

Easy Read Evaluation
Summary
2025

Easy Read Summary of the Evaluation of the “Include Us” Project, 2019-2025

INCLUDE US PROJECT: WHAT NFDN AND ITS MEMBERS DID.

This is an Easy Read overview of the achievements of the “Include Us” project, drawing on findings from the end of project evaluation.

The “Include Us” advocacy project in Nepal, ran from 2019-2025, and was led by the National Federation for the Disabled Nepal (NFDN). The final evaluation of the project found that NFDN’s work had led to significant change in disability inclusion.

The project focused on improving national and local government policies and access to services for people with disabilities. Key successes include the development and passing of a National Disability Policy, the inclusion of disability data in the 2021 National Census, and an improved understanding of barriers to accessing justice for people with disabilities through research conducted with the National Human Rights Commission.

The project also supported Organisations of People with Disability to be involved in advocacy efforts.

There was also a program that brought provided training and employment opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. This work was found to be transformational for those individuals and their families.

By combining national level policy influence with local level advocacy, the project made a notable mark on addressing barriers to justice for people with disabilities and created a ripple effect among government departments and services to improve accessibility.

This has been a strong example of a project that considers digital accessibility alongside other accessibility needs. NFDN has made efforts to ensure that all its key publications are accessible in a variety of formats, including Easy Read formats for people with low literacy and learning difficulties.

Acknowledgement

This Easy Read Evaluation Summary was developed by Aruna Parajuli (Nepal text) and Julie Smith (English text and illustrations), who were part of the 2024 Evaluation team. Checking and verification of the document was done by NFDN’s Easy Read Editing group (Shanti Phuyal, Nishchal KC, Santos GC, Shashi Babu Paudel with facilitation by Mukunda Hari Dahal. A Nepali version of this document can be found on the website of the National Federation for the Disabled Nepal (NFDN) at <https://nfdn.org.np/>

CBM Australia and CBM Switzerland acknowledges the support of our donors and DFAT through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program.



National Federation
for the
Disabled Nepal

NFDN is the National Federation for the Disabled Nepal.

For 5 years, from 2019 until 2024, NFDN did some work to improve the way government helps people with disability and their families.



The plan was to make the members of NFDN stronger, so they could talk to government confidently.

This work happened for 5 years until 2024.

This was called the “Include Us” Project.

NFDN got some money from CBM which helped it pay for things like meetings, salaries, travel, posters, and easy-read books.



In July 2024, a group of experts talked to many people involved in the project, to find out what had happened.

This is called an "evaluation".

It is good to have some experts come and look at what happened.

They can give ideas about what you can do next.

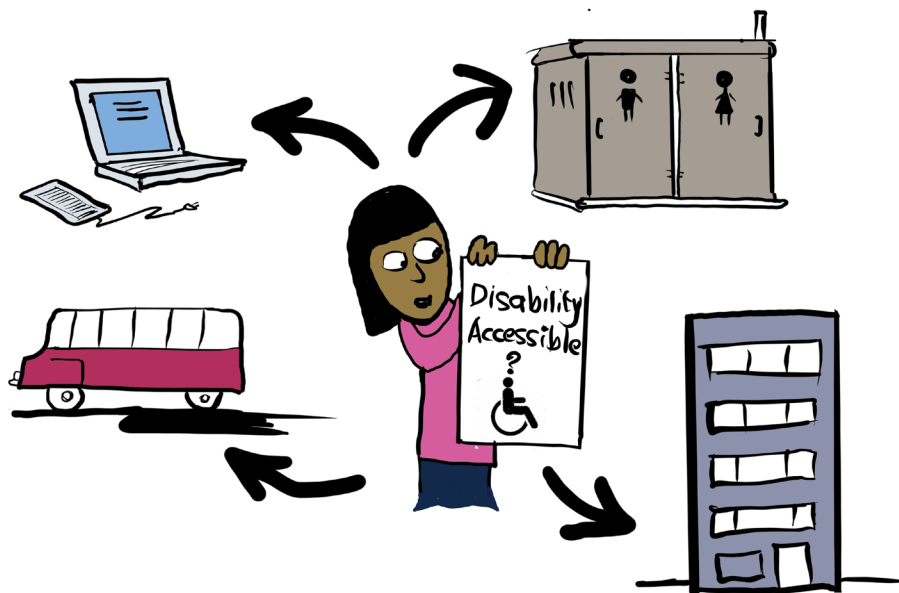
This is what they found:

They found that NFDN had helped the government to do some important things, and gave them useful advice.

Because of this:

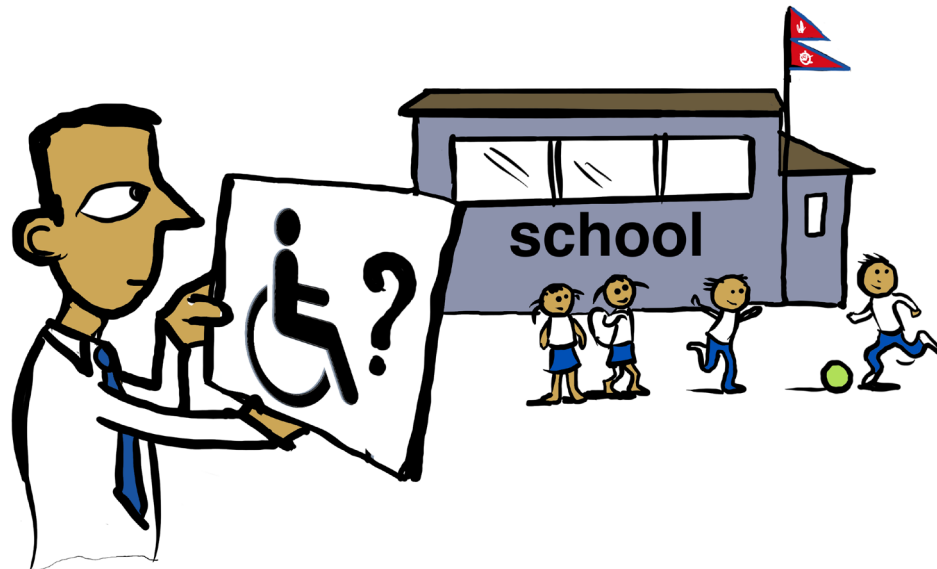
The government now has a Disability policy which explains how people must work with and support people with disability.

It is good to now have a Policy, because now people have to do it.





This made the government think more about how accessible their services and offices were.



Because there is now a new disability policy, the government had to think about whether places like schools were accessible and inclusive.



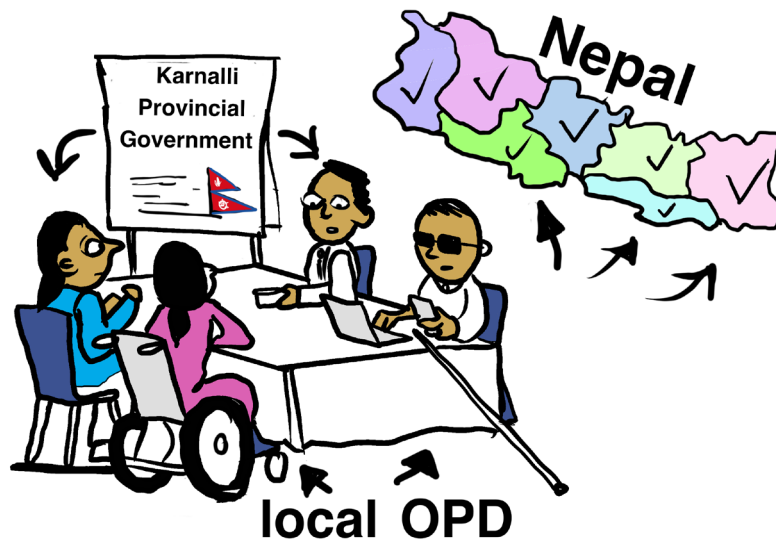
Every 10 years, the government visits every house in Nepal to find out information.

This is called a census.

Now they will also find out how many people with a disability are in each household.

NFDN told the government that this was a good thing to do.

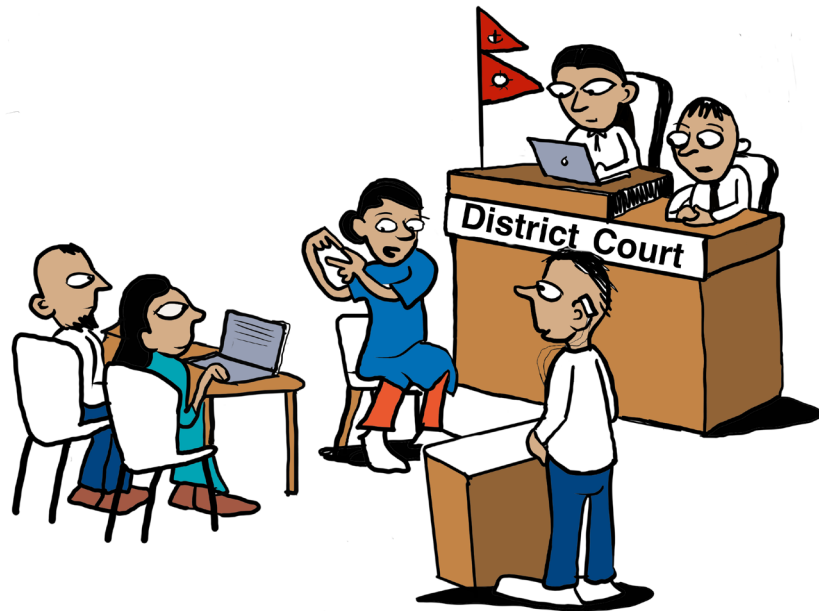
Now the government will know how many people have a disability in Nepal.



In the provinces of Nepal, people who are members of OPDs talked to government people.



Now police and courts know how to help people with disability.

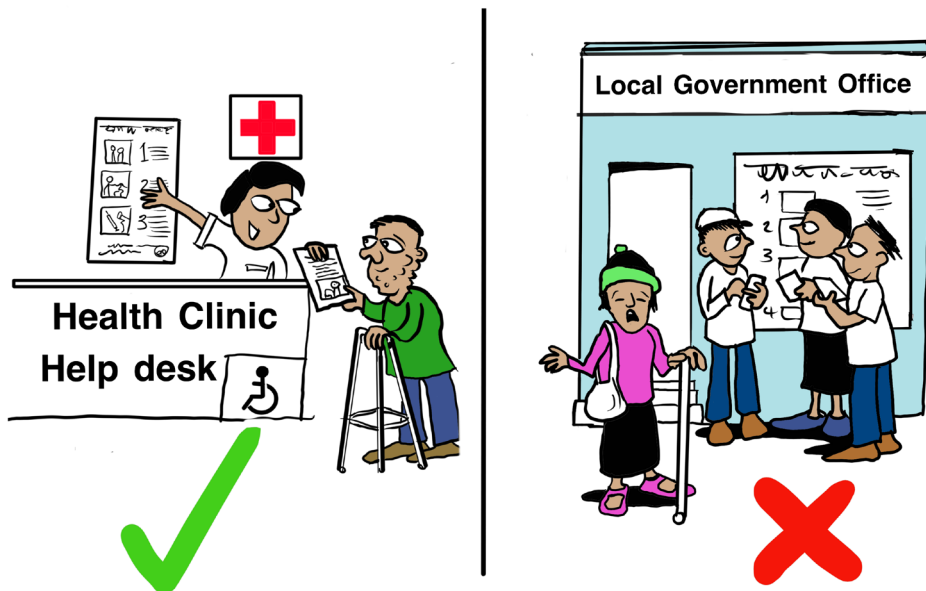


For example, if someone did something that was against the law to a person with disabilities, now police and judges are now trying to be more helpful, and provide things in simple language, or use sign language interpreters.



Now some hospitals, police stations and the offices where government people work have things like ramps, accessible toilets, and simple signs.

This is good for people with disability when they want to visit these offices.



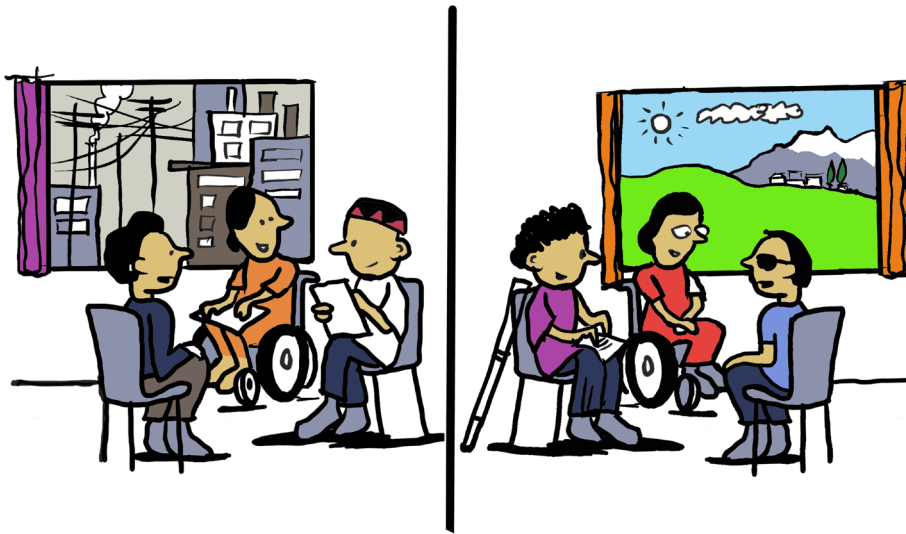
The experts found that things had got better for people with disability, and that governments were doing more to make it easy for them.

This had happened in some places, but not everywhere.

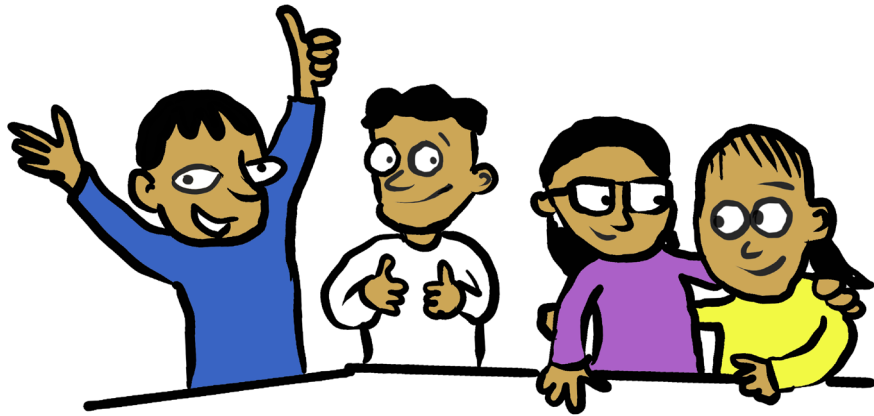
So, there was still more that the government could do.



They really liked that NFDN had tried to get people with all sorts of different disabilities involved in talking to government, and both women and men.



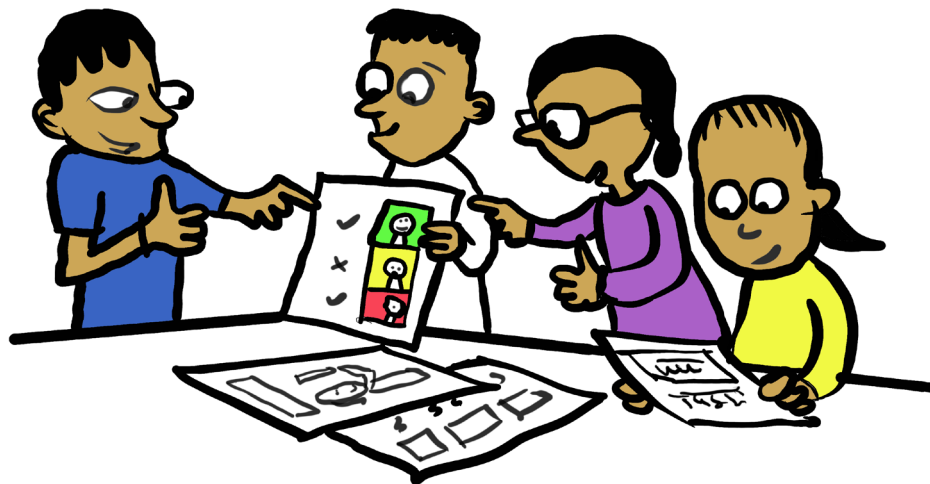
They really liked that both people in Kathmandu and people in the provinces were involved.



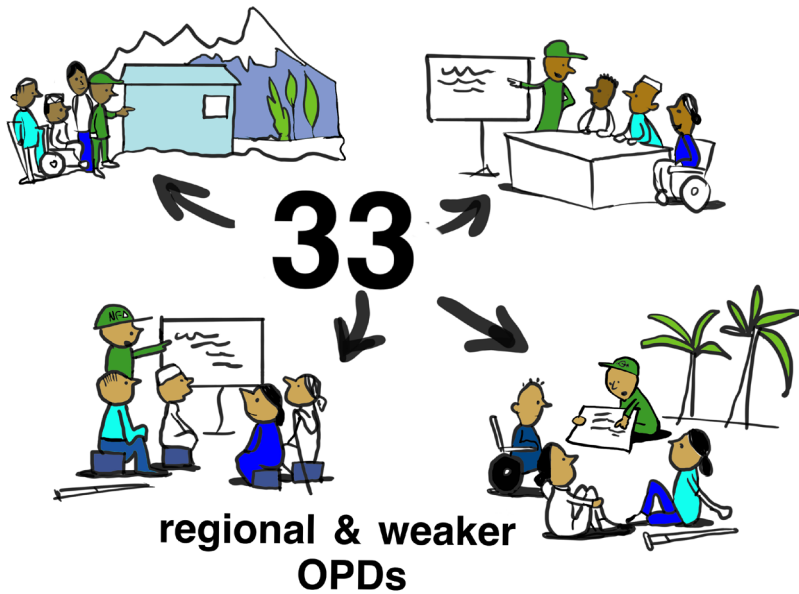
They saw that people with intellectual disabilities had been involved in groups to help them become self-advocates.

They heard from these people, and their parents, that this had made a huge difference to their lives.

They thought that NFDN should do more work like this, to give a lot of specific support to underrepresented groups of people with disability.



They thought that making more easy-read publications was a good thing to do.



NFDN trained 33 smaller OPDs in the provinces.

This helped them get more organised.

Everyone thought this was a great idea.

Now these OPDs can do more things to support people with disability.

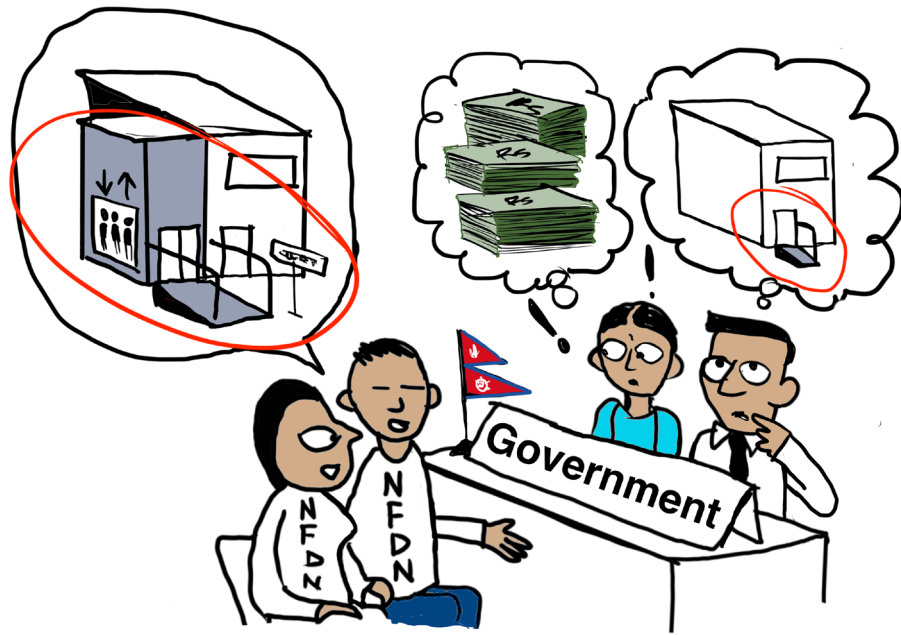
And now people in the OPDs are not so scared to go and talk to the government about supporting people with disability.



The experts found some things that didn't go so well.

The experts thought that sometimes, NFDN was trying to do too many things in too many provinces, and so this made it a bit hard to do everything well.

They had too many things to do!



They thought that when they talked to the government, they had to be clear and realistic about what they wanted the government to do.

If they didn't, the government would not do it.



It is important to be realistic about what you want the government to do.



Everyone was happy that CBM Australia, the Australian government and CBM Switzerland had given money to help do all these things. NFDN and its members had done a lot of great things to change the government. They should celebrate the good work.