

Aasaman Nepal Glorious Journey of 25 Years

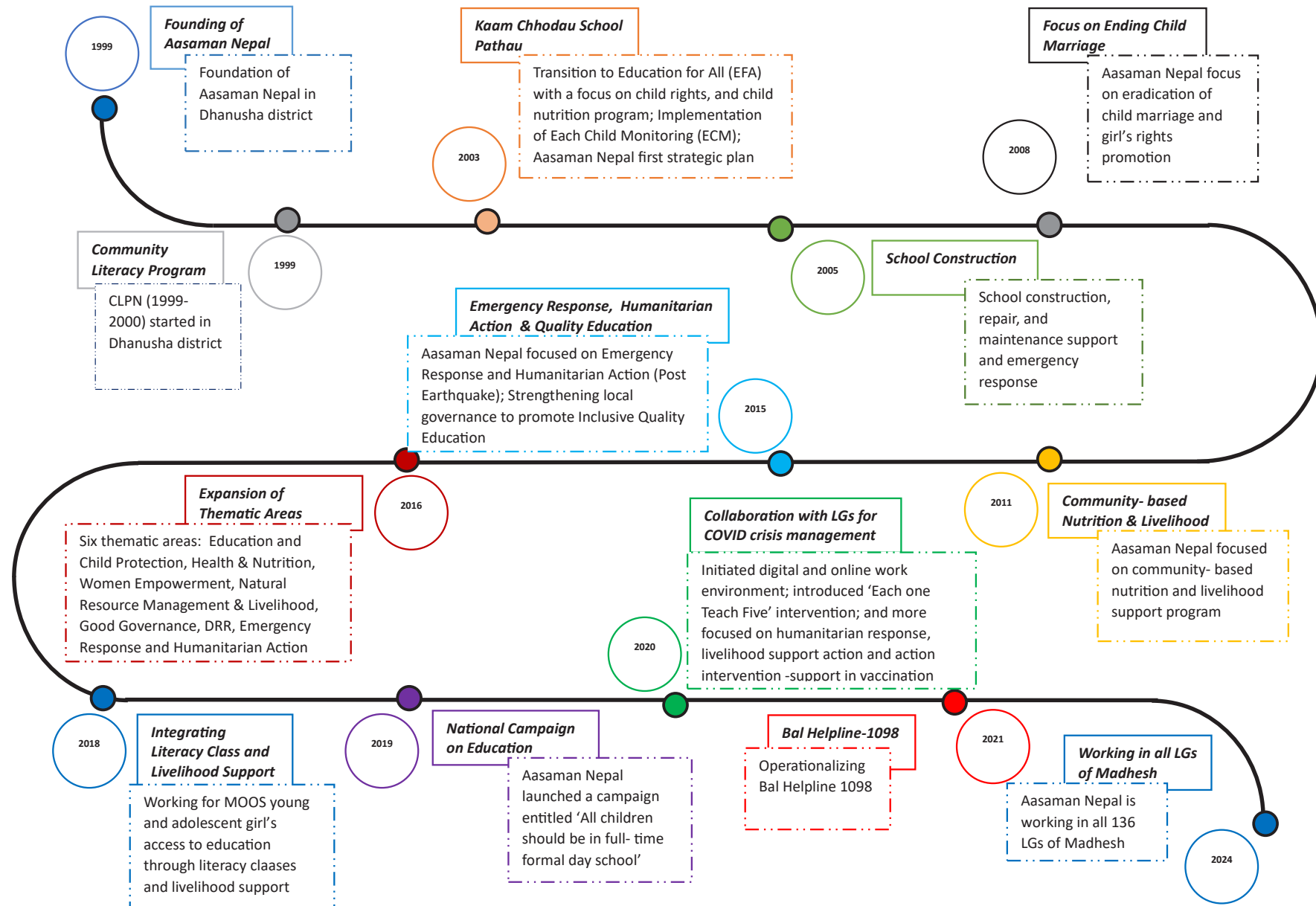
1999-2024



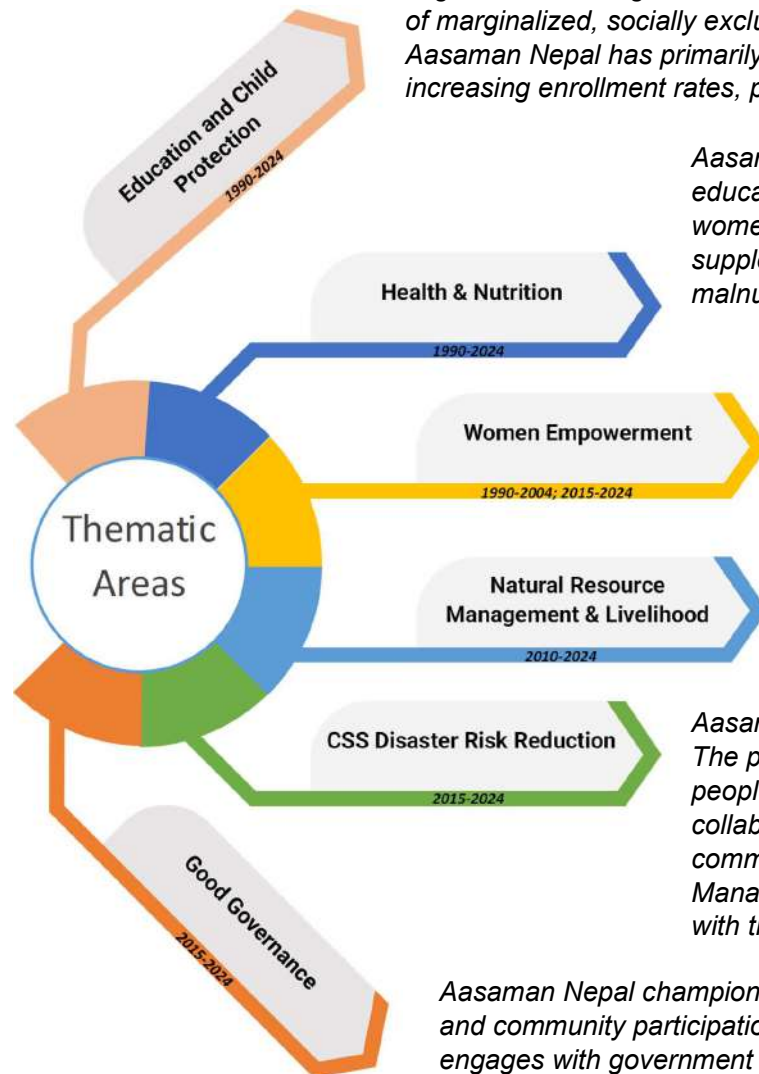
25 Aasaman Nepal
✓ Education
✗ Child Labor
Glorious Journey towards "All Children Should be in full-time formal day school"



1 Aasaman Nepal Milestones



2 Aasaman Nepal Thematic Areas



Education and child protection is one of the key thematic areas of Aasaman Nepal. Aligned with the organizational goal, and the strategic plan, it has prioritized the inclusion of marginalized, socially excluded, and vulnerable children in full-time formal day school. Aasaman Nepal has primarily worked to improve children's access to education, increasing enrollment rates, promoting retention, and reducing the gender gap.

Aasaman Nepal focuses on mother, newborn, child health and nutrition, nutrition education, family planning, sexual and reproductive health (adolescent and women), humanitarian responses, health education programs, blanket supplementary feeding programs, and community-based management of acute malnutrition.

Aasaman Nepal has been working to capacitate and empower women to exercise and make decisions related to their child and their health, education, and livelihood and to increase their access to available services and entitlements. Aasaman Nepal works to increase the participation of women to strengthen self-reliance, support economic recovery and create an enabling environment to foster social justice.

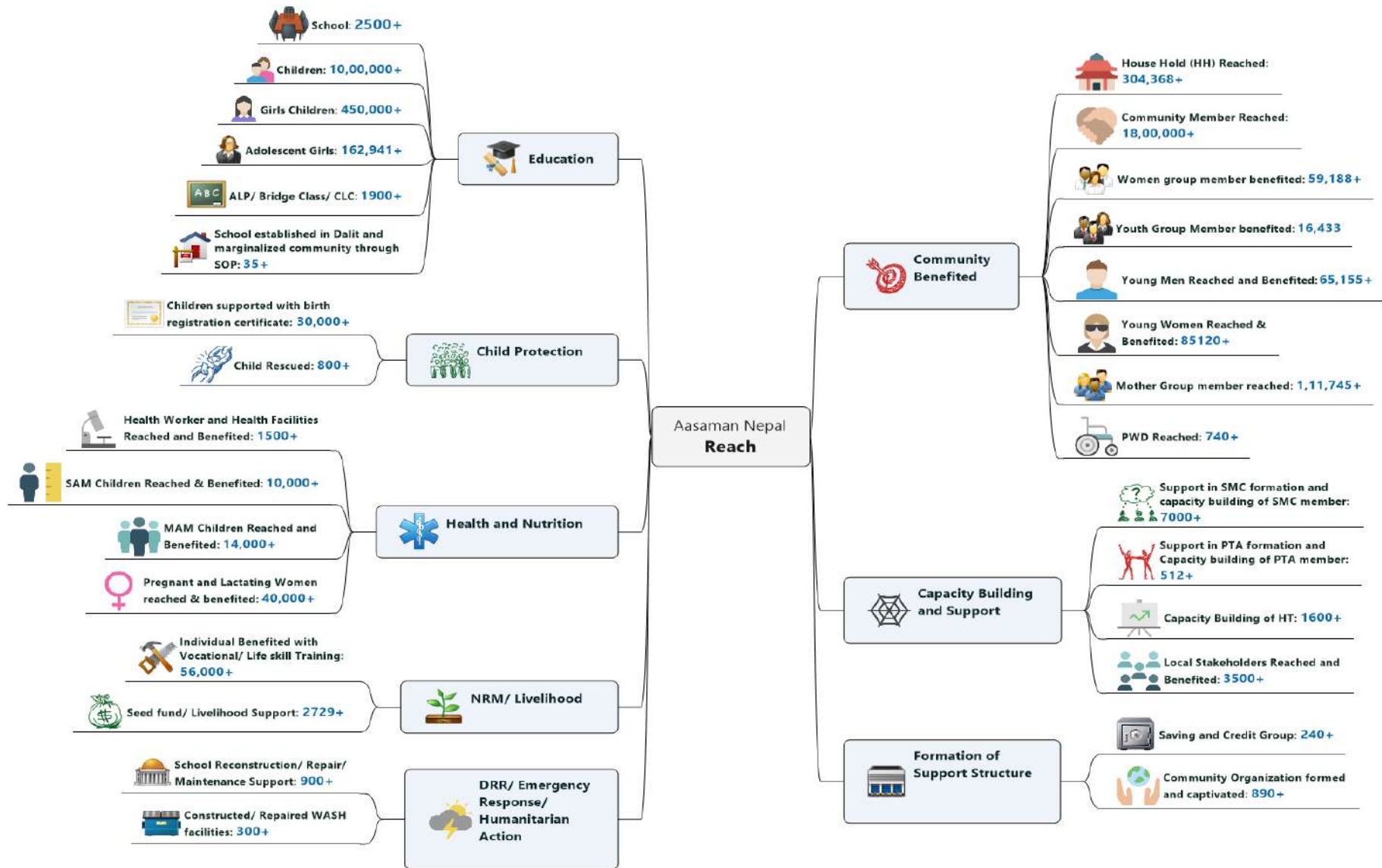
Aasaman Nepal has been continuously working to enhance community resilience through economic development and psychological support to the most vulnerable, poor and marginalized people.

Aasaman Nepal has adopted a comprehensive approach to emergency response. The purpose, goal and long-term strategy of the organization is to serve the people-in-need through enhanced disaster preparedness, and multi-stakeholder collaboration, and networking to provide disaster-aid and build resilient communities. It has organized, coordinated and implemented Disaster Risk Management focused intervention (with DRRM as an important component), along with the humanitarian assistance and emergency response programs.

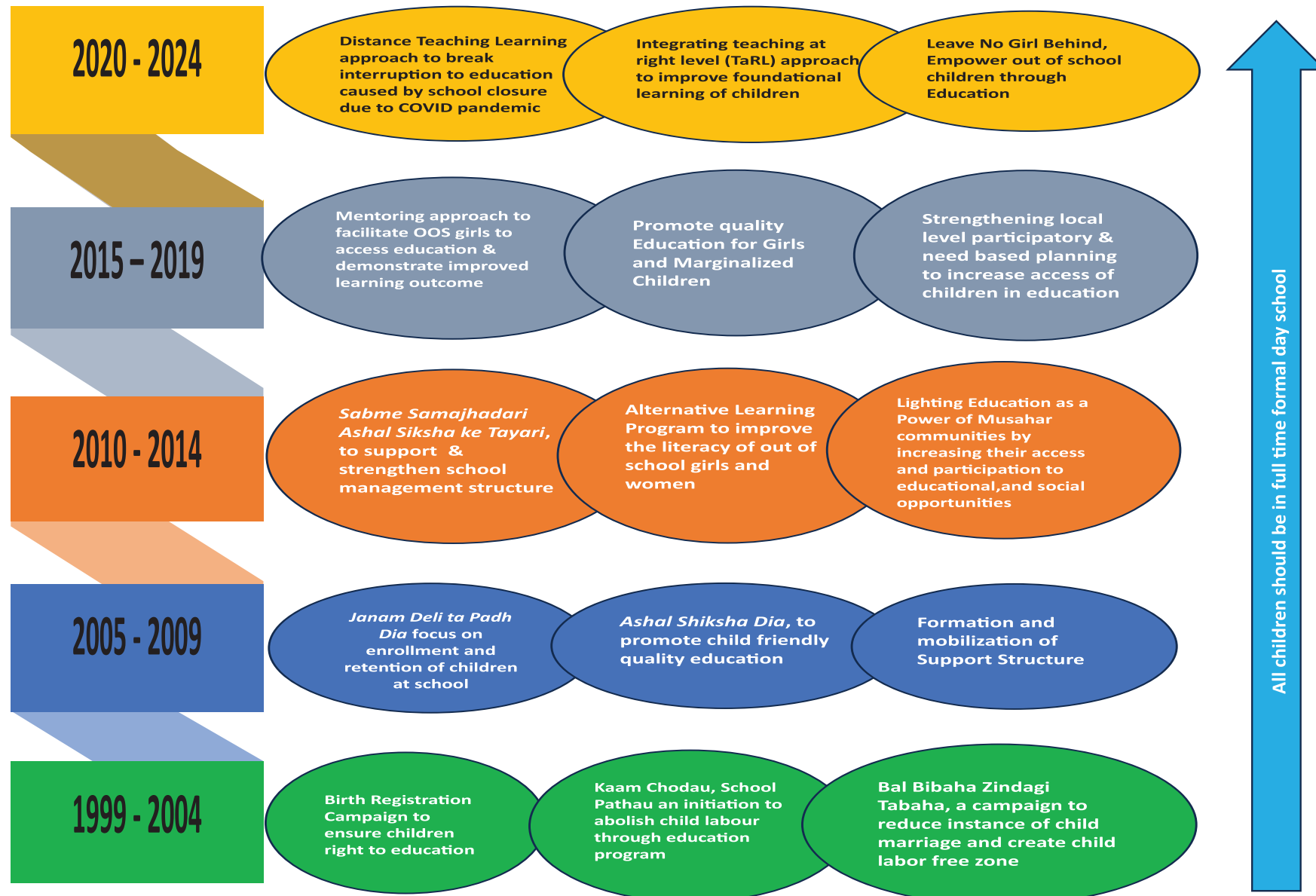
Aasaman Nepal champions good governance by promoting transparency, accountability, and community participation. Committed to advancing internal governance, Aasaman Nepal engages with government institutions, supports their capacity building, and connects communities with governance mechanisms, demonstrating its dedication to inclusive and participatory governance.



4 Aasaman Nepal Served



5 Aasaman Nepal's Campaign/Initiation on Education and Child Rights

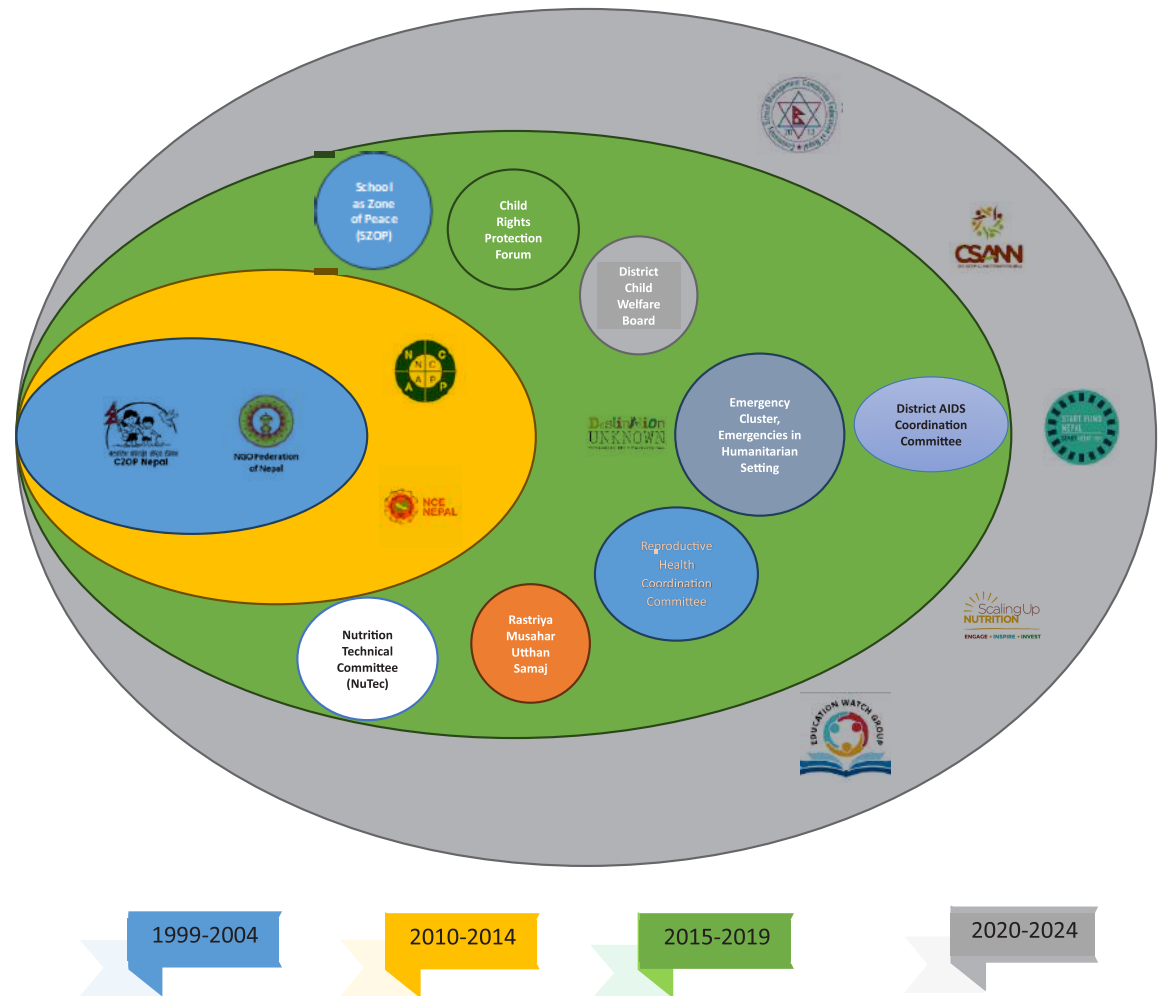


6 Aasaman Nepal: Expanding Partnership Portfolio (1999-2024)



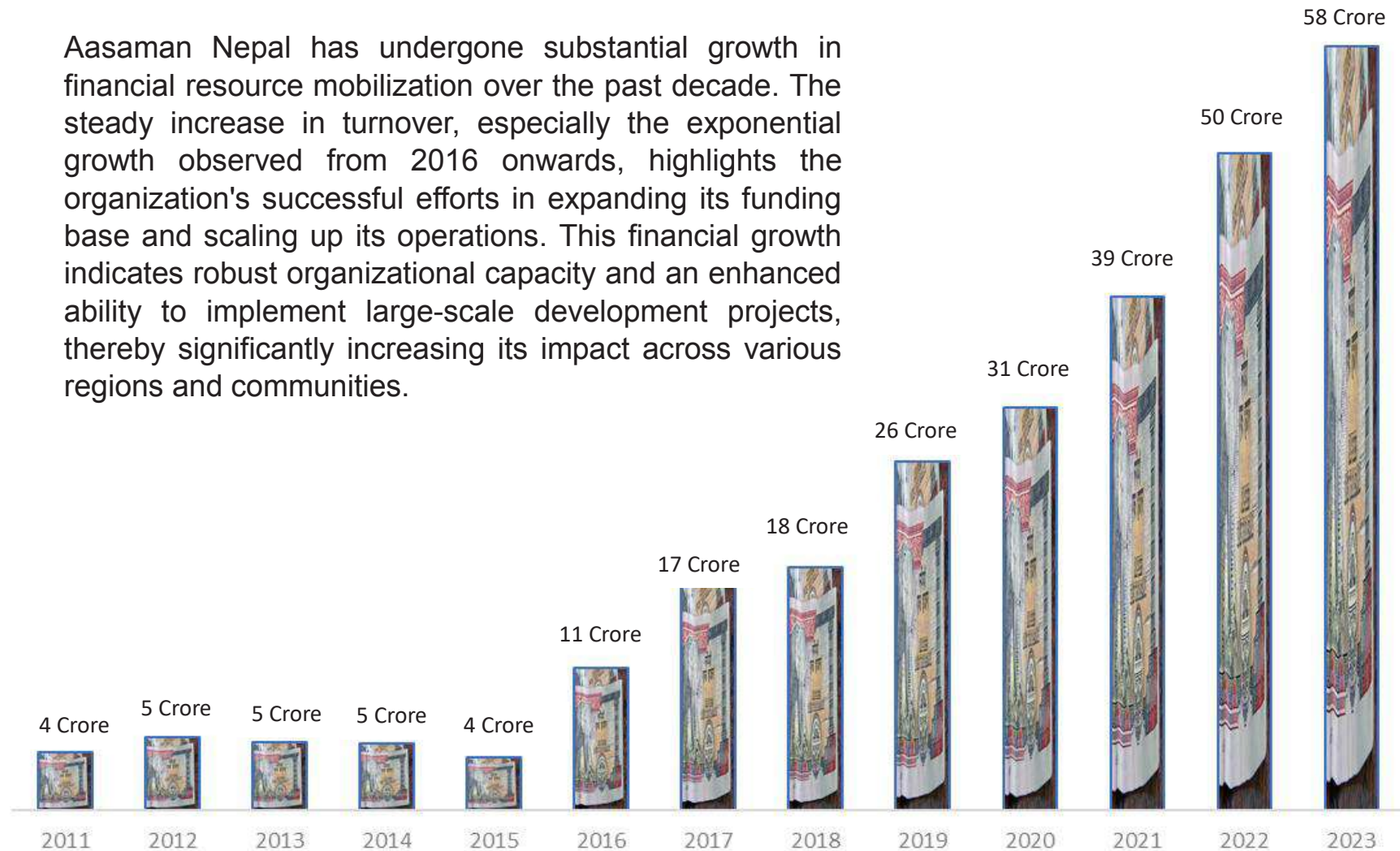
7 Ever-expanding professional Networks/ Alliances for impact at scale

Aasaman Nepal has strategically expanded its network and alliances, significantly enhancing its ability to impact communities at scale. This broad spectrum of partnerships with 19 distinct national and international networks has enabled Aasaman Nepal to address multifaceted developmental challenges, ranging from child protection and education to nutrition and gender equity through large-scale interventions and collaborative efforts that resonate at the local, national, and international levels. By integrating thematic leads and focal persons for specific regions, Aasaman Nepal ensures targeted and effective implementation of its programs, thereby maximizing its reach and impact across Nepal's diverse communities. Social mobilization and community facilitation, including promoting and hiring local human resources, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, have significantly fostered community trust.



8 Aasaman Nepal's growth in financial management

Aasaman Nepal has undergone substantial growth in financial resource mobilization over the past decade. The steady increase in turnover, especially the exponential growth observed from 2016 onwards, highlights the organization's successful efforts in expanding its funding base and scaling up its operations. This financial growth indicates robust organizational capacity and an enhanced ability to implement large-scale development projects, thereby significantly increasing its impact across various regions and communities.



9 Aasaman Nepal Journey: Reflection, Learning and Way Forward

Aasaman Nepal's strategic planning, programmatic interventions, procedural methodologies, and impactful changes in the beneficiary lives illustrate its comprehensive approach and significant achievements in promoting education and child rights over the past 25 years.

- The strategic plan-informed interventions/programs aimed at enhancing children's and women's rights were implemented in collaboration with SMC, youth groups, PTA, etc., achieving tangible and lasting results at both policy and programmatic levels. For instance, Madhesh Province (especially Dhanusha and Mahottari) has allocated a budget for ALP classes. Aasaman also supported local governments, i.e., Palikas, in preparing the GESI Plan, Child Protection Policy, and Education Plan, implementing the Teaching at Right Level (TaRL) approach, and mapping out-of-school children. These coordinated efforts significantly increased the number of school-going children, from 51% in 1999 to 81%.
- The transfer of vocational skills to youth, especially those from vulnerable communities and highly affected during the COVID-19 pandemic, helped them enter income-generating activities.
- Emphasis on knowledge management has greatly benefited Aasaman Nepal. Three consecutive series of Monographs, evaluation reports, and annual reports helped Aasaman remain focused on access to and retention of children in school and the quality of education. Additionally, these documents fostered a common understanding within the team and among stakeholders.
- The development of policies, guidelines, and frameworks has ensured better governance and promoted a positive organizational culture. By implementing financial software, HR and Supply Chain Framework, and MEAL Framework, Aasaman has achieved better fund management, quality assurance, and transparency.
- Drawing on its years of experience and learning, Aasaman Nepal launched the 'All Children Should be in Full-time Formal Day School' campaign, mobilizing more than 300 youths. Local governments have embraced and supported this initiative.
- Strategic focus on thematic areas and alignment in program development has helped Aasaman Nepal gain recognition as a credible partner by all three tiers of government, as well as international development partners and national CSOs.

In 25 years, Aasaman Nepal has learned from its successes as well as challenges, as outlined below:

- Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with local governments have enabled Aasaman to work long-term, develop community trust, and build ownership and accountability.
- Social mobilization and community facilitation, including promoting and hiring local human resources, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, have significantly fostered community trust.



- Mobilization of support structures at the community and district levels has added value to program success. The concept of the local field office (disrupted during insurgency) in the existing community office should have been continued.
- The introduction of 'Nutrition Kitchen Garden and Off-season Farming' as part of a health and nutrition program has greatly improved the nutrition of children, their mothers, and their families.
- Ensuring the follow-up/continuation of programs remains a challenge to providing quality education for children, requiring a minimum of 10 years of support.
- More space for periodic review and learning sharing should be embedded in program design.

Way Forward:

At this juncture, based on its learning, Aasaman Nepal plans to move ahead with:

- Expanding the 'All Children Should Be in Full-Time Formal Day School' campaign to all 753 local units, intensively focusing on the Madhesh Province by training and developing youth volunteers.
- Strategic engagement across all levels of government: including ward, Palika, province, and federal, to realize government plans and programs.
- Designing and implementing programs considering climate change as a cross-cutting theme, such as integrating school tree plantation program.
- Designing and implementing programs considering GEDSI as a cross-cutting theme.
- Scaling up successful project models in the Madhesh Province.
- Focusing on quality program implementation and organizational branding, particularly in quality education, governance, and child nutrition.
- Launching a campaign on malnutrition issues and implementing related programs.
- Conducting action-research activities.
- Designing and implementing a program focused on providing access to education for married out-of-school (MOOS) young and adolescent girls through literacy classes and further livelihood support.
- Designing a program focused on nutrition kitchen gardening to improve the health status of mothers and children.

