

22 National Social Audit Communique

3rd July 2026



Prepared by:
Impact Evaluation Unit

Brief Overview

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

For more than two decades, ActionAid International Nepal has opened its programmatic and financial performance to public review through the National Social Audit; an annual forum in which the organization stands before the communities, partners, and institutions it serves and accounts for its work. It is a practical expression of a simple conviction: that organizations working for social justice must themselves be transparent, and answerable not only to donors but to the people whose lives their work is meant to change.

On 3 July 2026, AIN convened the 22nd National Social Audit under the theme “Strengthening Transparency, Promoting Justice.” The event brought together more than 150 participants including members of Parliament, government officials, civil society representatives, donor, consultants, media, community members, and AIN staff – for a day of shared reflection on progress, resources, and the road ahead.



Sisters of Shankharapur Playing National Anthem

A Day of Reflection & Dialogue

The programme opened with the registration of guests and a walk through an exhibition of community products & display boards set to tea, coffee, and conversation. What followed was a full accounting of the year: programmatic and financial performance for 2025, independent external audit findings, insights from an impact evaluation in Bardiya, reflections from community members, an open floor for participant voices, and remarks from distinguished guests.

Ms. Sujeeta Mathema, Executive Director of ActionAid International Nepal, opened the formal proceedings by acknowledging the collective role of civil society organizations in advancing social justice and protecting the rights of marginalized communities, and by reaffirming AAIN's commitment to a future in which every individual can exercise their rights free from discrimination or exclusion.

A short film, "From Vision to Impact," followed, tracing how AAIN's vision translated into impact on the ground over the course of 2025.

Programmatic Sharing -2025

Mr. Devendra Pratap Singh, Programme Development Manager for Quality Education, presented AAIN's key achievements for 2025 — progress across human rights, gender equality, decent work, quality education, climate justice, and humanitarian response, delivered through partnerships with local organizations, community mobilization, and national advocacy. The presentation traced a human rights-based approach running through all of it: support for survivors of gender-based violence, the promotion of decent work and sustainable livelihoods, stronger and safer schools, more climate-resilient agriculture, and humanitarian response where communities needed it most — together reflecting AAIN's continued commitment to empowering marginalized communities.



Ms. Sujeeta Mathema, delivering the welcome remarks



Mr. Devendra Pratap Singh, sharing the programmatic highlights of 2025.

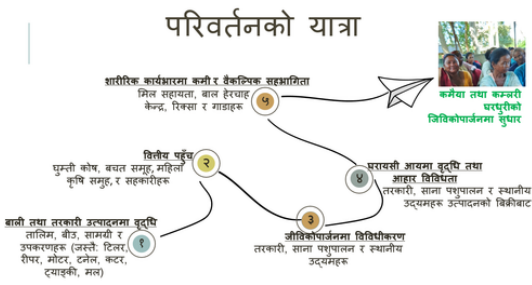
Insights from the Impact Evaluation - Bardiya



Mr. Deepak Raj Bhattarai, sharing key insights from Bardiya final evaluation.

Mr. Deepak Raj Bhattarai, independent consultant, shared findings from an impact evaluation covering twelve years of AAIN’s work in Bardiya – a rare long view of what sustained investment in a community can produce

Since the baseline, the evaluation found measurable gains in vegetable farming, access to financial services, livelihood diversification, and household income, alongside the emergence of entirely new, alternative livelihood structures that did not exist before – concrete evidence of communities building more resilient futures for themselves.



Mr. Deepak Raj Bhattarai, sharing transformational roadmap of Bardiya

Financial Performance - 2025

Ms. Yojana Singh Chhetri, Finance and Compliance Manager, presented AAIN’s financial performance for 2025: total income of NPR 360,305 thousand against total expenditure of NPR 390,151 thousand. The presentation broke down the organization’s principal income sources and expenditure categories, highlighting two figures in particular – that 69 % of total income came from individual giving, a reflection of the public trust AAIN’s work has earned, and that more than 80 % of total expenditure went directly to programme implementation through partner organizations, underscoring AAIN’s continued programmatic focus over administrative overhead.



Ms. Yojana Singh Chhetri, presented the financial performance of 2025

2. Income for 2025

Amount in '000 NPR



Particulars	Actual NPR	%
Individual Giving - Regular	251,295	69%
Donor Funded Projects	102,849	30%
Others	6,161	1%
Total Income	360,305	100%

Total Income (Actual NPR)
360305

Statutory Cost classification for 2025

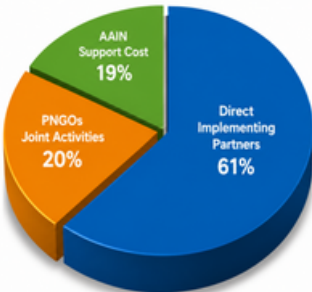


Particulars	Actual NPR	%
Program	315,266	81%
Fundraising	19,058	4%
Governance	2,289	1%
Support	53,538	14%
Total Expenditure (Actual NPR)	390151	

Total Expenditure (Actual NPR)
390151

3. Fund Utilized through the organizations for 2025

Amount in '000 NPR



Organizations	Amount ('000 NPR)	%
Direct Implementing Partners	238,965	61%
PNGOs Joint Activities	76,301	20%
AAIN Support Cost	74,885	19%
Total Fund Used	390,151	100%

Total Fund Used
390,151

Financial Internal Control system



*Mr. Gyanendra B. Bhari
presented the external audit
findings for the financial year
2025*

FCA Gyanendra B. Bhari then presented the findings of the independent external audit for the financial year. He confirmed that the audit provided reasonable assurance that AAIN's financial statements present a true and fair view in line with the applicable reporting framework, and that the organization had complied with relevant laws and regulations. He further noted that AAIN's internal controls remain effective, with only a small number of low-risk observations raised, and commended the organization for consistently resolving audit recommendations from previous years – a track record of follow-through, not just compliance on paper.

Community Voices that Matter

The heart of the day belonged to the people AAIN works alongside.

Ms. Sajina Chepang, a youth representative of the Informal Labour Group from Dhading, described how joining the group transformed her from someone unaware of even basic workers' rights – minimum wage, workplace safety – into someone organizing and mobilizing other women informal workers to demand them. Through collective memorandums to local government, her group has pushed for fair wages and safer workplaces, and raised cases of exploitation that, as she put it, individual voices alone had struggled to make heard.



*Ms. Sajina Chepang, shared her &
Community experiences of Labour
group*

Ms. Babu Dumi Rai, Provincial Activist of the Breaking Barriers Project, spoke as a member of the LGBTIQ+ community about decades of hard-won progress in recognition and representation and about how far there is still to go. Stigma, discrimination, and unequal access to education, employment, and livelihoods, she said, continue to shut LGBTIQ+ people out of meaningful participation in society and politics. She credited AAIN's Breaking Barriers Project with strengthening community leadership and capacity, and called on parliamentarians and civil society to take greater responsibility for genuine, not symbolic, inclusion in advocacy, decision-making, and leadership.



*Ms. Babu Dumi Rai, shared her
experiences as a member of the
LGBTIQ+ community*

Remarks from Guests

The invited special guests appreciated ActionAid International Nepal's continued contribution to advancing human rights, social justice, and community empowerment, and encouraged the organization to further strengthen its efforts in the years ahead. They recommended the organization to go further – in particular, to extend its work into underserved Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces, where development challenges remain acute. Several speakers raised a point often missed in development work: the need to support activists' long-term wellbeing and livelihoods even after their active engagement ends, not only while they are in the spotlight. Others emphasized continued investment in children's education, with one guest proposing education insurance as a way to protect learning continuity for vulnerable families

Remarks were shared by:

- Hon. Radhika Ramtel, Member of the House of Representatives, Shram Sanskriti Party
- Hon. Ganesh Bahadur Bishwakarma, Member of the House of Representatives, Communist Party of Nepal (CPN)
- Hon. Sajida Siddiki, Member of the House of Representatives, CPN-UML
- Hon. Renuka Kauchha, Member of the House of Representatives, Nepali Congress
- Hon. Bharat Bahadur Khadka, Chair, Public Accounts Committee, House of Representatives
- Mr. Labraj Oli, Chair, National Campaign for Education (NCE) Nepal
- Mr. Sanjay Karki, Chair, Steering Committee, Association of International NGOs (AIN), and Country Director, Swiss Contact Nepal
- Dr. Dilli Raj Khanal, Vice Chair, Former Planners Forum Nepal (FPFN); Former Member, National Planning Commission; Economist
- Ms. Samita Shrestha, Deputy Mayor, Shankharapur Municipality



Hon. Ganesh Bahadur Bishwakarma shared his remarks



Hon. Radhika Ramtel shared her remarks



All of our special guests on the panel

Closing Thoughts: Our shared journey continues

Mr. Keshav Gautam, Board Chair of ActionAid Nepal, brought the day to a close by reflecting on what the Social Audit represents; a shared journey of accountability & transparency - and by reaffirming that AAIN's work will continue to be shaped around the communities it serves. He thanked guests, community representatives, partners, and participants for a day of honest exchange, and formally closed the programme.

Conversations carried on informally over hi-tea long after the closing remarks.



Mr. Keshav Gautam, delivered his closing remarks for the event

Suggestions & Feedbacks

True to the spirit of the day, AAIN did not just present its own account — it asked participants for theirs. Feedback gathered through the suggestion box and in conversation centered on a few consistent themes:

- Keep the agenda tighter, so the programme stays concise and engaging.
- Open up more organizational events to a wider range of people to host, facilitate, and present.
- Encourage other development partners to adopt Social Audit as a standard practice of their own.
- Do more to integrate gender and sexual minority inclusion into Climate Justice and Decent Work initiatives.
- Strengthen support for climate-resilient agriculture and farmers, and work with local governments on rural challenges such as youth out-migration and fertile land being left fallow.
- Document and share good practices more widely, so successful interventions can be replicated by others.

Alongside came genuine appreciation — for the achievements presented, the quality of the programme, and the transparency of the exercise itself. Partner organizations reaffirmed their commitment to continued collaboration with AAIN in building inclusive communities. Every suggestion received has been noted, and AAIN is committed to acting on them going forward.

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

Glimpses



Participants exploring the local community products



Bishnu Sharma & Renu Shrestha hosting the event



AAIN staffs committed for accountability & transparency

Online News coverage

समुदायको सशक्तीकरणमा सहयात्री बन्दै एक्सन एड : RajdhaniDaily.com



Participants during the ongoing event