



REFLECTIONS
AND
LEARNING
2023

Reflections and Learning 2023

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REFLECTIONS
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2023

AAIN

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.

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.

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

OUR APPROACH

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ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL
NEPAL IN 2023

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ACRONYMS

AAIN	ActionAid International Nepal
BVS	Burns Violence Survivors
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CLC	Child Learning Center
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DAS	Dalit Awareness Society
DS	Deurali Society
DIMS	Disaster Information Management System
DJKYC	Dalit Jana Kalyan Yuba Club
DMC	Disaster Management Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EDC	Equality Development Centre
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GRPS	Gender Responsive Public Services
HRBA	Human Rights-based Approach
LRP	Local Rights Programme
ICDC	Integrated Community Development Campaign
ICT	Information Communication Technology
KMJS	Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj
LDRRP	Local Disaster Risk Reduction Plan
NMES	Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj
NRs	Nepalese Rupees
OCMC	One-Stop Crisis Management Center
PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems
PLIP	People Living in Poverty
PRS	Promoting Rights in Schools
ReFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques
SIP	School Improvement Plan
SMC	School Management Committee
SRDCN	Social Resource Development Centre Nepal
SSDC	Siddhartha Social Development Center
UCW	Unpaid Care Work
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls





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. AAIN builds on international human rights law, but goes beyond a legal or technical approach, supporting people to analyse and confront power imbalances and take sides with the PLiP.

Local Government and Municipality (Municipality/Rural Municipality):

It refers to an administrative division in Nepal. Local government is the third level of the government structure in Nepal. It is administered by the Provincial Government, which falls under the federal government. The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local

Development dissolved the previous Village Development Committee and established this newly formed local body. The 'Municipality' 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 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. In response to disasters and climate change, we work to build resilient communities.

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 a 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



Dr. Nirmala KC
BOARD CHAIR



Sujeeta Mathema
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear All,
Namaste!

With great pleasure, we present to you our “Annual Reflection and Learning Document 2023”. As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the resilience and strength of the communities we serve. 2023 has been a year of remarkable progress and profound challenges, yet through it all, our commitment to social justice, gender equality, and the eradication of poverty has remained unwavering.

Our programmes address the structural causes of poverty and injustice, empowering individuals and communities to advocate for their rights and drive transformative change. We’ve consistently worked to address the inequalities of Unpaid Care Work (UCW) in the community, implementing innovative strategies to reduce the burden on women. Our collaboration with local governments has been crucial in combating violence against women and girls (VAWG), focusing on prevention, support, and advocacy for survivors.

Through campaigns against child marriage and advocacy efforts, we aim to eliminate harmful practices and ensure

the rights and well-being of young girls. Our initiatives promote fair labor practices, advocate for equal wages, and create safe working environments for women. Additionally, we have worked on Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) initiatives, such as advocating for GESI policy and establishing birthing centers.

To improve school governance, our program uses participatory accountability tools like school scorecards and dashboards, resulting in better learning outcomes and greater student engagement. By setting up and updating child learning centers for child-friendly learning environments, we have created spaces where children can thrive and develop essential skills. Through infrastructure improvements and advocacy, we have worked to create inclusive learning environments that support the diverse needs of all students. Our engagement with child clubs, youth networks, and adolescent groups has empowered young people to become active participants in their education and communities.

We promote sustainable and organic agricultural practices that increase income, protect the environment,

and improve food security. Through enterprise development and market access initiatives, we train individuals to generate sustainable incomes and build resilient livelihoods. Our capacity-building programs equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in their chosen livelihoods. We advocate for policies that support resilient livelihoods and create an enabling environment for economic empowerment.

In 2023, AAIN launched its Campaign on Climate Justice to raise awareness about climate change and promote climate justice locally and globally. Recognizing the potential of young people as agents of change, we have engaged them in disaster risk reduction and management efforts. Our initiatives to enhance school safety standards have resulted in safer learning environments and increased school attendance. In times of disaster, we have provided immediate humanitarian assistance to affected communities, restoring hope and dignity to those in need. Our advocacy efforts have led to the adoption of women-friendly relief standards and the allocation of resources for gender-sensitive disaster management.

As we look ahead, we are inspired by the resilience and determination of our partners and community members. The journey towards a just, equitable, and democratic Nepal is ongoing, and we are committed to walking this path together. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizen, the Ministry of Health and Population, and the Social Welfare Council. We also wish to express our gratitude to the Central and District Project Advisory Committees. Additionally, we thank the local communities, our partner organizations, donors, and alliances for their unwavering support and solidarity. The dedication of our staff and the guidance provided by the National Board of Governance and ActionAid Federation have been invaluable.

Together, we will continue to challenge injustices, advocate for human rights, and empower communities to build a future where every individual enjoys a life of dignity, free from poverty and exclusion.

WORKING AREAS OF ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL NEPAL IN 2023

PROJECTS



THE TAXED ALLIANCE (EDUCATION OUT LOUD-EOL)



MAKING IT WORK FOR WOMEN (PHASE III)



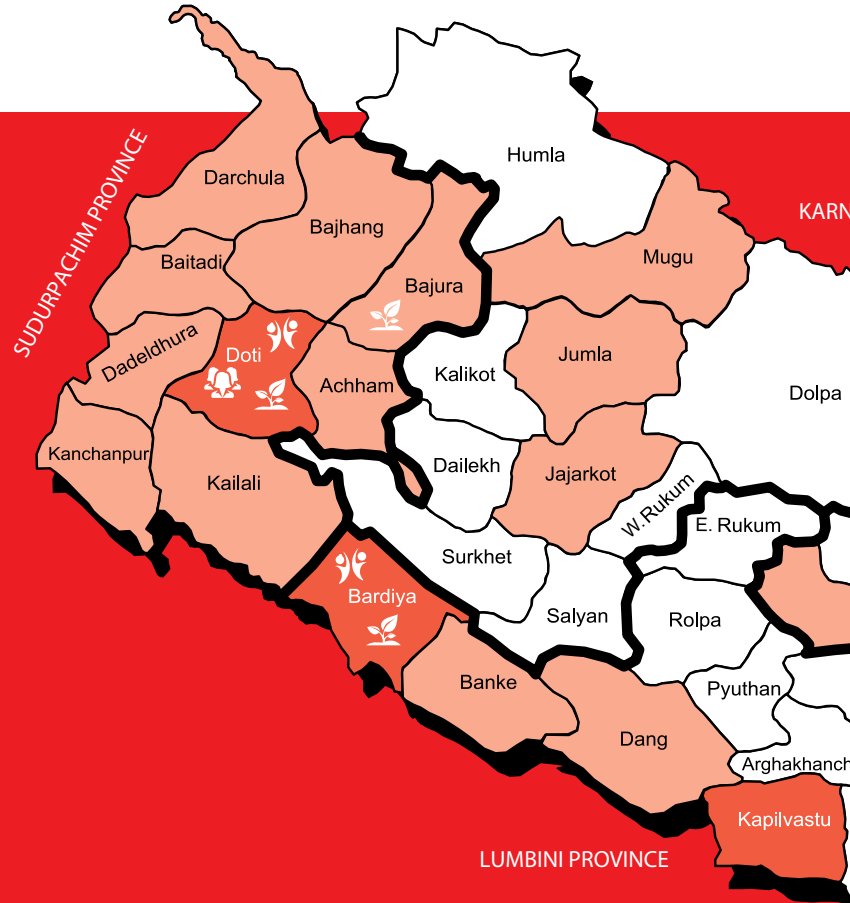
ENDING AGRICULTURAL BONDED LABOUR IN NEPAL



YOUTH VOLUNTEER SUPPORT PROJECT



STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP OF ACID AND BURN SURVIVORS
THROUGH HOLISTIC INTERVENTIONS (SLASH) PROJECT



Local Rights Programme (LRP)

- Ongoing - LRPs
- Past - LRP HRBA Initiatives

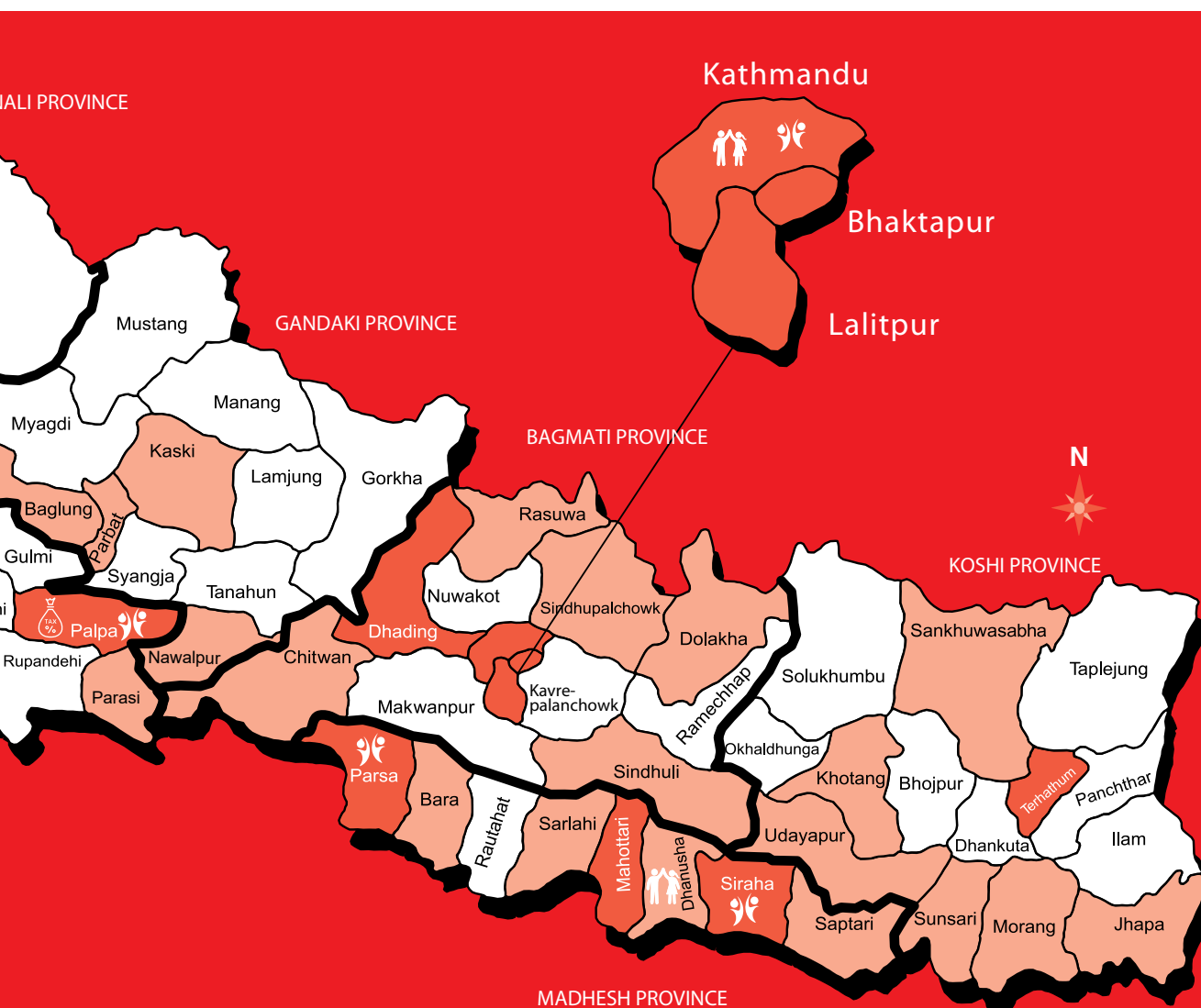
AAN'S PROGRAMME DETAILS

14
DISTRICTS

12
TOTAL LRPs

13
LRP PARTNERS

12
PROJECT PARTNERS



Women and Girls' Rights

1316

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

143

VAWG cases facilitated through legal process

95

VAWG cases supported and got justice through legal process

945

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

16

Established alternative models to reduce the burden of care work of women

3788

Community members sensitized and capacitated on GBV, VAWG and UCW

3232

Service providers capacitated on referral pathways, OCMCs, GESI policy and GBV Elimination Fund, harmful practices

13

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

825

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

5599

Community members capacitated on women's rights, leadership, case management, referral mechanism etc

Quality Public Education

169

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

1718

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

223

Teachers trained on Child Centered Learning

2739

Children engaged in development activities and ensured child rights through 195 child clubs

375

Youth activists developed to demonstrate leadership in the areas of climate justice, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian assistance from 4 youth hub

10,678

Youth involved in social justice and climate change initiatives

135

CSOs and Stakeholders capacitated on education financing and tax justice

55

Public schools improved learning outcomes through ActionAid's engagement

5239

Students informed about DRR, CCA, and environmental protection across working schools

KEY QUANTITATIVE 20



Resilient Livelihood

94

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

1463

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

425

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

2

Established Women-friendly markets for safe, accessible space and economic alternatives for women

99

Trained cooperative member to improve their skills in managing cooperatives

907

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

1806

Empowering women and their collective members to promote agroecology, organic farming and GAP

Resilience against Disasters

12

Women and youth networks supported to enhance their capacity and expertise in DRR, humanitarian efforts

3

Provided small scale mitigation support for the community

426

Capacitated women and young individuals on life-saving techniques and emergency preparedness and response

1756

Disaster affected families provided with immediate humanitarian support (cash or kind)

14

Direct support to schools to implement structural and non-structural mitigation measures

40

Schools provided with first aid kits

856

Students engaged in mock drills

246

Women and youth engaged in community dialogues organized on DRR, CCA and transparent and accountable humanitarian assistance

5570

Sensitized and raised awareness on DRR, CCA, SIP etc.

ACHIEVEMENTS

23

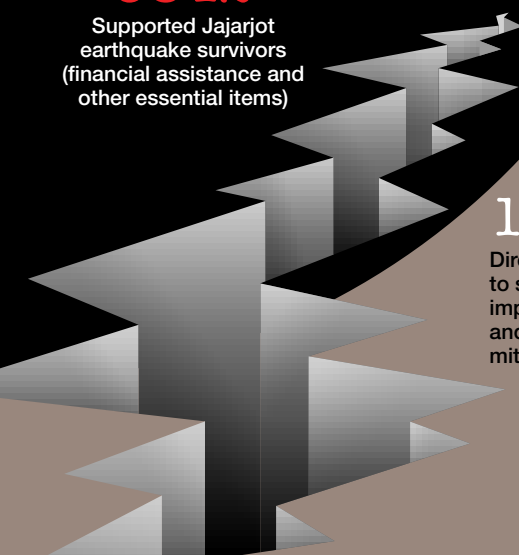
Earthquake response

1293

Supported Bajhang earthquake survivors (senior citizen, children and women)

9342

Supported Jajarjot earthquake survivors (financial assistance and other essential items)



Equitable Action for Social Justice

COUNTRY STRATEGY 2024-2029

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES



Advance rights and opportunities of women, informal laborers, and gig workers

Addressing care work and Violence against women and girls

Advancing rights and justice of informal and gig workers through people's mobilization



Advance quality public education as a basic right for children

Enabling safe learning environment in public school

Strengthening education governance to promote child rights and quality learning outcome in public schools



Build resilience of vulnerable communities

Advancing rights and opportunities of women, deprived and small holder farmers through green livelihood options

Harnessing women and young people's power to advance the agenda of gender and climate justice through youth-led activism and response actions

CAMPAIGN AREAS

CLIMATE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN
DECENT WORK CAMPAIGN

CAMPAIGN AREAS



PROGRAMME IMPACT FRAMEWORK



RIGHTS



REDISTRIBUTION



RESILIENCE

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Strengthening Funding Base

Enhancing Organisational Culture, Capacity and Systems

Strengthening Organisational Governance

Knowledge Management

WE WORK WITH

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



THE COUNTRY CONTEXT

Since the adoption of the new constitution, Nepal has undergone two election cycles, yet substantial reforms in education and staffing systems have remained elusive. This can be attributed primarily to the federal government's failure to enact crucial bills like the Civil Service Bill and the Education Bill. Local governments often lack comprehensive long-term or sectoral plans, worsened by a shortage of adequately trained personnel to execute such plans. With the federalization process, there's a noticeable shift in power dynamics within municipalities, favoring a more centralized authority. Notably, there's no mechanism for provincial and local governments to ensure alignment of their laws with the Constitution or federal statutes. The absence of relevant federal legislation puts provincial governments in a more

precarious position compared to local administrations. Furthermore, there's reluctance from the federal government to devolve powers to provinces and municipalities.

The socio-economic landscape is further complicated by limited domestic employment opportunities, leading many young people to migrate abroad. In the education sector, numerous obstacles persist, including poor academic performance, staffing shortages, and a trend of students seeking educational opportunities overseas. Gender-based violence (GBV) cases have surged, with 17,000 reported cases in the year 2078/2079, encompassing various forms such as domestic abuse, sexual assault, abduction, underage marriage, and online harassment. Unfortunately, societal norms often discourage

survivors from coming forward, impeding efforts to combat GBV effectively. Despite these challenges, there's strong public support for high-quality public services, robust anti-corruption measures, and promotion of gender equality.

The evolving social and political landscape in Nepal presents ongoing challenges in advancing and safeguarding women's rights. However, amidst these challenges, there's an opportunity for transformation. Initiatives such as interaction meetings, open dialogues, and advocacy campaigns are being developed to address cultural and structural barriers, engaging stakeholders at the community and decision-making levels. Efforts are underway to shift perceptions, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors towards women's empowerment and rights. Nevertheless, obstacles remain in establishing an effective mechanism to address GBV, with certain judicial committees lacking sensitivity to women's concerns.

The absence of uniform regulations and criteria, coupled with ambiguity surrounding the allocation of authority between federal and local governments, has led to discrepancies in critical provisions. For instance, despite regulations stating that the GBV Elimination Fund will be implemented

through provincial and local legislation and resources, the current criteria designate them as federal funds. Additionally, the federal regulation establishing the GBV Elimination Fund lacks legislative backing. Provincial and local governments cannot unilaterally establish powers, duties, and responsibilities, although some local administrations have initiated efforts to address GBV and conflict resolution.

Due to capacity limitations, local governments have shifted focus towards monitoring school affairs, albeit superficially. Disparities persist in teacher remuneration within schools, with local governments overseeing the transition of subject teachers through contract-based educators. The dropout rate remains high due to academic underachievement, and schools face challenges in providing timely updates on child club activities and lack designated information officers. Moreover, schools prioritize theoretical concepts over practical exercises, hindering vocational skills development. Additionally, a clear policy to implement 'Padhdai Kamaudai' initiatives is lacking within schools.

At COP28, efforts to advance the global agenda on transitioning away from fossil fuels faced setbacks, with no firm commitment from global

leaders to end fossil fuel usage. Many local governments struggle to classify land under land use acts, impacting smallholder farmers' access to financial resources. Consequently, they resort to informal loans from local money lenders, exacerbating the situation for the poor and marginalized. Despite increased agricultural subsidies, their tangible impact remains minimal, largely inaccessible to marginalized communities. The commercialization of organic farming is still in its infancy, with farmers discouraged by exclusion from subsidy programs. Through our intervention, certain family members have transitioned to self-employment in small-scale businesses, notably enhancing economic conditions. However, bonded labor communities continue to face challenges in accessing modern job opportunities and acquiring land. Families within these communities encounter difficulties in obtaining loans, leading to reliance on manual labor jobs.

On Friday, November 3, 2023, a devastating earthquake measuring 6.4 magnitude struck the Karnali and Lumbini provinces in western Nepal, resulting in tragic loss of life, injuries, and extensive damage to infrastructure. Similarly, an earthquake occurred in the Bajhang district on October 3, 2023, significantly impacting marginalized

communities. Climate change-related crises and conflicts in other regions have disrupted the supply chain of essential goods, leading to a surge in food prices. Concurrently, diseases such as lumpy skin in cattle and dengue pose significant threats to lives and livelihoods.

Most local governments have established disaster management funds, yet their focus remains primarily on providing humanitarian support rather than strengthening resilience against disasters. To bolster resilience, local governments must enhance mechanisms and systems, including proactive risk communication strategies. Despite the existence of Community Disaster Management Committees, they often remain inactive. Nevertheless, activists and youth leaders within communities emerge as beacons of hope, raising awareness about climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Nevertheless, activists and youth leaders within working communities emerge as beacons of hope. Their advocacy efforts raise awareness about climate change and disaster risk reduction. Through training in life skills such as search and rescue and first aid, young people are equipped with essential tools and mobilized to transfer these skills through mock drills and the distribution of relief support to disaster-affected families.

Women and Girls' Rights



1316

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



143

VAWG cases facilitated through legal process



95

VAWG cases supported and got justice through legal process



945

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



16

Established alternative models to reduce the burden of care work of women (e.g. child care center, community mill, community tap/well)



3788

Community members sensitized and capacitated on GBV, VAWG and Unpaid Care Work of women



3232

Service providers capacitated on referral pathway, OCMCs, GESI policy and GBV Elimination Fund, harmful practices



13

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



825

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



5599

Community members capacitated on women's rights, leadership, case management, referral mechanism etc

*Initiatives to
reduce the work
burden of the
women*

Addressing Women's Unpaid Care work through Alternative Building

Addressing gender-based roles in unpaid care work is crucial for women's economic empowerment. Through a gender-responsive approach, efforts were made to alleviate the burdens on women and empower them. The Unpaid Care Work (UCW) agenda shifts power dynamics, urging the government to allocate resources for gender-responsive services, reducing women's workloads. Skills were developed in negotiating shared responsibilities within families and advocating to local governments



for budget allocations to implement alternative work models. Interactions, policy dialogues, and evidence sharing were conducted with local governments, resulting in orientation and sensitization of 2701 individuals including women, girls, men, and government representatives. Partners advocated for gender-responsive public financing, leading to government funding for initiatives such as grinding mills, Childcare Centers, Wheat Threshers, and drinking water support, benefiting 1263 households and saving approximately 3 hours per day.

Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Throughout the year, significant progresses have been made in educating and empowering women and girls on crucial topics

such as gender-based violence, women's rights, menstrual health, and sexual and reproductive health rights. A total of 1848 women and girls were empowered to voice their concerns against injustice and violence. Additionally, 60 adolescent girls received self-defense training to safeguard themselves from harassment. Collaborative efforts with various networks, including women's rights networks and judicial committees, were intensified to combat violence against women and girls. ActionAid remains

In Lahan Municipality, nine survivors of violence received financial assistance of NRs 10,000 each, along with livelihood support such as goat rearing, sewing, bamboo crafting, operating a footwear store, and selling rice and chiura (beaten rice).

“ Dev Kala Shrestha, Athrai -4, Terahathum says, “Women are engaged in the operation of the mill. We have been informed about the community's recent update on the establishment of a grinding mill. We have been able to play with small amounts of money and have accumulated courage to do other work. We have raised pig feed flour produced in the mill.” She further shares, “It has been easy to use surplus time by leaving the grain in mill.” ”



*Campaigning for Violence
Against Women and Girls*

Bimala Shrestha, a resident of Laligurans Palika Ward No. 7, praised the street drama about child marriage, deeming it timely and impactful. She suggested that the play should be performed in other schools to raise awareness among children and parents. She believes that wider participation can enhance the drama's effectiveness.

steadfast in its commitment to raising awareness, responding to cases, and advocating for effective mechanisms to prevent and address gender-based violence. Consequently, 143 cases of violence were reported this year, with 95 cases successfully addressed by the legal system.

In recent years, ActionAid Nepal (AAN) has undertaken significant initiatives to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through the establishment and operationalization of the GBV Elimination Fund. Despite initial budgetary constraints hampering its widespread accessibility at the

“ KI Singh Rural Municipality's Vice President Mina Bista says, “ Before the GBV elimination guidelines, financial support for victims faced hurdles due to accounting and audit issues. But with our municipality's new operational guidelines, things have become smoother and more organized. Now, victims can easily access services. We've also ensured that the judicial committee employees have the necessary advance funds, ensuring prompt support for women in need. Also, our established procedure outlines the fund disbursement process clearly.” ”

federal level, proactive steps have been taken by few municipalities to establish their own funds. Collaborative efforts with partners have resulted in the development of operational guidelines, streamlining survivor access to essential services. In 2023, five local government has formulated operational procedures and the provision of emergency assistance were provided to 73 survivors including legal, medical, and logistical support in municipalities of Siraha and Palpa. Additionally, enhancements to the One-Stop Crisis Management Center (OCMC) system, supported by ActionAid and partners, have strengthened resources and capacities, with 17 municipalities in Siraha receiving comprehensive training on OCMC operations, resulting in increment reporting of GBV incidents.

Governmental hospitals like T.U. Teaching Hospital, Patan Hospital, Kanti Children's Hospital, Janakpur Provincial Hospital, and Bheri Hospital received support from BVS and AAN to enhance burn patient care through provision of health equipment. This initiative aimed to provide quality care to

low-income burn patients. Janakpur Hospital, in particular, received equipment to enhance its burn care unit, ensuring sustainability and proper equipment handling through coordination with local governments, provincial hospitals, and Madhesh Institute of Health Sciences.

AAN and its partners have been steadfast in their efforts to prevent child marriage, collaborating with local governments to devise strategies and empowering adolescent girls to effect change. Throughout 2023, a total of 4140 individuals underwent sensitization through various methods such as drama, mass awareness campaigns, individual counseling, interactions, and knowledge sharing. A concerted effort involving government bodies, law enforcement, women's organizations, and the active participation of adolescent girls and youth was made to combat the scourge of child marriage. Continuous advocacy and youth-led campaigns have resulted in the prevention of 23 forced child marriages in Doti, Siraha, Parsa, and Bardiya.



Young girls spreading awareness against the harmful practices such as Child Marriage, Dowry etc

In Palpa, an analysis of Kishori clubs identified 47 girls at high risk of child marriage, with 153 Kishori participants sensitized across six wards through localized interactions. Furthermore, seven villages in Palpa have been declared child marriage-free, including those with active Kishori Clubs. Bagnashkali Municipality of Palpa has developed a child marriage prevention strategy facilitated by SRDCN and endorsed by the municipality.

advocating for equal pay, reclaiming unpaid wages, and lobbying for policy changes have been pursued to address labor issues and promote gender equality. Through collaboration and engagement with local authorities, women in the workforce are working towards fair treatment and equal opportunities.

Decent work and rights of women labourers

ActionAid and its partner organizations have implemented a range of programs to empower women workers and raise awareness of their rights. These efforts encompass educating women on labor rights, laws, and social security, as well as facilitating their involvement in labor movements. During this period, over 411 women gained awareness of their rights, with 655 stakeholders also being sensitized. Initiatives like establishing labor desks,

Women workers in Doti demanding equal and fair wages





Birthing centre in Doti

Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) Initiatives

Orientation sessions on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) policies were held in Badaiyataal, Geruwa, and Ramgopalpur Municipality, engaging local representatives. Despite existing GESI policies in most municipalities, many representatives lacked awareness of their provisions. Participants advocated for budget allocation and the development of comprehensive GESI policies in Geruwa and Ramgopalpur, demonstrating efforts to address gender disparities and promote social inclusion.

In Doti, five birthing centers received enhancements supported by EDC to discourage home deliveries and reduce associated health

risks. Consequently, 195 women underwent safe deliveries at these centers, with 62 receiving postnatal health check-up calls. These improvements not only ensured safer deliveries but also upgraded overall health facilities, promoting gender-responsive health services.

Additionally, health camps organized by Women's Rights forum members saw participation from 985 households seeking treatment for uterine issues. These camps offered free check-ups to 392 women, with 102 undergoing operations and 82 receiving treatment, thereby facilitating convenient access to essential care at the ward and local levels.

“ In our Geruwa Rural Municipality, there is no policy on gender equality and social inclusion, we have observed a problem in addressing women's issues. Therefore, we have felt the need for a policy of gender friendly programs. This workshop had supported to build our understanding so, now the Geruwa Rural Municipality itself will create the policy on gender equality and social inclusion. Laxmi Kumari Chaudhary, Vice-Chairperson, Geruwa Rural Municipality ”

Quality Public Education



169

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



1718

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



223

Teachers trained on Child Centered Learning



2739

Children engaged in development activities and ensured child rights through 195 child clubs



375

Youth activists developed to demonstrate leadership in the areas of climate justice, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian assistance from 4 youth hub



10,678

Youth involved in social justice and climate change initiatives



135

CSOs and Stakeholders capacitated on education financing and tax justice



55

Public schools improved learning outcomes through ActionAid's engagement



5239

Students informed about DRR, CCA, and environmental protection across working schools



Youth presenting about the scorecard- process and evaluations in the school.

Enhanced School Governance and Learning Outcomes

Our program has significantly improved school governance systems and children's learning outcomes. Through the utilization of participatory accountability tools like the school scorecard and dashboard, all key stakeholders have been brought together to address gaps across various program areas. While the initiative by local governments to update School Improvement Plans (SIP) with stakeholder participation is commendable, there was a lack of proactive initiation within schools and local governments. Many schools developed SIPs merely to meet regulatory requirements rather than for clear improvement goals. With intervention from our partners, 104 schools successfully prepared and submitted SIPs.

Fifty-five schools applied governance tools scorecard exercises, mobilizing youth volunteers based on Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS) indicators. The main objective of this tool is to enhance

school governance and improve educational standards in public schools. Identified gaps led to the development of action plans for three targeted schools, with roles and responsibilities clearly defined. A monitoring committee formed during a joint meeting will oversee these plans, aiming to enhance school governance and educational standards. Our local partner assisted in setting school monitoring indicators in coordination with Bagnashkali Municipality. Meetings involving School Management Committees (SMC), parents, teachers, and watch groups monitored progress, leading to the finalization of 65 improvement indicators. Schools have committed to further improvement during progress assessments led by youth.

A total of 2594 individuals attended 34 events aimed at equipping stakeholders with school governance tools and techniques this year. This resulted in a 1-7 percent improvement in learning outcomes across 55 schools.

Effectiveness of Child Learning Centers

Eighty-eight Child Learning Centers (CLCs) operate across program areas, benefiting 2360 children from marginalized communities. Dhangadhimai and Lahan Municipality have decided to continue CLCs, recognizing their effectiveness in enhancing children's learning outcomes. After monitoring the centers, municipal officials were convinced of their positive impact and agreed to support the initiative for sustainability. In Terhathum, 32 schools have updated their notice boards with learning outcomes for each grade. Dhangadhimai and Lahan Municipality allocated 25% of the budget to support 70 CLCs this fiscal year. To improve governance and learning outcomes in schools, parents and municipality representatives have intensified regular monitoring and support. Each quarter, the program brings all stakeholders together to discuss agendas and progress. CLCs in Kathmandu have

Transforming Education: The Success Story of Naule Basic School in Athrai Rural Municipality

Naule Basic School, located nearby the Tamor river in Athrai rural municipality's ward number 5, used to face many challenges. With just 54 students and 5 grades, the absence of students in the class was common, especially in higher grades. Child marriage was prevalent, with young girls aged 14-15.

Through the LRP program's support, improvements and positive changes were visible in the School. The ECD class was renovated, safe drinking water was ensured, and teachers received training. Extra classes were available and the class was with a smart TV. SMC/PTA members were empowered through capacity-building sessions, and students received uniforms and stationery through Palika. Likewise, the hydropower company provided laptop computers, photocopy machines, desktop computers, and furniture. Now, learning is easier for students, and parents actively support education. Thanks to collaborative efforts and support from stakeholders and LRP, the school is on its way to greatness.



contributed to academic success by promoting regular attendance and discipline, fostering an interest in studying. Several children have achieved top positions in annual school examinations, a remarkable achievement leading to 200 students receiving better grades. Our local partner, NMES, coordinates with the local government and communities to hand over CLCs, preparing operational guidelines with CLC facilitators.

Collaboration with Local Government

In partnership with Bagnashkali Municipality, our local partner SRDCN facilitated the grade 8 annual learning assessment for 216 students across 21 public schools. The assessment revealed that a majority of students scored below 35, particularly in subjects like math, science, and Nepali. In response to these findings, the Municipality Education Unit convened headteachers to address the issue, pinpointing classroom time quality and teacher performance as key contributing factors. The disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic further exacerbated student learning challenges.

To address these issues, the Municipality allocated budgets for remedial classes targeting slow learners and students with low scores, as well as for the professional development of 21 math teachers. Bhagwati Basic School and Janata Basic School contributed teaching aids to support math teachers in their instructional practices. Looking ahead, SRDCN plans to conduct grade 8 assessments in 2024 to continue tracking progress and addressing learning gaps.

Small mitigation and supports to enhance teaching learning outcome

Significant enhancements have been made to school infrastructure, with

a focus on constructing secure buildings, ensuring access to clean drinking water, and providing clean and hygienic restrooms equipped with soap, as well as separate facilities for boys and girls. Schools have received targeted support to address immediate needs and improve learning outcomes.

“ Ranjut Tharu from Badhaiyataal Palika, “I am very happy with the support because now I can wear proper school clothes and look better in school.” ”

ICT materials handover to the school



These efforts have greatly benefited students and enhanced the learning environment in schools. Several meetings involving School Management Committees (SMC), teachers, and municipalities have been conducted to further improve school learning. The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in public schools is increasing, with municipalities and schools actively working to enhance learning outcomes by providing internet services and covering associated costs. Consequently, students have become more engaged in teaching and learning.

Stationery products (scholarship) provided to the students from poor and deprived communities



In 2023, 1718 children from poor and deprived communities received scholarship support in the form of stationery and learning materials. Educational materials were distributed to 92 schools, benefiting 1534 children, including 792 girls. AAIN supported the establishment and upgrading of child-friendly facilities and infrastructure at 70 community schools. Additionally, 92 schools received teaching and learning materials, and 7 schools were equipped with IT infrastructure. Positive changes, including an average improvement of 1-7% in learning achievement, have been observed in 10 schools as a result of these initiatives.

Gender-friendly school facilities and infrastructure

In Paterwa Sugauli Municipality, proactive steps were taken to foster gender-friendly learning environments. Efforts included enhancing child-

friendly classrooms and ensuring effective teaching and learning processes through the provision and utilization of teaching materials. Furthermore, menstruation hygiene facilities were established in schools, benefiting 2221 girls and aiming to promote regular attendance. Additionally, toilet reconstruction at three schools benefited 487 students, and support in the form of furniture, learning aids, and sports materials was provided to an early child development center, benefiting 26 children.

In Madi Municipality, Chitwan, vending machine support was provided to two schools to address the lack of access to sanitary pads for female students. This initiative benefited over 300 girl students and teachers, highlighting the importance of sustainable solutions within the educational environment.



Support provided to the Early Child Development Center.

Advancing the Agenda of Education Financing for Public Education

In collaboration with the District Coordination Committee and Education Unit of Bagnaskali and Mathagadhi Municipality, our local partner organisation in Palpa, SRDCN, initiated a district-level interaction program among 10 local governments to stimulate dialogue on education investment. Following presentations on the status of public education by the Education Units of the 10 local governments, all municipality representatives committed to increasing the education budget, resulting in joint commitments. Consequently, in the current fiscal year, 10 local governments in Palpa District increased their annual education budget by 1-7%.

Demand Letter handed over to the Bagnaskali Rural municipality for free and Quality Education by youth hub of Palpa

The TaxEd Alliance conducted capacity-building and training workshops for government stakeholders, policymakers, youths, teachers' unions, and civil society organizations (CSOs), directly sensitizing and training 353 individuals on education financing and tax justice topics.

Moreover, ex-bonded labor communities advocated and campaigned with local and provincial

governments to advance the agenda of education financing, leading to increased budget allocations in 2023. The Social Development Division office in Banke awarded scholarships to 247 students from Freed Kamaiya families, providing NRs 1500 for students in grades 1-8, NRs 1800 for students in grades 9-10, and NRs 5,000 for students in grades 11-12. Similarly, Basagadhi Municipality in Bardiya extended similar provisions to 381 students from Kamaiya families.



Participation of teachers in the capacity building training.

Mobilisation of Child Clubs, youth networks and adolescent groups

Our local partner in Thakre, Ramgopalpur, Bansgadhi, and Shivrajpur Municipality have established 78 new child clubs and 3 adolescence groups this year. These initiatives have brought together a total of 1011 children in the child clubs and 41 girls and boys in the adolescent girls' club. Each month, these clubs convene to discuss various topics such as leadership development, child marriage, and the dowry system.

Furthermore, a total of 2739 children have been associated with 195 child clubs/groups advocating for their rights and quality education in the working



area. This year, 132 child clubs received support for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, with an additional 45 Municipality level child clubs and youth network meetings engaging 2113 youth and children.

Capacity building of teachers

This year, a total of 175 teachers underwent training in Speech, Sound, and Picture (SSP) techniques. Building on the success of this approach in 2023, it was extended to 3 new schools, yielding positive outcomes. Six schools have effectively implemented the training materials, fostering a child-centered classroom environment. Additionally, 12 refresher workshops were conducted for 223 teachers to further enhance their skills.

Similarly, ICDC in Dhading provided training to 26 math teachers to improve classroom practice in 2024, while SSDC in Kapilvastu trained 18 teachers in math and digital equipment usage. These initiatives aim to empower teachers with the necessary skills and tools to deliver high-quality education in their respective schools.

“Through this orientation, I understand that children are prone to be affected by cybercrime which might lead to depression, and I am shocked to realise this. In the coming days, if the children show some different behavior, I will carefully study and understand their problems and support them. - Tara Ghimire, Teacher”



Children advocating for child rights and education

Resilient Livelihood



94

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



1463

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



425

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



2

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



99

Cooperative member trained to improve their skills in managing cooperatives efficiently



907

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



1806

Women and their collective members capacitated and supported to promote agroecology, organic farming and good agriculture practices



Organic farming of the vegetables

Transitioning Towards Organic Agroecological Practices

Community members have recognized the manifold benefits of organic farming practices and are actively implementing them. While chemical fertilizers may yield immediate results, their long-term usage can deplete soil fertility and decrease overall production. In contrast, organic fertilizers, though initially yielding lower outputs, gradually enhance soil fertility over time. This realization has spurred the community to prioritize organic farming.

In Laligurans Municipality, Terhathum, the Natural Strategy and Action Plan 2023 have been developed to promote eco-friendly and sustainable farming practices. Currently, 75 farmers have received organic certification, indicating their commitment to adhering to organic farming standards. Municipality

support, including essential materials like sheds and seedlings, has inspired neighboring communities to follow suit.

Further efforts are underway to expand organic farming practices. A study revealed that 20 farmers across four settlements are actively engaged in organic practices and have requested support from the local Ward and Municipality to transition fully to organic methods. Despite the availability of free chemical fertilizers, farmers remain steadfast in their commitment to organic farming.

Additionally, capacity-building initiatives and orientation sessions on organic farming practices have been conducted for various community members, including farmers, women, men, youths, and adolescents. These sessions aim to raise awareness

and build capacity regarding the benefits of organic farming and equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills.

Moreover, strategic collaborations and support from local governments have played a crucial role in advancing the organic agriculture agenda. Municipalities have allocated budgets and provided support for infrastructure, training, and materials

“Before, my garden was full of ants. No matter how much pesticide I used, they wouldn't go away. But when I started using liquid fertilizer (Jhol mal) on my crops, the ants disappeared. I didn't know Jhol mal was so effective. Now, I use it on all my vegetable crops.”

- Pranimaya Syambo from Shankharapur Municipality

-4, lapse

Financial literacy training for the landless and smallholder farmers



to facilitate the transition to organic farming. Notably, KI Singh Municipality and farmers practicing organic farming have received recognition for their commitment to promoting organic practices.

In Bardiya, women farmers have been empowered through Farmer's Field Schools to address agricultural challenges and enhance farming practices' commercialization. Similarly, organic agriculture training initiatives have been conducted in various municipalities, facilitating the adoption of organic farming practices and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for farmers.

Enhancing Income through Enterprise Development and Skill Building

In the past year, significant achievements have been made in supporting small businesses and income generation activities through grants and revolving funds provided to working groups. A total of 447 group members accessed resources in the form of grants, with 418 grants disbursed to kickstart businesses, leading to increased income

generation. Furthermore, 48 groups received revolving funds, directly benefiting 907 members, while 94 groups were formed or strengthened, emphasizing savings and credit across all program areas. Prioritizing financial literacy training empowered 285 landless and smallholder farmers to initiate businesses, with 159 farmers preparing comprehensive business plans spanning various sectors.

Initiatives such as cattle insurance in Aathrai Municipality and compensation schemes in Terhathum and Palpa supported farmers in recovering losses and mitigating risks, particularly for pig farmers.

Business skill development training provided opportunities for 37 ex-Kamaiya family members in Bardiya to develop business plans and establish ventures. ActionAid Nepal (AAN)

Financial Literacy Leads to the Initiation of Family Savings

Amrita Tamang (27), a resident of Dadakharka in Ward No. 1 of Laligurans Municipality, Terhathum District, shares her experience of starting family savings through financial literacy. She attended a financial literacy training where she learned about saving, budgeting, and business management. Inspired, she used a subsidy to start goat rearing, reinvesting her earnings for future growth. With her savings, she now covers household expenses, her daughter's boarding fees, and plans for the family's future. Amrita also started organic vegetable farming, reducing costs and reliance on debt. Her success inspired her husband and neighbours to save and start businesses. Amrita plans to expand her goat business and eventually sell quality cow milk. She credits the training and support from DAS and the LRP Programme for her financial growth and stability.

Establishment of Women friendly toilets in the market to encourage and have better access to market for women.

further supported 83 ex-Haliya and Kamaiya families with seed support for businesses, fostering economic independence. Additionally, career counseling training benefited 22 local youths, equipping them with essential skills for career advancement and personal development. The program's job information centers facilitated employment for 683 individuals, including 163 ex-Kamaiya family members who found jobs through the Prime Minister Employment Programme.

Promoting Product Marketing and Access to Markets

Efforts have been made to establish women-friendly market spaces across our working areas, facilitating meaningful access to marketplaces for women. At KI Singh Municipality, a management strategy has been successfully implemented to enhance the effectiveness of women-friendly markets. Local support has been extended to farmers for marketing their agricultural products, complemented by agricultural fairs focused on women-friendly markets to address policy needs and establish operational procedures.



These markets offer women valuable opportunities to access local markets and sell their products. Additional initiatives, such as supporting Manikdah Bazar in Siraha with NRs 200,000, constructing women-friendly toilets with breastfeeding rooms, and establishing cold rooms in various marketplaces, aim to enhance market infrastructure. Market orientation sessions conducted for stakeholders benefit both consumers and sellers. Furthermore, with Laligurash Municipality's support, organic outlets have been constructed, along with the establishment of a cooperative comprising organic producers, facilitating the sale of organic products both within and outside the district. In response to concerns raised by women's groups, Aathrai Rural Municipality allocated a

budget for constructing a women-friendly market, demonstrating a commitment to addressing these issues. The program also facilitates farmer-to-trader connections to ensure fair prices for farmers' produce, with traders expressing interest in purchasing organic produce due to its longer shelf life. The provision of women-friendly toilets in markets has encouraged women from Paterwa Sugauli Municipality to become more engaged in market activities, including selling agricultural products. Rangpur market, designated as a women-friendly market, will be managed by the Municipality with a budget of NRs 100,00,000, ensuring the development of women-friendly infrastructure.

*Women riding autoriskhaw:
breaking the gender
stereotype, enhancing
their skills and economic
empowerment.*



Resource Leverage and Accessing Local Resources

Collaboration between Aathrai Municipality and our local partner, Deurali Society, aims to provide income generation opportunities for working women. The village council has allocated NRs 350,000 in cash support for this purpose, enabling women to establish businesses such as poultry, fish, crab farming, and vegetable cultivation. Additionally, Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between the Municipality and partner organizations to facilitate support for entrepreneurs.

Various initiatives have been undertaken to support agriculture and livelihoods, including providing agricultural equipment to cooperatives and financial support to farmers for crop cultivation. Training programs on financial literacy, skill development, and business operations have empowered individuals to venture into entrepreneurship, while initiatives like employment information centers have enhanced youths' computer skills and job search capabilities.

Gyan Bahadur Thapa, resident of Laligurash Palika-7 a foreign returnee says that; With a grant of NRs 50,000 from LRP in 2017, I began goat farming, expanding from 4 to 40 goats. With DAS support, I registered an agro-livestock farm, securing an additional NRs 200,000 grant from the Agriculture Knowledge Center. Now, I operate a 10 Ropani rented farm, focusing on vegetable and goat farming, generating around NRs 100,000 from sales this year. I'm now self-employed in farming and grateful for the support received.

Improved Knowledge and Skills and its Effect

Capacity enhancement programs have been conducted for farmers and entrepreneurs, focusing on agricultural practices, financial management, and market access. Initiatives like farmer registration and training in Integrated

Pest Management and organic farming aim to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability. Women in various municipalities have been trained in auto-rickshaw driving, challenging gender stereotypes and providing opportunities for economic empowerment.

Training programs in carpet knitting, value chain management, and business plan development have equipped entrepreneurs with the skills needed to succeed in their ventures. Throughout the year, numerous events focusing on financial literacy and business development have been organized, benefiting entrepreneurs and promoting economic growth in communities.

Policy Advocacy and Campaign

Throughout the year, a total of 26 policy advocacy initiatives have been conducted, addressing a diverse range of issues such as organic farming,



Example of “Padhdai Kamaudai” Initiatives

local resource access, and women’s markets. Collaborating with AAIN, its partners, and Laligurash Municipality, significant progresses have been made towards declaring an organic Municipality by 2023. A new organic strategy has been developed, encompassing all nine wards for organic municipality status, with four wards already progressing towards this goal. Laligurash Municipality has approved the Participatory Guaranteed System (PGS) for organic certification, and 75 smallholder farmers from three communities have been trained in product certification. Similarly, Geruwa Municipality is in the process of formulating an organic strategy following an initial workshop. Notably, the “Padhdai Kamaudai” initiative at Janata Secondary School in Bansgadhi Municipality, Bardiya, has gained momentum, enabling students to apply practical knowledge and engage in business activities while studying. AAIN provided NRs

200,000 as a revolving fund for this initiative and allocated an additional NRs 100,000 for grill materials installation at the exhibition center to secure poultry, mushroom, and vegetable farms and support product marketing. A policy discourse on the “Padhdai Kamaudai” program was held in Rajapur, involving all stakeholders, leading to the Mayor of Rajapur Municipality allocating funds to nine schools and the development

of operational guidelines for program implementation. Despite delays in the approval of the Federal level Ex-Kamaiya Labour Rehabilitation Guideline-2079, local governments in Lumbini and Sudurpaschim provinces have taken proactive steps by passing the rehabilitation guideline and initiating rehabilitation programs. Both provincial governments have expressed optimism about passing the bill soon, demonstrating a commitment to addressing the needs of Ex-Kamaiya communities.

Provincial level policy discussion on issues of small holders farmers in Madesh Province



Resilience Against Disasters



12

Women and youth networks supported to enhance their capacity and expertise in DRR, humanitarian efforts



3

Provided small scale mitigation support for the community



426

Capacitated women and young individuals on life-saving techniques and emergency preparedness and response



1756

Disaster affected families provided with immediate humanitarian support (cash or kind)



14

Direct support to schools to implement structural and non-structural mitigation measures



40

Schools provided with first aid kits



856

Students engaged in mock drills



246

Women and youth engaged in community dialogues organized on DRR, CCA and transparent and accountable humanitarian assistance



5570

Sensitized and raised awareness on DRR, CCA, SIP etc.

Earthquake response



1293

Supported Bajhang earthquake survivors (senior citizen, children and women)



9342

Supported Jajarjot earthquake survivors (financial assistance and other essential items)



Human chain for the climate justice campaign

Climate Justice Actions

In 2023, ActionAid International Nepal (AAIN) successfully launched its Climate Justice Campaign, #FundOurFuture, in June 2023, aiming to tackle the pressing issue of climate change and advocate for climate justice on both national and global scales. The campaign commenced with a kickoff event, followed by a weeklong series of activities to raise awareness and mobilize support for climate action, with a particular focus on promoting renewable energy and fostering a sustainable future. One noteworthy event within the campaign was the Human Chain for Climate Justice held on 8th June 2023, where over 650

participants, including youth, women, and children, gathered in Kathmandu to demand climate justice through slogans and banners, effectively spreading awareness. In solidarity with the global Climate Justice Campaign, partner organizations, youth hubs, and sponsored children in AAIN's operational areas organized various programs, including sapling plantations, drama performances, and interaction programs with local leaders and community members across six districts. These efforts reached over 3,100 individuals and garnered commitments from local representatives, facilitating the implementation of climate justice initiatives at the grassroots level.

Additionally, partner organizations conducted community awareness programs focusing on local solutions such as waste management and tree planting, which included street dramas and art exhibitions to highlight the causes and impacts of climate change while emphasizing the importance of climate justice. Extracurricular activities like quizzes and essay writing competitions engaged over 5,000 individuals, fostering community involvement and action. Furthermore, more than 1,938 children actively participated in initiatives such as tree plantation drives, rallies, art activism, poetry and dance competitions, and video documentaries at schools,

contributing significantly to raising awareness and mobilizing action on climate change.

Mobilise youth as change agents

Recognizing the key role of youth in transformative positive change and upholding human rights, ActionAid prioritizes volunteerism and the mobilization of young individuals in disaster risk reduction and management endeavors.

To boost the capabilities of youth group representatives, diverse capacity development trainings have been implemented. These trainings encompass community enumeration methods, the establishment of a local monitoring system, youth-led disaster risk reduction and management techniques, and the significance of youth in effecting social

“ Sangita Kathayat, a youth network member in Doti, shared, “4-day basic training on first aid has been incredibly valuable for me. I use what I’ve learned at school and in the community. In remote areas, where reaching a health post is tough, I provide primary care to the injured, ensuring they get to the health post safely. My work’s getting recognized in the community.” ”



Youth led simulation exercise at Bardiya

transformation. Furthermore, step-down trainings have been facilitated by youth group representatives for 31 additional youth members. These concerted efforts have enabled youth to hone their skills and aptitudes in spearheading social transformation campaigns.

Youth across ActionAid’s working areas have actively participated in various initiatives, including disaster response, organic farming, and efforts to combat child marriage. Notably, youth have been instrumental in establishing firelines, containing fires, and constructing 14 temporary shelters for households affected by

fires in Terhathum. Similarly, youth in Bardiya have provided orientation on Local Disaster Risk Reduction Plans (LDCRPs) and monitored the plans of five schools and communities as they update their initial phase plans.

Community Preparedness

In an effort to enhance community preparedness, three disaster management committees (DMCs) were established in Athrai Municipality, engaging 35 local communities. These committees conducted hazard mapping and devised preparedness plans, undertaking tasks such as clearing bushes and constructing fire lines to mitigate the risk of forest

“Dhol Piphi Abhiyan” in Siraha; a cultural awareness practice on fire prevention



fires. Additionally, the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) committee of Piple, Bhalukhop, and Majhigau formulated an action plan to address potential disasters.

In Chuhandada, Terhathum youth initiatives focused on forest cleaning and establishing a disaster fund to provide immediate relief to those affected by disasters. Furthermore, the “Dhol Piphi Abhiyan” in Dhangadhi Mae Municipality, of Siraha, educated 150 individuals on fire prevention

through cultural practices. In Paterwa Sugauli Municipality, ten women groups formed “muthi bachat” to provide assistance during various types of disasters. Furthermore, youth collected NRs 45,000 to support a family affected by both a fire and a tiger attack, demonstrating their commitment to aiding their community in times of need.

Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs) in five areas developed risk reduction plans with a

particular focus on vulnerable groups, including women, children, pregnant and lactating mothers, and elderly citizens. Additionally, six CDMCs organized flood preparedness simulation exercises for World Environment Day, while one effectively managed an emergency fund sourced from individual household contributions.

Promote safe school standards

In our commitment to promoting safe school standards, our program has



Establishment of Fencing for maintaining the school safety standards

collaborated with schools to develop and implement disaster response plans, ensuring a secure environment for learning. These efforts have included equipping schools with essential infrastructure such as electricity, computers, printers, projectors, and Wi-Fi connections to facilitate teaching and learning activities. Furthermore, security measures have been put in place to safeguard the well-being of both students and staff.

Identifying areas prone to disasters within school premises, we have conducted thorough structural and non-structural assessments. As a result, mitigation measures have been implemented to reduce risks and enhance safety, thereby fostering an encouraging learning environment. Specific measures undertaken

include repairing stairs and wooden boards at Ratna Secondary School, constructing stairs at Kalika Basic School in Laligurans Municipality with a grant of NPR 25,000, and renovating and constructing fences at Mahendra Basic School in Dipayal with a collaborative grant of NPR

500,000 from the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and community members. Furthermore, maintenance support has been provided for classrooms and playgrounds in 13 schools in Bardiya, and a community hall serving as a safe shelter in Bardiya - Rajapur and Nayagaun - 2 has been repaired and maintained. Additionally, a safe shelter has been constructed in Paterwa Sugauli Municipality - 4.

First Aid Training at School



CHILD SURVIVED FROM COLD WAVE

“My name is Sunita Saday, from Simaltoli village, Dhangadhimai 12. Our family consists of 9 members, including 5 children—3 daughters and 2 sons. My husband works in a village nearby. Our financial situation is quite challenging, and we struggle to make ends meet.

Recently, one of my youngest children; 3 months old got pneumonia due to the cold weather. We had to admit the child to the hospital in Dhangadhimai for 3-day treatment. It has been a difficult time for us, facing various hardships amidst this crisis.

Winter care becomes even more challenging due to our poor economic conditions. We could not afford proper clothing for our baby. However, during Shitalhari, our child received warm clothes from the Dalit Jan Kalyan Yuva Club, with support from AAIN.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for their kind assistance. This support has brought happiness and relief to our family, ensuring that our child stays warm and protected during the winter season. Thank you.”

First aid training has been conducted for 26 teachers and students in Dhading, along with the provision of first aid kits. Schools have also received assistance from various government levels, such as Latakalarai Basic School securing financial aid from the ward, Municipality, and Social Development Office in Rajpur, receiving NPR 10,00,000 for teacher grants and NPR 500,000 for infrastructure improvements. Additionally, community participants and youth have been educated on disaster information management systems and trained in analyzing local risks, building capacity in disaster preparedness within the area.

Humanitarian Assistance/ Earthquake Response

Throughout the year, ActionAid has been at the forefront of providing crucial support to communities and municipalities during times of disaster, addressing immediate humanitarian needs through both cash and in-kind assistance. Whether facing earthquakes, fires, floods, landslides, hailstorms, or diseases, our assistance has bolstered affected individuals' confidence, relieved urgent needs, and enhanced the living conditions of affected families.

Here's a breakdown of some of the assistance provided:

- Amid a cold wave, 1777 pregnant and lactating women across four districts were provided with winterization support, including warm clothing.
- Immediate relief in-kind was extended to 6 fire survivors in Terhathum.
- Cash assistance of NPR 50,000 per person was disbursed to 104 commercial farmers in Doti to offset losses incurred from damage to fruits and vegetables caused by a hailstorm.
- Shikhar Municipality in Doti received in-kind medical support for 425 households impacted by a contagious cattle disease (Lampi).
- 11 farmers in Shikhar Municipality received cash assistance of NPR 10,000 each to alleviate losses from livestock due to disease.
- 8 displaced families in Bansgadi received in-kind basic food items in the aftermath of a flood.
- Immediate relief items were distributed to 75 households affected by a flood in Sinamangal and Bansighat.
- Thakara Municipality in Bajhang received relief materials and financial aid for 200 families affected by earthquakes.
- In Bheri Municipality, Jajarkot, 400 families affected by the earthquake received warm clothes and nutrition support.

Moreover, relief materials were distributed to flood and landslide victims in Palpa and Dhading, and mitigation measures were implemented in risk zone areas to reduce potential damages. ActionAid has also focused on long-term impact, including



Immediate relief for the earthquake Survivors

constructing Women's Friendly Safe Spaces, forming Advocacy Youth Teams, and conducting issue-based meetings. To mitigate health risks during harsh winters, winterization kits have been distributed to children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Throughout these efforts, emphasis has been placed on women and youth leadership, transparency, accountability, and power shifting, ensuring gender-friendly assistance is provided to more than 3000 families, ensuring the essentials such as food, shelter, water, sanitation, and protection items.

Policy Work and engagement with the government

AAIN and partner organizations have actively supported various policy initiatives in collaboration with local governments. During this reporting period, DJKYC collaborated with Dhangadhi Mae and Aurahi Municipality to formulate women-

friendly relief standards, engaging with elected officials for discussion and finalization. The proposal has been thoroughly deliberated and submitted for ultimate approval. Similarly, with the support of EDC, women-friendly relief standard guidelines have been developed and ratified by Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality. These guidelines prioritize addressing the needs of women and girls, thereby facilitating the equitable distribution of relief within the Municipality.

Furthermore, in response to community requests, disaster management funds have been established, and operational procedures for disaster management have been devised in three Municipalities within the operational area. Shikhar and KI Singh Municipality have allocated funds totaling NRs 10,00,000, while Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality has established a Disaster Management Fund amounting to NRs 20,000.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2023

ActionAid International Nepal
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

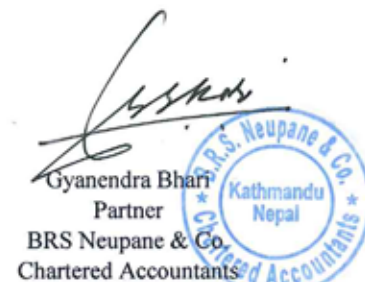
Particulars	Note Reference	NPR'000 2023	£'000 2023	NPR'000 2022	£'000 2022
Income- Total (A)	13	405,442	2,471	332,247	2,143
Individual Giving-Regular		243,456	1,491	175,179	1,136
Individual Giving-Other		10,907	67	6,033	38
Philanthropy & Partnership Income		60,356	366	68,160	438
Institutional Income		87,056	525	77,166	494
Other Income		3,667	22	5,708	37
Expenditure- Total (B)	14	365,266	2,246	363,753	2,342
Programme		301,687	1,840	297,687	1,935
Fundraising		14,979	92	12,594	82
Governance		4,353	27	3,447	22
Support		44,248	287	50,025	303
International Contribution (C)					
Outgoing Transfers (D)		(6,948)	(42)	9,208	60
Translation Gain/(Loss) (E)	9	7,923	12	2,855	9
Surplus/ (deficit)- Total (A-B-C-D+E)		55,047	279	43,569	268

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Financial Statements

As per our report of even date


Kumar Jung Thakuri
Head of Finance & Administration


Sujeta Mathema
Executive Director


Gyanendra Bhari
Partner
BRS Neupane & Co.
Chartered Accountants

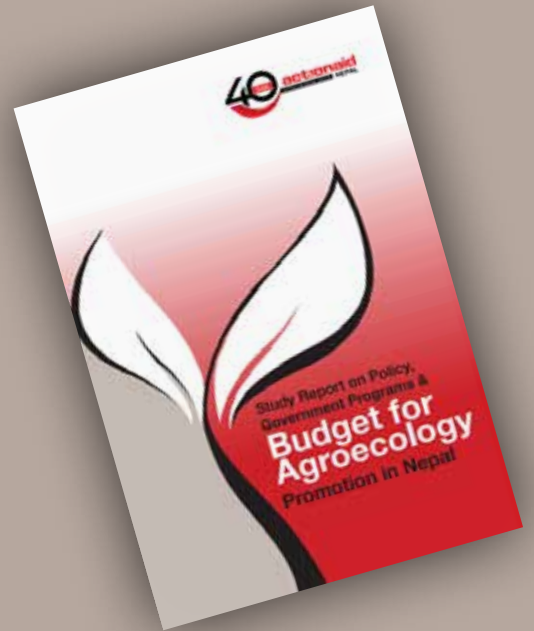


act:onaid

Date: 17 April 2024
Place: Kathmandu, Nepal

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION 2023





ANNEX I

LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME (LRP) PARTNER ORGANISATIONS – 2023

Districts	LRP 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 Centre (DDRC)
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 2023

S.N.	Project Name	Donor	Duration
1	The Mahila Network	ActionAid UK/UK Giving Club	Jan 2021 to Dec 2023
2	Strengthening leadership of Acid and Burn Violence survivors through holistic interventions (SLASH)	ActionAid Italy	Jan 2022 to June 2024
3	Women's Right Project (WRP III)	ActionAid Ireland/Irish Aid	Jan 2023 to Dec 2027
4	SLASH (Trust)	ActionAid Italy	Oct 2022 to Sep 2023
5	The IGNITE Fund-Youth Hub Initiative	ActionAid DK/Ignite Fund	April 2023 to Dec 2023
6	Volunteer Support Project-GP	ActionAid DK	Jan 2022 to Dec 2023
7	Education out Loud (EoL) project	ActionAid International/Global Partnership for Education	Feb 2021 to Dec 2023
8	Women Friendly Market Initiative	ActionAid Spain/Sustainable Future Foundation	Jan 2023 to July 2023
9	GP – Denmark Volunteer Project 2023	ActionAid DK	Feb 2023 to March 2023
10	EABL	AA UK/The Freedom Fund	March 2021 to June 2024
11	Livelihood Initiative for Harawa Charawa	The Freedom Fund	Sep 2023 to June 2024
12	Research on Human Cost for Food Crisis	ActionAid USA/GS/The Venture Fund	March 2023 to April 2023
13	Cold Wave Response in Nepal 2023- START FUND	ActionAid UK/START Fund	Jan 2023 to Feb 2023
14	Freedom Fund Earthquake Response	Freedom Fund	Dec 2023 to June 2023
15	Climate Justice Campaign – Scoping Study	ActionAid International	March 2023 to Dec 2023
16	GREPSR Jajarkot Earthquake Education Material support	Nepal/GREPSR	Dec 2023 to March 2024
17	DPRF 1st	ActionAid IHART	Nov 2023 to June 2024
18	DPRF 2nd	ActionAid IHART	Dec 2023 to June 2024
19	Advancing Agenda of Grand Bargain and National Reference Groups	ActionAid UK/People's Postcard Lottery	March 2023 to May 2023
20	Nepal Urban Resilience Program NURP	ActionAid UK/DFID	Jan 2019 to Jan 2024

COUNTRY OFFICE

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