

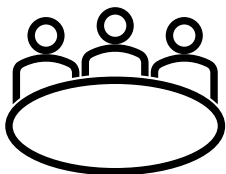


Evaluation Summary

Strengthening climate resilience for people with disabilities in Nepal

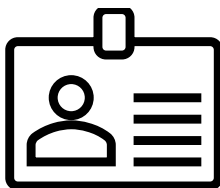
EVIDENCE FROM THE END OF THE PROJECT (2022 - 2025)

Outcomes



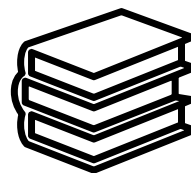
48

Self-Help Groups (SHG's) were established



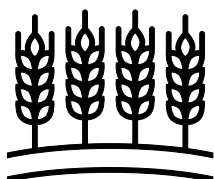
404

People with disabilities obtained disability identification cards



56

Children received educational materials to support their learning



350

People with disabilities and family members were supported in livelihood activities



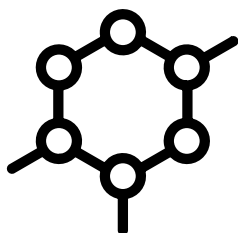
19

Accessibility assessments and action plans implemented



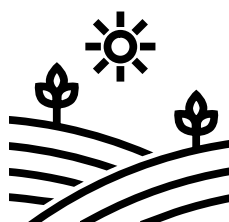
2

Municipalities were supported to develop Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plans (LDCRPs)



Over
4,000

People reached with disability-inclusive awareness messages



1,083

People reached through community awareness activities



Front Image:

With support from the project, Amresh opened a small grocery store, selling household essentials like food and toiletries. This support has not only improved his financial situation, but it has increased his confidence and independence.



Left:

Amresh.

Between 2022 and 2025, CBM Australia partnered with Life Nepal, working alongside the Disabled Society Janakpur (DSJ), a local Organisation of People with Disabilities (OPD), and local governments to implement a project to support people with disabilities and their families to build more resilient futures. Implemented across three municipalities in Dhanusha District, the project combined disability inclusion, awareness raising, livelihood support, climate-smart agriculture and local systems strengthening to improve access to essential services, expand economic opportunities, and strengthen the resilience of people with disabilities to climate-related challenges.

Nepal is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to its mountainous terrain, widespread poverty, weak infrastructure and heavy reliance on subsistence agriculture - particularly in rural areas. As extreme weather events become more frequent and intense, many communities face growing challenges to their livelihoods, food security, and long-term resilience. For people with disabilities, these challenges are often compounded by barriers to education, health care, livelihood opportunities, and participation in community decision-making processes.

About the project

Project name: Inclusive Climate Resilient Community Development in Nepal (IRDCN).

Project period: July 2022 - June 2025.

Location: Janakpur Sub-Metropolitan City, Mithila Bihari Municipality and Aaurahi Rural Municipality in Dhanusha District, Nepal.

Funder: CBM Australia with support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Implementing Partner: Life Nepal and Disabled Society Janakpur (DSJ).

Funder: CBM Australia with support from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Key achievements

Increased awareness of disability:

48 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were established, creating safe and supportive spaces where people with disabilities and their families could learn about disability rights, available services, and government entitlements. For many participants, these groups were their first source of information about disability, including the different disability types and the process for obtaining a disability identification card.

This increased awareness led to practical outcomes. Through SHGs, **404 people with disabilities obtained a disability identification card**, unlocking access to government social protection schemes and other supports that can strengthen resilience and wellbeing.

Beyond access to services, **SHGs helped reduce social isolation** by bringing together people with disabilities and their families to share experiences, challenges and solutions. **Participants reported greater awareness of their rights and increased knowledge of available health, education and social protection services.** In some communities, increased visibility of people with disabilities contributed to greater recognition and acceptance by community members and local authorities.

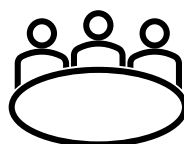
Over
4,000

People reached with disability-inclusive awareness messages

Learning for future programs:

The project demonstrated that SHGs can be an effective entry point for increasing awareness and connecting people with disabilities to services. Building on this success, the next phase of the project will focus on **strengthening the capacity of SHGs**, enabling them to take on a greater advocacy and leadership role within their communities. This will include activities such as leadership development and rights-based advocacy training and stronger connections between SHGs, OPDs, and local government structures.

Coupled with stronger follow-up support, these approaches will help SHGs evolve from important information-sharing and support networks into more **sustainable platforms capable of driving collective action and influencing local decision-making for broader systems change.**



48

Self-Help Groups (SHG's) were established



404

People with disabilities obtained disability identification cards

Right:
Amresh uses assistive devices like his crutches to move about and run his store.

56



Children with disabilities received educational materials

Improved access to inclusive education and health services

The project worked with schools, health facilities, and local authorities to improve inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities.

56 Children with disabilities received educational materials to support their learning, while **accessibility improvements, including ramps and inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, were introduced in two schools.** Awareness sessions through SHGs also helped increase understanding among parents and communities about the importance of education for children with disabilities.

The project helped **make local systems more inclusive** through accessibility assessments, action planning and inclusive policy development across schools, health facilities and local governments. Training helped municipal engineers, planning staff and elected representatives better understand accessibility requirements for public infrastructure, while accessibility audits identified existing barriers. Together, these help lay important foundations for **more accessible, responsive and resilient services in the future.**



19

Accessibility assessments and action plans implemented

To improve access to rehabilitation and health services, the project partnered with the Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children (HRDC) to deliver **outreach camps that brought medical care, rehabilitation services, assistive devices and specialist referrals closer to communities.** These services helped reduce barriers associated with distance, travel costs and limited mobility, while increasing access to rehabilitation support and assistive devices for people with disabilities

Improving access to education and health services is a critical strategy for building community resilience. Education can increase future employment opportunities and earning potential, while access to health care, rehabilitation and assistive devices help people with disabilities participate more fully in community life, livelihoods and disaster preparedness activities. Together, these services help people with disabilities develop the capabilities, confidence and resources needed to adapt to changing environmental conditions and recover more effectively from shocks and disasters.



Learning for future programs

The project demonstrated the importance of combining **accessibility improvements, educational support and community awareness** to increase opportunities for children with disabilities.

At the same time, the experience highlighted opportunities to further strengthen support for children with more complex needs, particularly those who require specialised teaching approaches and support to participate in education. The evaluation found that parents often preferred to keep children close to home rather than enrol them in dedicated schools for children who are blind or deaf located further away.

The project also demonstrated the value of community-based rehabilitation outreach in bringing services closer to people with disabilities and their families. An important lesson was that access to specialised services is influenced not only by the availability of referrals, but also by broader factors such as **household finances, time constraints and competing household responsibilities, social attitudes and confidence in seeking support**.

These lessons have informed the design of the next phase of the project, which will focus on **strengthening referral pathways and improving access to health services**, including mental health, rehabilitation, assistive devices and family counselling, as well as social protection services. By strengthening connections between communities, service providers, and government support systems, the project aims to ensure that more people with disabilities are able to access the services, benefits, and support needed to complete specialist referrals and treatment plans, strengthening the health, mobility and independence that underpin long-term resilience.

Left:

Amresh is sitting on a motorbike, that has been adapted for his disability and gives him more confidence and freedom to run his store.



Left:

Through the project, Amresh was provided a livelihood grant to establish a small grocery shop. Over two years his business has grown steadily, giving his family more dependable income and enabling them to purchase things that were once out of reach.

350



People with disabilities and family members were supported in livelihood activities

Enhanced livelihoods

The project supported 350 people with disabilities and their families to participate in livelihood activities, helping to strengthen household income, self-reliance and resilience.

Support included vocational skills training, micro-enterprise development, livestock rearing, and climate-smart agriculture. Many participants engaged in income-generating activities for the first time, while others were able to expand existing small businesses, such as grocery and snack shops and tailoring businesses. These opportunities **increased confidence, strengthened social inclusion and enabled some participants to contribute to household income and gain greater recognition within their families and communities.**

The project introduced **climate-smart agriculture practices**, including improved seeds, mulching, plastic tunnels and irrigation support. Farmers who adopted these approaches **improved yields and income**, while gaining practical experience with techniques designed to manage climate-related risks. Although uptake remained limited, the experience demonstrated the potential for **climate-smart agriculture to strengthen food security, diversify livelihoods and build resilience to changing environmental conditions.**

Learning for Future Programmes

The project demonstrated that **livelihood support and climate-smart agriculture can play an important role in strengthening the resilience of people with disabilities and their families.**

These lessons have informed the design of the next phase of the project, which will place a stronger focus on reaching **households with the greatest livelihood and climate-related vulnerabilities and ensuring that income-generating support is targeted, flexible, and tailored to individual needs.**

The next phase will also build on the project's achievements by **strengthening the long-term sustainability of climate-smart agriculture** through improved access to local supply chains for agricultural inputs, technical advice, and follow-up support. Greater emphasis will be placed on strengthening market linkages and connections to business, financial service providers and government livelihood programmes. These efforts aim to help participants **translate skills development and livelihood gains into more sustainable economic outcomes**, increasing their ability to withstand and recover from climate-related shocks and stresses.



Left: Amresh's motorbike has a space for him to store his crutches - further assisting him in his mobility and running of the grocery shop.

Strengthening community capacity for climate resilience

The project helped communities, local governments, SHGs and OPDs build their understanding of climate change and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction.

Through awareness raising, training and practical demonstrations, participants increased their knowledge of local climate risks, the impact on livelihoods and food security, and practical actions that can strengthen community resilience and adaptation.

At the government level, **two municipalities were supported to develop Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plans (LDCRPs)**, providing an important foundation for more inclusive and resilient communities. These plans are being used to guide disaster preparedness and response activities through local government programs and have provided a framework for allocating local resources to disaster risk reduction and climate-related actions.

At the community level, awareness raising through SHGs created opportunities for farmers to discuss climate-related challenges and solutions together. Farmers who successfully adopted climate-smart practices became valued sources of advice within their communities, **strengthening local leadership, peer learning and a growing culture of support around climate adaptation.**

Their success inspired **seven additional farmers to adopt similar practices**, demonstrating the potential for farmer-to-farmer learning and the wider spread of climate-resilient agriculture. While adoption remained relatively small-scale, these early results highlighted the potential for broader uptake of climate-smart farming practices in the future.

1,083

People reached through community awareness activities

2



Municipalities were supported to develop Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plans (LDCRPs)

Learning for Future Programmes

The project showed that **building resilience requires more than awareness alone**. These lessons have informed the design of the next phase of the project, which will build on these foundations by providing more practical learning opportunities, including farming demonstration sites, farmer-to-farmer exchanges, and ongoing technical support to encourage the adoption of climate-smart practices.

The next phase will also **strengthen collaboration with local governments** to support the implementation of climate resilience plans, promote inclusive disaster preparedness measures, and scale up successful approaches so that they can be sustained over time. By combining awareness raising with practical support, the project aims to **strengthen the long-term resilience of people with disabilities, their families, and their communities**.

Building on these achievements and lessons, the next phase of the project is now underway, expanding support for disability-inclusive climate resilience and livelihoods while further strengthening local systems, community leadership and sustainable pathways to inclusion.

Right:

Amresh is sitting in front of his grocery shop.

