

## **Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) in Mandandeupur**

### **Introduction**

Youth engagement became one of the major challenges in Nepal because more than 20% of youths are abroad either for their study or for employment. Studies revealed that among the abroad residing youths, more than 60% are between the ages of 16 to 24. The population census 2011 shows that 40.3% are youths between the ages of 16 to 40 Nepal. The population ratio is the potential for improving productivity and social justice but the increasing trend of unemployment has created serious issues and problems in society. The unemployment rate for youth aged 15-29 is 19.2 per cent compared to 4.44 per cent for the total population. It is estimated that four hundred thousand youths are prepared for labour market every year but half of them are pushed for foreign labour migration. The pandemic caused by COVID-19 has brought a severe crisis in global economic mobility. The labor market in the gulf became shrunk. The youths in Nepal are facing more challenges. Young women in Nepal are facing multiple discriminations in the labor market including the inequalities of payment comparing to their male counterparts for the similar work. The female unemployment rate is higher and the opportunity for female is less in the international labor market due to the policies of the state and destination countries. The trend of internal mobility of youth from the rural to urban setting in Nepal has also brought challenges. The youths are neglected in the process of development, development planning, and governance. After the changed state structure through the Constitution of Nepal (2015), local governments can play pivotal role in changing the position and status of the people in their territory. Mandan Deupur Municipality has been selected for the proposed intervention because of the need of local youths and local government. ARD propose this intervention as a continuation of the previous engagement with the youths of Mandan Deupur Municipality. Mandan Deupur Municipality is a neighbouring local government of Kathmandu and Bhaktapur District. It has a beautiful tourist destination and huge natural resources based on river and jungle. But the youth migration for employment is higher and poverty is higher comparing to the other semi-urban localities neighbouring Kathmandu valley. It is a new municipality established in 2073 BS. It has high potential of job creation and enterprise development due to land suitable for agriculture, favorable conditions for livestock development and eco-tourism. However, unemployment rates are higher for young people than for the whole of the Nepali population. More than 50% of the total population is indigenous and marginalized in the locality. The major livelihood dependency is based in agriculture and livestock. 44% of total land in the municipality is cultivable and productive. But the farming is substantial and not commercial. Poultry and goat rearing, potato, and tomato cultivation are the most potential income generation source in the community. High value fruits like Kiwi and Avocado farming has also huge potentiality of farming and marketing in the municipality. Though the area has huge potentiality, most of the people depend upon the wage based jobs, Only substantial farming is there in the project area. Youth move to capital cities and gulf countries in search of employment. The local government is not preparing the proper plan to retain the youths in the municipality with the opportunity for their self-development. The development intervention in the past five years were mostly focused

in infrastructure development. The youths are not properly included in the development planning and governance. The infrastructure development without proper environmental protection measure assurance caused environmental degradation. The youths are frustrated and facing the challenges after the COVID-19 pandemic. The local government leaders should rethink their strategies of development planning and governance. Youths are expected as the change agent for transforming the status quo towards social justice, sustainable development, and prosperity. This intervention complement the gap of skills and resources to start up entrepreneurship by youths. Due to lack of idea and skills, youth haven't started any such business activities in the project area. ARD – Kavre through this intervention partners with the local youths, local government, media, educational institutions and relevant social organizations to identify the problems and their solution based on human rights based approach.

Youth Empowerment Project (YEP-II) is the second phase project to be implemented at Mandandepur Municipality of Kavrepalanchowk district of Bagmati province in Nepal. The first phase of the project has contributed in the formation of the clubs and network in the municipality. 12 youth clubs have been formed and 1 municipality level youth network has been made. These clubs and network is working closely with the local municipal government. Environment campaigns like sanitation, cleanliness, plantation has been running at the grass root level. Media sensitization and youth voices have been raised at local to national level media platforms like radio and national television. 13 youth have started the enterprise in the community. Beside that, capacity development workshop on leadership, advocacy and rights have empowered the youth at the local community. In this new phase, the reformation and extension of the clubs and network will take place. 300 youth (at least 50%) girls will be organised in the network. The network formed in the previous phase will be registered at the local government that helps to ensure the sustainability. New youths will be capacitated and engaged in the environment conservation, policy planning and entrepreneurship activities. Door to door environment sensitization campaigns by youth will be led at the local level has been planned in this new phase project. 13 youth have already started poultry farming, knitting weaving, organic farming like activities and in the new phase 24 new youth will be supported with the resources for the business development. They will be linked with the local government for the extra support and resources. The media will be sensitised, and law policymakers will be guided and oriented to make youth council of local government which will be a milestone activity for the youth in the municipality. Furthermore, youth will be linked with national youth network facilitated by tdh Germany in Nepal and will also be linked with regional and international youth network. Campaigns like #myplanetmyrights and Global Action Month will also be led by the youth network from the project.

**Key Activities:*****A.1.1: Establishment, reformation, and capacity development of the institutional structure of youth and regular mobilization***

In Mandandepur municipality, for the first time in the year 2021, 12 youth clubs (one in each local unit-ward) were formed with 142 youth members. 1 municipality-level youth network was also formed with 13 executive members. Similarly, in the year 2022, 12 youth clubs were reformed with 132 executive youth members including more than 60 percent of young women membership. A municipality-level youth network was also reformed with 15 executive members which include 51 percent of young women membership.

The regular network meetings (quarterly) were carried out in order to discuss youth issues regarding environmental rights, SDGs, and youth entrepreneurship. The bi-monthly meeting of 12 youth clubs regarding youth issues at the local level, ecological rights and SDG, and youth networking has been conducted in each ward-level club. Youth actively interact, plan, and discuss youth and environment-related agendas like youth rights, roles, and responsibilities based on the Constitution, international instruments, and local policies. The youth members planned for environment protection activities like sanitation, cleanliness, water resources preservation, waste management, etc., to be done at their local level.

***A.1.2: Project coordination meeting with stakeholders in Mandandepur Municipality***

Local government is the third level of government division in Nepal that is administered under the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. The second level election was held on 13 May 2022 after the promulgation of the new constitution in 2015. ARD, therefore, holds an opportunity to congratulate newly elected local representatives and share the project induction, and progress in Mandandepur municipality. The project coordination meeting with a stakeholder in Mandandepur was held at Kuntabesi, Mandandepur municipality office on Monday, 6th June 2022. The objective of the event was to strengthen the coordination of ARD project activities and staff among elected representatives and Officials of municipalities. A total of 22 participants that including the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, an Executive Administrative officer, other government officials, Ward chairperson from 8 wards of the Municipality, and ARD staffs attended the meeting.

Mr Toka Br. Waiba- the newly elected Mayor of the municipality chaired the meeting, and the ARD team facilitated the meeting. Mr D.N. Timalina congratulated all the newly elected local representatives and introduce the participants that including ARD project staff, and newly elected representatives, and briefed them on the organization's (ARD) profile. Similarly, the meeting followed brief sharing regards to the project description, excepted outcomes, objectives, outputs, and project activities. The meeting was interactive as the participants discussed the project outputs and activities. Mr Bishnu Mani Nepal- Deputy Mayor welcome ARD for the youth-related project and acknowledged ARD for contributing to youth empowerment through leadership development on climate justice and entrepreneurship. He urged that collective action among the municipality, ARD, youth, and other stakeholders are required to empower youth in

the overall sector. Similarly, Mr Waiba concluded the meeting with the remarks that the Mandandepur Municipality would always appreciate collaborating with ARD for the effective implementation of the project and achieving project goals.

### ***1.3 Policy and Media Dialogue on Environment Rights (Annually):***

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of global goals adopted in 2015 that aim to end poverty, address inequality and justice, and address climate issues by 2030. A national multi-stakeholder forum was held to discuss the localization of the SDGs at the local level on June 20, 2022, at the Hotel Himalaya in Kuponole, Lalitpur, Nepal. The event was organized by the NGO Federation Nepal, in collaboration with the Nepal SDGs Forum and supported by TAP Network, a coalition of civil society organizations focused on SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda and the Association of Rural Development (ARD) Kavre. The objectives of the national multi-stakeholder forum on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal were: To raise awareness and encourage action towards the localization and integration of the SDGs at all levels of government, to promote advocacy and build accountability for disaggregated data, participatory monitoring, reporting mechanisms, and citizen-generated data, and to create space and a role for civil society organizations (CSOs) in the localization of the SDGs and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) of the SDGs. Mr Ram Prasad Subedi, President of NFN, served as chairman for the event, which was inaugurated by Mr Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, Chairperson of the National Assembly. Other special guests included Honorable Dr Ram Kumar Phuyal, a member of the National Planning Commission (NPC), and various representatives from local governments. Mr Dhurba Prasad Deo, Senior Vice President of NFN, gave a welcome speech and Ms Bhawana Bhatta, Vice President of NFN, facilitated the program. The event also featured a video message from Mr John Romano, Coordinator of TAP Network, and concluding remarks and a vote of thanks from Mr Ram Prasad Subedi. A total of 143 participants, including government officials, non-governmental organizations, multi-stakeholder partners, private sector and cooperative representatives, donor agency members, media representatives and youths from Mandandepur representing ARD, attended the forum. The National Multi-stakeholder Forum on SDG Localization recognized the importance of collaboration between different actors and across sectors and levels of society in achieving the SDGs.

#### ***A.1.4: Youth activities for environment protection***

Youth are agents of change makers for transforming the status quo towards social-climate justice and environmental sustainability. Youth in Mandandepur Municipality started an environmental campaign by spreading knowledge on environmental protection in their respective area towards cleaning their place neat and clean. And, some youth have green initiatives like plantations and sanitation at their personal level.

#### ***A.1.5: Capacity enhancement of local-level youth club and network members on their rights and strategies for policy advocacy in 2022***

Youth are the change-makers who have the fullest potential to explore and grow. Therefore, to sensitize local-level youth club and network members on their rights and strategies for policy advocacy ARD, organized 2 days of orientation in regards to youth rights and strategies for policy advocacy. The capacity enhancement orientation was held on Tuesday, 14-15th June 2022 at Marigold Hotel, Nagarkot, Kavrepalanchowk. 25 active and enthusiastic youth actively participated in the orientation. The main objective of the event was to enhance knowledge and skill on the National youth policy, environmental justice, and youth strategies for policy advocacy of youth leaders and environment campaigners in Mandandeupur municipality. Mr. Kiran Thapa- former member of Consortium Nepal chaired the program and Mr. Amrit Devkota- tdh Germany representative, Mr. Bishnu Khatri – representative of National human rights alliance, Mr. Jagadish Ayer- member of National Youth Council, Mr. Hari Bol- Environment activist, and Mr. Nawaraj Dhakal- Social campaigner have invited as the guests for the event. ARD team facilitated the entire session of the event. Mr. Ayer highlighted the definition of youth in the Nepal context and briefed on the National youth policy, Youth vision 2025, and Nepal Youth Council. Mr. Khatri creatively engaged youth to highlight youth issues in Mandandeupur and their ways of mitigation, youth's contribution to the social transformation, and their efforts for sustaining environment/ climate justice. Similarly, Mr. Dhakal disseminated knowledge and skill on the safe networking with the details of the pro and cons of social networking, the concept of SMART for safe internet, youth's collective effort to advocate for safe and good use of the internet, and social media. Mr. Hari Bol discussed widely on climate change as an agenda of Human rights and climate action for climate justice is urgent action. He highlighted youth as change-makers who could contribute to environmental sustainability. At the end of the orientation, they discussed the National youth network's role in promoting youth leadership for social-political transformation and environmental sustainability in Nepal. Furthermore, he elaborated on the functioning of the Mock youth parliament in Nepal and procedures for being a youth Prime-minster. Finally, the 2 days orientation ended with closing remarks from Mr. Devkota and Timalisina.

#### ***A.1.6. TOT –for youth on Climate change, Environment rights, and SDGs for youth (Annually)***

Environment rights and SDGs are the global agendas that required urgent action for sustainability. The promotion of climate action depends on youth education. It aids individuals in comprehending and addressing the effects of the climate issue by equipping them with the information, understanding, values, and attitudes necessary to engage as change agents. ARD, therefore, conducted two days of training for the youth clubs and network members on Environment rights, protection, and the basic concept of SDGs on 25th and 26th December 2022. The main objective of the program was to increase awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals and the challenges and risks presented by climate change among young people in

Manadandepur municipality. Mr Santosh Kafle – an Environment expert of Namobuddha Municipality and Ms Bidhya Neupane facilitated entire sessions on training. 22 youths were trained about environmental rights and the youth's role in environmental protection and localization of SDGs at Mandandepur. The youth participants widely discussed on the definition of SDGs and their 17 goals, 169 targets, and 244 indicators. With the highlights of Nepal and Millennium development goals final status report (2000-2015), the facilitator shared the differentiation between Millennium development goals (MDGs) and Sustainable development goals (SDGs). Similarly, participants discussed on five pillars of SDGs as People – End poverty and hunger in all forms and ensure dignity and equality, Planet – Protect our planet's natural resources and climate for the future generation, Prosperity- Ensure prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony and nature, Peace- Faster peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and Partnership- Implement the agenda through solid global partnership. The facilitator shared the 14th National planning approach has a detailed discussion on regards to dimensions of sustainable development as economic, social, political, environmental development, and cross-cutting common agenda. Participants discussed youth can play various roles like a critical thinkers, supporters, innovators, communicator, inspirer, educator, contributor, and leader in their society. Mr. Sanjeev encouraged participants to realize youth roles to localize SDGs and implement it through enhancing awareness, conducting research and data collection, conducting campaigns, and activism in order to advocate SDGs issues and agenda massively. At the end of the training, youth pledge to play their roles in the implementation of SDGs at the local level and create mass awareness regards to goals of SDGs.

#### ***A.1.7. School Orientation on Environment Rights and SDGs (Annually)***

Environmental children's rights have been an emerging agenda related to child rights. Children and youth should be concerned about the growing threat posed by rising global carbon emissions and climate change. ARD, therefore, conducted a one-day training on environmental rights and SDGs on 24th October 2021 at Kuntabesi, Mandandepur Municipality. Initially, 22 active and enthusiastic youth were orientated on the basic concept of child rights with its scopes and principles, child constitutional rights that includes ecological rights, youth policies, youth vision 2025, sustainable development goals, and its targets.

The international and national child's rights-related policies have ensured the child's environmental rights. However, children have higher exposure to the adverse effect of climate change and environmental degradation. The orientation's specific objective is to promote children's rights to a healthy and sustainable environment through disseminating skills and knowledge on the relationship between children's rights to the environment and sustainable development goals. A total of 473 children and young people enjoyed learning about the child-friendly environment, children's environmental rights, and sustainable development goals.

#### ***A.1.8. IEC material and training manual for youth leaders***

Information education and communication (IEC) materials are suitable tools to disseminate knowledge and information on any subject matter to the larger mass. ARD, therefore, more than 500 numbers of brochures were prepared that include the environmental rights in the constitution of Nepal, environmental policies, and SDGs in the Nepal context. The brochures were distributed as IEC materials to 500 people that included children, youth, and stakeholders of the municipality. The brochures on CHILD RIGHTS, YOUTH RIGHTS, AND SDGs were reviewed as relevant, and appealing, consisting of the simplicity of the context and language with accurate information. Youth disseminate their skills and knowledge on ECR and SDGs through conducting orientation programs in their communities and school. Similarly, in 2022 a training manual/guideline is prepared for young leaders which provides basic facilitation skills and knowledge. It also includes thematic information and effective ways to disseminate knowledge on environment and climate change issues.

#### ***A.1.9. Mass awareness program***

##### **World Environment Day 2022**

World environment day is celebrated annually on 5 June for encouraging awareness and action for environmental protection. ARD showed solidarity with the international theme of WED-2022 “Living sustainably in harmony in Nature” and the slogan “Only One Earth” and organized an orientation program for youth on the topic of youth environmental rights. The orientation was followed by the plantation of the lemon saplings on 3 June 2022 at Kutabesi of Mandandepur Municipality. 20 active youth from the Municipal level network participated in the orientation. Mr. Rajana Poudel disseminates his knowledge and skill regarding the environment and climate change-related issues. The participants discussed that human activities are leading to environmental degradation, and pollution, and ultimately impacting climate change. Mr. Poudel explained tdh Germany’s campaign for children and young people’s environmental rights and solidarity with the international campaign against climate change. Youth enlisted that their small efforts like plantation, sanitation, disseminating knowledge and skill on the 4 Rs – concept (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) at the local level, dialogue with local stakeholders for environmental rights, and waste management, etc. After the orientation program youth actively participated in the plantation program. ARD provided a total of 60 lemon saplings and 20 youth (3 saplings for each) planted saplings (following all technical procedures of plantation) in the barren land of Kuntabesi. The youth showed their commitment to planting trees/plants around their home and locality.

##### **International Youth Day- National youth convention**

On the occasion of International Youth Day ARD showed solidarity with the international theme “Intergenerational solidarity: Creating a world for all ages” and collaborated with the Nepal youth network for SDGs, tdh Germany, Good Shepherd International, and Stromme foundation organized National Youth Convention. The convention was conducted on 13 and 14 August 2002 at Nepal Tourism Board, Kathmandu Nepal. 120 young participants from seven provinces

attended the conference, which focused on the role of youth in various entrepreneurship. The objectives of the convention were threefold to showcase the contributions made by young people in a range of fields, and the challenges they face, to advance and create policies that are youth-friendly in a variety of contexts, and to strengthen the ties and networks between civil society members, media professionals, young leaders, and other proponents of democratization. Rt. Hon. Ganesh Prasad Timalaina- Chairperson of the National Assembly of Nepal inaugurated the ceremony which was followed by a welcome speech from a series of guests of the event. The primary thematic areas of focus of the event were the youth SDG localization forum, youth and tourism in Nepal, youth leadership in politics, youth entrepreneurship, and a youth forum on climate change, biodiversity, and disaster risk management.

### **CRC Day -Street Play**

Youth not only have responsibilities but also have the right to combat climate change, and they may make a significant contribution. ARD showed solidarity with the campaign on Environmental children's rights and therefore, Youth in Mandandepur, therefore conduct street play in different areas of Mandandepur municipality. Street play is one of the powerful mediums to create mass awareness of particular social and environmental issues. The primary good of street play was to create a sense of awareness of the urgent collective action for environmental protection. Active and enthusiastic youth of the youth club performed street drama at Kuntabesi of Manadandepur municipality and during youth network meetings.

### **Global Action Month- Orientation on SDGs and youth role**

On the occasion of Global Action Month-GAM, Association of Rural Development Kavre (ARD) along with NYNSD and TDH Germany jointly organized an orientation program for Municipal youth Network members and ward youth club representatives of Mandandepur municipality of Kavre district. Young people are frontline of experiencing the consequences of environmental degradation and climate change. Therefore, urgent action call is essential to increase awareness of challenges and risks presented by climate change and also mitigation strategies against the climate change impacts. In the orientation, Mr Ranjan Paudel shared the contemporary issues of Children, Youth and Sustainable Development. He highlighted child-related rights that are ensured by the Constitution of Nepal, National and International policies and Acts. Youth discussed the concept of SDGs and their context, goals and targets and also, their significant contribution to the localizing Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, Ms Bidhya Neupane shared the issues of Climate change and Environmental rights. She encourages youth campaigns for climate justice as the youth are responsible for combatting climate change agenda from the local to a global level.

### ***A.1.10 Local youth policy formation workshop and facilitation in formation of the policy***

National Youth Policy (2009) has provided a clear guideline to adopt youth-related policies for youth participation in National development through means of meaningful participation, competence and leadership development. However, Manadandepur municipality has not



formulated any youth relation policy at the local level. Therefore, the Local Youth Policy formation workshop and facilitation of the Policy was conducted with the prime objective of orienting and engaging local municipality representatives, youth, and concerned stakeholders for the guideline of policy formation at the municipality on 11th December 2022. A sum of 27 participants includes local elected representatives, government officials, youth, ARD team, and facilitators. The program was chaired by Mr Tok Bhadur Waiba – Mayor of the Municipality, followed by the Deputy Mayor, the wards chairperson of 12 wards, government officers from different units, and Mr Amrit Devkota from tdh Germany. Mr D.N. Timalina highlighted the prime objective of the program and reported the accomplished activities of the Youth Empowerment Project.

Similarly, Mr Bishnu Khatri – a representative of the National human rights alliance, and Mr Jagadish Ayer- a member of the National Youth Council facilitated the entire sessions of the local youth policy formation workshop. This program provided a platform for youth to discuss local youth policy and encourage their involvement with lawmakers for the youth allocation and youth council of municipal government formation. The program included intensive discussion on the role of local government in youth development and empowerment. The local government representatives and officials showed their solidarity to intervene in project activities in Mandandepur and extend their commitment to support and coordinate with the relevant stakeholders and line agencies to effectively form and implement local youth policy.

#### ***A.1.11 Training youth on Door to door visit of youths for dissemination of the waste and water management technique***

Mandandepur municipality is emerging as a city with infrastructure development and some issues of waste management. Youth play a significant role in the dissemination of waste and water management techniques therefore, ARD organized 2 days of training on waste and water management techniques on the 3rd and 4th of August 2022 at Kundabesi, Mandandepur municipality. The prime objective of the training was to enhance knowledge and skill in waste management and motivate participants to support the community for waste management. 21 youths actively participated in training and learned about waste management practices, sanitation-related data, and gaps to achieve sanitation goals and targets. Mr Subash KC -WASH trainer facilitated the session on the total sanitation campaign and the current scenario of waste management, impacts of poorly managed waste, waste and its types, behavioural change, working with households, etc.

Participants discussed the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) concept that could be adapted in the municipality. They were able to explain the present sanitation status and the gap to achieve the sanitation targets and also describe the negative impacts of poorly managed waste, types of waste and waste management options at the household and municipal levels. They showed solidarity for behaviour change in the community and initiated effective household visits following the ‘GALIDRAA’ approach.

After completing the training, participants could initiate some interventions at their personal level and deliver messages on waste and water management techniques at the community level. They made concrete plans with the specific activity, date and venue for effective movement in the campaign. 227 households with 1063 family members were informed about waste management behaviours and techniques

***A.1.12. Video documentary development and dissemination and A.1.13. Community radio program development and broadcasting***

In the era of digitalization, the young generation is shifting to digital platforms like podcasts, YouTube, blogs, and social media sites for the dissemination of knowledge and skills on different issues. In the joint venture of the Association for Rural Development, tdh Germany, Nepal Youth Network for Sustainable Development and SDG studio a podcast series Digo Bahas was broadcast in July 2022. Digo Bahas aimed to create a discourse on climate change issues and educate the larger scale of population on climate action and climate justice through insightful conversations with leading and aspiring climate activists, climate experts, and youths. The project has supported episodes of the podcast which are recorded in SDG Studio. The invited guest for different episodes is Ms Sagarika Bhatta –environment preservationist, founder of ‘Power Shift Nepal’ and recipient of ‘The Climate Action Race Award 2021’, Mr Silshila Acharya- founder of Agni Ventures/ Agni Centre for Sustainability, Dr Manjeet Dhakal – a Climate expert and head of the least developed countries team in Climate Analytics and founder of Nepalese Youth for Climate Change, Ms Bindu Bhandari- a climate justice activist, and Dr Dinesh Bhujju – Professor and an environmental researcher at NAST.

The episodes remarked youth’s contribution is significant for waste management and simple techniques of segregation of household waste can also contribute greatly to climate change. The guests in the interview provided motivation to youth that they can have their career-based contribution towards nature and the environment, as ‘giving back to the community’ holds great importance. It provides knowledge on carbon emissions accountability for their action and safeguarding equal rights and justice for least developed countries. Overall, Digo Bahas create mass awareness of the climate crisis, Sustainable Development Goals and Climate action among more than 36.7 thousand of audiences.

***A.2.1. Input supports for youth innovation and entrepreneurship development:***

Foreign labor migration and unemployment are the major agendas for youth development in Nepal. Mandandepur has suitable land for agriculture, a favorable condition for livestock, and eco-tourism therefore it has a high potential for job creation and enterprise development. 12 youth have submitted their business plan and proposal for the different enterprises. Majorly, the proposed enterprises are based on livestock including poultry farming and young women submitted their plans for self-employment through sewing and tailoring. ARD is engaged to collect more innovative ideas from youth entrepreneurs.

### ***A.2.2. Youth Leadership Award***

Narsimhedor Youth club from ward No. 8, Mandandepur municipality was awarded the excellence of performance and provided with NRP 10,000 cash prize for the best performance on leadership and creating mass awareness. The main objective of the award is to inspire other young people to take eco-friendly innovative action in their community. The award was provided based on criteria likely, youth active participation, number of regular youth presence, youth leadership, and their contribution to social and environmental protection movements. The youth club has been contributing to sustainable environmental protection programs. The active leadership of 9 young girls conducted different activities regarding youth development, leadership, COVID-19 awareness rising, and environmental protection.

### ***A.2.3. Training on youth entrepreneurship***

Youth entrepreneurship training is a course that aims to equip participants with the necessary skillset and mindset for identifying and launching new businesses. ARD, therefore, organized 2 days of youth entrepreneurship training on 12th and 13th June 2022 at Kuntabesi, Mandandepur Municipality. 24 active youth representatives from each ward-level youth club and network participated in the training. The main objective of the training was to provide theoretical and practical knowledge on entrepreneurship, business plan, and market linkage. Mr. Krishna Bishowkarma facilitated the session with his 15 years long experience in business and entrepreneurship. Youths learned about different topics likely, Business concepts, types and importance of success stories, characteristics of successful entrepreneurs, project identification and business selection process, and competitor and competitor's analysis. Moreover, the training focused on identifying of targeting customers, the legal process of enterprise registration and supporting policy of the government, and the introduction of the business plan. The participants enjoyed game module –II and the preparation and presentation of an individual's business plan. Participate youth have started their real business plan initiation of entrepreneurship.

### **Project Outcomes**

- 132 youth (with 60% young women) are organized in the youth clubs and networks in the municipality. Bi-monthly meetings of youth clubs provide a knowledge-sharing platform where discussions on different social and environmental agendas like a discussion on youth role in the localization of SDGs, developing strategic plans plan for environmental cleanliness campaigns, etc., are carried out.
- 495 students, 1063 adults and youth (at least 50% girls) are aware of several issues like child rights, environment protection, and solid waste management through different project activities like ToT for youth on Climate change, environment rights and SDGs, School orientation on environment rights and SDGs, IEC materials for youth leaders, Training and Door to door campaign for dissemination of waste and water management techniques. Similarly, the Board casting of the podcast Digobahas reached more than 36.7

thousand of audiences in order to disseminate knowledge and information on climate issues in Nepal.

- Local youth policy formation workshop and facilitation in formation of the policy was organized. The workshop led preliminary discussion for the formation of municipal youth council in the local government and also draft youth policy.
- 12 youth clubs members started their self-development, and entrepreneurship based on agro-livestock, poultry farming, mushroom farming, tailoring and cosmetic store. In average youth earn Rs 3 lakhs to 5 Lakhs annually.
- 24 youth are capacitated in entrepreneurship development skills by identifying the scope of the self-employment and support services, including mentoring; access to finance, work space, and network; and business expansion support.