

Annual Report — FY 2024–2025

Friends Affected & Infected Together in Hand (FAITH) / Aastha, Lalitpur, Nepal

16 July 2024 – 16 July 2025

Executive Summary

In 2024–2025, FAITH deepened its commitment to the rights, dignity, and economic empowerment of marginalised women and girls in Nepal — particularly female sex workers (FSWs), women who use drugs, women living with HIV, and girls from Dalit and indigenous communities. Guided by its 2024–2028 Strategic Action Plan, FAITH prioritised inclusive policy advocacy, community empowerment, and skills development to address systemic discrimination and violence.

Through digital storytelling and public campaigns — including the films *Laalimaa* and *Rato Pachauri* — FAITH challenged stigma and harmful gender norms, reaching national and global audiences. Economic empowerment work also expanded: the bakery training centre became fully operational, and the STEM project trained 51 marginalised youth in digital skills, with 17 securing employment. This year's work advanced SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and contributed evidence to Nepal's 2025 CEDAW Concluding Observations.

At a Glance

FSWs reached with legal literacy, psychosocial & digital safety training	1,730+
Police officers oriented on FSW rights	794
Municipalities engaged on inclusive GESI policy	10
Marginalised/indigenous youth trained in STEM & IT	51
STEM trainees who gained employment	17
New businesses launched by STEM trainees	3
Districts worked in (of Nepal's 77)	55

Who We Are

FAITH (Aastha) is a registered, non-governmental, not-for-profit, non-religious, women-led organisation in Nepal, affiliated with the Social Welfare Council and the District Administration Office. Core focus areas: sexual and reproductive health & rights, gender-based violence, economic rights, gender equality, and social equity — delivered through community-based organisations led by the beneficiaries themselves.

Vision: A world where people from marginalised populations can exercise their fundamental rights freely, without coercion, stigma, discrimination, or violence.

Strategic priorities: leadership among beneficiaries · equity & dignity for marginalised populations · mental health integration · climate change interventions · gender-inclusive economic empowerment.

Projects This Year

Project	Donor	Status	Duration
Economic empowerment of FSWs — Phase II (bakery)	Women Win / FREE FUND, Netherlands	Completed	Nov 2023 – Oct 2024
Building Futures: STEM skills for marginalised youth	Women Win / FREE FUND, Netherlands	Completed	May 2024 – Apr 2025
Building a stronger movement against violence toward FSWs	AmplifyChange, UK	Completed	Jul 2023 – Jun 2025
Right to equality & non-discrimination for FSWs — Phase II	KIOS Foundation, Finland	Ongoing	May 2024 – Dec 2025

Economic Empowerment of FSWs — Bakery (Women Win/FREE FUND)

Phase II expanded FAITH's bakery training centre into a sustainable, income-generating model. The centre is now fully operational and independently managed by trainees. A German expert baker (via Senior Experten Service) provided advanced training, and a business/marketing plan was put into action. Looking ahead, FAITH aims to train at least 40 women a year, diversify into barista and eco-friendly packaging skills, and connect graduates to jobs or microcredit.

Building Futures: STEM Skills Training (Women Win/FREE FUND)

This project trained 51 marginalised and indigenous youth (34 women) in in-demand IT skills — Python, AI & prompt engineering, UI/UX, web development, digital marketing, and hardware repair. 17 trainees gained employment and 3 launched their own ventures, including a laptop repair shop. Four trainee-made documentaries on women in STEM reached over 2 million people online and were screened to 1,001 students.

Building a Stronger Movement Against Violence (AmplifyChange)

Across 10 municipalities in Koshi and Bagmati provinces, FAITH helped three municipalities adopt GESI policies explicitly naming FSWs, with four more using related language. 794 police officers were oriented on FSW rights, and Nepal Police Headquarters committed to including these rights in its revised Human Rights Command Booklet. FAITH also produced the feature film Laalimaa (submitted to Venice, Toronto, Busan, Rotterdam, and Sundance) and contributed evidence to Nepal's 2025 CEDAW Concluding Observations.

Right to Equality & Non-Discrimination for FSWs — Phase II (KIOS Foundation)

FAITH formed an FSW-led Advocacy Task Force that engaged the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, 74 parliamentarians, and two government ministers, helping mainstream sex workers' rights into the ongoing amendment of the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act. A 16 Days of Activism digital campaign reached 836,500 people, and 330+ FSWs were sensitised on digital safety and labour rights.

Financial Snapshot by Donor

Figures below are drawn from the audited donor-wise fund accountability statement for FY 2024–2025, in Nepalese Rupees (NPR).

Donor	Income (NPR)	Expenditure (NPR)	Status
Elton John AIDS Foundation	—	—	Completed
FREE Fund / Women Win (bakery)	586,707	586,514	Completed
FREE (STEM) Fund / Women Win	7,049,237	7,038,511	Completed
AmplifyChange	17,306,749	17,290,658	Completed

Donor	Income (NPR)	Expenditure (NPR)	Status
KIOS Foundation	5,458,633	3,866,289	Ongoing
Total	30,401,326	28,781,972	—

This summary condenses FAITH's full Annual Report FY 2024–2025. The complete report, including detailed activity tables, challenges, and learnings from each project, is available on request.