



FORWARD Nepal Brief

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FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin

The 11th issue of FORWARD Nepal's Bulletin covers the major activities and events from July to October 2017. During the period, three projects have been phased out and four projects have been initiated. The completed projects are as (i) Child Centered Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) in Morang and Sunsari, (ii) Improved Flood Resilience of Communities (CR) in Morang and Sunsari, and (iii) Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP) in Morang. Likewise, the newly started projects include (i) Girls Act Project (BALIKA SHAKTI) in Morang, (ii) Gender Transformative - Community Resilient (GET-CR) in Morang and Sunsari, (iii) Agricultural Entrepreneurship among Female-headed Remittance Receiving Households in Nepal, and (iv) Advocacy Campaign for Women Empowerment & Gender Equality in Rautahat, Sarlahi and Sindhuli. In addition to the regular project implementation, the Journalists working in Chitwan have been oriented on the agricultural concepts in a training programme. A national level workshop had also been conducted to share the GMP-Dairy project learning with key stakeholders. Besides, 21st FORWARD DAY was celebrated on 1 September 2017 with the involvement of staff, board members and general members of FORWARD Nepal.

Major activities during the period

- Under the BCES project, a project progress sharing workshop was organized in Kalika Municipality-9 on 11 September 2017 to share the project progress and exchange the views among the stakeholders for betterment of the future activities. Besides, the objective was to interact with the newly elected local government representatives and better understand the new local government roles and find the space for coordination. The representatives from the new local level government - Mayor, Ward chairmen, representatives from farmer groups, management committees of collection centers, and other community-based organizations participated in the programme. The programme was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Khum Narayan Shrestha, Mayor, Kalika Municipality. An overview of the project progress/activities for the last two years along with the budget expenditure of fiscal year 2017/18 and projected budget expenses for fiscal year 2018/19 were presented. The representatives from the new local level government expressed their gratitude to the project and assured for the possible support in the future.
- A **GMP Project Learning Sharing Meeting** was conducted at SAMARTHA Office in Lalitpur on August 15, 2017. The key stakeholders of the Nepalese dairy sector participated in the meeting, and the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock, Dr. Keshav Prasad Premy, chaired the event. The meeting participants were Director General of the Department of Livestock Services (Dr. Bimal Kumar Nirmal), Dr. Krishna Prasad Paudel (Team Leader, GMP project), President of NDA, General Secretary of NDA, Chairman of CDCAN, Manager of CDCAN, Deputy Executive Director of NDDDB, President of DIA, Deputy Director General of DFTQC, and teams from SAMARTH (Country Director, Portfolio Manager, and Sector Analyst) and FORWARD (Programme Director and Planning Director). All

participants expressed their views on the GMP project and its importance in the development of the dairy sector in Nepal. They agreed on the completion of the GMP project with good impacts on the dairy value chain. All the stakeholders assured to continue the promotion of the GMP steps further. Dr. Keshav Prasad Premy said that the Ministry of Livestock Development has already planned to promote the GMP steps in its forthcoming Nepal Livestock Sector Innovation Project.

- Under the ELIVES project, a four-day Training for Trainers (TOT) on instructional skills was organized in Chandrapur, Rautahat for 25 agriculture and livestock technicians. Similarly, a two-day cooperative management and a three-day account keeping training was also organized in Rautahat, in which 21 members from four cooperatives and four members from the Market Planning Committee (MPC) and collection centers participated. A sales and business skill training was also organized for 23 community business facilitators developed by ELIVES project in all four project districts at Hotel Alpine, Chandrapur, Rautahat, and facilitated by IDE Nepal training expert, Mr. Asta Prajapati.
- A flood relief and emergency response campaign was organized by ADRA Nepal and facilitated by the ELIVES project partners, including FORWARD Nepal, in Rautahat. The Relief materials as tarpaulin mattress, hygienic kit, rice, lentil, sugar, salt cooking oil, nylon rope, and white plastic were provided to 450 critically affected households listed by DDRC. The relief materials were supported to the affected households through coordinated efforts of DDRC and District Police.
- The inception meetings with newly elected bodies of Municipality and Rural Municipality were held in the respective project sites (Morang and Sunsari) under Resilient Girl (GET-CR) and Girls Act projects. The main objective was to share the programme activities and allocated budget for FY 2017/018. The Mayor, Vice-Mayor, ward Chairmen and members of Municipality and school teachers from the programme areas participated in the meetings. Plan International Morang partners and local partner CBOs including host organization FORWARD Nepal presented their programme activities and its allocated budget in different areas for empowering and strengthening the child rights.
- Two slots (each of four days) of ToT on Disaster Risk Reduction training for peer facilitators have been accomplished in Morang and Sunsari districts. The objectives of the training were to make the participants conceptually clear about hazard and disaster, and enhance the hazard/ disaster knowledge delivery skills among the school students and successfully conduct peer education classes.
- Under the CR project, Hoarding boards noting the vulnerability map with the details of the community as safe area, vulnerable area, Resources area, health services and school area have been installed in Kritiman (Morang) and Pulthegauda, Jabdi community (Sunsari). Similarly, the emergency shelter houses have been built in the earthquake resilience way, one in each community.

Monitoring/Visits to the project sites

- A semi-annual field visit of the ELIVES Project was held on 11 October 2017. Donor agency's (UKaid and ADRA UK) representatives, ADRA Nepal central team and district partners were involved in the visit. The visit team interacted with commercial vegetable growers and a goat group where they observed model shed, feeding stalls, goats, breeding bucks, and group social activities like common land plantation in Rautahat.
- Dr. Ujjal Tiwari visited the CR project sites in Morang and Sunsari on 11-15 September 2017. He had observed the various completed and on-going activities of the CR project. During the visit, Dr. Tiwari had also a meeting with Mr. Kalbhan Rai (PUM, Plan International, Morang) and Mr. Bed Prasad Bhurtel (CR & CCDRM Project Coordinator, Plan International), and he talked with them about the problems associated with the CR project and development of the strategies for the smooth completion of the CR project.
- The line agencies of the respective project sites as DWIDP, DCC, DADO, and Municipality made joint monitoring visits to Kritiman (Morang) on 17 September 2017 and Pulthegauda Jabdi community (Sunsari) on 18 September 2017. There were altogether 18 representatives from different line agencies, and monitored and evaluated the CR project and the communities as well.
- A five-day exposure visit (19-23 September 2017) on Zurich flood mitigation site was organized for 20 members of CBDMC from Kritiman and Pulthegauda, Jabdi community. The first visited site was Kalika Municipality-8, Gairibari, Chitwan, where the alternative livelihood activities such as commercial vegetable farming, livestock etc. performed by Chepang community on the stream bank was observed. Similarly, other visited sites were Zurich flood mitigation site in Dhangadhi, MRED flood mitigation site in sub-metro politan city-19, eastern Lalitpur, and mitigation site on the bank of Mohana River and Ghura River.

Staffing

- Dr. Nirmal Katuwal has resigned from his position as Project Coordinator of the ELIVES project effective from 2 November 2017.
- Mr. Niranjana Kumar Goit, Ms. Heman Paneru, Mr. Krishna Bhatta and Mr. Bhaskar Bhatta successfully accomplished their assigned roles and responsibilities of Engineer/Sub-Engineer in the DFID/DAI funded project "Monitoring and Verification of Community Development Programme (CDC)" ended on 31 October, 2017.
- Staffs of the CR project had been released after the completion of the project. Ms. Prathistha Thapa (Project Coordinator), Ms. Saharsha Ojha (Project Account Officer), Ms. Dronacharya Poudel and Mr. Mr. Shyamchan Mochi (Social Mobilizers) successfully accomplished their assigned roles and responsibilities in the CR project ended on 30 September 2017.
- The contact office at Kathmandu is reformed as FORWARD Nepal Liaison Office with the deployment of Business Development Director as full time staff. Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane has been transferred to FORWARD's Liaison Office in Lalitpur since 6 August 2017 as a Business Development Director.

News

- FORWARD Nepal, in collaboration with Hiroshima University, has started a research project entitled "Agricultural Entrepreneurship among Female-headed Remittance Receiving Households in Nepal" since September 2017. The

research project analyzes the determinants enabling female-headed remittance receiving households to invest in agricultural enterprises. A field study (questionnaire survey) for the collection of the information from the households in Sukranagar (Bharatpur-25) had been conducted in October 2017. For the conduction of the household survey and data entry, eight Research Assistants had been recruited for 14 days.

- The **21st FORWARD DAY** was celebrated on 1 September 2017 with the participation of founder members, board members, general members, and staff members. A short opening programme was organized at the Head Office. A Birth Day Cake of FORWARD Nepal was expurgated and distributed, thereafter, the FORWARD DAY Message was released jointly by the Chairperson and Executive Director. Following the event at the head office, the DAY was celebrated at the Devghatdham, along with Senior Citizens living in ASHRAM and Executive Members of Devghatdham Development Committee (DDC), Tanahun. Some aromatic flowering plants were planted in the premises of "ASHRAM" followed by a joint Bhojan (lunch) with senior citizens, DDC and FORWARD Nepal's family. A sum of NPR 7,000 was also donated to the AchchhayaKosh of DDC. The programme was conducted under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Madhav Kumar Shrestha, Chairperson of FORWARD Nepal.
- The **Half Yearly Programme Review Meeting of FORWARD Nepal** was held at the Head Office on 30-31 August 2017. The review of the FORWARD's ongoing and upcoming projects were done during the meeting. The Project Coordinators shared the overall progresses of the respective projects, as well as problems, learnings and upcoming plans of the project. In the meeting, some technical aspects had also been shared for the knowledge enhancement and technical capacity development of staff. Ms. Ashmita Pandey shared the knowledge on value chain of horticultural crops, Mr. Mahesh Lal Vaidya shared on *Tuta Obsoleta* problem in tomato and its management options, and Dr. Ujjal Tiwari shared on Food and Nutrition Security (FNS), Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.
- FORWARD Nepal organized a three-day **training for journalists on agriculture** at Hotel Image Palace, Bharatpur-2, Chitwan on 25-27 August 2017. The training programme was organized in collaboration with Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ), Chitwan with the objective to enhance the capacity of journalists for better reporting of the technical issues in the agriculture sector. There were 17 participants from national and local media house involving print, audio and audio visual media. Dr. Tanka Upreti, Nepal Television and Mr. Govinda Sharma, Krishi TV, Kathmandu facilitated the training. Technical and policy matters were shared by experts and professionals from different agencies (FORWARD, DADO, DLSO, NARC, AFU, private sectors and CSO personnel). The training emphasized the agriculture related matters that can be highlighted by mass media in Chitwan. Participants having experiences of more than a decade in Chitwan and reporting in local and national media shared that it's the new initiative taken by FORWARD Nepal in journalism sector, which was never happened before.
- A work performance evaluation of the FORWARD's Head Office staff was done in a new approach and participatory way, and necessary feedback were exchanged among the staff at the head office.

Meetings/Trainings/Workshops

- A Semi-Annual Review Meeting of ELIVES project was held on 15-17 October 2017 in Bardibas, Mahottari. ADRA UK representatives and the team of ADRA Nepal, IDE Nepal, FORWARD Nepal (ELIVES project team), and district partners participated in the meeting. The overall project progress and

flood response programme and other possible activities were reviewed and discussed. The detailed project plan up to March 2018 was drafted as well.

- Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal participated in the “Programme Design Training” in Cambodia on 2-9 October 2017. There were altogether eleven training participants from Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam, India, Myanmar and Bangladesh. The training covered the topics as programme analysis, strategies and tools, field trip, developing programme and projects, planning of assignment and evaluation of the training. Mr. Jochim Scheward, Coordinator, CSA, Ms. Sohini Paul, CSA and Ms. Sweta Banerjee, Programme Manager, WHH India facilitated the training over the period. WHH Regional Director for Cambodia and Laos Mr. Derk also facilitated as a guest lecturer.
- Dr. Ujjal Tiwari participated in the International Seminar on “Land-use and Land-cover Management with respect to Ecosystem Services” at Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF), Hue, Vietnam on 23 September - 2 October 2017. Dr. Tiwari presented the approach and learning of the FORWARD’s implemented Multi Stakeholder Forestry Program (MSFP) in the seminar with the presentation entitled “Multi Stakeholder Approach for Sustainable Development of the Forest-based Enterprises in Bajura and Doti Districts of Nepal.
- Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal participated in the Building Better Response (BBR) training organized on 30 August to 1 September 2017 in Kathmandu. The programme was facilitated by Concern Worldwide, International Medical Corps, and a freelancer/expert. The e-learning course was developed by Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and BBR project was funded by USAID.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the “International Conference on Advances in Potassium Research for Efficient Soil and Crop Management” at NASC Complex, New Delhi on 28-29 August 2017. Mr. Neupane presented a poster entitled “Enhancing Rice, Maize and Wheat Yields in Nepal using the Nutrient Expert Fertilizer Decision Support Tool” in the conference.
- Four staff from BCES project namely Ms. Bimala Shrestha, Ms. Anjana Rai, Ms. Renuka Neupane and Mr. Chhon Bdr. Praja and three other projects’ staff of FORWARD Nepal namely Mr. Sudarshan Bista, Mr. Durga Bdr. Basnet and Mr. Suraj Khanal participated in the training on “Participatory Learning and Action - Improving Nutrition Outcomes (Linking Agriculture, Natural Resource Management and Nutrition – LANN Plus)” at Gaidakot on 21-25 August, 2017. The training programme was organized by the Civil society Academy (CSA) and Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Germany.
- Mr. Netra Pratap Sen participation in the PARLIAMENTARIAN-CSO DIALOGUE FORUM in Kathmandu on 8 August, 2017.
- Mr. Netra Pratap Sen (Executive Director) along with Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane (Programme Director) and Mr. Pustak Ojha (FORWARD Member) participated in the collaboration meeting with Action for Enterprise (AFE), USA in Kathmandu on 27 July 2017. Dr. Fran Lusby, Executive Director and Mr. Durga Mani Neupane, Programme Manager were present in the meeting from AFE. Following the meeting, an understanding have been made between these two organizations to collaborate projects or look for opportunities to team up for market system development programmes, and capacity building of FORWARD in market systems development, sharing of tools/ methodologies on market systems development, and sharing of office space if needed at Kathmandu.
- Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal and Ms. Ashmita Pandey participated in the training workshop on “Right Based Approach in the context of Nepal” organized by the WHH/Civil Society Academy (CSA) at Greenwich Village Hotel, Kathmandu on 17-21 July 2017.

- Mr. Netra Pratap Sen participated in the Round table discussion on the role of Civil Society and NGOs in the changing context held in Kathmandu on 14 July 2017.
- Mr. Ram Krishna Neupane participated in the Central Coordination Meeting (CCM) of the ELIVES Project held at ADRA Nepal Office in Kathmandu on 11 July 2017. The progress of the activities planned for the first quarter of Year 3 was reviewed. It was reported that three activities as (i) technical capacity building training to CBFs, (ii) ToT training, and (iii) VAHW training scheduled in May /June could not be implemented due to Terai bundhas in the project districts. And those activities have been postponed for the next quarter. The meeting ended with the discussion on the possibility of completing all field activities by December 2017 and devoting the rest 3 months to data collection, monitoring and report writing.
- Mr. Rishikesh Dhakal participated in the Joint Emergency Preparedness and Planning (JEEP) Meeting organized in Kathmandu on 11 July 2017 in partnership of Alliance 2015. The programme was organized by WHH Country Office and Concern Worldwide. There was also the participation from CEAPRED, LI-BIRD, Aasman, Friends of Nature, Unification Nepal, Shanti Nepal, RRN and two other agencies from Dolakha and Sindhuli. The meeting discussed on (i) areas of response by the team, (ii) capacity of partners, (iii) preparedness planning, (iv) action plan review, and (v) review of MIRA questionnaire developed in Nepali version, etc.
- Mr. RK Neupane and Dr. Ujjal Tiwari participated in the ELIVES’ Programme Review Meeting held at Chapur, Rautahat on September 05-06, 2017. In the meeting, the progresses of the project were presented by concerned district partners and summarized by the FORWARD’s Project Coordinator Dr. Nirmal Katuwal. The meeting also covered the discussions on the damages caused by floods in the project areas and prepared the strategies for addressing the issues related to the flood damages. A task force was formed to survey the flood affected VDCs in all the ELIVES project districts to estimate the loss in the goat sub-sector, disease prevalence in goats, and losses in the vegetable crops with consideration of the revision of the project activities to address those problems.

Audits and renew of the organization

- SWC Audit held on 24-25 July 2017. CA Gopal Man Shrestha audited the documents.
- Audit of ELIVES project was conducted during last week of July 2017 by C.A. Mr. Gopal Shrestha, LSP Associates who was assigned by the Social Welfare Council.
- A certificate of income tax clearance for 2073/74 B.S. has been obtained from Inland Revenue office on 14 October 2017.
- KUBER & Co. Chartered Accountants carried out the annual audit of FORWARD Nepal for year 2073/74 (Mid July 2016 to Mid July 2017) during September 2017, and submitted report on 14 October 2017. This enabled for the timely renew of FORWARD Nepal within Ashwin 2074.

Upcoming major events (plan for the next quarter)

- Publication of the Annual report 2016/17.
- Update of FORWARD’s Brochure (English & Nepali).
- Update of FORWARD’s Profile.
- Preparation of the FORWARD’s documentary.
- 20th Annual General Assembly.
- Three year’s strategic plan of FORWARD Nepal.
- Participation in the national and international conference/ workshops/trainings.

- Obtaining approval from the Bharatpur Metropolitan City Office for office building and start of its construction.
- Launching of the “Advocacy Campaign for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality” project in partnership with Equal Access and funding support from UN Women in Rautahat, Sarlahi and Sindhuli districts.



Participants of Training for Journalist on Agriculture



Discussion session during Training for Journalist on Agriculture



Group Photo with Senior Citizens at Devghatdham



Plantation of Aromatic Flowering Plant on 21st FORWARD Day, Devghatdham



Executive Director, FORWARD Nepal Delivering Message to Senior Citizens, Devghat ASHRAM



Prof. Dr. Naba Raj Devkota at Half-yearly Review & Planning Meeting at Head Office



Half-yearly Review & Planning Meeting at Head Office