



 **DCA**
actalliance

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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Dr. Samjhana Bista, Country Director, Nepal Country Office

In the third phase of its country strategy (2022–2026), our humanitarian and development nexus approach to programming became stronger and more mature. We witnessed Nepal endure multiple disasters that claimed lives, displaced loved ones, and caused significant property damage - including in the Kathmandu Valley, the capital city.

We remained resilient and relevant, working closely with our local implementing partners to support affected communities, met their immediate needs, and strengthened their long-term resilience. This year marked a significant chapter in our ongoing mission to save lives, build resilient communities, and address inequality across Nepal.

In 2024, DCA in Nepal reached over 96,000 people across 12 districts and four provinces. With a strong focus on gender equity, over 60% of those we supported were women and girls. Our efforts in humanitarian action, inclusive development, and rights-based advocacy continue to be rooted in the priorities and voices of the people we serve.

We saved lives by responding to the devastating floods in Kanchanpur and Kathmandu, and to the earthquakes in Jajarkot, reaching over 7,143 individuals with timely humanitarian aid. This year, we were widely recognised and credited by national stakeholders for our contribution to Anticipatory Action (AA), particularly through our life-saving interventions during the cloudburst in Kanchanpur.

Our commitment to 'Building Resilient Communities' supported over 8,000 people in adopting sustainable agricultural practices and climate-resilient livelihoods. Through support for green enterprises, agroecology,

and policy advocacy, we enabled farmers to double their incomes, enhance food security, and contribute to key strategies such as Nepal's Agroecological Roadmap. The visible leadership of women and youth in these initiatives is a source of pride and a powerful testament to the transformative power of inclusion.

Under the theme 'Fight Inequality', we worked with over 15,600 individuals to improve access to legal identity, justice, and human rights. Our efforts supported survivors of violence, empowered Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs), and helped communities challenge discrimination and advocate for systemic change within the federal system.

Across all programmes, we integrated climate action, gender equality and youth engagement as essential drivers of sustainable development. We advanced climate action by promoting locally-led adaptation, pioneering loss and damage assessments, and co-leading Nepal's engagement at COP 29 through the Community of Practice (CoP) on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and national policy advocacy.

None of this would be possible without the incredible partnership of our donors, government, local implementing partners, community-based organisations, and the unwavering dedication of our team and volunteers. To each of you, I extend my heartfelt thanks.

As we look ahead, the path remains complex – but with the strength of collaboration and the resilience of Nepali communities, I am confident that we will continue to drive inclusive and rights-based change, leaving no one behind.

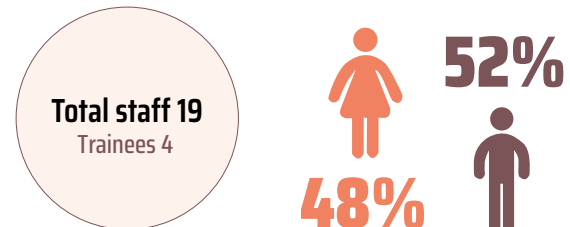
About DCA

DanChurchAid (DCA) is a Danish non-governmental development and humanitarian organisation working across Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. Since the 1980s, DCA has been active in Nepal, currently guided by the Country Programme Strategy (2022–2026), which aligns with the development plans of the Government of Nepal, the Global Sustainable Development Goals, and DCA's international strategy.

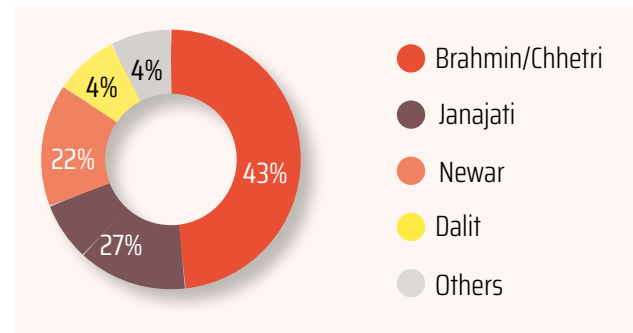
DCA is committed to fighting inequality by improving access to services and amplifying the voices of marginalised groups; building resilient communities through sustainable, climate-resilient livelihoods and strengthened market systems; and saving lives by supporting risk-informed disaster preparedness and response, in close collaboration with government entities at all levels.

In addition to its core thematic areas, DCA mainstreams three key cross-cutting priorities across all programmes: climate action, gender equality and youth engagement. These pillars are central to enhancing impact, promoting social justice, and building sustainable and resilient communities.

Staff Structure



Diversity and Inclusion



Our Vision

DCA envisions a world free from hunger, poverty, and oppression.

Our Values

Compassionate, Proactive,
Responsible, Respectful



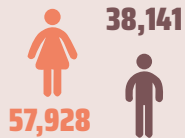
Chetana Magar with her goat in Dailekh.

Our Reach and Impact In 2024,

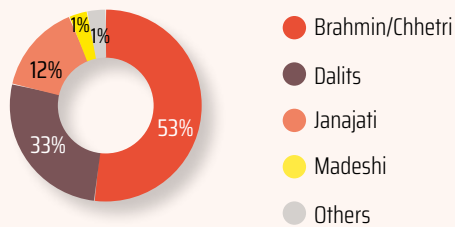
We covered **12** districts

We had presence in **4** Provinces of Nepal
(Bagmati, Lumbini, Karnali, and SudurPaschim).

A total of
96069 direct
reach in 2024

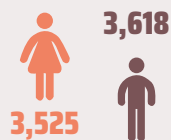


Ethnicity disaggregation

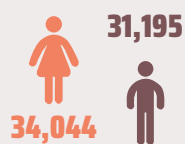


Save Lives

Humanitarian
Support-7,143

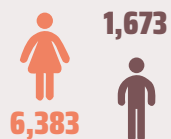


Direct
reach -65,239



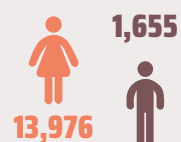
Build Resilient Communities

Direct
reach-8,056



Fight Inequality

Direct
reach-15,631



Kanchanpur flood



Women's group in a monthly meeting in Surkhet.



Soil-cement tank and tunnel farming in Dailekh.

Impacts of 2024



Fulfillment of basic needs

28% of households can meet all basic needs, increased from 19% in 2023.



Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) practices adoption

61% of individuals adopted 3–4 climate and DRR practices, up from 54% in 2022.



Access to Public Services

High access to financial services (92%), improved compared to 2023, 93% of legal services accessed in project areas, attributed to DCA in Nepal interventions.



Dietary Diversity Practices

99% of surveyed households have an acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS), up from 75.1% in 2022; no households in poor status in 2024, borderline FCS households reduced to 1%, down from 8% in 2022.



Income and Financial Decision-Making

Average individual income from agro-business reached Approx. EUR 220.88 (NPR NPR 35,422), up from Approx. EUR 128.84 (NPR 20,661) in 2022, 81% now make shared decisions on income use, increased from 58%; fewer individuals now manage income alone.



Participation and Influence in Decision-Making

59% of vulnerable individuals reported participation in decision-making, up from 49% in 2022, 37.27% reported having influence on decisions, increased from 20.3% in 2022.



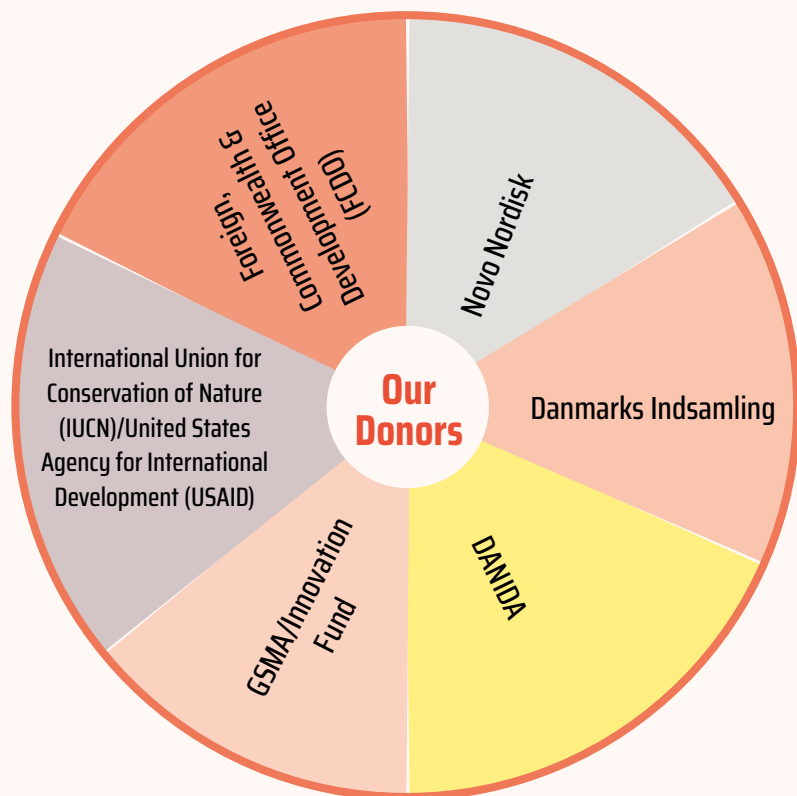
Behavioural Change & Human Rights Awareness

31% of individuals reported positive behavioural change due to increased rights awareness, up from 6% in 2022, 6,989 human rights violation cases were reported, up from 321 in 2022 – reflects improved trust in reporting systems.



Policy and Advocacy support

29 policies supported in total: 22 on climate change and DRR, 7 on human rights and access, spanning all three core thematic programmes.



Our Partners

- Action Nepal
- Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-Nepal (ISET-Nepal)
- Dalit Women's Right Forum Nepal (DWRF-Nepal)
- Informal Sector Service Center for Human Rights and Social Justice (INSEC)
- Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)
- Nepal National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA)
- Social Service Center (SOSEC)
- Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)
- Equality Development Center (EDC)
- National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF)
- Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj Nepal (KMJS)
- Sanjeevani Nepal



SAVE LIVES



Under the 'Save Lives' theme, the Nepal Country Programme aims to strengthen the capacity of local actors to lead preparedness and risk-informed humanitarian action, thereby enhancing community resilience and the ability to cope with disasters. In 2024, Nepal Country Office reached a total of 72,382 individuals under this theme.



Key results of 2024

Humanitarian Response in 2024



533 families (2,685 individuals) affected by the Jajarkot earthquake.



902 families (5,454 individuals) during the monsoon flood response.



300 families (1,469 individuals) in slum settlements along the Manohara River.



Jajarkot EQ support-total direct reach-**4369** (Female-**1,989** and Male-**2,380**)



Kanchanpur and Kathmandu floods Response- total direct reach-**2774** (Female-**1,536** and Male-**1,238**)

Response Locations

- Jajarkot (Earthquake Response)
- Kathmandu (Flood Response)
- Kanchanpur (Flood Response)

Key Interventions in 2024



Temporary shelter construction in Jajarkot following the earthquake



Multi-purpose cash assistance provided to affected households to support immediate and flexible needs.



Distribution of dignity kits to women and girls, promoting safety, hygiene, and dignity during emergencies.



Group Cash Transfers (GCTs) implemented to support community-level preparedness, response, and recovery actions.

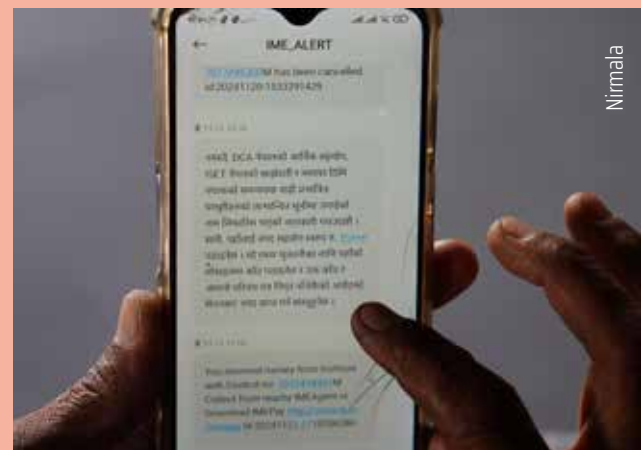


Psychosocial counselling services offered to individuals and families coping with trauma.

Local Partners in Action

All interventions were delivered in close collaboration with the following partners:

- SOSEC
- NNSWA
- ISET-Nepal



Nirmala



NNSWA



NNSWA



NNSWA

Bhaktapur and Kanchanpur flood relief and response.

Our Intervention in DRR



376 women and youth were trained as disaster champions through the Resilient Youth Network.



21 CDMC/SCLR groups successfully implemented Group Cash Transfers (GCTs) to strengthen local preparedness and recovery efforts.



718 community members (387 female, 331 male) participated in simulation-based disaster preparedness training.



11,369 households (representing 57,201 individuals) were profiled using the DASTAA tool to assess disaster risk and preparedness levels.



300 women leaders led disaster preparedness and response efforts across 34 Community-Based Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs) and Support to Community-Led Response (SCLR) groups.

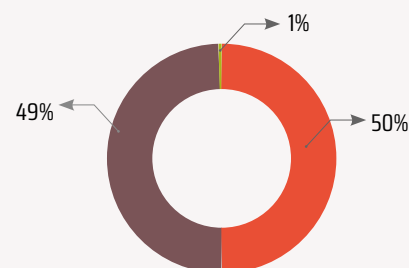


10 local governments were supported to strengthen disaster governance frameworks and build community resilience.



307 local government officials (192 male, 53 female) received training on DRR and climate change adaptation.

Rightsholders satisfaction with the support received during the crisis



■ Satisfied
 ■ Very Satisfied
 ■ Not satisfied

Fourth Kanchanpur Resilience Mayor's Forum

The Fourth Kanchanpur Resilience Mayor's Forum, held on 8 December 2024 at Laljhadi Rural Municipality, Sudurpaschim Province, marked a significant milestone in advancing local disaster resilience and climate action.

The forum convened municipal leaders from all nine municipalities of Kanchanpur, alongside distinguished guests including Hon. Kamal Bahadur Shah, Chief Minister

of Sudurpaschim Province, and Hon. Tara Lama Tamang, Member of Parliament. Representatives from key institutions such as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM), Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC), as well as organisations like Save the Children, World Vision, Oxfam, DCA in Nepal, and Nabil Bank, collaborated to address shared challenges-most notably, the devastating impacts of the June 2024 floods.

Key discussions centred on:

- Strengthening multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (EWS)
- Aligning DRR and climate policies with development priorities
- Promoting cross-sector partnerships for resilience

A major outcome of the forum was the adoption of the Laljhadi Declaration 2081, which set forth 12 commitments. These included:

- Localising DRR policies
- Establishing a joint disaster risk fund
- Mapping river system risks
- Supporting community-led initiatives
- Advocating for climate finance to address loss and damage

Additional priorities included the promotion of:

- Inclusive infrastructure
- Climate education
- Human-wildlife conflict mitigation
- Improved governance mechanisms

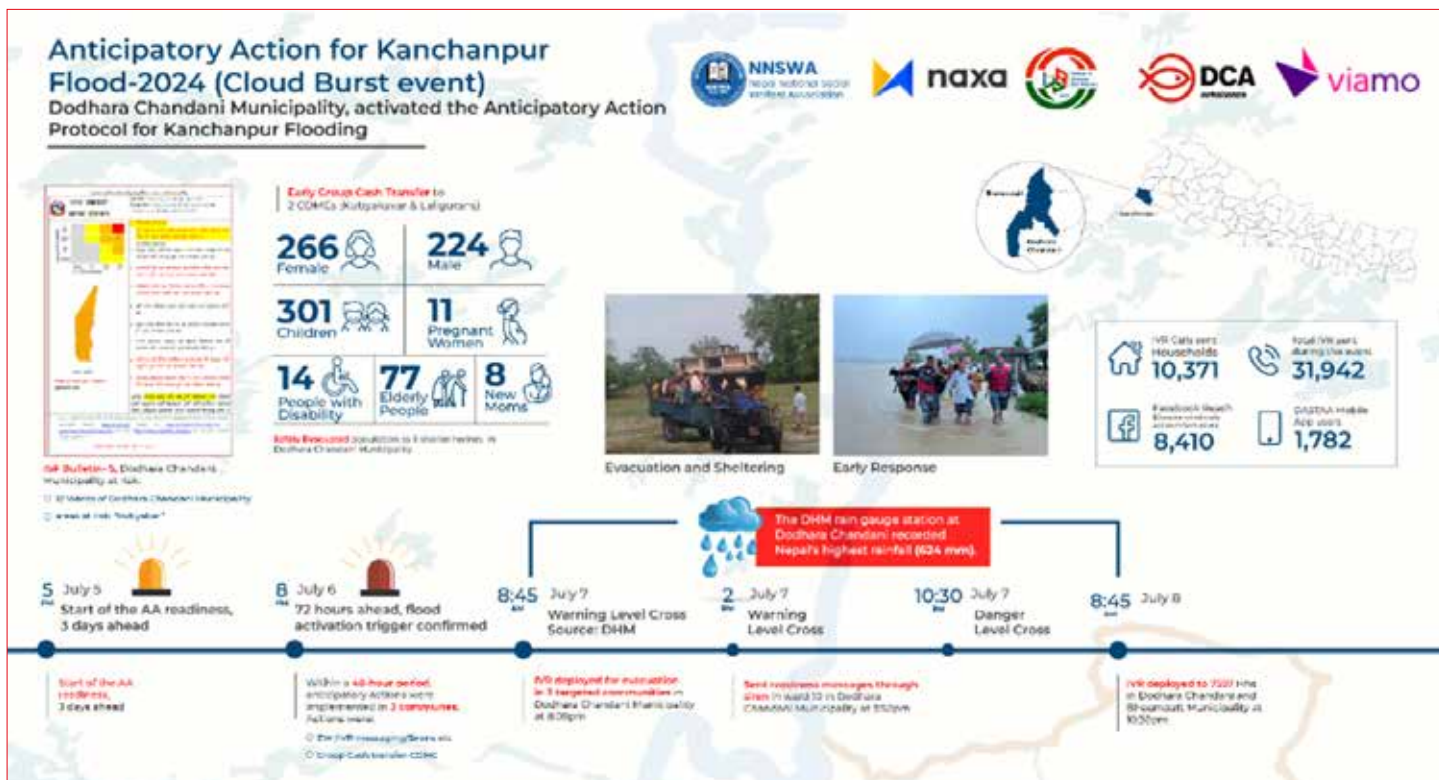
Since its inception in 2021, the Kanchanpur Resilience Mayor's Forum has consistently transformed strategies into meaningful local action, reaffirming its position as a model platform for building sustainable and resilient communities.

Anticipatory Action (AA) Saved Lives in Nepal

On 8 July 2024, Nepal recorded its highest ever 24 hour rainfall - 624 mm at Dodhara Station in Kanchanpur - an extreme weather event described by the DHM as a "Terai Cloud Burst". Remarkably, no casualties were reported in Dodhara Chandani Municipality, a DCA in Nepal project area. This outcome was made possible through forecast-based anticipatory action measures implemented since 2022.

With Nepal Country Office technical and financial support, local authorities activated the Early Action Protocol and mobilised communities to take anticipatory steps, including the use of GCTs. These community-led actions enabled disaster-affected populations to implement coordinated, proactive, and holistic responses that not only safeguarded lives and livelihoods in the short term but also contributed to long-term resilience.

By investing in EWS and enabling early, decisive action, Nepal Country Office helped prevent loss of lives while also accelerating transformational changes and sustainable development outcomes. In the context of Nepal's increasing vulnerability to climate extremes, AA is not an option, it is a necessity.





Voices of Hope

'I have lived with a disability since I was 11, after typhoid weakened my legs, and now I'm in my mid-fifties. My parents sold everything - our land, livestock, and home in Sindhuli to pay for my treatment, but nothing worked. My mother passed away before we came to Kathmandu, falling off a cliff while collecting fodder. Then my two brothers and sister-in-law passed away, and last year, I lost my father too.

Now, I live alone. My two brothers and three sisters have settled with their own families. Every year, floodwater rises at my doorstep. I can't escape, I can't run, and even if I call for help, it's nearly impossible for anyone to reach me during a flood. A few years ago, when water entered my old house, we had to throw everything away.

This year, for the first time, DCA in Nepal and ISET-Nepal gave me cash support Approx. EUR 93.54 (NPR 15,000). With that money, I bought what I needed the most: medicine, vegetables, and other essentials. For someone like me, cash is more useful than rice or clothes. It gave me the power to



Tek Bahadur Nagarkoti,
Pragatinagar Basti, Manohara, Bhaktapur

buy my own medicines and go to the hospital for treatment. For that, I am truly thankful to these organisations.

Still, I live with constant fear of what the future holds. Thinking about the next flood terrifies me because I know I won't be able to save myself or run if it comes again."

"Before, we were afraid and unprepared. Our CDMC was inactive. We didn't have the resources or the confidence to act. But after receiving training and anticipatory cash support of Approx. EUR 311.79 (NPR 50,000) from NNSWA, everything changed for us.

With many of our men working abroad, it was up to the women to take charge and we did. That cash fund allowed us to act quickly when we got flood alerts. It was raining heavily, and as soon as we received messages in our group chat, we got to work. We called households, knocked on doors, made loudspeaker announcements whatever was needed to get the message out. We arranged tractors to transport people, livestock, and essential items to safe shelters.

That money gave us dignity. We didn't sit and wait for someone to help us; we took action ourselves. Now, we meet every month, contribute to a local emergency fund, and provide small loans and support during crises. That one intervention didn't just help us respond to a flood, it gave our entire community the strength and confidence to prepare, act, and lead in times of need."



Devi Sara Sarki,
Chairperson,
Laligurans CDMC, Kanchanpur

BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Under the “Build Resilience” theme, the Nepal Country Programme aims to promote green and inclusive development by supporting green livelihood opportunities, sustainable agricultural practices, and the strengthening of local value chains. In 2024, Nepal Country Office reached a total of 8,056 individuals across Nepal under this theme.





Key results of 2024



Enhanced Food Security, Livelihoods, and Agroecology-based Adaptation

In 2024, Nepal Country Office supported 852 farmers (113 male and 739 female) in improving their livelihoods through a range of diversified agricultural activities. These included goat farming, fish farming, vegetable gardening, and mushroom cultivation.

Nepal Country Office also facilitated the growth of 105 small businesses, 65 percent of which were led by women and provided entrepreneurship, leadership, and financial access training to 105 women and youth to help them initiate and expand their enterprises. These efforts were carried out through various projects aimed at inclusive economic empowerment and sustainable livelihood enhancement.

Under this theme, a total of 2,840 farmers (705 male and 2,135 female), organised across 76 farmers' groups and three cooperatives, adopted climate-resilient and agroecological farming practices. These approaches have helped communities build long-term resilience to climate change and environmental degradation.

Duty Bearers Create a Favourable Environment for Economic Empowerment and Resilience

The drafting of the Agroecological Roadmap for Nepal, developed through collaboration between civil society organisations, government agencies, and agricultural research institutions, marks a significant step towards

advancing climate-resilient agriculture for vulnerable communities.

In addition, the Karnali Provincial Pollinator Strategy was developed to protect pollinating species, such as honeybees, which are vital for increasing agricultural productivity.

Nepal Country Office also facilitated a national dialogue on climate change involving 300 municipalities, enabling them to integrate risk-informed planning into their local development strategies.

As a result of these collective efforts:

- Right holders secured 15 percent of the total thematic budget equivalent to Approx. EUR 52,260 (NPR 8 Lakh) from local governments for livelihood and food security initiatives.
- Four municipalities incorporated the climate-resilient village model into their annual plans, allocating dedicated budgets to ensure that communities are better prepared to recover from future shocks and stresses.

Community-based Organisations (CBOs) and Farmers Engaged in Livelihood Diversification

In 2024, a total of 852 farmers (113 male and 739 female) from 31 farmers' groups and two cooperatives received livelihood diversification support. This included goat farming, fish farming, and vegetable gardening initiatives.

Among these:

- 547 farmers (65 male and 482 female) received 1,100 goats, along with training, improved goat shed construction, and livestock insurance support.
- 55 women farmers were provided with fingerlings and fishery training to promote aquaculture.
- 25 women received support to initiate or expand vegetable gardening activities.

These interventions significantly improved food security, nutritional intake, and economic resilience for local farming communities.

Farmers Engaged in Climate-Resilient and Agroecological Initiatives

A total of 2,840 farmers (705 male and 2,135 female) from 76 farmers' groups and three cooperatives adopted climate-resilient agroecological practices, supported by Nepal Country Office through tailored training, agricultural inputs, and technology demonstrations.

Nepal Country Office facilitated the establishment of 17 agroecological model farms and community learning centres, where practices such as organic pest control, improved livestock management, and soil conservation techniques were introduced. As a result, 1,004 farmers (132 male and 872 female) adopted these resilient farming

methods. Several municipalities also integrated climate-resilient agricultural models into their annual plans and allocated budgetary resources for their implementation.

Women and Youth Engagement in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

In 2024, a total of 105 women and youth engaged in small enterprise development, successfully operating 103 businesses. Among these, 20 percent qualified as green enterprises, promoting environmental sustainability by reducing carbon emissions.

Examples of such enterprises include compressed stabilised earth bricks (CSEB), leaf plates as alternatives to plastic, reusable cotton bags, improved livestock practices, and agroecological production methods.

Through Nepal Country Office's support, the people received:

- Start and Improve Your Business (SYIB) training
- Financial literacy sessions
- Access to financial services
- Start-up capital assistance

This strategic engagement significantly contributed to enhanced economic security and environmental sustainability, particularly for women and youth entrepreneurs.



Tunnel farming in Dailekh.



Voices of Hope

"We had many challenges in the beginning-our land was small, irrigation was limited, and we relied on traditional farming methods. We couldn't grow enough and often had to buy vegetables from the market. My husband even had to go to India for years to earn money to support our family. But everything changed when the Green Karnali Project introduced us to better farming practices, and I became a member of the Udhamstil Women Farmers Group.

With the help from DCA in Nepal and LI-BIRD, I received training, a soil-cement pond, a vermicompost pit, plastic tunnels, and bio-pesticides. Now, we grow seasonal vegetables, raise chickens, and have papaya and dragon fruit orchards. We earn over Approx. EUR 4,365.02 (NPR 7 Lakh) a year. We've even expanded by leasing more land and buying a buffalo.

This journey turned me from a struggling farmer into a confident entrepreneur, and I actively encourage others in my community to adopt sustainable agriculture too."



Anju Lamichhane,
Birendranagar, Surkhet District

"In the past, farming alone couldn't provide enough for my family, and my goats suffered due to poor shelters and hygiene. Waste management was also a problem-it harmed my crops and degraded the soil. But thanks to support from DCA in Nepal and Action Nepal's EFFORT project, I received a sturdy new goat shed, a male goat for breeding, and training on proper animal care and composting.

Since then, the health of my goats has improved, and the compost from their waste has enriched my soil, leading to better vegetable yields. I now have 15 goats, and the income from selling them and their products has helped me improve my home, purchase better equipment, and start saving for the future.

Our whole community is beginning to adopt these sustainable farming practices, and I'm proud to be part of that positive change. With the training and support I received, my farm is thriving and I finally feel hopeful for the future."



Nir Bahadur Thapa Magar,
Siddalek Rural Municipality,
Gauthale Dhading

FIGHT INEQUALITY

Under the “Fight Inequality” theme, the Nepal Programme aims to enhance the capacity of rights holders, Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), environmental activists, and their networks to raise their voices and claim their rights. The programme also works with government stakeholders to strengthen the delivery of quality public services and to support the development and implementation of gender-responsive and inclusive policies and programmes.

In 2024, Nepal Country Office reached a total of 15,631 individuals across Nepal under this theme.





Women's group members sharing ideas during a discussion.

PARC

Increased Access to Legal Identity, Social Services, and Human Rights Advocacy

The DANIDA-funded PAHUCH project significantly improved access to legal identity and social protection schemes for marginalised groups. A total of 467 individuals benefitted from vital registration services and gained access to social security allowances, including old-age and single-women allowances.

The project proactively identified those without legal documentation and facilitated their enrolment into essential services. A key achievement was the favourable district court verdicts received by seven survivors in Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, and Arghakhanchi-covering cases of rape, citizenship, and domestic violence.

Additionally:

- 285 women group members received cash funds and agricultural subsidies, supporting livelihoods such as vegetable farming, goat and mushroom cultivation, and vocational training.
- HRDs and EHRDs were trained and supported to document, monitor, and report rights violations resulting in 62 environmental rights violation cases being reported in 2024.

- HRDs directly contributed to survivor access to justice, including a successful Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed against Mahakali Sugar Mill for environmental pollution.

Climate Justice and Local Advocacy

The PAHUCH project also strengthened grassroots climate advocacy through the mobilisation of trained climate champions, including partner staff and community leaders. These champions led 79 awareness events, engaging over 1,580 individuals through community-based sessions and practical demonstrations. As a result:

- The Sangol Women Group secured Approx. EUR 311.79 (NPR 50,000) in funding for a green leaf plate dye initiative, enhancing both income and environmental sustainability.
- Local governments collaborated to implement Matching Fund schemes for developing Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Planning Policies (LDCRPPs) in four municipalities Kailari Rural Municipality in Kailali, and Khajura, Baijanath, and Duduwa in Banke. A total of Approx. EUR 137.19 (NPR 22,000) was allocated by these local governments to support these climate initiatives.

Accessing Local and Provincial Government Resources through Community Action Plans (CAPs)

The PAHUCH project has significantly empowered women and marginalised groups by training them in the seven-step planning process of local government and the formulation of CAPs. Through various channels such as training sessions, Chalfal Chautari (multi-stakeholder platform) discussions, and group orientations, beneficiaries gained insights into government policies, plans, and budgets.

This knowledge enabled women and marginalised groups to successfully access resources across seven local governments in Sudurpaschim and Lumbini Provinces. A total of 393 CAPs were submitted to the local governments budgeting process across various thematic areas. Of these, 128 CAPs were approved, securing a total budget allocation of Approx. EUR 46,144.45 (NPR 74 Lakh).

Additionally, 285 members from various women's groups in Banke received cash funds and agricultural subsidies. A total of Approx. EUR 17,460.06 (NPR 28 Lakh) was provided for activities such as vegetable farming, livestock, skill training, small businesses, and irrigation supplies.

Digitalisation of Human Rights Violation (HRV) Data

Under the SAMRAKSHAN project, a significant milestone was achieved with the documentation and digitalisation of 5,879 HRV cases in fiscal year 2024. Of these, 4,889 cases were related to women's rights, 614 to child rights violations, and 64 to rights violations of environmental defenders.

This data, accessible through the web-based system on the INSEC website (<https://www.insec.org.np/>), has become an invaluable resource for various stakeholders, including governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), and researchers. The digitalisation of HRV data has not only supported the government in formulating human rights-centric plans but also encouraged survivors to report violations. In 2024, the platform received daily visits from an average of 35 users seeking information on human rights violation cases.

Digital Literacy Leading to Women's Digital Safety and Economic Empowerment

Through project interventions, 977 women and girls have gained confidence in using social media platforms such as Facebook, Messenger, and IMO (a messaging app) to communicate with family members abroad. Additionally, 368 women entrepreneurs have successfully promoted their businesses using Facebook and TikTok. Beyond social media, women have opened bank accounts in their own names and are now utilising online banking services. The project has also safeguarded vulnerable women, with 15 individuals avoiding fake lottery scams. These initiatives have not only boosted women's digital literacy but also significantly enhanced their online safety, contributing to their empowerment and independence.



Monthly women's group meeting in Surkhet.

Strengthening of EHRD and Women Environmental Human Rights Defender (WEHRD) Networks

The PAHUCH project has successfully established four EHRD networks, including one at the federal level and three at the provincial level. These networks have facilitated ten capacity-building events, equipping EHRDs with the knowledge and tools needed to monitor and report on environmental rights violations and climate change issues.

EHRDs have developed strong partnerships with local governments, civil society organisations, and journalists, enhancing their effectiveness in advocating for environmental protection and climate action. In addition, through the IUCN/USAID-funded RESIST project, two WEHRD networks were formed in Kailari and Bhajani municipalities. These networks focus on forest conservation and advocacy against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). They have become critical bridges between communities and service providers, empowering women to take proactive roles in both environmental and social advocacy.

Increase in Number of Women and Dalits in Decision-Making Platforms

The PAHUCH project has supported 306 women to actively participate in decision-making platforms, including women's networks, user groups, political parties, and school management committees. Among them, 50 women now hold leadership roles, ensuring that their voices are included in governance and community development processes.

In Banke, 28 women leveraged resources from Dalit, Gandarv, Janajati, and Badi networks, securing budget allocations for community development. Moreover, local governments in Gauriganga and Kailari municipalities allocated specific budgets for capacity-building training for elected women representatives. These efforts have strengthened women's representation in local governance and contributed to more inclusive decision-making environments.

Strengthening Human Rights Monitoring and Advocacy

HRDs and EHRDs enhanced their skills and knowledge in monitoring and documenting human rights violations. HRDs also actively supported law enforcement agencies,



Women's group monthly meeting in Doti.



Social mediators discuss cases, Kailali.

including the police, judicial committees, courts, and District Administration Offices, in responding to human rights concerns.

Civil society organisations (CSOs), journalists, EHRDs, the National Human Rights Commission, and the National Dalit Commission jointly conducted ten fact-finding missions on Human Rights Violations. The resulting reports were published online via INSEC and featured in both national and local newspapers. These publications created pressure for accountability and supported survivors in accessing justice.

Key impacts of these fact-findings include the arrest of perpetrators in all reported rape cases, with legal processes ongoing. Survivors also received financial and referral support from the Human Rights Helpdesk. In a separate case, based on the fact-finding report concerning environmental pollution from Mahakali Sugar Mill in Kanchanpur, an INSEC implementing partner filed a PIL at Dipayal High Court, Mahendranagar Branch. The court issued an interim order instructing the opponent to submit a formal explanation for the case.

Men's Engagement

The RESIST project has identified 50 potential male champions who actively demonstrate gender-affirmative behaviour in their personal lives and support women both at the household level and in decision-making processes. These male champions received orientation sessions emphasising the critical role of male engagement in reducing the risk of GBV within Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs).

The sessions focused on challenging traditional gender roles, norms, and male privilege that perpetuate GBV. Furthermore, the male champions actively participated in the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign. They visibly supported women by expressing solidarity, making public declarations, and promoting positive behaviour change.

These male champions now recognise the importance of their engagement and have developed a deeper understanding of gender norms and the patriarchal systems that shape men's perceptions and contribute to gender inequality in society.



PARC

Kopila Pariyar at her shoe shop.



Voices of Hope

“For me, as a woman from a traditionally patriarchal society, stepping into a leadership role as the chairperson of Lalbaluwa Bhuskihwa Community Forest was no easy journey. Men always claimed that women couldn’t lead. Their minds were clouded with bias, and their attitudes were negative and dismissive towards a woman like me. At every step, I had to prove my worth not just to others, but often to myself as well.

As the chairperson of the forest user group, my path was riddled with obstacles, dealing with illegal logging and forest theft, which made it unsafe for women to patrol at night, to having my authority undermined by male committee members. Even as chairperson, decisions were sometimes made in my absence. So, I went through both psychological and emotional violence. There were moments when I doubted my own self-worth.

But I didn’t give up. With support from my peers and training provided by DCA in Nepal, I gained technical knowledge and the confidence to assert my rights. Now, I lead monthly meetings, advocate for women’s participation, and raise awareness on gender-based violence and inclusive resource use. We used to think women belonged

only in the kitchen, but now I believe that we can lead and transform communities.

My journey as chairperson of Lalbaluwa Bhuskihwa Community Forest shows that women can lead the community just as men can, and can inspire other women to step into leadership roles, breaking the gender stereotypes.”



Gita Chaudhary,

Kailari Rural Municipality,
Sudurpaschim Province

“I used to be limited to household work due to financial struggles, especially with my husband working abroad. After joining the Sunaulo Agriculture Women Group formed by FEDO, I took a loan of Approx. EUR 93.54 (NPR 15,000) to start a tailoring shop. I was later selected for a 40-day slipper-making training organised by Khajura Rural Municipality, followed by a 20-day bridal slipper training.

With a machine worth Approx. EUR 311.79 (NPR 50,000) and EUR 163 (NPR 22,000) in cash support, plus training in business and digital literacy, I now earn around Approx. EUR 78.36 (NPR 10,000) a month making slippers. I market them through TikTok and Facebook, receive orders online, and even learn new designs from YouTube. I can now wear and sell the beautiful slippers I make. This income supports my family and my children’s education. I feel proud and grateful to be part of the group.”



Kopila Pariyar,

Ward 7, Khajura Rural Municipality

CROSS-CUTTING COMMITMENTS

Nepal Country Office has prioritised climate action, gender equality & social inclusion and youth engagement as cross-cutting themes across all its programmes.





Kanchanpur Youth Group enacts a live drama performance.

Youth and Women at the Centre of DCA in Nepal's Reach

In 2024, Nepal Country Office reached over 60 percent of its targeted women population through the implementation of its core programmes, including emergency response interventions. Of the total 95,676 beneficiaries, 62 percent fell within the 18–40 age group. Notably, 105 young women entrepreneurs received targeted support, advancing inclusive economic empowerment across project areas.

Youth Leadership in Disaster Preparedness and Climate Adaptation

The SUDRIDH project in Kanchanpur mobilised 309 youth (219 women) through training on disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation. Youth actively led community campaigns such as flood drills, street dramas, and clean-up programmes. Women played a leading role in disaster response activities, with 239 women spearheading monsoon preparedness exercises. Additionally, young women participated in national platforms such as the 6th National Youth Conference on Climate Change, boosting their leadership and advocacy skills.

Building Capacity of Youth and Promoting Green Enterprises

The Green Karnali and EFFORT projects supported 789 youth through training in climate-smart agriculture, green enterprises, and the use of modern farming

technologies. Activities such as plantation drives, DRR awareness campaigns, and school competitions helped strengthen youth voices and secure commitments from local governments. Similarly, the PAHUCH project nurtured 64 youth climate champions and supported 50 women-led enterprises. The SAMRAKSHAN project also strengthened youth involvement in human rights advocacy through HRD and EHRD networks.

Promoting Innovation through Youth Partnerships

Nepal Country Office expanded its collaboration with youth-led organisations to enhance innovation and resilience. A strategic partnership was formalised with Nepalese Youth for Climate Action (NYCA), and new collaborations were piloted with Action Nepal, NAXA, and Youth Innovation Lab (YIL).

Action Nepal led efforts focused on youth-driven climate-resilient agriculture and managed Go Global volunteer engagement. In partnership with NAXA, Nepal Country Office implemented a GSMA-funded project in Kanchanpur for disaster risk mapping and communication. Additionally, Nepal Country Office piloted Nepal's first Climate-Induced Loss and Damage Framework with Youth Innovation Lab (YIL). Looking ahead, Nepal Country Office plans to deepen its engagement with youth-led organisations like NYCA to scale innovation and inclusive climate action.



Pride Month 2024 celebration in Kathmandu.

Women's Leadership and Economic Empowerment

Nepal Country Office has actively contributed to gender equality by promoting women's leadership across its programmes. During the reporting period, 300 women-led CDMCs played a critical role in DRR, mobilising local resources to strengthen resilience. Women were also key participants in emergency preparedness training organised by ISET- Nepal in Bhaktapur, accounting for 77 percent of participants in kitchen fire safety sessions and 82 percent in monsoon preparedness exercises. These trainings enhanced their leadership abilities, enabling them to take charge during crises. Women's active involvement in community disaster preparedness, such as leading flood response drills, demonstrated their vital role in safeguarding their communities.

Similarly, the Build Resilient Communities programme significantly advanced women's economic empowerment, particularly through climate-resilient agriculture and green enterprises. Projects such as Green Karnali and EFFORT directly benefited 2,135 women, who received training in climate-smart farming techniques.

Collaborating for Women's Rights and Social Change

The Fight Inequality programme also contributed to women's empowerment by supporting survivors of GBV. Through the SAMRAKSHAN project, DCA assisted 88 GBV

survivors in accessing justice and addressing immediate needs. Additionally, 45 GBV cases were monitored, and survivors received referral support under the PAHUCH project.

Nepal Country Office's collaboration with women-led organisations, including DWRF, FEDO, and NIWF, further amplified the voices of marginalised women, empowering them for political participation, leadership, and access to resources. These organisations played a vital role in reducing caste-based discrimination and promoting women's rights at the local level, ensuring that women have a seat at the table when decisions are made about their futures.

In addition, Nepal Country Office's work with women's rights organisations focused on policy advocacy and gender-responsive development. Projects such as WORTH and RESIST empowered women to advocate for climate change adaptation and sustainable practices while promoting their inclusion in decision-making processes. By engaging with organisations such as Sanjeevani Nepal, Nepal Country Office provided grassroots women with the skills and resources needed to influence local and national policies in Kanchanpur. Collaboration with the Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC) during the World Social Forum 2024 further strengthened Nepal Country Office's commitment to

feminist advocacy, highlighting the importance of a gender-inclusive approach to development.

Strengthening DRR and Climate Adaptation

In 2024, Nepal Country Office strengthened DRR and climate adaptation efforts by integrating climate resilience and NbS across its Save Lives programme. As a result, ten municipalities were trained to incorporate DRR and climate adaptation into their local planning processes. EWS were enhanced, and urban heatwave research was initiated to inform preparedness strategies.

A bio-embankment constructed in Dodhara Chadani Municipality not only prevented erosion but also supported local livelihoods. CDMCs played a vital role in mitigating landslides, directly benefiting 110 households. Additionally, bioengineering solutions such as bamboo crib walls, slope-retaining structures, and soil-stabilising plantations were implemented to reduce risk.

Nepal Country Office also generated evidence on climate-induced loss and damage from floods and droughts, developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for two municipalities, and initiated policy dialogues to strengthen local disaster governance and improve loss and damage database management.

Sustainable Environmental and Livelihood Initiatives

Through the Build Resilient Communities programme, Nepal Country Office promoted sustainable environmental and livelihood solutions by planting 10,000 trees, including

fruit and fodder species, across project areas. Seventeen agroecological learning centres were established to demonstrate climate-smart agricultural practices, including tunnel farming, seed libraries, botanical pesticides, and vermicomposting.

A total of 2,840 farmers (705 male, 2,135 female) received training, agricultural inputs, and support for water and soil conservation. The programme also promoted green enterprises, economic empowerment, and sustainable mobility through the provision of bicycles.

At the national level, Nepal Country Office co-organised a National Conference and the first CoP on NbS with IUCN, ICIMOD, and LI-BIRD to advance NbS standards and influence national policies.

Advancing Climate Advocacy and Policy Engagement

Nepal Country Office advanced its climate advocacy and policy engagement by establishing EHRD networks in Madhesh, Lumbini, Sudurpaschim, and at the federal level. These networks actively documented environmental rights violations, leading to a landmark PIL against Mahakali Sugar Mill for environmental pollution at the Dipayal High Court.

At the local level, Nepal Country Office supported the development of Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (LDCRPs), conducted climate vulnerability assessments, and trained climate champions to raise public awareness. The programme also strengthened climate literacy and promoted climate justice, particularly among vulnerable communities, enhancing their ability to advocate for their rights and resilience.



Nature-based Solution (NbS) site in Dhading.

International Climate Leadership & COP 29 Engagement

Nepal Country Office played a vital role in strengthening Nepal's international and regional climate leadership and presence at COP 29. The organisation supported Nepal's delegation by contributing to the National Position Paper on Loss and Damage and co-organising the Pre-COP National Climate Conference, which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

At COP 29, Nepal Country Office co-hosted 14 side events and actively presented in six, advocating for locally led adaptation, climate justice, and addressing loss and damage. A key highlight was facilitating a parliamentary dialogue where Nepal's Hon. Dr Anjan Shakya engaged with Danish and EU parliamentarians on Nepal's climate vulnerabilities.

Beyond COP 29, Nepal Country Office supported the Government of Nepal in organising various regional meetings, including the preparatory meeting for the

International Expert Dialogue on Mountains, People, and Climate Change, held in Nepal.

- Nepal Country Office led the drafting of inputs for the 2024 report on behalf of the ACT Nepal Forum. The report was submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur, Mr Surya Deva, on the right to development, focusing on the theme "Climate Justice: Loss and Damage".
- Nepal Country Office supported the World Social Forum 2024 and organised a session on climate justice with other like-minded organisations through the Climate and Development Dialogue. Similarly, it supported the National Human Rights Magna Meet and, together with partners, delivered a session on climate-induced loss and damage, linking it with human rights issues and the work of Environmental Human Rights Defenders in December 2024.
- Nepal Country Office contributed to two studies led by headquarters and ACT Alliance: Two Challenges, One Solution and Action on Loss and Damage. Both reports

were published in 2024 and launched in Nepal together with the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Environment, in June 2024.

- At COP 29, Nepal Country Office presented in six side events and attended several high-level meetings. Hon. Dr Anjan Shakya, Member of Parliament, and Dr Arjun Karki, former Ambassador to the United States and climate expert, participated in the parliamentary dialogue organised by DCA headquarters. Nepal Country Office representatives also supported the Government of Nepal in following and documenting the loss and damage negotiations within the LDC (Least Developed Countries) and G77 and China groups.
- Nepal Country Office is providing technical support to the Government of Nepal in the drafting of NDC 3.0 (Nationally Determined Contributions), scheduled for finalisation in February 2025.

Pioneering Loss and Damage Assessment for Climate Hazards

In 2024, Nepal Country Office, in collaboration with SOSEC, KMIS, YIL, and technical experts, conducted a pioneering research study titled “Piloting Loss and Damage Assessment and Systems for Climate-Induced Hazards”. This study assessed the impacts of floods and droughts, contributed to the development of national frameworks, and launched findings with key stakeholders to inform future advocacy and policy efforts.

In parallel, Nepal Country Office conducted a scoping study to better understand the needs and challenges related to strengthening the loss and damage database in Nepal. The research supported two municipalities in developing SOPs for assessing and recording climate-induced loss and damage. Additionally, the research examined the economic loss and damage in the hydropower sector, specifically within the Tamor River basin.



Nirmala

Piloting of Loss and Damage Assessment Framework for Flood and Drought Hazards

Looking Back...



Programme Director Cecilie Bjørnskov-Johansen, Nepal Visit



Temporary settlement for earthquake survivors in Jajarkot



AIN Futsal Team



Programme Team's Quarterly Meeting



DCA Nepal Retreat 2024



Volunteer from Silkeborg in Dhading



Intl. Women's Day Celebration



Fourth Kanchanpur Resilience Mayor's Forum

Financial Overview in 2024

Nepal Country Office successfully managed various funding sources, reaching a total expenditure of approximately EUR 2.01 million (NPR 286.98 M) in 2024 representing over 85 percent of the total estimated budget for the year.

By programme area:

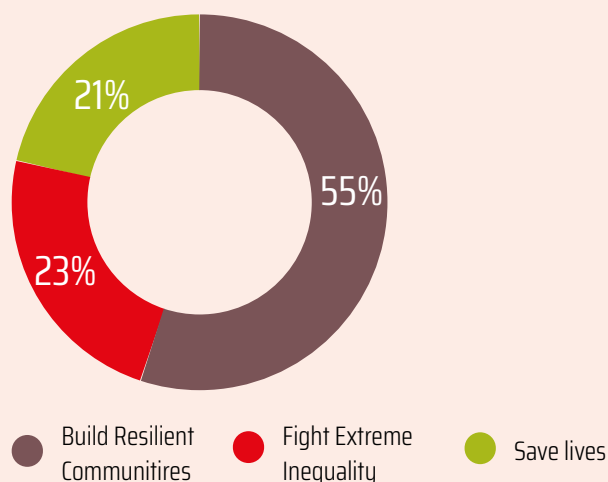
- Build Resilient Communities reached an expenditure of approximately EUR 1,111 thousand (NPR 158.6 M)
- Fight Inequality reached approximately EUR 470 thousand (NPR 67.10 M)
- Save Lives reached approximately EUR 432 thousand (NPR 61.68 M)
- The Build Resilient Communities portfolio accounted for 55 percent of total spending, while Fight Inequality covered 23 percent, and Save Lives accounted for the remaining 21 percent.
- Administrative costs across all projects were successfully maintained within 7 percent, with direct costs including partner contributions capturing 93 percent of total expenditure.

Since the initial phase of programme implementation in Nepal, DANIDA has been one of Nepal Country Office's major donors. In 2024, the funding received from DANIDA amounted to EUR 1,254 thousand (NPR 179 M) which is 62 percent of total funding portfolio of Nepal Country Office.

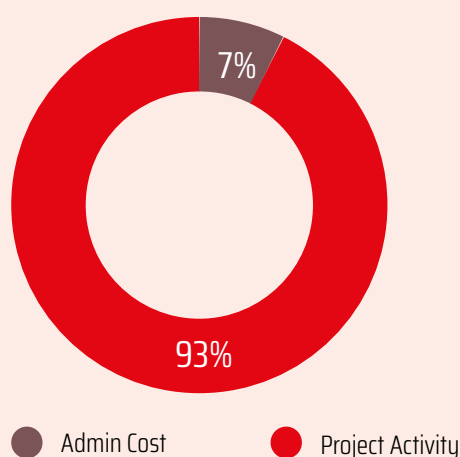
Additional contributions to 2024 funding portfolio included:

- Nepal Country Office's own funds: 21 percent
- Denmark Indsamling: 3 percent
- IUCN/US funds: 6 percent (approx.)
- NOVO funds: 4 percent
- Other donors: 4 percent
- Other donors: 4 percent

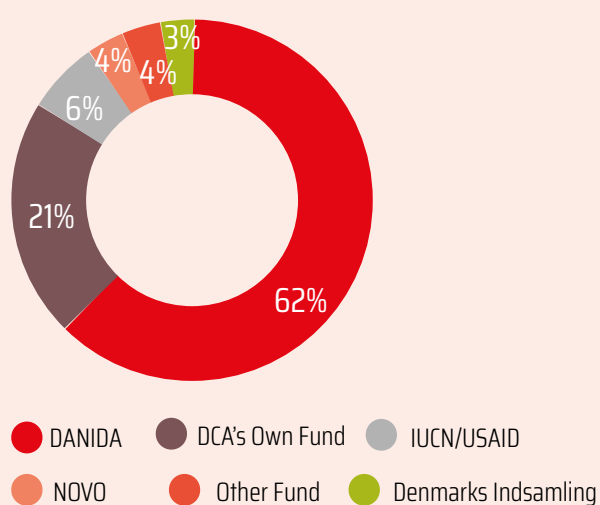
Thematic Exp- 2024



Nature of Expenses- 2024



Funding Sources - 2024



Feedback and Complaints Response Mechanism (FCRM)

Nepal Country Office, a Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)-certified INGO, has an annual accountability plan and a functional complaint/feedback system for itself and its partners. The DCA's standard operating procedure (SoP) includes contact details for the FCRM focal person and ensures effective, accessible, and safe feedback and complaints response mechanism. Complaints from rightsholders are routinely captured, monitored, and responded as per the SoP. In 2024, Nepal Country Office received five complaints and feedback, and its partners received 415, with over 91 percent being non-sensitive and all were addressed timely.

बोल्नुहोस् र गुनासो पोस्नुहोस्



आफूले गर्ने कामको गुणस्तरमा निरन्तर अभिवृद्धि गर्न तथा पारदर्शिता एवं जवाफदेहिता उच्चतम तहमा कायम गर्नु ड्यानचर्चर्डको लक्ष्य रहेको छ, जसलाई हासिल गर्नको लागि हामीले गुनासो व्यवस्थापन प्रणालीलाई कार्यान्वयनमा ल्याएका छौं ।

डिसिएमा रहेको गुनासो व्यवस्थापन प्रणालीले निम्न पक्षहरूलाई समेटेछ :

- नेपालमा सन्चालित हाम्रा परियोजनाहरू तथा कार्यक्रमहरू ।
- डिसिए कर्मचारी वा डिसिएबाट आर्थिक सहायता प्राप्त साभेदार संस्थामा कार्यरत कर्मचारीको व्यवहार ।

तपाईंले तल दिएका मध्ये कुनै एक माध्यमबाट गुनासो पोस्न सक्नुहुन्छ



पैसा नलाग्ने टोल फ्री नम्बरमा
टेलिफोन गरेर
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(नेपाल टेलिकम प्रयोगकर्ताको लागि)



हामीलाई सिधै टेलिफोन वा भाइबर/
व्हाट्सएप मार्फत सम्पर्क गरेर
९८५९२४८०२४
(एनसेल प्रयोगकर्ताको लागि)



हामीलाई पत्र पठाएर
पोस्ट बक्स नम्बर ४८४४



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[https://www.danchurchaid.org/
how-we-work/Quality-management/
complaint-system/complaint-form](https://www.danchurchaid.org/how-we-work/Quality-management/complaint-system/complaint-form)



गुनासो बाकसमा गुनासो दिएर
डिसिए नेपालको कार्यालय स्थित
सुरक्षा गार्ड कक्ष नजिकै रहेको
गुनासो बाकसमा गुनासो खसालेर



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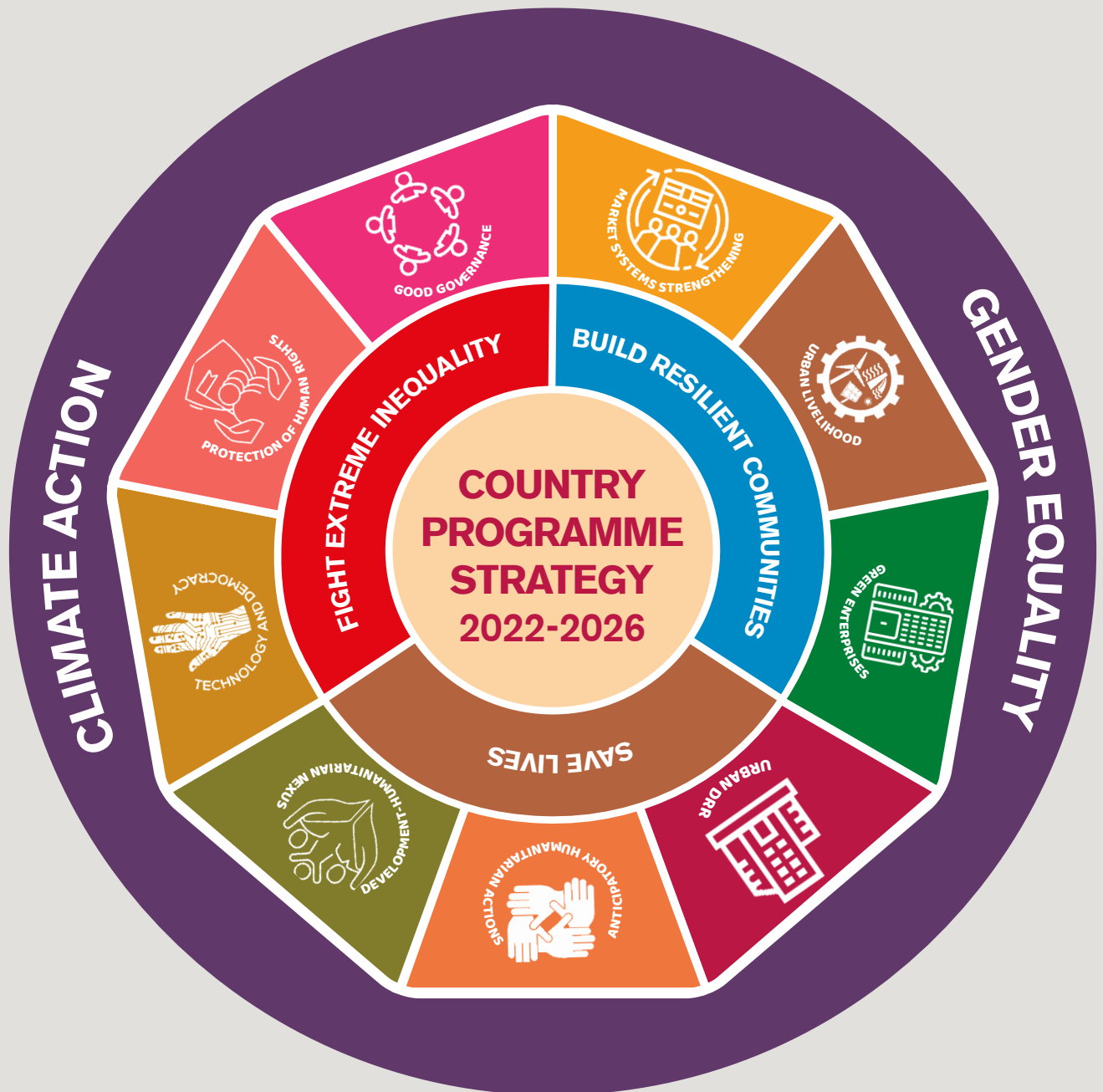
गुनासो सम्बन्धमा डिसिए नेपालका
सम्पर्क व्यक्तिलाई सम्पर्क गरेर
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मोबाईल नम्बर : ९८०९२४९००३

तपाईंले गुनासो गर्नुभएको ३ कार्य दिनभित्र उक्त गुनासो प्राप्त भएको जानकारी तपाईंले डिसिएबाट प्राप्त गर्नुहुनेछ ।

थप जानकारीको लागि यो पृष्ठमा हेर्नुहोस् :

<https://www.danchurchaid.org/how-we-work/quality-management/complaint-system>

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 DCA in Nepal