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REFLECTIONS  
AND LEARNING 2024

Reflections and Learning 2024

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# Actionaid International Nepal (AAIN)

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.

## Vision



An inclusive, just and democratic Nepal, where every individual enjoys a life of dignity, free from poverty and exclusion.

## Mission



To achieve social justice, gender equality and eradication of poverty by empowering people living in poverty and exclusion and strengthening people’s agencies.

## We Work With



Women & girls, youth, children, and agencies for people living in poverty and exclusion.

## Our Approach






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

# Acronyms

AAIN	ActionAid International Nepal	MAM	Mahila Adhikar Manch
CLC	Child Leaning Center	MMS	Makwanpur Mahila Samuha
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	NMES	Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj
CSWF	Chitwan Sakriya Women's Foundation	NRs	Nepalese Rupees
DAS	Dalit Awareness Society	OCMC	One Stop Crisis Management Center
DDRC	Dibya Development Resource Center	ReFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques
DJKYC	Dalit Jana Kalyan Yuba Club		
DS	Deurali Society	PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems
ECD	Early Childhood Development	RKJS	Radha Krishna Tharu Jana Sewa Kendra
EDC	Equality Development Centre	PRS	Promoting Rights in Schools
GBV	Gender Based Violence	PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	SDP	School Development Plan
HHs	Households	SMC	School Management Committee
HRBA	Human Rights-based Approach	SRDCN	Social Resource Development Centre Nepal
LRP	Local Rights Programme	SSDC	Siddhartha Social Development Center
ICDC	Integrated Community Development Campaign	UCW	Unpaid Care Work
ICT	Information Communication Technology	VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
KMJS	Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj	WFSS	Women and Girls Friendly Safe Space

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# Glossary

**HRBA:** Our human rights-based approach supports People Living in Poverty to become conscious of their rights, to organise themselves to claim their rights, and to hold duty bearers to account.

**Local Government and Palika (Municipality/Rural Municipality):** It refers to an administrative division in Nepal. Local government is the third-tier of the government structure in Nepal. It is administered by the Provincial Government, which falls under the federal government. The 'Palika' executive is headed by a chairperson in a rural municipality and a mayor in a municipality.

**Local Rights Programme (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 to 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.

**Resilient Communities:** The capacity of a community to absorb stress or destructive forces can be demonstrated through resistance or adaptation. Resilient communities are capable of managing or maintaining certain basic functions and structures during hazardous events

**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.

**Social Justice:** Social justice promotes a just society by challenging injustices, inequalities and valuing diversity. It exists when all people share a common humanity. Therefore, they have a right to dignified and equitable treatment, support for their human rights, and fair allocation of resources in their communities. Social justice goes hand-in-hand with ecological and economic justice. ■

# Message

## From Board Chair and Executive Director

**Dear All,  
Namaste!**

It gives us great pleasure to share with you our “Annual Reflection and Learning Document 2024”, which highlights our key initiatives, achievements, and best practices throughout the year.

The year 2024 marks the beginning of our new Country Strategy Paper VI (2024–2029)—Equitable Action for Social Justice—which envisions an inclusive, just, and democratic Nepal where every individual lives a life of dignity, free from poverty and exclusion.

In 2024, our focus was on promoting the rights and opportunities of women, informal labourers, and gig workers by addressing key issues like unpaid care work and violence against women and girls. We worked closely with communities to amplify their voices and support informal workers in pursuit of justice and recognition.

In education, we partnered with schools and local governments to foster safe and inclusive learning spaces. Tools like school scorecards and dashboards helped improve school governance and learning outcomes, while our support for child clubs and youth networks empowered young people to lead positive change.

We also supported vulnerable communities—especially women, youth, and smallholder farmers—by promoting green livelihoods, skill development and market access. These efforts enhanced their incomes, strengthened food security, and contributed to climate justice. In parallel, our humanitarian responses were continued to uphold dignity, inclusion, and gender-responsive standards during times of crisis, ensuring support for the most vulnerable.

This period also marks our commitment to two major campaigns: the Climate Justice Campaign and Decent Work Campaign. Officially launched in 2023, the climate justice campaign gained momentum this year by bolstering youth-

led initiatives, environmental awareness and disaster preparedness. We have witnessed inspiring leadership from young advocates driving community-based climate and gender justice actions and innovations. Through the decent work campaign, we advocated for fair labor practices, equal pay, and safe workspaces particularly for women and marginalised groups. We supported local and national efforts to institutionalise Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS)—promoting inclusive, equitable and community-centered services and policies.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens (MoWCS), the

Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), and the Social Welfare Council (SWC), along with the Project Advisory Committees, for their unwavering cooperation. Our sincere thanks also go to the communities we serve, our dedicated partners, networks, and alliances for walking this journey with us. Above all, we acknowledge the unwavering commitment of our staff, and the strategic guidance of our National Board of Governance and ActionAid International Federation, whose solidarity continues to inspire and strengthen our work.

Together, we will continue to challenge injustice, break down systemic barriers, and work towards a just, inclusive, and resilient Nepal. ■



**Keshav Gautam**  
Board Chair



**Sujeeta Mathema**  
Executive Director





16

12

12

5

## PROJECTS



WRP III



ENDING AGRICULTURAL BONDED LABOUR IN NEPAL



LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVE FOR HARWA-CHARWA



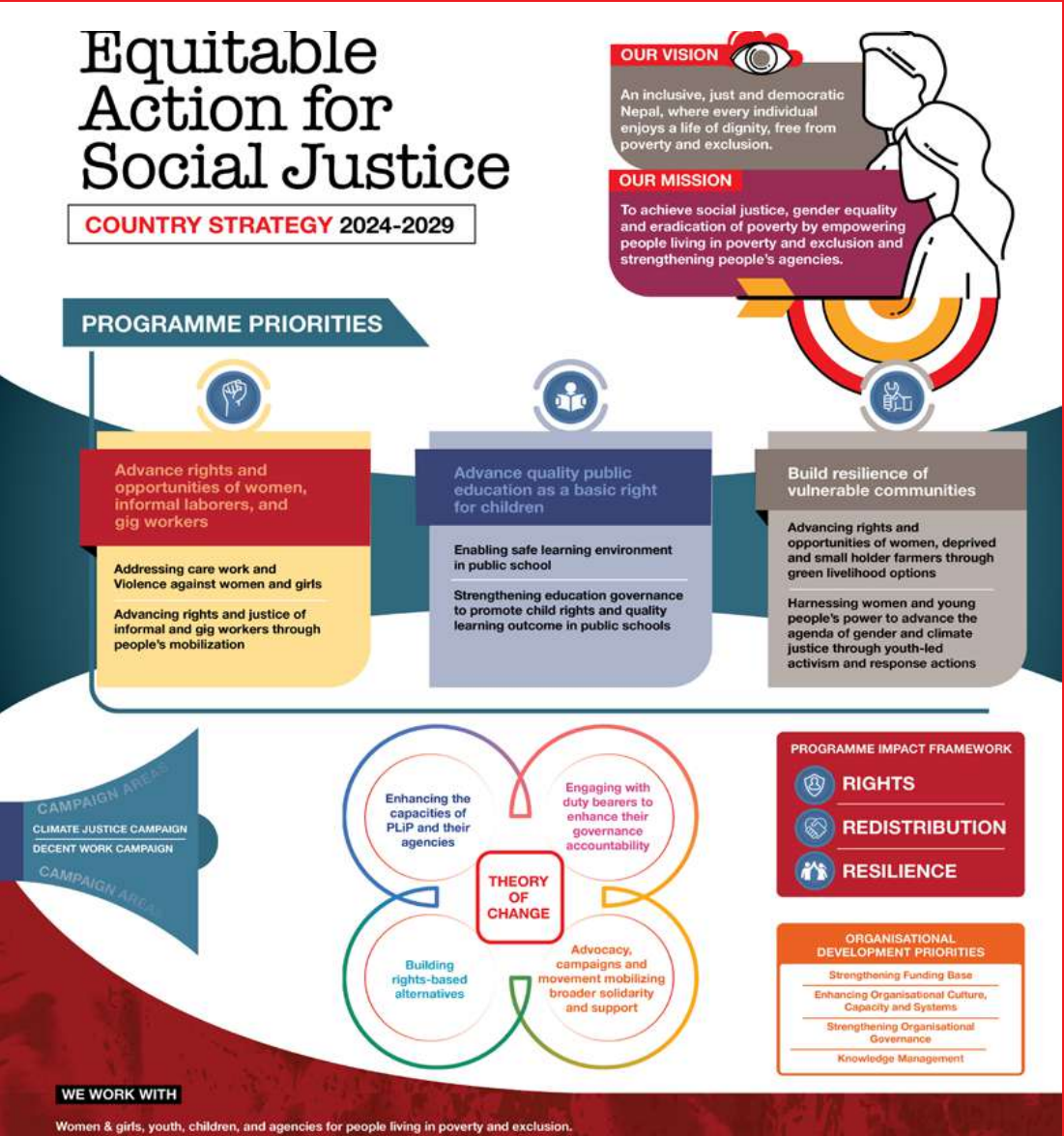
**THE TAXED ALLIANCE (EDUCATION OUT LOUD-EOL)**



**Ongoing - LRPs**

## Past - LRP HRBA Initiatives

# AAIN's 6<sup>th</sup> Country Strategy Paper(CSP-VI)



# The Country Context

Nepal continues to face political instability, with a focus more on forming governments than making laws. Corruption remains high, ranking 107 out of 180 globally as per Transparency International's 2024 Corruption Perception Index. Key social issues include early marriage, wage gaps, and gender bias. The recent budget includes programs on agriculture, startups, and scholarships for marginalised students. There are also opportunities for GBV prevention, climate funding, and women- and youth-led initiatives, which align with our strategic priorities.

The government has shown commitment to inclusion and gender equality in its constitution, but deep-rooted patriarchy still affects progress. In recent developments, the National Planning Commission endorsed the 16th Five-Year National Plan in May 2024, aiming for 7.3% economic growth, \$2,413 per capita income, poverty down to 20.3%, and an increased HDI of 0.650. It also focuses on health access, governance, social justice, gender equality, and climate resilience. The year has been declared “Investment in Women Year,” with new programs like the PM’s Daughter Self-Reliance Programme. Still, gender budgeting is low—only 0.05% of the budget is for SDG Goal 5, and the women’s ministry’s budget has been cut.

According to the 2022 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), 23% of women aged 15-49 have faced physical violence, 7% sexual, and 13% emotional. Partner violence affects 27% of women. In 2022–23, Nepal police recorded 20,753 GBV cases. Madhesh Province had the most domestic violence, Lumbini Province the most sexual violence—showing the urgent need for stronger protections.

Nepal’s economy is expected to grow by 4% in 2024. However, inflation—especially food and fuel prices—is high, hurting low-income families. Job creation is slow, and many youth seek work abroad, making Nepal dependent on remittances. Climate change is affecting agriculture, food security and while Nepal is seeking global climate funds, using them effectively is still a challenge. Education outcomes are poor—only 47.87% passed the Secondary Education Examination (SEE) in 2024 and 27.29% passed Basic Level Exams in 2024. Learning outcomes in Grades 1–8 are even lower, especially in Madhesh, Karnali, and Far-Western provinces.

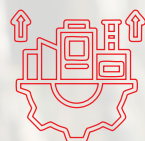
Globally, the SIF-3 will soon be endorsed; AAIN’s strategy aligns with this, with women’s rights at the core. Through our Campaigns on Decent Work and Climate Justice, we support women and marginalised groups to lead change and build a just/equitable society by 2025. ■



# Achievements

## Creating Pathways for Women and the Most Marginalised to Thrive Strengthening Governance and Expanding Economic Opportunities

Addressing care work and violence against women and girls



5

alternative infrastructures

were established to reduce women's unpaid care work, resulting in **3-5** reduced hours of workload.



10,504

Women and Girls

were made aware of UCW, gender norms, harmful practices, patriarchy, GBV, and legal rights through reflection action sessions to challenge structural causes of violence and promote gender equality.



17

child marriages

were stopped in working areas through campaigns led by youth and adolescent groups.



235

networks, groups, circles

(31 youth networks, **43** REFLECT Circles, **105** women's and girls' groups, and **56** adolescent girls' groups) are organised as agents against structural inequalities, GBV and labour issues.



8412

Women and Girls

were capacitated on UCW, Gender norms, harmful practices, GBV and Legal rights and income generating activities.



6979

people

were engaged in national and local campaigns advocating for women's rights and campaigning against GBV in collaboration with wider networks and alliances.

Together we fight for all the inequalities and Violences.







Grinding mill helping women reduce their UCW load; eventually helping them engage in economic activities

## Addressing Women's Unpaid Care Work through Alternative Building

AAIN promotes gender-friendly policies through constructive engagement with the government to reduce the burden of unpaid care work, which often limits women's growth and economic opportunities. Through awareness campaigns and capacity strengthening of women and labour groups, AAIN and its partners have enabled communities to advocate for gender-responsive budgeting and planning. In 2024, 9 events/training were conducted to support people's agency on the 7-step planning process and proposal writing to actively participate in local planning. These trained women and labour groups submitted 48 proposals focused on reducing unpaid care work and promoting economic empowerment, with 25 being approved.

In Shankharapur Municipality, 50 couples used a time diary to track unpaid care work, revealing that women worked 16–18 hours daily, especially during peak agricultural seasons. Following this, male family members were encouraged to share care responsibilities, contributing to more balanced workloads at home. In Doti, two grinding mills were set up in KI Singh and Shikhar Benefiting 913 HHs and reducing the workload for 163 women. The intervention has resulted in 34 women engaging in income-generating activities. Other initiatives included the installation of Water tanks and drinking water pipes, establishment of childcare centers, provision of agricultural tools like chop cutters and hand tractors, and reallocation of care tasks within households.

The Unpaid Care Work agenda has helped significantly shift the power dynamics between community women and the government, leading to access and success in redistributing government resources towards gender-responsive services that address women's work burdens. These interventions have reduced women's workloads by 3–5 hours daily and empowered them to engage in economic activities. This power shift has played a pivotal role in empowering women to advocate for their needs. Continued efforts and evidence will be important to measure the long-term impact and sustainability of these achievements. ■





## Facilitating and Addressing VAWG Cases for Justice

AAIN and its partners have mobilised youth networks, ReFLECT Circles, Women’s Rights Forums, women’s groups, and adolescent girls’ groups as agents of change. These groups have been equipped with knowledge and skills on social norms, harmful practices, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), gender issues, and women’s rights. Youth and women leaders have actively challenged patriarchal norms, raised awareness through campaigns, dramas, and door-to-door outreach, and engaged with local governments to promote gender equality.

To strengthen response systems, toll-free numbers were established in Dhangadi Sub-Metropolitan and Lahan Municipality, enabling survivors to report GBV cases and access emergency services. Both municipalities received technical assistance in drafting and endorsing guidelines for GBV Elimination Funds, with NRs 1,00,000 allocated and an additional NRs 75,000 contributed by a local partner.

Efforts have contributed to the reporting and resolution of several GBV cases, with some survivors receiving livelihood support, particularly those affected by intimate partner violence. Most cases were referred to OCMC through the women and youth referral systems.

In a school in Makwanpur, two cases of sexual abuse were addressed due to increased awareness; the accused teacher was detained and resigned, and grievance redressal mechanisms were introduced. A similar initiative in Madi Municipality, Chitwan led to regular weekly sessions on sexual violence and legal processes. In addition, 57 survivors of acid and burn violence have been organised into a peer support group.

Youths were trained in VAWG, gender-responsive schools, digital literacy, and advocacy. Their learning was cascaded to a wider network of youths and adolescent girls, building momentum toward safer and more gender-equitable communities.

“After my mother-in-law hit me and damaged my ear, I went from hospital to hospital, even had surgery in Dharan; but no one in the family helped, not even for the expenses. My husband and I had to leave the house, and I gave birth alone in a rented room. When I went back, thinking things would be better, I was locked out of the bathroom, made to sleep on a wet bed, and not even allowed to fetch water. They accused me of things I never did. It was the sisters from the Women’s Rights Forum who stood by me when no one else did. Because of them, I now have my own place, and my child and I live in peace. Without them, I’d still be suffering.” Says B. Chaudhary (27) from Lahan Municipality. ■

“After my mother-in-law hit me and damaged my ear, I went from hospital to hospital, even had surgery in Dharan; but no one in the family helped.”

## Journey from Silence to Strength



Bimala in Labour Women Leadership training

In Manhari Rural Municipality, 26-year-old Bimala’s story reflects strength in the face of adversity. Born into poverty and denied education, she endured years of domestic violence after an early marriage. In 2020, she fled with her two daughters and began seeking justice, despite lacking essential legal documents withheld by her husband.

Bimala’s turning point came in 2023 when she joined a women’s group under WRP-III supported by Makwanpur Women’s Samuha (MMS). With training on legal rights, GBV, and livelihood skills, she gained the courage to file a legal case. MMS provided NPR 5,000 for legal follow-up and linked her with the District One-Stop Crisis Management Center (OCMC), which offered integrated services including legal aid and educational support for her children, worth NPR 1,00,000. Additionally, with the group’s support, she also received NPR 22,700 to start poultry farming and additional income through labor work, marking her first steps toward financial independence.

Today, Bimala is an active member of the group, openly sharing her experiences to raise awareness on gender-based violence. She lives with her maternal family and is also actively involved in policy dialogues and national assemblies. Once silenced by violence and fear, she now speaks confidently in public forums. Recalling her first national labor assembly, she said, “I was trembling and couldn’t even utter a word.” But inspired by other women’s stories, she found her voice. Now, Bimala addresses audiences of over a hundred people, advocating for informal women laborers and inspiring others to overcome injustice and reclaim their agency. ■



## Fighting Harmful Practices

**Y**outh groups have actively taken responsibility for preventing child marriage in their communities. With support from women's groups, Mahila Adhikar Manch (MAMs), ReFLECT and local police, anti-child marriage campaigns have been carried out through community dramas, sensitisation programs, and awareness-raising initiatives. These efforts, led by adolescent and youth groups with support from ActionAid and partners, focus on empowering adolescent girls as change agents to reduce forced and early marriages.

Adolescent girls are now more aware of the consequences of early marriage and are leading peer discussions and forming women-led monitoring groups. In Shankharapur Municipality, the deputy mayor is working to strengthen these initiatives by including ReFLECT Circle women in formal monitoring structures. The campaign's outreach expanded further through street dramas, such as the one led by Sunaulo Youth Hub and Kathmandu Jamghat Center in Tripura Sundari, which reached over 400 students. Additionally, cybercrime capacity-building sessions were



*In Aathrai Rural Municipality, Terhathum, seven child marriages were about to occur, but after receiving reports, three wedding preparations were halted due to complaints. The Women's Rights Forum and the adolescent girls' group faced pressure from organisers. However, with the intervention of local representatives and the police, who warned of legal consequences, the marriages were canceled.*



conducted for youth, equipping them with knowledge of digital safety, advocacy, and campaigning. Overall, youth mobilisation has led to visible shifts in power dynamics. Young people are not only challenging harmful social norms but also influencing community attitudes and systems, establishing themselves as effective agents of change. ■



Youth raising awareness against child marriage - Street Drama

System Engagement to Strengthen the Violence Prevention and Response System

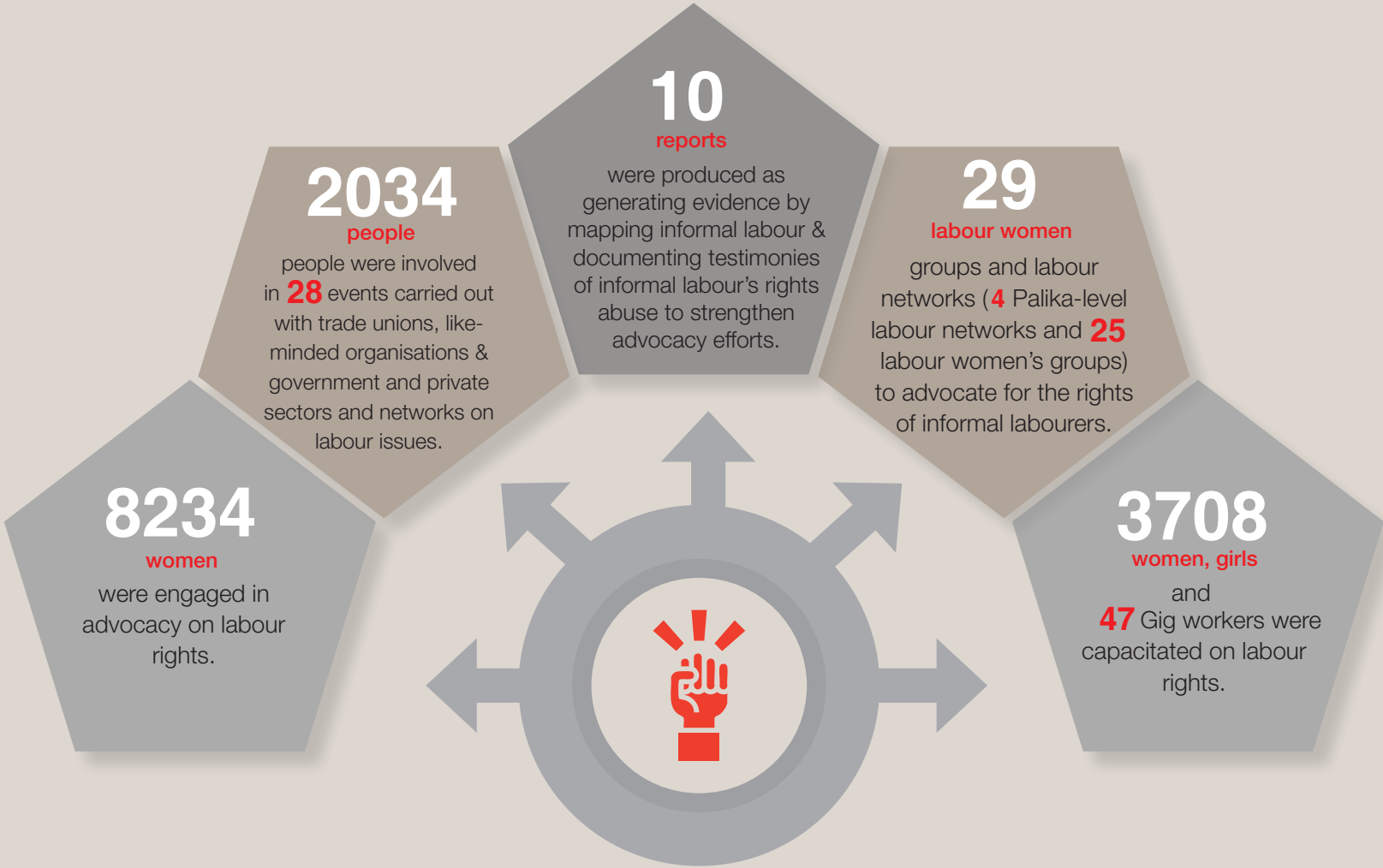
AAIN and its partners have engaged all tiers of government to advocate for gender-responsive policies and strengthen GBV prevention and response systems. Through capacity building of officials, including Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Judicial Committee members, and Women Unit Heads, local governments have become more accountable and responsive. In Lahan and Dhangadhi Mae Municipalities, mediation committees and mediators have been formed across 38 wards to facilitate justice for survivors, supported by materials to ensure community-level response mechanisms. Similarly, in Madi Municipality, Chitwan, a safe house guideline has been endorsed, and NRs 9,00,000 allocated for survivor support. The municipality has also initiated a justice hearing mechanism under the Judicial Committee and created a GBV Basket Fund (NRs 100,000) to ease access to legal services.

Across other working areas, significant progress includes the endorsement of GBV fund guidelines in three Palikas in Siraha, gender budgeting in Shankharapur, and the formation of referral guideline committees in Chitwan and Makwanpur. In Doti, each municipality allocated NRs 100,000 for GBV response, while Dipayal Silgadi supported three survivors with NRs 30,000 each to start small businesses. In Lalitpur and Parsa, strengthened OCMC

coordination and improved case referrals, and in Terhathum, NRs 250,000 was allocated for emergency GBV support. Manahari Rural Municipality in Makwanpur allocated NRs 11 lakhs to its relief fund. Community-led action was also notable in Chitwan’s Ward 6, where men actively supported survivors in accessing justice. These collective efforts demonstrate a growing commitment to institutional accountability and survivor-centered support. ■

“After understanding the need for a gender-responsive budget, I used to overlook it when preparing plans because it wasn’t mandated in the process. However, I will now ensure that it is updated on the municipality’s portal.” (Govinda Adhikari, Chief of Economic Administration, Shankharapur Municipality)

Securing Rights and Justice for Informal and Gig Workers through People Mobilisation





Decent Work and Rights of Informal Women Labourers



Labour monitoring carried out to know workplace issues and challenges

Through ReFLECT Circles, women labourers have been empowered to organise and advocate for their rights. With facilitation from partner organisations, they developed action plans, received training on labour laws, and actively engaged with local governments and contractors. As a result, they have successfully secured fair wages, safety gear, insurance, and recognition of their rights. Women Labour groups and networks were formed or reformed, mobilizing many informal labourers to raise their voices against wage inequality and unsafe working conditions. Training on labour rights and legal provisions reached numerous women, while coordination with local governments led to the development of policies to register female workers and address their challenges more systematically.

In the Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, 21 women reclaimed NRs 453,000 in unpaid wages after consistent advocacy. Additionally, 28 labourers were provided temporary insurance, and budget allocations were made for labour registration, social security orientations, and women's leadership enhancement. Similarly, in Laligurans Municipality of Terhathum, women labourers demanded equal pay after discovering a NRs 350 wage gap between men and women. Their refusal to work until fairness was ensured led to revised wages and improved working conditions. Wage increases were also secured in Kapilvastu, Palpa, Siraha, and other areas through continued advocacy and negotiation.

Across the working areas, labour monitoring was initiated by local governments in collaboration with labour groups. In Bardiya and Doti, monitoring revealed critical gaps in wage



Woman Informal labourers demanding justice in Labour Assembly event held in Kathmandu.

payment, safety gear, and insurance, prompting municipal action. These results reflect the growing strength of women labourers as leaders and change agents, driving community-level transformations in labour justice and dignity at work. ■

“ In the Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, 21 women reclaimed NRs 453,000 in unpaid wages after consistent advocacy. Additionally, 28 labourers were provided temporary insurance, and budget allocations were made for labour registration, social security orientations, and women's leadership enhancement. ”



# Policy Engagement Regarding Labour Initiatives

AAIN, in partnership with NMES, conducted a comprehensive survey on gig workers, particularly those in the ride-sharing and food delivery sectors. A survey was carried forward with interviews of 150 individuals, discussions were held with 4 targeted groups, and key methods such as focus group discussions and observations were done. The survey, now in its final stage, has generated critical evidence on the challenges and opportunities within the gig economy, which will inform future advocacy and programmatic interventions.

In Kathmandu, NMES documented women's experiences in the informal labour sector through a Women's Tribunal on Labour Issues, organised with networks such as WOFOWON, WOREC, Tarangini, and the National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders. Fourteen stories—collected by youth activists—highlighted issues such as low wages, exploitation, long hours, and unsafe working environments across the entertainment, construction, domestic, and agricultural sectors, emphasizing the need for urgent policy reform and government accountability. Additionally, local government efforts in other regions led to notable structural responses—such as the data collection of Haliya and Kamaiya communities and the development of rehabilitation guidelines—marking significant progress toward the recognition and restoration of rights for historically marginalised groups.

Labour mapping conducted across 12 AAIN's working Palikas revealed significant labour-related policy gaps at the local level. The process not only expanded labour networks but also surfaced pressing issues like wage disparities and unsafe conditions. For instance, workers in Paterwasugauli earn as little as NPR 250–500 for 12-hour shifts, over half of Bardiya's informal workers report unpaid wages, and 76% are unaware of their rights. In Madi, Sanitation workers earn NPR 300 without the basic safety provisions. Findings were shared in local forums and at a regional conference in Madhesh Pradesh, where labour women from eight districts presented a 9-point demand letter to provincial authorities. A consolidated report is being finalized to support evidence-based policy advocacy for informal labour rights. ■



Interaction with Gig workers as a part of the survey

## Bhaga

A Labour Activist

**B**haga who was married at just 13 out of poverty, was promised a life of dignity; but within a year, she was pregnant, abandoned by her husband, and left to survive on herself. By 14, she became a labourer in Pipalla, Dhangadhi, supporting her family after her father-in-law fell ill. “After my father-in-law passed away, I became the sole breadwinner,” Bhaga shares. Her daily wage started at just NRs 40, while men earned much more. Despite the hardships, she never gave up.

Now a dedicated member of the Seti ReFLECT Circle, Bhaga has been working with EDC Nepal since 2018 to fight for labour rights. Under her leadership, women began raising their voices for equal pay and safety. “Through our REFLECT circle meetings, we learned about labour rights and wage rates; we began to speak up with confidence.” Last year, the efforts paid off: the group recovered NRs 453,000 in unpaid wages for 21 women, and helped raise monthly wages for local women from NRs 6,000 to 11,000 in Pipalla.



Bhaga advocating for Child Rights, along with other Labour rights.

Due to her determination, 28 workers received temporary insurance, two injured workers were granted NRs 20,000 for treatment, and 20 more now have labour insurance. Municipalities responded; Dipayal Silgadhi allocated NRs 100,000 for worker registration, while Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City set aside NRs 75,000 for to educate women on insurance, equal pay, and workplace rights and NRs 172,000 for consumer committee and labour rights education. Bhaga now works alongside her husband, not only providing for their family but also inspiring change for countless daily wage women like her. ■



## Ensuring Every Child's Right to Quality Education: Building Safe Learning Spaces and Accountable Education Systems

Enabling safe learning environment in public school



**9071**  
children

from **126** Schools were supported to improve classroom facilities, repair and maintenance of buildings and wash facilities.



**8**  
schools

established school-level emergency funds, mobilising resources from communities, local governments, and partners.



**1038**  
children

were supported with school uniform, stationery scholarships and tuition classes.



**153**  
child clubs

were formed/reformed or reorganised during this year, developing and implementing annual action plans.



**233**  
teachers

were capacitated on teaching and learning pedagogy, classroom management, communication.



**635**  
young people and adolescent girls

were oriented about child rights and GBV in this reporting period.

## Education Materials, Classroom Facilities, Technology and Infrastructure Support

Creating inclusive and conducive learning environments is critical to ensure quality education. During this reporting period, significant efforts were made to support gender-responsive facilities, improve infrastructure, and provide educational materials across schools in the working areas. Partner organisations collaborated with local schools to conduct structural and non-structural assessments, guiding targeted interventions.

In this working period, schools were supported with classroom improvements and maintenance works, and also received essential WASH facilities, including toilets, rest rooms, sanitary pad disposal machines, and safe drinking water. These improvements have contributed to increased attendance and retention, particularly among girls and young children. Additionally, schools have received teaching and learning materials along with ICT resources such as televisions, computers, printers, and projectors. A total of 1,841 students benefited from these enhancements, while 83 teachers were trained on ICT use, improving their ability to deliver engaging lessons.

Among notable examples, Chapabot Secondary School in Shankharapur received support through NMES, including infrastructure development and capacity-building training. As a result, 163 students now experience smoother learning processes, and the school's Early Childhood Development (ECD) class with 23 students has gained positive recognition



Children are happy with child-friendly drinking water facility in school

among parents and local authorities. Similarly, Ram and Kisan Secondary Schools in Baganshkali RM, Palpa, received support from SRDCN to establish rest rooms for adolescent girls. With an investment of NPR 130,000, the initiative provided private spaces for menstrual hygiene management, resulting in improved attendance and reduced dropout rates among girls.

For ICT integration, RKJS provided LED TVs to three schools in Bardiya to enhance early grade learning through audio-visual methods. Following this support, there was a notable increase in regular classroom attendance. Additionally, SRDCN Palpa equipped four schools with ICT tools (computers, printers, and projectors) worth NPR 207,000, directly benefitting 580 students and helping transform classroom instruction. ■



A simple book, a powerful beginning; she's happy to learn.



## School Safety and Emergency Preparedness

A growing recognition of school safety has led to a collective effort among teachers, parents, and local authorities. During this period, 8 schools established school-level emergency funds, mobilising resources from communities, local governments, and partners. Operational guidelines were developed and disaster risk assessments were conducted to ensure preparedness.

Partner organisations facilitated the review of school disaster response plans, followed by consultations with teachers and parents. As a result, schools opened dedicated bank accounts to manage the emergency fund, with contributions collected amounting to 164,220 NPR. These funds are expected to provide timely relief and strengthen school resilience during emergencies. ■



*Life hasn't been easy for Ashma (12) from Bardiya. She says, "With a father working far away and a mother who needed constant care, she and her sister struggled to keep up with their studies". Their community school was inexpensive, but the cost of essentials like uniforms and books was still beyond their reach. Everything changed when Ashma received support from the LRP. The program gave her the resources she needed to go to school without feeling ashamed of her poverty. With her new school supplies, Ashma was able to attend classes regularly and, most importantly, believe in her ability to succeed. That moment marked the beginning of Ashma's journey toward a brighter future.*



A key highlight is the establishment of the "Yuba Baithak Samuha" (Youth Learning Lab), a vibrant space where 50 youth have been organised to engage in discussions and campaigns addressing local concerns. Financial support helped set up the lab infrastructure, including computers, printers, and internet access. Notably, the "Dholho Piphi Abhiyan", a campaign conducted annually before the dry season, has created widespread community awareness of fire preparedness. As a result, households now store excess water in anticipation of fire emergencies—demonstrating behavioural change driven by youth action. In addition to community campaigns, the Youth Learning Lab has incorporated ICT tools to enhance learning and communication. This has enabled youth members to manage campaigns more efficiently, improve digital literacy, and coordinate with other child and youth groups.

Throughout the year, AAIN and partners conducted capacity-building trainings focused on child rights, gender-based violence (GBV), and local referral mechanisms. Young people and adolescent girls were oriented on how to access justice through local judicial committees and One-Stop Crisis Management Centres (OCMCs). Additionally, complaint-handling systems in schools were introduced and are now in use. As part of advocacy efforts, 41 child clubs developed campaign action plans, leading initiatives such as plantation drives, drawing and literature competitions, and community events focused on ending harmful social norms including child marriage and menstrual taboos. Many child clubs also published wall newspapers and showcased their creativity through storytelling and the arts. ■



*Continuous monitoring and parental involvement have contributed to increased learning outcomes for students. This year, 100% of the eighth-grade students succeeded in the final exam, compared to only 10% two years before. The municipality has been conducting the eighth-grade exams. Kul Bahadur Gurung, a parent from Ward No. 3, Janata Basic School.*



## Children and Youth Led Initiatives

In collaboration with child clubs, AAIN and its partners have actively worked to promote child rights, protection, and education through a wide range of awareness and advocacy initiatives. These efforts aim to empower children and youth as agents of change and foster solidarity among them across all working areas.

School-based child clubs conducted extracurricular activities in three schools, supported tree planting in one, and published a child-led wall calendar. Additionally, 316 parents from five schools were oriented on effective home-based learning and child development practices. Two schools received educational materials, helping students strengthen their project-based learning. To strengthen accountability in teaching practices, 13 child club members were trained to maintain classroom logbooks. These logbooks help track the use of child-friendly teaching methods and monitor teacher attendance—empowering children to have a voice in their education.



Child clubs - encouraging children to enhance their creativity



## Strong and Beautiful Mind Leading to Success

**A**arati (17) lives with her family of four including herself, her mother, younger brother and her father who is a migrant worker. She says “I come from a family of four. Since a young age, I have taken it upon myself to be a diligent student, striving for academic excellence and consistently securing the top position in my class. My hard work and determination have not only benefited me but have also set an inspiring example for other children in my community. I have seen my parents struggle very hard to provide for me and my brother. My father worked as a labourer in the village and my mother worked as a peasant. Buying stationery was a big deal for my parents as they saved every penny they earned for bread and butter. But as DJKYC came to me and my family’s life, things changed and here I am now helping others to help themselves. When I reflect on the past, my family faced numerous struggles, and my brother and I found it difficult to focus on our studies. However, one thing we knew for certain was that we had to work hard to achieve success in life. I witnessed my mother shedding countless tears during those challenging times. It was those moments that became the turning point in my life, as I vowed to never give up, even in the face of adversity. One of the significant contributions to my life has been through the Suryodaya Child Club, of which I have been



Aarati happily does her homework.

an active member. The club aims to combat various social issues such as caste discrimination, child marriage, school dropouts, dowry systems, and drug abuse. We achieve this through awareness campaigns, orientation programmes, and street dramas.

Having witnessed firsthand the discrimination faced by individuals belonging to the “Sadaya” caste, who are considered to be of low social standing, I am passionate about challenging these discriminatory practices. With the relentless efforts of the Suryodaya Child Club in our community and local schools, attitudes towards discrimination have begun to shift. Personally, I find immense joy in performing street dramas as they serve as



Aarati (second from the left) advocates along with her friends against child marriage .

a powerful medium to convey messages and challenge societal norms. I have been involved in more than 50 street dramas in my community, which my friends and I prepare. These dramas shed light on issues such as child marriage, caste discrimination, drug abuse, school dropout, and dowry systems, which are prevalent in my area. Each performance takes about three hours, and it brings me great happiness to raise awareness about these social issues.

The Suryodaya Child Club, consisting of 32 members, has organised various programmes, orientation sessions, and competitions addressing the issues of child marriage, caste discrimination, dowry systems, and school dropouts. These initiatives have played a

crucial role in raising awareness and encouraging community members to actively participate in creating a more inclusive and equal society. The training I received was valuable. This support has equipped us with the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate for the rights of children and drive positive change within our communities. Additionally, our child club organised a plantation programme to emphasise the importance of environmental conservation. I am proud to be seen as a role model for other children in Siraha. My dedication and passion for community service, coupled with my commitment to education, have empowered me to challenge discriminatory practices and contribute to creating a more equitable society. My story serves as an inspiration, showcasing the power of young individuals to make a lasting impact and drive positive change in their communities.” ■



## Promoting Child Rights and Quality Learning Outcome by Strengthening Public School Governance



## Improved School Governance and Learning Outcomes

Besides focusing on improving school affairs, AAIN and its partner organisations also prioritised the active engagement of parents in strengthening community schools. To raise awareness about parental rights and responsibilities in education governance parental education sessions were conducted across the working areas; these sessions led to increased parental involvement in school monitoring and decision-making processes. In parallel, Education Concern Forums were established in Thakre, Dhading, Parsa, Siraha, and Palpa to promote civic engagement and democratic dialogue around public education transformation. To promote transparency, accountability, and the right to quality education in a free and fair environment, civic forums were established

“*Rajan Adhikari, deputy head teacher of a school in Palpa, says that the use of teaching materials have significantly increased in School. Section classes, interaction methods, question and answer, homework and practicing the Montessori method are intensively practiced by teachers.*”

and mobilised across working Palikas. These forums, initiated with the participation of individuals from diverse sectors, aimed to engage local authorities through dialogue and advocacy. Youth were mobilised to gather evidence and facilitate discussion within these forums.



During this reporting period, a total of 8 partner organisations facilitated the formation of education forums in the working Palikas. The members of this forum include retired teachers, women and youth networks, journalists, and academicians, who actively participated. These forums conducted discussions on the Local Education Act, exploring challenges and opportunities for its effective implementation. They are now following up with local governments to ensure timely translation and execution of the act as per commitments made.

Recognising the limited effectiveness of School Development Plans (SDPs) in many schools, AAIN-supported LRP interventions included extensive orientation and consultation meetings with stakeholders and local governments. Furthermore, 17 schools conducted PRS (Promoting Rights in Schools) assessments and produced Citizen's Education Reports, leading to the development of action-based SDPs. In total, 61 schools have revised or developed SDPs accordingly. In Aathrai Rural Municipality alone, 52 schools reviewed and improved their SDPs through multi-stakeholder engagement. Notably, 59 schools submitted SDPs within the municipal deadline, incorporating feedback from parents and students and aligning with efforts to improve learning outcomes. This has also led to the inclusion of teacher rewards mechanisms in the municipal budget plan based on student performance.

To address learning gaps, especially in mathematics and science, refresher and subject-specific capacity-building training was provided to 233 basic-level teachers in Thakre. In Parsa, 35 teachers were trained in developing teaching-learning materials using local resources. These efforts, coordinated with local education units, aim to improve instructional quality and student performance.

To support out-of-school learning, learning centers were operated across the working areas. These centers provide remedial classes, support with homework, and conduct extracurricular and leadership development activities. Children are actively participating, and have taken leadership roles within their groups. For sustainability, proposals have been submitted to local governments for continued support.

As a result of these initiatives, community schools have shown marked improvement in both learning outcomes and student engagement. At Janata Secondary School in Aatharai, overall learning achievement rose from 59% to 64%, while Grade 8 pass rates improved from 40% to 100%. The introduction of smart televisions and digital teaching practices contributed to these results, with student attendance increasing from 20% to 50% in four monitored schools. ■

“ I really liked the concept of the Child Learning Center. The idea of learning from neighbors, where older children teach the younger ones, and local brothers and sisters guide the process, seems like a strong aspect of the Child Learning Center. During my visit, I noticed even the younger children were active and openly expressing themselves, which made me realise from the very first visit how effective this approach is. Moreover, the repeated requests from parents and children for the continued operation of the Child Learning Center highlight its importance and value. I will do everything I can to support the ongoing operation of the Child Learning Center. However, to bring more children to Pathibhara School, I request that you also collaborate with parents.” Nawaraj Bhattarai (Chairperson, Ward 10, Budhanilkantha Municipality)

## Increased Learning Achievement Boosts School Enrollment

Kalika Basic School in, Terhathum, has seen a notable increase in student enrollment this year. A five-day enrollment campaign organised by teachers and parents aimed to bring back students who had dropped out and encourage those attending private schools to join. As a result, the school now has 103 enrolled students, including Abhishek Limbu, who returned after dropping out in Grade 2, along with three other students now in Grades 3, 5, and 8. Assistant principal Chhatra B. Karki highlights the primary goal of enhancing the school's educational achievements.

The school facilities have significantly improved, now containing three buildings with 16 classrooms, including a computer lab, a science laboratory, and a library. Kalika Basic School has set an ambitious target for its average learning achievement rate of 58%, compared to the national average of 62. Remarkably, the school has met this goal. Principal Regmi also noted the availability of various supports which allow the school to provide scholarships for needy and hardworking students.

The Dalit Awareness Society (DAS) has played a vital role in improving the school's environment and infrastructure. During the COVID-19 pandemic, several significant initiatives



were implemented, such as providing sports equipment, establishing a mobile library, constructing stairs for slippery paths, building a bridge over a stream, and developing the school playground. These efforts received appreciation from principal Regmi and were included in the school's development strategy.

Various initiatives have been carried out as part of the school's development plan. A five-year project aims to raise NRs 1 million for school education support, which has already garnered NRs 1,199,999 in just three months. The interest generated by the fund will be used for additional activities and basic infrastructure improvements. Additionally, the programme “Friend in Joy and Sorrow” allows parents to contribute affordable amounts on their children's birthdays to provide uniforms for poor and marginalised students. Inspired by these initiatives, other schools have begun implementing similar programs. Due to these efforts, Kalika Basic School was honored with a national award on Education Day from Terhathum district, a recognition made possible through DAS Nepal and AAIN. ■

Advance the Agenda of Education  
Financing for Public Education, Tax Justice



This year, 79 youth-led campaigns were conducted to raise awareness about tax justice, education financing, and gender-responsive schools, urging local governments to ensure adequate investment in public education. These initiatives empowered youth and communities to understand tax power and advocate for improved funding. As a result, six schools produced budget analysis reports. In Aathrai, a youth-led education financing study in nine schools led to budget management training for municipal staff. Education investment increased from 14% to 15%, with broader allocations including scholarships, ICT materials, sports and support for irregular students from the local government.

Similar initiatives were launched in Shankharapur and Siraha, where youth are tracking school budgets. In Bardiya and Palpa, the workshops revealed that only 4–14% of municipal budgets go to education. Stakeholders reviewed the status of the 14-point declaration, prompting commitments to prioritise education funding for quality improvement. ■

Strengthening Community Resilience through Climate Justice,  
Sustainable Livelihoods, and Local Response Systems

Creating Green Livelihood Opportunities for Women and Smallholder  
Farmers to Strengthen Rights and Resilience



3,801

lead farmers

were capacitated and mobilised to claim their rights on climate change and Agroecology (including organic farming)



1,158

smallholder farmers

were capacitated to access fund/ subsidies from the government plan and program.



521

farmers

were provided start up grant support for income generation activities support and revolving funds to start an enterprise.



7

Women Friendly markets

agricultural collection center constructed/supported to make easy accessibility to the market.



884

smallholders' farmers and enterprises

were supported to link their production to market.





Training to produce organic fertilisers for agroecological farming

## Promotion of Organic Agroecological Practices

The organic agroecological movement continues to grow, expanding beyond Terhathum and gaining recognition among communities. In Thakre, Dhading, 161 women and small farmers have learned to collect and test soil samples, with 374 individuals receiving training in producing organic pesticides using local raw materials while 302 families are already preparing organic liquid fertilisers to practice agroecological farming.

In Shankarapur, over 60 women farmers have adopted organic farming practices. With technical training provided by the Rural Municipality, they now produce and apply liquid fertilisers, resulting in higher vegetable yields and reduced crop damage. One farmer earned NRs 600 by selling 12 liters of fertiliser, sparking interest in scaling this up as a small enterprise.

Local champion Indira Darji from the Makhamali Farmers' Group in Laligurans Municipality plays a vital role in supporting her community by distributing organic pesticides—made from fermented sour, spicy, and bitter ingredients—free

of charge. She also facilitates the collective gathering of raw materials. Inspired by her work, Bishnu Kumari Limbu secretary of Gurans Prangraik Agriculture group from Ward 7 reduced chemical fertiliser use by 50% and won first prize (NRs 1,000) at a local organic agriculture exhibition for her produce grown with cow urine and manure. Furthermore, 200 participants who completed the training have started producing organic pesticides and fertilisers at home.

Across other areas, two groups are preparing to lease land for organic farming after exposure visits to Chitwan. In Palpa, 27 farmers were trained on accessing government subsidies, with 26 receiving at least NRs 20,000 for income-generating activities. KMJS held orientation programs for 14 men and 250 women across four Palikas to enhance engagement with local authorities.

Although the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for organic certification has been developed, its implementation remains limited. Local governments still distribute chemical fertilisers despite having policies supporting organic farming. Transparency and a fair distribution of agricultural grants and subsidies remain key challenges. Partner organisations will continue to advocate for inclusive policy translation and equitable access to resources. ■



A woman farmer happily harvesting organically grown potatoes



With the training and support from DDRC, and the guidance as a Junior Technical Assistant (JTA), I started growing seasonal vegetables,” says Sairuliya Khatun from Paterwa Sugauli, Parsa. “In the first year, I earned NRs **40,000** from selling organic produce. That success encouraged me to involve my husband and eldest son. Together, we expanded our farm by **4 Kathha**, and now we’re all working to grow our income.





Menuka alongside her husband holding organic vegetables grown in their vegetable farm



## Farm Fresh, Naturally Grown – The Organic Farming Way

Menuka (56), a farmer from Terhathum, is a living example of resilience, innovation, and community leadership. She is also the president of the Okharbote Community Centre where she encourages Organic Farming and Women Entrepreneurship. She was born into a humble farming family and married at the age of 14, Menuka’s early life was defined by household responsibilities and hardship. Without formal education and limited farmland, she and her husband struggled to make ends meet.

With no specialised skills at hand, farming was the only livelihood her husband and she knew. Everything changed when Menuka dared to try something new: planting cabbages, a crop no

one in her village had attempted. Despite initial setbacks and scepticism from locals, she persisted. Her determination caught the attention of ActionAid, which supported her with training on organic farming and sustainable agriculture. With these skills, Menuka not only improved her production but also transitioned to fully organic methods, protecting both her family’s health and the environment.

Today, Menuka leads the Okharbote Community Centre, a group of 29 women championing organic farming and women’s entrepreneurship. She cultivates seasonal vegetables on nearly one hectare of land, earning an annual income of NPR 3,00,000. Her once-struggling farm is now a model for others; a thriving symbol of what’s possible with courage, opportunity, and community support.

“I had no education or special skills - just a will to try,” Menuka shares. “ActionAid’s support gave me knowledge, and now I’m proud to help other women build better lives too.” ■

## Economic Engagement to Improve Livelihood Options

The LRP-supported programme has empowered young women and marginalised individuals across all working areas through skill-building and access to capital, enabling them to start income-generating activities and improve their socio-economic conditions. Through financial literacy training and business planning support, smallholder farmers and youth have gained the confidence to access large loans and run small enterprises in agriculture, livestock, and traditional crafts. As a result, many beneficiaries now earn between NRs 10,000 and 250,000 monthly. For instance, Yogita Limbu from the Juntara Farmers’ Group in Terhathum borrowed NRs 16,000 and earned NRs 56,000 through pig rearing, enabling her to support her children’s education and household expenses. In Dhading, 19 women were trained in carpet weaving following feasibility and market studies, and in Terhathum, 21 women received training in Dhaka weaving, expanding livelihood options in local crafts. Similarly, 26 individuals in Shankharapur have adopted tunnel farming, with produce now being sold in Sankhu markets and nearby monasteries.

Additionally, to enhance the financial capabilities of smallholder farmers and support the initiation of small-scale businesses, AAIN and its partners conducted financial literacy and business planning training across the working areas. In Terhathum, 60 individuals participated in the training provided by DAS, which led to the development of 81 business plans focusing on farming and other income-generating activities. As a result of this initiative, 11 participants also received technological support through the MEDPA programme to strengthen their



Woman engaged in Income Generating Activities - Mushroom farming

ventures. Furthermore, the training enabled participants to better access financial resources and plan sustainable businesses, contributing to improved livelihoods and economic resilience.

Overall, the programme has enabled individuals to raise their income reducing their dependence on loans and enabling them to afford the basic needs of their family members. ■

“Hem Maya from Terhathum mentions, “I have been able to earn a profit of NRs 60,000 from cabbage, NRs 15,000 from peas and NRs 10,000 from potatoes. I feel proud to have been able to lift my family out of poverty and provide for my children’s education and my family’s wellbeing.”

She proudly shares, “I used to struggle to buy stationery, but now I can fulfil my children’s needs and even treat them to small joys.” ■





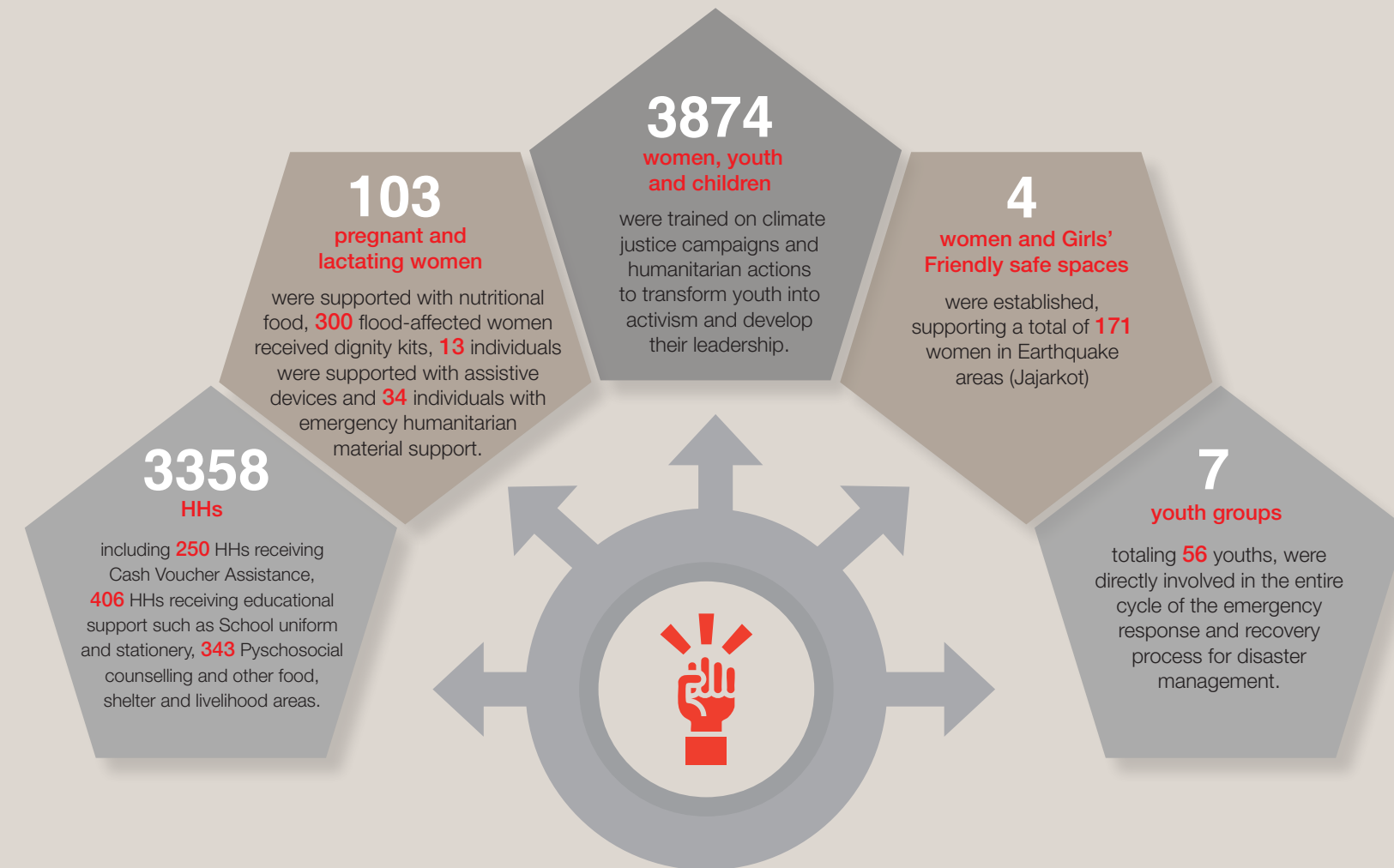


## Women's Leadership in Market Management and Access to the Market

As part of AAIN's commitment to enhancing women's leadership skills, we are encouraging women to lead local level committees by focusing on strengthening their constructive leadership skills. A few years back, Doti Equality Development Centre, in collaboration with KI Singh Rural Municipality, established a women-friendly market. Following a recent meeting with the ward office and elected representatives, NRs 200,000 were allocated to improve the market space. Moreover, it was decided to strengthen the oversight and efficiency of the market management committee.

In a ward-level partnership, DJKYC supported the construction of a women-friendly market and Agricultural Collection Center building in Dhangadhi Mai Municipality. The structure was completed in 2023, and the cold storage facility is in the process of being set up. DDRC Parsa has also initiated a Palika-level coordination meeting for the establishment of a women-friendly market management committee. As a result of advocacy with the Palika and other stakeholders, a woman's representative has been included on the Rangapur Tadi Market Management Committee. ■

## Harnessing the Power of Women and Young People to Drive Gender and Climate Justice through Youth-Led Response Action and Advocacy





## Humanitarian Assistance

One key focus area of the programme is to enhance local capacity to respond to disasters effectively. They have received training in basic humanitarian standards, women-friendly relief standards, search and rescue techniques, first aid, and disaster preparedness and risk reduction. This capacity-building effort has equipped these youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to respond to emergencies and contribute to community resilience.



### Bucket and container distribution for flood victims in Bansighat



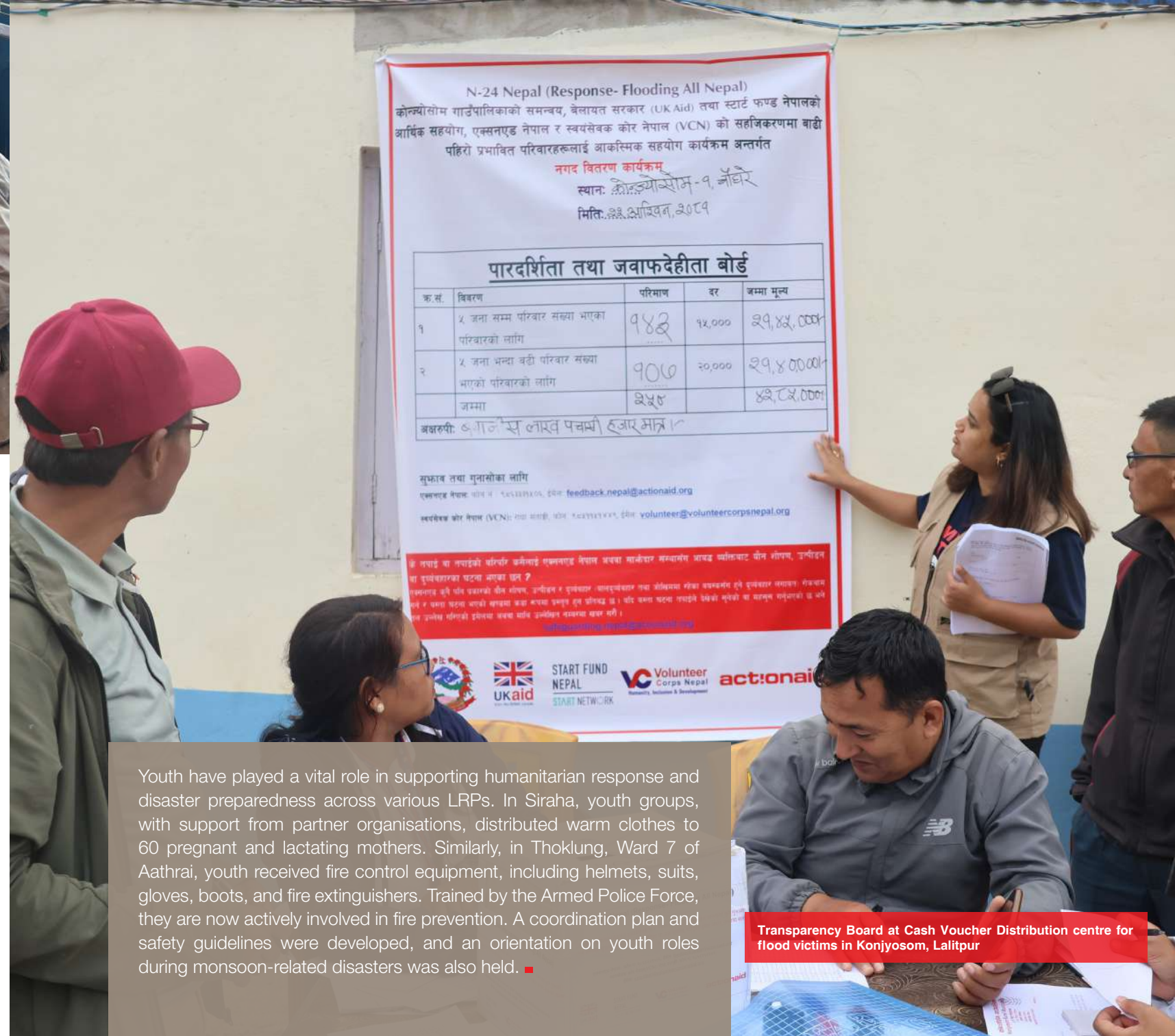
Anita, a humanitarian worker with all the required tools.

I'd never imagine one day I would lead community efforts in jeans and confidence. Joining the Siraha Youth Hub changed my life for good; breaking barriers, earning her family's support, and igniting passion to empower other women." Today, she stands as a symbol of quiet resilience turned into bold leadership.

In Kathmandu's Bansighat community, "Go Bags" (Jhatpat Jhola) were introduced to help families prepare for emergency. IEC materials were distributed, and 237 women, 18 adolescents, and 80 children learned about disaster preparedness and climate justice. Through poster discussions and home visits, the initiative promoted safe storage of essential documents and raised awareness of climate resilience at the household level.

These initiatives successfully raised awareness about emergency preparedness and fostered a sense of responsibility for personal safety and environmental sustainability. ■

**A**nita (36) a dedicated housewife, mother and humanitarian worker has become an inspiration to many young women in Siraha through her involvement with Siraha Youth Hub initiated by ActionAid. She says “I was only confined to her kitchen and hidden behind a veil.



### Transparency Board at Cash Voucher Distribution centre for flood victims in Konivosom, Lalitpur



# Earthquake Response Initiatives

AAIN and its partners supported earthquake-affected communities in Jajarkot by establishing Women and Girls Friendly Safe Spaces (WGFS), managed by trained facilitators who led interactive sessions on gender issues, GESI, livelihood, safety, health, and leadership. These spaces served as safe and empowering hubs for women and girls.

Women and youth played key roles throughout the emergency response; leading need assessments, guiding relief distribution, and participating in post-distribution monitoring. Relief efforts were gender-sensitive and inclusive, prioritising the needs of women, persons with disabilities, and families living on rented or unregistered land, often overlooked by other organisations during emergencies.

Community representation was ensured through the involvement of women ward representatives and local women leaders. Relief distribution followed recommendations from women's groups, ensuring transparency and fairness. Transparency boards detailing relief item specifics and budgets were placed at distribution sites and construction venues. An accountability mechanism, including complaints boxes and a five-member response committee led by women representatives, was set up to address community feedback. The complaint hearing mechanism was set up in all Women and Girls Friendly Safe Spaces, allowing participants easy access to submit complaints or suggestions.

Youth and adolescents were actively engaged as volunteers, enhancing immediate response efforts while promoting civic responsibility and long-term community resilience by cultivating a culture of volunteerism and preparedness among future generations. ■



“Go Bags” Pamphlets - Awareness sessions for emergencies

“On 2080/11/12, under the guidance of the ward president, we, women and sisters from the community, came together at the ward office and formed a 41-member group, finally opening our eyes to take collective action”, says Sharmila Shah.



A Women and Girls Friendly Safe Space(WFSS) in Jajarkot.

## Empowering Women through Community-Led Disaster Resilience

After the earthquake hit Maidechaur in Ward 1, Bheri Municipality, Jajarkot, a group of 45 brave women came together to establish the Women and Girls Friendly Safe Space (WFSS). This space was created to support women, children, and elderly people living in disaster-prone areas.

Led by the women themselves, the space became more than just a safe place; it turned into a strong community where women could discuss their challenges openly, especially around disasters, rights, and safety. It gave them the confidence to speak up and work with local leaders/ stakeholders and organisations to bring real change.

One big success came when dangerous land cracks appeared in their village during the earthquake, increasing

the risk of landslides. The women took the lead; talking to local authorities and organisations like KIRDARC and pushed for action. Because of their strong voice, a proposal was approved through Strategic Fund Nepal and CRS Nepal to fix the land cracks and protect the community.

Today, these same women are leading the repair work through cash-for-work programmes, helping fill and stabilize the land while earning an income. Their leadership in building and managing safe space has made a big difference, giving women a place to feel safe, learn, and take action.

In essence, the story of WFSS exemplifies the power of grassroots initiatives led by women, demonstrating resilience, leadership, and community solidarity in the face of adversity. ■



# Campaigns



**6017 campaign activists** were developed and mobilised for Decent work and Climate Justice Campaign.



**7708 people** were actively involved in climate justice campaign events.



More than **1500 people** were engaged digitally in climate justice mobilisations events.



**3355 women** were participated actively in Decent Work Campaign events.



**43 labour groups and networks** were formed or reformed, mobilizing over **3,000** informal labourers to raise their voices against wage inequality and unsafe working conditions.

## Climate Justice Campaign

In 2024, AAIN led a nationwide push for climate justice where students, youth volunteers, teachers, parents, and local representatives were engaged. Activities included street dramas, debates, photo exhibitions, tree plantations, and school orientations to raise awareness about climate change and climate justice.

The National Climate Justice Assembly, held from April 16–19, brought together partners, youth, and communities through online forums, local discussions, and testimonial



Climate Justice Campaign – Face paint

sharing. A Digital Day of Activism using the #FixTheFinance campaign reached wide audiences through youth-led videos and social media engagement. Over 200+ youth participated in national-level events, while more than 300+ children, youth, and women joined local climate mobilisations led by partners.

AAIN also organised its annual Social Audit and Climate Justice Campaign Launch, reinforcing its focus on policy engagement and evidence-based advocacy. A national policy dialogue explored gaps in Nepal's climate laws, engaging policymakers, CSOs, and academic institutions.

Creative youth-led activism was showcased at the World Social Forum, featuring art, drama, folk songs, and fashion shows. In partnership with Youth Advocacy Nepal, a national workshop on youth climate leadership was held, and recommendations were submitted to the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Additionally, youth groups, women's networks, and forest user groups collectively planted thousands of trees in barren lands and disaster-prone areas demonstrating strong grassroots commitment to environmental justice and disaster resilience. ■



Climate Justice Campaign - Rally



## Decent Work Campaign

The Decent Work campaign, led by women labourers, aims to establish dignified work environments. Its goals include ensuring fair wages, adequate social security, and safe, discrimination-free conditions for all workers. This year's evidence-based advocacy campaign highlights the struggles of informal women workers, driven by grassroots leadership. Stories from labour women underscore the ongoing challenges and advocacy efforts at the local and national levels. This grassroots campaign was linked nationally through the World Social Forum, where trade unions and partners joined demonstrations for informal workers' rights, demanding social security, violence-free workplaces, and equal pay. At the grassroots level, regional and district conferences in Madhesh Pradesh and Bardiya and almost all working Palikas of labour women saw petitions submitted to provincial ministries and local governments, emphasizing the need for labour monitoring mechanisms. These advocacy efforts have already contributed to programme achievements. ■



A woman informal worker raising her voice for dignity, rights, and justice — capturing the spirit of our rooted campaign



Women led Campaign on Equal and Fair Wages

## Recovering Wages and Mortgaging Land

Durga Tharu, 55, from Ramnagar, Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality, lives with her family of sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren. While her sons work as masons and her husband as a labourer, the family cultivates 32 kattha of land, a mix of government (5 kattha), mortgaged (22 kattha), and sharecropped (5 kattha) plots. Durga is an active member of the Shanti Women Farmers' Group, facilitated by KMJS Bardiya, and a trusted leader during crises.

In a group meeting, she raised concerns about unpaid wages after a contractor fled without paying 21 local workers, including her sons, who had built 4 community school buildings. Durga led the complaint process and helped recover NRs 80,000 out of the total NRs 2,38,000 owed, which was used to mortgage more land for income security.

Later, workers from her area were again left unpaid after working on a hospital project in Dailekh District. Due to the efforts of Durga, the ward office arranged a meeting with the contractor, who promised to pay by Shrawan 1, 2081 B.S. Though payment is still pending, workers have decided not to take legal action after the contractor promised to pay for the workers. Durga's advocacy has made her a respected voice for workers' rights and fair wages in her community. ■

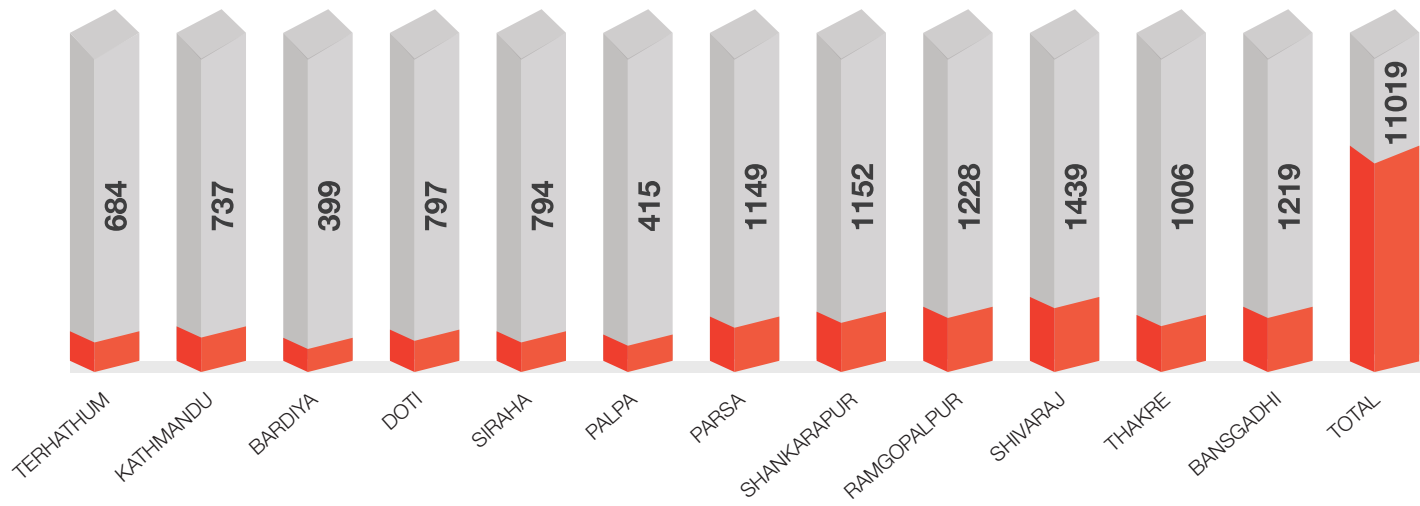


Durga, advocates for fair and equal wages for labour workers.

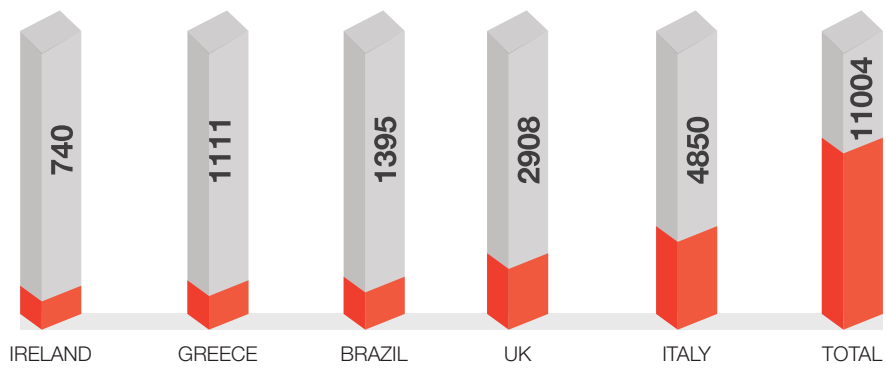


# Child Sponsorship in 2024

Number of Children Supported on different LRPS



Number of Children Supported by Funding Affiliate in 2024



“A child beams with joy as he reads a letter from his sponsor, proudly sharing it with his friend. Their laughter and smiles reflect the warmth and encouragement the message brings.”



# Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements for 2024

ActionAid International Nepal Statement of Income and Expenditure For the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024					
Particulars	Note Reference	NPR'000 2024	£'000 2024	NPR'000 2023	£'000 2023
Income- Total (A)	13	402,381	2,363	405,442	2,471
Individual Giving-Regular		243,705	1,432	243,456	1,491
Individual Giving-Other		7,598	44	10,907	67
Philanthropy & Partnership Income		6,174	36	60,356	366
Institutional Income		140,430	825	87,056	525
Other Income		4,474	26	3,667	22
Expenditure- Total (B)	14	416,234	2,442	365,266	2,246
Programme		340,468	1,978	301,687	1,840
Fundraising		13,186	78	14,979	92
Governance		3,741	22	4,353	27
Support		58,839	364	44,248	287
International Contribution (C)					
Outgoing Transfers (D)		(1,712)	(10)	(6,948)	(42)
Translation Gain/(Loss) (E)	9	3,207	(5)	7,923	12
Surplus/ (deficit)- Total (A-B-C-D+E)		(8,934)	(73)	55,047	279

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Financial Statements

As per our report of even date

  
Kumar Jung Thakuri  
Head of Finance Sustainability & Admin

Date: 7 May 2025  
Place: Kathmandu, Nepal

  
Sujeta Mahema  
Executive Director



  
Gyanendra B. Bhari  
Partner  
BRS Neupane & Co.  
Chartered Accountants



# Knowledge Generation in 2024





# Annex 1

## Our Local Implementing Partner Organisations - 2024

Districts	Partners
Terhathum	Dalit Awareness Society (DAS)
	Deurali Society (DS)
Kathmandu	Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj (NMES)
Bardiya	Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj (KMJS)
	Radha Krishna Tharu Jana Sewa Kendra (RKJS)
Doti	Equality Development Centre (EDC)
Siraha	Dalit Jana Kalyan Yuba Club (DJKYC)
Palpa	Social Resource Development Centre Nepal (SRDCN)
Parsa	Dibya Development Resource Center (DDRC)
Mahottari	Ratauli Yuwa Club (RYC)
Kapilvastu	Siddhartha Social Development Center (SSDC)
Dhading	Integrated Community Development Campaign (ICDC)
Chitwan	Chitwan Sakriya Women's Foundation(CSWF)
Makwanpur	Makwanpur Mahila's Samuha (MMS)

# Annex 2

## Projects Managed by Actionaid International Nepal in 2024

S.N.	Project Name	Donor	Duration
1.	Jyoti School Building and Dormitory construction in Nepal	AA Italy	Aug 2024 – Sept 2025
2.	The Taxed Alliance (Education Out Loud – EOL II)	AAI/Global Partnership for Education through OXFAM IB	Jan 2024 – June 2026
3.	Women-Friendly Market, Tehrathum	AA Ireland (Electric Aid)	July 2024 – Dec 2026
4.	Mobilise and Empower the Haliya and Freed Kamaiya Communities	AAUK/The Freedom Fund	June 2024 – Dec 2025
5.	Youth Mobilization	AA Denmark	Jan – Dec 2024
6.	Start fund flood response 2024	START Fund	Oct – Mid Nov 2024
7.	Flood Response_IHART	AA UK (IHART)	Oct 2024 – Jan 2025
8.	Flood Response_PPL	AA UK	Oct 2024 – April 2025
9.	Story Telling of Youth Project	AA DK	Jan 2023- Dec 2027
10.	Women's Right Project (WRP III)	AA Ireland (Irish Aid)	Jan 2023 – Dec 2027
11.	Strengthening Leadership of Acid and Burn Violence Survivors through Holistic Interventions (SLASH)	AA Italy/Waldensian Church	Jan 2022-June 2024








“ Playful moments like these remind  
us that every child deserves a  
childhood full of laughter, learning,  
and limitless possibilities ”



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