

## EVENT REPORT

# 19th Social Audit and 40th Anniversary

## HOTEL HIMALAYA, KUPONDOLE, LALITPUR

06/06/2023



### BRIEF OVERVIEW

ActionAid is a global federation working to achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication. ActionAid Nepal is a member of the global federation of ActionAid, working for human rights, poverty eradication, and gender equality.

ActionAid International Nepal (AIN) has been organizing the National Social Audit for the last 18 years, to promote good governance by ensuring accountability and transparency of its programmatic performance and financial efficiency. This year AIN successfully conducted its 19th National Social Audit and celebrated its 40th year anniversary at Hotel Himalaya, Kupondole, Lalitpur. There were 309 participants from various national and international organizations, Government officials, Media, Board members, GS staffs, ex-staffs of ActionAid and ActionAid staffs. This programme included the programmatic and financial sharing of 2022, voices and reflections from the community, a celebration of 4 decades of successful interventions and achievements, a climate justice campaign, a Gallery presentation of thematic areas and organizational overview, and the products displayed by the field's local entrepreneur.

The programme started with the welcoming of the guests, walking through the gallery displays, products display, along with social networking.

# WELCOME REMARKS

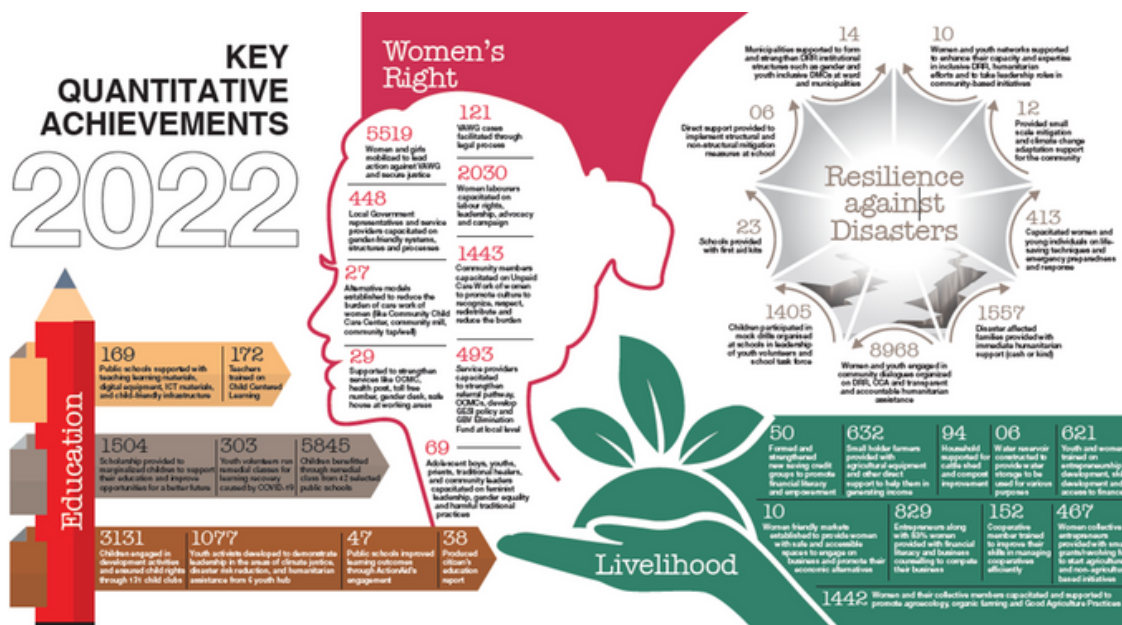
Ms. Sujeeta Mathema, Executive Director of AAIN shared her welcome remarks. She highlighted ActionAid's non-negotiable transparency and accountability in all their work. Additionally, she emphasised the flexibility of AAIN's working approaches over the past 40 years and reiterated that these principles will continue to guide the work in the future.

Similarly, Mr. Arthur Larok, Secretary General of ActionAid Federation reflects on the time when ActionAid was established in 1972 in UK and Kenya and how ActionAid is being able to mark its representation in around 72 Countries all over the world. As ActionAid Nepal is celebrating its 40th anniversary, ActionAid Federation marks its 51 years as a global federation. He also highlighted ActionAid prioritize working with women and youth, celebrates women's leadership, and has 52% of women in all staff around the ActionAid Federation. He congratulates AAIN for the good examples of Women and Youth led works and wishes the best for the upcoming journey.

- To mark AAIN's 4 decades of fulfilling interventions and achievements, the timeline video showcasing the major milestone events of the consecutive years was displayed.

## PROGRAMMATIC AND FINANCIAL SHARING

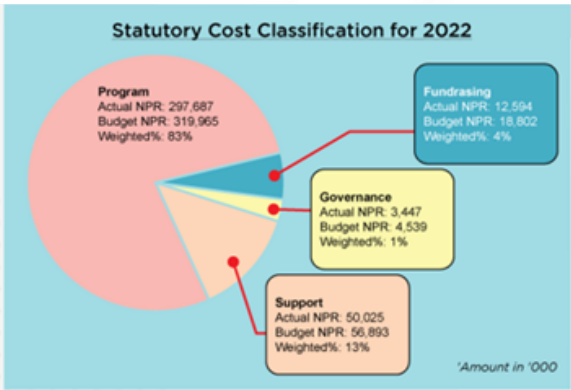
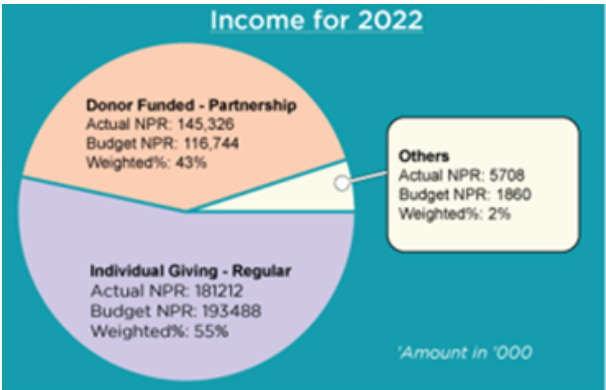
- Mr. Rajesh Hamal, the independent consultant, shared his reflections and suggestions based on his field visit to AAIN's programmatic areas in Shankuwasabha, Terhathum and Doti along with other document reviews of AAIN. His observations on the field were on "what and how" the programmes were carried out on the 4 different thematic priorities i.e., Women and Girl's Rights, Quality Public Education, Resilient Livelihood and Resilience against disasters. He identified the positive impacts on the marginalized community and populations through the interventions. They are now empowered, able to claim their rights and have technical and judicial knowledge. He suggested targeting the accountability process and system of local government, to make them aware and capacitate about the work will be beneficial for our programmes. He also suggested AAIN should focus on not more than two major priorities instead of many priorities to have focused intervention and greater impact.



Display of the Programmatic Achievement in 2022



- Ms. Yojana Singh Chettri, the Internal Auditor of AAIN, presented the financial details for 2022. The total income for the year amounted to NRS. 33,22,47,000, while the total expenditure reached NRS. 36,35,30,000. Additionally, Ms. Chettri provided her observations and recommendations in the following areas: compliance, financial monitoring, transparency, and fraud prevention. AAIN diligently adheres to all compliance requirements, including those set internally, by the ActionAid Federation, the Social Welfare Council, and donor agencies. AAIN carries out labour audit every year and shares its report with the respective department. Furthermore, AAIN conducts comprehensive financial audits internally and externally, including partners, and prepares an action plan for enhancing monitoring and future enhancements. This has proven effective in maximizing budget utilization and strengthening the organization's internal control mechanisms. In terms of transparency, AAIN and its partner conduct an annual social audit and collaborate with the government to ensure transparency in their program activities. Moreover, they actively enforce a zero-tolerance policy regarding fraud and fraudulence, backed by a robust complaint mechanism. In the event of any instances of fraud, swift and decisive actions are taken to address the issue.



Display of the Financial Data

| Fund Accountability Statement for 2022 |                                |            |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| S.N.                                   | Particulars                    | Amount NPR |
| A                                      | Opening Balance                | 179,409    |
| B                                      | Received during the year       | 332,247    |
| C                                      | Expenditure during the year    | 363,753    |
| D                                      | Transfer/ transaction loss     | 12,063     |
| E                                      | Closing Fund balance (A+B+C+D) | 135,840    |

## COMMUNITY VOICES

- Ms. Putali Devi, from Parsa shared that her involvement in a Women's group formed with the support of AAIN, has made her independent where she has been able to weave and sell traditional bamboo baskets. She is now also supporting her children's studies.
- Ms. Dambar Kumari Karki, from Terhathum shared that the collaborative efforts of Dalit Awareness Society (AAIN's local partner) and AAIN have made Dalit and Women from other groups economically empowered, they have opted for organic farming in the community and are happy to have fair and just wages among males and female labour workers.



## REFLECTIONS

- Mr. Hira Bishwakarma, ex-staff of ActionAid, reflects on the progress of AAIN in eradicating poverty after a remarkable 40-year journey and the collaborative partnership approach. Furthermore, he highlights the need for innovative intervention approaches compared to previous years.
- Mr. Narendra Khatiwada, Youth advocacy Nepal, shared that other Civil society organisations should replicate/adopt the transparency exercise (Social Audit) maintained by AAIN. He further requested AAIN to work on the right of civic space and with youths in future.
- Yamuna Ghale, an ex-staff of ActionAid, emphasized the need for AAIN to incorporate government's Gender Responsive budget and climate change-focused budget into their programs. She also suggested presenting these initiatives during the Social Audit for enhanced transparency and accountability.
- Mr. Adhikari, a participant, inquired about the reasons for the increase in administrative costs compared to previous years and whether the current cost rate includes AAIN's partner organizations.
- Ganesh BK, Ex-staff of ActionAid suggested that AAIN should take their programmatic approach with intersectionality among women and Dalits instead of a holistic or overall thematic approach for all.
- Mr. Ramesh Singh, the First Nepali country director of AAIN and former Chief Executive Officer of ActionAid International, congratulated AAIN for the 40-year journey and wished the best for the future.
- Ranju and Nirmala, participants from the event acknowledged AAIN's past campaigns while expressing a desire for more campaign-based programs in the future, highlighting optimism and enthusiasm.
- Mr. Arjun Bhattarai, Secretary General of the NGO Federation, emphasized the importance of AAIN observing innovative practices and planning for the future. He highlighted the need for AAIN to identify areas where it contributes to policy formation across the three tiers of government. Additionally, he suggested developing necessary plans and programs to promote youth retention in the country. He expressed hope that AAIN's impactful and sustainable work over the past 40 years would continue to drive innovation in the future.
- Ms. Sarita Ghimre, Chairperson of, National Campaign for Women's Rights (NCFWR) congratulated for the event and thanked AAIN for the support. She further shared the highlights of the work done by NCFWR.
- Mr. Bhagwan Shrestha, Chairperson of the Association of International NGOs (AIN), congratulated AAIN on 40 years of journey and requested to continue the work on social justice.



## CLIMATE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

AAIN launched the National Climate Justice Campaign from 5th – 10th of June. During the 19th Social Audit and 40th Anniversary event on 6th June, a Climate Justice booth was set up with display materials related to climate change and justice. They also shared a climate justice awareness video and organized a lively flash mob by youth. These activities effectively captured the audience's attention and successfully conveyed messages about climate justice. The campaign will continue with more interesting programmes.



## REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS

- Mr. Manoj Bhatta, Member Secretary, Social Welfare Council encouraged and celebrated CSO's work for obtaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also, encouraged to work collaboratively to achieve the concrete goals of the future.
- Honorable Mr. Surendra Raj Acharya, Minister of Women, Children and senior citizen, appreciated the work carried out by AAIN and congratulated for the initiative on the climate justice campaign. He further assured AAIN to support if any is needed.
- Ms. Nirmala KC, Board Chair of ActionAid Nepal shared that ActionAid's work is a long journey where accountability and transparency are kept at the centre today and in future. With this commitment, she thanked everyone and ended the formal program.



## SUGGESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

- True partnership approach and results of civic space should be highlighted, prioritize on Rights Based Approach and strategic policy and advocacy and present budget and expenses in detail along with the auditor report.
- To replace "income" with "support" while presenting financial reflection, income may refer as profit – which does not align with the values of non-profit organizations.
- Gender-responsive and intersectionality focused budget and programme should be carried out.
- ActionAid used to work on Right to Health issues, it is suggested to continue the work and advocate mainly on Mental health and reproductive health as crosscutting issues.
- Prioritise intersectionality among women in the upcoming Country strategy paper.
- To work prioritizing the marginalized women's issues, start campaign, interactions, and research on increasing women's reach in politics and their overall empowerment.
- Include planetary justice, non-human animals and environmental issues in Climate justice campaign not only the human issues.
- Carry out programmes to empower the Dalit movement, training for Dalits on business and free education for Dalit students.
- Partner NGOs experiences a challenge with staff turnover which can be disruptive and costly for the organization. Staff turnover should be addressed to maintain continuity, stability, and effectiveness in their programmes operations.
- Appreciated the good interventions of ActionAid and congratulated for the future.

*All the suggestions were welcomed and AAIN is committed to work on them in future.*

## ONLINE NEWS COVERAGE

- <https://nepallive.com/story/309272>
- <https://www.hamropatro.com/news/details/6486564156972715?ns=>
- <https://lokaantar.com/story/225653/2023/6/7/current-affairs/actionaid->
- <https://sambridhinews.com/>
- <https://ehimalayatimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/himalayatimes-e-paper-2080-2-25.pdf>
- <https://www.spotlightnepal.com/2023/06/09/actionaid-international-nepal-celebrated-40th-foundation-day/>

एक्सन एड इन्टरनेसनल नेपाल ४० औं वर्षमा

हिमालय टाइम्स  
काठमाडौं, २४ जेठ

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मात्र ३० हजार म्यर भएको जानकारी दिनुभयो । जसमा ७३ प्रतिशत प्रत्यक्ष कार्यरत परियोजनामा, तीन प्रतिशत कोष प्रबन्धितमा एक प्रतिशत मुद्रासञ्चयमा र १३ प्रतिशत प्रभाविक सञ्चय भएको थियो ।

‘पठेको मुदीसी कार्टेजसिमा ४ को पतकीसी पीडीसी एकल एउटा इन्टरनेसनलको

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<https://www.newsofnepal.com/2023/06/06/575545/>



<https://aarthiknews.com/news/73795>

## SOME GLIMPSES



### Participants registering for the event



Arthur, Secretary General of ActionAid, and Sujeeta, Executive Director of AAIN, observing 40 years journey of AAIN



Bishnu and Bhagawati hosting the event



### Participants observing the thematic gallery



### Participants during the Event



Participants observing gallery and the different local products displayed by the field entrepreneurs.