

AIN Strategy 2020-2022

AIN MISSION

AIN aims to be a strong, proactive, and accountable network of INGOs in Nepal which works towards equitable development, minimize, mitigate and respond to address risks arising due to humanitarian crisis, poverty reduction, sustainable peace, human rights, social inclusion and good governance.

AIN OBJECTIVES

The objectives of AIN as articulated in its association of articles are to:

1. Engage and coordinate with all development and humanitarian actors, including government bodies, NGOs, NGO associations, and funding partners;
2. Support members and partners on self-regulation, accountability, transparency and diversity.
3. Support and provide guidance to members on operational space.
4. Collaborate in areas of common interest including humanitarian assistance.



- Photo: AIN

NEPAL CONTEXT FOR INGOs/NGOs- POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, DEVELOPMENT

With new elected government and implementation of the Federal Republic Constitution, 2015, Nepal is emerging from a politically and socially fragile post-conflict situation, structurally generated poverty, inequality and social exclusion, and mega earthquake of 2015.

The Key priorities under 15th Periodic Plan ^[1] as outlined are - (a) Prosperity by ensuring accessible, quality and modern infrastructure; productive, dignified employment creation; high, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and poverty alleviation, (b) Realize dignified and refined livelihood by quality Health, Education, healthy and balanced environment, social justice, accountable public service through strengthening federal system and (c) Protect sovereignty, independence and national interest by transformation of social and economy and building self- reliant national economy.

Provincial governments have also issued their own periodic development plans embarking on economic prosperity as the main goal in line with the 15th Periodic Plan.

The primary legislation to regulate INGOs in Nepal is the Social Welfare Council Act 1992, though ministerial exercises to replace the Act have started for more than two years and it is expected that the new Act will be enacted in a couple of years. New Development Cooperation Policy 2019 (DCP) has been enacted which impacts functioning of INGOs. Provincial Parliaments have also enacted laws to regulate functioning of INGOs/NGOs in their provinces, requiring INGOs to report to the provincial statutory bodies. The Federal Government has passed an amendment to the Local Government Operation Act, 2017 (by Some Nepalese Laws Amendment Act 2019), which delegates power to the Local Government to register and regulate local NGOs by enacting laws from the council. However, it is not applicable to INGOs. NGO Federation reports that restriction by the local government has been increased for NGOs from outside their jurisdiction.

On the financial contribution, UN's support has been lesser than INGOs collective contribution and INGOs collective contribution has been lesser than

[1] National Planning Commission of Nepal finalized Fifteen Periodic Plan of Nepal in February 2020, which is yet to be published.

some of bi-lateral. (E.g. SDC spends one billion in Province 1, un parallel to INGO's level of engagement).

With COVID-19 pandemic striking all over the world including Nepal, Government of Nepal formed the high-level coordination committee for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 under the convenorship of Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Defense. With increasing trend of positive cases in Nepal, safety measures were taken by government in form of lock down, restricting mobility of citizens including INGOs/NGOs' capacity in responding to COVID crisis. The Committee formed a National Committee headed by the Minister for MoWCSC to mobilize INGOs/NGOs in responding to COVID situation. The committee comprises of ministers of Social development from Provinces along with representatives from the associations of district and municipal levels SWC remains the regulatory body for approvals of COVID response projects or amendments for INGOs. INGOs/NGOs have been following one -door policy in providing services to communities but collaborating with MOHP, MOHA, MOWCSC and SWC for well-coordinated response. COVID-19 pandemic has largely impacted the operating environment for INGOs, restricted mobility, shift in priorities to health and livelihood assistance impacting work on human rights and other development issues and continued need to adapt and integrate INGOs programme to COVID-19 response.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND WAY FORWARD FROM REVIEW PROCESS OF AIN STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-19

Strategic Objective 1: Promoting conducive operating environment for AIN members

AIN initiatives on promoting conducive operating environment for members supported in strengthening relationship with line ministries, signed an MOU with NGO federation and strengthened relationship with regular interactions, and AIN's recognition by the Government /Ministries. On policy engagement, AIN successfully engaged on Social Development Act, DCP and policies and plan of actions related to Education, Health, WASH, which impacted positive outcomes for excluded groups and people living in poverty. On Compliance issues, AIN has been advocating and engaging with respective line ministries in relation to expat- visa, Work permit, AMIS, PAN/tax clearance, SSF, General Agreement/ Project Agreement (26 steps); Monthly Engagement in IDPG and DP thematic forums like GESI, WASH, strengthening and supporting AIN members with Code of Conduct & Self-Regulation Mechanism.

With COVID-19 pandemic, there is a pressure to shift and adapt priorities in 2020-21 to minimize health risks, mitigate economic impact and build awareness on COVID prevention and precautions adopting new ways of working 'to do no harm'. Some INGOs have already engaged in and some are in positions to respond to COVID-19 situation. However, INGOs, which are not able to expand their current engagements, should continuously carry out their work.

Strategic Objective 2: Promoting and facilitating AIN members' humanitarian response and development efforts in Nepal

AIN successfully advocated with SWC and respective ministry on broader framework for partner selection, geographical coverage, and thematic areas, hard/software, admin/program, INGO/LIP ratio, social audit requirements. Thematic mapping and well-functioning of working groups to showcase AIN Members efforts is being developed, with more research on SDG impacts. A dash-boarding of members with programme coverage and focus areas is being updated.

Strategic Objective 3: Contribute to the development policy and overarching development and crisis response agenda for Nepal

AIN in collaboration with Provincial governments organized Development Dialogues in five Provinces with a plan for Province 2 and Bagmati Provinces. The conclusion of the provincial dialogues will be shared with the National Planning Commission. AIN Provincial Chapters have been formed to strengthen coordination with provincial government stakeholders. AIN is developing strategic advocacy plan based on SDG priorities and priorities of the AIN working groups.

Strategic Objective 4: Improve communication to create a balanced and accurate image of AIN members' contributions to development in Nepal and during COVID response, adaptation and recovery.

During 2017-19, strengthening communications and collaboration among AIN members was the focus. AIN could achieve successful and effective collaboration with NGO federation, government's relevant stakeholders (communications entities like that of NRA and SWC), facilitated government's dialogues, development dialogues and discourse forums and CSOs. In the current strategy, AIN will continue to strengthen internal communications and coherence among the AIN Working groups with the Communications WG to capture more evidence for impacts with creation of common learning/sharing digital platform. Importance of having concrete plans to help media improve development reporting has been one of the top priorities for AIN.



2020-22 GOAL

AIN becomes a proactive, trusted and credible learning and sharing platform of INGOs in Nepal in fostering good governance, transparency and accountability for equitable and inclusive development for poverty reduction aligning with national priorities.

AIN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2020-22

1. Promote conducive civil society organizations (CSO) space and operating environment for AIN Members at all levels of government.
2. Promote recognition of AIN members as trusted partner by enhancing self-regulation.
3. Contribute to the development and humanitarian response agenda including policy making process and its implementation.
4. Promote evidence-based communications on contribution of INGOs towards development in Nepal.

2020-22 PRIORITIES

- Create synergy between INGOs to collaborate on technical expertise, resources and new ways of working arising with COVID pandemic to promote shared learning and build connections with international alliances of INGOs/ CSOs, and Asian forums.
- Generate evidence and communicate results to key stakeholders including SWC and respective line agencies to showcase and brand AIN as credible and trusted development partner for collective actions and collaboration on development priorities, including COVID-19 mitigation and response priorities.
- Advocate / lobby for conducive CSO space and operational environment for AIN members (on issues such as approvals, visa regulations, work permit, PAs/Gas, etc.) and adherence to ethical standards, self-regulation and COC.
- Members demonstrate accountability for program delivery to beneficiaries (target groups) including in crisis situations through evidences and reported results, having dash boards on key results and outcomes. (AIN website, social media)

- Members demonstrate compliance with the globally accepted self-regulatory standards.
- Stronger collaboration with National Federations or networks of CSOs including NGO Federation Nepal and voice in IDPG and DP thematic forums for policy engagement.
- Develop an AIN strategic advocacy plan and Civil Society Policy update based on priorities of the working groups/ clusters and SDG priorities and engage/ implement with reinforcement from the AIN Steering Groups and its membership. (e.g. UPR process)
- Proactive engagement to influence and partnership with federal and provincial NPC, Ministries and Authorities.
- Effective National development dialogues and follow-up in provinces contributing to SDG and other government priorities.
- Engage to influence donors to diversify funding instruments accessible for international civil society organizations in country.
- Pro-active and new ways of strategic media mobilization and engagement with AIN collective efforts to promote development impacts. COVID mitigation, response and recovery and contribution towards SDGs/ Government priorities.
- Engage strategically with media and government authorities on responding to humanitarian or human induced disasters.



AT THE END OF 2022...WE WOULD ACHIEVE

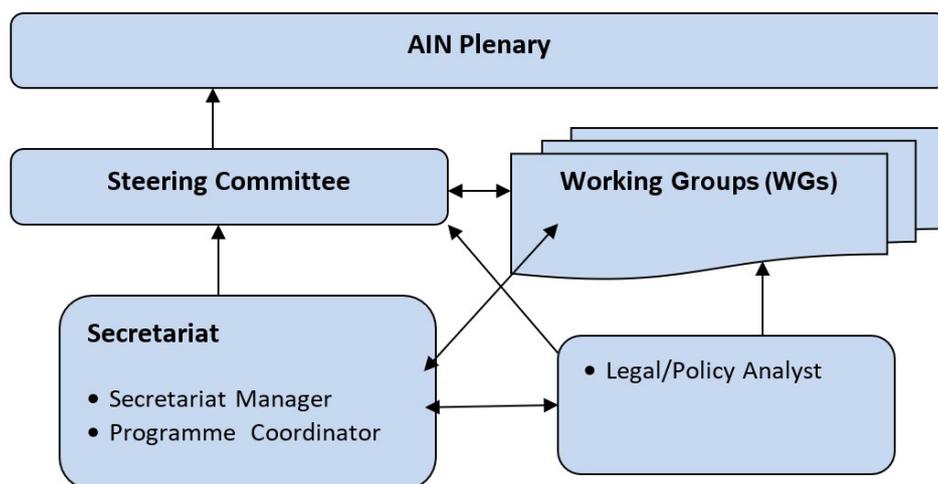
- Strengthened communications, collaboration and peer learning among AIN members with focus on innovative and effective evidence-based communication of results to key stakeholders.
- Stakeholders including government understand and recognize AIN member contributions (Humanitarian response and COVID pandemic mitigation, development models and results) in achieving SDGs and national development priorities including humanitarian response, COVID pandemic mitigation, development models and results).
- Demonstrated and documented influence against priority policies agreed in AIN strategic advocacy plan.
- AIN members are supported with enabling environment, new ways of working, clarity on systems, essential regulatory information (i.e. regulation / policy relating to INGOs or CSOs; key updates and learnings from WG activities; policies relating to human resources in INGO sectors; risks updates to INGOs operations)



AIN MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING STRUCTURE

AIN will continue to remain in current structure in line with its articles of association. AIN will encourage local chapters where there is local leadership and relevance and based on learning and experiences will support institutionalization of such mechanisms over the strategic plan period. Elected Steering Committee members (SC) has overall management of AIN activities led by Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, reporting to AIN members in AIN Plenary and through working groups.

AIN strategic plan and its implementation is reviewed by active contribution of SC members, working group members and with feedback from AIN members in plenary. 2020-22 strategy paper is based on consultation with AIN members in various platforms.



AIN supports membership on a yearly basis for active participation in AIN and working groups (for example plenary, cross-cutting teams and working groups) and compliance with AIN's Code of Conduct and Principles through an online survey.

AIN will prepare an annual activity plan along with the detailed action plan and result indicators and the budget based on the strategic objectives. SC will monitor the progress on the strategic plan and share to Plenary on an annual basis.