



# **Global Action Week For Education 2023**

Investing in a Just World: Decolonizing  
Education Financing Now!



# Background

The Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) is a significant annual event for the global education movement. This year's theme focused on “investing in a just world and decolonizing education financing”. The event featured mass demonstrations, policy dialogues and youth led delegations. GAWE 2023 urged governments to adhere to the transformative education Summit Call to Action on financing.

Low and lower middle- income countries face an estimated annual education financing gaps of \$148 billion, which may increase due to COVID 19 related schools' closures. Civil Society organizations demanded increased financing that is accountable and reaches marginalized communities, with a specific focus on strengthening free public systems.

In Nepal, AAIN observed GAWE 2023 in collaboration with TaxEd Alliance, CSOs, local partners and youths through various lobbying and campaign activities targeting the country's budget statement for the fiscal year 2023/24.

# Objectives

- Pressuring all three tiers of government to invest 20% of the national budget in education for FY 2023/24.
- Raising awareness about progressive and sustainable tax-base public funding for public education.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENT OF CAMPAING

The campaign organized by CSOs, youth, and TaxEd alliance was successful in raising awareness of the need of financing education across a larger population of around 4000 people. It also empowered CSO and youths to demand that governments at all levels invest at least 20% of their budgets on public education.

The movement was successful in holding local, provincial, and federal governments accountable for increasing spending and developing programs and strategies that are based on solid research to improve public education. Demand letters were submitted to 11 Palika of ActionAid Nepal's five working districts, led by youth and CSOs (Bagnaskali Rural Municipality- Palpa, Badayataal Rural Municipality, Geruwa Rural Municipality, Basgadi Municipality, Rajapur Municipality-Bardiya, Dhangadimai Municipality & Lahan Municipality-Siraha, Paterwa Sugauli Rural Municipality-Par.



# Highlights

- 01** Handover Demand Letter to Palika
- 02** Mass Demonstration in Investing for Public Education
- 03** Policy Discourse to Increased Accountability, Ownership & Commitment
- 04** Interaction Programme on Education Financing
- 05** Expanding Partnership with Youth Networks to Focus on Education Financing and Tax Justice System

# Handover Demand Letter to Palika

Local CSOs and members of youth hubs delivered a demand letter for a 20% budget increase at the local level, which was addressed to the local level budget statement for 2023–2024. Additionally, they emphasized the need to invest public funds in education to make public education free and of high quality, enabling all girls, boys, and children from disadvantaged communities to access it and benefit from it without facing any barriers, including qualified teachers, facilities for gender- and disability-friendly infrastructure, a secure learning environment, etc. The mayor and deputy mayor have expressed a desire to meet their demands. Demand letters were filed to 11 Palika of ActionAid Nepal's five operational districts -Bagnaskali Rural Municipality- Palpa, Badayatal Rural municipality, Geruwa Rural municipality, Basgadi Municipality, Rajapur Municipality- Bardiya, Dhangadimai Municipality & Lahan Municipality-Siraha, Paterwa sugauli Rural municipality -Parsa, KI Sing, Dipayal and Shikhar Municipality -Doti,) under the lead by youth and CSOs.



Recently, Geruwa RM from Bardiya district published notice to ensure free education from grade 1-10 in the palika in their policy and program for fiscal year 2080/81.

# Mass Demonstration in Investing for Public Education

Through large-scale protests and social media campaigns led by youth and the TaxEd Alliance, more than 4000 people were made aware of the significance of financing education through tax base funding to ensure progressive and sustained ways of financing in the public education sector to get free and quality education. The 2023 Global Action Week for Education was successful in increasing public awareness of concerns relating to tax equity and educational financing. By participating in the GAWE campaign to build public pressure for free, egalitarian, inclusive, and high-quality public education, CSOs and youths were able to demonstrate their solidarity through the protests. The CSOs primarily urged that tax justice be used to finance education.



# Policy Discourse to Increased Accountability, Ownership & Commitment

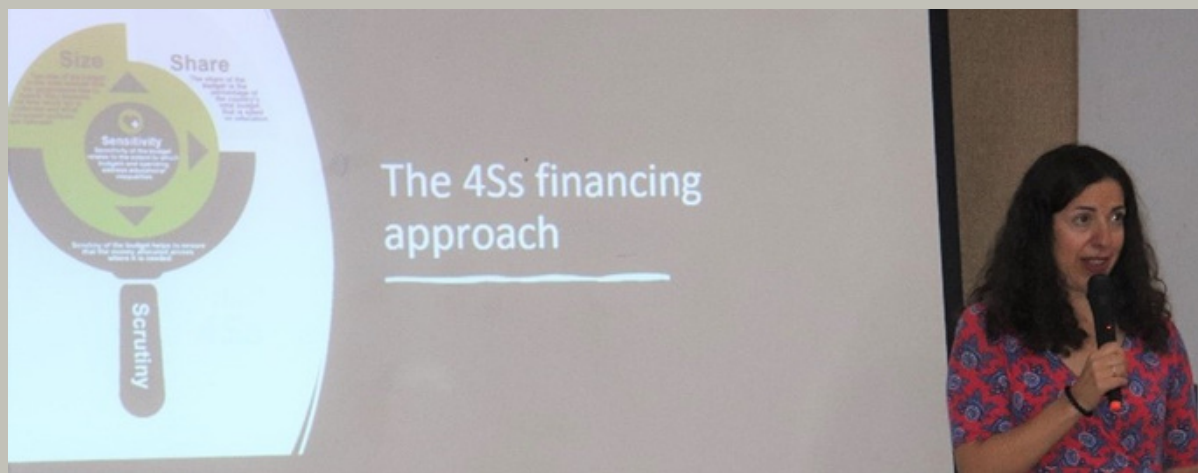
A national policy dialogue on the review of federal budget & budget process for province & local level has been successful in pressuring the government to allocate a minimum of 20% of national budget to the education sector for the fiscal year 2023/24. This is to fulfill global commitment & ensure that every child has access to free and quality education. The discussion also highlighted the need for a progressive tax base funding as an alternative method to increase the budget for sustainability purpose. During global action week for education a dialogue program was held which involved 55 individuals from various sectors including policy makers, government officials, teachers, media personnel and representatives from various organizations.



## Interaction Programme on Education Financing

NCE district chapter of Lahan and Parsa organized an interaction programme on the occasion of GAWE 2023 in collaboration and support Education Out Loud, TaxEd alliance and ActionAid Nepal. Key stakeholders like Education head of Dhangadimai municipality, School Resource person, Rural municipality ward members, Community schools' principles, media personals and education actors from civil society were presence.

# Expanding Partnership with Youth Networks to Focus on Education Financing and Tax Justice System



In an effort to strengthen alliance and collaborate with young people on tax and education financing an orientation session was held in Kathmandu and through online reaching to diverse young people (54 participants). The session aimed to educate youth about education financing and tax justice and how the 4S frameworks of education can help increase domestic resources for public services like education. The session successfully built a conceptual understanding of education financing and the advocacy agenda of it and how tax base financing can contribute to increase domestic resources. As a result, youth hubs organized mass demonstration and submitted a letter of demands to the local government ahead of the 2023/24 budget speech.





# Testimonials



**Mr. Uddav Hamal**

**Principal of Rajdevi Basic School**

He emphasized the need for a resilient and relevant education system that prepare students for the job market. He praised lahan municipality for allocating ample of funds to the education sector and urged continued investment in education, recognizing students as valuable assets for the country's development.

**Mr. Kiran Roy**



**Member of Laxmipurpatari Rural Municipality**

He acknowledged that their palika allocated 20% of the budget tp education. However, due to lack of interest and demand from parents, this investment has been not fully utilized to achieve quality education. He emphasized the importance of focusing on specific prioritized needs to improve the education system.



**Mr. Ameer Yadav**

**Lahan's Education Chief**

has committed to increasing the meal rate for primary graders by an additional Rs 5. However, this will be only applicable for regular and genuine student attending schools.

**Mr. Basanta Koirala**



**Associate Director of CEHRD**

Stressed the importance of resolving teachers' redistribution to ensure quality education. The budget for fiscal year 2080/81 includes provision to address these issues including increment of incentives to EDC teachers as well. He emphasized that although there was a global commitment and I too agree 20% of national budget should invest in education but the current situation of national budget prevents this full allocation. Nevertheless, we have plan to address the issues faced by marginalized and need based children through local and province budgets.



# Testimonials



**Ms. Laxmi Devi Pandey** 

**Chairperson of the National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal**

Emphasized on the responsibility of marginalized and disadvantage children's education particularly from rural areas lies with local government as per the Constitution. To ensure quality education and raise educational standard the federal government needs to resolve conflict between all three tiers of government. At Hupsekot Rural Municipality we allocated an additional of 20.7% of the budget in 2079/80 to education and we will continue this allocation for this year as well. I urge federal government to address issues of teacher wages and invest more as global commitment.



**Dr. Maria Ron Balsera**

**ActionAid International**

Stressed the need for progressive and fair tax base funding to boost domestic resource mobilization for increased investment in the education sector. She urged to cease providing tax incentives, particularly harmful ones and instead focus on closing revenue loopholes like tax evasion. Besides enhancing the budget's share and size she also suggested progressive tax reforms and heightened budget sensitivity and scrutiny.

**Hon. Bidhya Bhattarai** 

**Member of the Federal House of Representatives in Nepal**

She emphasized understanding the legislative assembly's role and responsibility. She expressed concerns about the allocation of 5 Crore budgets for the parliamentary infrastructure development fund and opposed it. Highlighting the crucial role of teacher motivation in ensuring quality education and student's performance, she noted that public service like education and health are often neglected or deprioritized during crises, leading to budget cuts. Despite education being a top priority for all political party's allocation of 20% of national budget into it in their manifesto but effective implementation remains a challenge.

To address these issues, Hon. Bhattarai pledged to advocate externally through Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and campaign within the parliament. She committed to working as a bridge and continuing her efforts to lobby for education's betterment.

# GAWE 2023: CALL TO ACTION

1. Increase the SHARE at least 20% of national budget or 4-6% of GDP as per the UNESCO's benchmarks in public education.
2. Increase the SIZE of the overall budget via increasing tax- based funding (progressive taxation).
3. Increase the SENSITIVITY of national education budgets by focusing on equity in public expenditure to redress inequality and tackle discrimination (e.g. expanding access and quality of public education, stipends for children with disabilities; increased investments in incentives for teacher postings in poor rural areas).
4. Enhance the SCRUTINY of national education budgets by Actively encouraging scrutiny of education budgets and expenditure to promote transparency and accountability and improve efficiency through timely disbursement of funds and that funds are spent effectively (especially in disadvantaged areas) e.g. by enabling or formalizing community and civil society oversight.
5. End all sorts of privatization and commercialization in the education sector and ensure fundamental right to education (free and quality education for all).
6. The quality of teaching and learning should be improved by ensuring the arrangement of sufficient teachers, proper remuneration and continuous teacher training for the capacity enhancement.



## शिक्षामा सुधार गर्न मुक्त हलिया सञ्जालद्वारा शिखर नगरपालिकालाई ज्ञापन पत्र

By सिलस खबर — On जेठ १८, २०८०



गृहपृष्ठ विशेष समाचार सुदूरपश्चिम - राजनीति आर्थिक मनोरञ्जन खेलकुद जीवनशैली विचार/ब्यंग

## नगरक कूल बजेटक २० प्रतिशत रकम शैक्षिक क्षेत्रमा छुट्याए विद्यार्थीक माग

| २०८० जेठ १८ बिहीबार

बिन्दु पौधरी



# शिक्षामा प्रदेश र स्थानीय तहको बजेट तयारी विषयमा छलफल

इकागज |

जेठ १७, २०८० २२:१८ बजे

31 Shares



इकागज



प्रमुख समाचार

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सुशासन

प्रदेश/स्थानीय सरकार

विचार-वार्ता

कला

खेलकुद



## शिक्षाको बजेट सुनिश्चित गर्न सुझाव

२ मद्दिना अगाडि



## मुक्त हलिया समुदाय द्वारा दिपायल सिलगढी नगरपालिकालाई ज्ञापनपत्र

