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|------------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|-------|
| Status and Date | Draft sent to Coordination | 10/01/2023 | approved by Coordination | 13/01/2023 | Sent to PM FA | 17/01/2023 | Approved by PM FA | DD/MM |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|-------|

PROJECT ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

In accordance with the agreement on project funding, each partner organisation is required to submit intermediary and an annual project report to Fastenopfer. The report should describe achievements as well as difficulties encountered and lessons learned. Fastenopfer recommends a length of **10-14 pages**, with the description of the project implementation taking up the major part.

PROJECT TITLE

Community-led Agro-ecological Practices for Food Sovereignty (CAPFS)



| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project number | LPE22/NP-000.137263 |
| Reporting period | 1 st January, 2022 to 31 st December, 2022 |
| Project duration | 1 st January, 2022, to 31 st December, 2024. |
| Name and address of partner organization | <p>Name of the organisation: Sahakarmi Samaj Address: Kohalpur-12, Banke Telephone number: 081-540099, 081-542299 Email: sahakarmisamaj.org@gmail.com <u>Account details:</u> Bank Account: Nabil Bank Limited, Dhamboji, Nepalgunj Organizational Account name: Sahakarmi Samaj Bank Account Number: 17810017505845</p> |
| Governance / Association structures | <p>What changes occurred in the report period with regard to the organisation's supervisory body (composition, division of responsibilities) and when did meetings of the supervisory body take place?</p> <p>In the case of an association: What changes occurred in the report period (number of members, conditions for admission)? When did the last meeting of members take place?</p> <p><i>No any changes with regard to the organization's supervisory body and association has occurred so far this reporting period.</i></p> <p><i>Last meeting of organizational members took place on November.</i></p> |
| Staff changes in the organization | <p>Agriculture Officer Ms. Mina Bakabal left the project and Mr. Aakash Tiwari was appointed on July 1 as the new AO. We have to reorient the newly appointed AO of all the project activities, its approach, and methodologies. The implications were seen in the report compilation process too.</p> <p>Similarly, the roles and responsibilities of existing Community Educator Mr. Tej Bahadur Thapa has been changed as he has been appointed as an Agro-ecology Focal Person. A new CE (Mr. Prem Lohar) has been hired as his substitute. Additionally, 6 new LRP are hired as per the project plan.</p> |

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| Annual turnover and funding of the organization | <p>What annual turnover (in national or commonly used currency) did the organisation have in the report period and how has it been financed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Organisation have annual turnover Rs.12,83,61,164.25 in the fiscal year 2078-079 as per our audit report. <p>→ According to the <i>agreement on project funding</i>, an overall financial report of the organisation must be submitted annually to Fastenopfer (see also Fastenopfer guidelines for financial report).</p> <p>→ Minimum: A list of the current projects in the report year incl. duration, financial contributions from other (international or national) donors and own income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of the current projects including duration is attached along with this report. |
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PROJECT INFORMATION

TOTAL COSTS AND FUNDING OF THE PROJECT

How much in total was spent on the project during the report period (in national or commonly used currency) and how was it funded?

- During the report period 1st July, 2022 to d1st December, 2022 the amounting **Rs.28,25,478.00** was spent. The percentage is **77.84**

→ Mention of other donor organisations (or total of other donor organisations) as well as local income.
 → More detailed information about the accounting and funding of the project should be presented in the financial report (see Fastenopfer guidelines for financial report).

PROJECT SUMMARY

Executive summary of the project and the status of the project: **Where** (project region) and **Why** (initial situation) does **Who** (partner organisation) do **What** (activities and status) with **Whom** (target groups) **How** (approach), **For** what (objective) and what results/outcomes have been achieved (status)?

→ Brief summary on the course of the project activities, on the results achieved during the report period as well as the challenges and conclusions

The project is being implemented by Sahakarmi Samaj (SS) in the Jajarkot district of Karnali province in the 3 wards of Junichande Rural Municipality (RM); ward no. 7, ward no. 8, and ward no. 9. The project works on the principle of community development devised through the FEST (Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation) approach- a proven process-led approach practiced by SS that engages the marginalized members of the communities by facilitating the emergence of community development groups (CDGs). Till now, 24 CDGs have emerged where 113 are male and 469 are female members (50% Dalit, 21% Janajati, 24% Khas/Arya, and Thakuri, 5%). In this regard, the project has reached 288 Dalit households, 123 Janajati households, 139 Chhetri households, and 32 Thakuri households. Monthly meetings of groups are scheduled and followed.

Until now, 266 group meetings have been conducted by CEs. CFT (Community Facilitation Training) training was provided to selected group members with the notion that group meetings will run autonomously even without support from CEs. 58 HHs have been coached individually on family nutrition and kitchen gardening. In 266 group meetings, 59 generative themes¹ have been identified and out of them, 51 generative themes have been analyzed through code facilitation². 24 action plans have been implemented and evaluated in monetary terms where possible. A community scorecard exercise was carried out in each ward to measure the quality of services provided by local government.

Group solidarity has been evident among members of CDG. They are involved in activities like communal water tap maintenance and sanitation, road trails sanitation, latrine and garbage pit construction, etc. The CDGs are also strengthened to advocate on their issues all by themselves to some extent. They have submitted a proposal to local government to provide 'Training on Tailoring business' for group members.

¹ Areas of interest of community involved

² A medium (poems, plays, memes, songs, pictures) which represents the interests of the community involved.

As a result of regular group discussions, trainings, and HH coaching on nutrition and kitchen garden, some HHs have established kitchen garden and some have allotted plots for kitchen gardens. The group members are trained in techniques of seedbed preparation, planting, and organic pesticide preparation. 42 kitchen gardens have been established so far in the target area. Local seeds are prioritized for kitchen garden. With seed support from local government, seedbed preparation training was provided to group members of ward 7 and 8. 6 nursery men were trained with nursery establishment training.

Busy schedule of group members, government representatives, and political leaders, ignorant group members, communication, local election, poor availability of local crop varieties, geographical constraints and scattered HHs of CDGs, community educators selection, lack of Knowledge on AE, perception of male members, poor capacity build-up of field staffs, staff turnover, harsh weather condition and incessant heavy rainfall are some of the major constraints faced in this project year.

CHANGES IN THE CONTEXT / RISKS/ OPPORTUNITIES

Compared to the situation described in the project application: How has the context in the project region changed? What positive and negative effects has this had for the population and for the implementation of the project? What risks are new/continue/have ceased to exist? What new potentials/opportunities exist?

Political context:

A new panel of local government authorities have been elected. Newly elected panel of local government are very positive and has been very conducive for lobby and advocacy. In fact, it has been easier to work with the new panel. The new government representatives have approved different proposals submitted by CDGs viz. agro-ecology-related training, improved cook stoves, and support for fruit saplings.

Socio-cultural context:

Untouchability and child marriage:

One of the commendable group initiatives is to minimize CBDU³. Prior to group formation and in the initial stage of group formation, during group meetings and trainings, people were reluctant to drink water from common water jar/mug. The situation, however is not the same now. Group members have started embracing people from so called untouchable community. The groups have also prepared strong action plans against CBDU and child marriage.

Group Solidarity:

The identification and inclusion of underprivileged, marginalized, and disadvantaged people in group formation has helped to increase their strength and interest in community development activities. Moreover, they are involved to solve individual group member's problems too. One of the laudable instance was that one of the CDGs from ward 8 constructed toilet for one of their group members.

Group strengthening and capacity building:

The community people were less motivated for the group formation due to past actions of previous projects. The unique and proven approach, i.e., FEST⁴ approach of this project has helped to restore the trust of people in group formation. They have understood the strength and importance of group formation. They have shown interest in performing group activities through group formation. Through resource mapping, community people have become aware of the availability and utilization of resources available to them.

³ Caste based discrimination and Untouchability

⁴ Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation: A proven process led approach for achieving social transformation through facilitated democratic interaction in community development groups focused in issue analysis, solution search, action planning and plan implementation.

Groups are now strengthened to the extent that they are capacitated to identify and advocate for their issues. Some groups have submitted an application to the ward office to support fruit saplings and the construction of dipping tanks⁵ for animals.

Economic context:

The monthly savings of the group have been source of fund for IGAs (Income Generation Activities) such as goat rearing and chicken rearing, buffalo keeping, etc. Loan for IGAs are now available for CGD members at a lower interest rate (12%) against the usual interest rate (36%). Group members are now not compelled to borrow loan from local money lenders at a hefty rate of interest to cover their household expenses.

AE context:

Members of CDGs have become aware of various technical aspects of agriculture. They have started to practice appropriate seedbed preparation techniques, planting methods, and jhol-mol preparation, etc. The establishment of nurseries in each ward will help the CDGs to access seedlings easily. As the project has started to work for group members to access outside resources, the risk of dependency of members on the project might increase.

TARGET GROUPS

Compared to the project application: Were the planned direct and indirect target groups of the project reached?

- At least: Number of directly reached women/men in the report period
- Explanation of deviations compared to the project application

General

| | Total of HH | Total of individuals | N° Women | N° Men | No. of groups, CBOs, CNGOs, networks, cooperatives, associations etc. | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Planned | 600 | 600 | 455 | 145 | 24 CDGs, 1 CBNO | |
| Achieved | 582 | 582 | 469 | 113 | 24 CDGs, 0 CBNO | |
| | Description | | | | N° Women | N° Men |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | | |

| Disaggregation | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| | % of Dalit HH | % of Janajati HH | % of Chhetri HH | % of Thakuri HH | Others |
| Planned | 53 | 21 | 25 | 0 | |
| Achieved | 50 | 21 | 24 | 5 | |
| | Description | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

EXPLANATIONS for major discrepancies between planning and implementation regarding numbers of direct target groups and target regions.

HH deviation:

⁵ A tank used for complete immersion of livestock (e.g., goats, pigs, etc.) in an insecticide.

- Distant HHs have created a challenge for community people including old aged individuals, to engage in group activities and group meetings.
- Presence of group members in more than one group (e.g., women's group, cooperatives, etc.) has affected target reach of total target HHs.
- Facilitation skills of CEs are not fully matured. This created difficulties in attracting other members of society in CDGs.
- Notions of Males that groups for only females and are not interested in participating.

OUTLOOK if and how discrepancies can be addressed or if and how targets (numbers and regions) need to be revised:

- New members will be added to the already formed groups in ward-7 and ward-8 to incorporate an additional number of male participants.
- New group will be formed in ward-9 with the rearrangement of old group members and the addition of new members to the group to avoid duplication of participants.

TARGET AREA:

Jajarkot, Junichande Rural Municipality ward 7, 8, and 9.

COLLABORATIONS / COOPERATION / OTHER ACTORS

Could the foreseen actors be involved in the project implementation as described in the project application? If yes, how is the cooperation progressing? If no, why not, and what impact does this have on the achievement of the project objectives? What new actors and cooperation can be foreseen?

Newly elected panel of local government are very positive and has been very conducive for lobby and advocacy. In fact, it has been easier to work with the new panel of local government authorities. Ward 7 has allocated two lakhs (NPR 200,000) and ward 8 has allocated sixty thousand (NPR 60,000) for training related to agro-ecology. Ward 8 has increased the budget allocated to group members for dipping tank construction. The previously allocated budget was thirty thousand (NPR 30,000) for one dipping tank construction, which has been increased to NPR 300,000 for three-dipping tanks construction. Rural municipality government representatives have approved the budget proposed by ward government representatives for the CDGs. The rural municipality government representatives and agriculture section have made a joint yearly plan for the incorporation of organic agriculture in the municipality agriculture plan.

The project is not able to collaborate with the Agriculture section office and Agriculture Knowledge Center. As a consequence, project CDGs are not able to receive technical and material support from these stakeholders. In future, coordination with the division forest office and community forest user groups is important to accomplish project objectives and they will be sought for collaboration.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

An increased standard of living for marginalized people resulting from ensuring food security through agro-ecology practices, enhanced capacity to access available resources, and strengthening community governance through viable and inclusive community level groups that will have their own operational process, resources, and accountable structures.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES (OUTCOME)

Compared to the initial situation (project application): What expected changes in the target groups' living conditions and/or actions could (already) be observed/measured?

- Demonstration of the changes by means of the indicators defined in the project application (broken down by men and women, HH)
- DESCRIPTION of targets and changes related to SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES and **how were they achieved. (which approach, activates led to the achievement)**
- Can unexpected changes be observed and if yes, which ones, how?

Objective 1: By the end of 2024, 600 HHs (285 Dalit HHs; 175 Janajati HHs; 140 Chhetri HHs) are effectively empowered to strengthen sustainable livelihood through agroecology

The targeted 24 CDGs have been formed which incorporate 582 households. It includes 52 male and 236 female Dalits from Dalit HHs; 7 male and 116 female from janajati HHs; 53 male and 86 female from Chhetri HHs; and 1 male and 31 female from Thakuri HHs. Out of 59 generative themes, 51 community generative themes have been identified and analyzed through code facilitation. Code facilitation was carried out by CEs on community issues. The code facilitation has been done on nutrition and malnutrition, untouchability, sanitation, deforestation, drinking water problem, pest infestation, problems of plastic waste, child marriage, and open defecation.

24 action plans were derived through code facilitation have been implemented. It includes preparation of kitchen garden, pathway cleaning, organic pesticide preparation, water source cleanliness, garbage pit construction, latrine construction, and proposal for tailoring training with support from local government, afforestation. Evaluation of implemented action plan is done where possible to determine the effectiveness of the action plan implemented.

| Outputs | Indicators and planned targets | Base line | Achievement | Year-end target (2022) | Project-end target (2024) | Reasons for Deviation |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OP 1.1: Community groups mobilized, strengthened and followed problem cycle action reflection cycle independently | <i>OP 1.1.1: # of CDGs established.</i> | 0 | 24 | 24 | 0 | - |
| | <i>OP 1.1.2: # community generative themes identified and analyzed</i> | 0 | 51 generative themes analysed out of 59 identified by 24 CDGs | 24 | 120 | Code facilitation of common generative themes in many groups has resulted in higher achievement |
| | <i>OP 1.1.3: # Action plan implemented</i> | 0 | 24 | 12 | 60 | Identification and analysis of higher number of generative themes |
| | <i>OP 1.1.4: % CDGs have regular meeting and following action cycle properly</i> | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 70% | - |
| | <i>OP 1.1.5: % CDGs initiated to generate local resources and mobilize them for agriculture production and practices.</i> | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 40% | - |
| OP 1.2: Members trained on facilitation | <i>OP 1.2.1: # of CDG members have successfully completed series of CDG leadership package training for community facilitators</i> | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|---|
| | OP 1.2.2: % of facilitators can well facilitate and handle the CDGs independently | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 60% | - |
| | OP 1.2.3: % CDGs run independently without support of SS staffs or external facilitator | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 60% | - |

Specific objective 2: By the end of 2024, 500 HHs (285 Dalit HHs; 175 Janajati HHs; 140 Chhetri HHs) will enhance their food and agriculture situation through the promotion of kitchen gardens, fruits and fodder, and other agroecology initiatives.

CODE facilitation has been run on nutrition to group members. Community Educators facilitated the process. 66 households have become aware of nutrition practices. The establishment of kitchen gardens or allocation of area for kitchen gardens has been regarded as the indicator for awareness of family nutrition practices. 45 households have been trained on various technical aspects of kitchen gardening. Training to CDG members is being provided on a continuous basis based on the requirements. Till now, members have been trained on seedbed preparation, method, and technique of transplantation of seedlings. Training on nursery management to has been provided to selected individuals on the training site and nursery establishment site.

| Outputs | Indicators and planned targets | Baseline | Achievement as of now (2022 - June) | Year-end target (2022) | Project-end target (2024) | Reasons for Deviation |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OP 2.1: Awareness provided to group members in improved nutrition and care practices, agro-ecological farm practices, and sustainable agriculture. | OP 2.1.1: # of HHs in CDGs aware on family nutrition practices | 0 | 66 | 50 | 200 | CDGs members have shown interest in establishing kitchen garden. |
| | OP 2.1.2: # of HHs in CDGs trained in kitchen garden | 0 | 42 | 40 | 150 | Active participation of CDGs members in joint seed support of RM and project technical support. |
| | OP 2.1.3: # HH trained in fruits and nuts | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 350 | - |
| | OP 2.1.4: # of HHs trained in maintaining nurseries | 0 | 5 | 6 | - | Unfavorable climate had created difficulties for participants to reach training location |
| | OP 2.1.5: # of HHs trained on seed saving and management | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | - | - |

Specific objective 3: By the end of 2024, 24 CDG, and 1 CBNO will advocate influence the Junichande RM and Karnali Province to establish legal frameworks, and strategies to initiate services on agroecology.

A joint meeting between CDG members and local government representatives was conducted to coordinate joint actions. Discussions on government services, programs, and community issues were carried out. The positive response of government representatives towards project activities has helped to allocate budget for group members under different headings. Due to the regular lobbying and advocacy of our Senior Community educator, local representatives have shown commitment to making our target and activities a priority in their budget planning and process. Ward no. 7 has allocated a budget worth NPR 200,000 as match funding, and ward no 8 has allocated NPR 60,000 each to two groups for vegetable farming for FY (Fiscal Year) 079/080.

| Outputs | Indicators and planned targets | Base line | Achievement as of now (2022 -June) | Year-end target (2022) | Project-end target (2024) | Reasons for Deviation |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OP 3.1: Strengthened CDGs and CDGs networks advocacy initiatives to influence local and provincial government | OP 3.1.1: # of members of CDGs and CBNO trained in right-based advocacy related to agro-ecology | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 25 | - |
| | OP 3.1.2: # of members of CDGs and CBNO trained in local budget tracking and open and accountable budget discussion | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 25 | - |
| | OP 3.1.3: # of members of CDGs and CBNO trained on Joint capacity-building actions for Local Government and CSOs | 0 | 21 | 25 | | CDGs members didn't participate in joint meeting as expected due to their busy schedule. |
| OP 3.2: Group networks have established linkages with the local government structure | OP 3.2.1: % households from # CDGs participating in the local government planning process. | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 50%/24 | |

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS (OUTPUT) AND ACTIVITIES

What were the key approaches or activities that led to the achievement of the above outcomes?

Factors (Outputs) contributing to the achievement of specific objective (outcome) 1:

- 24 Community Development Groups (CDGs) were established (6 in ward 7; 9 in ward 8, and 9 in ward 9).
- Out of 59 generative themes identified in LS (Listening Survey) and in successive group meetings, 51 generative themes were analyzed to derive action plans through code facilitation.
- 24 action plans were implemented and evaluated in monetary terms where possible.

Activities leading to above outputs contributing to specific objective 1:

- The project team facilitated the Community Development Group emergence process. 266 weekly meetings have been facilitated for analysis of community issues, action plan implementation, and review meetings of Community Development Groups (CDGs) by CEs.

- Community Facilitation Training (CFT) for selected 193 CDG members was provided.
- 58 household visits (coaching) were provided to CDG members.
- Community scorecard in each ward (three) was carried out

Factors (Outputs) contributing to the achievement of specific objective (outcome) 2:

- 66 CDG members were made aware of family nutrition practice through code facilitation.
- Seed support from the rural municipality and technical support for the project for kitchen gardening was provided to project group members. This helped in the establishment of 42 kitchen gardens in the project area.
- Training to 5 individuals for nursery establishment was provided through nursery management training organized by FA. Training to one individual for nursery establishment was provided on the project site.

Activities leading to above outputs contributing to specific objective 2:

- A one day nutrition training was provided by a resource person to 12 project staff.
- A two-day staff kitchen garden establishment training was provided to 9 project staff.
- The collection of local seeds to support kitchen garden establishments was carried out continuously.
- 2 project staff and 5 nursery holders attended nursery establishment training organized by FA.
- Materials support to 6 selected individuals was provided for the nursery establishment.

Factors (Outputs) contributing to the achievement of specific objective (outcome) 3:

- A joint meeting was conducted between local government and 21 CDG members.

Activities leading to above outputs contributing to specific objective 2:

- Frequent meetings with local government representatives were carried out.
- A two-day AE orientation workshop was provided to local government representatives.
- A one-day interaction meeting was conducted with government representatives.

GENDER ANALYSIS

What changes could be achieved in relation to **gender equality**, in particular gender relations? What challenges occurred? Do men/women support the project in equal measure or do they want to see changes?

This project was implemented with a notion that apart from solving and mitigating multiple environment and ecological crisis, it will benefit both men and women. Most of the male counterparts of female members from CDGs are in India for employment. This has, by default, made females the decision maker. It is evident that women decides most of the household economic activities. They decide what to feed their children, where to work, when to work, etc.

The project is striving to empower women but because of the absence of their male counterparts, they are facing challenges to participate in regular group meetings due to their busy schedules. In fact, they are left

without helping hands for household chores (cooking, forage, firewood and fodder collection, etc.). This raises a critical question: is the project actually helping women or burdening them?

It would not be fair to posit that this project has nothing to do with female being the decision maker but as of this date, absence of males is one of the most important reasons which have made female member 'the household head'. Activities planned for second and third year can somewhat lessen the burden of forage, firewood and fodder collection for females in near future. However, it is felt necessary that certain adjustments must be made to address below mentioned issues which are:

- Adjustment in monthly meeting (date and time slots)
- Motivate male members to join CDGs.
- Strive to involve males in IGAs in their own locality so that they won't be compelled to move to India for cheap labor. This will also help in minimizing household burden of their female counterparts.

CHALLENGES: Handling of difficulties / conflicts and lessons learnt regarding Project implementation and monitoring (processes, approaches, means)

Were processes, approaches and means in the project appropriate?

What difficulties were encountered?

What conflicts were encountered in the context of the project?

Any do-no-harm issues resulting due to the project?

→ *Account of a relevant conflict or of another challenge and how it was handled: How did the team experience the conflict/the challenge or do no harm issues? Within what framework were they discussed and/or how were they approached/dealt with?*

Busy schedule of group members, government representatives, and political leaders

CDG members have a provision for internal migration within rural municipalities. This directly affects the participation of group members in group meetings. In addition, it becomes challenging to establish kitchen gardens in two different locations in a single household.

The very busy working schedule of government representatives delayed the implementation of various coordination-related action plans.

The project requires frequent visits to the concerned ward office and municipality office. But the busy schedule of local leaders has created a challenge to synchronize according to the project plan. We had to wait for an extended period to organize a meeting with them.

Geographical constraints and scattered HHs of CDGs

The group members have their houses far from each other. They need to travel a long distance to attend group meetings, which has become a demotivating factor for them to attend group meetings.

Although separate CEs are mobilized for separate wards considering geographical constraints, CEs are facing challenges during their field visits. Some CEs have to walk for six hours to reach their allotted field and facilitate group meetings. On that particular day, they have to plan their stay in the field, which is quite difficult for ladies CEs.

Perception of male members of project wards

The males perceives the groups formed are only for females and it is not appropriate to get included. As a consequence, the participation of males is low in groups, esp. in ward 7. It is evident that group facilitated

by male CEs have more male group members compared to those groups facilitated by female CEs. This has been identified as one of the serious challenges.

Harsh weather condition and heavy rain

Unexpected off-seasonal rain has heavily affected established kitchen gardens. The seedbed establishment by CDG members was followed by continuous rain for a week.

The weather conditions in the project region are quite harsh to cope with. Extreme cold and rain have been a challenge for field staff.

Poor capacity build-up of field staffs

As the project enters its next phase, the performance of staff has not been improved as expected.

Lack of awareness among group members

The group formation process was very cumbersome for the Community Educator of ward 9. Because of disinterested individuals/ community members, she says, it has been very hard to convince individuals to join their groups. Moreover, group members have in-kind expectations; they demand external inputs. Their demands are material-driven.

Communication

The poor network has been another challenge as it has hindered communication among project field team members. This has delayed the timely execution of project activities and report preparation.

Local election:

The local election held in May 2022, established a new panel of government representatives at the local level. The project team already had an established relationship with the old one and it took quite a time to convince new local-level representatives of our project plan, activities, and policies. However, they now have a positive outlook for our project. Activities implementation was also influenced by the local election; it delayed activity implementation and some of the activities planned for this year also could not be completed.

Poor availability of local crop varieties:

Commercially available crop varieties have become famous among farmers. The trend to store seeds for the next season is minimal, especially in the case of vegetable crops. This will create difficulties in acquiring local varieties of seeds to maintain the kitchen garden.

Staff turnover

Delay in project intervention and follow-up reporting has been influenced due to staff turnover. Agriculture Officer Ms. Mina Bakabal left the project and Mr. Aakash Tiwari was appointed on July 1 as the new Agroecology Officer. We have to reorient the newly appointed AO of all the project activities, its approach, and its methodologies. The implications were seen in the report compilation process too.

Community Educators selection:

The project tried hard to ensure social inclusion during the CE selection process. There are some criteria for selecting befitting CEs for each ward. In ward no. 9, CE from the Thakuri group was selected from Dalit dominant ward.

KEY LESSONS / MAIN MEASURES PLANNED (ADJUSTMENTS): for next period taking into consideration lessons learnt

Layout of main measures to address challenges and capitalize on lessons learnt for the next project phase.

Detailed planning of activities during monthly meetings of all field staff could help to mitigate the challenge of poor communication to some extent. This will further help in improving the understanding of staff toward the project and its activities.

Preparation of data collection formats is crucial for the accuracy of the information, which could also be used for regular tracking and monitoring of project activities.

The weekly meetings of one of the CDGs are **scheduled based on the schedule of group members**. This approach will be extended to other groups shortly.

The different activities of the FEST approach like CFT (Community Facilitator Training) is expected to change the motive of group members to participate in group meetings. The motivation of CDGs members for group solidarity will improve their participation in group meetings.

The **patience of the project team** is important. While working in a community, the project staff must be able to sync with the busy schedule of the community people. The activities might not run as planned, but patience is the key for the project team to keep the project plan on track. The community development group formation process coincided with the rice and millet transplanted season, which increased the busyness of the community people. CEs had to wait for many hours for the gathering of community people. This also affected the overall schedule of group formation. Although the project schedule was at a slower pace than expected, we managed to work with patience.

The project has used approaches and meeting sessions to demonstrate the strength of groups in a community. This practice is expected to minimize the ignorance level of group members to attain group meetings. The attainment of results from the project in near future will too serve this purpose.

Record keeping of every activity is important. For future planning, to inspect past activities and for comparison purposes, record keeping of every activity will be carried out during the project

Feedback collection and possible improvements of those feedback implementations: Implementation of feedback must be done under possible and relevant scenarios. The CEs used to decide the day of the weekly meetings in CDGs, which caused a delay in the initiation of group meetings. Later, the time of the meeting was decided jointly by the group members based on their schedules. Most of the members used to arrive on time with this amendment.

To reduce the impact of the communication gap, the project team has planned to **increase the frequency of field visits**. This will ensure continuous guidance to the CEs and appropriate communication among the project team.

Coordination with local government is a basic requirement for project's success. The project will only run for a limited period and will be on its own for continuation. Realization of the importance of the project by the local government ensures the continuation of the project objectives for a long period even with project termination. Appropriate coordination with the local government will ensure the project's objective continuation by the local government. In the past, many projects had worked in that region and were not able to continue their objectives autonomously after their termination. Lack of government intervention in the project objective was one of the causes for the short life of the project objective.

Frequent monitoring and support of newly recruited staff is the key to strengthening them. Especially in the early phase of recruiting, recruits will be guided and monitored continuously.

To improve social inclusion, especially of Dalits, marginalized community people will be motivated. In the future, **special care will be taken during staff selection** (if in case of staff turnover) of the project team and other relevant activities.

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| PROSPECT / EXIT STRATEGY | |
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| <p>Does the prospects described in the project application continue to be realistic? Does the exit strategies described in the project application continue to be realistic?</p> <p>The project aims to form ward level Main Committee⁶ and Palika level Community-Based Network Organizations (CBNO) ⁷in 2024. 24 CDGs are formed this year are being regularly facilitated through weekly meetings. The selected individuals from these CDGs will be trained in community facilitation. After serious of training i.e. CFT 1⁸, CFT 2⁹, and CFT 3, they will be capacitated enough to run group meetings on their own.</p> <p>Group members have been already trained with CFT 1 and they are conducting group meetings on their own even in absence of Community educators. Those trained with CFT 1 are now ready to be trained for with CFT 2 and CFT 3¹⁰ planned for 2023. They will be trained on group work; participation; decision making; roles and responsibilities; development theories; facilitation skills; leadership and meeting management; planning; record-keeping and financial management; group network formation; resource acquisition; and liaison with external agencies.</p> | |
| PROJECT MANAGEMENT | |
| Project Responsibility | <p>Was the project coordination assured as planned in the project application?</p> <p>The Executive Director (ED) assured for all strategic level compliance, monitoring and coordination of the project. SS Board regularly followed up of program activities through ED. The Administration and Finance Manager (AFM) handled the financial systems and reporting to the ED. Similarly, Agro-ecology Officer (AO) handled all operational level activities and reporting to the ED and coordinated with other units like MEaLC, finance, etc. The MELC was involved in for the quality assurance & tracking project operation of the report and documentation. Field visit from the central office was done once involving GESI officer, Assistant Admin and Finance Manager, MEaLC, from central office and AO, Program Officer, Agroecology Focal Person, and CE from field office.</p> |
| Staff members involved / external persons | <p>Were /are the staff members involved in the project implementation as planned?</p> <p>The staffs involved in the project are:</p> <p><u>Old staff structure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aakash Tiwari as an Agroecology Officer ➤ Min Kadara as a Program Officer ➤ 6 part-time Local Resource Persons ➤ Community Educators: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Srijana Magar (ward no. 7) 2. Tej Bahadur Thapa (ward no. 8) |

⁶ A ward level network formed by autonomous and independent Community Development Groups. Representatives for Main Committee will be selected from community development groups.

⁷ A palika level network organization formed by autonomous and independent Community Development Groups. Representatives of CBNOs will be selected from MC.

⁸ A 3-day training participating 8 participants from each group making 24 participants from 3 groups where trainees will be trained on need and importance of groups, role of groups and group members, effective leadership, decision making process, resource analysis, formation of action plan and effective implementation, development concept, etc.

⁹ A 4-day training participating active 4 participants from the CFT 1 making 24 participants from 6 groups where trainees will be trained on effective communication, group facilitation, effective meeting organizing, coordination and relation, problem identification and analysis, decision writing and documentation, etc.

¹⁰ A 4-day training participating the same trainees of CFT 2 where they will be trained on community development group institutionalization, network development, intergroup community action plan formation and implementation, group's long term plan, community good governance, structure of community and rules and regulation, common issues and coordination, etc.

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| | <p>3. Devika Shahi (ward no. 9)</p> <p>There was a slight change in the staff structure. One of the CEs, Mr. Tej Bahadur Thapa was assigned the role of Agroecology Focal Person and Mr. Prem Lohar was hired as a Community Educator as his replacement.</p> <p><u>New staff structure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aakash Tiwari as an Agroecology Officer ➤ Tej Bahadur Thapa as an Agroecology Focal Person ➤ Min Kadara as a Program Officer ➤ 6 part-time Local Resource Persons ➤ Community Educators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Srijana Magar (ward no. 7) 5. Prem Lohar (ward no. 8) 6. Devika Shahi (ward no. 9) <p>The project staffs involvement during project implementation was as per their roles and responsibilities and planning.</p> <p>In case of external mandates/consultants: Have the persons fulfilled their mandate?</p> |
| Capacity building | <p>Have staff members involved in the project taken part in training during the project period? If yes, what kind of training? And what effect have these trainings had for the participants or in the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEST foundation training has enabled project members for facilitation of Community development groups (CDGs). • Nursery management training has improved the understanding of project team for nursery establishment relevant to project area. • PVS training has improved understanding of staffs for selection of variety with farmers' participation. • Kitchen Gardening training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seed bed preparation training ➤ Jhol-mol preparation training ➤ Compost preparation ➤ Land preparation ➤ Intercultural practices ➤ Nursery management ➤ Crop selection <p>Kitchen gardening training was provided to the project staffs in which they were trained on seed bed preparation, Jhol-mol (liquid manure) preparation, compost preparation, land preparation, intercultural practices¹¹, vegetable nursery management, crop selection, etc. Prior to the training, the staffs they had poor knowledge on technical-know-how of the Kitchen Garden. But now as they are acquainted on the techniques of Kitchen gardening, they are now able to disseminate their knowledge and techniques of KG in the group level.</p> |
| Monitoring | <p>Who was responsible for the monitoring during the report period? Who collected the data and compiled it? Who was involved in the analysis of the data/results? Any challenges</p> <p>Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Coordinator (MELC) was responsible for the monitoring during the reporting period.</p> <p>MELC collected and compiled the report whereas AO collected the data and compiled it. MELC was involved in the analysis of the data/results.</p> |
| Audit | <p>Has an external audit of accounts for the report period taken place? If yes: when and by whom? Was the report sent to Fastenopfer? (an annual audit by an external auditor is compulsory if the annual contribution by Fastenopfer is above CHF 50'000)</p> |
| Reporting | <p>Who produced this report? Who contributed to it? To whom will the report be sent additionally (target groups, public authorities, other donor organisations, etc...)?</p> |

¹¹ Lighter and finer operations carried out on the soil, between sowing and harvesting, for e.g., weeding, fertilizer application, mulching, etc.

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| | <p>→ Date and signature</p> <p>Compiled and Edited by : Raksha Khadka (PMELC)</p> <p>Contributed by: Aakash Tiwari (AO)</p> <p>This report is primarily prepared for internal use and the donor. If needed, it can be provided to the SS (Sahakarmi Samaj) board and Local Government authorities.</p> |
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ANNEX

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| PROJECT MONITORING SHEET |
| STORIES OF CHANGE (OPTIONAL) |
| <p>Does the project have one or several stories that illustrate the changes in the living conditions and/or actions of the target groups (impact)?</p> <p>→ e.g. Story of Change: story of a person, a family, a group or a community which illustrates, in an exemplary way, the impact of the project</p> <p>→ e.g. Most Significant Change: Description of the change(s) that is/are described as the most relevant by the target group and the reason for this</p> |
| PHOTOS (HIGH QUALITY) (Photos are sent in a separate attachment) |
| <p>Please add 2-3 informative photos and indicate names of people (to reasonable extent) and event, place and time of the event</p> |
| FA COMMON INDICATOR |

Annex 1: PROJECT MONITORING SHEET

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1

| Objective 1: | Indicators and planned targets | Base line | Achievement as of now (2022) | Year-end target (2022) | Year-end target (2023) | Project-end target (2024) | Reasons for Deviation |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Specific objective 1: By the end of 2024, 600 HHs (285 Dalit HHs; 175 Janajati HHs; 140 Chhetri HHs) are effectively empowered to strengthen sustainable livelihood through agroecology | <i>O 1.1: # of Community problems solved</i> | 0 | 10 | 15 | 30 | 30 | Common problems solved in more gro |
| | <i>O 1.2: # of Community accessing outside resources and using them to implement their own community schemes</i> | 0 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 15 | Positive m of rural municipa towards t project he achieve t target. |
| | <i>O 1.3: # of HHs in CDGs benefitted from initiatives for agroecology received from Local Government</i> | 0 | 0 | 10 | 50 | 100 | The elect delayed t release o allocated governm the CDG busy sch local leac |

Output indicators for specific objective 1

| Outputs | Indicators and planned targets | Base line | Achievement as of now (2022) | Year-end target (2022) | Year-end target (2023) | Project-end target (2024) | Reasons for Deviation |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OP 1.1: Community groups mobilized, strengthened and followed problem cycle action reflection cycle independently | OP 1.1.1: # of CDGs established. | 0 | 24 | 24 | 0 | 0 | |
| | OP 1.1.2: # community generative themes identified and analyzed | 0 | 51 generative themes analysed out of 59 identified by 24 CDGs | 24 | 120 | 120 | Identification of generative themes in LS and continuous group meetings. |
| | OP 1.1.3: # Action plan implemented | 0 | 24 | 12 | 60 | 60 | Identification and analysis of higher number of generative themes |
| | OP 1.1.4: % CDGs have regular meeting and following action cycle properly | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 50% | 70% | - |
| | OP 1.1.5: % CDGs initiated to generate local resources and mobilize them for agriculture production and practices. | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 20% | 40% | - |
| OP 1.2: Members trained on facilitation and community mobilization | OP 1.2.1: # of CDG members have successfully completed series of CDG leadership package training for community facilitators | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 192 | - | - |
| | OP 1.2.2: % of facilitators can well facilitate and handle the CGDs independently | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 50% | 60% | - |
| | OP 1.2.3: % CDGs run independently without support of SS staffs or external facilitator | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 50% | 60% | - |

Activities for specific objective 1

| Activities: | Planned Output | Achievements/ Gaps | Reasons for Deviation | Adjustments for the following period/year |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Activity 1: Facilitation for the Community Development Group emergence process | 24 | 24 | - | - |
| Activity 2: Facilitation of analysis of community issues, action plan implementation and review meeting (weekly basis) | 288 | 266 | | The schedule for group meetings will be scheduled as per the |

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| | | | | recommendations of group members. |
| Activity 3: Community Facilitation Training | 3 | 3 | | -- |
| Activity 4: Coaching of marginalized CDG members (individuals) and families | Regular process | Ongoing | - | |
| Activity 5: Collaboration and partnership with LG | | | | |
| a. 3-days Community Score Card exercise and interaction meeting | 3 | 3 | - | |

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2

| Objective 1: | Indicators and planned targets | Base line | Achievement as of now (2022) | Year-end target (2022) | Year-end target (2023) | Project-end target (2024) | Reasons for Deviation |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Specific objective 2: By the end of 2024, 500 HHs (285 Dalit HHs; 175 Janajati HHs; 140 Chhetri HHs) will enhance their food and agriculture situation through the promotion of kitchen garden, fruits and fodder and other agroecology initiatives. | <i>O 2.1: HHs having pre-determined Kitchen Garden growing at least 5 different varieties (at least 2 local varieties) of vegetable and spice crops</i> | 0 | 42 | 40 | 350 | 150 | Growing interest of CDG members towards kitchen garden. Those who are not directly trained in kitchen garden were also interested and established kitchen garden on their own. This is a perfect case of 'doing by seeing'. |
| | <i>O 2.2: Nursery established to support diversified sapling supply to the groups</i> | 0 | 6 | 6 | - | - | |
| | <i>O 2.3: HH with at least 5 fruits and fodder plants</i> | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 150 | 350 | - |
| | <i>O 2.4: Community Seed Banks established</i> | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 1 | - | - |
| | <i>O 2.5: revival of community/leasehold forest</i> | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 1 | 1 | - |

Output indicators for specific objective 2

| Outputs | Indicators and planned targets | Base line | Achievement as of now (2022) | Year-end target (2022) | Year-end target (2023) | Project-end target (2024) | Reasons for Deviation |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>OP 2.1: Awareness provided to group members in improved nutrition and care practices, agro-ecological farm practices and sustainable agriculture.</i> | <i>OP 2.1.1: # of HHs in CDGs aware on family nutrition practices</i> | 0 | 66 | 50 | 350 | 200 | More people from CDGs HHs participated in nutrition training |
| | <i>OP 2.1.2: # of HHs in CDGs trained in kitchen garden</i> | 0 | 42 | 40 | 350 | 150 | Growing interest of CDG members in Kitchen garden. |
| | <i>OP 2.1.3: # HH trained in fruits and nuts</i> | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 150 | 350 | - |
| | <i>OP 2.1.4: # of HHs trained in maintaining nurseries</i> | 0 | 5 | 6 | - | - | Unfavorable climate had created difficulties for participants to reach training venue. |
| | <i>OP 2.1.5: # of HHs trained on seed saving and management</i> | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 50 | - | - |

Activities for specific objective 2

| Activities: | Planned Output | Achievements/ Gaps | Reasons for Deviation | Adjustments for the following period/year |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Activity 1: LRP mobilization | 6 | 6 | - | - |
| Activity 2: 1-day training on nutrition practices | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Activity 3: 2-days kitchen gardening training | 1 | 1 | - | - |

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Activity 4: Collection and sourcing of local seed for kitchen garden | 3 | 3 | - | - |
| Activity 5: Participation in FASTENAKTION's nursery maintenance training | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Activity 6: Nursery establishment support | 6 | 6 | - | - |

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3

| Objective 1: | Indicators and planned targets | Base line | Achievement as of now (2022) | Year-end target (2022) | Year-end target (2023) | Project-end target (2024) | Reasons for Deviation |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Specific objective 3: By the end of 2024, 24 CDG, 1 CBNO will advocate influence the Junichande RM and Karnali Province to establish legal frameworks, strategies to initiate services on agroecology. | <i>3.1 Number of policy dialogue on issues raised by groups</i> | 0 | 0 | 5 | 15 | 15 | Adjusted for next year due to time constraints |
| | <i>3.2: # of Success initiatives (policy, legal frameworks and budget related issues addressed) to promote Agro-ecology/organic agriculture resulting from initiatives</i> | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | 4 | 4 | - |

Output indicators for specific objective 3

| Objective 1: | Indicators and planned targets | Base line | Achievement as of now (2022 -June) | Year-end target (2022) | Year-end target (2023) | Project-end target (2024) | Reasons for Deviation |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>OP 3.1: Strengthened CDGs and CDGs networks advocacy initiatives to</i> | <i>OP 3.1.1: # of members of CDGs and CBNO trained in right-based advocacy related to agro-ecology</i> | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | - | 25 | - |
| | <i>OP 3.1.2:# of members of CDGs and CBNO trained in local budget tracking and open and accountable budget discussion</i> | 0 | No target set for Y 1 | No target set for Y 1 | - | 25 | - |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>influence local and provincial government</i> | <i>OP 3.1.3: # of members of CDGs and CBNO trained on Joint capacity building actions for Local Government and CSOs</i> | 0 | 21 | 25 | - | - | CDGs members didn't participate in joint meeting as expected. |
| <i>OP 3.2: Group networks have established linkages with the local government structure</i> | <i>OP 3.2.1: % households from # CDGs participating in the local government planning process.</i> | 0 | <i>No target set for Y 1</i> | <i>No target set for Y 1</i> | <i>30%/24</i> | <i>50%/24</i> | - |

Activities for specific objective 3

| Activities: | Planned Output | Achievements/ Gaps | Reasons for Deviation | Adjustments for the following period/year |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Activity 1: 3-days people led development and agro-ecology orientation workshop to palika and stakeholders (with matching fund) | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Activity 2: 1-day interaction meeting with government officials on sustainable and organic agriculture promotional strategy and policy | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Activity 3: 1-day joint meeting held between local government and other stakeholders and group networks | 1 | 1 | - | - |