YOUTH HUB AS A GLOBAL PLATFORM INITIATIVE

BRIEF ON

CHASING DREAMS & OVERCOMING CHALLENGES:
YOUTH PROJECT REFLECTIONS AND STEPS FORWARD
WHAT IS YOUTH HUB?
Youth Hub is a platform initiated by Global Platform Nepal to provide a safe physical space for young people aged 16 to 24 to share their problems, ideas, and experiences and discuss contemporary issues related to youth and the community. ActionAid International Nepal (AAIN), a Start-Up Country of Global Platform, has been working on youth-related issues and matters since 2019 through the establishment of Youth Hub, which is considered one of the core initiatives of GP Nepal.

YOUTH HUB ESTABLISHMENT: WHERE AND WHEN?

Bardiya – Rajapur Municipality 5, Badalpur (2019)
Palpa - Bagnashkali Rural Municipality, 1 Chilangdi. (2019)
Kathmandu - Kathmandu Metropolitan City, 10 Bulbule Marg. (2020)
Kathmandu - Shankharapur Municipality 3, Jarsinghpauwa. (2022)
Doti - K.J. Singh Rural Municipality 4, Wayal (2022)
Parsa - Paterwa Sugauli Rural Municipality 5, Nichuta. (2022)
Siraha - Lahan Municipality 14, Gobindapur. (2022)

HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ENGAGED IN YOUTH HUBS?
Currently, over 200 young people are actively engaged, including 81% of young girls in all 7 Youth Hubs.

200 young people
81% young girls
7 youth hubs
According to the National Census of Nepal 2011, 40.33% of the total population is youth, i.e. people in the age group of 16 to 40 years. Although the participation, representation, and leadership of young people from the local to the national level is limited, the participation, representation and leadership of young girls is also very limited. In this context, 81 percent of young girls are participating, engaging, and leading in Youth Hubs. Out of 7 Youth Hubs, young girls are in leadership in 3 Youth Hubs (Doti, Palpa, Siraha and Sankharapur). Similarly, everyone takes the leadership turn by turn in Parsa and Kathmandu Youth Hub and a young boy is in lead role in Bardiya. Also, the leadership and participation of young girls in other vital roles are also remarkable. Some of the key factors of young girls’ participation and leadership can be mentioned as follows.

Create the criteria for the representation of at least 60% of young girls to participate in each Youth Hub.

Orientation to partners and young people about the participation and leadership of young girls from the initial phase.

Prioritize young girls in different capacity-building and exposure opportunities.

Provide opportunities to grow for the young people such as their involvement as co-facilitators in the trainings, mentor youth deployment, etc.

Young girls’ leadership attracts more young female leaders.

Recognition and appreciation of young girls’ leadership.
YOUTH HUB MEMBERS FROM WHERE?
Youth Hub members belong to marginalized, excluded, and exploited communities with different castes and ethnicities.

- **Bardiya** - Free bonded labour family (Freed Kamaiya and Kamlari Family)
- **Palpa** - Indigenous and Dalit Youth
- **Sirhaa and Parsa** - Ultra poor, high risk and dalit family
- **Doti** - Chhaupadi, Dalit (victim of mensural hygiene)
- **Shankharapur** - Ultra marginalised Indigenous youth
- **Kathmandu** - urban slum family

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<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Hill Dalit</th>
<th>Newar</th>
<th>Hill Janajati</th>
<th>Hill Brahmin/Chettri</th>
<th>Terai Dalit</th>
<th>Muslim</th>
<th>Terai Brahmin/Chettri</th>
<th>Terai Janajati</th>
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<td>Bardiya</td>
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Caste/Ethnicity division of youths engaged in youth hubs per districts
THE OBJECTIVES OF YOUTH HUBS:

The primary aim of the Hub is to effect social transformation by working on various issues relating to youth and communities, such as well-being and leadership development, among others. The Youth Hubs have several key objectives aimed at transforming society, including:

- Support in ending and challenging harmful social and cultural practices such as child marriages, gender-based inequalities and discriminations etc.
- Contribute and motivate to continuously claim their spaces in local level decision making bodies and influence those decisions.
- Help to engage more young people into existing youth initiatives such as COVID-19 response, promoting AA’s Humanitarian Signature (Shifting Power, Feminist Leadership Women Leadership, Accountability).
- Support to create and utilize space for young people to exchange their learnings, networking and building social movements.
- Contribute to make the local government accountable towards the youth agendas and create formal/informal space for young people participation in the local (palika) level planning process.
- Contribute to facilitate cross learning and movement support between young people from different geographical areas and contexts.
DO THEY HAVE PRIORITY ISSUES?
Yes, they are engaged, prioritizing different issues as per their context and issue.

Shankharapur - Women’s safety and security, Education, Social Accountability, Against Child Marriage

**Bardiya**
- Education
- Social accountability
- GBV

**Palpa**
- Against child marriage
- Social accountability
- Wash
- SDG goal

**Kathmandu**
- Menstruation hygiene
- GBV
- Humanitarian response

**Siraha**
- Caste-based discrimination
- Dowry system
- GBV

**Parsa**
- Caste-based discrimination
- Dowry system
- GBV

**Doti**
- Caste-based discrimination
- Chaupadi custom
- GBV

**THESE OBJECTIVES ARE MEET THROUGH:**

- Advocacy
- Campaign
- Research
- Evidence gathering to demand rights and accountability
- Discuss and dialogue with concerned stakeholders.
ARE THERE CAPACITY-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Trainings</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>Social Movement and Youth Organizing Training</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Youth Organising and Movement Building Training</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>Strengthening Youth Leadership in Humanitarian Action Training</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>ToT on Facilitation Skills for Transformational and Political Change</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>ToT on Facilitation Skills for Transformational and Political Change</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Climate Justice and Local Action Training</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>182</td>
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</table>

This data is of young people who were directly capacitated by GP Nepal/ActionAid International Nepal. After these trainings, the trained young people capacitated approximately 350 young individuals through step-down training at the local level.

OPPORTUNITY IN NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

22 youths participated in various national forums like webinars and programs organised by various youth networks, aligns and strategic partners. They participated in webinars, especially during Covid. Similarly, 6 webinars were also led by the Youth Hub Network and its members during the Covid-19 pandemic. In international forums, Jiwan Raj Subedi from Bardiya Youth Hub participated in Climate Justice online training and Facilitation for Political Change training in Tanzania organized by Global Platform. Similarly, Sunita Gaha from Palpa and Sapna Amatya from Kathmandu also participated in the Climate Justice online training organized by GP. Additionally, Deepika Sharma of Parsa, Siba Chaudhary, and Bhumi Chaudhary of Bardiya had the opportunity to participate and represent the international program hosted by AAIN and organized by various forums like IHART, AAIN.
WHY DID THE YOUTH LEAVE YOUTH HUB AND WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

73 youths have dropped out. Among those who left, 30% did so upon securing employment. Additionally, 22% pursued higher studies, which is a positive aspect. Beyond these, reasons for youth migration include marriage, family pressure, foreign study, and employment. Our assessment figure out that commitments such as household chores, childcare, agriculture, and other responsibilities contribute to their unavailability due to domestic work burden.