

PROJECT SRIJANA

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

Quarterly Update

SUMMARY

This is the fifth quarterly update of Project SRIJANA. In this report, interventions up till August 2022 have been covered. The major achievements of this reporting period are: Completion of groundwork for business coaching/mentoring support for local enterprises started by migrant returnees under this project, initiation of on the job trainings for selected migrant returnees, organization of motivational session facilitated by a local entrepreneur, initiation of mid-term evaluation and completion of project advisory committee meetings at district and municipal level in Jumla.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Preparatory work for the business development support package is underway. Based on the data collection methodology and tools selected by the consultant, social mobilizers have completed the field work, and a total of 40 small businesses have been selected to receive the BDS support.

MOTIVATIONAL SESSION ON OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN NEPAL

A motivational session was conducted in Bajhang targeting migrant returnees around opportunities within Nepal for entrepreneurship, self-employment and growth. The session was facilitated by a successful entrepreneur who is a migrant returnee himself. Mr Nava Raj Joshi shared his own journey from being one of the thousand of migrant returnees to a handful of local entrepreneurs creating local employment. 56 migrant returnees attended the session. A similar session has been planned for interested participants in Jumla.

MAJOR MILESTONES

PREP WORK FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MENTORSHIP UNDERWAY

MOTIVATIONAL SESSION FOR YOUTH AND MIGRANT RETURNES

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING (OJT)/ APPRENTICESHIP TO SELECTED MIGRANT RETURNES

MID-TERM EVALUATION UNDERWAY

VOCATIONAL TRAININGS AND AGRI-INPUTS PROVIDED

PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONDUCTED IN JUMLA





ON-THE-JOB TRAINING FOR SELECTED MIGRANT RETURNEES

17 migrant returnees who had previously undertaken vocational trainings through other Project support but not had the opportunity to put it to use, were selected to receive on-the-job training opportunities in partnership with private sector actors. Under this scheme, individuals with some previous training, knowledge and skills, will be placed as an apprentice and work alongside a Master trainer, to enhance their skills and benefit from the practical experience.

A joint monitoring visit was conducted in UCEP Nepal and Olgapuri Vocational School by Cordaid's PMEL Officer, UMN's Project Manager and INF Nepal's Project Officer. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the courses and progress so far.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

In Thalara Municipality, Bajhang

- 109 individuals supported with agri-inputs
- 54 individuals received trainings and agri-inputs to start cardamom, lemon, ginger and turmeric farming, all high value cash crops that are in demand.
- 4 financial literacy events organized for 108 participants
- 16 enterprises received marketing support to increase their customer outreach.

in Kankasundari Rural Municipality, Jumla

- 49 individuals received training on commercial poultry farming and goat farming.
- 164 individuals received psycho-social counselling
- 3 multi-stakeholder interaction events held to identify agri-based livelihood opportunities for youth and migrant returnees.
- District and municipal level Project Advisory Committee meetings were held



BRIJANA BUDHA: A BRIGHTER FUTURE AT HOME

Birjana Budha is a mother of two young daughters. To support their children, Budha and her husband relied on the income from their seasonal jobs in India. During the pandemic, they lost their most important source of income. They tried but could not find a suitable job locally, and their financial situation worsened. Budha was put forward as a suitable candidate for vocational training support under Project SRIJANA. Budha expressed her desire to learn tailoring. She attended a 4 month bootcamp, following which she interned at UCEF Nepal to gain additional experience. After successfully completing her course, Budha returned to her village, where she has opened up her own tailoring shop.

"I have orders for many blouses, kurtas and some children's clothes. When the academic year starts, I hope to receive orders for uniforms from the local schools," Budha shares. Budha earns on average NPR 1000 daily and she is enjoying the customer service aspect of her enterprise. She confesses, "I wish I had started my own business earlier. I regret not trying my hand at this sooner."



BIRKHA GHARTI: ELECTRIFYING HOMES IN HIS RURAL VILLAGE

Birkha Bdr. Gharti's family of five is reliant on income from his seasonal jobs in India to sustain through the leaner winter months. He left school when he was in class 5 and he had not taken any vocational training to work as semi-skilled laborer or technician. During the pandemic, Gharti returned to Nepal and has been in a state of limbo during the protracted lockdowns.

He first became involved with Project SRIJANA, in the group meetings with returnee migrants. The 37 year old expressed an interest in receiving vocational training in house wiring, as there seemed to be a demand for that skill in the local market. Gharti received a 4 months long training at UCEP Nepal, Bhaktapur before returning to his village and starting to apply his newly gained skills to test.

"I have completed house wiring work in 35 houses already. I have a pending order of 55 houses and one hospital," he shares proudly. Gharti today earns on average NPR 1800- 2000 per day as a certified electrician and he is hopeful that a better future awaits his family.

