

In Nepal, “*From Local to Global: Strengthening, Networking and Capacity Building of Youth-led Activities for the Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment*” is implemented in 7 districts (Kathmandu, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Kavre, Dhading, Chitwan, Makawanpur) of Bagmati Province.



MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Knowledge Enhancement of Youth and Strengthening of Youth Groups

- A total of 68 monthly meetings were conducted in 7 project intervention districts with the participation of 182 youths on average, of which 37% were females.
- A comprehensive two days of 2 youth network training were conducted with the participation of 100 youths concentrating on eco-tourism and organic farming in Nepal for knowledge enhancement and strengthening of youths followed by exchange visits for 161 youths at Chitwan National Park, Hasera Organic Farm, Gaurishankar Conservation Project Office and Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower.
- A total of 6 climate libraries were established at Chitwan, Makawanpur, Kavre, Ramechhap, Dolakha and Dhading.
- Climate Literacy training of 3 days was carried at Kathmandu based on the climate literacy model contextualized in a Nepalese perspective with an aim to make understandable climate science in a simple way and to enhance knowledge to integrate climate education at the community level. The total participants were 36 comprising 22 male and female was 14.
- Additionally, a total of 49 monthly tutorials was conducted with the participants comprising 753 male and 633 female.

Youth-led Initiatives

- The status of 6 youth-led business start-ups is quite escalating despite the challenges. The production of newspaper pencils in Kathmandu has been steady. Distribution of pencils was started in Montessori schools, NGOs and local community programs. A few numbers of biodegradable disposable plates were produced at Dhading and planned for marketing to the nearby market. Handful numbers of eco-friendly fabric bags were manufactured at Makawanpur and cloth bags at Chitwan. Cloth bags of Chitwan were started to distribute to NGOs, government representatives, INGOs, and local markets with further plans to homestay. Flowers of Ramechhap and Vegetable (tomato) of Kavre were started to sell at the local market. The tunnel was set up for vegetable farming at Dolakha.
- Two-day business development workshop was conducted at Kathmandu with an aim to induce young people to self-employment and provide knowledge on funding, marketing, business plan and growth opportunities and to enable the young people to overcome challenges and establish a balance between various components of a business constituting 36 total participants comprising 22 male and female was 14.
- Furthermore, a total of 19 social actions were performed by youths at Dhading, Chitwan, Makawanpur, Kathmandu, Kavre, Ramechhap and Dolakha.



Youth Influence on Environment and Climate Policies and Decisions



Raising awareness, informing and shaping the public understanding about environment protection, environmental rights, climate change and mobilizing young people to put pressure on decision-makers campaign was held for 7 days with the engagement of youths. Campaign activities correspond Elocution Program on “Role of the Student in Environment Protection” and “Clean-up Program: Solidarity for Environment Sanitation” at Dhading, Trash Hunt Challenges with the involvement of youth and community & Climate Change Awareness to the children of Mamaghari Nepal on 29th Wildlife Week 2081 and Interaction Program on “Local Environmental Problems, Causes and Control” at Makawanpur, “Interaction Program with Youth on Climate Change” at Chitwan, Awareness Raising Program as “Green Initiative: Bamboo Dustbin Distribution” at Kavre and “Letter Campaign” at Ramechhap.

Altogether 20 interactions with Government authorities and agencies were executed on youth-friendly local governance, climate change policy, human-wildlife conflict, GC-26, Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) at Chitwan, Makawanpur, Dhading, Ramechhap, Dolakha, Kathmandu and Kavre.

Altogether, 16 concerns were handed over by youth members to the government at local and national level. Concerns were on controlling measures of environmental pollution at the local level, budget allocation in the youth development program, green entrepreneur guidelines/framework, preparation of local adaptation plan of action, strengthening collaboration addressing regional environmental challenges, inclusion and empowerment of youths in the environmental decision-making process, promotion in adopting green technologies, preserving and restoring the regional ecosystem, integration of climate education in the school curriculum, effective implementation mechanism of environment and climate change policies, coordination in three tiers of government, government planning in reducing pollution, operational guideline on forest fire and rooftop terrace farming, climate change act, budget allocation for environment protection in three tiers of government and avoidance of haphazard and unplanned infrastructural development at local level.

Regional Seminar was held for three days with participants from Nepal, Pakistan, India and Tajikistan comprising 13 youth participants from Nepal with male (8) and female as 5, 2 youth participants from Pakistan with 1 male and 1 female, 2 youth participants from Tajikistan with 2 female, 8 youth participants from India with 4 male and 4 female. Youths from Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan and India handed over the manifesto to the representatives of the National Youth Council of Nepal. Furthermore, the manifesto was handed over to the Ministry of Forest and Environment and the Department of Environment of the Federal Government by the youth of Nepal.

A radio program named “Yuwa Awaj” was aired at Chitwan, Makawanpur, Dhading, Ramechhap, Dolakha and Samrakshan Sambad at Kathmandu where the total outreach is approximately 2000 per district based on the media house report. A documentary entitled “Youth in Action: Building a Greener Tomorrow” was produced with the objective of raising awareness among communities and government authorities about the environmental and climate challenges faced by youth and their communities, while also showcasing youth-led initiatives and conservation efforts. Additionally, PSA was produced and broadcasted on themes of green entrepreneurship, eco-tourism, environment protection, media, governance and TV Talk shows on green entrepreneurs, the role of youth in environmental conservation and climate risk, youth & children’s issues.

Moreover, project activities such as local advocacy, exchange visits, climate literacy training, business development workshops, youth training, radio programs, regional advocacy, national advocacy, environment day celebrations, campaigns, social action, and articles along with photos were shared as part of the social media.

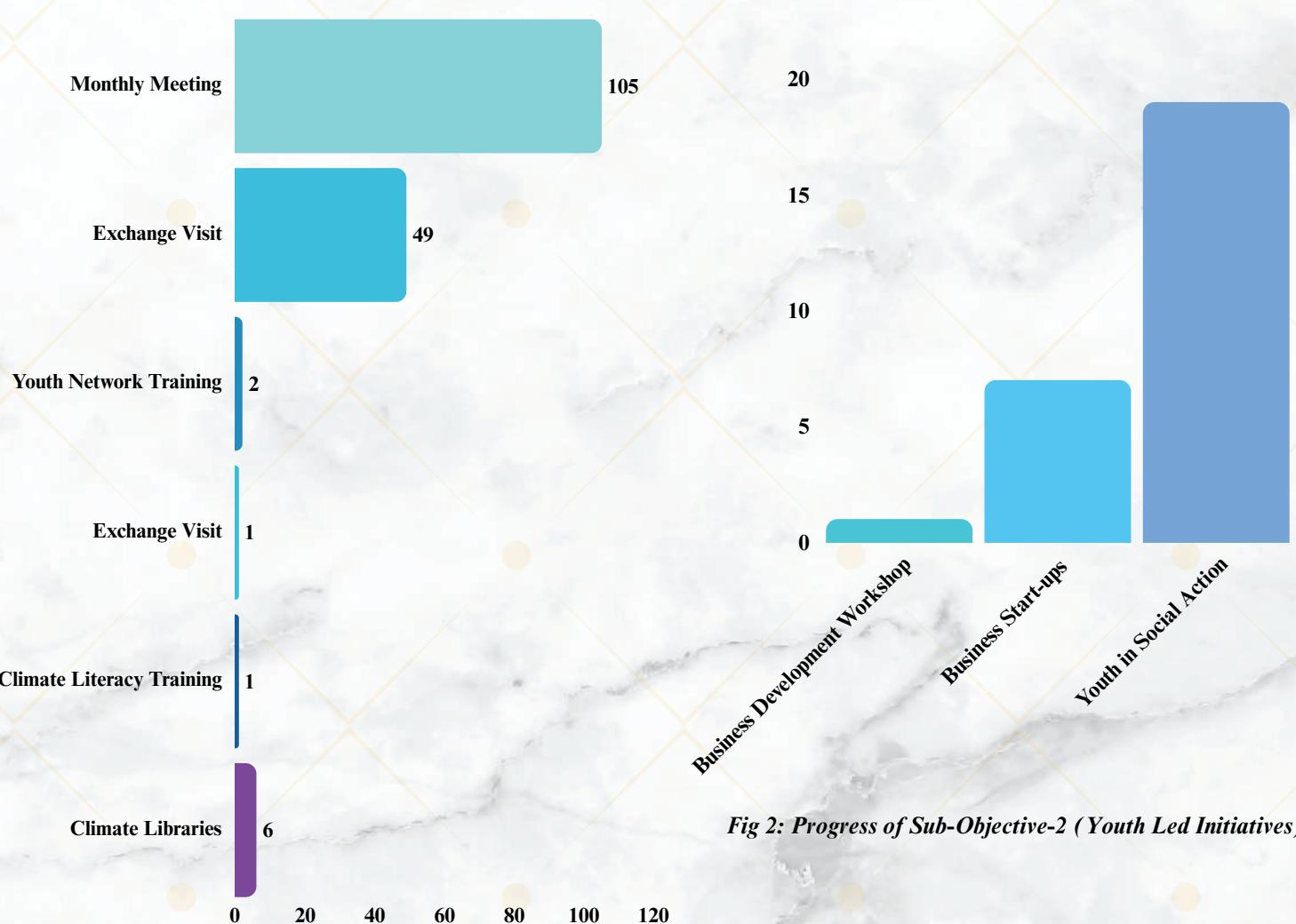


Fig 1: Progress of Sub-Objective-1 (Knowledge Enhancement)

Fig 2: Progress of Sub-Objective-2 (Youth Led Initiatives)

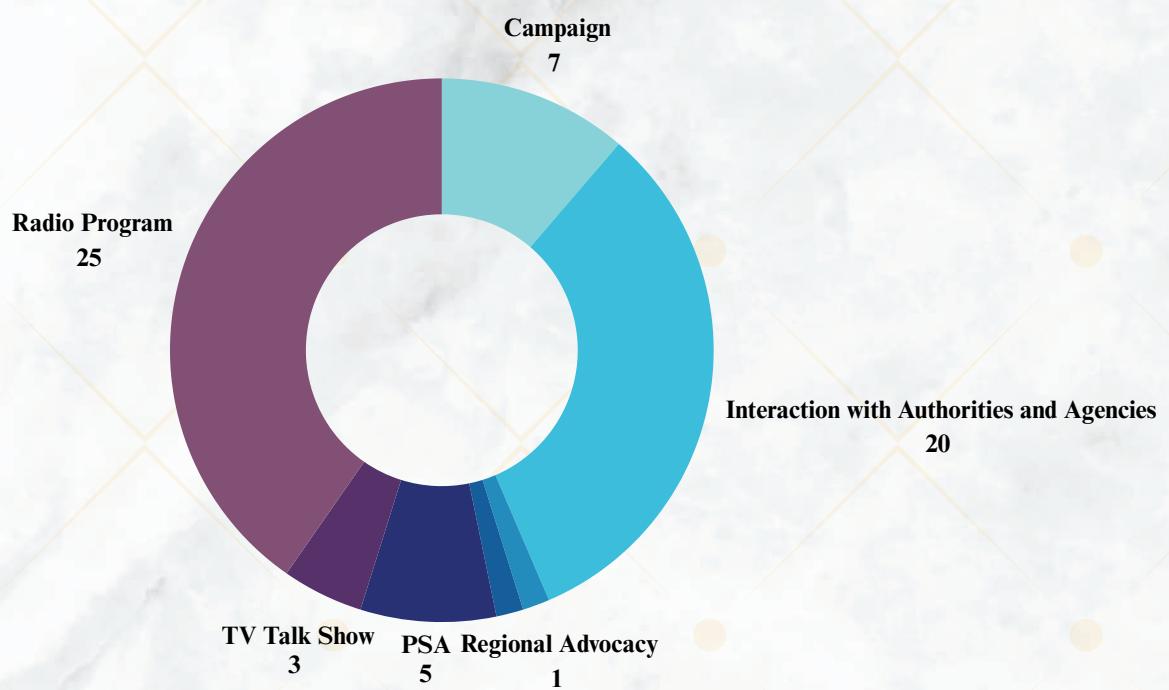


Fig 3: Progress of Sub-Objective-3 (Youth Influence)



Major Project Achievements

- »»» The local Government has addressed the concern regarding budget allocation on youth for capacity building at the local level. At the national level, concern raised by the youth on the climate change act was raised by Hon. Kusum Thapa (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources) in the House of Representatives.
- »»» The demands of youths at national advocacy were taken up and broadcasted at 2 national print media (nagariknews and nayapatrika). The news on the regional manifesto was published on Rajyadainik.com
- »»» A total of 6 youth-led start-ups have been operated where the youths from Kathmandu, Chitwan, Ramechhap, Kavre, and Makawanpur have started to generate a petty income from a business start-up with the remaining are trying to make income.
- »»» Local government has supported the entrepreneur group of Chitwan providing a space for operating the business.
- »»» Climate library has been established at Chitwan, Makawanpur, Kavre, Ramechhap, Dolakha and Dhading with the support from the respective local governments in making a space available for a library.
- »»» The youth started an awareness-raising program on climate change through monthly tutorials where the total outreach youth members were 692 accounting 385 males and females is 307, school students were 694 with males is 368 and 326 females.



Challenges

- Time constraints of youths due to their engagements (college and jobs) envisage youth commitment for the entire project period.
- Time consumption is prominent in gathering the youths for meetings/programs due to geographic adversity.
- Different understanding and knowledge levels of youths hinder effective discussion and youth engagement.
- The proportion of female participants is less compared to males in the activities.
- Developing training content with the essence of more practicability rather than theoretical.
- Coordination and convincing the multiple stakeholders carrying out the programs such as day celebration and campaign.
- Convincing local government to take action on the effective implementation of plans and policies.
- Sustainability of youth entrepreneurship.

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