

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

FOR

FISCAL YEAR

2022/23 A.D. or 2079/80 B.S.

(17th July 2022 to 16th July 2023 or
1st Shrawan 2079 to 31st Asadh, 2080)



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Table of Contents

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT	1
1. Executive Summary	4
2. Introduction	4
2.1 Mission.....	4
2.2 Vision.....	4
2.3 Goal.....	5
2.4 Objectives:	5
2.5 Target Group:.....	5
3. Activities and Programs Conducted by the Organization in Fiscal year 2022/23 (from July 17 2022 to July 16, 2023)	5
3.1 Advocacy Interactions:	5
3.1.1 Advocacy Interaction amongst Political Leaders and Disability Rights Experts.....	5
3.1.2 Advocacy Interaction with Stakeholders on Issues and Way Forward for Enhancing Access to Education for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities	5
3.1.3 National level Interaction on Way Forward for Enhancing Access to Inclusive Education and Assistive Technology for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities	6
3.1.4 Local Level Interaction on Disability Friendly Local Mechanism and Promotion of Access to Justice for Girls and Women with Disabilities	7
3.2 Delegation Visits:.....	7
3.2.1 Delegation Visit to Municipality Office of Nepalgunj Sub-metropolitan City for Policy Review of “Municipal Education Act”	7
3.2.2 Delegation Visit to Municipality Office of Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan City for Policy Review of “Municipal Education Act”	8
3.2.3 Delegation Visit to the Inclusive Education Department of the Center for Education and Human Resource Development of Sanothimi	8
3.2.4 Delegation Visit to CTEVT Sanothimi for Inclusion of Women with Disabilities in Training and Capacity Building Programs.....	8
3.3 Advocacy and Capacity Building Programs:	9
3.3.1 Leadership and Advocacy Training for Young Women with Disabilities	9
3.3.2 Orientation on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights to Girls with Disabilities	10
3.3.3 Refresher Training on Rights Relating to Education and Technology for Advocacy Committees	10
3.3.4 Training of Trainers (TOT) on Feminism, National and International Laws and Policies, and Human Rights Mechanism	11
3.3.5 Gender, Feminism, and Legal Literacy Training for Women with Disabilities.....	12
3.4 Techno-based Capacity Building:	13
3.4.1 Computer Class in Guru Jajur Secondary School (Dang, Lumbini Province).....	13

3.4.2 Virtual Two-Month Basic Computer Training for Blind and Visually Impaired Women in Nepal.....	13
3.4.3 Computer-Based Skill Development Training for Youth with Disabilities	14
3.4.4 Techno-based On-the-Job Training for Young Women with Disabilities	15
3.4.5 Online Technology and Digital Security Training.....	16
3.5 Issue Identification:.....	17
3.5.1 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on Issue Identification on Education and Access to Technology for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities at the Local Level with Girls with Disabilities	17
3.5.2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on Issue Identification on Education and Access to Technology for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities at the Local Level with stakeholders, including OPDs, parents, school teachers, and administrative personnel	17
3.5.3 Issue Identification Workshop on Access to Justice for Girls and Women with Disabilities	18
3.6 Participation in International Advocacy Platforms:.....	19
3.6.1 Visit to Indonesia for 1st FDG Monitoring Training	19
3.6.2 Visit to Thailand for the 2nd FDG Monitoring Training and Asia Pasific Forum on Sustainable Development.....	19
3.6.3 Representation at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).....	19
3.7 Knowledge Production:.....	20
3.7.1 Preparation of Monitoring design report for the Research.....	20
3.7.2 Preparation of Feminist Development Country Briefer 2023	20
3.8 Establishment of mobile computer lab.....	20
3.9 Recreation Program for Women with Disabilities on the Occasion of Teej Festival	20
3.10 Formation of Access Planet's Committee	21
3.11 Felicitation to Access Planet on the occasion of International Volunteers Day	21
3.12 Presentation Delivered at Plan International: “Mainstreaming the Issues of Girls and Young Women with Disabilities”	21
4. Challenges and Lessons Learned.....	22
4.1 Challenges Faced	22
4.2 Lessons Learned:	22
5. Future Plans and Strategies for Next Fiscal Year (17th July 2023 to 16th July 2024).....	22
5.1 Future Plans	22
5.2 Future Strategies:	23
6. Conclusion	23
7. Appendices.....	25

1. Executive Summary

During the fiscal year 2022/23, Access Planet Organization demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting the rights and inclusivity of girls and women with disabilities. The organization conducted leadership and advocacy training programs in different provinces, empowering young women with disabilities with essential skills and sensitizing them about their rights. Collaborating with different organizations, Access Planet organized orientation programs on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and provided computer training for visually impaired students. Additionally, the organization conducted advocacy interaction programs in various districts in partnership with other organization to enhance access to education for girls and young women with disabilities. These programs aimed to foster inclusive education and access to assistive technology, involving stakeholders from the education sector and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). Moreover, Access Planet organized Computer-Based Skill Development Training for Youth with Disabilities, promoting employability and independence among people with disabilities. The organization also collaborated with an organization to build the capacity of women with disabilities through the Training of Trainers (TOT) on feminism, laws, and human rights. These activities and programs collectively contributed to the advancement of disability rights, the empowerment of women with disabilities, and the establishment of grassroots movements for a more inclusive society. These achievements exemplify Access Planet's unwavering dedication to creating a just and accessible world for individuals with disabilities, and the organization is deeply grateful to all stakeholders and supporters for their invaluable contributions.

2. Introduction

Access Planet Organization is led by young women with disabilities and is working to promote the rights, empowerment, and inclusion of Young women with disabilities in Nepal. It was established in September 2015 aiming to mainstream these women in society through technology, capacity building, and economic empowerment. The organization was officially registered in District Administration Bhaktapur of Bagmati Province and also has its branch in Lumbini and Sudurpashchim Provinces, Nepal. In the following years, we aim to expand its network throughout the nation. We focus on promoting the quality education, well-being, and leadership capabilities of these women.

Our major activities include career counseling, strengthening leadership capacities, legal literacy and capacity building on technology, sports-related activities, movement building, and advocacy with government and nongovernment stakeholders for the rights of young women with disabilities. The stereotypical attitudes, roles, and responsibilities prescribed by society to these women are challenged and they are capacitated to build their career to the fullest potential.

2.1 Mission

Establish the quality and dignified life of women and youths with disabilities through coordination, collaboration, and mobilization of stakeholders.

2.2 Vision

Access Planet envisions economically empowered women and youths with disabilities living dignified life through the availability and use of accessible technology.

2.3 Goal

Social status and rights, economic conditions, and technological accessibility of youths/women with disabilities improved.

2.4 Objectives:

- Contribute to improving technology and Education friendly environment for youths and women with disabilities.
- To economically empower youths/women with disabilities through disability-friendly technology
- To ensure the rights of youths/women with disabilities through legal literacy and advocacy
- To promote a positive attitude in society towards youths/women with disabilities through awareness and social sensitization

2.5 Target Group:

- Youths/ women with disabilities
- Parents of children with disabilities
- Children with disabilities

3. Activities and Programs Conducted by the Organization in Fiscal year 2022/23 (from July 17 2022 to July 16, 2023)

3.1 Advocacy Interactions:

3.1.1 Advocacy Interaction amongst Political Leaders and Disability Rights Experts

July 19, 2022, Kathmandu, Bagmati Province

Access Planet Organization hosted a half-day advocacy interaction program in Kathmandu, bringing together eight political leaders and thirty-six national-level disability rights experts. The program aimed to foster democratic rights for women with disabilities through political engagement. A declaration document prepared by disability rights experts, identifying key issues faced by girls and women with disabilities, was shared and presented to political leaders. The leaders expressed their commitment to addressing these issues in the electoral process and overall development.

Outcomes:

- The declaration document was shared with political leaders from major national parties.
- Political leaders were sensitized to the issues of girls and women with disabilities.
- Political leaders committed to addressing these issues in elections and development processes.

3.1.2 Advocacy Interaction with Stakeholders on Issues and Way Forward for Enhancing Access to Education for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities

a) 27 December 2022, Suryabinayak, Bhaktapur

Participants: 40 stakeholders from different sectors

b) 8 January 2023, Nepalgunj, Banke

Participants: 40 stakeholders from different sectors

c) 20 January 2023, Dhangadhi, Kailali

Participants: 45 stakeholders from different sectors

Access Planet Organization, with the support of the Disability Rights Fund, organized a half-day advocacy program in three districts. The program aimed to address issues related to access

to education for girls and young women with disabilities. An advocacy manifesto was presented, highlighting current problems and proposed solutions. Participants included municipal education chiefs, parents, teachers, principals, female students with disabilities, and representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). Local-level representatives expressed commitments to improve access to education, including scheduling exams at different times to address the scribe support issue. The program facilitated meaningful discussions and impactful steps toward enhancing education access for girls and young women with disabilities.

Outcomes (for all 3 programs):

- Handover of advocacy manifesto on issues and solutions for enhancing inclusive education and access to technology for girls and young women with disabilities to local stakeholders.
- Commitments from the local stakeholders, including Chief Education Officers, to promote inclusive education for girls and young women with disabilities in Bhaktapur district.
- Commitments from the local stakeholders, including Mayors and Chief Education Officers, to promote inclusive education for girls and young women with disabilities in the Nepalgunj and Khajura municipalities of Banke district.
- Commitments from local-level representatives, including the Municipal Education Chief, to promote inclusive education for girls and young women with disabilities in Dhangadhi Submetropolitan City and Godawari Municipality of Kailali district.

3.1.3 National level Interaction on Way Forward for Enhancing Access to Inclusive Education and Assistive Technology for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities

12th February 2023, Kathmandu, Nepal

Participants: Around 40 stakeholders, including a Member of Parliament and representatives of OPDs and disability rights activists.

Access Planet Organization, with the support of the Disability Rights Fund, organized an interaction program on enhancing access to inclusive education and assistive technology for girls and young women with disabilities. The program aimed to share the achievements and challenges of the project conducted in 2022 and discuss the way forward. Various stakeholders from the education sector and disability rights activists participated in the event. The panel discussion highlighted the need for monitoring public schools for disability-friendly facilities and ensuring equal educational opportunities. Commitments were gathered from the chief guest, a member of parliament, and other panelists to prioritize disability issues and work towards inclusivity. The program emphasized the importance of accessible technology and education without discrimination for persons with disabilities.

Outcomes:

- Reflection on the achievements and challenges of the project related to inclusive education and access to assistive technology for girls and young women with disabilities.
- Discussion on the way forward for fostering access to inclusive education and assistive technology for girls and young women with disabilities.
- Commitments from the Member of Parliament and other panelists to prioritize disability rights issues and promote inclusive education at the central level.

3.1.4 Local Level Interaction on Disability Friendly Local Mechanism and Promotion of Access to Justice for Girls and Women with Disabilities

a) 4th June 2023, Bhaktapur, Bagmati Province

Target Beneficiaries: Local-level people's representatives, government officials, and organizations of persons with disabilities from four municipalities in Bhaktapur districts

b) 12th June 2023, Dhangadhi, Far Western Province

Target Beneficiaries: Local-level people's representatives, government officials, and organizations of persons with disabilities from two local governments in Dhangadhi and Godawari Municipality

c) 17th June 2023, Dang, Lumbini Province

Target Beneficiaries: Local-level people's representatives, government officials, and organizations of persons with disabilities from two local governments in Tulsipur Sub-metropolitan City and Shantinagar Rural Municipality

Access Planet Organization conducted a series of "Interaction Programs on Disability Friendly Local Mechanism and Promotion of Access to Justice for Girls and Women with Disabilities" in different provinces of Nepal with funding support from Kaagapay under Women's Fund Asia (WFA). These programs targeted local-level people's representatives, government officials, and organizations of persons with disabilities from various municipalities.

Impact and Outcomes (for all 3 programs):

- Local government representatives were sensitized about issues faced by girls and women with disabilities.
- A platform was created to share best practices on disability-related works.
- Commitments were gathered from government representatives for addressing the issues of persons with disabilities through programs and budgets at the local level.
- Access Planet's relationship with local government representatives and organizations of persons was strengthened.

These interaction programs served as crucial advocacy initiatives, creating awareness among stakeholders about the barriers faced by girls and young women with disabilities. They also fostered commitment and collaboration between Access Planet, local government representatives, and organizations of persons with disabilities to work towards creating a more inclusive and accessible environment for girls and young women with disabilities at the local level.

3.2 Delegation Visits:

3.2.1 Delegation Visit to Municipality Office of Nepalgunj Sub-metropolitan City for Policy Review of "Municipal Education Act"

August 25, 2022, Banke, Nepalgunj

Access Planet organized a delegation visit to the Nepalgunj Sub-metropolitan City to advocate for the review of the Municipal Education Act. The aim was to promote access to inclusive and quality education for girls and women with disabilities. The event was attended by local government officials, representatives from Access Planet, and advocacy groups. The municipality committed to incorporating the proposed policy review suggestions and ensuring inclusive education for girls and women with disabilities.

Outcomes:

- Local stakeholders, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, committed to addressing policy review proposals.
- Practical suggestions were discussed to promote inclusiveness in education for girls and women with disabilities.
- The local government expressed a desire for further collaboration with Access Planet in empowering persons with disabilities through technology.

3.2.2 Delegation Visit to Municipality Office of Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan City for Policy Review of “Municipal Education Act”

September 7, 2022, Dhangadhi

A similar delegation visit was conducted in Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan City to advocate for the review of the Municipal Education Act. Representatives from Access Planet, local government officials, and political representatives attended the program. The sub-metropolitan city committed to incorporating the proposed points during the policy amendment to address the issues of girls and women with disabilities in education.

Outcomes:

- Commitments were gathered from municipal representatives, especially the Mayor and the Chief of the Municipal Education Committee, for policy amendments.
- The relationship between Access Planet and the local government was strengthened.

3.2.3 Delegation Visit to the Inclusive Education Department of the Center for Education and Human Resource Development of Sanothimi

November 15, 2022, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur

Access Planet conducted an advocacy program with representatives of the Inclusive Education Department to address challenges faced by girls and young women with disabilities in accessing quality education. Discussions were held, and the authorities expressed their commitment to continue their work for students with disabilities and take action against policy violations and corruption in schools.

Outcomes:

- The authorities of the Inclusive Education Department were sensitized about the challenges faced by girl students with disabilities.
- Authorities committed to addressing challenges and taking necessary actions to improve inclusive education.

3.2.4 Delegation Visit to CTEVT Sanothimi for Inclusion of Women with Disabilities in Training and Capacity Building Programs

December 4, 2022, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur

Access Planet conducted advocacy with the representatives of the Training Development Department of CTEVT to promote the inclusion of women with disabilities in training and capacity-building programs. The advocacy was conducted with the objectives to advocate the need for the inclusion of Women with disabilities in Training and Capacity building programs organized by CTEVT and to take the commitments from the respective authorities for inclusive opportunities for young women with disabilities in acquiring skill-based training provided by

CTEVT. The authorities thus expressed their commitment to inclusiveness in policy-making and the delivery of information for capacity-building training.

Outcomes:

- The respective authorities of the Training Development Department were sensitized about the situation of women with disabilities and their need for skill-based training.
- Authorities committed to addressing problems faced by women with disabilities from a policy level.

3.3 Advocacy and Capacity Building Programs:

3.3.1 Leadership and Advocacy Training for Young Women with Disabilities

a) 8th -10th September 2022, Dhangadhi, Far Western Province

Target Beneficiaries: 14 Young women with disabilities from Banke, Bardiya, Rupandehi, and Dang districts

b) 11th -13th September 2022, Dang, Lumbini Province

Target Beneficiaries: 14 Young women with disabilities from Kailali, Kanchanpur, Accham, and Doti districts

c) 7th to 9th April 2023, Bhaktapur, Bagmati Province

Target Beneficiaries: 18 Young women with disabilities from various districts in Bagmati Province

Access Planet Organization conducted a series of "Leadership and Advocacy Training for Young Women with Disabilities" in three different provinces of Nepal, with funding support from Kaagapay under Women's Fund Asia (WFA). The training covered a range of topics, including:

- Team Building and Group Formation, Leadership, Diversity, and Leadership Values
- Sex, Gender, and Gender Roles
- Public Speaking and Handling Formal programs (Theory and Practical)
- Acts on Rights of Persons with Disabilities about Rights of Women
- Local Mechanism on Violence Against Women
- Advocacy Skills (Theory and Practical)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), United Nations Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and Women with Disabilities
- Issue Identification and Formation of Manifesto

Impact and Outcomes (for all 3 programs):

- Participants were sensitized about disability rights, local mechanisms for addressing violence against women, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to women with disabilities.
- Participants enhanced their leadership, advocacy, public speaking, and program-handling skills, including meetings and minutes.
- Identified issues related to women with disabilities in their localities and prepared draft action plans for community activities.
- Strengthened Access Planet's relationship with local government representatives, civil service officers, and organizations of persons with disabilities.

These leadership and advocacy training programs played a vital role in empowering young women with disabilities, sensitizing local government representatives, and gathering

commitments to address the issues faced by girls and women with disabilities at the local level. The programs also fostered inclusivity and empowerment within communities, further advancing Access Planet's efforts for disability inclusion and access to justice.

3.3.2 Orientation on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights to Girls with Disabilities

a) 25th November 2022, Bungamati, Lalitpur, Bagmati Province

Target Beneficiaries: 25 girls with visual impairment, deaf, and physical disabilities

b) 7th January 2023, Bardiya, Banke, Lumbini Province

Target Beneficiaries: 20 girls with visual impairment and physical disabilities

c) 22nd January 2023, Bhairahawa, Lumbini Province

Target Beneficiaries: 24 Deaf and hard-of-hearing girls

d) 23rd January 2023, Khajura, Lumbini Province

Target Beneficiaries: 17 Deaf and hard-of-hearing girls

Access Planet Organization organized a series of one-day orientation programs on “Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights to Girls with Disabilities” at the Disabled Service Association in Bungamati, Lalitpur, Bagmati Province commemorating 16 days of activism against Gender-based violence and also in three different places in Lumbini Province. The orientation programs were conducted with the funding support of Women Fund Asia. The objective of the orientations was to sensitize girls with disabilities to various dimensions of SRHR.

Major issues covered in the orientation were:

- Human body and development
- Menstrual Hygiene and Management
- Contraceptive devices and other different SRHR components
- Gender-Based Violence and the ways to eliminate

Outcomes (for all four programs):

- Participants were oriented, sensitized, and provided guidance regarding sexual and reproductive health rights.
- The participants learned about their physiological changes during adolescence, ways to prevent sexual abuse, and institutions and mechanisms to support such cases.
- Girls with disabilities gained more confidence in speaking about SRHR issues.
- The orientation programs provided valuable awareness and knowledge to girls with disabilities.

3.3.3 Refresher Training on Rights Relating to Education and Technology for Advocacy Committees

3rd to 5th March 2023, Kathmandu, Nepal

Participants: 17 advocacy committee members from Dhangadhi, Nepalgunj, and Kathmandu Valley

Access Planet Organization, in collaboration with the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), organized a refresher training titled "Refresher Training on Rights Relating to Education and Technology for Advocacy Committees." The training aimed to update advocacy committees on the content covered in a comprehensive training conducted the previous year. The training was attended by 17 advocacy committee members from Dhangadhi, Nepalgunj, and Kathmandu Valley.

Various facilitators working in education and technology led different sessions during the training.

Objectives:

- Sensitize the participants about the rights relating to education and technology.
- Enhance their advocacy skills and understanding of national and international laws, policies, and practices.
- Strengthen grassroots-level movement of young women with disabilities in Bagmati, Lumbini, and Far West Provinces.
- Reflect on previous advocacy works and plan for future advocacy.

The training covered important topics related to advocacy in inclusive education and assistive technologies, including major issues, reflections on previous advocacy efforts, advocacy with local government, technology demonstrations, international practices in inclusive education for girls and women, intersectionality in inclusive education, role-playing on advocacy, national level policies on inclusive education, and local-level mechanisms on education. Participants developed action plans for further advocacy efforts. Jenisha Maharjan, Program Coordinator of Access Planet, moderated the training sessions and welcomed the participants. The training aimed to empower advocacy committees to be more effective advocates for disability rights in education and technology.

Outcomes:

- Participants were sensitized about the rights relating to education and technology through various training sessions.
- Their advocacy skills were enhanced, and they gained a better understanding of relevant laws and policies.
- Advocacy committees reflected on previous works and developed action plans for this year's advocacy efforts.

3.3.4 Training of Trainers (TOT) on Feminism, National and International Laws and Policies, and Human Rights Mechanism

18th to 21st May 2023, Kathmandu, Nepal

Beneficiaries: 16 women with disabilities from Koshi, Madhesh, Gandaki, and Karnali Provinces in Nepal

Access Planet Organization, in collaboration with Leading from the South (LFS) - Women's Rights Fund (WFA), organized a Training of Trainers (TOT) on "Capacity Building of Frontline Women with Disabilities." The TOT aimed to empower 16 women with disabilities from Koshi, Madhesh, Gandaki, and Karnali Provinces by providing training on feminism, national and international laws and policies, and human rights mechanisms. The participants, representing different provinces, were prepared for grassroots campaigning in their local areas.

Objectives:

- Build the capacity of frontline women with disabilities through TOT.
- Strengthen grassroots campaigning by the TOT participants by organizing community legal literacy training.
- Enhance programs and activities of Access Planet by establishing formal or informal networks of the organization in different provinces.

The TOT focused on emerging topics related to feminism, national and international laws, and human rights. Trainers and experts in the related fields conducted sessions to provide comprehensive knowledge and skills to the participants. The women were trained and prepared for grassroots campaigning in their respective local areas.

Ms. Jyotsana Prajapati, Program Manager of Access Planet, welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda and format of the training. The participants shared their expectations and commitments for the training. Ms. Jenisha Maharjan, Program Coordinator of Access Planet, provided an overview of the organization. Throughout the training, participants engaged in various sessions led by experts in related fields.

The closing program was held on 21st May 2023, chaired by Hon. Prakash Panta, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Good Governance Committee, with Ms. Neera Adhikari, Director of the Women and Children Department, Nepal Government, as a special guest. In the closing program, participants shared their learnings and commitments to strengthening the grassroots movement of women with disabilities. Ms. Neera Adhikari expressed her wishes for the participants, and Hon. Prakash Panta pledged to advocate for girls and women with disabilities during policy formation. Certificates were awarded to the participants for their successful completion of the training.

Outcomes:

- The 16 participants from different provinces developed their knowledge and skills in feminism, law, and human rights.
- Commitments were gathered from participants to organize similar training in their localities with guidance and mentorship from Access Planet.
- Empowerment of grassroots activists and women with disabilities contributed to strengthening the grassroots movement of women with disabilities.
- Strengthened relationships with women's rights activists, disability rights activists, government representatives, and policymakers were established during the training.

3.3.5 Gender, Feminism, and Legal Literacy Training for Women with Disabilities

a) 10th June 2023, Surkhet, Nepal

Beneficiaries: 24 grassroots women with disabilities from Karnali Province

b) 16th June 2023, Pokhara, Nepal

Beneficiaries: 21 women with disabilities from Gandaki Province

c) 7th July 2023, Morang, Nepal

Beneficiaries: 20 women with disabilities from Koshi Province

d) 8th July 2023, Rautahat, Nepal

Beneficiaries: 20 women with disabilities from Madhesh Province

The one-day training aimed to empower grassroots women with disabilities from four different provinces with knowledge about feminism, laws, and human rights. The training was part of the grassroots campaigning efforts by TOT participants who had completed the earlier training in Kathmandu. The training covered sessions on sex, gender, gender roles, gender-based violence, local mechanisms for ending violence against women with disabilities, and acts relating to the rights of persons with disabilities.

Objective:

- Build the capacity of grassroots women with disabilities from all 4 provinces on emerging topics related to feminism, law, and human rights.

Outcomes (for all 4 programs):

- The participants were empowered with knowledge of gender, feminism, laws, and human rights.
- The participants became aware of acts related to the rights of people with disabilities.
- The training contributed to the empowerment of grassroots women with disabilities that strengthened the grassroots movement.
- Strengthened relationships with women with disabilities in the province were established through formal or informal networks.

3.4 Techno-based Capacity Building:

3.4.1 Computer Class in Guru Jajur Secondary School (Dang, Lumbini Province)

July-September 2022, Rakshachaur, Dang, Lumbini Province

Target Beneficiaries: 18 visually impaired students from grades 5-12

Access Planet Organization has conducted 3 months of computer training from July 2022 for visually impaired students who are studying in Shree Guru Jajur Secondary School of Rakshachaur of Dang in partnership with Global Fund for Women and the school administration. The main objective of this program was to make it accessible for blind children especially girls to get inclusive education by providing them with technological capacity development.

Outcomes:

- Visually impaired students received computer training on MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Email-Internet, enhancing their technological capacity.
- The students became more independent in their learning and decreased their dependency on sighted counterparts.
- Resource teachers were provided with computer skills, supporting the sustainability of computer classes for future visually impaired students.

3.4.2 Virtual Two-Month Basic Computer Training for Blind and Visually Impaired Women in Nepal

June 15th to August 14th, 2023 (2 months)

Mode: Virtual training via the Zoom platform

Participants: 20 blind and visually impaired women from across Nepal

Under the funding provided by the Global Fund for Women, Access Planet Organization successfully conducted a comprehensive two-month Basic Computer Training course for a group of 20 blind and visually impaired women participants from June 15th to August 14th, 2023, across Nepal. The training initiative aimed to equip these participants with essential computer skills and knowledge, utilizing accessible technology, thereby enhancing their personal and professional growth prospects in today's digital era. The training course covered essential topics over two months, focusing on the following subjects:

1. Microsoft Word (11 days)
2. Microsoft Excel (10 days)

3. Nepali Typing (8 days)
4. Gmail (8 days)
5. Google Search (5 days)
6. NVDA (Non-Visual Desktop Access) (5 days)
7. Microsoft PowerPoint (5 days)
8. Computer Management (6 days)

Objectives:

The primary objectives of the Basic Computer Training by Access Planet were:

1. To grant blind and visually impaired women access to contemporary technology and computer skills.
2. To augment participants' computer skills and digital literacy, facilitating access to education, employment, and social interactions.
3. To encourage the use of accessible technology and software, promoting inclusivity in information technology for young women with disabilities.
4. To foster a supportive and empowering community among women with disabilities, nurturing self-confidence and a sense of belonging.

Outcomes:

- Throughout the training, the 20 participants with visual impairments gained essential computer skills that empower them to confidently navigate modern technology.
- They developed proficiency in using Microsoft Word for document creation, Excel for data management, and PowerPoint for presentations.
- The participants also learned to navigate Gmail efficiently, conduct effective Google searches, and operate NVDA for improved accessibility.
- Additionally, the training equipped them with Nepali typing skills and basic computer management techniques.

This initiative stands as a testament to Access Planet's commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities through accessible education and technology, contributing to their increased participation in various facets of society.

3.4.3 Computer-Based Skill Development Training for Youth with Disabilities

28th April to 15th May 2023, Balkot, Bhaktapur

Beneficiaries: Youth with disabilities, both temporary and permanent residents of Kathmandu
 Access Planet Organization held 15 days of Computer-Based Skill Development Training for Youth with Disabilities for the youth with disabilities from 28th April to 15th May 2023 in support of the Social Development Ministry of Bagmati province and Red Cross Society, Balkot Branch. The primary goal of the training is to help people with disabilities improve their computer-based employment skills.

Program Topics:

- Professional email writing
- Office setup (printing, scanning, photocopying)
- Letter writing (invitation letter, leave letter, resignation letter)
- E-documentation and hard-copy documentation
- Career counseling
- Office documentation and file management (attendance sheet, transportation sheet)

- Formal program handling (practical and theoretical)
- PowerPoint presentation (practical and theoretical)
- Writing a CV and Cover Letter
- Communication and interview skills (practical and theoretical)
- Report writing (practical and theoretical)
- Nepali typing
- Financial statement preparation
- Event management (practical and theoretical)

Outcomes:

- Ten youths with disabilities successfully acquired computer-based employment-related skills during the 15-day training program.
- Participants were inspired and motivated to advance their careers and seize new opportunities in the future.
- The training had a positive impact on the participants, boosting their levels of confidence and self-esteem.

The program's focus on computer-based skills aimed to equip the youth with disabilities with practical and relevant expertise that can help them overcome barriers to employment and participate more actively in the workforce. By enhancing their employability, the training aimed to foster greater independence and empowerment among the participants.

3.4.4 Techno-based On-the-Job Training for Young Women with Disabilities

March 2023 to May 2023, Nari Bikash Hall, Ramlila Maidan, Nepalgunj

Access Planet Organization conducted a three-month Techno-based On-the-Job Training program for young women and men with disabilities residing in Banke district, Nepalgunj of Lumbini province. The training aimed to equip participants with techno-based employment skills to secure better career opportunities in the future. The program was made possible through funding support from the Tewa Sangsthapika Award and the Global Fund for Women, with additional assistance from Nari Bikash Organization, which provided the Nari Bikash Hall for conducting the training.

Training Procedure:

The training was divided into two classes based on the types of disabilities. For young individuals with visual impairments, Ms. Gargi Nepal, an expert on screen readers and technology, facilitated computer training. Mr. Dipesh Kumar Mahato, a computer expert, led the training for youths with physical disabilities. The program commenced in the 1st week of March and covered a wide range of computer skills and employment-related topics.

Topics Covered:

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- NVDA setting
- PowerPoint
- Email
- Internet
- Google Drive, google sheet, google docs
- Nepali Typing

Outcomes:

- Participants strengthened their computer skills, including proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, NVDA settings, Internet usage, and Google Drive.
- Enhanced abilities in printing, scanning, photocopying, Nepali typing, email and letter writing, report writing, meeting procedures, minute writing, public speaking, and job interview techniques.
- Increased self-esteem and confidence among participants regarding their future career prospects and employment opportunities.
- One participant secured an internship opportunity at the family planning association during the training period.
- Local government representatives, including the mayor and ward chair, visited the training site and expressed their commitment to working towards technological empowerment for persons with disabilities in the municipality.
- The community's perception towards technologically capable youths with disabilities became positive.

These initiatives contributed to the empowerment and skill development of young women and men with disabilities, fostering inclusivity and enhancing employment prospects for a more inclusive society.

3.4.5 Online Technology and Digital Security Training

27th June to 2nd July 2023

Access Planet Organization successfully organized a comprehensive five-day online technology and digital security training program for a cohort of 30 young women with disabilities. This training initiative was made attainable through the generous funding support provided by WFA Kaagapay. Throughout the training, participants were exposed to a diverse array of topics aimed at enhancing their knowledge, skills, and empowerment in the digital realm.

Topics Covered:

- Counseling
- Cyber Crime
- Stress Management
- Gender and Media
- Strategies for Information Security
- Zoom and its accessible features
- Application of Instareader
- Digital Marketing
- Digital Financing and Mobile Banking
- Online Advocacy

Outcomes:

- Participants gained proficiency in using various digital tools and platforms, including Zoom and Instareader, fostering independence in online interactions and information consumption.
- Participants became more conscious of potential cyber threats, equipping them to protect their personal and sensitive information.

- The training enabled participants to harness the power of online platforms for advocating on important issues.
- By fostering confidence and knowledge in technology, the training empowered young women with disabilities to actively engage in digital spaces.

3.5 Issue Identification:

3.5.1 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on Issue Identification on Education and Access to Technology for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities at the Local Level with Girls with Disabilities

a) 30th March 2023, Bhaktapur

b) 22nd April 2023, Nepalgunj and

c) 24th April 2023, Dhangadhi, Nepal

Participants: 10 female participants each representing different institutions in Bhaktapur, Banke, and Kailali districts

Access Planet Organization, with support from the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), organized the first Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on the topic "Issue Identification on Education and Access to Technology for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities at the Local Level." The FGDs aimed to identify the issues and challenges faced by female students with disabilities in accessing quality education and assistive technology. Each FGD had 10 female participants representing different institutions in the Bhaktapur, Banke, and Kailali districts, led by the Advocacy Committees of Kathmandu, Nepalgunj, and Dhangadhi as part of their action plan.

Objectives:

- Identify existing issues of female students with disabilities in accessing quality education and assistive technology through FGDs.
- Document the issues to prepare an advocacy manifesto for conducting advocacy at the local level.

The representatives of Access Planet welcomed the participants, provided an overview of the organization, and explained the purpose and format of the discussions. The FGDs covered topics such as physical infrastructure, quality of education, and specific education issues for girls and adolescents with disabilities. The discussions aimed to gather valuable insights to shape future advocacy efforts for enhancing education and technology access for girls and young women with disabilities at the local level.

Outcomes (for all 3 programs):

- Existing issues faced by female students with disabilities were identified through focused group discussions.
- The issues were documented for the preparation of an advocacy manifesto.

3.5.2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on Issue Identification on Education and Access to Technology for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities at the Local Level with stakeholders, including OPDs, parents, school teachers, and administrative personnel

a) 24th April 2023 Dhangadhi

b) 30th April 2023 Nepalgunj and

c) 16th May 2023, Bhaktapur, Nepal

Participants: 10 participants each representing OPDs, parents, school teachers, and administrative personnel in Kailali, Banke, and Bhaktapur districts

Access Planet Organization, with support from the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), organized the second Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on the topic "Issue Identification on Education and Access to Technology for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities at the Local Level." The FGD aimed to identify the issues and challenges faced by female students with disabilities in accessing quality education and assistive technology. Each FGD had 10 participants representing different stakeholders, including OPDs, parents, school teachers, and administrative personnel from Kailali, Banke, and Bhaktapur districts. The Advocacy Committees of Dhangadhi, Nepalgunj, and Kathmandu led the second FGDs as part of their action plan.

Objectives:

- Identify existing issues of female students with disabilities in accessing quality education and assistive technology through FGDs.
- Document the issues for preparing an advocacy manifesto for conducting advocacy at the local levels.

The representatives of Access Planet welcomed the participants, provided an overview of the organization, and explained the purpose and format of the discussions. The FGDs covered topics related to school policy and management, physical infrastructure, quality of education, specific education issues for girls and adolescents with disabilities, and the status of participation in the decision-making process. The discussions aimed to gather valuable insights to shape future advocacy efforts for enhancing education and technology access for girls and young women with disabilities at the local level.

Outcomes (for all 3 programs):

- Existing issues faced by female students with disabilities, particularly related to teachers and parents, were identified through focused group discussions.
- The issues were documented for the preparation of an advocacy manifesto.

3.5.3 Issue Identification Workshop on Access to Justice for Girls and Women with Disabilities

a) 8th July 2023, Morang, Nepal

b) 9th July 2023, Rautahat, Nepal

Beneficiaries: Girls and women with disabilities, representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and women's rights organizations

Objective:

- Identify the issues related to access to justice for girls and women with disabilities in the community.
- Expand the programs and activities of Access Planet by establishing formal or informal networks in different provinces.
- Prepare an advocacy manifesto to be submitted to the local government and stakeholders.

The half-day workshop brought together girls and women with disabilities, representatives from OPDs, and women's rights organizations. Participants worked in groups to identify issues related to access to justice for girls and women with disabilities. During the workshop, they discussed problems, solutions, stakeholders, and action points.

Outcomes (for both programs):

- Various issues regarding access to justice for girls and women with disabilities at the local level were identified and clustered into different headings.
- Participants gained sensitization on the discussed issues, problems, solutions, and ways forward.
- Strengthened relationships with women with disabilities, OPDs, and women's rights organizations in the province.

3.6 Participation in International Advocacy Platforms:**3.6.1 Visit to Indonesia for 1st FDG Monitoring Training**

September 2022

The 1st regional partners training on National monitoring and review of the SDG Justice 2022-2023 in support of the Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law, and Development was held in Bali, Indonesia where Gargi Nepal, president, and Jenisha Maharjan, program coordinator represented Access Planet Organization. This training mainly focused on understanding the objectives, approach, and time frame of the FDJ Monitoring Sub-grant: National Monitoring and Review of the SDGs and Development Justice. It helped to strengthen our understanding of Globalisation, Fundamentalism, Militarism, and Patriarchy (GFMP) and other structural barriers, an introduction to Development Justice and its indicators, and critical analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and government targets and indicators. Through this training knowledge of different methodologies for research, data collection, and analysis methods, including desk research and journalistic research was expanded.

3.6.2 Visit to Thailand for the 2nd FDG Monitoring Training and Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

March 2023

Gargi Nepal, President, and Jenisha Maharjan, Program Coordinator represented Access Planet in the 2nd regional partners training on National monitoring and review of the SDG Justice 2022-2023 held in Bangkok, Thailand. This training aims to share, exchange ideas on the status of the partners' project and learn evidence-based advocacy plans, build capacity on different methodologies for research, data collection, and analysis.

Jenisha and Gargi represented in Asia Pacific Peoples Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD) and Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) where we were able to share the issues related to women with disabilities in the high-level political forum supporting sustainable development goals.

3.6.3 Representation at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

2023

Laxmi Nepal, Founder of Access Planet represented the organization at the global platform of CSW. Our participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) signifies our commitment to advocating for gender equality and the rights of women, particularly those with disabilities. The CSW is a vital platform for global dialogue on women's empowerment and gender issues.

3.7 Knowledge Production:

3.7.1 Preparation of Monitoring design report for the Research

September to May 2023

Access Planet Organization with the support of the Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law, and Development (APWLD) is working out for the publication of research on the "Situation and challenges faced by persons with disabilities in access to employment and self-employment opportunities in regards to SDG Goal8". This research is done mostly targeting the women with disabilities from Nepalgunj sub-metropolitan city, Bhaktapur, and Kathmandu metropolitan city. With collaboration with women with disabilities and the Access Planet team final Monitoring design report was prepared by May 2023. This report acts as a mapping for further research where issues, Objectives, methodologies, and Development justice indicators were identified for the research.

3.7.2 Preparation of Feminist Development Country Briefer 2023

May 2023

Access Planet organization with the support of APWLD worked on Feminist Development Country Briefer 2023 and submitted it to APWLD in May. This briefer consists of statistical information about our country, the national context on Nepal's progress in the implementation of sustainable development in the context of COVID-19, Systematic barriers that existed in our country, issues focused on women with disabilities, assessment of SDGs commitments and means of implementation.

3.8 Establishment of mobile computer lab

Jan 3rd week, Kathmandu

Access Planet procured seven laptops to support educational and empowerment programs to enhance digital access and education for underserved communities by facilitating computer-based learning and skill development. Recognizing the growing importance of digital literacy, these laptops were intended to provide beneficiaries with access to technology, enabling them to acquire essential skills for the modern world. The laptops stand as tangible assets that empower individuals to participate more actively in the digital age, thereby contributing to their personal growth and the advancement of their communities.

3.9 Recreation Program for Women with Disabilities on the Occasion of Teej Festival

August 27, 2022, Bhaktapur, Bagmati Province

Access Planet Organization celebrated a special recreational program for women with disabilities in collaboration with the Bhaktapur Blind Association. The program included honoring individuals for their contributions, singing, dancing, and fostering a sense of sisterhood among the participants.

Outcomes:

- Bidya Rajbhandari and Gyani Maya Shrestha were honored for their contributions to the disability field.
- Participants enjoyed their recreational rights and bonded with each other.
- The Teej program received appreciation from all participants.

3.10 Formation of Access Planet's Committee

1. 10th August 2022, Sudurpaschim

2. 13th August 2022, Lumbini

Through this organization, Sudurpaschim and Lumbini committees of Access Planet organization have also been formed with the participation of young women with disabilities from Doti, Achham, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts and Banke, Bardia, Rupandehi and Dang districts.

3.11 Felicitation to Access Planet on the occasion of International Volunteers Day

5 December 2022, Kathmandu

Through the Sansthapika Fund Award, Access Planet organization received a cash grant of Rs. 5 lakhs. We express our sincere gratitude to the Tewa organization and its founder, Rita Thapa, for awarding us. This award was given to Access Planet for supporting the empowerment of girls and young women with disabilities through technology. After receiving this award, we have become more empowered and encouraged to work for the rights of girls and women with disabilities. We would like to express our gratitude to the members of the working committee and officers, employees, partner organizations, and especially to the young women with disabilities in the rural areas who have benefited from our various capacity-building programs and continue to achieve their rights.

3.12 Presentation Delivered at Plan International: “Mainstreaming the Issues of Girls and Young Women with Disabilities”

5th December 2022, Kathmandu

On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Plan International invited Ms. Laxmi Nepal from this organization for a presentation with the aim of informing its employees about the activities of the Access Planet organization and providing orientation on disability. Efforts like these remain important to promote inclusion in Plan International's activities. We are always ready to cooperate with Plan International in hopes of becoming more disability inclusive in its policies and programs in the future.

Thus, Access Planet Organization demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting the rights and inclusivity of girls and women with disabilities through various advocacy, leadership, and awareness-raising initiatives. The organization's efforts in conducting leadership and advocacy training programs, interaction programs, and legal literacy workshops played a crucial role in empowering young women with disabilities and sensitizing local government representatives. These activities helped identify and address the issues faced by girls and women with disabilities, strengthening grassroots movements and fostering collaboration between stakeholders. Moreover, the computer-based skill development training for youth with disabilities contributed to enhancing their employability and promoting greater independence and empowerment. Overall, Access Planet's dedication to disability inclusion and access to justice resulted in positive outcomes and meaningful impact within the communities it serves.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

4.1 Challenges Faced

1. **Pandemic Disruptions:** Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions impacted in-person activities and training sessions.
2. **Digital Divide:** Limited access to technology and the internet among marginalized communities posed challenges for virtual programs.
3. **Awareness Barriers:** Some stakeholders lacked awareness about the rights and needs of girls and women with disabilities.
4. **Resource Constraints:** Financial limitations affected the scope and scale of certain programs and initiatives.
5. **Low Human Resources:** Limited staffing capacity hindered the organization's ability to scale up activities.
6. **Lack of Sustainable Grants:** Difficulty in securing sustainable funding sources affected the continuity and sustainability of certain projects.

4.2 Lessons Learned:

1. **Adaptability:** Adapting to virtual platforms and technology is crucial for continuity during unexpected disruptions.
2. **Inclusivity:** Addressing the digital divide requires innovative solutions to ensure all participants can access virtual programs.
3. **Advocacy:** Continuous awareness campaigns are needed to enhance understanding and support for girls and women with disabilities.
4. **Resource Mobilization:** Diversifying funding sources and partnerships can help overcome resource limitations.
5. **Human Resource Development:** Investing in capacity building and training for the team can enhance program execution.
6. **Sustainability Planning:** Exploring sustainable funding models and building long-term grant partnerships is vital.

5. Future Plans and Strategies for Next Fiscal Year (17th July 2023 to 16th July 2024)

5.1 Future Plans

1. **Technology and Digital Skills:**
 - Technology and digital security training
 - Computer training in schools
 - Techno-based Job-related training
 - Techno-based on-the-job training
2. **Advocacy and Policy Engagement:**
 - Advocacy Interaction programs
 - Interaction with national-level stakeholders on the implementation of SDG focusing on the status of women with disabilities
 - National-level workshop
 - Interaction with employers
3. **Education and Accessibility:**

- Organizational development training for committees
 - Production of municipal education act in soft copy and accessible format and braille
 - Orientation to the school management committee on inclusive education
 - Career and job counseling training for fresh graduate girls and young women with disabilities
4. Empowerment and Personal Development:
- Personality development and presentation skill enhancement training for blind and visually impaired singers and musicians
5. Access to Justice and Advocacy:
- Issue identification workshop on access to justice for women with disabilities
 - Finalizing monitoring research of SDG8 and conducting policy-based and evidence-based advocacy
 - FDJ advocacy
 - Key Informative Interviews

5.2 Future Strategies:

1. Hybrid Approach: Combine virtual and in-person activities for better outreach and inclusivity.
2. Technology Access: Work on providing technology access to marginalized communities through collaborations and initiatives.
3. Awareness Campaigns: Plan sustained advocacy and awareness programs to bridge the information gap.
4. Resource Management: Explore creative ways to maximize available resources and secure additional funding for broader impact.
5. Staff Strengthening: Invest in training and skill development to optimize the capacity of the existing team.
6. Grant Diversity: Focus on securing sustainable grants and partnerships to ensure consistent project implementation.

6. Conclusion

To sum up, the work conducted by Access Planet Organization during the fiscal year 2022/23 has had a profound impact on promoting the rights and inclusivity of girls and women with disabilities in Nepal. Through our various training programs, advocacy initiatives, and awareness-raising activities, we have empowered young women with disabilities with leadership skills, sensitized stakeholders about their rights, and built strong grassroots movements for change. We are grateful for the support and collaboration of our stakeholders, government representatives, partner organizations, and donors, whose contributions have been instrumental in making these achievements possible.

As we look back on this year, we are inspired by the commitment and dedication of all those involved in our programs, as well as the resilience and determination of the girls and women with disabilities we serve. Their passion for creating a more inclusive society drives us forward in our mission.

While we celebrate the milestones achieved, we also acknowledge that there is still much work to be done. Access Planet remains committed to continuing our efforts to advance the rights

and well-being of persons with disabilities, ensuring their full participation in all aspects of society.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our staff for their relentless work and to everyone who has supported our organization and its initiatives. Thus, we express our gratitude to each of our esteemed donors:

- Disability Rights Fund (DRF)
- Women's Fund Asia (WFA)
- Leading from the South (LFS)- WFA
- Kaagapay- WFA
- Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- Asia Pacific Forum on women, law, and development (APWLD)
- Frida Young Feminist Fund (FYFF)
- Purposeful
- US Embassy to Nepal
- Ministry of Social Development Bagmati Province

Together, we can create a more inclusive and equitable future for all individuals, regardless of their abilities. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

7. Appendices



Image 1: Issue Identification of Girls and Women with Disabilities National-Level Workshop Amongst Disability Experts.



Image 2: Monitoring of Computer Class in Guru Jajur Secondary School (Dang, Lumbini Province).



Image 3: Group Photo after the completion of Leadership And Advocacy Training for Young Women with Disabilities (Far western Province).



Image 4: Delegation Visit to Municipality Office of Nepalgunj Sub-metropolitan City, for policy review of "Municipal Education Act".



Image 5: Delegation Visit to Inclusive Education Department of CEHRD of Sanothimi.



Image 6: Visually impaired students learning about Contraceptive devices through Tactile Learning.



Image 7: Advocacy Interaction with Stakeholders of Bhaktapur District.



Image 8: Orientation on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights to Girls with Disabilities.(Lumbini Province)".



Image 9: Ms. Gargi Nepal leading session on "Contraceptive devices" during orientation on SRHR.



Image 10: Interaction on Way Forward for Enhancing Access to Inclusive Education and Assistive Technology for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities.



Image 11: Leadership And Advocacy Training for Young Women with Disabilities (Bagmati Province).



Image 12: Interaction Program on Disability Friendly Local Mechanism and Promotion of Access to Justice for Girls and Women with Disabilities at the Local Level_Bagmati Province.



Image 13: Representative from the person with disabilities sharing issues at local level interaction.



Image 14: Computer Based Skill Development Training for Youth with Disabilities.



Image 15: A final group picture of the Advocacy Committee members with the team of Access Planet during the refresher training.



Image 16: Participants sharing the outcome of the groupwork during feminism, gender and legal literacy training.



Image 17: Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on Issue Identification on Education and Access to Technology for Girls at the Local Level.



Image 18: Participants engaged in pair activities during issue identification workshop.



Image 19: Techno-based on the Job Training for Young Women with Disabilities (Nepalgunj, Lumbini Province).



Image 20: Stakeholder consultation on the Situation and Way Forward for Employment and Self-employment opportunities of women with disabilities in Nepalgunj.

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