
Project title: Protecting Livelihoods in Crisis (PLIC)

Project Location: Dolpa, Jajarkot, Jumla and Kalikot
Name of Implementing organization: DEPROSC-Nepal

Reporting Period: 1 January 2006 – 31 December 2006

Annual Progress Report

January 2007

Executive Summary

- **Name of Implementing organization:** DEPROSC-Nepal
Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal
- **Name of Project:** Protecting Livelihoods in Crisis (PLIC)
- **Duration of Project:** One year (1 January 2006 – 31 December 2006)
- **Location of the Project:** Dolpa, Jajarkot, Jumla and Kalikot

- The objective of the program was to improve short-term food security of the target beneficiaries and mitigate vulnerability through creation/rehabilitation of basic community assets and skill training.

- Actual outputs: PLIC reached 9337 households (50823 population) through 634.227 MT. of rice. It facilitated to create 119 community/public infrastructures, which include, School building rehabilitation, Health post building rehabilitation, wooden bridges, mule trails, drinking water schemes and irrigation schemes. Besides the community infrastructures, the program also succeeded to conduct food for trainings to beneficiaries. 22 different trainings were organized. The trainings were skill development focused which were related to vegetable cultivation and livestock production and nursery management.

- It was made mandatory that 50 percent of the user committee members including 50 percent of the total beneficiaries are woman. DEPROSC made much effort to achieve this target. However, at the end, only 40% representation of woman in both leadership position and user group has been achieved.

- On an average beneficiaries' food secured days increased by 27 additional days. Moreover, people were mobilized to carry their entitlement by their own. They therefore, got the cash for transportation. With the cash beneficiaries also bought other basic needs except food.

- It can be said that the PLIC directly contributed to manage their livelihoods (though temporarily and with the relief flavour, however, the assets created have been useful to address their other requirements such as education, health and access to places. Assets like irrigation has contributed to increase production and drinking water schemes save time with better quality water at close. Trainings gave them vegetation, cultivation and other skills. All these have contributed to mitigate their vulnerability to some extent.

- **Total expenditure: NRs. 11,885,812.00**

1. Introduction

Mid and far west region of Nepal contains 24 Districts which are lagging behind in both infrastructure and social development. These 24 districts fall in five different administrative zones namely Rapti, Bheri, Karnali, Seti and Mahakali Zone. Among these five zones Karnali is the most backward zone in terms of social, economic and infrastructure development. It is the only zone which is not connected by road network. Similarly, districts like Humla, Jajarkot, Pyuthan, Rolpa and Rukum are the most backward district in Karnali, Bheri and Rapti zone. Different development indicators of these districts are given in Table 1 below.

Karnali zone is the most food insecure zone in the country. Government of Nepal has been supporting the people of this zone with subsidized food supply for more two decades. Non linkage of this zone with the national road network has not only made the food supply to these districts difficult but also due to the unavailability of the irrigation facility, the inherent production from the district is not as per the capacity of the land. Both these things have made the people of the zone more and more food insecure as the population grows.

Similarly, the basic infrastructure facility in the districts is also lacking. People have less access to basic primary health facilities and also children have less access to primary education. The drop-out rate of the students from the primary school also is alarming. District like Jajarkot, which is in Bheri zone, is the most backward in that zone. Though, the district looks better in different indicators, some of the VDCs in the districts can be compared to the condition of the districts in Karnali zone.

The development interventions made by government of Nepal was more concentrated in eastern, central and western development regions. Mid and Far west were given less and late focus by the government. After the restoration of multiparty democracy in 1990 this region started getting little bit more attention. The deep rooted practice of discrimination of the people due to socio cultural differences was also high in these two regions. Moreover, due its long isolation from the development mainstream, the expectations of all kinds of people including the isolated ones who just started to practice their freedom after restoration of democracy was also very high. All these kinds of situations made these two regions very fertile for the conflict to grow.

After the armed conflict started, the situation of the people in these two regions started worsening. Development interventions initiated by the government came to standstill. Areas outside the periphery of the district headquarter was virtually in control of the conflicting party. Government development budget was spent only in and around the district headquarters. People who were already suffering from hunger, illiteracy, poor health had to face more hardship. Successive failures in initiation of the need based schemes in settlements is one of the reasons for obstruction in protecting livelihood in pastoral areas. Whereas, main season rains and prolonged droughts in most areas in hills of western development regions have even severely eroded rural livelihoods. Over the course of several bad seasons and calculated ignorance in creating / rehabilitating need based schemes, livelihoods of many households have decreased to a level below the threshold required to support a household even in a normal season. As a result, there is evidence of an increasing rural exodus to urban areas and other countries in search of other livelihood options.

Table 1: Different types of indicators of districts in the mid west

Districts	Human Development Index (HDI)	HDI rank of districts	Economic Empowerment Index (EEI)	Gender Development Index (GDI) and rank	Social Empowerment Index (SEI)
Humla	0.367	68	0.220	0.919-68	0.061
Jumla	0.348	70	0.164	0.910-70	0.193
Dolpa	0.371	67	0.141	0.920-67	0.139
Rukum	0.386	64	0.161	0.942-63	0.228
Kalikot	0.322	73	0.158	0.851-74	0.218
Jajarkot	0.343	71	0.174	0.955-69	0.247
Pyuthan	0.416	53	0.295	0.958-51	0.373
Rolpa	0.384	65	0.119	0.920-67	0.184
National	0.471		0.337	0.959	0.406

This category (old men, women and the children) of the people were the most vulnerable ones who needed immediate assistance. However, the government had no access to the conflict areas and these people were isolated from the district headquarter. In this complex situation the Quick Impact Program (QIP) came into the scene in 2003 as a pilot program, which was later on restarted with a new name "Protecting Livelihoods in Crises, (PLIC)" from 15 December 2005 after almost 13 months gap from Nov. 2004 to December 2005.

World Food Program, the food arm of the UNITED NATIONS, started PLIC in 19 districts including the districts mentioned above after the evaluation of the impact of the pilot QIP. Two non-government organizations were selected as an implementing partner (IP) to implement the PLIC program in the field as per the modality of the QIP. DEPROSC-Nepal, had the responsibility to implement the program in 10 districts Figure 1.

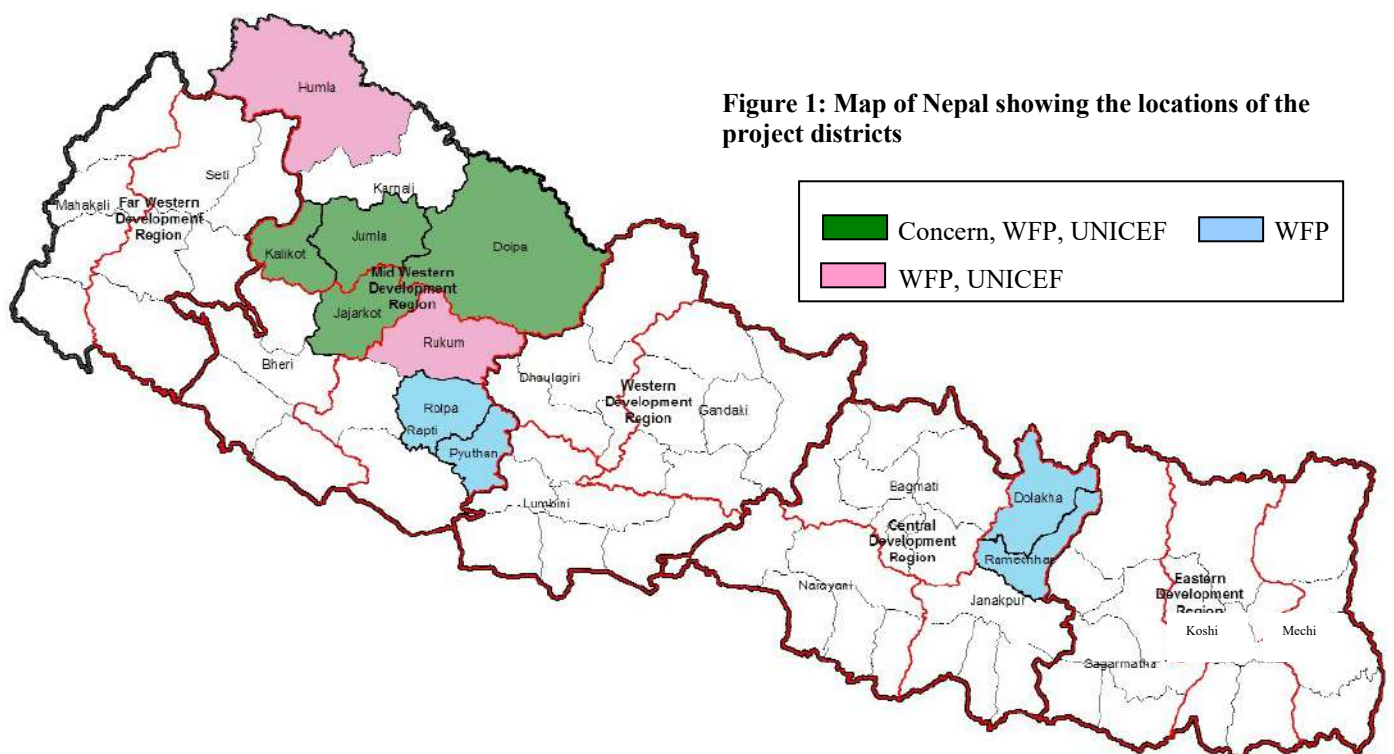


Figure 1: Map of Nepal showing the locations of the project districts

Project objectives

The objective of the project was to protect livelihoods in crisis situations and enhance resilience to shocks of people, who are extremely vulnerable. More particularly it aimed to

- Improve short-term food security of the target beneficiaries.
- Mitigate vulnerability through creation/rehabilitation of basic community assets and skill training.

2. Activities and Outputs during the year

In PLIC, there were three major kinds of activities that were done in the field during the program implementation. First one is targeting, where beneficiaries households who are the most food insecure ones in conflict affected areas are selected based on different criteria (the format is attached in the annex). While targeting, priority was given for women-headed households, dalits, landless and households with less than 3 months of food sufficiency after targeted households are identified, they are formed into groups and the group chooses the type of scheme of their need in the community. Thus the second major activity was undertaking the scheme (Food for work and food for training) selected by the beneficiaries. After the scheme/training is completed and beneficiaries are distributed their entitlements (Rice and its transportation cost), public audit ceremony is organized, which is the third major activity, in which the details of the project are discussed in a mass meeting with the beneficiaries and user committee were then converted into maintenance committee to look after the scheme they had constructed or rehabilitated.

2.1 Approaches

The project adopted some approaches, which were:

2.1.1 Participation

The project adopted a participatory approach assisted by external facilitation. During the implementation, the implementing partner (IP) involved the beneficiaries in such a way that they had ownership of the programme. The beneficiaries themselves identified schemes, handled/transported commodities, kept records, procured materials and negotiated with conflicting parties during implementation.

2.1.2 Priority for poor

With the help of people's participation, they themselves identified such settlements where poor and underprivileged people were concentrated. With the facilitation from the implementing partner they also gave priority to women-headed households, landless, dalits, households with less than 3 months of food sufficiency within such settlements. In this way, IP tried to incorporate as far as possible the concept of targeting in the community.

2.1.3 Food security

The program aimed to address the immediate food insecurity of families in crisis by using the food as an entry point to create productive community assets. Part of resources (though not significant) - 13.5 % - of the total allocated commodity was used to address the long-term food security by providing irrigation facilities and by transferring agricultural technology through extension materials and training.

2.1.4 Gender equity

Participation of women was encouraged while implementing QIP. Their representation in user committees was increased in the later stage and their participation in decision making was improving. Almost 40% managerial posts were occupied by females. In case of female

participation in the food for work schemes, out of total participants 30% were female working participants (labors). In case of FFT 71% of the participants were females to addresses interests and benefits of women, which is in line with the WFP corporate gender policy "Enhanced Commitments to Women".

2.1.5 Social mobilization

Since the IP was a facilitating agency, the role of community/beneficiary is vital in actual implementation. The project facilitated the beneficiaries to be involved in decision making and planning such as: to list the potential schemes/activities in their catchments areas, to form user committees, to make plans and calendars etc.

2.1.6 Coordination with transparency

The project organized district level information meetings in all districts in the presence of district level line agencies including District Development Committee, District Administration Office, District Education Office, District Health Office etc. During the event, the budget, activities and approaches for implementation were shared and feedback was obtained. IP shared its progress and constraints, among the directly relevant agencies on a periodic basis. A VDC orientation was held in each programme VDC separately.

2.1.7 Neutrality

The programme had a pro-poor approach and placed a target priority on vulnerable groups including women and dalits. No discrimination in terms of faith, politics and gender was made except positive discrimination for involving woman to work and managerial position. The programme was launched based on the earlier experience that development initiatives can take place even in a conflict environment if it is implemented with do-no-harm and neutrality principles.

h. Utilization of local human resources and capacity

The project worked very closely with the local communities. All the local facilitators and social mobilizers of PLIC were recruited out of the citizens living in project VDCs. Once the schemes were approved, IP and CBOs agreed in the terms and conditions; together they entered into formal agreements.

2.1.8 Encouragement of beneficiaries to carry their rice by themselves.

The project encouraged the beneficiaries to carry their rice by themselves. As the rice transportation cost lot of money, our focus was that the beneficiaries themselves directly got the cash for transportation. With this cash they could buy other household needs except rice.

2.2 Activities and outputs achieved

Activity 1: Identification of severely food insecure communities within the project zone through wealth ranking and household food security surveys

After District Information Meetings, and VDC level orientations were organized, the time was used for identifying severely food insecure settlement in a participatory way and with consensus of all present. Earlier, DEPROSC had finalized a format for settlement ranking exercise, which was shared with donors too. Usually, VDC level information meetings had two sessions, i) Sharing of program information and ii) Settlement ranking exercises. Immediately after sharing of program information, the forum was utilized for settlement ranking exercises. The participants discussed by using their common knowledge to decide where PLIC should work. In the course, participants thoroughly discussed on the status of their own settlements as compared to the neighboring ones and rank them according to the given guidelines. A sample of this exercise done in Ramnakot of

Kalikot has been attached as Annex 1. At the end of each VDC orientation, district staff had a list of prioritized settlements.

DEPROSC generally began with the settlement no. 1. If in case, there were food secure families in that settlement, they were avoided. We had to follow a process even for that – social mapping exercises were done using some criteria – attached herewith as Annex 2.1 and 2.2. In this way, the targeting was very systematic and organized.

Activity 2-5:

- Work with CBO's to identify infrastructure projects that can build productive assets
- Capacity building of local CBO's to manage and supervise process
- Construction/rehabilitation/repair of infrastructure with use of local community labour on food for work basis
- Training of local communities in management and maintenance of facilities

DEPROSC had prepared a Social Mobilization Process to accomplish these processes effectively. The process has been attached herewith as Annex 3 Effectiveness of these processes should be seen in terms of the outputs, which are described below.

Outputs

Proposed Output 1: Target communities in 31 VDC's in control of enhanced community assets and better able to deal with issues relating to long term food security (Food for work or construction schemes)

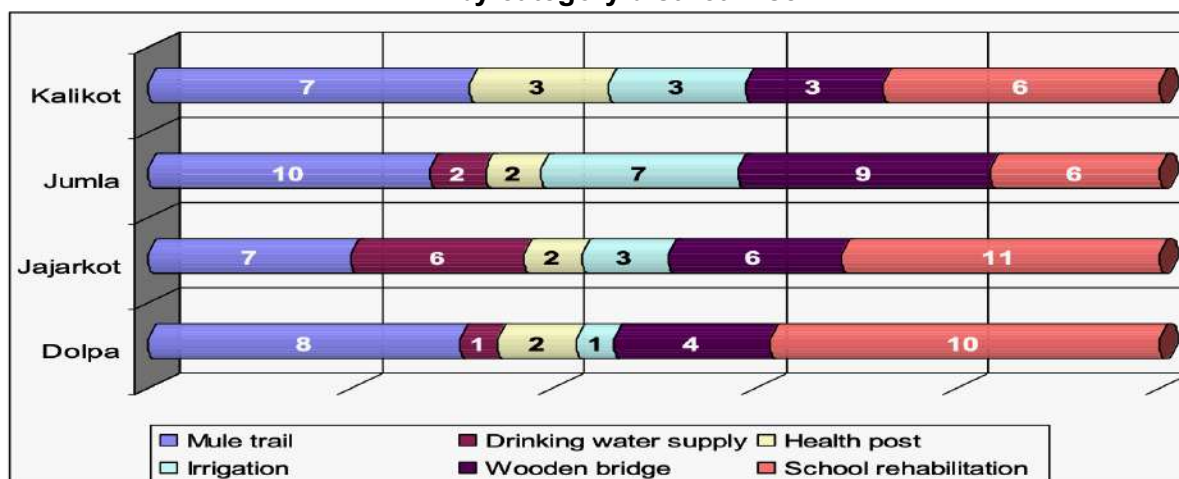
Proposed Output 2: Enhanced community capacity through training of local CBO's and other user groups (Food for Training)

Table 2: Types of schemes constructed in the district

Scheme type	District					Annual Target
	Dolpa	Jajarkot	Jumla	Kalikot	Grand Total	
Mule trail	8	7	10	7	32	25
Drinking water	1	6	2	0	9	6
Health post	2	2	2	3	9	34
School rehabilitation	10	11	6	6	33	19
Irrigation	1	3	7	3	14	20
Wooden bridge	4	6	9	3	22	12
Food for training	0	12	0	10	22	51
Grand Total	26	47	36	32	141	148

PLIC implemented to support the livelihood of these pastoral areas through need based schemes constructed 119 schemes during 2006 in four districts, mobilizing 119 user groups / user committees. Among the rehabilitated / constructed schemes, communities preferred to rehabilitate school building the most. This shows that communities are aware about need of education in social life for the sustainable protection of livelihood. Besides, other essential schemes on the preferred level have also indeed proven necessity for the protection of livelihoods in sustainable way.

FFW by category district wise



PLIC has given attention towards empowering communities especially female headed households, dalit households and pro-poor people to protect these vulnerable people from livelihood crisis. This helped communities to make choices in their needs for development activities through prioritizing those requisite schemes which can be maintained easily without external resources. Selected schemes namely, mule trail and wooden bridge which required negligible amount of external resources are rehabilitated / created higher than even annual target among total schemes initiated in 2006.

On some circumstances, due to different factors including climatic, time and other relevant factors, timely initiated schemes takes span for completion. This was reflected in Jumla where out of the 36 schemes 4 schemes are at the final stage of completion and will complete by the end of January

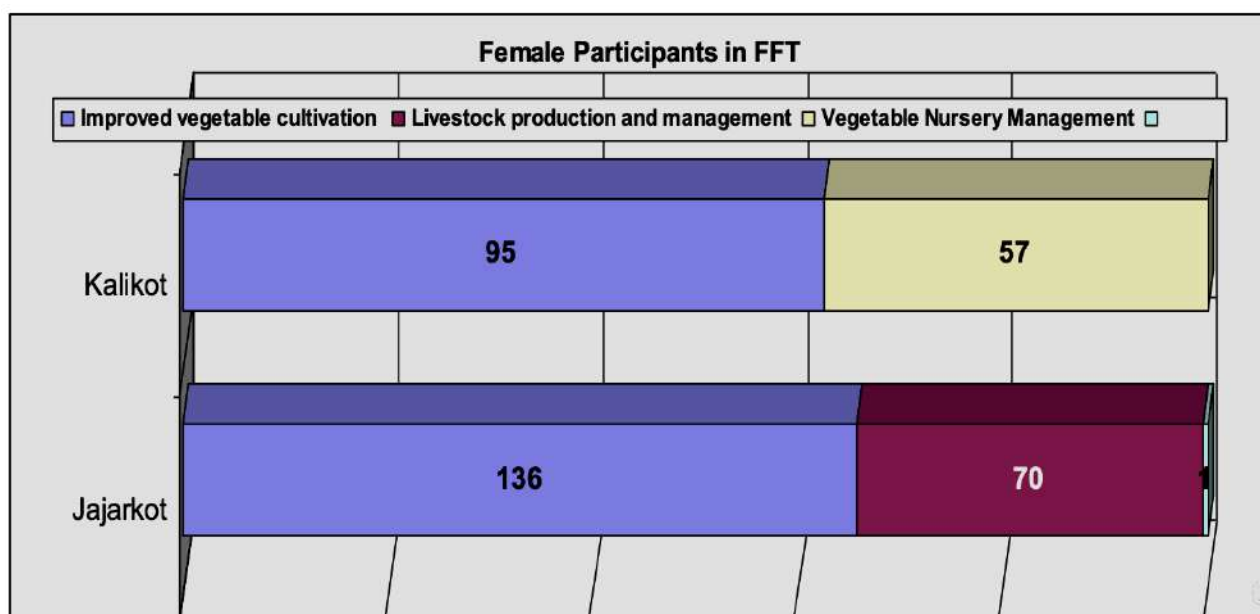
On the other hand, FFT have supported the targeted people through different output oriented need based trainings in two districts only (Jajarkot and Kalikot), where female participation is at sound condition. These trainings oriented the beneficiaries about the need of vegetable growing and livestock production to increase the options in livelihood. PLIC supported trainings are as follows whereas details of the types and number of FFT is in table. 3

- Improved vegetable cultivation
- Livestock production and management
- Vegetable nursery management

Table 3: Beneficiaries receiving from the Food for training

Scheme type	Scheme Name	Number of training		Total	Beneficiaries				
		Jajarkot	Kalikot		Jajarkot		Kalikot		Total
					M	F	M	F	
FFT	Improved vegetable cultivation farmers training	8	6	14	64	136	27	95	322
	Livestock production and management training	4	0	4	30	70	0	0	100
	Vegetable Nursery Management Training	0	4	4	0	0	23	57	80
FFT Total		12	10	22	94	206	50	152	502

These beneficiaries received FFT in late 2006 due to which finding the outcome from



training will certainly takes some span of time, however the beneficiaries have already started to use their skill on field-level

Table 4: Commodity distribution status according to schemes

Scheme type	District				Grand Total	Percent of rice
	Dolpa	Jajarkot	Jumla	Kalikot		
Mule trail	53960	59344.6	47547	63888	224739.6	33.62
Drinking water	1360	23090	4400	0	28850	4.32
Health post	13820	11818	10388	15072	51098	7.64
Irrigation	4088	18652	44256	20074	87070	13.02
Wooden bridge	21660	17544	31029	10202	80435	12.03
School rehabilitation	66484	64258	25803	34108	190653	28.52
Food for training	0	3600	0	2092	5692	0.85
Grand Total	161372	198306.6	163423	145436	668537.6	100
Original allocation	150	200	150	150	650	

Rice distribution according to schemes in four districts in FFW and FFT.

Significantly beneficiaries were supported with rice to protect their livelihood where 99 % of rice was distributed in FFW schemes among which, beneficiaries from Mule trail and school building rehabilitation scheme received the most. Besides beneficiaries of Irrigation, Wooden bridge, Health Post, Drinking water supply and FFT received accordingly to the need by schemes which average more than 20 days.

Table 5: Number of beneficiaries from the constructed schemes (includes the family members of the people who received rice support)

Scheme type	Beneficiaries	Dolpa	Jajarkot	Jumla	Kalikot	Grand Total
Mule trail	Female beneficiaries	1012	1511	761	4267	7551
	Male beneficiaries	1167	1581	1073	5331	9152
Drinking water	Female beneficiaries	48	635	0		683
	Male beneficiaries	36	671	0		707
Health post	Female beneficiaries	279	350	420	1393	2442
	Male beneficiaries	268	365	578	1593	2804
Irrigation	Female beneficiaries	206	441	1658	803	3108
	Male beneficiaries	167	460	1654	803	3084
Wooden bridge	Female beneficiaries	581	994	1122	358	3055
	Male beneficiaries	633	1032	1416	360	3441
School rehabilitation	Female beneficiaries	1587	1974	579	2919	7059
	Male beneficiaries	1448	2063	656	3570	7737
Total Female beneficiaries		3713	5905	4540	9740	23898
Total Male beneficiaries		3719	6172	5377	11657	26925
Total Beneficiaries		7432	12077	9917	21397	50823
Rice distributed (KG)		161372	198306.6	163423	145436	668537.6*
Rice entitlement per person (KG)		22	16	16	7	13
Number of additional days of food security (average)		45	33	33	14	27

(Food security days calculated on the basis that a household with a family size of 5.5 members, requires 80 kg of cereal for a month)

*This report is being prepared in January 2007 so the figure includes the progress upto mid January 2007. Otherwise, progress until end of December 2006 was 634.227 MT.

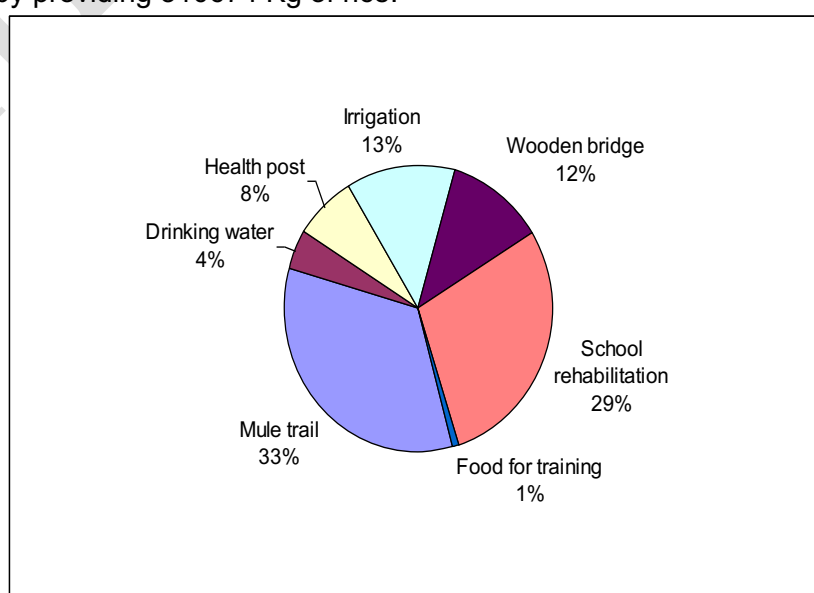
In total, 50,823 people benefited from the programme and 668.537 MT of rice was distributed to these beneficiaries in which programme was able to support the livelihood of 23898 female beneficiaries by providing 310674 Kg of rice.

On an average, the food support provided by the program helped in food security of the beneficiaries for additional 27 days.

Participation of woman in work and in managerial position

In PLIC, while implementing various types of schemes, adequate care was given to ensure participation of woman both in work and

in managerial position. It can be seen that 30% woman participated in FFW schemes. The



participation of woman in FFT was encouraging. It was more than double the participants in FFW, Table 6.

Table 6: Number of workers participating by gender and type

Scheme type	Participants		Grand total
	Male	Female	
Mule trail	2318	901	3219
Drinking water	294	187	481
Health post	504	280	784
Irrigation	641	360	1001
Wooden bridge	684	181	865
School rehabilitation	1756	729	2485
Total FFW	6197	2638	8835
Percentage FFW	70	30	
Food for training (FFT)	144	358	502
Percentage FFT	29	71	
Total	6341	2996	9337
Total households planned in logframe (for 2006-2007)			9556
Total percentage	68	32	

Details of the beneficiaries, commodity and scheme status and outputs has been attached as Annex 4.

Female Participation in FFW and FFT

Similarly the 39 % females occupied the managerial position in the user groups. In the original plan of the project it was anticipated that 50 percent post in the user groups will be

Scheme type	Leadership		Grand total
	Male	Female	
Mule trail	65	46	111
Drinking water	25	7	32
Health post	19	16	35
Irrigation	32	24	56
Wooden bridge	52	35	87
School rehabilitation	80	43	123
Total	273	171	444
Percentage	61	39	

Table 7: Number of females in managerial posts

fulfilled by females. However, in reality it was lower than planned but, for the initial phase of Present level of woman participation is encouraging if not perfect. In case of the user committee representation 40 % of user committee members were females and 17 % were dalits.

Table 8: Representation of females and dalits in User committees

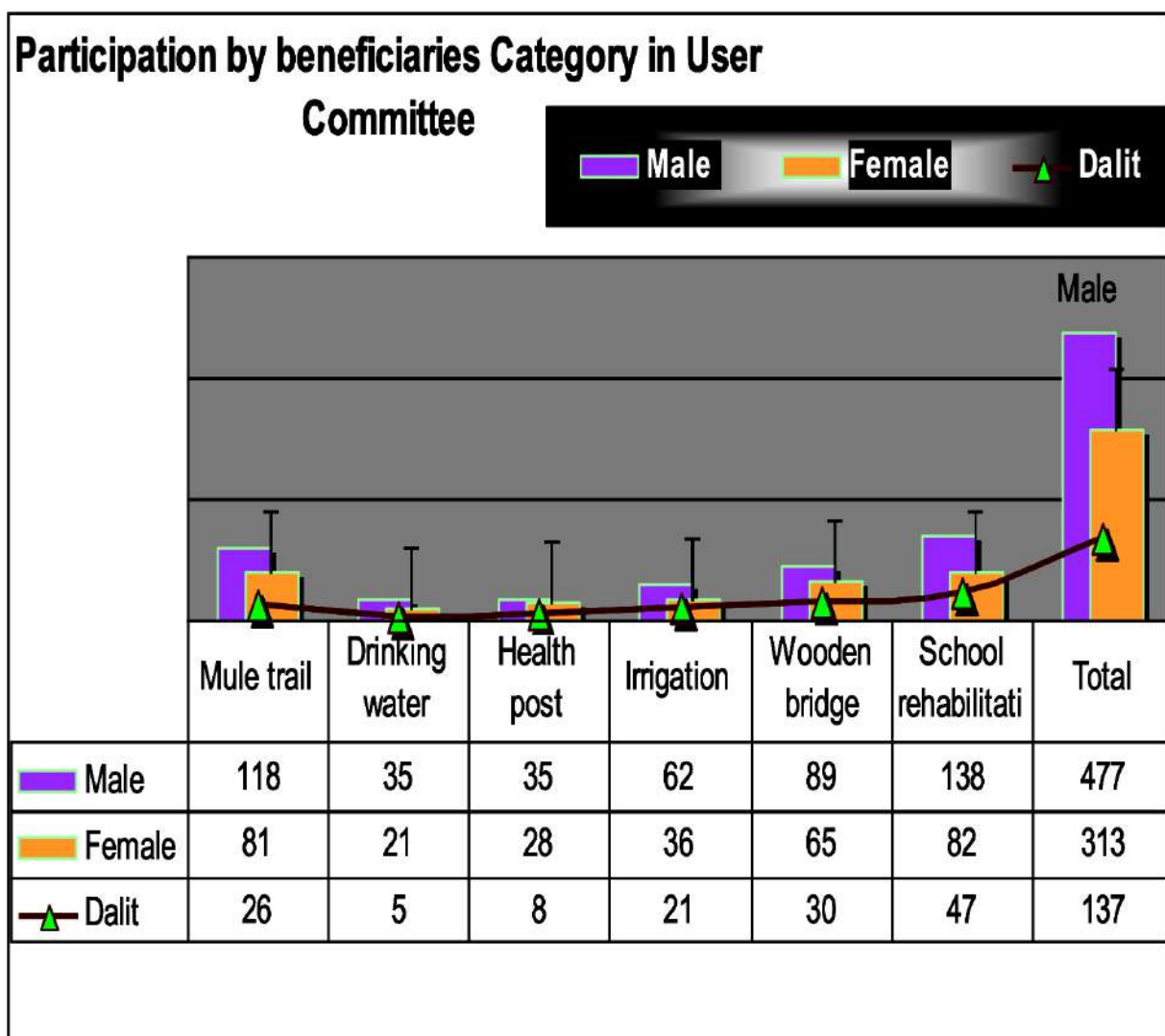
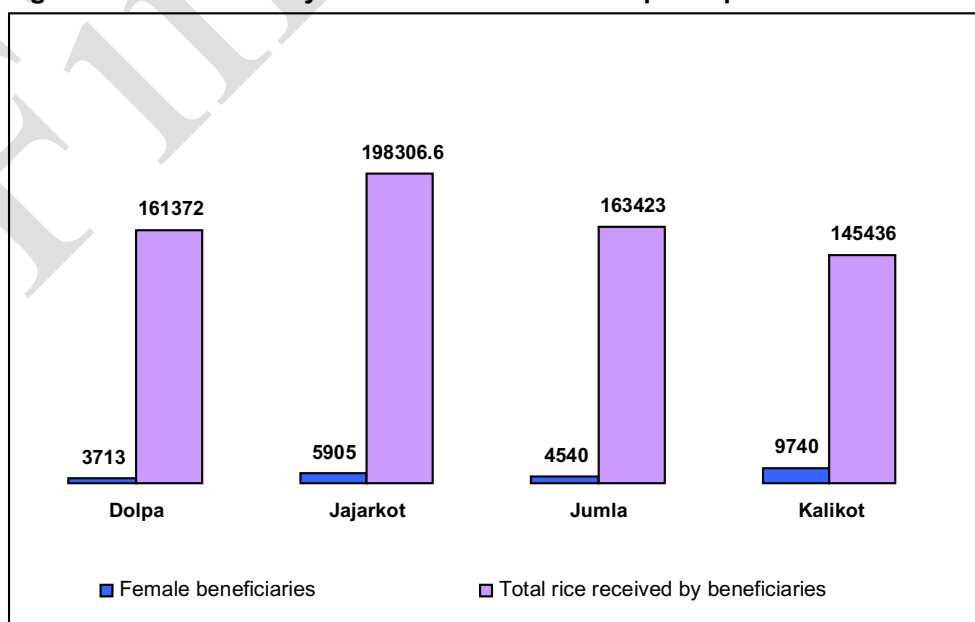


Chart showing total rice received by beneficiaries and female participation for the share of rice



3. Impact of project on target group, constraints and lesson learnt



Photo 1: People of Dhoulagohe VDC on the way to Tikapur (without sandals) in search for short term employment

PLIC program was successful in providing food support to the beneficiaries when they were in need. Besides this, it also helped to create short term employment to the people living in that area by engaging them in food for work schemes. One example can be interesting to mention here. In Kalikot, people were on their way to terai looking for work in February-March 2006. They were migrating with their whole family either to Kailali district for work or to India for cheap labour. But on their way to

Rakam, a place in Dailekh, they heard the news that PLIC is going to be implemented in their area very soon, which will engage them for short term employment as well as food, they immediately returned back to their home. The project was therefore, successful to improve short term food security of the beneficiaries. On an average beneficiaries' food secured days increased by 27 additional days.

Besides providing short term employment and helping to reduce whole family migration, PLIC also created wonderful community assets that had directly contributed to improve their livelihoods, which in turn mitigated their vulnerability temporarily. One such example is the wooden bridge constructed in Kalikot district which has helped to increase the farmers accessibility to their farmland and to the district headquarters.

Similarly the access of girls in primary education has also increased in the program implemented districts. In PLIC as mentioned earlier, NFI required for school and health post rehabilitation was supported by UNICEF in program overlapping VDCs. With support from UNICEF, non-formal education classes were also organized. Students graduating from the non-formal classes were mainstreamed to the primary schools. One such example is mentioned in box in case study section.

To address both the short term and long term food security needs, irrigation schemes were the most appropriate and highly demanded by the community. Wherever, the program resources can meet the demand of the community for irrigation, priority was given to construct or rehabilitate the irrigation facility. The collaboration from other organizations, donors was also explored in this regard. For example in case of Jiyu irrigation in Dolpa UNDP supported pipes for irrigation. Similarly, in Jajarkot, Community Support Project of DFID has committed to support the transportation cost of NFI from the market place up to the construction site. Though amount in both of these two collaboration schemes are not very large, it has been learnt that, collaboration with other organizations is very feasible in projects like PLIC.

The approach to mobilize beneficiaries to collect their share of rice helped the people very much. A provision was made that when beneficiaries go to EDP to collect rice they were given a part of ITSH money as an advance. With this money, they could buy clothes, and other items of their basic needs. This approach worked very well in Kalikot district where almost all the rice was transported by beneficiaries themselves. In other districts, transportation was done both by the beneficiaries as well as by the mules.

Constraints

According to the implementation guidelines, the schemes had to be identified according to the priority of the community. However, while preparing the proposal, the tentative number of schemes and budget for construction of one scheme was almost fixed. Though flexibility was there to reallocate the budget from one head to another with prior approval of regional or head office, some of the schemes that were prioritized by the community were within the total budget limit of the project but these schemes demanded little high ODOC cost compared to individual scheme allocation. Such schemes could not be constructed. One such example is irrigation facility in Dolpa district. As per our planning, the per scheme cost of irrigation proposed is NRs 164,000.00 but the design estimate of the scheme showed that it needed almost one million rupees to construct.

The concept of targeting the food deficit household in PLIC was very good. The method applied by IP was also acceptable method to be used in the field situation. Despite all these, it was not quite easy to implement the household level targeting in reality. VAM methodology already selected the most vulnerable VDCs in the district. Within that VDC, most vulnerable and needy settlement was selected by ranking among the settlements during the village information meeting and mass meetings organized afterwards. Now the problem was encountered we tried to select the most vulnerable households within the most vulnerable settlements. In most vulnerable settlements almost all households were more or less of the same category. There was little difference between houses which have 3 months food security and 6 or nine months of food security. Therefore, the coherence and setting of the village didn't allow the implementation of the household level targeting in all cases.

This year due to the frequent strikes, nation wide movements and uncertain political environment greatly affected timely project implementation and timely food distribution to the community. It was not possible in most of the cases except in case of Kalikot to catch up the lean period in the community. Due to frequent band and rainy season caused swelling of rivers both delayed timely transportation of rice even up to EDP. People were reluctant to come to EDP to collect their entitlement in rainy season. Therefore, it is seen that most of the rice is distributed after October 2006.

EmOP was initiated in Jajarkot and Kalikot districts. In these districts, both EmOP and PLIC working VDCs were overlapping in most of the cases. Therefore, while EmOP was running, priority was given to complete EmOP. Once EmOP completed at the end September, PLIC caught speed. Therefore, in case of these two districts, a big chunk of food was distributed only after the completion of EmOP.

Lessons learnt

PLIC needed participants to work in FFW schemes. In the villages, when people are engaged in construction and rehabilitation works, there are always risks of injuries. Therefore, a provision to minimize this risk as well as the possibility to avoid such risks should be explored. One easy way could be to provide each user group with a first aid kit box.

Rice transportation during the rainy season is difficult and costly too. Therefore, rice should be call forwarded to the EDPs and transported to the final delivery points or some other strategic locations, before the rainy season. These kinds of mechanism have to be adopted to keep the chain of rice distribution throughout the year.

It has been seen in the community that people are in the need more sustainable types of schemes which help them for longer term food security. They therefore, place much higher priority to construct irrigation schemes. Though provision of micro irrigation schemes upto 200,000 - 300,000 has been possible in the current PLIC program, now the focus should be shifted to construct medium sized irrigation schemes upto 1,000,000.00. Due to remoteness of the districts, the cost of NFI is already high. In this situation, it is very logical to shift the focus to medium sized schemes too.

For the successful operation of two overlapping programs of the same nature but different modalities (for example PLIC and EmOP) adequate care should be taken so that both the programs are implemented in geographically different areas. It will help better utilization of the existing resources and also more beneficiaries can be served at the same time. Similarly, it will be easy to see the impact of the project.

Migration for earning money is the regular phenomenon in these districts. Mostly males migrate to India to earn money (business purpose) to fulfill their family's basic needs (food, cloth etc). Projects like PLIC only cater only one need (rice) of these people that also for a very short time (one to one and half a month). The other basic needs like clothes, children's education, and other food items except rice are to be bought by the people. Therefore, it is very obvious that people will migrate even after PLIC intervention. Thus to stop people from migration for the cheap labour, number of work days in an individual scheme should be made longer. That means the size of the scheme should be a bit bigger than originally planned.

4. Capacity building of implementing organization

DEPROSC-Nepal organized local staff orientation workshop in all the districts. This workshop was organized during the initial period of program implementation to orient the local staffs on the PLIC implementation guidelines and working modalities of the project.

Similarly DEPROSC-Nepal also organized "Social Mobilization, Proposal, Report and Case-study writing training" for key staffs from the district at Nepalgunj. This 5 days long training organized from 8-12 Oct 2006 gave adequate exposure and skills to the staffs on report and proposal writing. Key district staffs from all PLIC districts participated the training.

Besides this, Concern Worldwide Nepal also organized two trainings for the IP staffs. Monitoring and evaluation training was organized from 15-17 October 2006 for the staffs to enhance their capacity on monitoring and evaluation of the ongoing projects. Altogether 6 staff from DEPROSC-Nepal participated in the training. Another training "HIV/AIDS/STI and mainstream" was organized from 11-13 October to the staffs so that they become more vigilant on these issues while implementing PLIC in their respective districts. Altogether 5 staff members participated in that training

Annex 25.

5. Partnership with concern during this year

Partnership with concern was very useful this year both from the program implementation aspect as well as staff capacity building aspect. Fund was released on time which helped in timely implementation of the activities in the districts.

6. Conclusion

The project was successful in meeting both its objectives. Distribution of the food directly and ITSH for portage helped to improve the short term the food security situation of the most vulnerable section of the community in the settlement. Targeting helped to reach the target beneficiaries more easily.

Similarly, the created assets were cherished by the community. The created assets were of such kind that community immediately started using them as soon as the constructions of the schemes were over. FFT on the other hand, gave them some skills to modernize their age old cultivation practices to produce more from less land and less effort. Using the skills of vegetable cultivation some of the beneficiaries have already started making options in livelihoods earning money to support their livelihood.

PLIC efforts for empowering beneficiaries especially female were seen in both; User groups and user committees of FFW and FFT.

Female represented in managerial as well as member post of user committee, which was around 40 percent. Female included user committees handled the resources; procure the rice and ITSH, completed the initiated schemes within time frame. Social harmony was notified where PLIC schemes became need oriented and was completed without creating any conflicts.

Though much effort was made to engage female members of the community to both FFW and FFT and in user group managerial posts, the achievement were not as per the expectations. There is still under representation of women in both user group and user committee leadership positions. Though, the percentage of woman now is around 40 percent, there is enough opportunity to increase their participation in future.

7. CASE STUDIES

Box 1: Enhanced Accessibility and saved time

Badalkot is a village in Badalkot VDC in Kalikot district which is inhabited by 59 HHs. People of Badalkot village were having problem crossing Badalkot stream near by village basically during rainy season.

People had to cross this stream to reach their own farm that lied across this river. They also had to cross this river to reach district headquarter. The villagers were facing problem since last 5 years when existing bridge collapsed. In the last rainy season two people were almost drowned by the stream while crossing the river. The route via the bridge is the shortest route for the villagers to come to the district headquarter,



Photo 1: A Glance of Badalkot Wooden Bridge

and in absence of the bridge people have to take three hours longer route to reach their farm across river and district headquarter. People had to face a lot of hardship when they had to carry patients upto the district headquarter during the emergencies.

People of the village tried many more times in District Development Committee (DDC) in Kalikot for the installation of broken bridge but the DDC did not pay any heed to their voice as they said.

People of Badalkot raised this issue during VDC level information Meeting under PLIC. Then procedure of scheme selection and feasibility study started. The wooden bridge scheme of Badalkot stream scored highest ranking and was also found feasible. For the scheme Rs. 37,252/- for NFI and 3,282 Kg rice allocated for the construction of bridge.

The scheme was completed in 20 days and 41 HHs involved in the FFW. People of the village are very happy with the construction and villages are benefited and significant time

is saved everyday. Due to high demand, the scheme implementation was rather easier. The construction of this bridge has eased daily life of more than 229 people. Now people are happy and secured not only because access to their farmland has increased, but also that in emergencies they have easy access to the district hospital.

Final draft

Box 2: Irrigation as a supportive hand in livelihood

Shoon VDC of Dolpa district is characterized by rugged topography with limited cultivable land and also known as a symbol of rocky area. Three settlements lie in this VDC named Jiun, Shun and Ranga. Among the settlements, Jiun is poorest and lies in hilly area. Due



Photo 2: Jiyu Irrigation scheme, Dolpa

to lack of irrigation facility, production is very low in this settlement thus; this is also known as drought prone area. Most of the community people began to shift three years ago in search of work to earn money for food.

In that situation, PLIC programme started in the VDC. The programme has been helpful for community of Shoon to improve the both short and long term food security. After VDC information meeting, based on community demand it was decided to construct the micro irrigation project. All 65 HHs of community were involved in this scheme because frequent starvation

was their main problem. They could hardly fulfill their food demand of three months from their own production and rest of time they had to find some other means for survival.

After they decided to construct irrigation scheme in their settlement they became little bit more optimistic. The resources only from the PLIC was not sufficient to construct this irrigation facility. There were many places along the canal which required using big pipes. Another project named NRM-LIP funded by UNDP was also implemented in this VDC by DEPROSC-Nepal. Therefore possibility of collaboration was explored. UNDP funded project funded the pipes required in this scheme and PLIC provided the unskilled labour with food support. Now they have completed the micro-irrigation project and altogether 363 peoples (167 male and 206 female) are benefited from this irrigation scheme. One of the local dweller and beneficiary of the project, Kharpe B.K a blacksmith by profession, says, "In coming cropping season I will also cultivate food grain like wheat and paddy, with a confidence he further adds " I don't need to beg for grains from door to door in the next settlement to collect grain from next season onwards".

Also they are being motivated towards kitchen gardening and some of farmers have already started to grow fresh vegetable and selling that for commercial production. If they get improved variety of seasonal vegetable seeds then there seems potential to improve the crop diversification. This year they don't need to depress them because newly constructed micro-irrigation could not help them to product huge amount of crop but could able to produce at least subsistence quantity. This micro irrigation scheme will start showing impact on forthcoming years.

Box 3: Impact of Irrigation on Livelihood

Jaya Bir Thapa , 53years old lives at Malikathata VDC, ward number1, Puru village in Jumla district. Initially, his livelihood was only focus on collecting grass for his cattle for year round and seasonal migration to India to earn subsistence amount for his survival. Although he has 5 ropani barren and un-irrigated land, even after having this much of land, in fact he could never harvest crop enough for his subsistence. The produce never solve their hand to mouth problem. He has recently changed three ropani of barren & un-irrigated land into productive agricultural land after completion of Puru irrigation scheme by PLIC. He is now very enthusiastic to carry out additional agricultural activities in his irrigated land. Now, he has already started to growing marketable and highly demanding crops like wheat, onion, ginger. He remarks that 'after Puru irrigation, I started producing diverse crops. I hope that I will earn Rs. 10,000/- rupees in each season and the amount will ease to maintain my regular household expenses. Now I do not need to go to India to earn for my subsistence living'. He further commented that it is really hard to the villagers of adjoining village to cultivate even indigenous food grain on their agricultural land without having irrigation facilities but we are lucky that at least we get rid of this problem. Similarly, a 19 years old girl also remarks that she has grown onion on her land with the water from the irrigation cannel and sold it at district headquarter thus got Rs 725 on return. She further said PLIC supported to fulfil short term food security. I received 140 Kg of rice during construction of irrigation scheme. Similarly in coming days it will not only change the food security condition but also it will increase the economic condition.



Box 4: A dalit girl's first step in school

Shamjhana BK of 14 years, living at Tripurakot VDC - 4 of Dolpa district, was recently enrolled into grade-5 of Tripurakot lower secondary school after graduating from Child Centered Out of School Program (CC-OSP) is very happy to get chances to study. She is the oldest child in her family and being a girl had to do more household works. "I used to cook meal, going for shepherd, collecting firewood from the nearby forest". She says "I didn't know why other mates go to school? What benefit could we get after reading? But my younger brothers used to go to school". During that period, Man Bahadur Sharki, village facilitator from next settlement came to our village and gathered data of out of school children including our guardians. He convinced the villager including my parents about the importance of education and facilitated to start CC-OSP center for children like me who were deprived to join the school. The meeting identified all the out of school children of age between 10-14 years. Our brother 'Guruman', CC-OSP facilitator returned back to village after taking training in Dunai and started the class. I was also glad to get copy, pencil there. I came regular into class and practiced at home too. When I enrolled



Photo 3: Samjhana BK, who started going to school after graduating from CC-OSP class

into the class, I felt very amusing to study. I learned a lot during the period. After taking test in the formal school, I got enrolled directly to grade-5. Nevertheless, my parents did not agree to send me into school and discouraged for going to school. They said, "You don't need to study at such growing age, if you go to school who take up your work at home?" I regularly insisted them to complete all my household work before I go to school. Our Guruman Dai also convinced to my parents regarding pro and cons of being educated. Some of my neighbors also discouraged me for not going to school. When I continued to my class, my friends used teased me to as I was quite taller and elder than them. In the beginning, I felt difficulty in English and mathematics but now with continued effort and assistance from my friends' problems doesn't exit. I have aim to pass SLC and serve the illiterate women of my village."

Box 5: Face lift of school regularizes students in Rimi VDC



Gyanodaya P.S. during construction



Gyanodaya P.S, before construction

Loharbada lies in Rimi VDC of Dolpa district recognized as a Dalit tole. Majority of households are Dalits and some are Bhote. Their major occupation is livestock herding, collecting medicinal herbs seasonally and agriculture in some extent.

The local people were facing difficulty due low agricultural productivity, low income source resulting in starvation for few years. Wage and borrowed loan is their one of the basis of survival and ultimate coping strategy is seasonal migration. Similarly they were denied from the access of most of the basic services. The only primary school in their settlement was in very poor and pathetic condition. Schools didn't have toilets and drinking water facilities too. In such circumstances, it was also difficult to convince people to send their children to school. Drop out rate of students was high resulting in poor retention. In this situation, when this settlement was selected by targeting, people in this settlement decided to construct the school building as their first preference.

Tenzing Bhotia, local, says "earlier, existing school building was in very poor condition without having drinking water and toilet for the children. It was a good excuse for students to run away from the school. Hardly twenty five students were in school at that time. After construction, students have started to spend their whole day at school and there is no problem for class room. Now the number of regular student has doubled. Drinking water and toilet is available inside school premises. Mr. Tenzing says with a smile in his face "Now I am very happy as we have school in our settlement having all physical facilities. He further adds, "Now I don't have to force my daughter to go to school regularly."

Now, the number of student is almost doubled and considerable number of student can be seen in the classroom regularly. All students can use the toilet and drinking water. This is just the impact of newly constructed school and related physical facilities that student and teacher are wholehearted to go to school. "There is also possibility of increasing the number of student in coming session because it is equipped by physical infrastructure and T/L materials" says Bhirbhan BK the native of Loharbada.

8. Financial Commentary

Financial report is submitted separately. However, a summary of the financial statement is attached in Annex

Resource from donor was provided to on time.

Direct support cost was underused as some staff were hired lately and part of the operation costs were not used fully.

Final draft

Annex 1: Details of the beneficiaries, commodity and scheme status and outputs

District	Dolpa	Jajarkot	Jumla	Kalikot	Grand Total	Remarks
Mule Trail						
Number of schemes	8	7	10	7	32	
Participating households	389	525	634	1576	3124	
Female headed hhs	25	0	17	9	51	
Dgrade households	16	216	49	1036	1317	
Dalit hhs	205	0	108	188	501	
UC Males	31	33	25	29	118	
UC Females	26	16	19	20	81	
UC Dalits	3	11	6	6	26	
DPSC approved rice	53960	59344	58548	63888	235740	
Distributed rice	53960	59345	47547	63888	224739.6	
Male beneficiaries	1167	1581	1073	5331	9152	
Female beneficiaries	1012	1511	761	4267	7551	
Public audit	8	7	10	7	32	
Scheme output	27.4	13.5	31.655	47.86	120.415	Length of mule trail in KM
Drinking water						
Number of schemes	1	6	3	0	10	
Participating households	17	219	271	0	507	
Female headed hhs	0	0	4	0	4	
Dgrade households	0	174	10	0	184	
Dalit hhs	13	0	0	0	13	
UC Males	4	26	5	0	35	
UC Females	3	16	2	0	21	
UC Dalits	0	5	0	0	5	
DPSC approved rice	1360	23090	10655	0	35105.001	
Distributed rice	1360	23090	4400	0	28850	
Male beneficiaries	36	671	0	0	707	
Female beneficiaries	48	635	0	0	683	
Public audit	1	6	2	0	9	
Scheme output	2	27	6	0	35	Number of Taps
Health post building						
Number of schemes	2	2	2	3	9	
Participating households	87	120	147	491	845	
Female headed hhs	1	0	0	0	1	
Dgrade households	1	71	16	414	502	
Dalit hhs	31	0	29	0	60	
UC Males	8	8	8	11	35	
UC Females	6	6	6	10	28	
UC Dalits	1	2	3	2	8	
DPSC approved rice	13827	11818	13388	15072	54105	

District	Dolpa	Jajarkot	Jumla	Kalikot	Grand Total	Remarks
Distributed rice	13820	11818	10388	15072	51098	
Male beneficiaries	268	365	578	1593	2804	
Female beneficiaries	279	350	420	1393	2442	
Public audit	2	2	1	3	8	
Scheme output	7	12	9	10	38	Number of rooms
Irrigation						
Number of schemes	1	3	7	3	14	
Participating households	65	161	482	249	957	
Female headed hhs	0	0	2	0	2	
Dgrade households	12	118	18	160	308	
Dalit hhs	0	0	41	129	170	
UC Males	4	15	30	13	62	
UC Females	3	6	19	8	36	
UC Dalits	1	6	6	8	21	
DPSC approved rice	4088	18652	44956	20074	87770	
Distributed rice	4088	18652	44256	20074	87070	
Male beneficiaries	167	460	1654	803	3084	
Female beneficiaries	206	441	1658	803	3108	
Public audit	1	3	6	3	13	
Scheme output	300	609	1430	5.4	2344.4	Irrigated area in Ropani (20 ropani is approximately 1 hectare)
Wooden bridge						
Number of schemes	4	6	9	3	22	
Participating households	212	276	378	127	993	
Female headed hhs	2	0	4	0	6	
Dgrade households	71	233	9	59	372	
Dalit hhs	9	0	96	74	179	
UC Males	17	26	35	11	89	
UC Females	11	16	30	8	65	
UC Dalits	10	6	8	6	30	
DPSC approved rice	21669	17544	32666	10200	82079	
Distributed rice	21660	17544	31029	10202	80435	
Male beneficiaries	633	1032	1416	360	3441	
Female beneficiaries	581	994	1122	358	3055	
Public audit	4	6	8	3	21	
Scheme output	66.5	76	109.3	45	296.8	
School building						
Number of schemes	10	11	5	6	32	
Participating households	565	741	240	727	2273	
Female headed hhs	54	0	3	4	61	
Dgrade households	202	397	6	824	1429	
Dalit hhs	148	0	34	471	653	
UC Males	35	63	16	24	138	
UC Females	35	20	12	15	82	

District	Dolpa	Jajarkot	Jumla	Kalikot	Grand Total	Remarks
UC Dalits	9	24	3	11	47	
DPSC approved rice	66494.5	64258	26603	34360	191715.5	
Distributed rice	66484	64258	25803	34108	190653	
Male beneficiaries	1448	2063	656	3570	7737	
Female beneficiaries	1587	1974	579	2919	7059	
Public audit	8	11	5	6	30	
Scheme output	39	67	16	18	140	Number of rooms

Annex 2: list of staff members who received training organized by Concern worldwide Nepal

Monitoring and Evaluation Training

Name	Designation	Duty station
Mr. Dig Vijay Dhakal	MIS officer	Regional office, Nepalgunj
Mr. Dhananjay Jaiswal	Monitoring officer	Regional office, Nepalgunj
Mr. Jagannath Dutta Panta	District Manager	Dolpa
Mr. Basuram Bhandari	District Manager	Jajarkot
Mr. Murari Kharel	District Manager	Jumla
Mr. Raju Shrestha	District Manager	Kalikot

HIV/AIDS/STI and Mainstreaming Training

Name	Designation	Duty station
Miss Radha Subedi	Public Health assistant	Regional office, Nepalgunj
Mr. Surendra Raut	Overseer	Dolpa
Mr. Maheswor Pokharel	District Program Officer	Jajarkot
Mr. Gyanendra Timilsina	Overseer	Jumla
Mr. Dadhi Raj Aryal	District Program Officer	Kalikot