

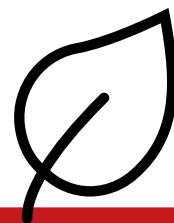


Amresh at his grocery shop, one of the small businesses supported through the project's livelihood activities.

Building climate resilience for people with disabilities in Nepal

STRONGER COMMUNITIES. SAFER FUTURES.

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:

From 2022 to 2025, CBM Australia partnered with Life Nepal, alongside the Disabled Society Janakpur (DSJ), and local governments to strengthen the resilience of people with disabilities and their families across three municipalities in Dhanusha District, southeastern Nepal, through disability inclusion, livelihood support, climate-smart agriculture, and local systems strengthening.

The end-of-project evaluation highlights key achievements and lessons learned, providing the foundation for phase two of the project.

Project snapshot

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

Project period: July 2022 - June 2025.

Location: Dhanusha District, Nepal.

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

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

By the numbers:



48
Self-Help Groups (SHGs)
established



404
people with disabilities
obtained disability
identification cards



56
children with disabilities
supported or received access
to education



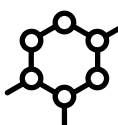
350
people with disabilities and
family members participated in
livelihood activities



19
accessibility assessments and
action plans completed



2
municipalities developed Local
Disaster and Climate Resilient
Plans



More than 4,000
people reached through
awareness activities

What's changed and what's next?

Unlocking rights through Self-Help Groups

For many participants, joining a SHG was the first opportunity to learn about disability rights, government services and available support systems.

What changed

- › 48 SHG's established
- › 404 people obtained disability identification cards
- › Increased access to social protection schemes
- › Reduced social isolation
- › Greater awareness of rights and services

What we are building on in phase two

- › Strengthening SHG members leadership and advocacy skills
- › Facilitating stronger connections between SHGs, Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) and government

Improving access to education and health services

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

What changed

- › 56 children received educational materials
- › Two schools became more inclusive with accessible ramps and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities
- › Accessibility assessments and action plans completed
- › Inclusive policies developed and training implemented
- › Outreach camps delivered, bringing medical care, rehabilitation services, assistive devices and specialist referrals closer to communities

What we are building on in phase two

- › Strengthening referral pathways and improving access to mental health, rehabilitation, and social protection services
- › Increasing family engagement and counselling
- › Improving access to assistive devices and follow-up services

Growing incomes and climate resilience livelihoods

What changed

- › 350 people participated in livelihood activities
- › Participant supported through vocational skills training, micro-enterprise development, livestock rearing, and climate-smart agriculture
- › People engaged in income generating activities for the first time
- › Existing small businesses expanded
- › Increased income and confidence
- › Climate-smart agriculture improved resilience
- › Enhanced food security

What we are building on in phase two

- › Strengthening market linkages
- › Expanding technical advice and follow-up support
- › Connecting participants with government livelihoods programs, business and financial service providers
- › Engaging households with the greatest need

Strengthening community climate resilience

What changed

- › Increased awareness of the risks and impacts of climate change on livelihoods and food security among communities, local governments, SHGs and OPDs
- › Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Plans (LDCRPs) developed by two municipalities
- › Farmer-to-farmer learning contributed to the uptake of climate-smart practices by seven additional farmers
- › Over 4,000 people reached with disability-inclusive awareness messages

What we are building on in phase two

- › Expanding practical learning opportunities, including farming demonstration sites, farmer-to-farmer exchanges, and ongoing technical support
- › Working with local government to support the implementation of local resilience plans, promote inclusive disaster preparedness measures, and scale up successful approaches



Amresh sitting on a motorbike which has been adapted for his use.