of the households had started commercial vegetable farming and I was attracted too. Even though I had very little knowledge about it, I learned and started it from my neighbours." It was through Social Resource Development Centre Nepal (SRDCN), a local partner of ActionAid Nepal that Prem and other households of Pokharathok received training on vegetable farming. SRDCN has also distributed seeds and tools to the farmers. "The training on vegetable farming by SRDCN has given me a new opportunity in life, when I came back home disheartened. Currently, I am very much occupied with my business. Annually, I make around NRs. 60,000 profit out of my vegetable business. I look forward to expand my land and foster my business in coming days."

The engagement has also helped Kumal to become loan free. He is now able to contribute for children's education on his own earning and they are living a decent life. In the same manner, SRDCN has established a farmer's group in Pokharathok. Prem's engagement in local farmers' group is appreciative and he has established his identity as a lead farmer. Prem shares, "I was honoured to receive subsidy cash of NRs. 40,000 from the District Agriculture Development Office, Palpa for being a lead farmer. I am very grateful to AAN and SRDCN for their support; I wouldn't have known about my own potentiality without their facilitation."

4.3 IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

After series of trainings and campaigns, small farmer households have now started to consider on-farm activities as important livelihood alternatives. For instance, 45 small farmer households have started vegetable farming in LRP working areas in Palpa. Similarly, 19 farmers of Banke are engaged in collective organic chilly farming in 16 kathas of land; women's groups of Kahu VDC, Kaski have come together for ginger farming; and likewise small farmers of Nawalparasi are engaged in collective organic farming and have been preparing and promoting organic fertilizers.

After declaration of Kopkot, Kolti VDC, Bajura as ginger pocket area, five lead farmers have produced 1,000 K.G. ginger and earned NRs. 10,000-24,000 per season and 4 of them have started it as a small business. Likewise, Siddhartha Club, the AAN's local partner of Kaski had provided seed money, plastic for tunnel making and trainings to various farmers' groups. In return, the farmers' groups of Sarangkot, Kaski earned NRs. 5,10,000 by selling 8,500 kg of tomato within a year.

To those people who are not involved in farming or farming does not alone support their livelihood, other skill-based works and enterprises have been complimenting their household incomes. Small enterprises and employment in informal or formal sector through skill development has changed the socio-economic status of the poor people. For instance, they are involved in small scale



Collective nursery management in Terhathum.

productions of *mudha*, *dhaka*, handicraft, carpet weaving, *dhakiya* making and leaf plate, mason, carpentry, plumbing, etc.

Upscaling the traditional skills such as *Dhakiya* making from the locally available resources has helped women to start a small-scale business in a very economical way. It also helped to preserve and promote their indigenous skills and strengthened their creativity for new designs. As these products

are unique and environment friendly, their demand is high in the market so that, the community people are collectively engaged in promotion of their productions. Furthermore, existing collectives of *Dhaka* weaving are also linked to the district and village level micro enterprise associations. This has become an initiative to move towards sustainability and self-functioning livelihood alternatives.



Women engaged in mason training.

CASE STUDY

Skill for Economic Empowerment

Dalsari Rajbangsi (52), a resident of Haraicha Municipality, Morang, was married at an early age of 11. She belongs to an economically poor family, which has a problem of meeting even the basic needs. Her husband was the only bread earner in the family. Therefore, she had no alternative except to rely on his income.

In the meantime, she got an opportunity to be a part of a group. She attended its meetings and started saving small amount of money. Regular meetings and interactions about the economic rights, women's rights and other issues built confidence and leadership in her. She eventually started leading social work in her locality.

She, along with other 27 members of the group, received a *mudha* making (handmade stool) training, facilitated by AAN. Now, she makes different items out of bamboo and sells in Itahari (nearby market) and in Kathmandu. She has also developed herself as a master trainer and various organizations invite her to facilitate the training and pay Rs.1,500 per day. In addition, she has been earning about NRs. 6,000 to 10,000 per day by selling Mudha and this is sufficient for fulfilling her daily needs. At present, she has been able to purchase a piece of land (6 Dhur) and has built a 4 roomed house.

Hence, this skill-based training has developed her as a trainer and an entrepreneur. It has also empowered her economically and developed her leadership. She is leading to advocate women's rights for all women in her locality. She facilitates and mediates to solve local level disputes as a member of Mahila Adhikar Manch (MAM). She has also been nominated as a Chairperson for Ward Citizen Forum where she is leading a development work.

She remembers her days of struggles in the past and says, "I work myself, earn myself, live on my own income and do not have to depend on others. With these changes and achievements in my life, I have become Mousi (Mother of all). So, everyone loves me and I also love them all."

4.4 STRENGTHENING FARMER'S ORGANIZATIONS

Various groups and cooperatives initiated by AAN and its partner organizations continue to be the base for promoting sustainable agriculture, improving

livelihood and accessing resources and services from the government.

Under the circumstances, transformation of community collectives into farmers' cooperatives and groups' affiliation

with DADO helped them to ensure effective public service delivery and track the government budget allocated for agriculture. Consequently, the local budget of NRs. 5,45,000 was tracked and mobilized in Terhathum district and 11 irrigation motors were being received from Irrigation Division Office, Siraha. Further, the farmer groups are also able to receive agricultural tools in a subsidiary rate from Agriculture Centre, upon their plan submitted to the local government.

After the coordination and registration of agricultural groups in DADO, they were provided plastic tunnel, seeds and hand tractor. They were also provided with money to buy seeds and start up commercial farming. In Bajura, the farmers are producing improved mother seed of wheat with the support of DADO and in Doti, 21 farmer groups have initiated '*One House One Kitchen Garden*' campaign where 518 farmers were mobilized. Similarly, in Sankhuwasabha, 45 smallholder's farmers were trained in sustainable agriculture. They have now started to consider it as a major livelihood alternative. Likewise, PLiP's collective farming in tunnel, farmyard manure improvement, plastic pond, drip irrigation, collection and utilization of kitchen waste water for irrigation, etc. are also increasing.

4.5 POLICY ADVOCACY AND AGRICULTURE GOVERNANCE

Grassroots advocacy, interface meetings with rights holders and the stakeholders

and a series of national level advocacy and campaigns were conducted to ensure effective agriculture governance and improved livelihoods. For instance, a letter of memorandum was submitted to the prime minister with an appeal to solve the squatter landless problem; various publications on CRSA, status of the use of pesticides, a documentary on the commercial vegetable production and women farmers at risk and local curriculum and teachers' guide on agriculture were prepared as resources for policy advocacy and awareness raising on various related issues.

Further, 2,633 frontline leaders have been contributing to take forward the issue of land rights. They have been actively facilitating to monitor the cases of land rights violations and referring the cases to the relevant agencies.

Towards the end of the year, Ministry of Agriculture Development has come up with major progressive promises for the development of agriculture sector and addressing the farmers' problems. The new constitution has addressed the right to food and food sovereignty as fundamental rights of the citizen, which is one of the major milestones. Similarly, the long-awaited Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) has been approved by the government in September 2015 and is being implemented now. AAN was engaged in holding discourse and providing feedback throughout the process of its development. Further, it will continue to work by sharing its content to the farmers

for ensuring its effective implementation.

4.6 AGRICULTURE IN FORMAL EDUCATION

Besides supporting the farmers, AAN is promoting sustainable agriculture by working with different sectors. One of them is the formal education institutions. As per the government provision for local curriculum, AAN in partnership with Saishik Namuna Gramin Bikash Kendra, Kavre district, developed a curriculum in sustainable agriculture for grade 1 to 8. Similarly, a teachers' guide on the same subject has also been published. Currently, the schools in Kavre have started implementing the curriculum.

The local curriculum initiative has become an innovation from two perspectives: first, inclusion of agriculture in the local curriculum as a sustainable agriculture

promotion strategy is new; second, it has been more important than any other similar initiatives because this is going to be taught as one of the subjects and the entire curriculum, teaching guide, teachers' training and teaching materials are designed accordingly. It is a complete package for promoting agriculture through formal education.

Grassroots advocacy, interface meetings with rights holders and the stakeholders and a series of national level advocacy and campaigns were conducted to ensure effective agriculture governance and improved livelihoods.



Women leader farmers' development training.

5

DISASTER RISK REDUCTIONS AND COMMUNITY LED RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

Nepal is prone to a number of disasters, such as drought, unseasonal rainfall, landslide, flood, fire and earthquake. The devastating 2015 earthquakes affected 31 districts throughout the country out of which, 14 were seriously affected. Similarly, recurrence of landslide is another trouble in most of the hilly regions. The drought in Bajura burnt about 70% of crops and unseasonable rainfall in Nawalparasi and Bardiya has seriously affected the production.



Construction of a culvert supported by AAN in Bardiya.

Moreover, disaster is a serious interruption of well-managed community with social and economic activities, and environmental cycles. The approach to look at the disaster and its risk, and reduction process has changed with time. The aspects, such as livelihood, capacity building, skilled human resources, and impact of disasters on the environment and human life can be considered as a part of disaster and its risk reduction. On the one hand, humanitarian approach has to deal with the risk reduction and on the other, the intervention in the vulnerable areas, building capacity of the community and identifying its socio-economic aspects are crucial issues to be addressed. There is also a scope of participatory approach to develop coping strategies for making a disaster resilient community. Risk reduction includes working at the policy level to collaborate

with VDCs, local bodies and municipality for mainstreaming the issues of disaster.

5.1 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) were formed in various areas in coordination with local stakeholders to map out the risk and vulnerability in different settlements, and preparation of Local Disaster Risk Management Plan (LDRMP) was accomplished through the participatory planning process facilitated by LRP partners. Similarly, a series of trainings on capacity building, emergency preparedness, hazard prevention and reductions were conducted for DMCs, MAM, child clubs and the community in coordination with the local stakeholders. To prioritize the issue, the DMCs have also submitted proposals during ward level planning. Consequently,

the allocated local budget is utilized for respective titles and the amount of government budget for DRR has comparatively increased.

Likewise, the communities have established emergency funds for preparedness through the initiatives, such as fistful and monthly collections from the self and support from the local bodies. For instance, after the earthquake, the community of Armala VDC, Kaski established a disaster management fund and collected NRs. 1,11,000 from the non-resident Nepalese. This fund was later spent to support 28 earthquake victims.

Thus, the community people engaged in analysing and prioritizing possible hazards and risks through PVA process, which is later followed by Disaster Risk



↑ AAN's support to construct bio-embankment.

Reduction (DRR) initiatives. For instance, through a Project, 'Ready for Anything', since the community identified snakebite as a main hazard in Tribeni, Nawalparasi, a separate treatment centre was set up. It became possible by frequently lobbying the local bodies and through collaborative initiatives of DMCs and local stakeholders. As a result, the centre was able to save four snakebite victims in the year 2015. Further, 150 meter bio-embankment was constructed for the safety of 30 Bigah land and 72 Bote families from flood at Nawalparasi.

In the same manner, school based vulnerability assessment was carried out by 10 schools of Udaypur and Terhathum districts. Based on this, the school based disaster management plans were prepared. Further, child-friendly toilet and water tank for clean drinking water were constructed by two schools in Udaypur, in collaboration with AAN-LRP partner,

the VDC office and the community. After PVA, a school in Udaypur constructed a compound wall for its security. Moreover, the communities are also engaged in preparing disaster mitigation and awareness campaign initiatives as a part of community level disaster risk management plan. For instance, four communities in Udaypur have planted 300 local bamboo and Napier grass to protect themselves from landslides.

ReFLECT circle on the other hand,

has become a tool to identify root cause of the real problem, empower the right-holders and find solutions. It has also become an entry point for all the initiatives and campaigns in the community. For instance, during the post-earthquake emergency period, members of ReFLECT circles were fully engaged in the distribution of relief support.

With regards to the construction of Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC), the project site of Mahendra Higher Secondary School, at Bhalam

CASE STUDY

Construction of a Stone Wall protects Kureni Village

AAN through its Ready for Anything Project, supported to form a Disaster Management Committee (DMC) in Kureni, Nawalparasi. The DMC conducted participatory vulnerability assessment and identified that soil erosion is the most common disaster, which has affected about 47 households in the community. Thus, the committee has prepared a disaster risk management plan and decided to carry out different management activities to control the erosion.

The heavy and continuous rainfall in September 2014 put the whole community at the risk of massive soil erosion. It began from Bal Bahadur Bote's house, which is located in the uppermost part of the community. According to Bal Bahadur, last year he had identified a small hole within his house premises and had got it repaired. But this year, he and his family are worried because the hole is getting bigger and there is a high risk of massive soil erosion.

After noticing the condition of Bal Bahadur's house and its possible effects to the whole community, DMC and community people gathered at the ReFLECT centre and discussed the ways of addressing the problem. In the beginning, they looked into the possibility to what extent the local community could contribute to solve the problem, but considering the magnitude of the damage and inadequacy of the locally available resources, they mapped out the supporting agencies, developed a budget proposal and submitted it to different agencies, including the VDC.

Finally, the VDC provided them a support and the people in the community provided their labour contribution. Consequently, a 50 metre long stone wall was constructed to save 47 households and the community.

VDC, Kaski was finalized through series of meetings and consultations with local people and the partner organizations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the local partner and the school was signed to ensure an ownership of the local community. The school provided land for ECDC and the local labourers and trained masons worked for the construction. The concept of green technology, 'Compressed Stabilized Earth Building' (CSEB) was applied and disaster resilient infrastructure was ensured.

5.2 ADVOCACY AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

AAN, in coordination with DPNET was engaged in continued advocacy and lobbying to review, propose and endorse Disaster Management bill on behalf of the civil society. AAN is one of the members of the advisory committee for this initiative.

As per the Local Disaster Risk Management Planning (LDRMP) Guideline and linking it with local planning process, the partners were proactively engaged with local government like VDCs and Municipalities to develop a Disaster Management Plan. At the same time, AAN facilitated to develop and update the District Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan for Bardiya District in coordination with DDRC, Bardiya. Besides, two VDC level LDRMPs, incorporating CAPA were developed in coordination with VDCs of Bajura and Nawalparasi. Consequently, NRs. 2,00,000 from the parliamentarian development fund and NRs. 3,00,000 from DDC, Nawalparasi were allocated

to build an embankment in nine rivers of Nawalparasi. Accordingly, as per the vulnerability and hazard identified by DMCs of Kolti VDC, Bajura, the communities have planted trees, made embankment and decided to stop digging land in and around the vulnerable areas.

In coordination with district level stakeholders, the AAN Bajura based partner was able to incorporate issues of disaster and climate change as a school curriculum in primary level Social Study subject. Likewise, Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) and Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs) are implementing a pilot research and capacity building project in five countries - Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam. The aim of the project is to develop community level assessment tools using participatory and scientific methodologies to integrate loss and damage perspective into existing resilience philosophy,

practice and policies and enhance capacity of DRR across South Asia and South East Asia on comprehensive resilience approach. In this regard, AAN commenced a research with the support of a national research fellow and the preliminary findings were shared with the key actors at the national level.

Besides this, AAN and Nepal Environment Society jointly organized a discussion workshop to sensitize key actors who were attending Conference of Parties (COP) 21 from Nepal. The discussions helped to further refine the possible position of Nepal in the COP 21 in Paris.

5.3 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

On 25 April 2015, a devastating earthquake of 7.8 magnitude struck Nepal. Within 24 hours of the incident, AAN along with International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team (IHART) were mobilized for early recovery livelihood initiatives and construction of



➤ AAN's Post Earthquake Emergency Response Programme.

temporary shelters in earthquake affected districts.

Quantitatively, AAN was able to provide emergency food relief to 18,585, emergency shelters to 6,443, temporary shelter support to 7,152, early recovery packages, such as storage bins and spaces to 8,835 and cash for work to 5,581 earthquake victims of five severely affected districts: Rasuwa, Kavrepalanchok, Kathmandu valley, Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk. Further, 7,204 women were supported with dignity kits and 7,200 with psychological support services through the establishment of 23 community-led Women Friendly Space (WFS) and 9,318 children were provided with educational kits and 50 children aged 5 to 12 years were facilitated with Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs), prepared out of tents and tarps. On the other hand, the DMCs in the working

areas were also actively involved in data collection and verification of earthquake victims, relief fund collection, first aid support, relief distribution, etc.

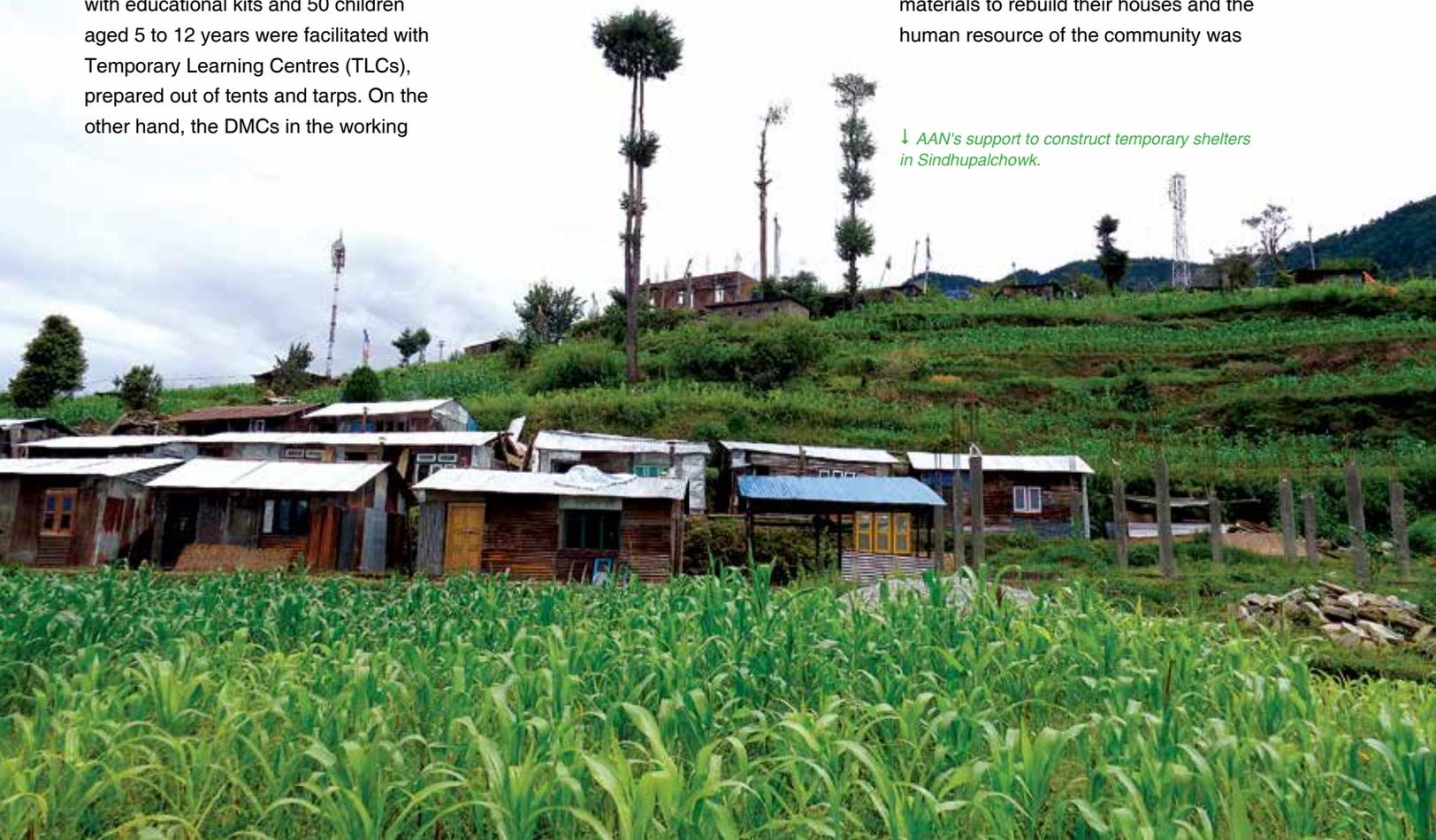
The community and the Government duly acknowledged the TLCs constructed by AAN and referred them as important contributions for making temporary arrangements of the classrooms. Subsequently, the government directed all development agencies to convert the temporary centres into transitional centres and make sure that these could last longer than the emergency phase. Later, AAN in line with the directives of the government replaced its TLCs by

more stable structures in all the areas.

Similarly, as a part of cash for work, over 80% of the remuneration was provided to women. They expressed that receiving cheques in their names make them feel empowered. The men, in turn, reiterated that if they had given the cheques, they would have spent all the money in alcohol consumption or in gambling. It means, they understood the importance of issuing a cheque to women, who could better utilize the money in the interest of their families.

Likewise, the neediest 22 earthquake affected households of Sankhuwasabha were supported with construction materials to rebuild their houses and the human resource of the community was

↓ AAN's support to construct temporary shelters in Sindhupalchowk.



also mobilized for the construction. Similarly, the local partner of Palpa provided financial support for emergency response to the District Disaster Management Fund. Tarpaulin and bucket were supported to flood affected families in Banke and first aid boxes were provided to schools and child clubs in Morang and Udaypur.

The Ministry of Home Affairs identified the 16 most frequent flood hit districts in Nepal and welcomed the international communities to support for preparedness during monsoon. For the same, AAN was nominated as a District Lead Support Agency (DLSA) for Bardiya district. Moreover, AAN in coordination with PNGO in Bardiya, developed a Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) and facilitated a series of meetings and orientations on DRR to the VDC secretaries and the district level stakeholders.

Within 24 hours of the devastating April's earthquake, AAN along with International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team (IHART) were mobilized for early recovery livelihood initiatives and construction of temporary shelters in earthquake affected districts.

CASE STUDY

AAN's Support - a Sign of Hope

A Case of Surya Man Tamang A 52 Years Old Man in Mahankal-1, Sindhupalchowk

On the day of the first earthquake, I had just left my home for a meeting. Suddenly, I felt that my head was spinning. First, I thought that it was because of my sickness but very soon, I realized that the earth was shaking. Then, I came back home to check if everything was good. My family members looked fine but the entire upper floor of my house had fallen down and the remaining half was badly cracked.

After the earthquake, 17 families from my community lived under one makeshift shelter. It was a struggle to adjust and live with so many people in a one camp. I also got involved in rescuing people trapped in the rubbles. I participated in food distribution and tarpaulin collection that came from various organizations, including ActionAid. In order to contribute for emergency response, I was involved in collecting food for 17 families from nearby shops. After four days, when we started receiving the aid, we were very much relieved. However, our problems had just started. Once we knew we had food, housing became our main concern. The makeshift shelter had a short life span and with the approaching monsoon, we were very worried.

The earthquake killed 83 people in my village, including a friend of mine. Although he managed to rescue all his family members, he could not save himself. He was a leader and a very good person in the community, who had spent most of his life serving people. He was younger than me but we shared very good moments together. It makes me so sad now.

With the support of ActionAid, my family and I are engaged in constructing a temporary house. I believe, we will be safe during monsoon in this house and even in case of the aftershocks, we will not lose our lives. It would cost us a lot of money to build a brand new house again. Therefore, this temporary shelter will keep us happy.

I have been living and working in my community for a long time, but the earthquake has changed things. I am worried now what will happen next. Some of the younger generations are moving away but I hope that my son will continue what I have been doing and will be committed to the community.

ActionAid has really helped us. It was the first organization to reach us after the earthquake and now we are working for community development together. It is in our hands.

CASE STUDY**I felt like an Orphan**

It was like a dream or something that we never thought of. I do not know how to explain it but as I saw my house being collapsed, it gave me a big shock. While escaping from the house during the earthquake, my daughter-in-law and grandson got injured. For safety reasons, I did not want to keep them here for long, so I sent them to my daughter-in-law's home in Pokhara.

We stayed outside in a makeshift camp for six days where I felt like an orphan or a homeless. We had livestock for our livelihood but I had to lose an ox and a cow in this tremor. Our house was gone and to see the cattle dying was another shock to me. Unfortunately, we were not able to take food out of the collapsed house. Then we heard that some organizations would distribute relief materials. We also received good food packages from ActionAid.

As time passed, we started realizing that the makeshift camp was not going to be like a home. We would need a place, which could also save us from the approaching monsoon. Then, we heard that ActionAid was helping people to build temporary shelters. We also learnt that CGI sheets were being distributed. It was good news after all the chaos. We, then, received the CGI sheets and construction tools provided by ActionAid.

It was great that ActionAid supported us with the materials and the technicians to construct our shelters. We worked in their guidance. We were very impressed with their frequent counselling and suggestions. They constantly suggested us to keep windows in the house and fix the roof at least 8 feet high from the ground. This shelter provided me an opportunity to help other needy people as well. We stay together with a neighbour and a relative here. They too have a painful story like most homeless people out here. The earthquake made community believe more in togetherness, equality and unity. For instance, we are happy to accompany a Dalit member, the so-called untouchable. Lastly, I am very thankful to ActionAid and Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) who supported us during the hard time.

AAI's Chief Executive, Adriano Campolina stressed on an essence of accountability and transparency during post-earthquake recovery.



↑ *Maintaining transparency during emergency relief material support*

5.4 ENSURING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE COMMUNITY

The transparency boards were placed for distribution of each relief material in all working areas. The boards displayed detailed information, including the number of beneficiaries, AAN's support, and name and contact details of the coordinating body. After completion of each distribution, these lists were handed over to the local VDCs to ensure transparency.

Similarly, community-based monitoring systems and vigilance committees were formulated and strengthened in all VDCs to ensure communities act as a 'watchdog' and track progress against commitments. They were also involved in key decision making relating to procurement, reviewing financial receipts and share their concerns with the local partner or AAN. Further, to maximize the participation of beneficiaries, Community Reconstruction Committees were

formulated with the approval of local bodies. They were then mobilized to work as community representatives and to monitor AAN's interventions.

In an interaction programme organized by Civil Alliance for Recovery and Reconstruction (CARR), AAI's Chief Executive, Adriano Campolina stressed on an essence of accountability and transparency during post-earthquake recovery. He linked it with the bitter experiences of other countries' struggles for recovery and shared that Nepal is comparatively in a better position as people and the State here are united right from the beginning of post disaster relief and recovery.

↓ *ActionAid International's Chief Executive, Adriano Campolina discussing with alliance and network members during his visit in Nepal.*



5.5 ENSURING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN AN EMERGENCY

Women were put at the centre of the community level empowerment process by ensuring their representation and most importantly, in the decision making process in Disaster Management Committees and other planning processes. Further, AAN is constructively engaged with National Women Right's Network along with the civic alliance and the youth alliance to ensure women's participation, leadership and to generate knowledge. Consequently, women have been leading the PVA process and through a participatory approach, they have prepared an action plan for implementation.

In the earthquake hit districts, 33% women represented in each of the relief distribution committees mobilized by AAN. The formation of women-led relief distribution committees encouraged women and some of them were provided with leadership training.

In Panga, Kirtipur, women-led Disaster Management Committees, with trained human resource were in action prior to the earthquake. These committees were immediately mobilized in completing the rapid needs assessments and identifying the earthquake victims.

Likewise, women-friendly safe spaces were allocated and women were provided

with dignity kits and psychosocial support service as a part of women's protection programme. In Rasuwa, AAN trained female facilitators to lead women-only and mixed discussion groups and make them feel comfortable for holding discussions on their personal issues. Moreover, female-led DRMs were connected to the wider network of MAM. They were provided with capacity building trainings for building their confidence to participate in the forums and group discussions. Similarly, national conferences on strengthening women's leadership in emergency responses were also frequently organized. Women from the community, civil society and government representatives are brought together to discuss and provide recommendations and present them in the National Reconstruction Authority.

5.6 ENGAGEMENT WITH NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

With an aim to promote accountability towards earthquake affected people in the early phase of relief and recovery, AAN was engaged with a loose network, Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiative (HAMI). HAMI had carried out field monitoring in six districts: Gorkha, Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Lalitpur, and prepared a monitoring report. The report findings were then shared in the civil society organization forum for reconstruction. The CSO forum came up with a 22-point declaration to draw the attention of the government and other humanitarian actors during the times of emergency.

Likewise, AAN formulated a youth-led network-'National Youth Alliance



↑ Youth's engagement for post-earthquake reconstruction.

for Reconstruction' (NYAR) for youth participation and leadership in post-earthquake recovery. It also formulated a reconstruction process, a woman-led alliance-'National Women Alliance for Reconstruction' (NWAR) to ensure mainstreaming of gender dimensions into DRR and put women in the forefront of each of its cycles. Similarly, a 'Civic Alliance for Recovery and Reconstruction' was formulated to constructively engage with the local and national level stakeholders, donors, civil society actors and private sector for utilizing their synergy in recovery and reconstruction process.

5.7 COMMUNITY LED RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME (CLRP)

The 'reconstruction discourse' has emerged from the post-earthquake discussions and responses are currently underway in Nepal at all levels. Reconstruction in this context and as defined by AAN does not only refer to the reconstruction of physical infrastructure,

समुदायको अगुवाईमा सामुदायिक पुनर्निर्माण !

गरिवी निवारणका लागि
समतामूलक कार्य
पुनर्स्थापना तथा पुनर्निर्माणको
लागि सामुदायिक सबलीकरण
कार्यक्रम-२०७२

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but also the social, economic and psycho-social reconstruction of the country. It again refers to the continuity, modification and construction of the society in the aftermath of an emergency, and building upon this foundation and these processes, the democratic transformation of the country driven by the agency of people, organizations and movements. AAN thus, engaged in developing a critical mass of grassroots activists, facilitators and social movement leaders who could best articulate the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) or a 'people's perspective' of

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आलोचना तथा सुझावका लागि

एक्सनएड नेपाल तथा सामेदार संस्थाहरूद्वारा संचालित मुकम्पबाट प्रभावित समुदायमा राहत, पुनर्स्थापना र पुनर्निर्माण कार्यक्रम सम्बन्धित यहीहरूको कुनैपनि गुनासो, आलोचना वा सुझाव भएमा निम्न टैगाना तथा नम्बरमा जानकारी गरीदिनुहुन अनुरोध गर्दछौ ।

तपाईंहरूको अमूल्य सुझावले हाम्रा कार्यक्रमलाई थप प्रभावकारी बनाउन सहयोग गर्नेछ । सहयोगको लागि धन्यवाद !

एक्सनएड नेपाल

लाजिम्पाट काठमाण्डौ, नेपाल

पैसा नलाग्ने टोल फ्रि नं.

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reconstruction as defined.

CLRP was derived from the communities and it has been started as a long-term engagement with the disaster affected communities to transform their lives positively and engage in 'building back better'. The priority interventions of AAN within CLRP are reconstruction, DRR/ preparedness, women's rights, education, land rights and livelihoods.

↓ Women managing emergency food relief distribution.



6

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Strengthening just and democratic governance at local level and promoting discourses for participatory democracy both in local and national level are the central themes of AAN's interventions.

6.1 SECURED REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION OF PLIP AND ROLE IN DECISION MAKING

Just and democratic local governance has been strengthened by Participatory Planning Process (PPP) endorsed by Local Self-Governance Act (LSGA) 1998, in which local people are directly involved in settlement, ward and village level planning and development process. It has widely encouraged a bottom-up approach for development as well as respected local people's actual needs and concerns. Besides, AAN and its partner organizations

were actively engaged in developing agencies of the poor and ensuring wider implementation of the process at the local level. Consequently, a number of local level development proposals were submitted through PPP in VDCs. Majority of these proposals were approved and implemented.

Similarly, after series of AAN and its PNGO led campaigns, inclusive representation of PLiP in PPP and various other local level groups and committees, such as Ward Citizen's Forum (WCF), Integrated Planning Committee (IPC), Community Forest User Group (CFUG), School Management Committee (SMC), etc. have increased. For instance, under the Project, 'Empowerment and Democracy Project (EC-NSA)', 808 rights holders (412 female) of Palpa and Baitadi have ensured their representation in these local groups and committees.

More importantly, active participation and leadership of women in these groups are also on the rise. This has in turn strengthened PLiP's access to decision making processes as well as incorporated gender responsiveness within them. For instance, reformation processes of VDC level women's coordination committees were initiated in Palpa to ensure women's leading roles and participation in the local governance structures. The practice has helped to come up with more gender friendly decisions at the local level such as VDC level wage determination committee has been formed in Doti. The practice helped women receive equal wages for equal labour. Similarly, inclusive representation



↪ *Woman keeping minute in Community ReFLECT Circle.*

Just and democratic local governance has been strengthened by Participatory Planning Process (PPP) endorsed by Local Self-Governance Act (LSGA) 1998, in which local people are directly involved in settlement, ward and village level planning and development process.

of dalit members in Community Forest Committee of Doti has helped them to have an access to timber.

Moreover, PNGO's coordination with LGCDP programme has helped for the formation and reformation of WCF and IPC and contributed to comply with the government guidelines. Likewise, a number of programmes organized by PNGOs, including 'Public Service Mapping' are the initiatives to orient rights holders on the provisions of public service providers and their process to access. For instance, while mapping the service of VDC office, people's access to social security allowance, vital registration, inclusiveness in VDC structure (WCF, IPS, LPC, DMC etc.),

people's access to community resources, and people's participation in the planning process were selected as indicators of the study. Similarly, orientations on gender budgeting guidelines to various ward representatives and continuous lobbying with the wards and municipalities have helped to promulgate gender friendly budgets.

Likewise, AAN with PNGOs initiated a civic forum (Janasarokar Manch) of rights holders which has been formed in all LRP districts to engage with the government and advocate on citizen's pertinent issues for quality public services. In a way, it has contributed to raise the concerns from local to national level. For example, Janasarokar Manch of Kaski organized

a programme on the issue of complaint box with the concerned line agencies and stakeholders. During the programme, the Chief District Officer (CDO) issued an order to his line agencies to set up a complaint box and systemically regulate it in each office to address people's queries and concerns. Likewise, AAN and PNGOs initiated to form different other forums led by rights holders i.e. Mahila Adhikar Manch (MAM), Land Rights Forum (LRF), and Kamaiya (former bonded labour) Network. They are also assisting in the process of social transformation. Thus, AAN is known for its participatory approach to the community and constructive engagement with the State mechanism.

CASE STUDY

Baburam's dream to represent his community came true

A 40-years old Baburam Majhi lives in Devchuli Municipality, Nawalparasi. He is the first representative from Majhi, Musahar, Bote community as a member of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI). Baburam migrated to India to earn his livelihood. After many years of struggle in India as a labourer, he returned back to Nepal with a small amount of his earnings. He invested his earning to set up a small shop at his home place. Then after, he used to spend most of his time in his shop and did not make any effort to involve in other social activities until he met Majhi Musahar Bote Kalyan Sewa Samiti (MMBKSS), a local partner organization of ActionAid Nepal. After this, his desire to work and do something for his community was highly fostered inside him.

As time passed, he started to communicate and engage with ReFLECT facilitator and social mobilizers of MMBKSS. MMBKSS provided him several opportunities to participate in various trainings, such as leadership development, capacity building and other programmes to accelerate his desire to support for the wellbeing of his community. MMBKSS encourages Majhi, Musahar and Bote community to have increased representation in various local committees. Baburam also gradually started to represent such committees, such as in Majhi Uthan Sangh, Community Forest group and School Management Committee. Recently, he is representing his community as a member of FNCCI. He looks forward to best utilize his position for the rights of his community. He has set an example in his community, "Nothing is impossible when your dedication and determination is strong".

6.2 ENSURING QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES

With a series of advocacy and campaigns, AAN and PNGOs are actively engaged in ensuring effective implementation of Participatory Monitoring and Accountability (PMA) tools like Community Score Card (CSC), Minimum Conditions Performance Measure (MCPM), and Social Audit/ Public Hearing etc. that need to be carried out by various local government institutions. These tools help to check

and maintain the quality of public services. For instance, after CSC, it was observed that there was a lack of sufficient equipment for childbirth in Udaypur. The problem was soon addressed, which later increased the number of pregnant women's visit to health post as well as strengthened their maternal health care. Likewise, after conducting CSC, a birthing centre has been built for the first time in sub-health post of Jagannath VDC, Bajura. Prior to this, the pregnant women had to walk

for a whole day to get services from the nearest health post due to which negligence for their regular check up was often noticed. Moreover, the CSC has helped to ensure quality health services within the VDC. The sub-health post is now providing regular services through the trained and experienced medical practitioners.

In terms of VDC's budget, 35% of it was allocated for 'Target Group Empowerment' i.e. to Dalit, children, women, elderly, indigenous and disabled women. Since in most instances, lack of proper utilization of budget was noticed, rights holders were oriented and empowered to claim for it. Consequently, they have now started raising their voices and pressurize the VDC authorities through dialogue and public audit programmes. The local level monitoring committees and user groups have also actively started to supervise the issue. AAN has also been engaged for small scale livelihood/hardware support like that of constructing hand pumps for drinking water, small irrigation support, culvert/bio-dyke construction, birthing centre support, etc. These supports are done to fulfil their basic immediate needs and complement to our interventions on rights based approach.

Likewise, ELBAG training organized for the communities in few LRPs has further strengthened their capacity to track the budget of local bodies. This has also helped to ensure an effective budget planning and maintaining optimum utilization of local resources. Similarly, now the VDC budget is also spent for

different income generating and capacity building trainings for 'target group empowerment' as well as for creating learning environments in schools and women's empowerment programmes.

Besides, a social security allowance survey carried out by a PNGO in Siraha by mobilizing rights holders has helped to identify the persons who are eligible to receive the allowance and track

those who are not receiving it from last few years. Henceforth, they launched campaigns to draw an attention of the concerned authority and helped to grant it to all the eligible missing persons. Similarly, AAN's and PNGO's innovative practice like 'Inclusion Audit' of local bodies is practiced to analyze whether their works and structures are aligned with government policy or not and whether the decisions made through

participatory decision making process supports the poor and marginalized or not. Likewise, a piloting event of mass gathering in 'Information Fair', organized jointly by public service providers and civil society became an important initiative to bring together both the rights holders and duty bearers and disseminate information on the available public services.



↑ Assessment of public service through Community Score Card.



↑ Drinking water installation support.

CASE STUDY

Collective Community Efforts for Public Service Improvement

"It has now become easier to receive free basic health service in my village. We have easy access to free means of family planning too. The health workers started behaving in a friendly manner with the service seekers so that even women feel comfortable to share their feminine related issues with the health worker," says Sima Sahani, an inhabitant of Telkunwa VDC, Bara.

The sub-health post is supposed to be the primary health service provider to guarantee basic rights of everyone in the community level. However, it was not able to meet the expectations in Telkunwa VDC. For providing health services, although this sub-health post needs to cover 650 households, none of the community members was privileged to receive timely and quality service. The three medical staff (AHW, MCHW and VHW) responsible to provide services were mostly unavailable. Moreover, its opening hours were not followed properly. In contrary to public health posts, the private health service centres were found better in providing services. However, it would not be possible to pay their expensive fees for the people struggling to earn for their everyday subsistence. Yet, the people could not just stay away and experience severe sufferings even with minor diseases.

Further, Laljhari Paswan, a service user of the sub-health post reported, "the health workers would misbehave the service users and they also did not treat Dalits and women well. Consequently,

only a very few people used to visit the sub-health post and they were deprived of their fundamental rights. Therefore, the government investment in operational cost, the health workers and the medicines used to go in vain.

Considering a need to get quality health services from the local health post, the people from Telkunwa VDC initiated and proved how collective efforts could improve in providing effective public services. The Rural Development Center (RDC), an ActionAid Nepal partner gave orientation to the local people on their fundamental right to public health services. With this base and awareness, participatory service mapping was carried out in most of the public service providing agencies in the working area. This orientation and discussion of service mapping headed to the realization of unsatisfied service of the sub-health post. The issue was also taken in ReFLECT Circle and discussed in the wider community. With an initiative of the ReFLECT participants, an alliance was formed with Mahila Adhikar Manch (MAM), child clubs, dalit networks, local social leaders, civil society organizations and other groups. They also carried out a discussion with sub-health post management committee and sub-health post staff. The people committed to change the situation of the one and only health centre of the community at any cost.

RDC facilitated the overall process of making the alliance. Later, the issue was again raised in the community

scorecard process. Finally, after a long advocacy, the sub-health post agreed to self-evaluate the service. They also committed to improving the health facilities by correcting themselves. The In-charge of sub-health post, Mr. Bhagawan Prasai expressed his commitment by saying, "you have opened my eyes; it is my responsibility to ensure quality basic health service for all and I will certainly work towards improving the service of this institution".

Now, the rights holders feel that their hard work and efforts are paid off. They are satisfied with the affordable and quality services of the sub-health post, and are now receiving free health services. The pregnant women have also started to get their regular check-up done. The sub-health post has started providing OPD service from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm; and in case of emergency, people are allowed to visit until 5 p.m.

Moreover, the rights holders have noticed that the caste and gender based discrimination do not exist within the sub-health post and women friendly service and counselling are provided to women patients. Nowadays, approximately 25 people visit the sub-health post per day. Further, the sub-health post has also started to practice public hearing programme and to interact with the local people. The local people thanked RDC and AAN for making them aware of their fundamental rights to health and for facilitating the advocacy and campaign to improvise their local health service provider.

6.3 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND POLICY ADVOCACY

In 2015, AAN and PNGOs initiated various local and national level campaigns to ensure quality public services and the rights of people. For instance, advocacy, coordination and lobbying with the government are on progress for Haliya rehabilitation in Bajura. Identification and verification of Haliyas are accomplished and distribution of identity cards to the eligible rights holders is on progress. Moreover, this has also helped them to receive shelter and livelihood support from the government. The other major campaigns of the year include campaigns on Rtl, ODF, school enrolment and VAW. Campaigns on Rtl pressurized most of the public service providers to appoint Information Officers, place Citizen Charter for proper information dissemination and install a Complaint Box to improvise for effective service delivery. This has also become easier for the service users to communicate gaps within public services and has helped to strengthen their quality. For instance, a Woman Health Volunteer was replaced in Chainpur Municipality after receiving maximum complaints of her absenteeism at work.

Likewise, the campaign on ODF has contributed to declare a number of working VDCs as open defecation free areas. Besides, campaigns to ensure vital registrations (birth, marriage, death, migration and divorce) were organized and IEC materials highlighting their importance were published and disseminated. The PLiP were informed that these registrations are necessary to claim their security allowances, admit their children in schools as well as claim

their own parental property.

In terms of campaigning through public media, radio programmes and jingle/PSA on health, education and local planning were designed and broadcasted. Similarly, a 'Facebook group page', entitled as 'Governance Initiative Network' has been developed to contribute to mass education on the provisions and procedures of current public services. Through these initiatives, PLiP are gradually being educated about their rights and are able to claim basic services as their fundamental rights, such as free medicine from health post, social security allowances from VDC office, etc. The radio programme has also become a platform for PLiP to raise their voices and connect community level issues with the district level authorities.

After two regional conferences organized on Participatory Democracy in Biratnagar and Nepalgunj, AAN, in partnership with the Institute for Governance and Development (IGD) organized an Annual Conference on the same theme at the

national level. The conference aimed to deepen and widen the understanding of participatory democracy through critical reflection on current practices and to contribute to building democracy in Nepali society. The workshops were participated by diverse professionals like, human rights activists, academics, advocates, development workers, journalists and government officials.

Furthermore, in order to develop a contextual policy framework to deal with poverty and its vicious cycle hampering the country's development, AAN, HomeNet Nepal (PNGO) and Nepal Government worked together to draft 'Poverty Alleviation Policy'. The draft has been submitted to the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation for its review and approval. Likewise, the development of social security strategy is on progress, which addresses the social protection issues of people working in informal sectors. For this, AAN and its partner organization are working with the Department of Social Security Fund.



Public hearing to ensure transparency and accountability.

AAN strongly believes that the fulfilment of women's rights must be recognized as a priority within human rights. Its intervention in women's rights theme primarily focused on repealing all kinds of discriminatory laws and social practices that perpetuate and reinforce discrimination against women, and combating all forms of violence against women.

7

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

7.1 STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Contributed by strong tradition of patriarchy in Nepal, GBV cases are repeatedly reported in different parts of the country. Domestic violence in its different forms, rape, polygamy, and dowry related violence and murder, child marriage and sexual harassment in public spaces are some of the major ones. These cases still exist in quite a big number and as a result, depression and suicide among women are increasing. Similarly, trafficking of the girls and women is also alarming. Furthermore, Chaupadi, witchcraft accusations against

women and early/child marriage are the major and most reported harmful traditional practices against women and girls, which have a huge negative impact on their development.

Concerning AAN's and PNGO's interventions, community people are first empowered about the serious health and safety hazards led by Chaupadi and this was followed by series of advocacy and campaigns to eradicate the ill-practice. IEC materials on the issue were designed and discussed in the ReFLECT sessions. As a result, 5 VDCs of Doti and 5 of Bajura are successful to declare

them as 'Chaupadi Free Area'. Moreover, Chaupadi abolition coordination committees have been formed at district level (led by CDO) and at VDC level led by the VDC Secretary to make the campaigns more effective.

Since girls are deprived of their basic rights to health, education, safety and are more often marginalized and dependent on their husbands due to early/child marriage, MAM, ReFLECT circles, child clubs and adolescent girls' groups are playing a vital role to fight against it. As a result, 8 cases of child marriages were stopped in Bajura and Doti, 7



↪ Woman confined in Chaugoth during her menstruation.

in Morang and 9 in Parsa. Moreover, PNGOs have also developed a separate strategy against child marriage and shared with the local stakeholders, government offices, I/NGOs and human rights activists. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has internalized the strategy and has prioritized the issue.

Further, MAM is working as a community mediator at local level and its involvement at the district and national level has served as strength, especially in promoting awareness on GBV and enabling women to respond to the incidences of violence. MAM is connected with other women's networks, women police cell, Nepal Bar Association and Women and Child Development Office to gain support and solidarity on GBV and sexual harassment cases. For instance, out of 13 registered cases of violence against women in Bajura, a PNGO, in coordination with MAM facilitated during the court process and helped to provide justice to 9 of

them. The LRPs on the other hand, are engaged in capacitating MAM and making linkages for coordination. A separate violence case hearing section, established in the District Police Office of Bajura has helped to receive an immediate response to the serious cases. Further, the Women Safe House in Chitwan and Makwanpur established under the Project, 'Saksham', plays a vital role in providing protection, psychosocial counselling, legal aid and medical services to the GBV victims. In a separate polygamy case, the wife was supported to receive half of her husband's property pursuant to the legal provisions. Further, during the constitution drafting process, MAM and women's rights activists submitted 10 points memorandum to incorporate women's rights issues in the constitution; and out of them, 9 were being incorporated.

Like MAM, other women's groups, ReFLECT groups and child groups are also engaged in diverse campaigns

MAM is working as a community mediator at local level and its involvement at the district and national level has served as strength, especially in promoting awareness on GBV and enabling women to respond to the incidences of violence.

against Chaupadi, early/child marriage, VAW, school enrolment and for promotion of women's rights. ReFLECT circles are working as a guard to check GBV cases. Men, who in most of the cases, are the perpetrators of GBV are also participated in ReFLECT circles to sensitize and rehabilitate them. As a result, a considerable decrease in the cases of domestic violence can be noticed. In comparison to the previous years, the incidents of violence have started to reveal and are registered for further legal processes. Likewise, legal awareness is raised across the LRP working areas and solidarity of stakeholders has been received for fighting against GBV. Furthermore, the victims are also receiving justice, in which AAN and PNGO led campaigns, alliances, networks and MAM have played a pivotal role.

The GBV and SRHR issues raised by MAM, adolescent groups and other women's groups are well internalized by the community. Now, the local people

themselves support these groups to create gender violence free communities. Likewise, the community police of LRP working areas are also much active to deal with registered VAW cases.

Consequently, more voices against VAW cases are raised and the number of victims claiming for justice has increased. Earlier, they would not report the case because of the fear of further insults in the court and in their community. Further, there was also an increasing number of withdrawals in VAW cases due to lengthy court processes, lack of security mechanism, a poor economic condition of the victims and the political pressure. This used to happen mostly in cases of sexual violence from the relatives and the nearer ones. But targeting to those victims, the sensitization and counselling programmes were organized and they were encouraged to fight for justice. Moreover, MAM along with PNGOs are lobbying with the local authorities for the operationalization of fast track court.

MAM along with PNGOs are lobbying with the local authorities for the operationalization of fast track court.

CASE STUDY

Struggle Makes Violence-Free Life

“Now there is no need or obligation to tolerate violence”, says Kopila Pandey of Padampur VDC, Chitwan. There are six members in Kopila’s family and her husband is a migrant worker and is currently working abroad.

In accusation of not bringing any dowry, Kopila had to face domestic violence from her mother-in-law. Besides keeping her deprived of regular meals and proper clothing, Kopila was even restricted from talking to her neighbours and she used to become a victim of the verbal abuses. After extreme violence, Kopila could not take it anymore, so she left her home and went on to stay with her parents. Unfortunately, she was forced to return to her husband’s home after almost a year because of our patriarchal family structure and stigma, which believes that a married woman should not stay at her parents’ home after marriage. Upon her return, she found out that her husband had also returned back from abroad. Brainwashed by the mother-in-law’s words, her husband too blamed her and started inflicting with physical assaults. Accusing Kopila for belonging to a poor family and not having any relatives, she was forced to sleep outside the house in a porch and without any food.

When she could not bear more violence, she shared her pain with rest of the community women. They suggested her to attend the ReFLECT classes run by Chitwan Sakriya Samuha (CSS), a partner of ActionAid Nepal (Saksham Project). There, she started to share everything about her situation. Feeling the need to take an action, the members of Women Rights Forum and ReFLECT filed a complaint at the local police station. After discussion, along with the participation of local police, they decided to find a place for Kopila to stay and provide her with adequate food and clothing. Kopila, along with her two children, started living separately and continued to attend the ReFLECT classes.

During the ReFLECT classes, Kopila learnt about the opening of a new Community Child Care Centre and expressed her interest to work at the centre. The management committee decided to provide her a job. At present, Kopila works as a helper in the center. Her family situation has also changed. Now, her husband calls time-to-time from abroad and sends her money. Her in-laws have also started to show their love and care. After she joined the centre, Kopila says her confidence has remarkably increased.

Nowadays, Kopila looks very happy. The representatives and members of Women Rights Forum, women’s group and ReFLECT classes are her major support system. These days, Kopila is advocating for violence against women and by sharing her own experiences, she suggests that those who tolerate such acts are equally guilty. Thus, one has to speak up to fight for justice.

7.2 RAISING WOMEN'S RIGHTS LEADER

Keeping women and girls as prime right holders and at the centre of our work, various initiatives have been taken by AAN along with PNGOs to build women agencies and women leaders. PNGOs facilitated to strengthen different women's groups and networks to organize themselves and empower them to claim their rights and fight back GBV. At the same time, various capacity-building initiatives were initiated to develop women's leadership at local, district and national level.

In order to mitigate GBV cases, MAM in every district is playing a leading role to register the cases that come to it, and facilitate during their overall legal and court processes. The cases are at first tried to solve within the family/community and if required, the needful ones are referred to the judiciary for further legal process. For instance, in Udaypur, 35 domestic violence cases were handled and settled through community mediation, and 5 were referred to concerned agencies. MAM has now been extended in 30 districts with approximately 50,000 members. They have started 'one rupee campaign', which has helped to raise funds internally. Under this provision, each MAM member has to contribute one rupee per day that helps to generate a huge amount of money in a year. The amount collected is utilized to advocate for VAW and other women's rights issues.

Likewise, women are now not confined within the households. They have begun to actively participate in community level

committees, like health management committee, PTA, SMC, WCF, CFUGs etc. As a result, their decision making level has been raised within the family and they have also begun to affiliate with different political parties and contribute to policy formulation, reform and/or implementation. Women's active participation in different community level committees has now reached 33%. This has, in turn, helped to shift the decision making power from men and elite groups to women, poor and the marginalized people.

Further, active mobilization of MAM in the district and VDC has helped to tap VDC's budget and claim the liable one to use for the promotion of women's health. For example, MAM of Kapalekhei and Mudvara VDC, Doti were able to construct Gaun-Ghar (local village) Clinic from the VDC budget; since most of the women from ward 2 and 9 had to travel as long as 2-3 hours to receive

even the basic health services. They are also utilizing the budget for different skill development and leadership development trainings in favour of rural women.

In terms of Kamaiya rehabilitation, the Ex-Kamaiya women are organizing from community and VDC to national level. They have now become a strong people's network and are much more sensitive about their rights.

MAM has now been extended in 30 districts with approximately 50,000 members.



Street Drama to raise awareness on SRHR.

CASE STUDY

MAM Constructing *Ghau-Ghar* Clinic

The enhanced leadership role of women showed that women were in the position of influencing decision making process in Doti. Women of Kapalekhi VDC, ward number 9 were organized and involved in constructing two roomed Ghau-Ghar clinic. Keeping in mind, the major difficulties of getting basic health services like vaccination and pregnancy check-up provided by the health post, a group of dalit women took a lead role in the construction. The Dalit women who had confined themselves within the households came out and involved in the social cause.

A pregnant woman needs to have medical check-ups for at least four times during her pregnancy and take medicines before delivery. However, one of the major difficulties for the women in that area is to walk 2-3 hours steepy hill to get the antenatal check-up. Moreover, because of the lack of a proper private space within the health post, most of the pregnant women feel uncomfortable to receive the service.

Thus, the partner of AAN played a vital role to provide orientation and capacity building training on participatory planning process to MAM. Consequently, they were also participated in Ward Citizen Forum and had developed proposal to construct a clinic. After submission and acceptance of the proposal, the VDC agreed to provide budget for the clinic, to which MAM also contributed some amount. They started a construction by forming seven-member construction committee.

Moreover, EDC, AAN's partner organization organized various capacity building trainings; such as advanced leadership training, PPP training and women's rights training, helped women to enhance their capacities and leadership skills. This has also helped in shifting the power relation of man and women in decision making process.

7.3 SAFE PUBLIC SPACES

Having identified the various types of sexual violence in public spaces, from sexual harassment to sexual assault, including rape that reduced women's and girl's ability to work in public spaces and limited their access to essential services

and other opportunities, various Safe City campaigns were organized in 2015.

AAN and PNGOs have been launching safe city campaigns since 2011. The Safe City Campaign ensures and contributes towards achieving

the national goal, '*Zero Tolerance to the Gender Based Violence*'. Mass awareness and advocacy campaigns on the issue are organized from the local to national level. For instance, in a Strengthening Women's Collectives (SWC) Project, women friendly *Haat Bazaar* (Market) in Terhathum was initiated, where mostly rural women gather to sell their agricultural products. For this, reformation of *Haat Bazaar* committee, capacity building training for the committee, support for small scale infrastructure development, such as shed for selling vegetables, allocation of separate spaces for women, construction of gender friendly toilets, information centre set up, advocacy for resource allocation at local level and District Agriculture Office were conducted. As a result, the cases of VAW in the market are not heard and the women feel more comfortable to trade their products compared to earlier days.

Likewise, transportation workers, adolescent girls, men and women were given orientation and training on VAW and SRHR. The child clubs were given an orientation to confront against sexual harassment in public places and in a Saksham Project, public toilets were constructed around the crowded public spaces like, bus park, market and government office areas in Hetauda and Birgunj municipalities. The city lights were installed and monitored by the municipal authority. The police mobilized a night mobile team in the area to ensure the safety and security of women and girls. IEC materials and radio jingles

were prepared and disseminated for sensitizing the wider mass. Moreover, safety audit of Bardaghat, Chapagaun and Bansighat was conducted to identify the risky zones and notify the government stakeholders.

Furthermore, sensitization on public space harassment was done through safety booth in Chitwan, Makwanpur and Parsa districts. The booth was installed in collaboration with the traffic and district police and other concerned government stakeholders. Some of the visitors shared their experiences of harassment in public spaces and asked support for legal reporting. The traffic police facilitated for this and committed that they are always ready to address such cases.

Similarly, with an objective to identify the risk of being harassed and mitigate or prevent the vulnerabilities of sexual harassment by using small tactics and/or skills, a self-defence training was provided for the adolescent girls. Further, seat reservation for women in public vehicles was initiated and was followed by the driver and co-driver. For those who violate the provision, the strict government penalty policy of charging Rs. 1,000 (per case) has been endorsed.

As AAN and PNGOs have conducted Safe City campaigns with the participation of responsible government authority from district to national level, the Government of Nepal has now recognized the initiative and has put the issue as a government policy, responsibility and programme in the new

constitution.

7.4 STRENGTHENING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Contributed by different awareness programmes of PNGOs in coordination with AAN and local health posts, women have started talking about their reproductive health by breaking the socially created taboo that women should not talk about sex, sexuality and reproductive health.

As a result, women were able to identify the uterine prolapsed case in Doti where 27 women went for medical check-up out of which 10 were diagnosed with a minor problem, 5 were identified with uterine prolapse and 3 were identified with early symptoms of cancer. Similarly, women and adolescent girls are now more open to talk about menstruation related problems and ask for necessary support.

Moreover, the negative impact of Chaupadi and early/child marriage on the girl's reproductive health has been shared in the community. MAM, adolescent group and ReFLECT circle were mobilized for this purpose. It has helped to minimize or eliminate the ill-practices to the large extent. Similarly, advocacy for tapping the VDC budget



↑ Safety booth demanding for safe public spaces.

for constructing birthing centers in health posts, training for handmade sanitary pads, orientation on STI, HIV and AIDS, safe abortion, sensitization on family planning, proper use of contraceptives and maintaining birth gaps are frequently organized within the communities. As a result, Simraungadh Municipality allocated 30 million rupees to the birthing centre, and Sidhipur VDC of Udaypur has provided funds for organizing trainings on sexual and reproductive health. The local

health posts are now more sincere about sexual and reproductive health and some of them are also providing 24 hours service for child delivery. Some schools of Morang have started to keep a first aid box with sanitary pads; and some schools have also appointed a psychosocial counsellor to counsel girls during their periods and to check their absenteeism during menstruation.

Likewise, the youth groups formed at the local level have also helped to check and control the sexual harassment and GBV cases. For instance, the youth groups of Bagauda VDC, Chitwan raised their voices against a teacher's attempt to rape a student within the school premises. After the action, the school teacher was suspended for three months and now he has resigned from his job. The advocacy has also provided moral support to the survivor and encouraged her to continue her study. Further, it has also helped other girls to feel safe and encouraged them to fight back against such incidences.

The concerned authority of the local government is now positive towards budget allocation for setting up a mechanism to reduce women's workload at local level.

7.5 UNPAID CARE WORK (UCW) AND ITS CONSCIENTIZATION

In the context of Nepal, women are discriminated on various grounds and one of them is their work not being recognized. Most of the Nepali rural women work day and night in the household chores; take care of their children and the elderly, fetch water and firewood, and work in the agriculture fields. However, their work has neither been recognized by the family and society nor paid.

Thus, one of our major efforts is to sensitize society about the contribution of women by recognizing, redistributing and reducing their workload. Consequently, with an aim to raise awareness on UCW and sensitize people about the unequal burden of workload between men and women, various initiatives, such as a time diary collection in ReFLECT circles and interaction with the stakeholders took place in 2015. The time diary collection is a process/survey to gain a concrete evidence and numbers that show the amount of time that women, in particular, spend on unpaid care work. This also shows what types of unpaid care works consume most of their times. This approach helps women understand how the unequally distributed 'Unpaid Care Work' is obstructing women's participation in income (Cash) generation and exclude them from the decision-making process. The process and awareness led them to discuss on the ways to reduce such workloads. IEC materials like hoarding boards, posters, pamphlets, radio jingles were also used to raise awareness about UCW.

Consequently, the attitude and mind-set of the family and the community and even of the local authority on UCW is changing. The concerned authority of the local government is now positive towards budget allocation for setting up a mechanism to reduce women's workload at local level. The culture of redistribution, reduction and reorganization of unpaid care work is being revitalized from the household to the community level. Women collectives and networks are demanding acknowledgement of UCW by the society and the State.

More importantly, after a number of campaigns and advocacy, the new constitution has now recognised women's unpaid care work in the national economy. In directive principles of social justice and inclusion, the constitution has recognized the economic value of women who take care of children and family members and stated to launch special benefit packages and empowerment programme focusing on Madheshi, Muslim, exploited and disadvantaged women. Therefore, with this realization, men (husband, brother in law, father in law, etc) have started to support women in household work and women are utilizing their leisure time for their personal care and professional growth. The 4Rs (Recognition, Reduction, Redistribution and Representation) of UCW has been well internalized by the family, society and the State, at large. Moreover, by sending children to Community Child Care Center (CCCC), women are now able to engage more in productive work to enhance their livelihood.

**CASE
STUDY****Work Redistribution at Home Can Change a Life**

Tika Kumari Limbu-35 lives with her husband and four sons in a community in Prajanga of Ayokjung VDC, Terthathum. Unlike other women, she neither needs to come home rushing from outside to prepare meals for her family nor for entertaining guests at her home. She does ginger and chilly farming to make her living. Limbu leads Prajang women's group as a Vice Chairperson; she was also trained in *dhaka* weaving through the group and operates a small *dhaka* business from her home to earn an extra income. "My husband and my sons are very supportive to me. I owe all my success to them," says Tika Kumari.

Kamal Bahadur-37, husband of Tika Kumari is a carpenter and a farmer. He helps his wife in farming and at the household chores. "My husband is not totally engaged in the household chores. Most of his times, he is busy either with carpentry or farming, but whenever he is at home, he gives me his hands. He handles everything, particularly when I am not at home," says Tika Kumari. In a patriarchal society in which household chores solely belong to women, Kamal Bahadur has proven such stereotypical belief wrong with equal distribution of work. He has not only influenced his sons but also became a role model for his community. Kamal Bahadur says, "I have come to understand that sons can be as supportive and helping as daughters." Tika Kumari adds, "I no longer think that I should have a daughter to help me out for my household works." My elder son has started walking in his father's step and I am proud of him." Though Limbu duo did not get a chance to study, they had plans to educate all of their children.

Kamal Bahadur was not always like this; a few years back, he hardly stayed at home or did any household work. Tika Kumari recalls, "I am very grateful to ActionAid Nepal and Deurali Society for forming women's group in my village. It was only because of their orientation and awareness programme that my husband learnt about the importance of work division and redistribution." She adds, "I am happy he doesn't waste his spare time roaming around the village. His support has helped us grow at individual, emotional and financial level." Having someone to look after the home and children, Tika Kumari regularly attends women's group meetings, workshop and trainings. She has more time to rest and take care of her health.

Tika Kumari, who earned NRs. 25,000 from selling chillies last year has added her income with her husband's savings and leased a land. She says, "This year I have farmed more chillies and ginger; I expect to harvest 35 quintals of ginger. If I sell the ginger at NRs. 60 per kg, I will make 2 lakhs." She even highlights, "There were difficult times in the past; we had less earning and I was constrained to household works. At present, things have changed for better; I earn myself and am able to meet household expenses and my children's needs. My husband's earning is totally saved for our future. I think everyone must understand that works are not divided by gender; there should be unbiased work division at home to have a happy family."



↑ Red chilli production has become strong livelihood options for the community of Terhathum.

7.6 PROMOTING ALTERNATIVES TO REDUCE WOMEN'S WORKLOAD AND DEVELOP WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Unlike in the past, women have started to challenge their stereotypical roles by initiating the off-farm activities, exploring the economic alternatives and claiming their rights. Women are now organized in various groups to build up their collective strength and power. Women networks like MAM, women farmers groups and land rights groups have not just aided the socio-economic empowerment of women but it has also served as a platform for them to discuss their issues,

Once being economically independent, women have their say within the household as well as in the community.

gain solidarity and bring them out of the household cocoon.

Thus, in order to develop women enterprises and make them economically empowered, a series of on-farm and off-farm income generating trainings and small-scale business support are being provided. For instance, Micro Enterprises Creation and Development (MECD) training, skill development training on Dhaka weaving, pig rearing, ginger farming, pickle making, Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training, seed money for small-scale business support (grant support) were provided to start up and scale up the business.

Moreover, trainings to enhance their skill on production, processing and storage of products, develop their skills and knowledge to prepare business plan, analyse market opportunities and potential risks were also conducted. As a result, most of the women have chosen vegetable farming, poultry, beauty parlours, tailoring, fishery, jewellery, cosmetic and grocery shop, etc. as their income generating sources and are doing well in them. Thus, women are now involved in both on-farm and off-farm activities and have also developed their entrepreneurship. Similarly, through a SWC Project, women haat bazaar established in Terhathum has provided a platform for marketing their products and increased their economic status. The income has contributed a lot to pay tuition and medical fees for their children and support family for daily expenses.

As a result, most of the women, who were earlier dependent on their husband

or family income, are now capable of earning some money and most importantly, it has benefited women from informal working poor (home based workers and women from the slums). Once being economically independent, they have their say within the household as well as in the community. In the long run, as they have been self-employed, it resulted in securing their sustainable livelihood. As economic independence is important to transform the unequal power relation between men and women and it is also equally important to step towards securing livelihoods and reducing poverty,



↑ Dhaka weaving and marketing became great source of income for the community people.

empowerment on the issue is always prioritized in the ReFLECT circle. Likewise, the saving and credit groups formed by local women's groups in different communities have also become an important source to manage seed money for their business. The role of women, which was only limited to reproduction in most of the places of Nepal, is now slowly transforming.

Likewise, women's groups are able to tap budget from the VDC and DDC and they have utilized it to construct a child care centre in Terhathum. It has helped the working women with extra time to engage more in income generating activities. Moreover, the child care centre has also provided additional employment opportunities for the local women.

Similarly, by using the time diary, PNGOs assessed that women are compelled to spend more time in collecting water and as children were also asked to do the work, their education was hampered.

Thus, the PNGO of Bajura had a discussion with community people and identified a potential water source in their vicinity.

They, then, formed a construction committee and in coordination with the local bodies, they were successful to install a water mill. This has reduced the



Children enjoying in Community Child Care Centre.

workload of women by half an hour.

Through SWC Project, two landlords have gifted land for constructing Community Child Care Center (CCCC) building in Pauthak and Myanglung Municipalities in Terhathum. Similarly, health post of Pakaha Mainpur VDC is providing regular monthly check-up for CCCC children and it is also providing annual NRs. 10,000 to support the CCCC. Furthermore, construction of two (2) CCCC buildings has been initiated in Bardiya with the support of 'Making it Work for Women' Project. For the purpose, NRs. 5,00,000 for each has been supported by the project and the remaining labour cost was contributed by the community themselves.

7.7 WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND POLICY ADVOCACY

Keeping in mind the socio-political, economic and cultural marginalization of rural women and bringing them in

the mainstream, a comprehensive policy, 'Rural Women Policy' has been prepared and disseminated for further feedback. Capitalising 2010's context of Supreme Court of Nepal, which directed the government to formulate a Rural Women's Policy as per the article 14 of CEDAW, a series of national level workshops and consultation programmes were organized. AAN was engaged throughout the process in coordination with different women's alliances, lawyers' group, media and the government. Currently, the policy is awaiting for final approval and endorsement from the government.

Concerning the major highlights of the policy, it encourages rural women to be economically independent by providing them employment opportunities and deciding the equal wage for equal work, compared to men. For on-farm income generation, the policy prioritizes rural women with simplified

loan for agriculture. Additionally, the policy also supports for women friendly infrastructural development on the issues of health, education and agriculture with special provision of financial aid for the needy poor and marginalized women.

In terms of witchcraft accusations, the parliament has endorsed an Anti-Witchcraft Crime and Punishment Act in July 2015. MAM, women's rights activists, AAN and PNGOs were the major actors for advocating in favour of the Act since 2011 and were rigorously engaged in the campaign and in its drafting process. Coordination with relevant government bodies, and the parliamentary members was maintained and the demand letters were submitted to them, including the then Prime Minister. The Act has a provision to punish the culprit for 15 years of imprisonment and impose a fine of NRs. 1,00,000. Right after endorsement of the Act, for the first time within the district, women of Nawalparasi have filed a case on witchcraft and have pressurized the government to punish the perpetrator.

The efforts of District level MAM created a separate GBV case hearing section at the District Police Office in Bajura. Given the high degree of sensitivity of majority of GBV cases, their confidentiality should be maintained. A special/private place in the police office was necessary. Thus, this place supports women to open up and talk about the case without much

hesitation. It also helps to provide an immediate response to the case. Furthermore, the government has expanded the number of women's cells to deal with VAW cases more effectively and a child protection officer has also been appointed in women development and child rights offices.

Similarly, the VDCs are providing support for women's rights programmes. For instance, Pakaha Mainpur VDC of Parsa and Churiyamai of Makwanpur provided cash support to MAM for constructing women's building in the community. The building is now used for meetings and official works of MAM. Furthermore, some of the VDCs have also approved the women's empowerment plan developed by locally formed women's groups.

7.8 WOMEN'S RIGHT TO LAND

Deprivation of land rights is synonymous to poverty and denial of rights. But only 19.71% of women in Nepal have land ownership. Thus, in the programme and budget of 2010/11, GON made provision to waive registration fees while transferring land entitlement to women counterpart. After the provision, women's ownership in land has considerably increased. Similarly, equal rights of parental property to both sons and daughters endorsed by the new constitution, 2015 has also ensured women's greater economic control and negotiating power within the household.

Moreover, AAN is engaged with Community Self Reliance Center (CSRC), a local partner in the land rights campaign. One of the major agendas of the campaign is to ensure women's single or joint land ownership. As a consequence, 1900 couples were able to receive single/joint land ownership certificate in 2015 and throughout the process, 21,050 families in total were sensitized on the issue. Ultimately, it has led to increase women's stake in the family and their dignity in society. It has also enhanced their confidence and their number to inherit an equal share of land.

The parliament has endorsed an Anti-Witchcraft Crime and Punishment Act in July 2015. MAM, women's rights activists, AAN and PNGOs were the major actors for advocating in favour of the Act since 2011.



8

QUALITY EDUCATION IN A SAFE & EQUITABLE ENVIRONMENT

Education is a basic human right of all. The constitution of Nepal 2015 along with International conventions and National commitments as well as Sustainable Development Goal on education has focused on rights of children to have access to inclusive quality education for all. AAN is also committed to securing free, compulsory, quality public education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.



8.1 MAINSTREAMING PROMOTING RIGHTS IN SCHOOLS

After AAN's and PNGO's intervention with the community and stakeholders, School Improvement Plans (SIPs) are aligned with a charter of 10 rights and are implemented in most of the schools. Similarly, after the promotion of Child Centred Learning (CCL), a teaching-learning practice in schools has supported the children to enhance their creativity and regularity in school. Additionally, it has created a better learning environment within the school along with an improved quality of education. Likewise, women activists of ReFLECT circles, MAM and youth activists were also facilitated to ensure



Skilled CCL facilitator promoting child friendly teaching approach.

quality changes in schools; monitoring of distribution of scholarship was done in the presence of students, and a complaint box was being placed in a school in Nawalparasi.

Consequently, a number of orientations and induction to SMC, PTA, teachers, parents and students on various tools of 'Promoting Rights in Schools' (PRS), assurance to quality education and improved internal governance were being achieved in most of the schools. For instance, the provision of free education was implemented in 98 schools in Bajura and 9 schools of Bardiya and Nawalparasi. Likewise, gender friendly toilets in most of the schools were constructed with the

provision of clean drinking water, schools were equipped with basic necessary facilities like a teaching/learning friendly classrooms, proper seats for students, etc. in Terhathum. Parents were also involved in the promotion of quality education. They encouraged the school to prepare a code of conduct between teachers and students, mentioning their separate roles and responsibilities and put up within the school.

Besides, developing a context-based local curriculum on vegetable farming and medicinal herbs is on progress in Bajura. It was done in cooperation and coordination with District Education Office (DEO). Similarly, child clubs of

Nawalparasi in coordination with PNGOs succeeded to claim NRs. 4,00,000 from Kawaswoti Municipality for the construction of a child club building. A school in Bardiya was also able to tap the government budget from DEO and VDC to utilize in the classroom setup. Participation of one child club representative was ensured in District Education Committee, Udayapur. DEO was also actively involved to develop a child and girl friendly physical environment and infrastructure.

8.2 RIGHTS TO EDUCATION AND POLICY ADVOCACY

The new Constitution of Nepal (2015) guarantees the fundamental right to education and lays down the directive principles of the State on education. It has ensured free education up to secondary level in public schools with a provision of scholarships for Dalits, physically challenged and visually impaired. From the perspective of Social Justice in education, the constitution is very progressive as it guarantees 'economically backward citizens from the endangered communities' with rights to receive special opportunity and benefit in education for their protection, empowerment and development'. Moreover, the constitution has provisions to improve the quality of education and make the higher education easily available, accessible and gradually make it free.

Since most of the provisions in the aforementioned rights to education and State policies were missed in the earlier draft of constitution, AAN, in partnership and solidarity with different alliances

and social movements amplified their voices to secure them. Evidences were generated from the field, voices were collected, and the political manifestos as well as the government's commitment at national and international forums were analysed to feed-up into the advocacy initiatives. A series of lobbying and advocacy meetings were organized with the CA members and pressurized them to fulfil their commitments and ensure children's right to education in the constitution.

Additionally, the Government of Nepal (GoN) prepared a report for the World Bank (WB). As per the agreement between GoN and WB, there is a provision of the third party verification of data. Various International NGOs are a part of this data verification and AAN is one of them. This assignment was a request from the GoN through the Ministry of Education and Association of International NGOs (AIN). Being a member of this platform, the government proactively approached AAN recognizing its strength and hold in Terhathum and Nawalparasi. Considering the opportunity to engage with government constructively, it is imperative for AAN to involve in this process for 'evidence based advocacy' as a part of deepening HRBA. Hence, the motive of this engagement is seeking 'the accountability' of public schools through research-mode.

Besides, AAN has taken a lead role in celebrating Global Action Week (GAW) and amplifying education agenda at the global level. Now, AAN is an executive board member of this coalition.

In the capacity of a board member, AAN attended strategic meetings and facilitated to develop an Advocacy Plan for a coalition, where the agenda of AAN has been addressed. Likewise, a policy discourse took place on 'Education Financing' and 'School Governance and Accountability.' Moreover, effective lobbying with the government and development partners was done to incorporate CSO's roles in the School Sector Development Plan (SSDP).

8.3 COMPLEMENTING QUALITY EDUCATION

Promotion of PRS and its orientation to SMC, PTA, child club members, teachers, parents, students and community people have encouraged them to collectively involve and improvise the quality of education. Now, the PTA, SMC and the community people engage in evaluating the status of school, quality of education, provision of scholarship provided, availability of disaster resilient school infrastructures, proper allocation of local budget for the school and so on

by using the PRA tools like Social Map, Focused Group Discussion, Individual Interview and Observation.

Based on the findings, a CER report was prepared and disseminated. The findings were further discussed within the community and district level, including DEO to make an improved change against the identified gaps. After the CER processes, some considerable changes were noticed. For instance, 52 students of Nawalparasi shifted from private school to public one, since the quality of education and school governance of public school was improved. Similarly, the CER processes have also been facilitating the schools to improvise their mode of teaching and make it more children friendly, strengthen the child clubs and construct safe school infrastructures. Furthermore, it has also helped to regularize social audits in schools.

8.4 SCHOOL ENROLMENT CAMPAIGN

Massive community level school enrolment campaigns and home visits organized

↓ Community member presenting scores on different components of quality education.



in close coordination and collaboration with DEO, SMC, PTA, schools, MAM, ReFLECT circles, Child clubs and VDCs led to an increase of new admissions in schools. Similarly, with our initiation in Terhathum, 3 VDCs (Morahang, Puthak, and Shreejung) had been declared as total students enrolled VDCs. Likewise, Nawalparasi and Palpa were declared as 'fully literate' districts by the government and Sunaul and Nawalparasi as 'first child friendly' municipalities. Furthermore, to facilitate enrolment of children who are out of school, an interaction with stakeholders of Matehiya VDC of Banke was organized. It helped to enrol 108 children, including 44 girls, who were earlier out of school.

Correspondingly, engagement with Gender Equity and Girls Education Network contributed to the national planning process of School Enrolment Campaign. AAN facilitated to develop the content and the process of the Campaign against School related Gender Based Violence, that was launched along with the 'Welcome to School' (WTS)-School enrolment campaign for the academic year 2015. WTS is used as an organizing strategy to call for the elimination of all kinds of barriers on children's access to school throughout the country. AAN has been involved in it from earlier years and celebrated it as an action campaign for various awareness and policy advocacy campaigns from local to national level. It is also expected to contribute at global level. As a result, the government endorsed a 'National Campaign against Violence and Sexual Abuse in School Procedural Guidelines, 2071 BS'.

CASE STUDY

Captive-free Girl carries Books

A 14 years old Poonam Tharu, the resident of Basgadi-5, Manipur is busy doing her homework and attending school these days. She belongs to one of the highly marginalized communities of Nepal - Kamaiya and Kamlaris, the bonded labourers. Poonam's family has been relocated to Basgadi under the Freed Kamaiya Rehabilitation Programme when the Government of Nepal allocated her family 5 Kathha of land. Poonam's family was engaged in farming there, but it was insufficient to meet the subsistence of their 8 family members. Poonam shares "A piece of land provided by the government is not enough for our subsistence. Therefore, my father went to work in India as a labourer whereas my elder brother goes to nearby villages to work as a daily wage earner." She further adds, "Because of our weak economic condition, my elder sister works for a landlord in Surkhet who gives her food and sends her to school. I also worked as a Kamlari in the past."

Poonam used to work at her kin's house and in turn, they had sent her to school. She completed grade five from there. Poonam recalls, "It was two years back when I had completed my grade five exams, I met an elite lady from nearby village who lured me to work for her and she would send me to a better school. My family and I agreed and I went along with her. To my dismay, she never sent me to any school, but compelled me to live a miserable life there".

Poonam, who was a bonded labourer to her master, was burdened with household chores beyond her age; she was not provided proper food and was treated very badly. "Every time when I asked about school, she made excuses. I was confined within the house and I hardly got a rest from work. There were even days when I could not get any sleep," shares Poonam.

In Basgadi, Poonam's sister-in-law is involved in ReFLECT circle facilitated by Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj (KMJS), a local partner organization of ActionAid Nepal. "During the discussion of the circle, my sister learnt about Government's decision to punish the family who sends their children as Kamaiya and those who keep Kamaiyas. Following the ReFLECT facilitator's advice, my mother brought me back to our home", says Poonam.

Poonam joined the local child club initiated by KMJS, where she learnt about child rights and the importance of education. This year, during the school enrolment campaign, Poonam joined a local community school in grade six. She says, "I regularly go to school and I do all my homework because I have more time for my studies now. Besides studies, I help my family with household chores and even give hands on farm during holidays." Poonam emphasizes on the significance of education for girls stressing particularly to the Kamalari, like her.

8.5 ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGN ON EDUCATION FINANCING

Even though, the government's budget for education is inadequate, the allocated resources were properly utilized. The district level programme with the representatives of DEO, DDC, teachers, SMC, political parties and other NGOs was conducted highlighting the importance of domestic resource mobilization in education financing and promote free and quality education in the country. Similarly, an annual public education conference was jointly organized with Ministry of Education and NCE Nepal, which amplified the share of domestic budget to education.

Furthermore, AAN, in partnership with NCE Nepal and other like-minded organizations conducted a research on National Budget, in which the National Budget was analysed in terms of Education Financing and evidence based budget analysis report was prepared, published and disseminated at different levels. The research came up with the advocacy tool for CSOs and development partners to lobby government on education financing.

In contrast, since there are no educational financing policies, the government has to formulate the required national policies of public financing for education in order to meet the national goals and plan of action of EFA. The budget system will be changed as per the new political set-up in the federated structure provided by the new constitution. In the light of these developments, the research had also pointed out that the government has to

adopt new national educational system planning and necessary policies and regulations in order to meet the needs of changing political structure.

8.6 PROMOTING GIRLS' EDUCATION

The school dropout rate among the adolescent girls in Nepal is more than of the boys despite stipend support provided to girls. The amplitude of reasons for school dropout is a mixture of factors concerning with the responsibility of household chores, lack of funds, menstruation and many others (UNICEF Survey, 2014). In order to mitigate the problem, a number of campaigns for the construction of girl friendly toilets in schools with water facilities were conducted. Hence, the DEO in Lalitpur district allocated NRs. 2,50,000 for the purpose. Similarly, the PNGOs were also engaged in tapping the budget from local bodies to facilitate schools with first aid and sanitary pads. This has resulted significant improvement in girls' education by increasing their enrolment and reducing their absenteeism at times of menstruation and/or reducing their school dropouts.

Furthermore, advocacy initiatives were also targeted on the abolition of early/child marriage, which was the major cause of school dropouts, especially

among the girls. For instance, PNGOs of Kaski initiated 'Peer Education' programme to sensitize on the negative impacts of early/child marriage. Child clubs and adolescent groups of the district were effectively mobilized for this purpose. Likewise, in terms of promoting girl's education, Gender Equity and Girls' Education Network has also been a major initiative to improvise the school enrolment and make the schools more gender friendly.

8.7 ESTABLISHING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES (ECDC)

The socialization and knowledge sharing process is important during childhood since child's development is crucial within

↓ *Promoting child friendly teaching-learning in ECDC of Kaski district.*



5 years and this also decides his/her latter development. Moreover, it is a time when children cannot claim their human rights by themselves. ECDC was thus, initiated to ensure both the education and child rights of under 5 years old children. It is a new approach and considers more than just imparting formal education.

Currently, three (3) ECDCs are set up in Kaski as a pilot project. They simultaneously relate to providing child friendly teaching-learning environment and growth of children, keeping both their physical and psychological development in mind. The ECDC teachers are trained in CCL so as to teach them in a more creative and innovative ways. For instance, teachers take the children outside the classroom to show a leaf as a real object rather than drawing its picture on the blackboard. Furthermore, after the ECDC was set up, there has been an increased trust of parents on public schools and number of enrolment in them has increased in Pokhara. Besides, ECDC is also contributing for income generating activities of women during the time they save when their children go to the ECD centres.

ECDC relates to providing child friendly teaching-learning environment and growth of children, keeping both their physical and psychological development in mind.

8.8 HARNESSING YOUTH POWER

The youths are engaged in each of our strategic objectives through different alliances and networks and they have taken actions and initiatives both within and outside AAN's platforms. For instance, AAN was engaged in the youth movement to form the 'National Youth Alliance for Reconstruction' (NYAR) with 14 youth-led and youth-focused social organizations, following the April 2015 earthquake. Comprising the members of the most marginalized sections of the society, the alliance has become an effective platform to raise the issues of the youths to the wider social and political forums.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) for mobilizing youth volunteers in earthquake-affected districts helped strengthen the youth engagement with the government. With this, the contribution of NYAR has been duly acknowledged at the national level. NYAR has agreed to mobilize 1,000 youth volunteers for various purposes in different earthquake-affected districts. Around 5,000 earthquake-affected people were benefitted in terms of relief distribution, rehabilitation and reconstruction through youth mobilization. Youth engagement in post-earthquake relief tasks was strengthened through actions like debris clearance, psycho-social counselling, building temporary learning centres, promoting health and sanitation, monitoring humanitarian accountability in the earthquake-affected districts, facilitating child friendly spaces, etc. Around 300 youth volunteers were involved in the

debris clearance in the aftermath of the quake and more than 4,000 school children have been benefited through psycho-social counselling.

AAN facilitated and provided technical support to develop basic guidelines of NYAR in order to make the alliance more systematic, democratic and accountable. NYAR has now established itself as a credible alliance in the field of reconstruction and recovery for various stakeholders, including National Planning Commission. Similarly, the youths were trained on the concept of volunteerism and the role of Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). Consequently, NYAR was mobilized in constructing a temporary learning centre in Lalitpur and Kavre districts, promoting health and sanitation in earthquake affected areas and cleaning the water sources filled with rubbles. Furthermore, in AAN's facilitation, NYAR also joined with Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiatives (HAMI) to monitor the status and effectiveness of relief distribution in earthquake affected districts and similarly the alliance was also mobilized to help in data entry of post-earthquake humanitarian and physical damages of Gorkha in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Further, during the constitution drafting process, NYAR conducted a programme, '*One Youth One Suggestion Campaign*', in which the youth centric feedback and suggestions on the first draft of the new constitution were collected. Approximately, 100 youth volunteers from NYAR were actively engaged and mobilized for this purpose. The campaign

played an important role to voice out the suggestions and feedback from the citizens to fulfil the public responsibility.

Likewise, in terms of the effective implementation of National Youth Policy and to claim space for youth on its monitoring part, a new initiative has been accomplished that resulted in the development of a draft of national youth policy monitoring tools. AAN, in coordination with Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN), prepared this draft following a wider consultation with key stakeholders. The draft is expected to be finalized in 2016. Additionally, the network and linkages of ACTIVISTA established with youth civil society and pertinent youth networks and organizations at the policy level has been actively working and promoting Right to Information Act (RTI).

In terms of national policy for the youth, the Government of Nepal has undertaken some initiatives to address the challenges faced by the youths in Nepal. National Youth Policy (NYP) adopted in 2010 can be taken as a milestone. Recently, MoYS has formulated Youth Vision 2025, which has created a great hope to address the youth issues and concerns. AAN has been engaged with a partner, Youth Advocacy Nepal (YAN) and ACTIVISTA in order to give policy inputs. A series of lobby meetings, dialogues and workshops were conducted with the members of the drafting committee with an aim to advocate for addressing the issues of the marginalized and vulnerable youths.

Another important law i.e. National Youth Council Act, 2072 has been

enacted by the parliament. Considering many issues to be incorporated in the draft, recommendation, lobbying and pressure to the policy makers were made through larger youth civil society, led by the partner organization, Youth Advocacy Nepal. As a result, some of the provisions were changed that has a great significance to ensure the rights of marginalized youth. For instance, the age limitation has been changed from 40 to 35.

Further, youth engagement and mobilization has been prioritized in each of our LRPs, keeping in mind the integration of their concerns as well. With the enhanced capacity built through leadership skills and mass mobilization, they are involved at the community level

ReFLECT circles and have encouraged to fight back the existing injustices like that of harmful traditional practices, early/child marriage, dowry, VAW and inequitable local resource mobilization. Likewise, they were given an orientation on Rtl and encouraged to make an appropriate use of it. For instance, a RTI network has been formed in Terhathum district, mobilizing a larger number of youth, which is actively engaged to empower the rights holders and to enable them to claim the provisions of public services. The youth alliances and volunteers were also involved in a number of other national level workshops and campaigns like that of the Safe City campaign, the role of youth civil society and social media campaign for fighting against any forms of social injustices.

↘ Youth being active in post earthquake reconstruction process.



CASE STUDY

Army Turned into a Youth Activist

He has a good look and is full of self-confidence. Frequently seen in youth civil rights movement with outstanding performance, his opinions are matured to his age. This story reveals how Bhakti Shah came into contact with YAN and what achievements he had made so far.

A 25-year young Bhakti is a third gender male, born in Jumla. As an active third gender activist, he is associated with the Blue Diamond Society (BDS) and is a chairperson of Sexual and Gender Minorities students' forum.

In a conservative society of Nepal, he came up with his own identity by disclosing himself as a third gender male. This courageous step developed him to fight against gender inequality on the one hand, and on the other, he was expelled from Nepal army. He shared, "I was in the army for 1 year, but one day, when I claimed myself as a third gender, I was forced to leave the job just because of my gender identity." Had he not revealed that, he would not have lost the job. When he was questioned whether he regrets of disclosing his identify, he proudly mentioned that he doesn't regret about it at all. Rather, he is happy to hold his identity and fight for the rights of other third gender persons like him. He shares, "That moment was a 'U' turn

of my life. Hadn't I put forward my identity about what I am in reality, I wouldn't have been in this field as a young gender activist. It's true that I lost the job, but in fact I also gained the real purpose of life by being a youth activist'.

Replying to the answer how he came in contact with YAN, he said that he was working for third gender rights through BDS after leaving the job of the army. One day, YAN family, especially its chairperson-Narendra Khatiwada, proposed him to join YAN. He was engaged with YAN earlier as well and he was impressed by its vision, spirit and synergy. Therefore, without wasting any time, he accepted the proposal. As a result, he is an executive committee member of the organization. He is grateful to YAN for its friendly and rational understanding towards third gender.

It was very delightful to see his catchy presentation. He started sharing his experience at YAN and the changes he felt. "Though I was working on a third gender issue I had a very limited scope of the work. YAN not only helped me to explore my potentiality, but also to publicize the concept of third gender among many youths. I was equipped with capacity building and personality development skills that helped me to go ahead. Secondly, my ideas were confined into third gender issues only. Nevertheless, after coming to YAN, I came to know about other forms of inequalities as well. Thirdly, I feel that the involvement

of third gender like me in youth civil society is really a significant one. With a view to make civil society inclusive, YAN not only engages third gender, but also includes minorities, marginalized and vulnerable groups."

He asserted that YAN widens the access to the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Elaborating the statement, he said, "it is a well-known fact that the issue of third gender has not been mainstreamed. In this scenario, YAN helped us heighten our access to the ministry and created an opportunity to share them the issues."

As far as the earthquake is concerned, Bhakti elaborated, "We, in collaboration with NYAR actively participated in the recovery and rehabilitation phase in different affected districts and we have determined to go hand in hand with NYAR for the reconstruction process."

In the concluding remarks, Bhakti mentioned that he is glad to be a member of YAN and NYAR. The loss of his army's job was really a turning point in his life. His foremost intention is to mainstream the agenda of third gender and render them justice. He has determined to go ahead as a real change agent for making synergistic and youthful Nepal.



↖ Reflection action training for partner organization staff.

8.9 DEEPENING POPULAR EDUCATION AND REFLECT

ReFLECT as an empowering tool as well as a platform for the PLiP to identify the socio-economic and cultural problems and take collective action to solve it, AAN, with its partners has been facilitating to set up the circle, supporting to develop participatory tools and methods and enhance skills and knowledge through training to the facilitators. AAN and its PNGOs have also been supporting to link the issues raised from the circle to the VDC, district and national level campaigns and the policies.

Besides formal learning, education is also a lifelong learning process to understand the true sense of liberation. Therefore, popular education is a relevant tool to empower people and capacitate them to identify the injustice they have faced and fight against them. The ReFLECT

circles of AAN have been fulfilling the essence through mass conscientization and community led campaigns to combat poverty and social injustices.

8.10 PROMOTING SAFETY AND DRR IN SCHOOLS

In terms of promoting safety and DRR in schools, Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) are formed, Participatory Vulnerability Assessments (PVA) are conducted in schools and based on its results, disaster management plans are prepared and implemented. For instance, 36 DMCs are formed in schools and 22 schools have developed their disaster management plans in Bajura. Among them, 14 schools have updated their SIP, incorporating the disaster management plan. Likewise, a school of Bandhu VDC, Bajura has been relocated to a safer place after the result of PVA. Furthermore, an emergency fund in schools has also been set up.

AAN facilitated NCE Nepal to bring together 13 vibrant networks of like-minded organizations working in the field of education and child rights in a common forum entitled “Forum for Support and Monitoring Education Accountability in Emergency”. The forum became an effective platform for partners/CBOs and contributed to exert pressure upon the relevant stakeholders, especially during post emergency relief and reconstruction.

Moreover, the research on safe school with thorough review and analysis of the safe school policies and practices was being presented on the basis of structural (physical infrastructure) and non-structural component (policy advocacy and campaign). The research is expected to contribute on lobbying policy makers to prepare guidelines and framework; integrating DRR into education.

The ReFLECT circles have been fulfilling the essence through mass conscientization and community led campaigns to combat poverty and social injustices.



9

OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL INITIATIVES

9.1 NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN NEPAL: POLICY AND PRACTICES

The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007 guaranteed food sovereignty as the right of every citizen, which has gained continuity in the new Constitution of 2015 as well. Ironically, the implementation of the constitutional provisions was curtailed by the lack of food sovereignty law during the last eight years of the interim constitution. Now, with the promulgation of the new constitution, the Government of Nepal is formulating a number of Acts, including that on food sovereignty. Thus, the workshop was

organized with the objective of mapping out the status of food sovereignty in Nepal, specifically, to bring clarity on the concept of food sovereignty related policy provisions, implementation status from different perspectives and farmers' perception and experiences related to it. It brought together diverse stakeholders: individual researcher, agriculture students and faculty, farmers' representatives and land rights activists, agriculture journalists, NGOs and networks working on food related issues, relevant government institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture Development.

Suggestions were given to include data on food aid and most importantly to bring in livestock as a major component of food situation. Further, food sovereignty, local production on agriculture and reduction in imports would be important criteria to make country self-reliant in food. Similarly, the aspects of climate change, livestock, newer innovations in agriculture, interventions by the farmers, farmer's participation in the centre and self-sufficiency in agriculture should be incorporated to address the alternative approach and to draw a future road map.

9.2 WATER COMMONS INITIATIVE

Followed by earlier years, water and river right partners on Mahakali River Rights and Gandak Water Rights campaigns continued their advocacy from community to national level in the year 2015 as well. Under Gandak Water Rights campaign, a delegation team, comprising the representative of the Gandak Struggle Committee, parliament members and AAN's local partner 'Indreni' had conducted a delegation with the Irrigation Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister and with Director General and Director of Irrigation Department in Kathmandu. The aim of the delegation was to pressurize the concerned stakeholders to provide compensation to the Nepalese peasants for the loss caused by the Gandak barrage.

As per the provision, the Joint Committee of Koshi Gandak Project (JCKGP) shall take decisions for the compensation. The compensation (of estimated NRs. 3 Crores for 15 years) is still overdue from last 15 years. Similarly, they have demanded to develop a sustainable plan and budget allocation to address the flood, land cutting and soil erosion. As per the Gandak agreement, 40,000 hectares of land shall be irrigated by the project, but it has never exceeded 25,000. In this scenario, they have lobbied to push forward the already designed Athlahiya Trishakti Irrigation Project, which needs to be approved by JCKGP. Besides this, the delegation team also tried to pressurize for proper implementation of 21-point agreement that was made between Gandak-project affected people and Indian authority in 2065 B.S. Apart from the meetings with the ministers and

officials, the delegation team organized a press meet in the Reporters Club, Kathmandu. As a result, the delegation team received commitments from the line ministries and Department of Irrigation (DOI) to take forward the people's concerns in Nawalparasi.

Under Mahakali River Rights campaign, a discourse programme on Mahakali treaty, border river and riparian rights was organized by FOLD, our local strategic partner. The programme was organized in participation with parliamentarians, academics, government officials and campaigners.

were a breakthrough to presenting a model of Participatory Democracy as an alternative of representative democracy. The events were participated by professionals from different backgrounds, such as the academics, intellectuals, politicians, journalists, right activists, development workers and government officials. Moreover, inclusive representation of the poor, marginalized, third gender, Dalit community, ex-Kamaiyas, Madhesi and Muslim community was maintained.

Parallel sessions, focusing on and around institutional and political arrangements for participatory democracy, contemporary



➤ Annual Conference on Participatory Democracy.

9.3 FORUM FOR PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

With an aim to create a critical mass to widen and deepen the concept of participatory democracy both at the local and national level, two regional Forums for Participatory Democracy were separately organized in Biratnagar and Nepalgunj followed by a national one in Kathmandu. At the national level, the forum was organized in partnership with the Institute for Governance and Development (IGD). The conferences

issues of Madhesh and other minorities like women and Dalit community, democratization process of political parties, issues of development, social harmony and overview of the new constitution were presented and critically discussed among the participants. Further, a book entitled, '*Participatory Democracy: Perspectives and Practices on Local Governance*' was also launched for wider dissemination.



9.4 NATIONAL POVERTY ALLEVIATION POLICY

Poverty alleviation is a core of development priority of the Government of Nepal (GoN). For a long time, poverty alleviation has been prioritized, as a sole objective of national periodic plans but the country is still facing lots of challenges to attain the main focus. Although there were many plans with GoN, these plans were not effectively implemented in the absence of proper structures, policies and programmes for properly targeting to PLiP to achieve the desired result.

In 2012, GoN realized the gap regarding the structure and created a separate ministry to design and implement the poverty alleviation policy and programmes. Through this process, the ministry came into existence in May, 2012 but due to the lack of a policy, the ministry has still not found a clear direction to develop the strategies for poverty alleviation. To meet this vital

need of the ministry, Ministry of Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation (MoCPA), AAN and Home Net Nepal (HNN) agreed to jointly formulate a policy on Urban and Rural Poverty Alleviation. Following the series of discussions among these three agencies, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 17 June 2014.

Based on the MoU and to provide strategic guidance and monitoring of the policy development initiative, a five member Steering Committee was formed with a Joint Secretary of MoCPA, 3 Under Secretaries from National Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and a Country Director of AAN. Similarly, to carry out necessary tasks for the policy drafting process, a Task Force was also formed

↑ *Discussion with experts on Poverty Alleviation Policy.*

with Under Secretary of MoCPA and representatives from AAN and HNN.

After a series of meetings and workshops of the team with political parties, the private sector and key experts, it came up with a draft of the policy in 2015, which is being awaited to be endorsed by the cabinet.

9.5 ONE BILLION RISING CAMPAIGN

'One Billion Rising' (OBR) is a global campaign for justice call to women survivors from the violence so as to break their silence and release their stories through art, dance, marches, ritual, song, spoken word, testimonies and whatever way they feel right. In the year 2015, it was celebrated with a theme, 'DRUM, DANCE and RISE' and various programmes, such as a joint rally with



One Billion Rising, a global campaign against GBV.

We thought 14 February is the day for love, but today we came to know that this day is also known as a OBR day with the belief that each woman can transform their pain and suffer into their strength and celebrate with a loud voice and energy by singing, dancing and drumming. I liked the message of OBR as violence should transform into LOVE. I'm happy that I'm also part of this programme and committee that will spread this message to my entire school students." - School Teacher, Chitwan

organizations working on women's rights issues, street drama on witchcraft issues, a dance performance in public places, debate competition on safe cities, public discussion on women's right issues etc. were organized. Similarly, whistles were blown in open spaces to symbolize 'No More Silence' and 'No More Violence' on any forms of women's rights violations.

To celebrate this programme in the districts and VDCs, Nepal Police, local government officials, youth, ACTIVISTA, safe city volunteers, representatives from political parties, women networks and male members of the community were engaged in the programme.

9.6 NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT, RECONSTRUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Keeping in mind the devastating April 2015 earthquake, its severe impact on the lives of women and girls and current context of reconstruction in the aftermath of earthquake in Nepal, a two day 'National Women's Conference for

Disaster Management, Reconstruction and Sustainable Development' was organized jointly by AAN, Asmita Women's Publication House and MAM on 9-10 December 2015 in Kathmandu.

The conference was organized in order to bring the government, development stakeholders, civil society, academia, activists, journalist, development workers and concerned individuals into a common forum to discuss and to create a discourse on the issues of women and disaster; mainly focusing on women's leadership in the disaster management cycle. Six different papers in emergency and women from the experts were presented and critically discussed in the conference.

9.7 DISCOURSE ON RIGHT TO EDUCATION

With a view to identifying issues, challenges and opportunities for reconstructing schools and strengthening public education system in the earthquake affected districts, AAN, in partnership with the Ministry of Education

and NCE Nepal organized an 'Annual Conference on Public Education 2015'. The conference analysed the existing policies, plans, priorities, progresses and challenges of development efforts towards strengthening public education in Nepal from DRR and child rights perspectives; it explored and recommended the best feasible approach for mainstreaming Disaster Resilient Safe School Concept into national development agenda and in the periodic plans and sectoral policies. Honourable Minister of Education highlighted that the policies for 'New Mode of Education' is a collective work, which requires inputs from various sectors and the conference has actually provided a platform in relation to the works of the ministry.

Likewise, on the occasion of the 36th National Education Day and 49th International Literacy Day, AAN, in partnership with NCE Nepal and Alliance for Social Dialogue convened a dialogue on 'Educational Development in Nepal'. The dialogue basically focused on the needs of strengthening public education and minimizing the dropouts and failure of students in schools and in higher education.

→ Women being literate about the importance of education and getting involved.





10

ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESSES AND CHANGES

10.1 ENGAGEMENT OF NATIONAL BOARD OF GOVERNANCE IN AAN'S PRIORITY WORK

AAN organized its first General Assembly on 21 April 2015, in which new board of governance with nine (9) members was selected. Further, the Board members and General members were involved in a number of organizational priorities. For instance, they actively participated in various networks and alliances formed for relief and recovery after the earthquake and were also engaged in needs assessment of Khokana and

Sindhupalchowk, two of the severely earthquake affected areas. Apart from this, they ensured their active participation in different AAN organized forums like that of the National Social Audit, Participatory Review and Learning Meeting, National and Regional Women's Conference, National and Regional Participatory Democracy Conference, Lifelong Learning Conference and AAN Women's Forum.

10.2 NATIONAL SOCIAL AUDIT

With an objective to review and evaluate the programmes and budget along with the programme outcomes, the 12th National Social Audit was conducted in July 2015. The event was participated by various government representatives, donors, civil society organizations, PNGO representatives, members from various networks and alliances.

The comments, inputs and suggestions from them regarding AAN's programme



↪ AAN's First General Assembly



↖ AAN Board Chair sharing views during 12th National Social Audit.

achievements and shortcomings, the cost effectiveness and the organizational systems and structures were being shared from different professionals and the government stakeholders. They were impressed with AAN's transparency and accountability demonstration through Social Audit every year and encouraged to continue the same. They were also positive about AAN's participatory approach to development and its ReFLECT circles. Further, they expressed their encouraging views on AAN's relief and recovery programmes after the earthquake.

Moreover, AAN has always proven itself to be a learning organization and it has always been open to suggestions and accepted critical views to improve its actions. Thus, social audit 2015 also had a suggestion box to greet suggestions from the guests and the participants.

10.3 REVIEW, EVALUATION AND IMPACT STUDY

The review, evaluation and impact study are the accountability processes of AAN to help us assess and reflect our performance over a certain interval of time and consider the lessons learnt to plan for the next strategy. These periodic

studies also complement the regular M&E work that leads towards a more comprehensive learning cycle.

In order to link the lessons learnt from the reviews with improved future actions, efforts are made to critically discuss the review recommendations with the partners. These recommendations will further be incorporated in the renewed partnership agreements. Moreover, the practice of peer-to-peer review process between partners is found as an effective process to build partner capacity and improve shared learning.

10.4 REGULAR AUDIT TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY

The internal and external audits of all types of partners were carried out in 2015 as well. The internal auditors paid visits to 19 partners and produced 28 audit reports. Likewise, the external auditors conducted audits of 26 partners (including AAN and resource centres) and produced 33 reports. The regular visit to the partners has resulted in receiving their monthly financial reports on time.

Further, the holistic audit approach gave an insight to review the partner's governance, policies and social audit activities, cost effectiveness and the working efficiency. The auditors' recommendations and their effective implementations have become instrumental in institutionalizing the process and contributing for smooth operations of the finance staff. Consequently, no cases of fraud or misappropriation of funds were found and since 2013, AAN has been successful to maintain 'Green Zone' status among the AAI Federation Members.

10.5 GOING GREEN

AAN has been seriously engaged in making its staff aware of climate change and global warming. Their suggestions are taken into consideration to improve

↓ Community-led Participatory Review and Reflection.



the performance and to become a green sensitive organization. The staff are now fully aware that their small contribution has a huge impact on minimizing the risk of carbon emission.

AAN has joined the Green Initiative campaign initiated by AA International from the year 2012 and since then has begun to maintain carbon emission data on an annual basis. Total carbon emission consumption figures for 2015 are very much encouraging as the figures were lower compared to the previous years. It was achieved through collective

efforts of the staff for their sensitivity towards the environment.

10.6 AAN ANNUAL FINANCIAL UPDATE

AAN's Actual Regular Giving Income in 2015 was 1.46 million Great Britain Pound (GBP) and this was slightly decreased by 2.45% if compared with the plan. But in contrary, the actual 'Other Income' (partnership) was drastically increased by 197% in comparison with the plan. This was due to the large amount of income received for post-earthquake relief and recovery.



The overall income position of AAN for the year 2015 is as follows:

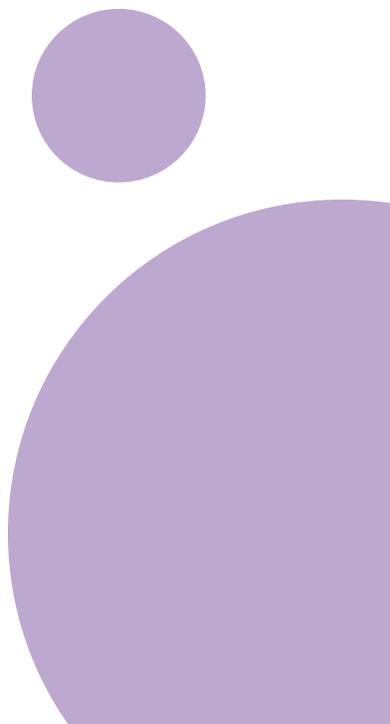
GBP '000

INCOME	2015 (ACTUAL)	2015 (PLAN)
Regular Giving	1,467	1,503
Other Income	4,726	1,587
Total Income	6,193	3,090

The funding Affiliate wise breakdown and composition of Regular Giving Income for 2015 are as follows:

GBP '000

REGULAR GIVING INCOME	2015 (ACTUAL)	2015 (PLAN)
ActionAid UK	527	485
ActionAid Spain	91	149
ActionAid Italy	475	517
ActionAid Ireland	149	206
ActionAid Greece	196	146
ActionAid Brazil	29	-
Total	1,467	1,503



GBP '000

REGULAR GIVING INCOME	2015 (ACTUAL)	2015 (COMPOSITION)
ActionAid UK	527	36%
ActionAid Spain	91	6%
ActionAid Italy	475	33%
ActionAid Ireland	149	10%
ActionAid Greece	196	13%
ActionAid Brazil	29	2%
Total	1,467	100%

AA UK and AA Italy were the major contributors of 2015 budget, which respectively comprised 36% and 33% of the total income earned from the regular giving income. Similarly, the contribution of AA Spain, Ireland, Greece and Brazil were 6%, 10%, 13% and 2% respectively.

EXPENDITURE

GBP '000

NATURAL COST CLASSIFICATION	2015 (ACTUAL)	2015 (PLAN)
Grants and Community Inputs	4,933	2,391
Salaries and Benefits (staff costs)	412	491
Travel and Transportation	55	71
Office and Service Costs	129	139
Total	5,529	3,092
Statutory Cost Analysis	Actual	Plan
Project Costs	5,177	2,637
Fundraising Costs	70	93
Governance Costs	43	60
Support Costs	239	301
Total	5,529	3,092

There is 79% deviation of total expenditure from the budget plan. This was also largely contributed by the unplanned activities of post-earthquake emergency recovery programmes.



↳ Children's engagement to connect with supporter through child message.

10.7 SPONSORSHIP SUPPORTER RETENTION

The available Child Sponsorship links as of December 2015 are 9,761 and that of Next Step (non-child sponsorship) links are 2,372. In the year 2015, the link rate saw negative growth rate of 4.16%; mainly because of the withdrawal of 786 Spanish link.

10.8 FUND RAISING (FR)

AAN is moving towards the concept of resource generation, a paradigm shift from conventional FR to deriving a pool of resource to support its programme and the target community. We will be able to implement new ways of

resource generation by next year once AAN achieves full affiliation to AA International. Further, we plan to intensify fundraising efforts around Institutional Income and High-Value Funding. This is a major priority that entails active donor scoping and a strong focus on building donor relations, both with existing and potential donors.

The few efforts initiated in 2015 for the smooth FR process are being systematized for fundraising through project management guidelines, programme-led funding planning and making efforts for FR database. Similarly, deployment in FR from IHART helped

to increase income for the ERP/CLRP related projects.

10.9 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) MANAGEMENT

Since most of the modes of communication were disrupted after the earthquake in the affected areas, the IT team participated in the Emergency IT cluster meeting and Nethope meeting and it was able to receive 3 units of SAT phone and 1 unit of IP + satellite internet set from Nethope. Similarly, a training on the use of these phones was organized for field staff to ensure that communication takes place during the distribution of relief materials. IT also

facilitated International and National communication team to upload and transfer various communication materials during relief operation. In coordination with the International IT team, 5 user license of Auto CAD was received from Techsoup to use in the reconstruction work. Moreover, the IT team was actively involved during the post-earthquake needs assessment, relief and recovery tasks.

Further, the negotiation of the IT with Microsoft for granting us a license to minimize Microsoft licensing cost for AAN was successful in early 2015. Microsoft approved the grants of 100 thousand US dollars for this purpose. This includes Server, MS Office and MS SQL licenses. Similarly, implementation of Microsoft Office 2010 as per the AA global standard, upgradation of the software and fibre back up system were installed to improve and ensure effective IT management within the organization.

Besides, two softwares, i.e. 'Online Quantitative Database Management System' to collect quantitative data from the partners and 'Computerized HR Software' to maintain HR processes were installed and hosted in the Country Office server. Now, both the systems are in the final stage and will be rolled out soon. The IT team provided technical inputs and support during the entire designing, development and installation of the systems.

10.10 ONLINE QUANTITATIVE DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
AAN's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework needs to come across series

of local level indicators and baselines. Till date, these data (both qualitative and quantitative) were used to be manually handled (commonly known as in 'hardware manner'). Although the manual process was very helpful, it was also equally tedious, time consuming and at times difficult to document. Thus, AAN initiated to develop an Online Quantitative Database Management System so as to record the collected quantitative data in a comparatively simplistic form. The system was designed in a participatory manner, incorporating both the partners' as well as AAN's team inputs.

With regard to the online quantitative database, it has been designed to incorporate the partners' overall organizational details as well as their programme and/or project M&E indicators. The organizational details are useful to receive an overview of any partner, which include their basic information, executive members and

the staff involved, registration, policy and procedures, funding sources, audit updates, etc. For PNGOs, this would be an important reference for preparing organizational project proposals, publications and reports and for AAN, it will support for effective audit process. It will essentially help to secure the relevant information/documents with an efficient retrieval system.

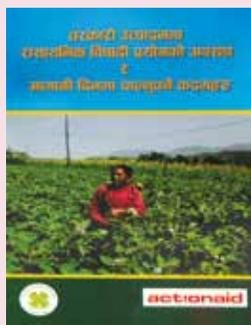
The M&E indicators are useful to monitor and track the progress, which can be a foundation for further plans and strategies. This will also guide AAN for tracking its performance. While the database puts the contents together into one software, it should be more handy and reliable for accurate data analysis and dissemination. It will also prevent from the data duplication and check if any essential data is missing. Hence, it can be an important asset to both the partner as well as AAN.



✓ IT experts giving orientation to the PNGOs on online quantitative database management system.

11

**KNOWLEDGE
GENERATION IN
2015**

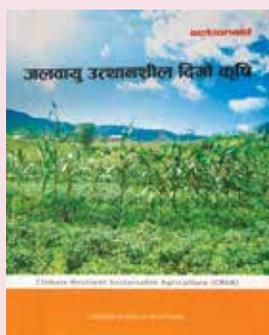


11.1 STATUS OF THE USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES IN VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AND WAYS FORWARD

This publication is based on the findings carried out in commercial vegetable production pocket areas of Makwanpur and Parsa districts. It mainly covers the status of the use of chemical pesticides in vegetable production, farmers' pesticide application practices, impact of chemical pesticides and recommendations for various stakeholders to minimize the pesticide related hazards. The book was published jointly with Agriculture and Forestry University.

11.2 COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION: FARMERS AT PESTICIDE RISKS

This is a documentary being prepared in line with the preceding publication. It has been jointly produced by ActionAid Nepal, Agriculture and Forestry University and Agriculture Information and Communication Centre/Ministry of Agriculture Development.

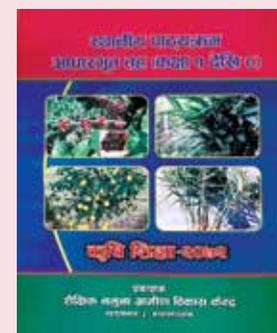


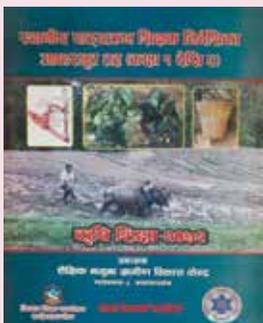
11.3 CLIMATE RESILIENT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE HANDBOOK

This handbook has been prepared in Nepali language based on the English version of CRSA book produced by ActionAid International. The Nepali version has been made more contextual to suit the Nepalese farmers with examples presented from Nepal. The book covers an introduction to the Nepalese agriculture, ActionAid Nepal's work in the area of sustainable agriculture and major portion of the book is about the CRSA approach with glossary of terms at the end.

11.4 LOCAL CURRICULUM ON AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

As per the government's provision, which allows public schools to develop their own contextual local curriculum for one subject from grade one to eight, ActionAid Nepal, in partnership with Saishik Namuna Gramin Bikash Kendra, Kavre developed and published a local curriculum; 'Agriculture Education for grade one to eight'. The book contains basics of agriculture and specializes in ginger, coffee, cardamom and lemon for grade eight students as per their local context.



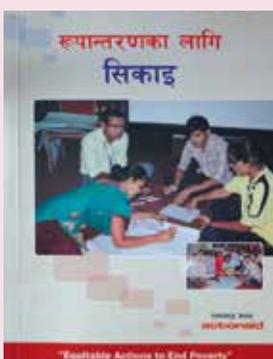
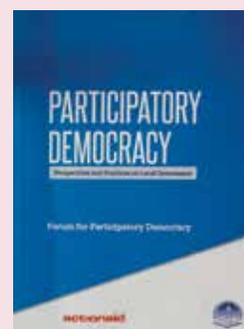


11.5 TEACHER'S GUIDE: LOCAL CURRICULUM ON AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

To support teachers in delivering the content of the local curriculum on agriculture, 'A Teacher's Guidebook' was published jointly by ActionAid Nepal, Saishik Namuna Gramin Bikash Kendra and District Education Office Kavre. The guidebook provides in detail the guide to teaching the content.

11.6 PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY: PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The book has been published in collaboration with the Institute of Governance and Development (IGD) and AAN. It is a collection of papers presented during a conference on Participatory Democracy (PD), 2014. The issues and reflections are drawn from different sectors which are multi-dimensionally linked with the socio-cultural aspects, reflecting on the practices of participatory democracy and strengthening local democratic institutions. The book was launched and disseminated during 2015 PD conference.



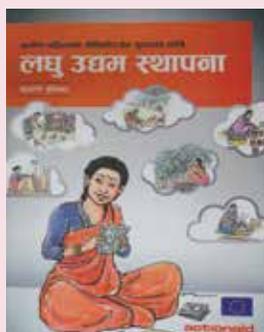
11.7 LEARN FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

The book has been published in collaboration with AA-Denmark/Danida and AAN. It is a collection of experiences shared by the fellows who participated in the capacity building trainings organized by Global Platform Nepal, a training hub of AAN (2010-15). The training fellows were selected among the marginalized youths from partner organizations, networks and alliances, ReFLECT circles and social activists and they were trained to strengthen their capacity and take positive actions for social transformation.

11.8 UNPAID CARE WORK BOOKLET

MAM-Prerana in close support and guidance of AAN has published a booklet on unpaid care work to amplify its recognition, redistribution and reduction for larger participation of women in different sphere, both from local to national level. The main objective of publishing the booklet is to create awareness on unpaid care work and to do evidence based advocacy by giving fresh data analysis of time diary collection from Terhathum conducted in 2014/15.



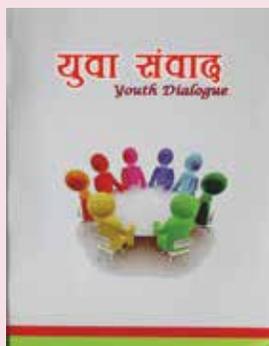


11.9 ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT GUIDE BOOK FOR RURAL WOMEN

The Guide Book has been published to enhance rural women's knowledge and skills on entrepreneurship and to encourage them to establish micro enterprise for their livelihood and economic empowerment.

11.10 POSTER ON PROMOTING WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN ECONOMIC SPHERE AND GENDER SENSITIVE ACCESS TO VALUE CHAIN AND MARKET

The poster was developed and disseminated to educate and raise awareness of the women collectives, community and larger mass about the importance of women's leadership development and their involvement in economic sphere.



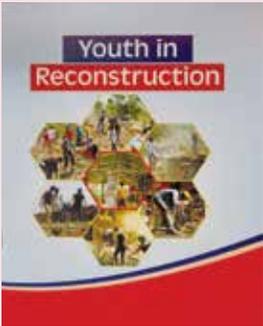
11.11 YOUTH DIALOGUE

The resource book is a product of the discussion and paper deliberation made during the youth dialogue series organized jointly by AAN and Youth Advocacy Nepal in the year 2014. The book provides the critical aspects of youth coming from poor and marginalized communities and the contemporary youth issues linking them with National Youth Policies, Youth Vision 2025 and National Youth Council.

11.12 YOUTH DIALOGUE-2

This is a second edition of the resource book. It provides key insights about the role of youth in disaster management, the situation of youth participation in Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and the significance of right to information in the reconstruction process. It also highlights the inequalities within Nepal and the analytical perspective on the potentialities and challenges of National Youth Council.





11.13 YOUTH IN RECONSTRUCTION-NYAR ANNUAL REPORT 2015

This publication is based on the documentation of activities and engagement of National Youth Alliance for Reconstruction (NYAR) in 2015. It provides a clear picture on the evolution of NYAR and its strategic actions towards strengthening youth leadership in the aftermath of devastating earthquakes in Nepal.

11.14 SCHOOL EDUCATION FINANCING IN NEPAL: BRACKET VS. BLANKET APPROACH

The book is based on the study commissioned by National Campaign for Education (NCE Nepal) in partnership with AAN and VSO. It identifies and assesses the status of school education financing in Nepal, its prospect and challenges. It also further analyses the existing financing patterns, production units and activities, object of expenditures and beneficiaries of community schools.



Annex 1

LIST OF LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME (LRP) PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS - 2015

LRP	Name of Long-term LRP Partner
LRP 23, Kaski	Siddhartha Club (SC) Children and Women Empowerment Society (CWES)
LRP 24, Nawalparasi	Indreni Social Development Forum (ISDF) Majhi Musahar Bote Kalyan Sewa Samiti (MMBKSS)
LRP 26, Bara	Janchetana Jagaran Abhiyan (JJA) Rural Development Centre (RDC)
LRP 27, Morang/Jhapa	Madan Bhandari Memorial Academy Nepal (MBMAN) Nari Bikash Sangh (NBS)
LRP 28, Udayapur	Nepal Social Development People Empowerment Centre (NESPEC) Chelibeti Club (CBC)
LRP 29, Bajura	Human Resource Centre (HRC) Participatory Effort at Children Education and Women Initiative Nepal (Peacewin)
LRP 30, Banke	Bheri Environment Excellence Group (BEE Group) Nepal Muslim Samaj Bikas Chetana Kendra (NMSBCK)
LRP 31, Terhathum	Dalit Awareness Society (DAS) Deurali Society (DS)
LRP 32, Kathmandu	Homenet Nepal (HNN) Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj (NMES)
LRP 33, Bardiya	Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj (KMJS)
LRP 34, Sankhuwasabha	The Society Touch (TST)
LPR 35, Doti	Equality Development Centre (EDC)
LRP 36, Siraha	Dalit Jana Kalyan Yuba Club (DJKYC)
LRP 37, Palpa	Social Resource Development Centre Nepal (SRDCN)

Annex 2

PROJECTS MANAGED BY ACTIONAID NEPAL IN 2015

PROJECTS	DONOR	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	DURATION
Kamaiya Housing Project	Electric Aid, ActionAid Ireland, UK Volunteer	Bardiya: Radha Krishna Tharu Jana Sewa Kendra (RKJS)	September 2014 to September 2015
Saksham	Irish Aid/ActionAid Ireland	Mahottari: Community Development Project, Parsa: Divya Yuba Club Makwanpur: Makwanpur Mahila Samuha, Chitwan: Chitwan Sakriya Samuha, Kathmandu: Mahila Adhikar Manch	January 2012 to December 2016
Ready for Anything (Aid Match Project)	AAUK, DFID and Aid Match Fund	Bardiya: Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj, Nawalparasi: Indreni Social Development Forum, Sankhuwasabha: The Society Touch Nepal	August 2013 to July 2016
Strengthening Women's Collectives Project	EC	Terhathum: Dalit Awareness Society, Deurali Society	March 2013 to February 2016
Early Childhood Development Centre	Guy Foundation	Kaski: Community Support Group	September 2015 to August 2016
Making it Work for Women	UK Giving Club	Bardiya: Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj	July 2015 to July 2017
Empowerment and Democracy - Maintaining the Role of NSAs in Local Governance and Accountability	EU Delegation in Nepal	Palpa: Women Welfare Association (WWA), Baitadi: Bhumeswor Community Development Organization (BCDO)	March 2014 to February 2017
Emergency Response Programme (ERP) Community-led Reconstruction Programme (CLRP)	DEC, DPRF, Humanity United (AA-USA), DFID RRF	Kathmandu Valley, Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre, Rasuwa	DFID RFF: September 2015 to February 2016 DEC, DPRF, Humanity United (AA-USA): April 2015 to 2018
Promoting Quality Education through Progressive Domestic Resources Mobilization Project	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation	Kailali: FAYA-Nepal Doti: Equality Development Centre	July 2015 to December 2017
Global Platform	AA Denmark	Kathmandu (Carry out trainings and capacity building initiatives)	April 2013 to December 2015



↑ Elderly woman in AAN's post earthquake Women Friendly Space

ActionAid Nepal is a member of the global ActionAid International federation. With an aim to become “locally rooted and globally connected”, AAN has legally registered its entity in the concerned Nepal Government’s authority. At the same time, for stronger international affiliation, ActionAid Nepal has transformed from ‘Country Programme’ to ‘Associate’ member and will soon become an affiliate of ActionAid International.

After ten years of its establishment as a charity organization in the United Kingdom, ActionAid started working in Nepal in 1982. Based on the learning from its engagement in various sectors at various levels, from grassroots to international, AAN has evolved through various changes on approaches and working modalities in its 34-year journey of the fight against poverty and injustice. Starting from charity-based work in the 1980s to improve the basic living conditions of the poorest people, AAN has now adopted a human rights-based approach with an aim to enhance the capacity of the poor and excluded people to claim and exercise their rights to live a dignified life. Our approach reaffirms the role of popular struggles, social justice movements, popular actions, community-based organizations and people’s organizations for rights conscientization and transformation of unequal power relations.

actionaid NEPAL

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