Youth Economic Empowerment (YEE-II) Project

Project Overview

The Youth Economic Empowerment Project-II (YEEP-II) is a youth-focused initiative implemented by Janaki Women Awareness Society (JWAS) with financial support from the MetLife Foundation with Technical support from Plan International Nepal. The project aims to empower disadvantaged young women and men by improving their financial capability, employability, entrepreneurial potential, and access to sustainable livelihood opportunities.

YEEP-II recognizes that many young people, particularly young women from marginalized communities, face multiple barriers to economic participation, including limited access to financial services, inadequate technical skills, gender and social discrimination, school dropout, unemployment, and low financial literacy. The project addresses these challenges through an integrated package of financial education, digital financial inclusion, life skills, vocational skills development, career counselling, entrepreneurship promotion, and employment linkage.

The project is being implemented in Sabaila Municipality and Shahidnagar Municipality of Dhanusha District from 1 December 2025 to 31 August 2026 with a total budget of NPR 8,499,553.

Project Goal

To enable young people, especially young women, to achieve sustainable economic independence through wage employment or self-employment by strengthening their financial capability, technical skills, and access to economic opportunities.

Project Objectives

The project seeks to:

- Improve financial literacy and promote responsible financial decision-making among young people.
- Increase access to formal financial services and digital financial platforms.
- Develop market-oriented vocational and entrepreneurial skills that respond to local labour market demands.
- Enhance employability through life skills, career counselling, coaching, and mentoring.
- Promote entrepreneurship by providing business development training and startup support.
- Strengthen family and community support for youth employment, particularly for young women.
- Foster collaboration among local governments, employers, financial institutions, training providers, and communities to create an enabling environment for youth economic empowerment.

Target Beneficiaries

YEEP-II directly targets 120 disadvantaged youth aged 18–24 years, ensuring that at least 70% are young women. Priority is given to youth from:

- Plan International Nepal SC (Sponsored Child) Family
- Low-income households
- Marginalized and socially excluded communities
- School dropouts
- Youth with disabilities

The project also engages more than 70 stakeholders, including employers, parents and caregivers, local government representatives, and training providers to strengthen the support system for participating youth.

Key Components

Financial Literacy and Digital Financial Inclusion

Participants receive practical knowledge on personal financial management, budgeting, saving, responsible borrowing, digital payments, online banking, mobile banking, and digital wallets. The project also facilitates linkages with formal financial institutions to improve financial inclusion.

Life Skills Development

Life skills training enhances communication, leadership, problem-solving, teamwork, decision-making, workplace behaviour, self-confidence, and career readiness, enabling youth to successfully transition into employment or entrepreneurship.

Technical and Vocational Skills Development

Based on labour market demand, selected youth receive competency-based vocational training in market-oriented trades to improve their employment prospects and income-generating capacity.

Entrepreneurship Development

Youth interested in self-employment participate in Sales, Marketing, and Business Development training, followed by startup support to establish or expand small businesses.

Career Counselling, Coaching and Mentoring

The project provides individualized career guidance, coaching, and mentoring to help participants identify suitable career pathways, make informed decisions, and remain motivated throughout their learning and employment journey.

Gender Equality and Family Engagement

Recognizing the critical role of families, YEEP-II conducts gender equality orientation and parent engagement sessions to encourage positive attitudes toward women's economic participation and strengthen family support for youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Employment Linkages

The project collaborates with employers, training providers, local governments, and the private sector to facilitate internships, job placement, and sustainable employment opportunities for trained youth.

Expected Results

By the end of the project, YEEP-II aims to:

- Improve financial literacy and digital financial capability among 120 youth.

- Provide market-oriented vocational skills training to 70 youth, with at least 70% female participation.
- Achieve a minimum 70% employment or self-employment rate among vocational training graduates.
- Increase access to formal financial services and digital financial platforms.
- Strengthen family support and promote gender-responsive attitudes toward youth employment.
- Build stronger partnerships among local governments, employers, financial institutions, and service providers to sustain youth economic empowerment initiatives.

Achievements So Far

- Finalized six market-oriented vocational trades aligned with local labor market demand.
- Selected 70 disadvantaged youth (48 female, 21 male, and 1 other) from Sponsored Child (SC) families for life skills and vocational training, supported by home visits and family engagement.
- Conducted three Life Skills Training events for 72 youth (53 female, 18 male, and 1 other), strengthening communication, leadership, decision-making, and workplace readiness.
- Provided three mentoring, coaching, and career counseling sessions to 80 youth and family members (59 female, 20 male, and 1 other) to support informed career choices and employment preparation.
- Launched five vocational skills training programs, enrolling 54 youth across Fashion Designing (19), Assistant Beautician (14), Heavy Equipment Operator (14), Assistant Accountant (5), and AC & Fridge Mechanic (2).
- Delivered one Sales, Marketing, and Business Development Training to 16 aspiring entrepreneurs (14 female, 1 male, and 1 other), followed by startup support for 16 youth to establish grocery, vegetable, fruit, and cosmetic businesses.
- Conducted two Gender Equality Orientation sessions reaching 58 parents and family members (47 female and 11 male) to strengthen family support for youth employment and entrepreneurship.
- Organized two interaction sessions with 73 Phase-I youth and parents (49 female and 24 male) to review employment status, identify challenges, and strengthen post-project support.
- Orientation on financial literacy and linkage were provided to 120 youth for increase in access to formal financial institution.
- Provided Start up support to 34 project participant (Female-32, Male-1 and Other-1) of Average NPR 54000.

Implementing Organization

Janaki Women Awareness Society (JWAS)