

PROJECT SRIJANA

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF MIGRANT YOUTHS

Quarterly Update

SUMMARY

This is the sixth quarterly update of Project SRIJANA. In this report, interventions up till December 2022 have been covered. The major achievements of this reporting period are: Second Annual Project review and reflection workshop held, completion of mid term evaluation and sharing of findings, completion of business incubation training for micro-enterprises established by migrants, and preparation of demo version of the MIS system for local government to record data on migrant returnees.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND REFLECTION WORKSHOP

The workshop was conducted in Surkhet on December 15 and 16, 2022, by Cordaid to review the progress in the second year and revisit the year III work plan with the Srijana project TOC and work in the recommendations provided by mid-term evaluation, business development mentorship, and coaching experts. It was conducted together with implementing partners and completed successfully. The workshop was facilitated by the country director, agriculture and livelihoods coordinator, and PMEL officer of Cordaid.

MID TERM REVIEW COMPLETED

Mid-term evaluation was successfully completed, evaluation findings were shared with the project team, and the final draft report shared with KiA. Report was finalized with input and feedback from the team members. Necessary adjustments to the project plan was made for the third-year based on the insights drawn from the evaluation report.

MAJOR MILESTONES

2ND ANNUAL REVIEW AND REFLECTION WORKSHOP HELD

MID TERM REVIEW COMPLETED

BUSINESS INCUBATION COMPLETED

DEMO MIS SYSTEM BUILT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO COLLECT DATA ON MIGRANTS

REVOLVING FUND ESTABLISHED AT A AGRI-COOPERATIVE WITH MATCHING FUNDS COMMITMENT FROM LOCAL MUNICIPALITY





BUSINESS INCUBATION TRAINING COMPLETED

42 migrant returnees from 21 enterprises received training and mentorship to facilitate the consolidation and growth of their newly established local enterprises. In addition, local project staff members who supervise these enterprises also received training so that they could carry out longer-term supervision of these entrepreneurs and their businesses to ensure sustainable use of the skills and resources imparted to them. One-on-one and group-based detailed discussions on enterprise scope, investment, resources, revenue, and the future of business were analyzed and discussed to resulting in development of contextualized and personalized business plans for all enterprises.

DEMO MIS SYSTEM BUILT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO COLLECT DATA ON MIGRANTS

Vertex IT company has been selected for the development of the MIS system for both rural municipalities, Bajhang and Jumla. After a couple of meetings with Vertex and the local government, a demo version of the MIS system has been developed to record data on the number of migrants, migrants' returnees, and unemployed youths in the Kankasundari Rural Municipality and Thalara Rural Municipality.



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REVOLVING FUND ESTABLISHED AT A AGRI-COOPERATIVE WITH MATCHING FUNDS COMMITMENT FROM LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

A revolving fund has been established with the project support of 611,000.00 NPR (4676.26 USD) under the local agriculture cooperative. To further fill the fund, there is a commitment letter from the RM for a matching fund contribution. Until the reporting period, six entrepreneurs (4 female, 2 male) got business loan services from this fund, and another two youths' loan applications are in process. The agri-cooperative has also started a website to market their local produce.

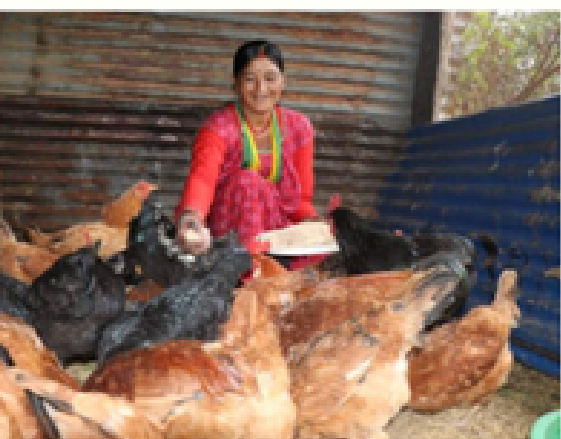
MAJOR RESULTS

In Thalara Municipality, Bajhang

- 5 Goat farmers insured their goats with 80% contribution from the local government
- Market linkage support provided by the project enabled beneficiaries to sell 3.5 tonnes of potatoes to buyers from Dhankuta
- The RM also provided 500,000 NPR (3,714.99 EUR) of collaboration budget, which the project mobilised for constructing seven small fishponds as a pilot.
- A website to market locally produced goods started by the Agri-cooperative - www.krishiupajthalara.com

in Kankasundari Rural Municipality, Jumla

- 13 beneficiaries of the On-the-job-training are now employed.
- 6 beneficiaries who received vocational training on driving successfully passed their license test.
- The irrigation support provided irrigated almost 14 hectares of the cultivable land.
- A coordination meeting organized with newly elected members of local government.



HARKA KIMADI: A MODEL GOAT FARMER

Harka Bahadur Kimadi, 30, has established himself as the model goat farmer in Bhanada of Bajhang. After 15 years of doing a labour job, he returned from India during the COVID pandemic crisis. He has about one Ropani (509 sq.m) of land, which supports his family of four for around three months in a year. After losing his job in India, he invested all his savings to start goat farming. But he ran into financial duress. It was around the same time that he noticed a group formation process of Srijana Project and got involved. He got an opportunity for 'cash for work' activity that was supported directly by Cordaid and received cash wages of NPR 14,000 (approx. EUR 104) for his labour work. The project facilitated him in developing a goat farming business plan, registering his farm as a business, and linking him with the ward office. He got NPR 50,000 (approx. EUR 372) cash to purchase goats from the ward office. He benefitted from the financial literacy orientations and got a loan of NPR 3,00,000 (approx. 2231) for his business from microfinance. Now he has 28 goats at his farm. The project further mobilized the insurance company and five goat farmers' including Harka and got the goat insurance subsidy (80%) facility from the Nepal government. He got an insurance subsidy for 19 goats. Harka recently earned NPR 10,000 (approx. EUR 74) by selling young goats to pay for his children's schooling needs. After COVID pandemic became normal, he started earning daily wages too. He just learned to write his name from his young son who studies in Grade 4. He shared, "I felt the need to do my signature as I have participated for the first time in the group meeting."

MUNBIR KARKI: OPERATING A THRESHER MACHINE AND EARNING A DECENT INCOME



Munbir Karki, 40 year old, supports a family of five. Together with his family, they farmed crops and took on odd labour jobs around the village. He showed interest in becoming a member of returnee migrants groups of SRIJANA Project. He joined the Agriculture disaster management group created a year ago. The group decided to support him with a thresher. INF Srijana team visited the group and carried out documentation work. Thresher was supported to him in July 2022.

Now a days he is busy operating the thresher machine. He processed wheat, rice and barley of community members. He has started to receive request from farmers from nearby wards. He earns monthly Rs 30000. Public said he is the source of inspiration for others returnee migrants of the rural municipality. According to ward chairperson Mr. Tej Bdr. GC "Munbir karki is the successful entrepreneur of this ward. He is giving service for farmers. The machines saves farmer's time and money both".