



KARUNA FOUNDATION NEPAL

Quarterly Newsletter October – December 2025

WHEN ACCESS CREATES PROSPECTS

The final quarter of 2025 marked a period of purposeful action, collaboration, and resilience for Karuna Foundation Nepal (Karuna Nepal). From disability assessment camps in rural municipalities to policy-level discussions and media engagement, our work continued to strengthen disability prevention, rehabilitation, and inclusion at the grassroots level. This quarter focused on reconnecting services affected by the Gen-Z protests, strengthening systems, expanding accessible spaces, and celebrating the abilities and talents of persons with disabilities, reflecting our continued commitment to inclusive and people-centered development.



78,541

Number of Persons with Disabilities identified



13,280

Number of Persons with Disabilities supported with assistive device



25,626

Number of Persons with Disabilities and family members engaged in milijuli group



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Hands That Open New Possibilities

Distribution, Measurement and Fitting of Free Prosthetic Hands

In collaboration with The Hand Project, Germany, Karuna Nepal successfully conducted a large-scale free prosthetic hand measurement, fitting, and distribution camp in Itahari, Koshi Province.

Conducted from 3rd November to 12th November, 2025 the camp served 199 persons with disabilities from 14 districts, distributing a total of 204 lightweight, functional prosthetic hands. 5 beneficiaries received bilateral prosthetic fittings. Participants included 57 female, 142 male, including 17 children from diverse backgrounds. International technical teams from New Zealand and Uganda conducted measurements, fittings, and provided practical training on the use and care of prosthetic hands. Many beneficiaries shared how receiving prosthetic hands restored confidence, independence, and motivation to move toward a more self-reliant and dignified life.

The camp demonstrated how rehabilitation support can open pathways to productivity, empowerment, and social inclusion.





Celebrating Talent

Talent Hunt and Promotion Program:

Celebrating Ability, Confidence, and Potential

Talent Hunt and Promotion Program was organized with the objective of identifying, nurturing, and celebrating the inherent talents of persons with disabilities, while challenging long-held social stereotypes around disability. The event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Social Development, Koshi Province; the National Federation of Disabled – Nepal (Koshi Province); Sangeet Sadhana Pratisthan, Itahari; and Karuna Nepal.

The program provided a safe and encouraging platform for participants to showcase their abilities across various forms of expression, demonstrating that disability does not define potential. In total, 101 persons with disabilities participated, presenting talents across diverse categories including music and singing, literature, dance, arts, painting, handicrafts, acting and caricature work, and innovation. More than a competition, the event became a space for visibility, recognition, and self-expression.

Families, caregivers, community members, and stakeholders were actively engaged throughout the program. Their presence played a crucial role in boosting participants' confidence and reinforcing the importance of encouragement and inclusion at the household and community levels. Beyond showcasing talent, the program aimed to build self-esteem and motivation among persons with disabilities, promote positive social attitudes toward disability, encourage communities to recognize and invest in the abilities of persons with disabilities, and create pathways for future opportunities in arts, skills development, and public engagement, reaffirming Karuna Nepal's belief that every individual has potential when provided with opportunity, respect, and support, and contributing to a more inclusive, appreciative, and empowered society.





Protecting Women’s Health Through Early Detection

Cervical Cancer Screening Program (CCSP)

Under the Cervical Cancer Screening Program, HPV/DNA Screening Camps were conducted to support early detection and prevention of cervical cancer. The camps aimed to improve access to timely screening services for women while raising awareness on the importance of regular check-ups and preventive healthcare.

By bringing screening services closer to communities, this initiative contributed to strengthening community-level awareness, encouraging early diagnosis, and promoting better health outcomes for women, particularly those with limited access to regular health services.



Restoring Sound, Restoring Connection

Hearing Aid Fitting Camp

Under the Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Program (DPRP), hearing aid fitting camps were conducted in multiple municipalities in Terhathum to improve access to hearing support services for persons with hearing impairments. In Laligurans Municipality, 11 persons with disabilities received hearing aids with fitting services. In Chhathar Rural Municipality, 8 persons with disabilities were provided with hearing aids along with proper fitting. Similarly, in Phedap Rural Municipality, 5 persons with disabilities received hearing aids with fitting services, while in Aathrai Rural Municipality, 8 assessed persons with disabilities were supported with hearing aids and fitting. These interventions strengthened communication, confidence, and participation in daily life, contributing to more inclusive and accessible communities.



Seen, Understood, Supported

11-Day Disability Assessment Camp, Panchkhal

The 11-day Disability Assessment Camp in Panchkhal, conducted under the Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Program (DPRP) in collaboration with Dhulikhel Hospital, served as a critical entry point for identification, inclusion, and access to essential services.

Families sought assessment and guidance for their children and loved ones, with each evaluation linking individuals to education, rehabilitation, and social protection support. In total, 316 persons with disabilities were assessed, and 15 individuals received new Disability Identity Cards, including 3 children, enabling access to government services.

Although the camp faced a temporary pause due to nationwide disruptions caused by the Gen-Z protest, activities resumed once the situation improved, and the camp was successfully completed, reflecting the resilience and commitment of DPRP service delivery.



Strengthening Systems Through Partnership

Engagement with Karnali Province

Hon. Ghanashyam Bhandari, Minister for Social Development, Karnali Province, visited Karuna Nepal's central office in Baluwatar, Kathmandu.

The meeting focused on discussions around the accelerate commencement of Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Program (DPRP) and its planned initiation in Karnali Province. The interaction was constructive and encouraging, marking a positive step toward expanding collaborative efforts for disability inclusion and rehabilitation work in the province.





Learning Beyond Borders

DPRP Learning Visit from Bangladesh

A productive learning visit took place as a team from Bangladesh explored Nepal's practices under the Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Program (DPRP).

The visit included field engagement in Haldibari Rural Municipality, Jhapa, with interactions at the municipal office, schools, and meetings with beneficiaries. The visiting team also engaged in meaningful discussions with the National Federation of the Disabled–Nepal (NFDN). The exchange fostered two-way learning, shared perspectives, and constructive suggestions for strengthening disability-inclusive systems.

Learning Together, Growing Stronger

Two-Day Learning & Linking with Wilde Ganzen Foundation



As a Dutch organization working globally, Wilde Ganzen Foundation supports initiatives that promote collaboration and collective action, strengthening efforts to build a shared movement for sustainable social change. Reflecting this mission, the workshop convened 19 participants, including facilitators, and provided a structured platform for in-depth discussions, shared learning, and practical reflection grounded in real-world experience.

Key focus areas included fundraising diversification, sustainability beyond external funding, public perception of NGOs and CBOs, and strategies to build goodwill with communities, government officials, and media. The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to collaboration, trust-building, and sustainable impact.



Recognition Rooted in Impact

Karuna Nepal was honored by the Kalyankari Acharya Dixit Memorial Trust during its 36th annual ceremony in recognition of the organization's significant contribution to hearing-related disability prevention and rehabilitation. The award acknowledges Karuna Nepal's sustained efforts to improve access to hearing assessment, assistive devices, and rehabilitation services across 137 local governments in Koshi Province, implemented in close partnership with provincial and local governments. This recognition reflects the organization's long-standing commitment to strengthening inclusive health systems and improving the quality of life of persons with hearing impairments through community-based interventions.

Accessibility Built into Space

Handover of Accessible Meeting Hall and Restroom

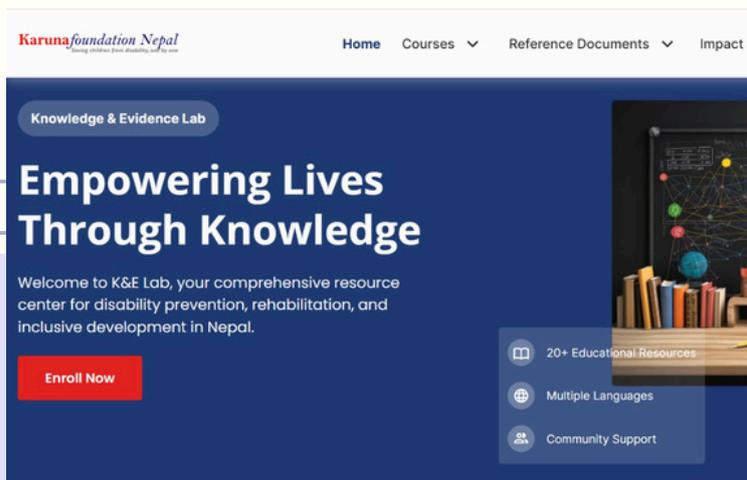
A fully accessible meeting hall and restroom were handed over to the Ministry of Social Development, Koshi Province, promoting inclusion and equal access for all.

This initiative, jointly supported by the Ministry of Social Development, Koshi Province, National Federation of the Disabled–Nepal (NFD-N), and Karuna Nepal, marks a meaningful step toward inclusive governance. The accessible infrastructure sets an example of how public spaces can be designed to ensure dignity, participation, and equal opportunity for everyone.



Strengthening Knowledge and Evidence

Karuna Launches K&E Lab: Sharing Knowledge for Disability-Inclusive Development



Karuna Nepal has launched a free, digital, online, open-access platform named Knowledge & Evidence (K&E) Lab to empower practitioners, organizations, and stakeholders in the field of disability prevention and rehabilitation. As a pioneering and experienced organization in this area, Karuna Foundation shares knowledge, evidence, and practical tools through the Lab to guide effective program design, implementation, and impact.

It offers four main types of resources: courses to build practical skills, reference documents for guidance and policy alignment, impact stories showcasing real program achievements, and videos that highlight successes and learning. To access into K&E portal, Visit the Karuna Nepal website at www.karunafoundation.org, or directly navigate into [K & E portal](#) and register to explore the resources.

Autism Care and Early Intervention Initiatives



Biratnagar Metropolitan City:

The Autism Care Center in Biratnagar-4, Kanchanbari expanded its capacity in response to growing demand for early intervention services. An additional rented flat adjacent to the existing facility now allows the center to support 20 more children, effectively doubling its service capacity. The new space includes four classrooms, a small hall, and a restroom.

To strengthen service delivery, two special teachers were recruited, and a speech therapist has been providing services twice weekly, complementing ongoing therapies such as behavior, occupational, vision, art, and music therapy. The center also adopted RxPIN Autism Software, enabling digital assessments, IEPs, progress tracking, and improved coordination with families.

Mechinagar and Bhadrapur Municipalities, Jhapa:

Both municipalities have expressed interest in establishing Autism Care Day-Care Centers and have drafted operational guidelines, demonstrating strong local government commitment to expanding autism support services.

Belaka Municipality, Udayapur:

Discussions were held regarding budget allocation for establishing an autism day-care center. While funding was not approved at the time, the matter is set for reconsideration during the upcoming winter assembly

Looking Ahead with Purpose

As Karuna Nepal moves forward, our commitment remains clear: to strengthen inclusive systems, expand access to health and rehabilitation services, foster partnerships, and ensure that no one is left unseen or unsupported.

Together with communities, governments, and partners, we continue working toward a Nepal where inclusion is not an exception but a standard.

Stay Connected



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Follow us for stories, updates, and opportunities to engage in disability-inclusive development.