

Annual Report — FY 2023–2024

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

17 July 2023 – 15 July 2024

Executive Summary

This year marked the launch of FAITH's new three-year strategy, rooted in equality, equity, and dignity for marginalized communities — with new work added on climate change and environment. FAITH deepened its advocacy on behalf of female sex workers (FSWs), engaging local governments, the Nepal Human Rights Commission, and parliamentarians to push for legal and policy protection from violence and discrimination. The year also saw the successful completion of a mental health pilot, continued growth of FAITH's social-enterprise bakery, and the launch of a new STEM training initiative for young women.

At a Glance

FSWs oriented on legal rights (10 municipalities)	1,732
Reported increased rights awareness	70%+
FSWs reached through mental health programme	1,007
Reported improved mental well-being	50%
Districts worked in (of Nepal's 77)	55
Active donor-funded projects this year	6

Who We Are

FAITH (Aastha) is a women-led, non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation registered with Nepal's Social Welfare Council and District Administration Office. Core focus areas: sexual and reproductive health & rights, gender-based violence, economic rights, gender equality, and social equity — working 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 this year: 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
Right to equality & non-discrimination for FSWs — Phase I	KIOS Foundation, Finland	Completed	Jan 2023 – Jan 2024
Right to equality & non-discrimination for FSWs — Phase II	KIOS Foundation, Finland	Ongoing	May 2024 – Dec 2025

Project	Donor	Status	Duration
Addressing mental health challenges among FSWs	Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF), UK	Completed	Jun 2023 – May 2024
Economic empowerment of FSWs — Phase II (bakery)	Women Win / FREE FUND, Netherlands	Ongoing	Nov 2023 – Oct 2024
Building Futures: STEM skills for marginalised women	Women Win / FREE FUND, Netherlands	Ongoing	May 2024 – Apr 2025
Building a stronger movement against violence toward FSWs	AmplifyChange, UK	Ongoing	Jul 2023 – Jun 2025

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

Advocacy with parliamentarians, local government, and the National Human Rights Commission to get FSWs' rights recognised in law and policy. Phase I trained 12 CBO staff, briefed 32 parliamentarians and 126 local government officials, and produced a short film screened at the Nepal-EU Film Festival. Phase II continues this push toward institutionalising non-discrimination policy at the local level.

Addressing Mental Health Challenges Among FSWs (EJAF)

A peer-to-peer mental health programme — the first of its kind targeting FSWs in Nepal. Reached 1,007 women (target: 1,000), with 75% showing improved mental health knowledge and roughly half reporting better well-being on follow-up. Suicidal ideation dropped sharply between pre- and post-test (from 37% reporting none to 90%). 143 high-risk cases were referred for professional counselling.

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

Expansion of FAITH's self-sustaining bakery training centre, which has run for over a year under two FSW trainees now managing daily operations. A German expert baker (via Senior Experten Service) provided advanced training, and a business/marketing plan was developed to grow the enterprise's reach and income.

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

A new initiative training 50 young women from marginalised and indigenous communities in high-demand IT skills (Python, UI/UX, QA, digital marketing, cybersecurity). Selection criteria were broadened mid-year after lower-than-expected applications, and the first cohort of 15 trainees is underway.

Building a Stronger Movement Against Violence (AmplifyChange)

The largest project this year, spanning 10 municipalities across two provinces. Oriented 1,732 FSWs on their legal rights, opened first-ever roundtable dialogues between FSWs and the Nepal Police, and secured historic approval from Police Headquarters to run rights orientation sessions with officers. FAITH also formalised a 3-year strategic plan and launched a new spin-off, Nepalese Women in Tech for Social Change (NWTSC).

This summary condenses FAITH's full Annual Report FY 2023–2024. The complete report, including detailed activity tables and learnings from each project, is available on request.