

**actionaid**  
NEPAL

# PHOTO STORY

CELEBRATING

**35**

YEARS IN ACTION  
since 1982



# PHOTO STORY

EQUITABLE ACTIONS TO END POVERTY

CELEBRATING

**35**  
YEARS IN ACTION  
since 1982



COVER PHOTO

Women risking their health by carrying overload  
Bhumirajmandau, Doti

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## NEPAL - COUNTRY PROFILE

Nepal, officially the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal is a South Asian landlocked country located between two giant nations, India and China. It is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural country, where more than 100 languages are spoken; although Nepali is the only national as well as an official language throughout the nation.

Being immensely gifted by nature, Nepal has unique geographical variations from low lying plains to the highest peak on Earth, The Mount Everest. Further to mention, it has 8 among the world's top ten highest peaks.





*Karnali River*

The snowcapped mountains covering most of the country's northern belts are the reason of ever flowing water across the country. Nepal thus is one of the richest in the world in terms of water resources with more than 6,000 big or small rivers.

Along with natural beauty, Nepal is also a treasure house of ancient monuments, art and culture. UNESCO has enlisted 10 of its locations as 'World Heritage Sites'.

*Bhaktapur Durbar Square, one of the enlisted 'World Heritage Sites'*



*Buddhist Stupa of Bauddhanath,  
Kathmandu*  
Photo: Mt. Everest Studios





Although Nepal is rich in natural resources, heritages, art and culture, it could receive the HDI value of just 0.558 in UNDP Human Development Report 2016. It was ranked in 144th position among 188 countries.



## INTRODUCTION

### ACTIONAID NEPAL

ActionAid Nepal (AAN) 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; and for stronger international affiliation, it 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 diverse changes on approaches and working modalities in its 35-years 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.

### ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

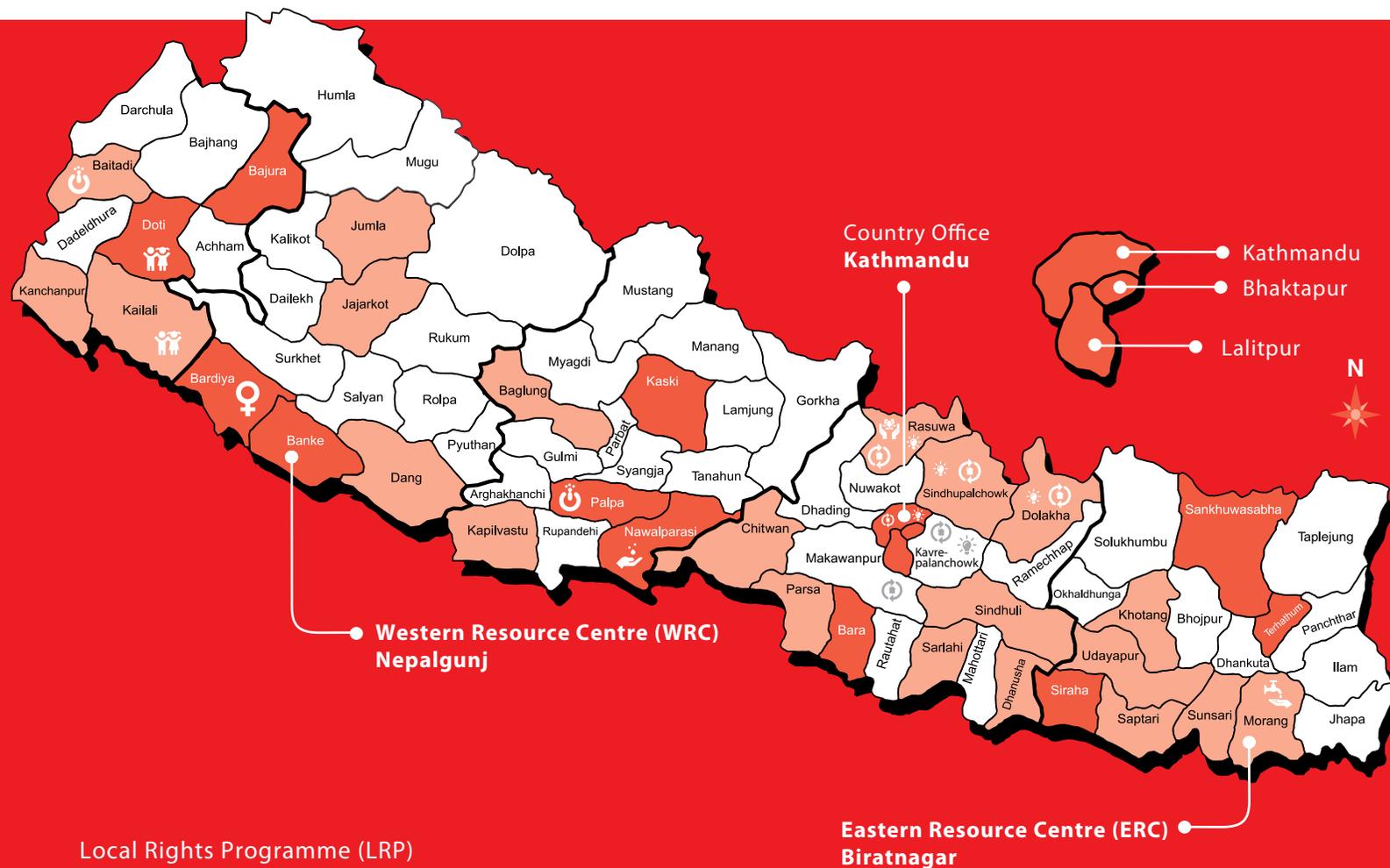
The Photo Story is a pictorial presentation of the context, the process, planning and strategies and the results of AAN's working areas; which include various critical issues of Natural Resources and Livelihood, Post-disaster Relief, Reconstruction and Building Resilience, Quality Public Service, Participatory Democratic Governance, Women's Rights and Quality Education Rights.

Although as being commonly said that 'a picture is worth a thousand words', the photo story has a drawback of capturing just some major glimpses of AAN's recent involvements. Thus, AAN's works are not only limited to it and the interested readers are suggested to visit us online/in person for further information.

# WORKING AREAS OF ACTIONAID NEPAL IN 2017

## AAN'S PROGRAMME DETAILS

MANAGED BY	PROGRAMME			
	DISTRICTS	TOTAL LRPS	LRP PARTNERS	PROJECT PARTNERS
Eastern Resource Centre	5	4	6	19
Kathmandu Office	9	2	4	
Western Resource Centre	8	6	9	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>



## PROJECTS



Enhancing community engagements in trans-boundary water governance in South Asia



Supporting Women in Nepal to rebuild their Lives after Disaster



Empowerment & Democracy (EC-NSA)



Promoting Quality Education Through Progressive Domestic Resources Mobilization Project (NORAD)



Making it Work for Women



Community Led Reconstruction Programme



People-led Solution for Better Accountability Practices



Transforming the Lives of Disadvantaged Communities in Nepal by Improving Access to Clean, Safe Water and Sanitation facilities

PROGRAMME DISTRICTS MANAGED BY WESTERN RESOURCE CENTRE

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

PROGRAMME DISTRICTS MANAGED BY KATHMANDU OFFICE

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

PROGRAMME DISTRICTS MANAGED BY EASTERN RESOURCE CENTRE

Siraha, Morang, Bara, Terhathum, Sankhuwasabha



## THE CONTEXT

Natural Resources and Livelihoods



Agriculture is the major source of livelihood for two thirds of Nepalese population. But unfortunately, the production will not be enough for 60% of farmers themselves. Low public sector investment in the last few decades, lack of human resource for farming contributed by migration, lack of access to productive resources (such as capital, skills and know how), and the absence of necessary infrastructures are some of the obstacles that agriculture sector in Nepal has to bear.

*Practicing age old traditional farming  
Mainapokhar, Bardiya*



Low or no respect for being engaged in farming and mass displacement of economically active population; the youth, has largely affected the growth and development of agriculture sector in Nepal.

*Women's involvement in Rice Plantation*



Gender discrimination in wages and women's lack of rights over productive resources has inhibited women's food security. Women farmers who share more than 60% of agriculture labour rarely have land ownership and control over it. CBS, 2011 estimated that only 9% of land is owned by women. It is even more tragic to learn that among 79.48% households, women do not have ownership on neither the house nor the land.





Collection of nutritious grasses, leaves and straw is necessary for rearing livestock and this requires a lot of hard work. People have to walk miles to search and collect them.

← *A little girl carrying grasses and green stems for feeding cattle and selling flowers to pedestrians  
Silgadi, Doti*

*Helping hands for Livestock rearing  
Mainapokhar, Bardiya ↓*





For livelihood, some families construct a diverse portfolio of activities. Some villagers sell their own farmed vegetables and fruits whereas, some buy the goods from vendors and sell as a market trader.

*A small market, where people from different places stop by for buying and selling food and goods.  
Lahan, Siraha*



**THE CONTEXT**  
Natural Disasters



*Kathmandu Durbar Square destroyed by 2015 earthquake*

Nepal is prone to a number of disasters like that of drought, unseasonal rainfall, landslide, flood, fire and earthquake. The devastating 2015 earthquakes seriously affected 14 districts of the country. Similarly, the 2015 drought of Bajura district burnt about 70% of crops and unseasonal rainfall of Nawalparasi and Bardiya districts have seriously impacted the production.



*Post-earthquake Debris of human settlements*

The destruction from devastating April 2015 earthquake brought with it a huge amount of economic loss. The National Planning Commission estimated the damage as high as US\$7billion. The catastrophe was so huge that more than 8,700 people lost their lives, more than 22,000 people got injured and homes of 500,000 were completely damaged. 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 move from a 'Least Developed Country' to a 'Developing Country' by 2022.



Floods render thousands of families homeless; crops are damaged and cultivated lands are being converted into riverbanks. So the villagers uplift their houses using wooden logs as pillars to avoid increasing level of flood water.

*Uplifted house in Terai, Bardiya*

In Nepal, floods and landslides are often interrelated. Some landslides are triggered by riverbank erosion and some flash floods are aggravated by landslides in the areas adjoining riverbanks.

*Flood in Sindhupalchowk*



Landslide time and again troubles to most of the hilly regions. It has been estimated that every year the country has to face over 12,000 smaller and bigger landslides.

*An elderly man showing his affected cultivation due to landslides*



**THE CONTEXT**  
Governance



*Few patients waiting for their turn at the health post  
Dhodhana, Siraha*

The new Nepal Health Policy: 2014 is very progressive in terms of health care services within the country. It has provisions for setting up a health center within not more than half an hour of walking distance from each settlement area, establishing primary health care centers in areas with 20,000 population and 25-bed hospitals where there is 1,00,000 population.



*Bhumirajmandau Health Post, Doti*

**Health personnel are not fully available**

Under-staffing, unpunctuality and absenteeism of public service providers have become major challenges in most of the areas. In the health care centers, lack of promptness in their opening and closing time has added further problems for the service users.



*District Health Office, Siraha*



*Mahendra Highway (East West Highway) damaged by floods and in a very poor stage that needs immediate maintenance*

Roadway is the major mode of transportation in Nepal but unfortunately its connectivity is still lacking especially in the hilly regions of the country; troubling people with commuting problems even for fetching basic daily supplies. Lack of/delay in road maintenance is the other serious issue; resulting to an alarming increase of road accidents and casualties.

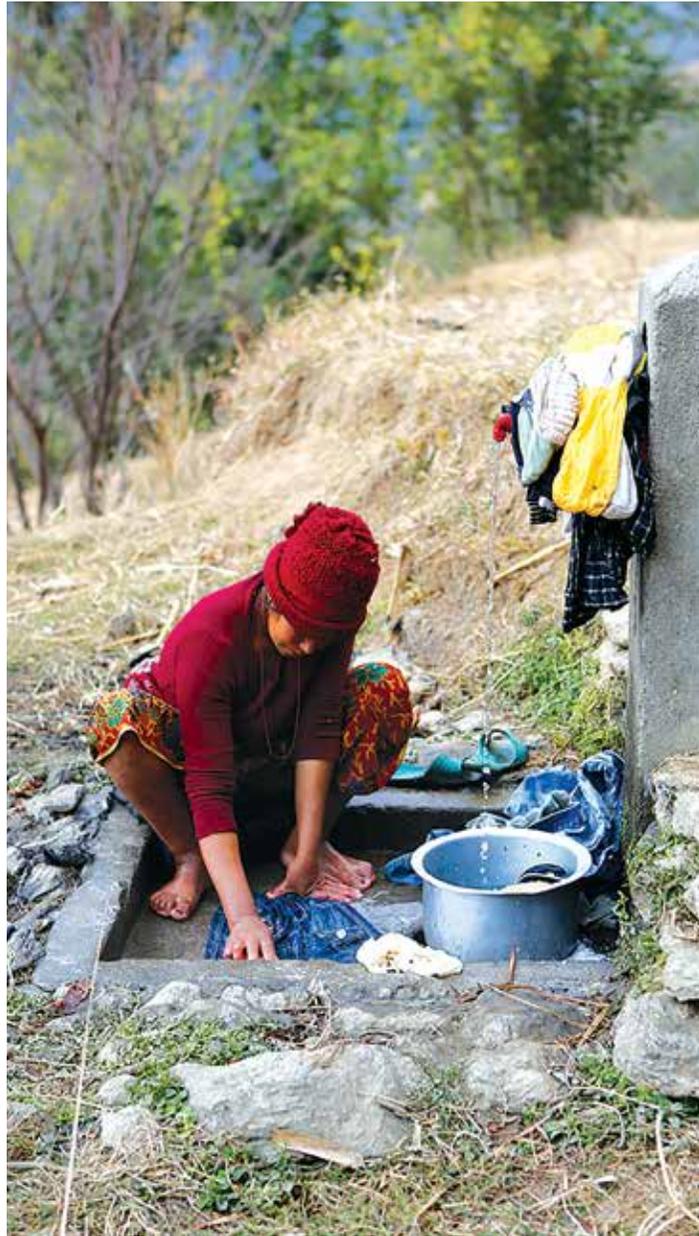


*A health post contrasting to the provision of providing 24-hour health care service for pregnant women Sankhuwasabha*

The Government of Nepal has provisions for 24-hour health care service for pregnant women and free child delivery services in the public health centers; NRs. 1,500 transportation allowance is also provided for antenatal check-ups in Mountain Region, NRs. 1,000 in Hilly and NRs. 500 in the Terai. Further, NRs. 400 is provided for those who get a timely and complete 4 antenatal check-ups.



**THE CONTEXT**  
Women's Rights



*Women's involvement more in Unpaid Care Work*

Most of the Nepali 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.

Dedication to unpaid care work and the resulting scarcity of time have significant financial and opportunity costs that perpetuate not only social but also economic inequality for women.

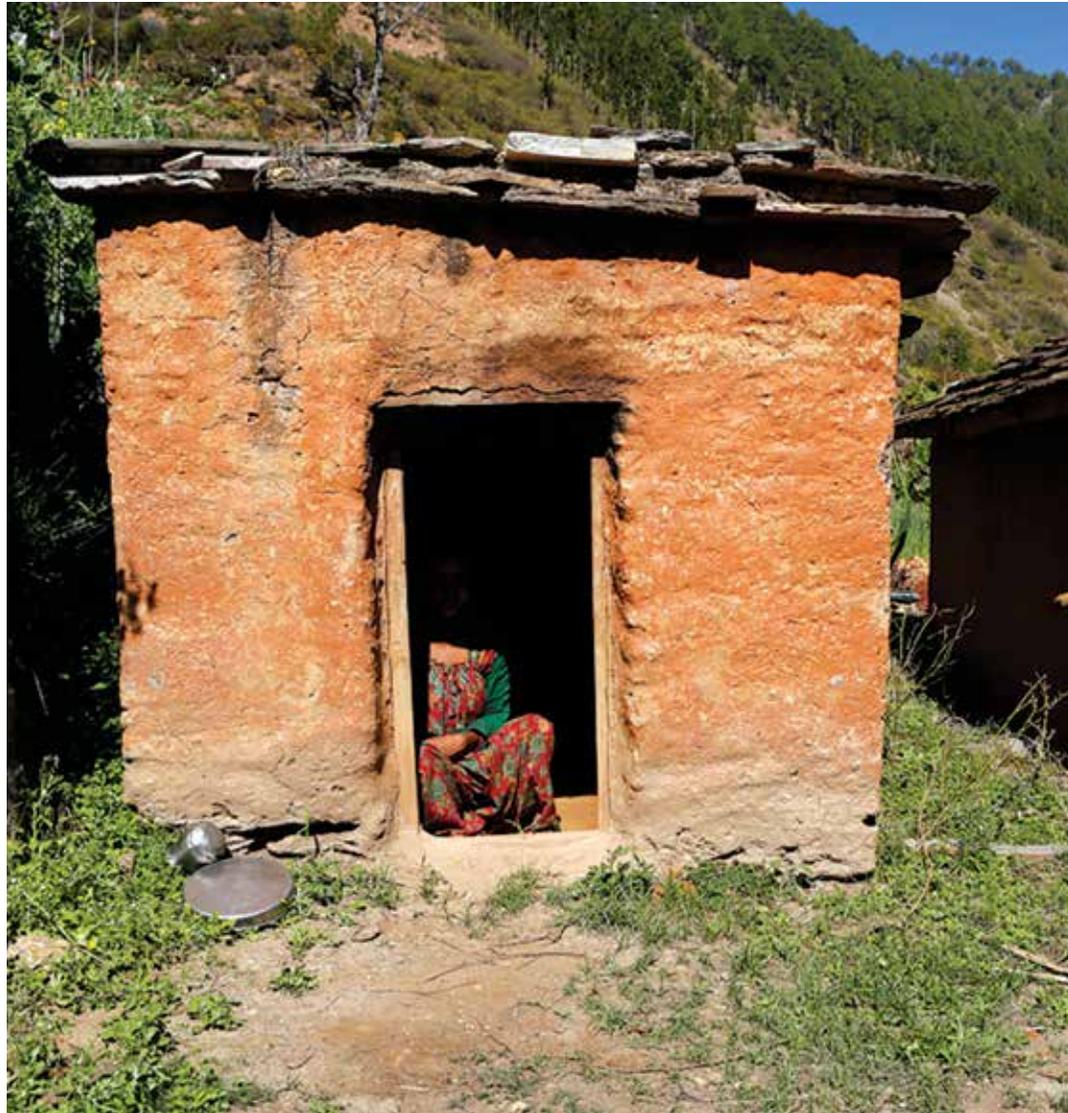


*Photo: Mt. Everest Studios*

Patriarchal dominance of the social, political, and economic domains in Nepal has led to unequal distribution of power to women. They have less authority than men in decision making and little control over their sexuality, bodies, movements and lives. Women's reproductive and productive roles in the family are not duly recognized by the family nor the community. This has perpetuated violence against women in various forms.



*A labourer woman breastfeeding her child at work and in a very unhealthy environment alongside the road  
Lasune, Terhathum*



Gender based violence cases are repeatedly reported in different parts of the country. Domestic violence in its different forms; rape, polygamy, dowry related violence and murder and sexual harassment in public spaces are some of the major ones. Further, *Chaupadi*, witchcraft accusations against women and early/forced child marriage are the major and most reported harmful traditional practices against women and girls.

*Chaupadi practice in Pakari Gaun, Doti, a tradition of segregating and discriminating menstruating girls/ women and forcing them to stay away from home in a small unsafe hut/cow shed*



Girls are deprived of their basic rights to health, education and safety due to early/forced child marriage. According to 2014 Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 49% of women aged 20-49 were married before turning 18. This has affected their overall progress as well as has risked their life and future.



**THE CONTEXT**  
Education



Despite the fact that 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, it has not been achieved yet.

Although there has been considerable increase in the Net Enrollment Rate from past few years, the high school drop outs and repetition rates are proportionately alarming.

*Children out of school for farming and domestic work*



In the fiscal year 2016/17, only 11.6 percent of the national budget was allocated in Education sector; which is very insufficient for ensuring quality education and developing infrastructure. Likewise, reconstruction of school buildings destroyed by the devastating 2015 earthquakes is also likely to be affected.

*A classroom destroyed by the earthquake, Kavrepalanchowk*



*Students playing at their school in an unsafe environment  
Bhumirajmandau, Doti*



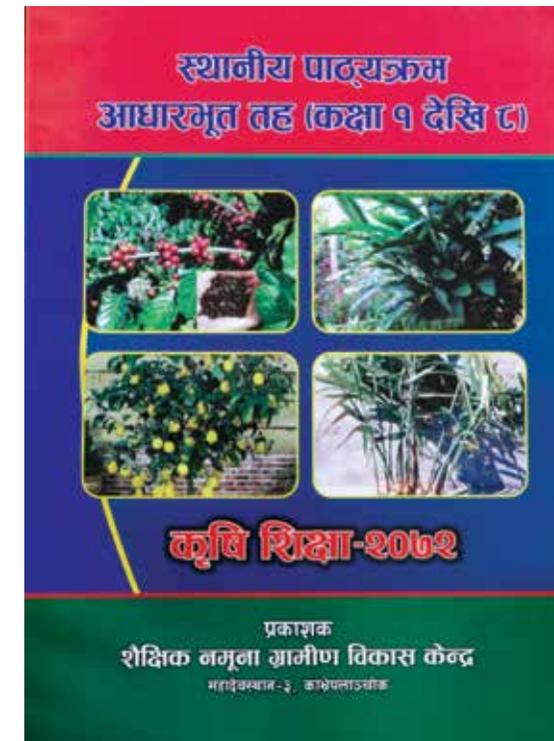
THE PROCESS



AAN's engagement for the promotion of Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA), 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 people living in poverty on on-farm livelihood options.



*Leader Farmers 'learning by doing' in the practical session of vegetable nursery training*



*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 cultivation as per their local context.



← Sit-in programme in Kathmandu to ensure provisions of tenancy rights and equal land rights of the land poor and women farmers in the new constitution



Considering the need of trained human resource to make the community safe from emergency and disaster, local people are trained to respond and rescue at times of emergency.

Training to respond floods by the use of locally available resources  
Rajapur, Bardiya  
←

Mock drill to get rid of fire through collective community efforts  
Rajapur, Bardiya ↓

Solidarity for ActionAid International's global Hunger-free campaign to ensure food security for all. In Nepal, it was organized with a major objective to secure women's and small scale farmers' right to land.

Youth's engagement in the campaign in Kathmandu →





Vulnerability maps are prepared and placed in the public places for wider reference and dissemination. The maps help people to be aware about possible risks of disasters and plan for timely preventative measures.



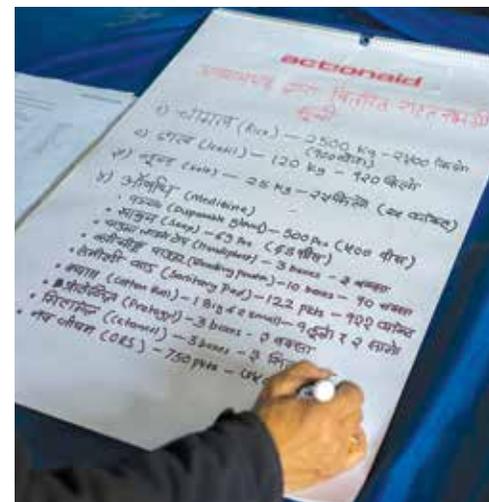
Keeping in mind, the social, economic and psycho-social reconstruction apart from the physical one, Community Led Reconstruction Programme (CLRP) was thus derived as a long term post disaster reconstruction with an ownership of the community. As well as achieving physical reconstruction, CLRP also focuses 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 marginalized social groups in the earthquake affected districts.

*Local man engaged in constructing temporary shelter aftermath the earthquake  
Kiul, Sindhupalchowk*



Within 24 hours of the April 2015 earthquake, AAN along with Partner organizations were mobilized for early recovery livelihood initiatives and construction of temporary shelters in earthquake affected districts.

*Post-earthquake emergency food relief in Kavrepalanchowk*



Transparency during post-earthquake relief distribution was well maintained. It was done through the placement of transparency boards displaying detailed information of relief materials. After completion of each distribution, these lists were handed over to the local VDCs.

Keeping in mind, the vulnerability of women after 2015 earthquake, women-friendly safe spaces were allocated and they were also provided with dignity kits and psychosocial support service as a part of women's protection programme.

*Women and girls participating in a discussion programme in Women Friendly Space Padampokhari, Makawanpur*



*Permanent Women Friendly Space constructed in Talarang, Sindhupalchowk*



Women are put at the center of the community level empowerment process by ensuring their representation and most importantly, in the decision making process through Disaster Management Committees and other planning processes.

*Women-led alliance- 'National Women Alliance for Reconstruction' was formulated to ensure mainstreaming of gender dimensions in post-earthquake relief and reconstruction.*



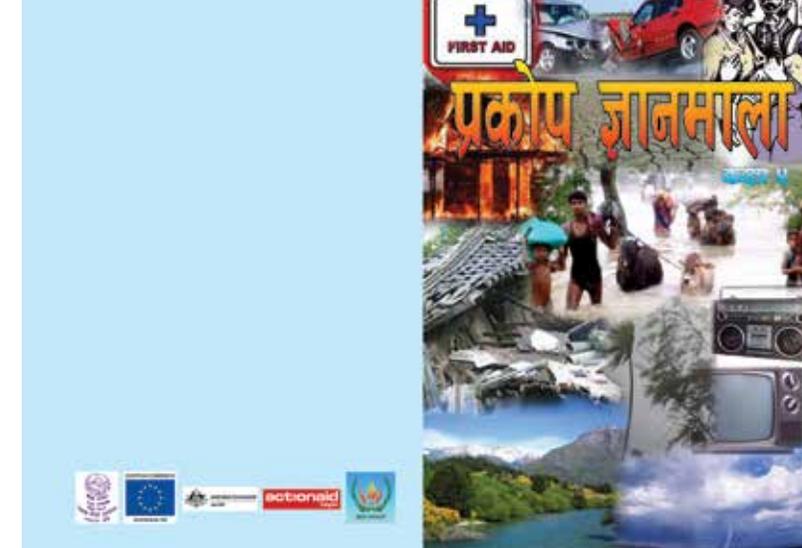
Children are encouraged to continue their education after the earthquake and are being supported with Temporary Learning Centers and educational materials  
Rasuwa



AAN was engaged to form National Youth Alliance for Reconstruction (NYAR), which was actively involved in post-earthquake relief tasks through actions like debris clearance, psycho-social counselling, building temporary learning centres, promoting health and sanitation, monitoring accountability of humanitarian support in the earthquake-affected districts, facilitating child friendly spaces, etc

*Youth engaged in constructing temporary shelter in Dhaibung, Rasuwa*





Since children are at more risk during the time of disaster, they are sensitized on its risk reduction and preparedness. Children were involved for preparing school disaster vulnerability analysis and its reduction plans.

A course book on disaster for primary level students of Grade 5 was prepared and taught in schools. ↑

A hoarding board displayed in the community to promote and incorporate disaster component in schools ↑



Child friendly space established to reduce their distress and fear aftermath the earthquake  
Badikhel, Lalitpur ↑

Mock Drill conducted in school to respond during the time of emergency  
Pokhara, Kaski ←



← School Sensitization Programme on Disaster Management Pokhara, Kaski



Community people are made aware on the available government provisions and the procedures to access them

*'Hamre Pahichan' (My Identity) campaign sensitizing people about the importance of vital registration certificates (birth, death, marriage, divorce and migration) so as to enjoy state facilities such as: social security, education, health facilities and other services as well as claiming and enjoying rights provisioned by the state.*

*Bhadaiya, Lahan*

Just and democratic local governance has been strengthened by Participatory Planning Process endorsed by Local Self-Governance Act 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. AAN and its partner organizations are actively engaged in developing agencies of the poor and ensuring wider implementation of the process at the local level.



*Local community people were themselves engaged in the assessment of public service through Community Score Card*



With an aim for creating a critical mass to widen and deepen the concept on emerging critical issues of democracy, social justice and democratization in Nepal, District and National level Conferences on Participatory Democracy are organized, annually.



AAN is committed for its critical but constructive engagement with the government towards fighting poverty and social injustices.

*Discussion with experts on Poverty Alleviation Policy; the draft has been submitted to the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation for its review and approval*



Empowerment, being one of the pillars of Human Rights based Approach (HRBA), outreach programmes for mass community awareness are organized on diverse issues.

Door to door sensitization programme in Dolakha ↑

Celebrating 'One Billion Rising', 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, songs and speeches Nepalgunj, Banke →



Women engaged in filling up time diary collection in Banke to calculate their workload as an unpaid care work. Nepalese women work 1.4 hours for every one hour worked by Nepalese men. (ActionAid's Time Diary Analysis 2013)





With an aim that the Safe City and Anti-Street Harassment campaigns ensure and contribute towards achieving the national goal of 'Zero Tolerance to the Gender Based Violence', mass awareness and advocacy campaigns on the issue are organized from local to national level.

*Human Chain demanding to ensure safe public spaces for women*



*Anti-Street Harassment march in Kathmandu*



*Mahila Adhikar Manch (MAM) raising voice for Rural Women's Policy through 'Samakon' talk program on Kantipur Television*



Promoting Child Centered Learning and engaging them in extra-curricular activities in schools  
Dhodna, Lahan

Street theatre to promote 'Education for All' with violence and discrimination free schools  
Hetauda, Makawanpur ↓



School enrollment campaigns and sensitization programmes are organized in close coordination and collaboration with District Education Office, School Management Committee, Parent Teacher Association, school authorities, Mahila Adhikar Manch, ReFLECT circles, child clubs, government stakeholders and the community people ↑

School uniform and stationery support to contribute 'Education for All' →





Community's engagement to analyze and prioritize possible natural hazards and risks through Participatory Vulnerability Analysis Bardiya



ReFLECT circle has become a tool to identify community problems and their causes, empower the right-holders and find solutions. It has also become an entry point for all the initiatives and campaigns in the community.



Community people engaged in Participatory Context Analysis (PCA) for analyzing the context, planning, monitoring and evaluating and implementing more effective evidence based advocacy. PCA is one of the tools, where a true sense of PRAXIS [Action-Reflection-Improved Action] is practiced. Morahang, Terhathum



AAN organizes National Social Audit annually to create a platform for demonstrating its transparency and accountability towards its programme achievements and shortcomings, the cost effectiveness and the organizational systems and structures. It is participated by various government representatives, donors, civil society organizations, partner organization representatives and members from various networks and alliances. ↑

AAN has always proven itself to be a learning organization and it has been open to suggestions and critical views to improve its actions. Thus, the National Social Audit also has a Suggestion Box to greet inputs from the guests and the participants. ←

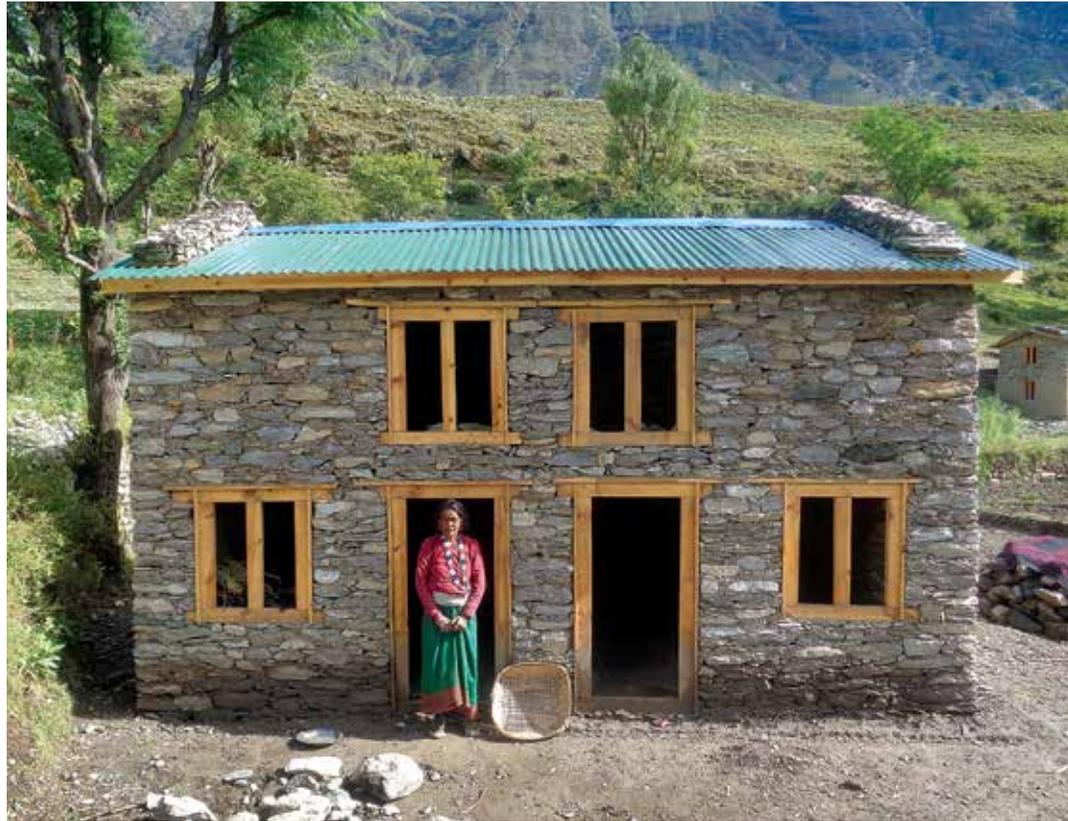


The Participatory Review and Reflection Processes (PRRPs) organized at Community, Regional and National levels provide space for the local rights holders, partners and AAN to review and reflect on the programme interventions and generate new learning and insights for improved actions. All the PRRPs are organized twice a year; and they are also taken up as events for regular monitoring.



## RESULTS

Natural Resources and Livelihood



Haliya is 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.

*House built by the government as a part of Haliya rehabilitation programme in Bajura. Various advocacy programmes and campaigns were organized for it.*



Kamaiya - agricultural bonded labourer, particularly those that existed in Western Nepal but abolished after the promulgation of Kamaiya Labour (Prohibition) Act, 2002

*AAN's support to construct a shelter for freed Kamaiyas in Janatanagar, Bardiya*

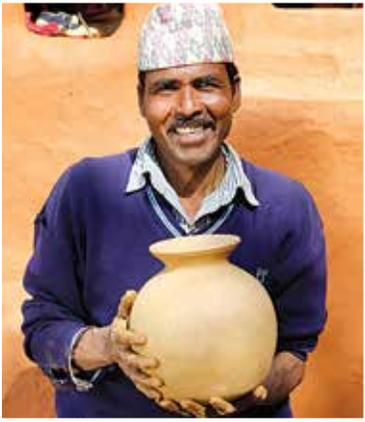


After series of trainings and campaigns, small farmer households have now started to consider on-farm activities as important livelihood alternatives. They are encouraged for collective farming and are also promoting the use of organic fertilizers.

*Community people engaged in mushroom farming. Talamarang, Sindhupalchowk*



*Livestock and milk production Dhodhana, Siraha*



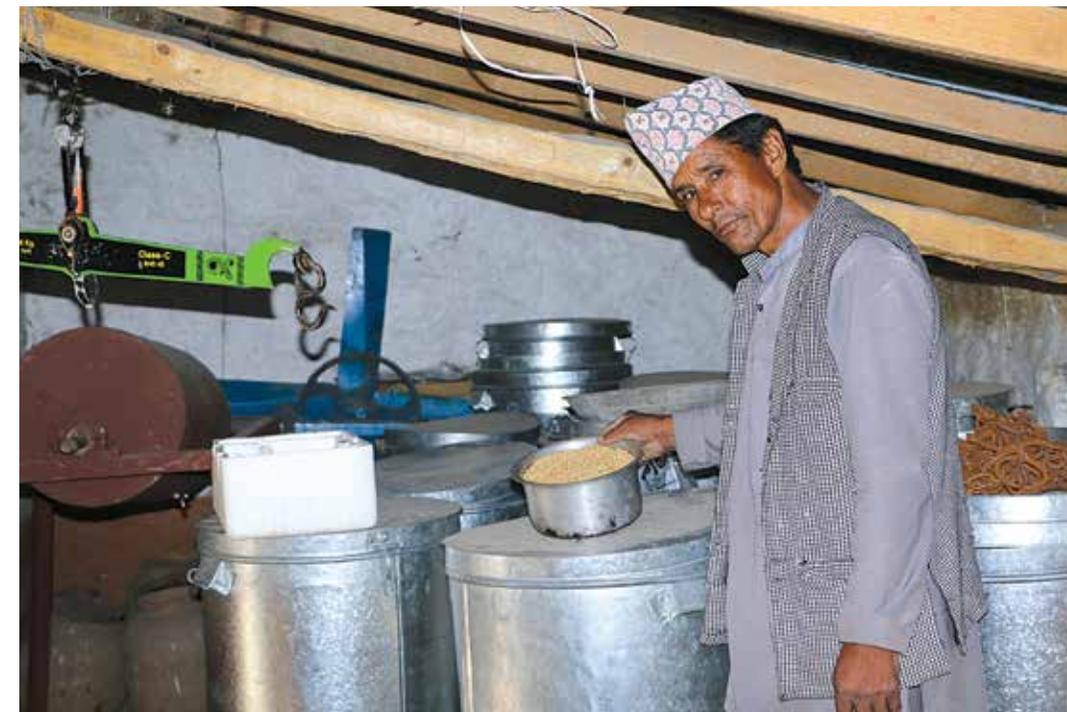
A Potter Man Bahadur Kumale,  
making pots with his bare hands  
without using pottery wheel  
Bhumirajmandau, Doti  
Prepares 10 pots/day and earns  
NRs. 150-300/pot



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



Income generation through Nepali Dhaka (traditional fabric) production  
Myaglung, Terhathum



Community Seed Banks are established to preserve local seeds, to exterminate dependency on imported seeds and contribute to revive local economy within the livelihood of local people. As a result, they have also contributed to the conservation of agro-biodiversity and hence in the promotion of sustainable agriculture. Further, they have become important steps for ensuring farmers' rights and food sovereignty.

Community Seed Bank  
Wai, Bajura

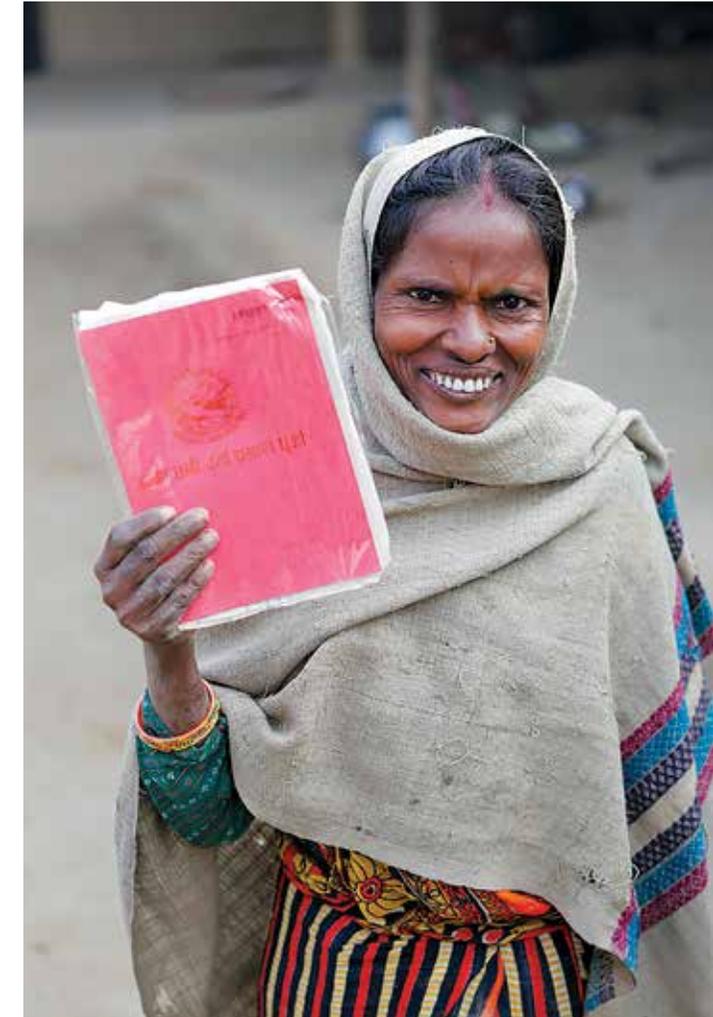


Sustainable agriculture has been well adopted in the AAN's working areas. The practice of making compost manure and botanical pesticides have significantly increased and practiced in the field.



Women and their access to land and natural resources 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.

*Couple having a joint land ownership certificate*



*Woman receiving land ownership certificate registered in her name  
Dhodhana, Siraha*



**RESULTS**  
Disaster Risk Reductions and Community led  
Reconstruction Programme



AAN has also 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, seed money for small holder farmers etc. These supports are done to fulfil their basic immediate needs and complement to our interventions on human rights based approach.

*Support to construct bio-embankment as a precautionary measure to floods in Rajapur, Bardiya*



*Support for the construction of a culvert in Bardiya*



*Support to construct temporary shelters aftermath the earthquake in Sindhupalchowk*



*Happy mother and daughter inside the temporary shelter in Rasuwa*



To cross the stream and reach to the safer space during the times of flood, Evacuation Bridges were constructed for the community people living in flood plain area of Seti River. Pokhara, Kaski



The Watch and Rescue Tower was constructed at the edge of Phewa Lake, Pokhara in coordination with Pokhara disaster management committee, district police personnel and the government stakeholders. It not only saved the lives of many drowning victims but was also helpful to check the poor boating practices and poaching of migratory birds. Further, illegal activities like pick pocketing, harassment and fishing in restricted areas have declined. As a result, tourists now feel safer and so do the local vendors.

*Phewa Lake Watch and Rescue Tower  
Lakeside, Pokhara*



Based on the findings of structural vulnerability analysis, support for retrofitting of schools was provided to ensure children's rights to study in a disaster resilient environment.  
Pokhara, Kaski



Support for the installation of Early Warning System to check Seti River floods. The data and information are linked up with the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and is displayed at District Emergency Operation Center, Kaski. Further, the communities and humanitarian responders were also trained to make use of the system.

Flood Early Warning System  
Pokhara, Kaski





भुमिराजमाण्डौ स्वास्थ्य चौकी  
चाँदी

विनिर्मा ज्ञाँछा गर्ते समय  
१० घण्टा देखि २ घण्टा सम्म

उहाँको स्वास्थ्य चौकीमा  
उपस्थित हुनुपर्ने कार्यहरूहरू  
स्वास्थ्य नसुन्दर  
विनिर्माण कार्यहरूको अन्त  
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स्वास्थ्य चौकीमा

**RESULTS**  
Participatory Democratic Governance



Community people are sensitized on 14 steps of Participatory Planning Process and encouraged to participate in them. A number of IEC materials are prepared and disseminated for the same.

*Hoarding board placed in a public space of Kusumkhola, Palpa*



With regards to ensuring quality public services, AAN and its partner organizations are actively engaged in ensuring effective implementation of Participatory Monitoring and Accountability tools like Community Score Card, Minimum Conditions Performance Measure (MCPM), and Social Audit/Public Hearing etc. that need to be carried out by various local government institutions.

*Public hearing between public service providers and service users in a school premise of Palpa. ↑*



A number of local level development proposals were submitted through Participatory Planning Process in VDCs. Majority of these proposals were approved and implemented. AAN and its partner organizations were actively engaged in developing agencies of the poor and their capacity building.



Right to Information (Rtl) is primarily safeguarded by Right to Information Act 2007 as well as by the New Constitution of Nepal 2015. Campaigns on Rtl encouraged most of the public service providers to appoint a separate Information Officer.

*Rtl Center, Baitadi ←*

Anti-Witchcraft Crime and Punishment Act was endorsed by the parliament in July 2015. Mahila Adhikar Manch, women's rights activists, AAN and partner organizations were the major actors to advocate in favour of the Act since 2011 and were rigorously engaged in the campaign and in its drafting process.

Photo: Mt. Everest Studios





**RESULTS**  
Women's Rights



Keeping women and girls as prime rights holders and at the center of our work, various initiatives have been undertaken to build women agencies and women leaders. They were then organized and empowered to claim their rights and fight back gender based violence.

*Women keeping their issues in the conferences.* ↑

*Slum women of Kathmandu engaged in mason training by breaking the stereotype gender division of labour.* ←



*Women keeping minute in community ReFLECT circle  
Lorkha, Baitadi*



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.

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



Mahila Adhikar Manch (MAM) with approximately 50,000 members and its existence in 32 districts 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 gender based violence and enabling women to respond to the incidences of violence.

*MAM in a march to celebrate 16 days of activism against gender based violence*  
Pokhara, Kaski



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.



Community Child Care Centers (CCCCs) are established to redistribute women's unequal workload of taking care of the children. By sending children to CCCC, women are now receiving more leisure time to engage in productive work and enhance their livelihood.

*Community Child Care Center established in Bardiya*



Contributed by different awareness programmes, 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.

*Girls engaged in preparing handmade sanitary pads after receiving training on it*



It is never too late to continue education and work.

*50 years old mother, Sita and her daughter studying in the same class together  
Gajaheda, Kapilvastu*



**RESULTS**  
Quality Education in a Safe  
and Equitable Environment



Promoting Rights in School (PRS) and its orientation to School Management Committee (SMC), Parent Teacher Association (PTA), child club members, teachers, parents, students and community people have encouraged them to collectively involve and improve the quality of education. Now, the PTA, SMC and the community people themselves 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.



Three way relationship between the students, teachers and parents to help children learn both at homes and in schools

*Building Parent-Teacher Relationship  
A student with his mother (left) and teacher (right) in the background  
Shree Rastriya Higher Secondary School, Nawalparasi*



Use of computers and modern technologies in schools help students to widen their knowledge and understanding. Browsing online resources is equally important for the students as like as the text books.

*Distribution of computers for better learning  
Shree Rastriya Secondary School  
Daharberiya, Kailali*



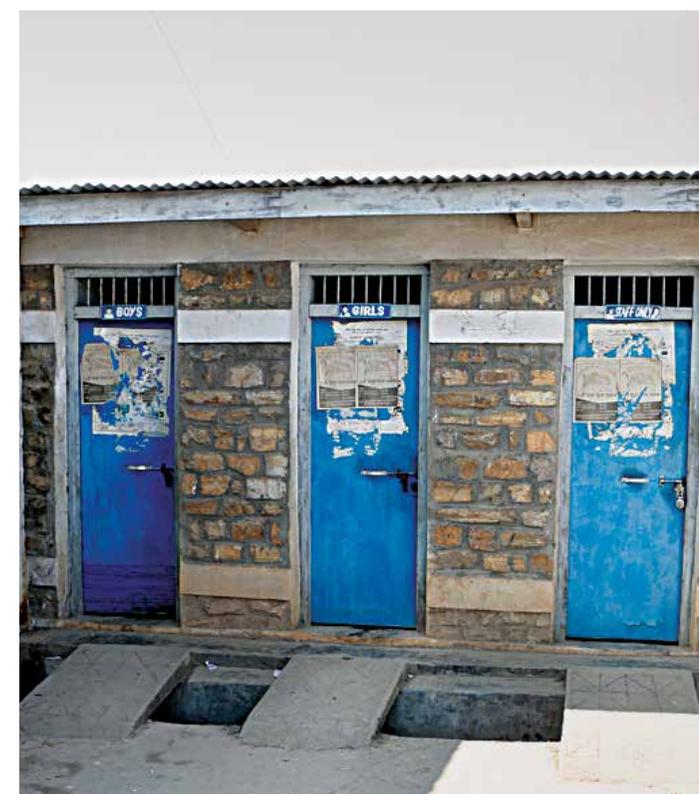
Girls' enrollment in schools has significantly increased over the years. The Gender Parity Index in Net Enrollment Rate at primary level has reached 0.99.

*Source: Flash I REPORT 2072*



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, Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDCs) are constructed as a pilot project in Kaski to ensure both the education and child rights of under 5 years old.

*ECDC, Kaski as a new approach to child friendly teaching-learning environment, which considers more than just imparting formal education*



Considering the classroom's extreme indoor climatic conditions, extreme hot in Terai and extreme cold in the Mountains as one of the factors of students' absenteeism and their drop-outs, construction of Green School was adopted with a concept of green technology, 'Compressed Stabilized Earth Building' (CSEB). The technology ensures climate responsiveness and environment friendliness of the building. Additionally, it is also disaster resilient and cost effective.

*AAN's support to construct Green School, Banke ↑*

Girl friendly toilets constructed in schools have resulted significant improvement in girls' education by increasing their enrollment and reducing their absenteeism at times of menstruation and/or reducing their school dropouts. Further, efforts are also made to facilitate schools with first aid and sanitary pads.





As illiteracy is one of the causes of oppression, exploitation and continuing impoverishment, Non Formal Education (NFE) through adult literacy class is organized to make people literate and socially conscious. It is a matter of pride for AAN as many who joined the formal classes via NFE are known figures today in their respective communities. An example is Ms. Dolma Lama, who became a Constituent Assembly member in 2008.



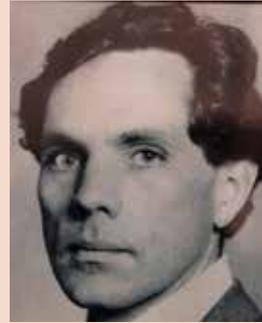


**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## AAN's Country Directors

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**Mr. Roland (RIP) Hordson**  
1982-1985



**Mr. Sam Osmond**  
1986-1987



**Mr. Neil Walton**  
1987-1991



**Mr. Nigel Twose**  
1991-1992



**Mr. Ramesh Singh**  
1993-1997



**Dr. Ramesh Jung Khadka**  
1997-2000



**Dr. Shibesh Chandra Regmi**  
2001-2007



**Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal**  
2007-till date

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## AAN's National Board of Governance elected through 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, 2016

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**Prof. Subas KC**  
Chair



**Ms. Lajana Manandhar**  
Vice Chair



**Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal**  
General Secretary



**Mr. Shekhar Ghimire**  
Treasurer



**Ms. Archana Tamang Lama**  
Member



**Mr. Ekraj Chaudhary**  
Member



**Dr. Mukta Singh Lama**  
Member



**Dr. Nirmala KC**  
Member



**Ms. Surya Kumari Gurung**  
Member



I am pleased to share that ActionAid Nepal is on the grounds from 35 years and is committed towards fighting poverty and social injustices through human rights based approach of empowering the poor and excluded and make them able to claim and exercise their rights.

For this, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Nepal, Social Welfare Council, our partner NGOs, ActionAid International Secretariat, AAN's National Board of Governance and the local communities for standing together in our combined and constructive struggle. Further, my sincere gratitude also goes to all the existing and ex-staff, volunteers, supporters and well-wishers for their untiring dedication, hard work and contribution to support AAN's mission.

Wishing Solidarity and Peace!

**BIMAL KUMAR PHNUYAL**  
Country Director





## PHOTO STORY

Equitable Actions to End Poverty

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