

# REFLECTIONS AND LEARNING



2022

## **Reflections and Learning 2022**

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REFLECTIONS  
AND LEARNING  
2022

## ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL NEPAL

ActionAid International Nepal is an anti-poverty, human rights-based organisation established in 1982. It is a non-Governmental national social justice organisation rooted and working locally in different parts and regions of Nepal. It is a member of ActionAid International federation. AAIN is also part of both national and global social justice movement and, other civil society networks, alliances and coalitions.

# Action for Social Justice



### VISION

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

### PROGRAMME IMPACT FRAMEWORK

**RIGHTS REPRESENTATION REDISTRIBUTION RESILIENCE**

### MISSION

Achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion and their communities, organisations and movements.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

- Active agency, empowerment and movement building
- Engagement, solidarity and support
- Advocacy and campaign
- Alternative building



### INTERNAL ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

#### ORGANISATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND CULTURE

- Governance leadership from National Board
- Promote culture of diversity and harness skilled human resources
- Embrace innovation and digital transformation

#### ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

#### DIVERSIFYING FUNDING BASE

- International Child Sponsorship / Unrestricted funding
- Institutional funding / Restricted funding
- Engagement with private and corporate sector

#### PROMOTE SAFEGUARDING AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT, EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (SHEA)

#### ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE BUILDING

#### PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT

#### WE WORK WITH

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

#### WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS

- Reduce care work of women and advocate for Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS).
- Safety, security, and dignity of women and girls
- Decent work and rights of women labourers

#### RESILIENCE AGAINST DISASTERS

- Strengthen local capacity to reduce the risk of disasters
- Enhance humanitarian response
- Promote safe school standards

#### PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

#### QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Strengthen school governance
- Increase child participation through Child Clubs and Youth agency
- Advance education financing for public education

#### RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD

- Advance green solution through agriculture and off-farm livelihood
- Promote women friendly market system
- Climate justice

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# ACRONYMS

AAIN	ActionAid International Nepal
DMC	Disaster Management Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
LRP	Local Rights Programme
OCMC	One Stop Crisis Management Center
PRS	Promoting Rights in School
PVA	Participatory Vulnerability Assessment
REFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques
SMC	School Management Committee
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls



# GLOSSARY

**Chhaupadi:** *Chhaupadi* is a tradition of considering girls/women as 'impure' during their menstruation and soon after childbirth and segregating them to stay away from home.

**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. AAIN 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.

**LRP:** Our long-term programmes in particular districts and communities; AAIN refers to all of its programmes as rights programmes, which may be implemented at local, national and international levels.

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

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

**PRS:** It is a framework produced by the Right to Education Project together with ActionAid's International Education Team, aimed at actively engaging parents, children, teachers' unions, communities and local civil society organisations 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.





*Sujeeta*

**Sujeeta Mathema**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Nirmala*

**Dr. Nirmala KC**  
BOARD CHAIR

# MESSAGE

Dear All,  
Namaste!!

It is our great pleasure to share with you our Reflections and Learning 2022. It includes our efforts, best practices and achievements over the year.

ActionAid International Nepal entered into its 40th year in 2022. Since 1982, it has been amazing years for AAIN 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. The year 2022 was also a remarkable one with ample number of achievements on the issues of Women's Rights, Quality Public Education, Resilient Livelihood and Resilience against Disasters.

AAIN's coordination with Women's Rights Forums, who are playing an important role of community watchdog to stop Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) was very effective. The VAWG cases reported in the communities were



jointly facilitated for legal procedures. Empowering young girls on the adverse consequences of child marriage was very helpful to bring the change within themselves and in the communities. Initiatives on gender responsive public services and establishment of Community Child Care Center were successful to address the challenges of UCW. Similarly, advocacy on the rights of women labourers was effective to demand equal pay for equal work, and safety and protection of informal sector women workers.

The District and National level Citizen Education Reports produced in AAIN's facilitation became evidence-based documents to inform concerned stakeholders about the status and gaps of public education and their roles to improve them. The Child Learning Centers established by AAIN helped to enhance the education of poor and marginalized students as well as their regularity in schools, who used to be usually

absent due to their poor performance in studies. Remedial classes conducted by trained youth were successful in recovering the learning loss during COVID-19. This helped not only to increase the students' learning achievements but has also enhanced volunteerism among youth.

The financial literacy training provided to community women as well as start-up fund support were helpful to initiate their small-scale enterprises and earn for their livelihood. After a series of advocacy, promotion of sustainable agriculture practices were translated in the field. On the other hand, discussion on climate change organized in Climate Justice Network stressed that climate change is actually a 'justice' issue and not just an 'environment' issue.

The trainings provided to women and youth on the basics of DRR and Humanitarian Actions were helpful while mobilizing them in the communities. They supported to impart knowledge on lifesaving skills and

mock drills. They are also officially recognized and included in the roster of respective Municipality and/or District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), making them eligible to contribute during humanitarian response. Further, relief materials were supported to 1,557 families affected by cold wave, flood, fire, landslide, and lightening in 15 palikas of 10 districts.

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

# WORKING AREAS OF ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL NEPAL IN 2022

## PROJECTS



WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROGRAMME II  
(SAMUNNATI)



ENDING AGRICULTURAL  
BONDED LABOUR



PROVIDING ACCESS TO WATER  
SUPPLY TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS  
AND SANITATION



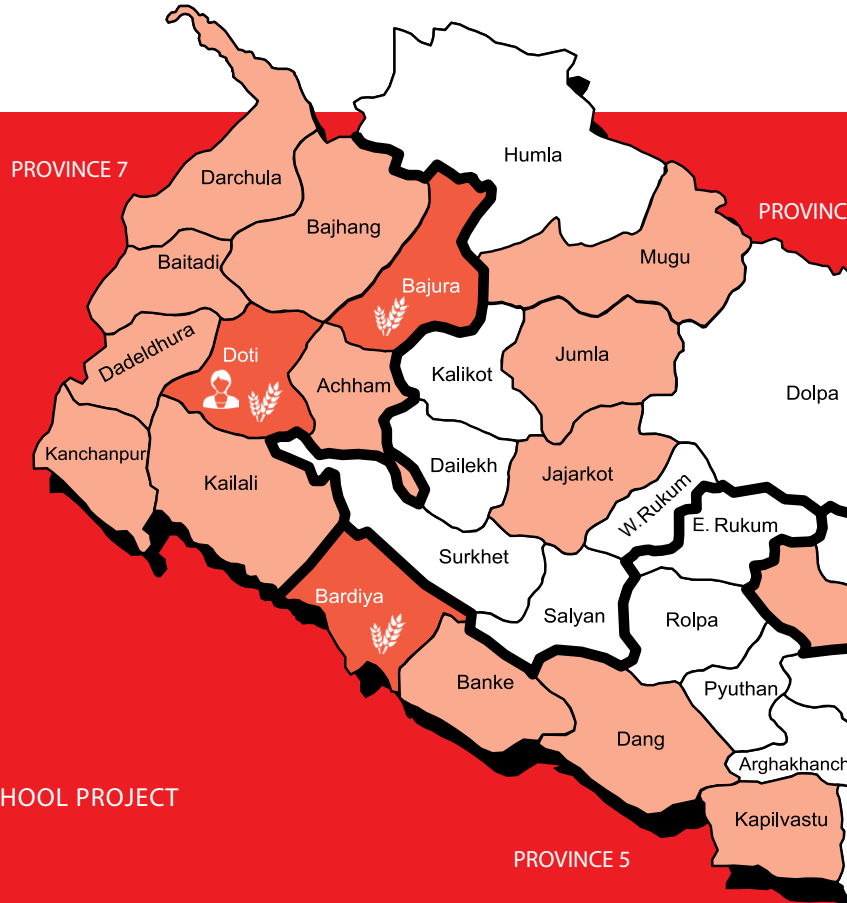
THE TAXED ALLIANCE  
( EDUCATION OUT LOUD-EOL)



PALPA SCHOOL PROJECT



MAKING IT WORK FOR  
WOMEN (PHASE III)



Local Rights Programme (LRP)



Ongoing - LRPs



Past - LRP HRBA Initiatives

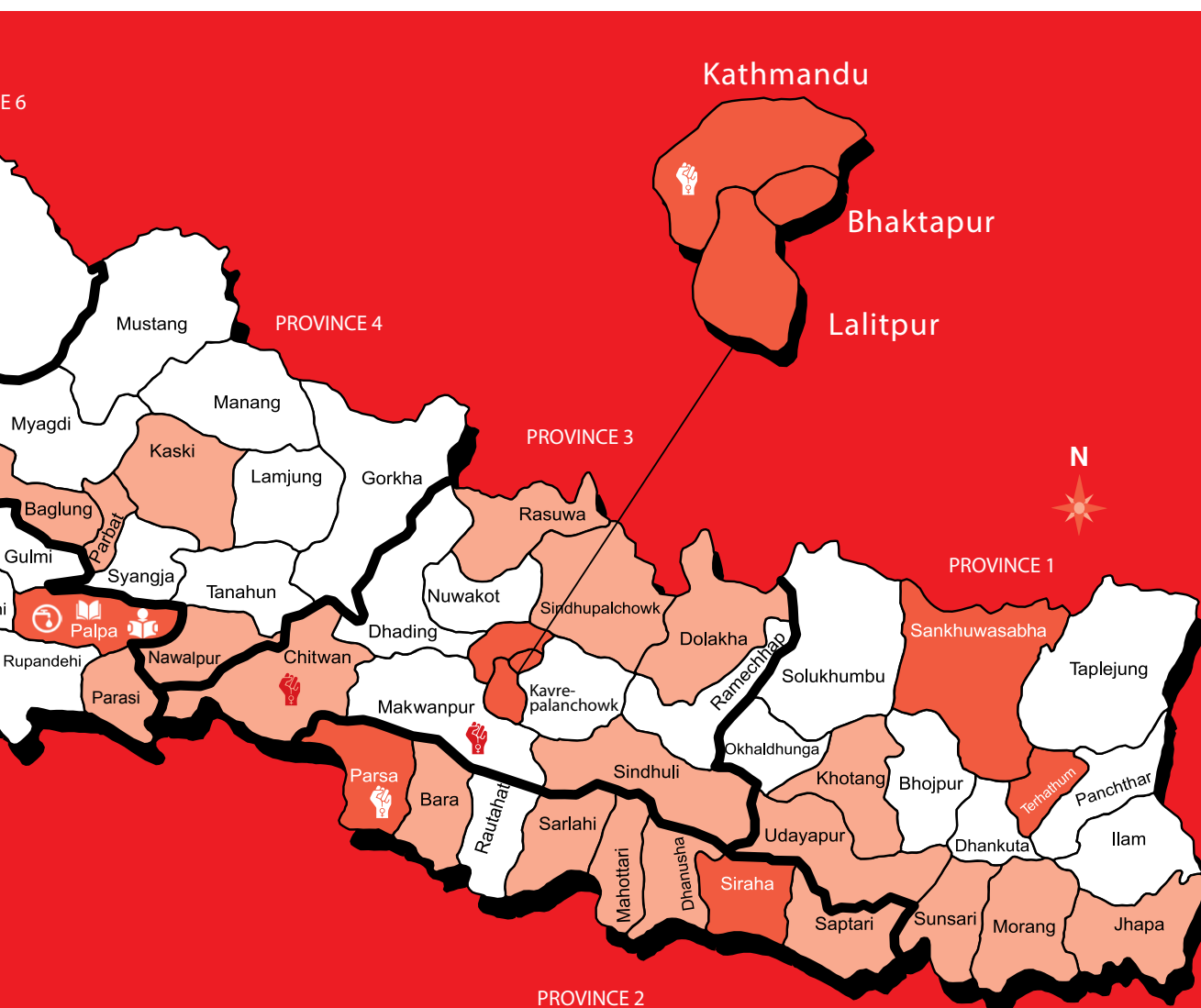
## AAIN'S PROGRAMME DETAILS

13  
DISTRICTS

11  
TOTAL LRPs

12  
LRP PARTNERS

08  
PROJECT PARTNERS



# KEY QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

# 2022

## Women's Right

**5519**

Women and girls mobilized to lead action against VAWG and secure justice

**121**

VAWG cases facilitated through legal process

**2030**

Women labourers capacitated on labour rights, leadership, advocacy and campaign

**448**

Local Government representatives and service providers capacitated on gender-friendly systems, structures and processes

**1443**

Community members capacitated on Unpaid Care Work of women to promote culture to recognize, respect, redistribute and reduce the burden

**27**

Alternative models established to reduce the burden of care work of women (like Community Child Care Center, community mill, community tap/well)

**29**

Supported to strengthen services like OCMC, health post, toll free number, gender desk, safe house at working areas

**493**

Service providers capacitated to strengthen referral pathway, OCMCs, develop GESI policy and GBV Elimination Fund at local level

**69**

Adolescent boys, youths, priests, traditional healers, and community leaders capacitated on feminist leadership, gender equality and harmful traditional practices

## Education

**169**

Public schools supported with teaching learning materials, digital equipment, ICT materials, and child-friendly infrastructure

**172**

Teachers trained on Child Centered Learning

**1504**

Scholarship provided to marginalized children to support their education and improve opportunities for a better future

**303**

Youth volunteers run remedial classes for learning recovery caused by COVID-19

**5845**

Children benefitted through remedial class from 42 selected public schools

**3131**

Children engaged in development activities and ensured child rights through 131 child clubs

**1077**

Youth activists developed to demonstrate leadership in the areas of climate justice, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian assistance from 6 youth hub

**47**

Public schools improved learning outcomes through ActionAid's engagement

**38**

Produced citizen's education report



## Livelihood

50

Formed and strengthened new saving credit groups to promote financial literacy and empowerment

632

Small holder farmers provided with agricultural equipment and other direct support to help them in generating income

94

Household supported for cattle shed and compost improvement

06

Water reservoir constructed to provide water storage to be used for various purposes

621

Youth and women trained on entrepreneurship development, skill development and access to finance

10

Women friendly markets established to provide women with safe and accessible spaces to engage on business and promote their economic alternatives

829

Entrepreneurs along with 83% women provided with financial literacy and business counselling to compete their business

152

Cooperative member trained to improve their skills in managing cooperatives efficiently

467

Women collective entrepreneurs provided with small grants/revolving fund to start agriculture and non-agriculture-based initiatives

**1442** Women and their collective members capacitated and supported to promote agroecology, organic farming and Good Agriculture Practices

# The Country Context


Nepal plans to graduate from a low-income country to a middle-income country by 2026. However, the country is facing economic hardships due to trade imbalance as its share of import is 90.13%, while that of export is 9.17%. Nearly 17.4% of the Nepalese are living below poverty line. However, COVID-19 pandemic followed by high inflation intensified the cost-of-living and threatened additional 31.2% Nepali population living close to the poverty line with a high risk of falling into extreme poverty. Similarly, after the world came back to normal post COVID-19, youth migration for abroad employment was expected to decrease but on contrary, it increased hugely by 169.9%.

In 2022, Nepal had gone through elections in all three: local, provincial and federal levels of the Government. Through the elections, we could clearly observe that the mainstream political parties are still reluctant to commit women's representation in the leadership positions. The number of women's nominations was noticeably low compared to men, which directly led to the election of fewer women.

According to the elections' result, only 9 women were elected out of 165 seats of the House of Representatives and just 14 out of 330 provincial assembly members. In 2017, a total of 700 women were elected either as Deputy Mayor or Vice-Chair, but this year, the number has decreased to 562. Likewise, only 69 wards out of 6743 got women Ward Chair, which is just 1.02% representation.

According to Nepal Police, crimes against women and girls increased at an alarming rate, with 21,568 cases reported between July 2021 to July 2022. Despite the larger scale of GBV in Nepal, its survivors have limited access to help and the existing organisations operate with very minimal resources. One Stop Crisis Management Center (OCMC) offers health care, psychosocial counselling, legal protection, and rehabilitation to the survivors but there are only 88 OCMCs across Nepal, and many of them face challenges like poor infrastructure and lack of training to staff.

An analytical report published by the Central Bureau of Statistics shows that out of 3.22 million persons employed in the country,



25.8% are engaged in the informal sector. However, the contribution-based Social Security Scheme launched 4 years ago currently benefits only formal employees. Thus, labour rights organisations have been demanding extension of the coverage to the informal and self-employed sectors. It is now set to expand and include migrant workers, informal sector workers and self-employed persons in its membership.

On education sector, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and National Federation of Rural Municipalities to improve the access and quality of education that will contribute for effective implementation of School Education Sector Plan (SESP) at local level. Likewise, the Government has allocated only 10.95% of the National budget to education sector, which is very low as per the international commitment of at least 20%.

Similarly, basic infrastructure such as classroom, toilet, drinking water, library and digital equipment are

still not adequate in public schools. Learning environment in class and home is also not conducive for the children, especially for those who belong to poor and marginalized families. This has compelled them to drop out from school and earn for livelihood.

However, Local Governments had initiated some positive actions to ensure quality education in public schools. Province 1 Government had made an effort to introduce digitalization in public schools and *Beti Bachau, Beti Padhau* (Stop Female Foeticide and Educate Girls) campaign in Madhesh Province was successful to promote girls' education in the Province. Majority of the Local Governments had initiated *Paddai Kamaudai* (learn and earn) initiatives, complaint hearing mechanism, day meal up to Grade 6, girls' friendly infrastructure and arrangement of free sanitary pads in school. On contrary, the Local Governments allocate even less budget for education, which is insufficient to meet all the requirements of ensuring quality education in public schools.

During COVID-19, the students had to face learning loss, but their grades were automatically upgraded. However, the Local Governments are not taking any initiative to recover the loss, and this has become one of the reasons behind gradual decline in the students' learning achievements.

In terms of agriculture, less rainfall had affected farmers in their cultivation, especially for the rice plantation. On the other hand, although both the Local and Federal Governments have prioritized and increased their budget on agriculture subsidy, selection of right person is questionable.

Kamaiya and Haliya practices started and existed due to economic inequalities in the communities until their emancipation by the Government. Despite cancellation of their loans, those communities continued to struggle economically and compelled them to go back and work as agricultural labourers. Youth from both communities have found livelihood opportunities in India and Gulf countries. However,

COVID-19 forced them to return home and now, they are facing the challenge to find employment back home.

Globally, Nepal falls under a country with high risk in terms of natural disasters. Every year, it has to face multiple disasters like landslide, flood, lightening, fire outbreak etc. For instance, this year's flood in Bardiya affected thousands of families. The destructive impact shows that the local Government is weak to respond and mitigate the risk of disaster.

The November 2022 earthquake of 6.6 Richter Scale with epicenter in Doti affected 5 adjoining districts. According to National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, it fully damaged 4646 houses, affected more than 52,000 people and had casualties of 6. Meanwhile, due to Federal and Provincial election code of conduct, all support materials were encouraged to be delivered to District Administration Office, Doti, which would later be distributed to the affected people. However, it was observed that the approach

was ineffective, and the affected people were not supported as per humanitarian principles.

In AAIN's western working districts, prolonged dry period increased the temperature as well as the chances of the spread of epidemic. It also dried up water sources, affecting the crops and increased unpaid care work of fetching drinking water from distance. On the other hand, haphazard road construction triggered landslides in multiple places and blocked the roads temporarily.

This year, three major conferences on disaster namely, Global Platform on DRR, Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR, and Conference of Party (COP)-27 clearly indicated the nexus of disaster and climate change. With changing climate, the climate induced disaster is increasing, which demands more investment on risk reduction, early warning system, promotion of indigenous knowledge for risk reduction, and localization of disaster risk governance.





# WOMEN'S RIGHTS

*A group of women taking the lead in empowering women and fighting against violence in Makwanpur*

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)**

AAIN has been coordinating with Women's Rights Forums (WRF) to combat and advocate the cases of VAWG. This year, 271 cases of violence were reported and 183 of them received justice from the court and judicial committee. WRF played a major role in facilitating their legal procedures. In the critical cases of rape, 2 survivors were provided with financial support for immediate medical treatment and referred to OCMC and police for further legal assistance. AAIN provided capacity building programmes to WRF members and technical support to local Government during GBV elimination fund operation guideline drafting process and while setting up toll free number and relief fund in *Palikas* for survivor centric approach.

*Workshop in Kathmandu on the improvement and effectiveness of OCMC services to GBV survivors.*

One of the women's groups in Palpa succeeded in conducting a second marriage of a widow, which was considered a taboo in the community. The group also counseled her family and supported to start a new life. In Paterwa Sugauli Rural Municipality, Parsa, domestic violence due to alcohol consumption by males exist. So, the local women groups started a campaign to blow a whistle in front

of the house where such violence was noticed. This initiative has helped to gradually minimize the use of alcohol in the community, which also contributed to decrease the incidents of domestic violence.

One-stop Crisis Management Center (OCMC) is one of the services provisioned by Nepal Government which is designed to follow a multi-



sectoral and locally coordinated approach through which GBV survivors are expected to receive all the services in one place. Effective functioning of OCMCs is still a matter of concern in many centers of the country. Henceforth, AAIN jointly with local partner, HomeNet Nepal conducted a workshop on the improvement and effectiveness of OCMC services to GBV survivors. 43 participants from 15 districts with representation from the Ministry of Health and Population, National Women's Rights Forum, OCMC focal persons/in-charge, medical doctors, counselors, polices, lawyers, CSOs, Safe House and women's rights activists participated in the workshop. Similarly, trainings on effective GBV case management were provided to health personnel and staff of OCMCs in Bardiya, Kathmandu and Parsa.

AAIN and its local partners in Siraha, Terhathum and Doti coordinated with the local Governments and supported to draft GBV elimination fund guidelines. The women's groups had also advocated for the fund. As a result, Athrai Municipality, Terhathum allocated NPR 1 lakh and KI Singh Rural Municipality allocated NPR 50,000 for the GBV elimination fund.

## CASE STUDY: BREAKING THE TABOO THROUGH MENSTRUAL EDUCATION

Shova Parki (18) of Dipayal Silgadhi Rural Municipality, Doti, who went through the agony of *Chhaupadi* system since her first period can now enjoy her menstruation days at home. This was possible due to the adolescent empowerment and *Chhaupadi* practice eliminating programme of AAIN and its local partner, EDC.

The programme gave opportunities to Shova and other young girls from her community to learn about SRHR and menstrual hygiene. She also learnt that *v* practice is a punishable crime. With this knowledge, Shova was able to convince her mother to drop the practice and sleep in her own room during period. This achievement made her more determined to eliminate the social evil from her community. So together with her girl's group members, she carried out various campaigns. After a lot of struggles, the tables have certainly turned around for the young girls and women in her village. These days, women and girls in her community sleep in their homes and eat healthy food unlike the prohibition in the past. Girls go to school during their periods and the schools have also arranged provision of sanitary pads for them.

Shova reflects, "I was 11 years old when I got my first period. At that time, I was locked inside a dark room for 22 days. I envied my friends who were free to go to school and play around. As a child, I was very scared and used to cry day and night. I am sure that so many young girls like me have gone through such sufferings in my community."

She adds, "the awareness raising programme to the mother's group where my mother is also a member, the mobilization of traditional healers and the watch group against *Chhaupadi* practice had played a key role in changing the mindset and breaking the taboo. This needs a continuous effort and I aspire to do so."



*Happy Shova and her friend with the provision of sanitary pad in school.*



*Workshop to develop referral mechanism for effective response to GBV cases.*

Similarly, AAIN and its local partners of Bardiya and Palpa facilitated the local Governments to develop their referral mechanism for effective response to GBV cases. A workshop was organized for it with the participation of elected local representatives and other concerned stakeholders. The referral mechanism has become a guiding document for local authorities and service providers to take into account while dealing and referring the GBV cases in a more effective way.

In Bajura and Doti, the child club members performed drama on the myths and discriminatory practices of *Chhaupadi*. The difficult situations that the girls have to face during their periods were depicted in the drama. After watching it, the school principals of Bajura internalized the fact and are exploring for funds to construct girls' friendly toilets in schools.

### **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR)**

Young people and adolescents are likely to be exposed to various risks if they lack good knowledge on physical, mental and emotional changes that occur during adolescence. Early marriage is also the result of inadequate knowledge on the effects of child marriage.

Therefore, local partner organisations, KMJS (Bardiya) and SRDCN (Palpa) conducted training on sexual and reproductive health rights for 126 youth and

adolescents. After receiving a 3-day training, youth of Bardiya were mobilized as peer educators and provided the step-down training to 130 adolescent girls and boys from 9 child clubs. The training played an effective role in creating safe space among youth to share their SRHR problems through peer-to-peer education. Earlier, they used to hesitate and hide them. It also helped to internalize the implication of early marriage and how it affects their life and wellbeing.

Discussions on SRHR problems among women were done in community REFLECT circles of Doti, in which information on available free services in public health institutions were provided. As a result, 112 pregnant women of the district's working areas are receiving free treatment services and now the home delivery has also dropped to zero. Similarly, 74 women with kidney problems were operated free of charge and 24 women with reproductive health problems received free treatment services. A camp for the check-up of uterus prolapse was also conducted in 3 Municipalities of Doti in coordination with the district hospital. Out of 308 women being benefitted, 217 of them belonged to dalit and poor families.



*Youth engaged in a campaign against Rape.*

*Street drama for mass awareness on adverse effects of child marriage.*



In Siraha, 2 public health centers were supported with health equipment and materials worth NPR 1,00,400 to improvise their gender sensitive services. They were provided with pregnancy test equipment, weighting machines, hospital beds, chairs and curtains. This year, 205 women (lactating mother-120 and pregnant women-85) were benefitted from the health centers.

Further, 86 adolescent girls of Doti started preparing and using homemade sanitary pads, which are cheaper than the commercial ones. They were provided training for it and this has helped to check their school absenteeism during menstruation. They are also making some income by selling them. Similarly, after series of advocacy and campaign, the mindset of people in considering menstruation as a taboo is slowly changing. They are accepting women to sleep inside the home and consume milk and curd during their periods, which were not allowed earlier.

In Chitwan, the young people, especially girls mentioned that they had to face harassment through social media, and many had stopped using it while some had even deleted

their accounts. To mitigate the problem, sensitization programmes were organized for adolescent boys and girls in 2 schools of Madi and Kalika Municipalities, in which the pros and cons of social media, safe ways of using it, reporting options, security setting, dedicated free hotline numbers etc. were taught. The events were facilitated by representatives of Illaka Police Office and participated by 116 youth (68 girls and 48 boys).

### **CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE**

In Palpa, adolescent girls' groups and networks are playing a significant role in reducing and fighting gender-based violence and child marriage. They also provided capacity building awareness to the communities and counselling services as per the need. If anyone was found practicing child marriage, then they facilitated the legal process in coordination with local Government.

In one of the cases, a 15-year-old girl was about to get married by her parents. She reported it to the adolescent girls' group and the members of the group went to the girl's house and informed her parents that it is an illegal offence. The group also said that a police complaint might be registered if they continue with it. This helped the girl to escape from an early marriage.

In Siraha, a network of 120 adolescent girls was mobilized in an anti-child marriage campaign. They performed street dramas for mass awareness and provided capacity building orientations on its legal provisions to 59 priests and traditional healers. The network was able to stop 12 incidents of child marriage. It also coordinated with Dhangadhi Mae Municipality to draft anti-dowry and child marriage procedure at *Palika* level. The Municipality has formed a 5-member drafting committee for the task.

## DECENT WORK AND RIGHTS OF WOMEN LABOURERS

With an objective to bring the informal sector women workers at one place and make them capable to raise their voice against any kind of discrimination and exploitation at work and demand for their rights, REFLECT circles with 932 informal sector women labourers were formed in 10 working districts. They are now taking collective actions to demand fair wages and safety and protection of informal sector women workers. Various capacity building trainings to women labourers on labour policies and procedures and

meetings with local Governments and stakeholders were organized.

The campaign is able to bring some positive change like in Doti, women's wages have increased from NRP 400 to 600 per day and men and women have started to get equal wages for equal work. Similarly, Lahan Municipality has issued a letter to implement the minimum wages provisioned by Nepal Government to all 24 wards and Dhangadhi Mai Municipality has set up a physical space and labour desk at *Palika* for complaint registration. The labour desk

has been established in Terhathum as well. In Bardiya, 19 workers (14 women and 5 men) who were not receiving daily wages as per the minimum wage rate got back their compensation amount after filing a complaint in Judicial Committee.

In Budanilkantha Municipality, Kathmandu, 43 informal sector workers have registered their labour and received identity cards. This has been possible after series of community awareness programmes about the essence of registration and continuous pressure from women



*Empowering women today, for a brighter tomorrow - Developing the next generation of women's rights leaders.*

workers, AAIN and its local partner, NMES. In Doti, 178 household workers were provided with labour insurance for their professional safety. At present, attitude towards working women has changed in the workplace. Contractors or any other men do not forcefully touch, speak abusive words or tease women workers. Mothers having small children are also allowed to go home and feed their babies during working hours.

### DEVELOPING WOMEN'S RIGHTS LEADERS

This year, 56 women were able to represent themselves in various committees of local Government. AAIN and its partner organisations continued their leadership development initiatives to community women's groups.

In Tehrathum, 35 women from women and youth network were able to hold different positions in local election and 3 members were elected in major positions (Provincial level law maker, Deputy Mayor and Ward Chair). Likewise, 3 women were able to represent themselves in school management committee. In Palpa, 11 women from different groups were successful to be elected in Ward and *Palka* level Local Government structure.

In Doti, 127 women from different groups (out of them 82 were Dalits) had joined the road, water supply and tunnel construction and consumer committees. Among them, 38 women (including 20 Dalits) had taken leadership positions and completed projects worth NPR 8 lakhs.

### UNPAID CARE WORK (UCW)

353 women from 18 groups in Palpa were capacitated on the role of individual, family and state for the recognition, redistribution, representation and reduction of unpaid care work. They were also made aware that an unequal distribution of unpaid care work and gender roles left women behind in all the development and empowerment process including capacity building, maintaining healthy life and engaging in productive work. The discussions were done through REFLECT circles followed by development of action plans to reduce workload of women. Use of time diary was also done to analyze the time spent by men and women on unpaid care work. The participants had mentioned that it was helpful to identify, realize and internalize the issue. As a result, men and mother-in-laws have started sharing household chores. Earlier, majority of the men used to spend their time on playing cards and chatting with peers.



*Discussion with informal sector workers in Siraha to advocate for receiving minimum wage rate ensured by the Government.*

In Parsa, family sensitization programmes were conducted through meetings with parents and home visits in 25 households to orient them on distributing household chores equally between their sons and daughters. Majority of the cases of child marriage, especially among girls as well as their school absenteeism/dropouts were noticed due to their overburden in household chores.

To reduce women's domestic and care workload, AAIN and its partner organisations are continuously advocating for gender responsive alternative public services. This year in Shankharapur Municipality,

*Women in Doti engage in a discussion on unpaid care work.*



Kathmandu, one water reservoir tank was constructed with necessary pipe connection to reduce the workload of fetching drinking water from distance. It has also supported for irrigation and benefited 30 households. Similarly, in Churlung, Palpa, water supply was connected to 28 houses with the support of NPR 1 Lakh from AAIN and NPR 3 Lakhs from Tansen Municipality.

This year, 12 community mills to grind rice and wheat were installed in Sankhuwasabha and Terhathum, benefitting 342 households. Earlier, women had to walk long distance through forests and had a fear

of wild animal attack as well as harassment from people. The mills have not only saved women's time and workload, but they have also become a good source of additional income as the responsibility to run them is taken by women's groups.

Establishment of Community Child Care Center (CCCC) is the other initiative that has helped women to reduce their workload of taking care of their children. For the sustainability of CCCC, a committee led by a local group in Doti accumulated NPR 28,000 and AAIN supported NPR 1 Lakh. In Bardiya, the local Government bodies supported CCCC and provided financial assistance for its operation and meet the expenses of two facilitators. They also supported the center with playing materials and day meals.

It has been noticed that there is a rise in the number of parents keeping their children in CCCC. For instance, the number of children in 5 CCCCs of Geruwa Rural Municipality,



*Campaign for the recognition, redistribution, representation and reduction of Unpaid Care Work.*



*Grinding mill support in the community to get the work done comfortably without travelling long distances.*

Bardiya was 91 last year, which has now increased to 112. This has helped women to get engaged in various income generating activities like weaving, vegetable farming, participating in community meetings etc.

A public hearing event was organized in Lalitpur to advocate the issue of unpaid care work and ensure its wider dissemination. The event was participated by 105 people including the Mayor of Lalitpur, representatives from different ministries, National Planning Commission, human rights

activists, public representatives from different wards and the housewives who have suffered the most due to unpaid care work. Further, video stories on UCW from different households of Chitwan and Makwanpur were produced in different episodes and broadcasted through National television.

### **WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND POLICY ADVOCACY**

AAIN and its local partner, NMES is supporting Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Madhyapur Thimi Municipality and Budhanilkantha Municipality to prepare GESI policy since 2021. This year, the policy of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality was handed over to its chief administrator, Deputy Mayor and women and children's department after incorporating suggestions received from the Municipality's

executive committee in 2021. The policy has also been included in the red book of Budhanilkantha Municipality.

With an objective of bringing the major issues, needs and concerns of informal sector women workers to mainstream, AAIN and its local partner, HNN jointly organized a two-day workshop in Kathmandu. The event's first day focused on capacitating informal sector workers and bringing out the issues, gaps and challenges that they are facing. Similarly, the second day was a dialogue with key stakeholders representing Government bodies, trade unions, ILO and development organisations, where they presented their agenda along with recommendations for a just

*Workshop in Kathmandu to bring major issues, needs and concerns of informal sector women workers to the mainstream.*





and fair working environment. There were around 40 informal workers' participation representing from various sectors; agriculture, construction, home-based workers, entertainment, catering, domestic workers and self-employment workers.

A huge gap in identification of informal sector workers i.e., no registration of informal sector workers was the major issue raised in the event. Similarly, issues of unequal and unfair wage, and unsafe and insecure workplace where discrimination, stigma and violence against women workers exist were discussed. Lack of employee's insurance, medical treatment, complaint mechanism and separate toilets, changing room and breastfeeding rooms were the major gender responsive service gaps raised in the event.

Social protection was another major issue that was discussed and brought in the forum. The complication in registering Social Security Fund for informal sector workers and the unavailability of occupational health safety measures and equipment to workers are some more issues depriving informal workers from their labour rights. Therefore, they recommended and demanded Government bodies to implement the existing laws and prioritize registration of informal sector workers.

## CASE STUDY: HASINA'S FIGHT AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE

Hasina Khatun (18) of Paterwa Sugauli Rural Municipality, Parsa was engaged to her relative's son by her parents when she was just 6-day old infant. Later, her family performed a formal engagement ritual when she was about to get 15 years old.

During the ritual, she was a member of child club formed by AAIN's local partner, DYC. Through the club, she participated in various awareness programmes and got informed about the negative consequences of child marriage and also the legal age of getting married. This helped her to oppose her parents' decision and inform them that child marriage is a punishable crime. She also requested her parents to allow her to continue her education.

Now, Hasina studies in Grade 11 and is a member of a youth group. She is engaged in various awareness raising activities from the group and is contributing actively for counseling the parents of young girls and stop child marriage. She says, "I have understood the importance of education and the role of youth in stopping the harmful traditional practices. I am thankful to AAIN and DYC for empowering me to challenge and stop child marriage, and other social malpractices like dowry and GBV."



*Hasina engaged in a door-to-door awareness campaign against child marriage.*

# QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

## COMPLEMENTING QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS), an overarching framework that highlights the charter of 10 rights of education was used to assess the quality of education and school governance. On the basis of PRS, 31 Citizen Education Reports were produced in Doti, Bardiya, Palpa, Parsa, Siraha and Terhathum and its consolidated National level report was also prepared and disseminated.

The reports focus on key findings of school governance, gender sensitive school services, basic school facilities and infrastructure, education financing and quality teaching learning which can further be used as advocacy tools. The reports were shared among local stakeholders to inform them about the status and gaps of public education



and the roles that they could play to improve them. Individual interviews and focused group discussions with elected representatives, officials from education department, school headmasters, teachers, members of School Management Committee (SMC), Teacher-Parent Association, and students were conducted to collect information for the preparation of Citizen Education Reports.

In Siraha, Lahan Municipality declared to allocate additional 5% budget (25% of its total budget) in public education sector after the findings of CER were shared with local stakeholders. The

Municipality also declared that it will monitor public schools and ask them to stop if they are found charging fees from students.

In Doti, Bardiya and Siraha, school enrollment campaign was organized in coordination with local Governments, SMCs, PTAs and child clubs. Door to door sensitization programme was organized, which identified dropped out children and also those who are on the verge of leaving school due to financial challenges. The issue was discussed in the meeting and sensitized parents to continue their children's education.



*Teachers undergo training on learning materials to enhance their teaching skills.*



*School enrollment campaign to sensitize communities on an essence of education.*

In Bardiya, a jingle on school enrollment was developed and aired through local radio station.

In Bardiya, five schools conducted their self-assessment by organizing discussions with parents, SMCs, teachers and students on the status of school performance, annual targets and way forward. The issues identified were then distributed to relevant schools.

SMC and PTA have a significant role to ensure good governance and quality education in public schools. AAIN and its partners are continuing

their efforts to form, reform and strengthen them. SMCs are taking leadership to monitor school dropouts and students' absenteeism by visiting their homes and consulting with parents to know the reasons behind them. They were also provided with alternatives to reduce them. In Parsa, 156 teachers, and SMC and PTA of 24 schools were oriented on their roles and responsibilities along with a workshop to develop/revise School Improvement Plan.

In Palpa, model social audits in 6 schools were organized in line with the recent 'Social Audit Criteria 2078' approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. In the earlier social audits, participation of parents for the

assessment of school governance and quality education was mostly missed. This was prioritized in Palpa as per the criteria.

In Bajura, a consultation programme was organized with 120 participants from 5 public schools to discuss the indicators of DASH Board and assessment process for the improvement of school governance. After the discussion, some improvements were noticed like regularity of teachers and students, checking hygiene and sanitation of students by teachers, organizing extra-curricular activities in school and regular monitoring by SMC and parents. Similarly, extra free recovery classes were run by teachers targeting slow learners.



*Shankuwasabha hotel proudly declares its commitment to being a 'child labour free' establishment.*

Orientation programmes, entitled 'Positive Parenting' were organized in 6 communities of Bardiya to ensure parent's involvement in helping their children with their homework and assessing their progress. The programmes were also focused on ensuring parent's participation in school activities and encouraging their children's hobbies and extracurricular activities that they are good at.

This year, 4 wall paintings were done covering the code of conduct for teachers and students and alphabets, words, pictures and numbers to teach ECD and primary level children. They benefited 335

children. In Doti, maintenance of school infrastructure, construction of playground and toilet and sports materials support were done benefiting 1645 students. Likewise, 67 students were noticed switching from private to community schools.

In Palpa, school education watch groups with 131 members were formed in 16 schools. They were provided with capacity building trainings and their members were included in SMC network to strengthen them as key actors of public education. They conduct monitoring of schools to assess school governance and quality

*Children from bonded labour families supported with stationery materials.*





*Children from bonded labour families supported with stationery materials.*



of education. Parents were also participated in the process and the issues identified were raised in SMC network meetings.

Some of the teachers were not punctual and some used to be on leave without prior approval. Some teachers were also found hanging on their mobile phones during class hours. These problems were identified and raised by education watch groups, which are being solved now. The groups had also supported for school enrollment campaign and improved the quality of day meal.

Through EABL project and in coordination with local Governments, 1115 children from bonded labour families of Bardiya, Doti and Bajura were supported with stationery materials worth NPR 23,83,164. It has also strengthened coordination between the local/provincial Governments and bonded labour communities. Thus, 150 girls from Freed Kamaiya families and 7 Kamlari received scholarships for their higher secondary and bachelor's level education respectively from Lumbini Provincial Government.

In Sankhuwasabha, the support for school infrastructure followed by trainings helped to increase learning achievement of 3 model schools from 50 to 70%. The model school initiative was started by developing 36 indicators, out of which 30 were successfully achieved.

In Terhathum, laptops, televisions, projectors and printers were supported in schools to digitalize the teaching learning process. The teachers were also trained on information and communication technology to make best use of the equipment. The trainings were provided in Palpa and Bardiya as well.

## CASE STUDY: COMMUNITY WATCH GROUPS CONTRIBUTED FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

Manisha Parajuli (17) of Ribdikot, Palpa has passed her school leaving board exam with good marks and now, studies in Grade 11. She was able to do so due to the quality education she received from her community school.

But earlier, her school was not good enough. It did not have child friendly infrastructure, there were no proper drinking water facility, the teachers used to be absent more often, and the students were also not disciplined. This resulted to poor quality of education and poor learning outcome. So, majority of the parents used to switch their children to private schools.

However, the scenario started changing when AAIN and its local partner, SRDCN established a Community Watch Group in 2019 and started engaging with the community and school. The group conducted monitoring activities of the school infrastructure and quality of education. Based on their observation, they prepared feedback reports and submitted to SMC, teachers and parents. They also organized meetings to discuss the findings.

After their continuous feedback, the school improved on attendance of teachers and students, made the drinking water facility available, implemented disciplinary rules for students and teachers, and added extra classes for poor students. These developments had gradually improved the school's quality of education.



The school also segregated toilet for girls and boys, and arranged sanitary pads for girls. Manisha says, “ I feel grateful to the Community Watch Group for their tireless efforts to bring transformation in our school. Because of them, students like me are able to read in a child friendly environment with good quality of education. Their contribution for our bright future is commendable.”

*Watch group members with teachers during school monitoring visit.*

*Child Learning Center's support brings positive impact on academic and personal growth of children.*



## CHILD LEARNING CENTERS

Child Learning Centers (CLC) enhanced regularity of poor and marginalized students in schools who used to leave because of their poor performance in studies and assignments. They have also helped for their behaviour change and maintaining personal hygiene. Currently, there are 47 CLCs established by AAIN in Kathmandu, Terhathum, Siraha and Parsa, benefitting 3552 children.

Local Governments and parents are taking ownership to run the CLCs and the teachers involved are youth volunteers who were participated in AAIN's training and programmes. In Siraha, Dhangadhi Mai and Lahan Municipalities have adopted this model and owned 110 CLCs in the poor and marginalized communities.

### YOUTH LED REMEDIAL CLASS

Followed by COVID-19 outbreak, the schools were closed for a longer period of time and the students had to miss their studies. But they were automatically upgraded later without teaching the missed lessons. So, AAIN and its partners initiated youth-led remedial classes for learning recovery, targeting to the students of Grade 4-8.

The remedial classes are run by AAIN's 12 Local Rights Programme partners targeting 58 public schools and 8667 children by engaging 315 youth volunteers. The volunteers were identified and trained on classroom management and session facilitation on major subjects like Mathematics and English. The initiative has

supported not only to recover learning loss of students but has also enhanced volunteerism among youth and engaged them in social service activities.

Attending remedial class has become beneficial for the children. In Bardiya, the post assessment showed that the children of Grade 5 improved their English language skills by 20%. Similarly, 1135 students from 15 schools are learning English and Mathematics for 12 days with the help of 61 youth volunteers and this has helped to increase their learning achievement from 15% to 30%. The initiative has also supported the children's ability to complete their homework and has provided a platform to ask questions for confusions, if any.



*Remedial classes offer a glimmer of hope for children who faced learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

An interaction programme to discuss about the remedial class and its essence was organized in Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya. It brought together the children from remedial classes, schoolteachers, youth volunteers and local stakeholders. The Chief Administration Officer expressed gratitude for the initiative and extended best wishes for its continuity.



*Youth-led remedial classes run in Bardiya to recover the learning loss of children during COVID-19.*



*Debate competition as an extra-curricular activity organized by a child club in Doti.*

### CHILD CLUB INITIATION

Child Jamboree events were organized in Doti and Bardiya with 592 students (309 girls) to provide them platform for showing their talents. Different extra-curricular activities like poem, quiz, debate and essay writing competitions were organized in the events. In Terhathum, 28 child clubs (250 children) were provided training on child rights helping them to enhance their leadership in school affairs.

In Doti and Parsa, 68 dropped out and new children (Doti-28 and Parsa 40) were enrolled in school. It was done in leadership of the child clubs and with the coordination of local Governments. The major reason behind the dropout was identified as poor economic status of the family. So, 20 economically poor families in Doti were supported with NPR 20,000 each as seed money for goat rearing.

In Bardiya, the child clubs submitted proposal for sports material support to Rajapur Municipality with the help of AAIN's local partner, KMJS. They succeeded on it and received football, volleyball and badminton. This has helped the children both for their mental and physical wellbeing. The best practice after this is that the proposal submission to local Government by child clubs has been extended in other working areas as well.

### SAFE AND GENDER FRIENDLY SCHOOL

With an aim to promote gender responsive services in school, AAIN and its partners have been supporting for the construction and renovation of child and girls' friendly toilets. This year, 8 such constructions were done. They were helpful to decrease irregularity of girls in schools. In Terhathum, sanitary pad disposal machine was set up, benefitting



*Child club members express their creativity and stories through a vibrant wall magazine*



76 adolescent girls. Earlier, they used to be absent in class during their periods. Likewise, sanitary pad vending machines were supported in 3 schools of Parsa, which helped 667 girls.

Lobby with the local Governments on providing their provision of free sanitary pads in schools was continued. In Parsa, orientation on menstruation health and hygiene was conducted to 225 students of 5 schools. After this, the girls are taking proper care of their personal hygiene and nutrition during their periods and they are not hesitant to discuss about menstruation with their peers and teachers.



*Gender-inclusive school environment has contributed to higher attendance rates among girls.*

## CASE STUDY: NO MORE PERIOD EMBARRASSMENT AND MISSING SCHOOL

I am Surekha Kumari (16) from Paterwa Sugauli Rural Municipality, Parsa, who loves to read, write, visit new places and listen to music. Currently, I'm studying in Grade 8 and wants to be a banker in future. But due to the lack of gender friendly facilities and separate restrooms for girls during menstruation in my school, I had to miss classes every month. It was not just me, but the large number of girls in our school used to be absent during their period days.

She stressed, "earlier, I did not like to go to school during my period due to the fear of leakage and if in case, I was in school then I would go back home as soon as I discover it. But these days, we have a good menstrual hygiene facility at school with a sanitary pad vending machine and girl's friendly restroom. We can get the sanitary pad immediately using one rupee coin and now, we don't have to return home to hide embarrassment. This makes me feel safe and happy at school even during my periods and the girls like me do not need to compromise education because of menstruation."

This was possible from the support of AAIN and DYC, who installed the vending machine, constructed girl's friendly restrooms in school, and educated adolescent girls about SRHR, proper use and disposal of sanitary pad and maintaining menstrual hygiene. We are also provided with training on making reusable homemade sanitary pads. This initiative has benefitted many girls like me, which is reflected in the reduced school dropouts and increased attendance rate of girls in a short time.



*Surekha withdrawing sanitary pad from a vending machine in her school.*

## EDUCATION FINANCING

Through Education Out Loud project, three researches were carried out. They were on Gaps in education financing for implementation of SDG 4 in the context of COVID-19; Domestic pledges on education; and Local tax reform in Bagnaskali Rural Municipality, Palpa. Likewise, a brief assessment on Global crisis, policy changes and their impact on Nepal's finances and taxation policies was also done. The studies found that Nepal's budget for education needs to be increased by 2.5 times for the implementation of SDG 4. Based on these studies, policy briefs were prepared and shared for further advocacy.

Capacity building workshop on tax justice and education financing was organized for 45 participants representing members from TaxEd alliance, parliamentarians and CSOs. It provided a platform to clarify the role of teachers and CSOs in budget preparation and formulation process and ensure commitment from the parliamentarians and political leaders for considering education financing in the upcoming budget preparation process.

Delegation programmes to the local Governments and political parties were organized in more than 30 districts for prioritizing public education in their plans and policies, increasing investment in education, and improving the quality of public education. The delegation also focused on motivating political parties to include the agendas in their federal, provincial and local level election manifestoes.

## SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

In Palpa, access to clean drinking water and improved sanitation in toilets were ensured in schools to enable supportive learning environment. Similarly, support for classroom management items such as curtains, carpets, and other decorations has helped to create a child friendly learning space, motivating children to remain full time in school. Before these developments, they used to leave early. Similarly, 79 teachers from 32 schools in 7 wards of Palpa were capacitated on letter writing and developing child friendly educational materials. This helped to improve the learning achievements of students.

In Terhathum, gender friendly toilets and child friendly ECD classrooms were constructed, benefitting 475



*Clean hands, healthy kids! Thanks to the addition of a handwashing and drinking water station at school, children are now better equipped to maintain their hygiene.*

and 49 children respectively. In Siraha, drinking water supply with electric water pump was supported in 5 schools. This was helpful for 1500 students. In Palpa, the school compound was fenced, which prevented farm animals from entering the school. Similarly, the playground was also renovated to make it safe for outdoor activities.

In Palpa, support for the construction of school building was provided to upgrade its operation till Grade 12. Earlier, the village did not have secondary school after Grade 10. They had to travel at least 2 hours to

reach the nearest secondary school. This also led to high school dropouts. Thus, the support will be helpful to continue studies of the village's marginalized children, especially girls.

In Terhathum, complain box was set up in 6 schools with a designated teacher as a focal person to handle complaint hearing mechanism and make an effort to address them. This helped to collect the issues of students and support to improve the transparency and accountability of teachers, SMC and other school officials. This also supported to reduce harassment among schoolgirls.



*Empowering the Future: A Library and new computer lab brings knowledge and opportunities to rural students in Palpa*

# RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD



## IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD ALTERNATIVES

This year, three-day financial literacy training was provided to 593 women of AAIN's working areas. Business concepts, issues and challenges, ideas to mitigate challenges, preparing business plan, market actor's analysis, business mapping and collective marketing to initiate small-scale enterprises were the major topics discussed in the training.

In 2022, total of 767 women entrepreneurs have received start-up funding ranging from NPR 10,000 to NPR 25,000 to initiate agriculture and non-agriculture-related business. Their major selected enterprises are cattle rearing, vegetable farming, poultry etc. Lobby with the local Governments was also done to access the available funds for business set-up. After being involved in income generating

activities, the women are experiencing shifting roles from just being engaged in unpaid care work to financial contributors of the family.

Likewise, 43 youth entrepreneurs who received the training on small scale enterprises are engaged in livestock and vegetable farming. This has also motivated other youth and the trend of working in home country rather than going abroad for employment has increased. So far, 16 of them have registered their business. The local Governments have committed to provide subsidy or loan once they receive their Permanent Account Number (PAN). On the other hand, 69 youth who lost their jobs abroad after COVID-19 outbreak were supported to start up their own business in Nepal.

Livestock rearing has become a major source of income for the poor and marginalized families. For instance, in Siraha, Shankhuwasabha and Terhathum, 101 youth are raising their family income by rearing pig and goat as major livestock. In Shankhuwasabha, 15 young people established themselves as commercial goat farmers and were able to earn NPR 8,55,000 by selling them. In Chhathar Rural Municipality, Terhathum, 35 households of a community developed a pocket area for goat farming. In Sankhuwasabha, *Allo* production enterprise was established and provided employment opportunity to 15 women. Further, an outlet for product dissemination and sale was also initiated in the market.



*AAIN supported auto rickshaw: an alternative for livelihood as well as breaking the gender stereotype of labour.*

*Empowered through income-generating skills, women thrive both financially and socially*



*A woman engaged in livestock rearing after receiving financial literacy training to initiate small-scale entrepreneurship.*



Within the first six months of the year, 92 farmers were able to earn NPR 11,65,226 from vegetable farming and 78 farmers made NPR 32,61,550 from livestock rearing. In Doti, 432 community women engaged in different off-farm and on-farm income generating initiatives have started to earn NPR 5000 to 30,000 per month. The groups have also started saving the income and mobilizing it as revolving fund to start and extend their business.

In Siraha, 3 women's groups were provided with power tiller, cultivator, rotavator and trolley to equip the

farming practice with the use of modern technology. The support has directly benefitted 57 households and it has also indirectly helped community members of outside the women's groups to make use of the power tiller and transport their agriculture products to the market. The groups have developed asset operation guidelines for making use of the equipment they own. Further, 5 people (Men-3, Women-2) were supported with auto rickshaw from which they are able to earn NPR 1500-2500 per day.



*Power tillers ease agricultural labor and boost production for local farmers in Siraha*

These activities were done through Women's Rights Programme-II project.

Through EABL project, 18 bonded labour youth from Doti (2) and Bardiya (16) were enrolled in vocational learning who are currently pursuing education approved by Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT). Among them, 9

In Bardiya, support for irrigation was provided, which helped to increase the paddy production by 3-4 quintals on 4 kathas of land. This has also supported vegetables production, especially during the dry season. Likewise, 25 tube well sets with electric motors were installed in Siraha, which benefitted 632 people from poor Saday community for drinking water supply and irrigation for their kitchen garden. They are now able to consume fresh vegetables and sell the surplus for extra income.

were provided with two-month basic tailoring training and 5 girls' groups in Parsa were supported with tailoring machines so that they can make themselves economically sound and deny early age marriage proposal.

*Irrigation equipment support in Bardiya, which helped to increase paddy and vegetable production, especially in dry season*

36 women (including 9 GBV survivors) were assisted with seed money and equipment like fridge, weighing machine to excel their business. Similarly, 25 school dropped out girls



*Support for a school in Bardiya, which practices an initiative of learn and earn simultaneously.*



youth are enrolled in Veterinary, 6 in Agriculture, 1 in Construction, 1 in Junior Technical Assistant (JTA) and 1 in Diploma in Civil Engineering Training. After the course, they are expected to initiate sustainable livelihood in their respective fields.

In Janata Secondary School, Basgadi, Bardiya, an initiative 'Paddai Kamaudai' (learn and earn) was started. The school has 171 students studying horticulture and agriculture science and 36 of them graduated. The programme helps the students to apply their theoretical knowledge in the field. It is also an initiative to learn and earn at the same time. AAIN supported the school with poultry cages, livestock veterinary services and tunnels. The students also received NPR 2,50,000 from the revolving fund.

## CASE STUDY: AN ENTREPRENEUR FROM A RETURNEE MIGRANT WORKER

Arjun Paswan (32) is a hardworking dairy farmer with a family of 4. He is able to meet the family's expenses and send his children to school because of the earnings from his dairy business.

But things were completely different for Arjun few years back. His income was not enough for his family's living. So, he went to Saudi Arabia in search of better earning, where he had to work in extremely high temperature with low wages. But eventually, he lost that job too due to COVID-19 outbreak and had to return home early with no savings. He was completely devastated with this as he had a debt to pay off. He was also equally worried about the future of his children and family.



*Arjun getting ready for milking.*

Arjun says, "I am very thankful to AAIN for providing the skill development training and cash assistance of NPR 18,000 to returnee migrant workers like me for initiating a small business. With the cash and skill, I decided to start a dairy farming because the community forest was nearby my house for fodder. I added NPR 20,000 of my wife's savings from the local women's cooperative. This was enough to buy a cow breed, which produces highest milk. Our cow gives 6 liters of milk daily and we can earn around NPR 12,000/month by selling the surplus. We also work as daily wage labour, which gives us additional income. Now, all our debts are cleared and we are also able to have some savings. Arjun says, "this economic wellbeing in our family was possible only because of the initial support of AAIN."



*Empowering Women Farmers: Training on Market Exposure and Value Chain, and Creating Women-Friendly Spaces to Enhance Market Presence*

### PRODUCT MARKETING AND WOMEN FRIENDLY MARKET

AAIN in coordination with its partner organisations prepared and published a document on a concept of women friendly market. In Bardiya, shed for *Haat Bazaar* (local market) with a provision of women friendly toilet was constructed. After this, women are motivated to bring their products in the market and their access to market led to direct contact with the consumers and negotiate the price of their products.

and AAIN contributed NPR 1,00,000. It had benefitted 100 women of the community. In Doti, the local Government gave an access to public land free of cost and also contributed NPR 3 lakhs for the construction of women friendly market. It is monitored by the market management committee led by the representatives of ward, *palika* and women farmers. The accountability taken by the local Government to promote women friendly market is appreciative.

### RESOURCE LEVERAGE AND ACCESSING LOCAL RESOURCES

In Palpa, 2 women groups were supported with a revolving fund of NPR 2 lakhs. A guideline to operate the fund was also developed and implemented to keep track of fund management and monitor its utilization and operation. Similarly, 3 groups each in Bajura and Doti were supported with NPR 50,000. A business plan to receive the fund was requested from the group members and based on it, the fund was made accessible to them.

In Athrai, Terhathum, a vegetable collection center was constructed with the joint financial support of AAIN and Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project. The total construction cost was NPR 6,88,491



*Smallholder farmers supported with agricultural equipment in Sankhuwasabha.*



The farmers' groups are also coordinating with Agricultural Knowledge Center and receiving subsidized materials from them. In Bardiya and Palpa, the farmers are receiving seeds and agricultural tools like fodder machine, pump set, mini tiller tractor etc. on 50-75 percentage of subsidized rate. Likewise, 2 farmers of Bardiya received fodder machines on 75% subsidy and 18 farmers got rice seeds on 50% subsidy. In Sankhuwasabha, *Allo* production group of 15 ethnic women was able to receive NPR 2 lakhs from Chainpur Municipality to construct a building for product wrapping management. AAIN also added NPR 50,000 for it.

Through Women's Rights Programme-II project and in coordination with local Government, 2 intake water tanks were built in Kuwapani, Makwanpur. The Government has allocated NPR 15 lakhs budget to complete rest of the task like underground construction, pipe installation etc.

### **PROMOTION OF AGROECOLOGICAL FARMING PRACTICES**

Promotion of sustainable agriculture practices have been translated in the field. 121 households engaged in vegetable farming (107-Terhathum and 14-Bardiya) were supported

with cowshed improvement. This has helped the farmers to use organic manures like cow dung and urine in the crops instead of chemical fertilizers. Further, capacity building trainings on sustainable agriculture and grant support were also provided to the smallholder farmers. As a result, 366 households have adopted the practice of organic farming.

Laligurash Municipality, Terhathum has been implementing its Organic Farming Strategy which was developed in 2020. The Municipality has approved organic farming procedure with an effort to declare it as an organic Municipality. Further, technical committees to implement the procedure were formed under the leadership of ward chair across all 9 wards of the Municipality. As a result, the Participatory Guaranteed System (PGS) has also been initiated. The technical support required for the process was provided by AAIN, its local partner and technical expert organisation, LIBIRD.

The organic farming procedure has been developed and implemented in KI Singh Rural Municipality, Doti as well. 212 smallholder farmers of Laligurash Municipality, Terhathum and 265 in KI Singh Rural Municipality, Doti are engaged in organic farming and both the *Palikas* are supporting the farmers with



*Practice and promotion of Organic Farming to ensure Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture.*

agricultural inputs like seeds, composting materials etc. They are also provided with capacity building training through farmer's field school.

In Bardiya, farmers' field education was conducted in 6 agricultural groups, in which technicians from the Municipality were invited for the orientation. This has helped 102 women to gain knowledge about ecologically sustainable agriculture techniques, disease and insect identification, and the use of local resources and weeds to create organic fertilizers. Further, it has established a relationship with local Governments, helping farmers to receive agricultural equipment from them.

In Shankharapur, Kathmandu, the farmers were affected by wild animal attack in their agricultural production. So, they were recommended to cultivate crops like *Akabare Chili*, tree tomato and *Chiraito* that do not attract the animals. They were also supported with technical knowledge and

## CASE STUDY: FROM BONDED LABOURER TO A BUSINESS WOMAN



*Binti, taking care of the chickens in her poultry farm.*

Binti Tharu is a former Kamaiya woman from Rajapur, Bardiya with a family of 4. Her family was living in an extreme poverty and marginalization even after the eradication of Kamaiya system. So, Binti always used to seek opportunities to improve her family's economy.

Fortunately, she got an opportunity to be a part of women's agriculture group formed by AAIN and its local partner, KMJS. As a member of the group, she was active in the group's meetings and other activities. She also received a training on vegetable farming. The agriculture group was supported with a grant of NPR 2 lakhs to initiate and improve the livelihoods of its members. Binti and other group members were encouraged by this.

Binti decided to start her own business and borrowed NPR 75,000 from the group. She started poultry and vegetable farming, which yielded her a good income. It helped her to pay back the loan and support her daughters' education. Her husband also got motivated with the earning and joined Binti in her agro-business, leaving back his daily wage labourer work.

There was also a setback for Binti as her 450 chickens died of a disease. However, she continued her poultry farm again with 500 chickens. Her vegetable farm is also gradually generating income and she is planning to register it. Now, Binti is an inspiration to other women of her group and the community, and her struggling days are transformed into prosperous ones at present.

*Reflecting on policy and advocacy for agroecology and agriculture governance*



seedlings for cultivation. Application of this approach was effective as an alternative solution against wild animal attack in the agricultural fields.

### POLICY ADVOCACY AND AGRICULTURE GOVERNANCE

This year, research on agroecological policy provisions and budget tracking was done. It found that the budget allocation in agroecology is very minimal (4.56%), and its used budget was also transferred to other different agricultural activities. At the same time, community consultation with the farmers of 60 *Palikas* was done, which showed that there are some good agricultural practices in the community but they are not being reflected in the policy. Further, a National level sharing workshop was organized to share the research findings and a major feedback received was the need for further advocacy to incorporate agroecological farming in mainstream agriculture.



Young people of Bardiya advancing the issue of Climate Justice.

Through Women's Rights Programme-II project, 2 ward level community score card events were done in Hetauda and Bhimphedi of Makwanpur. They were participated by community people and local stakeholders to discuss about ward level quality of service in agriculture sector. After the events, it was found that the local Government was not taking much interest in allocating budget/schemes for women's participation in farming. The budget allocation was also not sufficient for crop cultivation but was only targeted for livestock rearing. The stakeholders were informed about the findings and commitments to address the loopholes were received from them.

Agricultural groups/networks were formed and strengthened in Palpa. They were also supported by the Municipality and wards. They had reviewed the Municipality's agricultural policy and found that the farmers

are not getting technical services and agricultural inputs on time from the Government, the agricultural equipment were not durable, women friendly and their operating expenses were high. The concerned stakeholders were then informed about the gaps.

### ADVANCE ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

An interaction programme was organized on the role of community forests for environment protection by *Youth Bakheri Kendra* (an informal network of youth for leadership development and raising community issues) in Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya. It was attended by 106 participants including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Municipality, ward representatives, consumers, youth and representatives of industrial and commercial associations. The event highlighted the need to allocate budget for forests and climate justice. It also stressed to stop deforestation and enhance plantation.

On World Environment Day, youth hubs organized speech competition on climate justice in Bardiya and Palpa. All youth hubs had interacted with various organisations and stakeholders, conducted community awareness and plantation programmes to ensure climate justice. In coordination with the ward, local youth network and Division Forest Office, the youth hubs of Bardiya, Palpa, Parsa and Siraha planted 583 plants in school grounds and public land.

Discussion on climate change was organized in Climate Justice Network. It stressed that the developing countries are forced to pay the cost of their health without any liability to emission whereas, the developed ones are investing huge capital in fossil fuel that led to Green House Gas emission and climate change issues. Climate change is actually a 'justice' issue and not just an 'environment' issue. Similarly, finding a right balance between the need for increased food production and green agricultural solutions remains a challenge for many countries in the Global South. It is also important to engage at National level in influencing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).



# RESILIENCE AGAINST DISASTERS

*Empowering communities through Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) to reduce their vulnerability*

## **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

This year, 43 Ward Disaster Management Committees (WDMC) and 3 Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMC) were established in Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya. They, along with 110 elected representatives (Siraha-60, Parsa-30, Palpa-20) were oriented on roles and responsibilities of DMCs, relief standard, principles of humanitarian mechanism, humanitarian signature, disaster preparedness and building resilience.

In Bardiya, Women and Youth Leadership for Community Resilience and Humanitarian Action-Pilot project provided 5-day training on DRR to 24 young people (50% were females). They took leadership to revive and orient 3 CDMCs and their members on DRR and community resilience. This was followed by prioritization and implementation of inclusive mitigation measures in 2 communities. Additionally, these youth are representing in the multistakeholder forums of Rajapur Municipality.

29 CDMCs in Sankhuwasabha are taking active role in regular meetings and discussions on the preparedness of seasonal hazards such as fire, lightning and landslide. The committee members (majority of them are women and youth) took further initiative to disseminate the information to other members of the communities.

In Bardiya, the young people were trained on the use of Disaster Information Management Platform (BIPAD) in 3 communities of Rajapur Municipality. This was instrumental in

*Youth in Shankhuwasabha participate in basic first aid training to learn life-saving skills*



disseminating early warning message to the communities at risk, before the flood of October 2022. This helped to reduce the damage to life and property in the area compared to last year's flood. The communities acknowledged that reiteration of the message by youth was crucial for protecting their life and property. One farmer said that he was able to save 300 chickens from the flood due to alert message received in advance from the youth.

30 young people from youth hub and community facilitators in Parsa had led mass awareness activities on DRR and humanitarian actions. Followed by the meetings, youth, as volunteers developed radio jingles and disseminated them through miking. They had also prepared handwritten informational banners and leaflets on risk reduction and conducted a programme with 64 community people on the prevention of local hazards such as: fire, flood, windstorm, lightening etc.

In Sankhuwasabha, community led initiatives such as making fireline has minimized the risk of fire for at least 198 families in 10 communities. Similarly, AAIN and ward offices supported CGI sheets worth NPR 14 lakhs to 20 households in Hattisude and Jhilmile communities. This has helped them to replace the thatched roof and prevent from the risk of fire.

This year, 200 women and young people were trained on First Aid and 24 on Search and Rescue in AAIN's working areas. The trainings were facilitated by authorized trainers of Nepal Red Cross Society. Further, 54 young people from 10 communities of Chainpur Municipality,

Sankhuwasabha were oriented on basic fire safety and preparedness through mock drills.

Majority of the capacitated young people and women are now engaged in various activities to impart knowledge on lifesaving skills and mock drills, mainly in schools of their respective communities. They are also officially recognized and included in the roster of respective Municipality and/or District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC). This is a first step to ensure sustainability of the capacity building exercises and contributing to achieve the National target to train community on lifesaving skills.



*Youth in Sankhuwasabha trained on Search and Rescue for mobilization during the time of disasters.*

In informal settlement of Bansighat, Manohara and Sinamangal, there is a high risk of flood every year. The youth hub oriented 90 community people on making GO bags that could be helpful to meet their immediate needs in case of emergency. On the other hand, the youth hub removed fallen leaves of around Tansen Municipality, Palpa to reduce the risk of fire. They took the leaves away from the settlement and burnt them. The work was done in coordination with Division Forest Office and Nepal Army.

This year, 268 youth and women of AAIN's working areas were trained on basics of DRR and Humanitarian

Actions. The sessions included ActionAid's humanitarian signatures and information on Human Rights Based Approach to respond disasters. During the flood in informal settlement of Kathmandu, the relief was distributed in leadership of trained youth volunteers to 318 families. In a community of Athrai Municipality, Terhathum, a youth group established an emergency fund of NPR 42,000.

In Bardiya, AAIN and its local partner, KMJS in coordination with District Disaster Management Committee organized a simulation exercise in Karnali River to habituate the frontline rescuers on rescue, reflect on

coordination mechanism and aware communities. The frontline rescuers: Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police force along with Nepal Red Cross Society members and DEOC were engaged in the exercise. The exercise later helped to rescue hundreds of individuals from flood affected communities in Rajapur Municipality.

### **HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

This year, AAIN supported relief materials to 1,557 families affected by cold wave, flood, fire, landslide, and



*Simulation exercise in Karnali River for the frontline rescuers of flood.*

support will prevent these families from taking loans for agricultural inputs or compromising their food security.

In the leadership of trained young people and women, 654 families in Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya were provided with agriculture support through Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). The youth led the process of need assessment and facilitated FGDs, KIIs, beneficiary selection, market assessment, setting up help desk and orientating about CVA in coordination with local Governments. Similarly, 459 families in Siraha received warm blankets during cold wave and among them, 60 pregnant and lactating women were provided with additional nutritious food support.

lightening in 15 *palikas* of 10 districts. The support was provided adhering to ActionAid's humanitarian signatures. For instance, AAIN and its local partners in Bardiya and Kapilbastu distributed winterization NFI package and food items to 312 families and

nutritious food supplements to 102 pregnant and lactating women affected by unseasonable rainfall and flood. The support also included agricultural inputs like paddy and vegetable seeds, tools, and vitamins for farming. It is expected that this



Further, 72 households affected by fire in Kailali were supported with kitchen utensils and hygiene kits and immediate relief support was provided to 2 families affected by wild animal attack in Sankhuwasabha and 7 families of Doti whose houses were blown away by the windstorm.

*342 cold wave affected poor and marginalized families of Siraha were provided with warm blankets to survive the extreme weather.*

*NFI relief materials (kitchen utensils and hygiene kits) support to the people affected by fire outbreak in Kailali.*



Through DPRF funded project, 1 culvert and 1 raised handpump were constructed in Bardiya to pass flood water safely and ensure drinking water availability during the time of flood. It has helped 537 people from 105 families. The project also supported a boat to a community of Rajapur Municipality, which is in low-lying land and often experiences flood during monsoon. During flood, the boat was helpful for the community to reach in a safe location and move their household property. It also supported the students

to commute between home and school during the rainy season.

This year, emergency funds worth NPR 55,32,000 were established for humanitarian assistance at community, ward and municipal level in Doti, Sankhuwasabha and Terhathum. In Parsa, 357 women of 10 women saving groups initiated fistful campaign. The emergency fund and fistful campaign are to support the communities for meeting immediate needs during the time of disasters.

## CASE STUDY: ENHANCED COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH DISASTER EDUCATION

Kalapani is a Dalit community of 52 households situated in 20 minutes walk away from Chainpur Bazaar, Sankhuwasabha. Geographically, the community is in the uphill and it often has to face a major problem of drought. Durga Maya Ramtel, a community member says, "we were not aware about disaster preparedness before the intervention of AAIN and its local partner, TST. We used to take actions only after the disaster. There was also no provision of emergency fund in the community."

The community's situation changed when AAIN and TST started conducting mass awareness and skill development training on disaster management. With the technical guidance of AAIN and TST, the community carried out participatory vulnerability assessment and identified annual and seasonal recurring hazards affecting the community. They also formed a disaster management committee, established an emergency fund of NPR 52,775, and developed a disaster preparedness and mitigation plan.

Ramtel shared, "after identification of hazards and preparation of mitigation plan, we are able to control flash flood during monsoon and wild fire in dry season. Nowadays, to get rid of fire outbreak, we clean up bushes around our house and prepare fire lines in dry season. We have also started a practice of keeping a full 1000 liters of water tank in an accessible place in the community. In addition, it has become a habit of each household in our community to keep one full bucket of water in front of the house. On the other hand, we have also learnt about keeping the heavy goods on ground floor and light ones upstairs to be safe from earthquake. All these practical information and skills have made us aware and enhanced community resilience to disaster management."



During the entire humanitarian response programme, AAIN and its partners maintained transparency and accountability of its initiatives. For instance, while using CVA, its entire process was communicated via flyers, women representatives from affected communities and vendors were invited during bid opening and negotiation and transparency boards along with complaint box were placed at shops, mitigation and distribution sites. This resulted in an increased level of trust between organisations, stakeholders and the community people.

### PROMOTING DRR IN SCHOOLS

In line with community/ward disaster preparedness and management plan, AAIN and its partners in leadership of community women and young people implemented risk mitigation actions in the communities and schools. They have contributed to ensure right of children to study in safe learning environment, right to clean water, right to safe and dignified living. It also provided tools to prevent potential disaster and timely rescue of at-risk population in the community. For instance, construction of a wooden bridge worth NPR 40,000 over Adheri river of Athrai Rural Municipality, Terhathum supported 32 children of the area to cross the river safely and commute to school.



*A school compound in Palpa fenced to ensure safety of children.*

Contributing to creating a safer learning environment, 58 public schools of AAIN's working areas were supported to prepare disaster preparedness and their implementation plan, mitigation actions and build capacity of students and teachers in lifesaving skills. In Sankhuwasabha, compound wall and earthquake resilient buildings were constructed in schools as per the disaster preparedness plan. Further, the schools also had installation of earthing to get rid of lightning. Similarly, In a school in Terhathum, measures were taken to prevent injuries caused by slippery

slopes during monsoon season by constructing a ladder. Additionally, a worn-out balcony in another school was replaced, benefiting 580 children

In Parsa, an embankment was constructed as the river was at risk to damage the school infrastructure. It had already cut a part of the road beside the school. The construction was done in leadership of women and youth groups and with financial support of AAIN and the local Government.

## DRR AND POLICY ADVOCACY

This year, AAIN and its partners supported to develop 14 plans/ guiding documents for systematic DRR and humanitarian assistance in 9 Municipalities of 6 districts (Bardiya, Palpa, Kathmandu, Parsa, Siraha and Terhathum). The documents prepared are Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plan, Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, Gender Friendly Relief Standard and Community Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan.

AAIN and its partners facilitated the entire process of developing the documents including orientations to the relevant stakeholders on their need, rationale, process, and use. They had supported the Municipalities to conduct Participatory Vulnerability Analysis in the communities, hired resource persons to draft the documents, facilitated workshops to collect feedback and validate the information ensuring meaningful participation of vulnerable people including women and young people.

In Bardiya, AAIN being a District Lead Support Agency, it continued to facilitate for updating the district level disaster preparedness and response plan in coordination with its local

partner. The published document was shared among concerned stakeholders including Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, Nepal Army, and local Municipalities for their needful actions.

AAIN and its partners supported communities, wards and local Governments significantly towards improving disaster risk governance and humanitarian mechanism for building resilience. It supported strengthening of institutional structures defined by Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017, and formulation of relevant plans, policies, and guidelines at ward, municipal and district level. In doing so, advocacy for localization, transparency and accountability of the Government and leadership promotion of women and young people were done.



*AAIN's Executive Director providing her remarks in stakeholder consultation meeting on loss and damage.*

AAIN facilitated representatives of federal Government during Global Platform on DRR to share the learning and positioning of the Government on localization, stakeholder engagement and commitment to promote women and youth leadership for DRR. Similar initiative was taken during Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR. The delegates from Nepal and other countries were requested to visit ActionAid's marketplace to exchange learning. In due process, AA's approach to resilience building and humanitarian signature were explained to the participants. It strongly raised agenda of loss and damage and localization among the participants.

AAIN collaborated with School of Environment Science and Management, KMJS and Yuwa Bakheri to conduct study on 'Assessment of the Flood induced Loss and Damage in Agricultural Crop in Rajapur Bardiya' and 'Livelihood Vulnerability and adaptive Strategies Assessment of Farmers living in Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya'. Both studies pointed out the mounting impact of climate induced disasters in Rajapur Municipality. The study findings were shared with local stakeholders highlighting the need of immediate attention to the issues. Similarly, AAIN, Prakriti Resource Centre, Practical Action, and Mercy Corps Nepal collaboratively conducted a 'Stocktaking study on Climate Induced Loss and Damage in Nepal'. It helped to influence inclusion of loss and damage agenda in Nepal's position during COP 27 in Egypt.

AAIN with funding from People's Vaccine Alliance conducted a study on 'Participatory Research and Analysis to highlight the situation of Marginalized and Vulnerable communities to access COVID-19 Vaccines'. It engaged concerned Government, non-Government and CSO stakeholders and advocated for the availability of vaccine for all, especially in developing countries.

## CASE STUDY: FROM A SURVIVOR TO A YOUTH CHANGE MAKER

Antila Tharu (23) belongs to a freed Kamaiya family of Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya where heavy rain often triggers flood resulting to the loss of life and property. Since childhood, Antila grew up with fear and challenges brought by flood during monsoon. Antila recalls, "watching houses swept away and not being able to do anything is a very helpless feeling for me." This bitter experience made Antila determined to help her community in any ways she can, so that they don't have to face similar situation in the future.



*Antila, a freed Kamaiya sharing her experiences of humanitarian response in a training on DRR.*

With this determination, Antila became a member of *Yuwa Bakheri Kendra* facilitated by AAIN's local partner, KMJS. In 2021, she also got an opportunity for volunteerism in 'Women and youth leadership for community resilience and humanitarian actions project' implemented by AAIN and KMJS.

As a volunteer, she along with 8 other volunteers worked for supporting cash and voucher assistance programme to 654 affected families of unseasonal rainfall and flood in 2021. During the process of beneficiary selection, she was worried about how to be fair to select the households and how to handle if any conflict arises. But since the standard criteria of distribution was developed jointly by Rajapur Municipality, AAIN, KMJS and the community, selection process of the household went smoothly and in a participatory way. The beneficiary identification was followed by need and market assessment and orientation to the recipients and vendors on the process of assistance and total value of the support. The recipients appreciated the programme as this offered them a choice to meet their needs and collect the required materials in a convenient time.

This volunteer engagement provided Antila with an experience and boosted her capacity on humanitarian response. These days she advocates with the Municipality for developing a humanitarian framework and response plan, and educates the disaster affected communities on preparedness and management. Antila says, "I feel great to see my own transformation from a survivor to a youth leader and being capable to support humanitarian actions."

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2022

**ActionAid International Nepal**  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
**For the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022**

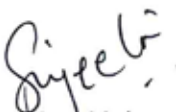
Particulars	Note Reference	NPR'000 2022	£'000 2022	NPR'000 2021	£'000 2021
<b>Income- Total (A)</b>	13	332,247	2,143	360,164	2,234
Individual Giving-Regular		175,179	1,136	174,608	1,083
Individual Giving-Other		6,033	38	38,767	240
Philanthropy & Partnership Income		68,160	438	26,893	167
Institutional Income		77,166	494	118,005	732
Other Income		5,708	37	1,892	12
<b>Expenditure- Total (B)</b>	14	363,753	2,342	369,339	2,292
Programme		297,687	1,935	307,699	1,907
Fundraising		12,594	82	12,625	78
Governance		3,447	22	2,850	18
Support		50,025	303	46,165	289
<b>International Contribution (C)</b>					
<b>Outgoing Transfers (D)</b>	16	9,208	60	7,061	44
<b>Translation Gain/(Loss) (E)</b>	9	(2,855)	(9)	585	
<b>Surplus/ (deficit)- Total (A-B-C-D+E)</b>		(43,569)	(268)	(15,651)	(102)

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Financial Statements

As per our report of even date

  
 Kumar Jung Thakuri  
 Head of Finance & Administration

**act:onaid**

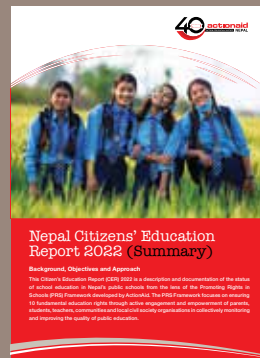
  
 Sujeta Mathema  
 Executive Director

  
 Sunil Devkota, FCA  
 Partner  
 S. Devkota & Company  
 Chartered Accountants



Date: 18 April 2023  
 Place: Kathmandu, Nepal

# KNOWLEDGE GENERATION IN 2022



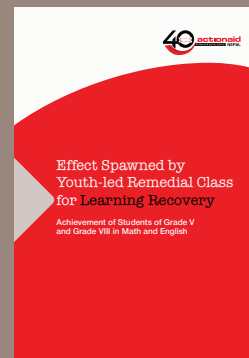
## Nepal Citizens' Education Report 2022 (Summary)

This publication is a summary on the status of education in Nepal's public schools analyzed from the lens of Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS) framework developed by ActionAid.



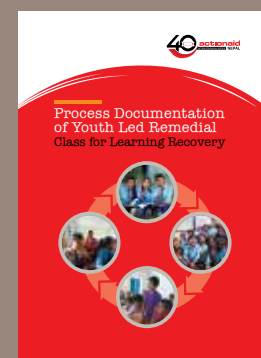
## Nepal Factsheet Financing The Future: Delivering SDG 4 In Nepal

These publications were published both in Nepali and English, which present the status of education financing in Nepal and calls on the Government to increase the share and size of budget allocation for education, and help to achieve SDG 4.



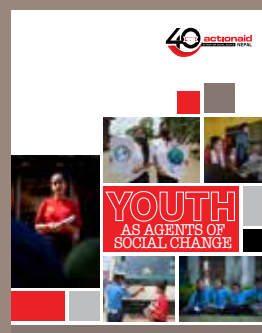
## Effect Spawnd By Youth-Led Remedial Class For Learning Recovery

The report is on the remedial classes to bridge the learning gaps caused by COVID-19 pandemic, using a multistage sampling technique to identify learning gaps, and conducting pre and post assessments to measure student's performance.



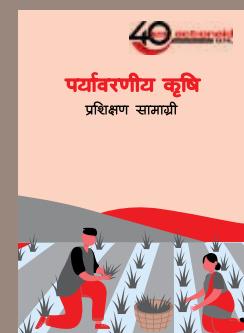
## Process Documentation Of Youth Led Remedial Class For Learning Recovery

The publication includes strategic and programmatic recommendations for future initiatives derived from a project on Youth Led Remedial Class for Learning Recovery in 9 districts of Nepal to support marginalized children with additional learning opportunities.



## Youth As Agents Of Social Change

This publication is a storybook with 15 case stories of youth from different communities, who had contributed as change agents for social transformation.



## Training Manual On Agroecology

The aim of this book is to provide farmers with a clear and accessible explanation of how to preserve traditional agricultural methods while also encouraging them to adapt to their local climate, soil, and practical farming techniques.



**Food System Localization**

This book explores the conceptual requirements and practical considerations involved in establishing a local food system, offering suggestions based on theoretical and real-world discussions.



**National Organic Database Nepal**

The national organic database is the compilation of list of organic farm and product in Nepal certified as organic or being certification process



**Policy Brief On Agricultural Bonded Labor**

The policy brief consists of historical background of slavery in Nepal, actions of Nepal Government for abolishment such practices, existing national and international laws and shortcomings in national policies and laws on bonded labour, status and challenges of bonded labour communities and recommendations to address the issue



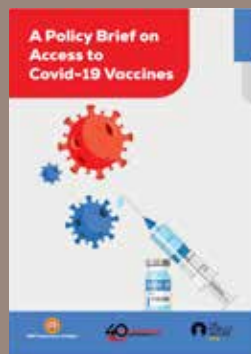
**Final Report: Decentralized Disaster Risk Governance In Nepal**

The report presents findings from an assessment to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change policies and plans at the local level, with a focus on the decentralization of disaster risk governance.



**Policy Brief On Decentralized Disaster Risk Governance**

This policy brief outlines the results of an assessment conducted in 2022 across 16 local levels in three provinces (Bagmati, Karnali, and Madhesh), evaluating the implementation and efficacy of DRRM and climate change policies at the Palika level.



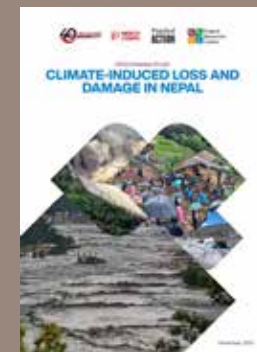
**A Policy Brief On Access To Covid-19 Vaccines**

This publication is a research report on the reactions of people of different age groups receiving vaccines of COVID-19.



**Participatory Research And Analysis To Highlight The Situation Of Marginalized And Vulnerable Communities To Access Covid-19 Vaccines**

It is a research to explore and highlight the situation of marginalized and vulnerable communities in terms of their access to COVID-19 vaccines and other routine immunization services in selected communities.



**Stocktaking Study of Climate Induced Loss and Damage in Nepal**

The study highlighted unclarity in tools of assessing loss and damage and limited focus on non-economic loss and damage by different studies. It highlighted need of further expanding knowledge on loss and damage before localizing in the community.

## ANNEX I

## LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME (LRP) PARTNER ORGANISATIONS – 2022

Districts	LRP Partners
Bajura	Human Resource Centre (HRC) PEACEWIN
Terhathum	Dalit Awareness Society (DAS) Deurali Society (DS)
Kathmandu	HomeNet Nepal (HNN) Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj (NMES)
Bardiya	Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj (KMJS) Radha Krishna Tharu Jana Sewa Kendra (RKJS)
Sankhuwasabha	The Society Touch (TST)
Doti	Equality Development Centre (EDC)
Siraha	Dalit Jana Kalyan Yuba Club (DJKYC)
Palpa	Social Resource Development Centre Nepal (SRDCN)
Parsa	Dibya Yuba Club (DYC)
Mahottari	Women Empowerment Mission (WEM)
Kapilvastu	Siddhartha Social Development Center (SSDC)
Dhading	Integrated Community Development Campaign (ICDC)

## ANNEX 2

## PROJECTS MANAGED BY ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL NEPAL IN 2022

S.N.	Project Name	Donor	Duration
1	Mahila Network III	UK Giving Club	Jan 2021-Dec 2023
2	Tax Justice Network, Global Alliance for Tax Justice and Education International	GPE /Education Out Loud fund	Feb 2021-Aug 2023
3	Ending Agricultural Bonded Labour in Nepal	NORAD	Apr 2021-Dec 2023
4	DPRF-Second Wave of COVID-19 Emergency Response and Recovery Plan	IHART	Aug 2021-Mar 2022
5	EU Aid Volunteers building resilience through gender and youth leadership in humanitarian action	EU	Oct 2021-Dec 2022
6	Strengthening Leadership of Acid and Burn Survivors through Holistic Interventions (SLASH) project	Pro-Victims Foundation and Sustainable Future Foundation	Jan 2022-Dec 2022
7	Cold Wave Anticipatory Emergency Response Nepal	START Fund	Jan 2022-Feb 2022
8	Supporting smallholders farmers to adapt to climate change and tackle food insecurity through advocating for public financing of agroecology	TCC Foundation	Jan 2022-Jul 2022
9	Youth led Activism and Campaign	ActionAid Denmark	Jan 2022-Aug 2022
10	Youth Volunteer Support Project-GP	ActionAid Denmark	Jan 2022-Dec 2023
11	DPRF Bardiya floods and local leadership and resilience building	IHART	Jan 2022-Sep 2022
12	Water Supply Project Palpa	Electric Aid	Feb 2022-Dec 2022
13	DPRF/COVID-3rd Wave Response	IHART	Feb 2022-Aug 2022
14	People's Vaccine Alliance (PVA -Asia) Funding	PVA ASIA	May 2022-Oct 2022
15	COVID Response Apple	Apple	Jun 2022-Aug 2022
16	Youth led Activism and Campaign	ActionAid Denmark	Sep 2022-Dec 2022
17	Global Contact Project- Students and 50+ group	ActionAid Denmark	Sep 2022-Nov 2022
18	SLASH (Trust)	High value donor	Oct 2022-Sep 2023
19	Palpa School Project	Corti Foundation	Aug 2020 – July 2022
20	Women's Right Programme II (Samunnati)	ActionAid Ireland Co-funding: ActionAid Australia	Jan 2017 – Dec 2022
21	Young Feminist Dialogue	ActionAid Denmark	Nov 2022-Dec 2022





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