

## Annual Project Report – Norad Framework Agreement 2021-2025

<b>Version</b>	28/02/2023
<b>Country:</b>	Nepal
<b>Geographic Area(s):</b>	Provinces: 3 (Karnali, Lumbini & Sudurpaschim) Districts: 5 Palika: 13, Wards: 76, CBNOs -6, CBO federation -1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bajura : Jagganatha RM</li> <li>• Banke : Kohalpur Municipality &amp; Janaki RM</li> <li>• Bardiya : Badhiyatal RM &amp; Gulariya RM</li> <li>• Dang : Banglachuli RM, Dangisharan RM</li> <li>• Jajarkot : Bheri Municipality, Chhedagad RM, Shivalaya RM</li> </ul>
<b>Programme/Project Name:</b>	Community Organizing for Sustainable and Empowerment based Livelihood Improvement (COSELI 2)
<b>Main goal of the project:</b>	Impact: Strengthened climate resilience, well-being & community governance in rural communities of Western Nepal. The grass-root organisations in meaningful collaboration with the local government will have practised, implemented and established CAV along with obtaining sustainable and empowered improvement in the standard of living.
<b>Estimated #of target HHs for 5-year program'</b>	12,213
<b>Report Compiled By:</b>	Raksha Khadka +977 9860300326 raksyhakhadka98@gmail.com
<b>Phase Period:</b>	2021-25
<b>Reporting year</b>	2022

<b>Name of implementing organisation, address, tel, website</b>	Sahakarmi Samaj, Nepal Central Office: Kohalpur -10, Highschool road, Banke, +977 81 540099, www.sahakarmisamaj.org Head Office: Birendranagar -10, Shantinagar, Surkhet
<b>Name, email address and mob tel of the organisation leader</b>	
<b>Name, email address and mob tel of the project leader</b>	Mr. Ammar Bahadur Air +977 9858040954 amarbdr.air@gmail.com

## A. General update

### **Contextual analysis (annual update)**

Describe specific situations of this year at the local areas and at the national level that are relevant to the project and explain their effects on the project during the reporting year. This may be climate/weather/natural disasters, pest/disease outbreaks, COVID-19/health issues, pricing, new infrastructure development, government policies, and political, economic and social situation of the country. Please also consider issues of gender equality and inclusion of marginalized groups specifically targeted by the project.

Two major elections were held in this year. A new panel of government has been formed from coalition of seven major political parties. Local, state and federal governments have been formed. The existing local leaders were replaced by new leaders through the local level election; a new panel of local government authorities have been elected. The newly appointed leaders have shown a positive response toward the project objectives. They also have allocated budget portions to project activities. The local leaders have agreed to cooperate to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the project. Newly elected panel of local government 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 CGs viz. agricultural training, improved cook stoves, and support for fruit saplings.

The project too has helped for positive change in local context. In Bajura (newly supported project area) district, the community people were less motivated for the group formation due to past actions of previous projects. The unique and preferred technique 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, the community people have become aware of the availability and utilization of resources available to them.

The project has identified vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community of Bajura and has helped to form community development groups with the majority of these people. The inclusion of these people in group formation has helped to increase their strength and interest of them in community development activities. The different project activities conducted in the preliminary phase have helped to identify the economic, social, and cultural behaviors of community people in detail. This will in attaining the project objective effectively and efficiently.

The country's economy is declining. The prices of petroleum products, food, vegetables and daily consumables have surged up. Due to unemployment, young people are forced to go abroad. This year too, agricultural productivity could not increase.

Due to lack of timely rain, there was a decrease in food and vegetable production. Due to extreme cold, labourers and farmers have found it difficult to work. During the rainy season, landslides destroyed the roads and people faced problems in travelling. Haphazard road/motorway construction also caused landslide in various project district which blocked roadways and caused obstacle in travelling.

## Stakeholder Monitoring

Based on the stakeholder list in the application describe to what extent the project has been implemented in cooperation with other donors and national / local government.

<b>Stakeholders</b>	List and explain any <b>changes in the stakeholders' opinions</b> of the project or other significant incidents regarding stakeholders that should be noted. (Reference to Stakeholder Analysis table, item A.4 in application format)
<b>Participants</b>	
Poor and marginalized people	Participating with full enthusiasm and getting full support. Animated, encouraged and supported with means of economic support as well as resilience skills to improve their livelihood. They share that their capacity have enhanced after the program to identify potential threat to their crops and their lives and try and cope with such disasters. Similarly, they feel their awareness on nutrition and care practice has improved.
Women and Dalits	High ratio of beneficiaries is women and has full support from them. Women are actively participating in the programs. Dalits are benefited as well.
Family of CG members	Benefited from the income of various income generation activities supported by the program and are positive
Lead farmers	Lead farmers are excited and opine that the project is meaningful in linking them with the services and resources at local government along with providing training on different climate resilient agriculture techniques.
<b>Public sector</b>	
Wards of Rural Municipalities	Supportive, cooperative and collaborative. They have taken us with positive response considering our regular engagement continued form the previous program.
Rural Municipalities	Supportive, cooperative and collaborative. They have taken us with positive response considering our regular engagement continued form the previous program.
Municipalities	

Sub-Metropolitan Office	
SWC	Approved the program and provided positive feedback and well wishes for the success of the program.
<b>Private sector</b>	
Agri-Business and Suppliers	Supportive and positive towards SS approach
INGO/NGOs	
INGO-FEMI (Foundation to Earth, Mankind through Inspiration and Initiatives)	Impressed by the contribution of COSELI project and want to scale up those activities and play complementary role in the community level through match funding. Supportive and positive towards SS approach.

## Risks management

List the risks mentioned in the risk assessment in the application item 4.5 and fill in information according to the column titles.

In addition, describe any changes in the risk assessment; new risks emerged (i.e., COVID-19, etc.) or changes in the risk rating or consequences.

Description of Risk	Actions carried out to reduce the risk if any	Did the risk occur this year? (Yes/no)	If the risk occurred, what measures were carried out to reduce the consequences?
<b>External Risks</b>			
1. Drought/flood/landslides	Interaction on DRR/CAV plan were conducted on working areas	Yes	The farmers were linked with local government for compensation for the loss of grains. They were encouraged to quickly harvest the paddy and dry them on a higher area.
2. Local Governments may not promote participatory planning process (After the election in 2023, the new elected representatives may not endorse the concept of the action)	Continue the rapport built form the previous program and include the leaders of political parties, CSOs in the meetings and other events carried out at the project area.	No	

Description of Risk	Actions carried out to reduce the risk if any	Did the risk occur this year? (Yes/no)	If the risk occurred, what measures were carried out to reduce the consequences?
3. The pandemic (COVID 19)	Followed the guidelines and instruction circulated by the government and WHO.	Yes	Oriented communities and staff on the safety measures to apply for protection from infection. Awareness raising at community level.
4. Economic hardship may limit the involvement of women, youth and marginalised and vulnerable groups in governance process	CG members were made aware of entitlements, supported access to local resources, and helped to advocate for resources from local government	No	-
5. Price inflation (fuel)		Yes	
<b>Internal Risks</b>			
6. High staff turn-over	Frequently motivated the staffs in their job and additional facility also added.	No	-

### Unforeseen Consequences and lessons learned

Please explain unpredicted consequences of the project – positive and negative, and how these have been dealt with. Here can also be included achievements not reflected in the log frame.

Unexpected help and support from local government representatives: Two major elections were held in this reporting year in Nepal- local level and province level. The old panel, with which Sahakarmi had already established trust and goodwill, was replaced by the new one. Initially, it became somehow hard to convince the new panel about our working approach but through regular lobby and interaction meetings, SS has now developed better relation with the new panel and they have now become more supportive than ever. They are positive with SS's working approach and have assured to assist and support SS in their mission to develop strengthened community.

Key learnings:

- Increasing production and productivity of crop and livestock only is not enough. Marketing challenges should also be addressed.
- Livestock insurance is must for successful livestock production and profitability.

- Thorough project orientation is must for every field staffs and community members.
- Continuous monitoring, learning sharing of project objectives, outcomes, results and coordination meetings with stakeholders helps to build strong connection with them which helps to better acquire government funds and resources.
- Group registration in local Rural/ Urban Municipality office is very effective to have access to budget and resources allocated by local government.
- If marginalized communities are empowered and organized, they can claim the rights, participation and access to budget. The project promoted community groups are now capacitated to claim government resources. Mobilization of experienced lead farmer proves to be helpful to project technical staffs and project sustainability.
- Regular meetings, interactions and discussion with people make relationships stronger and better.
- Engaging representative of local government in the project activities at the community level increases their attraction and attention towards the communities.
- Problem analysis, discussion and interaction is very important for group awareness.
- Preparation should be done before conduction of any program.
- Regular monitoring is necessary for the success of the program.
- If we work together, we can change ourselves. The project should give us a way to make the most out of our skills and resources.
- SS seeks groups' contribution (cash or in kind) in its activities implementation. **It does not provide for free.** Because of this, Community Groups don't solely depend on project's contribution. Thus, SS has challenged lack of ownership and hence contributed in sustainable impact.

## Exit strategy

Based on the exit plans stated in the application, item A6;

- describe any mechanisms that have been put in place in the reporting year.
- reflect on how the mechanisms ensure continued benefits to both women and men, and to marginalized groups targeted by the project (I.e., continued support by government or community organizations, etc).

Sahakarmi Samaj (SS) follows a distinct methodology for exit from a working area. SS focused on capacity building and enkindling the ownership towards the project's intervention. SS encourages the formation of community groups (CGs) and further organizes them into network system to ensure their sustainability. Following procedures were followed while SS field staff left working area:

### ➤ **FEST approach for project implementation:**

SS applies FEST for group facilitation and formation; implementation of output and outcome-based activities; and enhance the connection between community people and the local government. This has helped to promote self-reliant culture among the marginalized communities and animate them

through FEST approach to identify their problems; make action plans, and carry out those action plans using local resources. The action has further facilitated them to advocate for enhancing access to the resources available at local government along with incapacitating the latter to be accountable and ensure good governance. Because of this, the local government will continue to support the grass-roots organizations even after the project phases out. Moreover, the CGs and their networks will have better collaboration with the local government agencies and they will jointly continue the result of the project. They will be better equipped and self-reliant resulting in their sustainability.

- **CFT and GST were provided to new community group leaders in Bajura.** This training, coaching, mentoring and development of community facilitator from the members of the CGs will enable the trainees to facilitate the groups by themselves even after the project. The process is a knowledge and skill transfer approach of SS that aims to disseminate the FEST at broader communities for their development.
- SS conducted different **training and workshops to enhance the skills and attitudes of CGs, MCs and CBNOs**, based on their needs e.g. facilitation skill development, accounting and group fund management, resource management, organizational management, people- centered advocacy skill development etc. These training and workshops have enabled the target beneficiaries to carry-out the collective initiatives post the project. 95 people got elected in local election held as of 13th May, 2022.
- Networks of main committees (MCs) and community based network organizations (CBNOs) have been established in order to lead the community groups (CGs) and their initiatives. These networks will continue to encourage, co-ordinate, share knowledge and monitor the CGs activities.
- SS has supported CGs, MCs and CBNOs **to establish linkages with different resource agencies** especially the local and provincial government to increase their access to local and external resources. The CGs and their networks have a significant access to the resources at government level. This linkage has ensured the continuing support of local government for the CGs and their network post the project.
- **Activities tailored with community needs:** The designed activities meet the needs and constraints of CGs and their members by building their knowledge on various social and economic issues, and their capacity to organise an inclusive grass-roots organisation, to find issues, make action plans and carry out them and to interface with the local government.
- **Building ownership with local government:** Every activities and approach of COSELI has focused on enhancing ownership from local government through their involvement of the actions. The project approach envisions that local government (ward/Palika) will take ownership of the CGs and their networks and continue supporting the latter's initiatives even after the project. Major activities of the project will focus on identifying local resources, mobilizing and preparing of action plans by CGs will be strengthened their problem analysis and resource mobilization skills thus reducing the tendency of dependency towards the external development agencies. Community Score Card analysis events, people centered development workshop, Interaction on social accountability tools with the local government, etc. were the major events conducted this year to make LG accountable. The approach which keeps the community people at the driving seat of the local development process will not only enhance their access to resources and services but also enhance their social, political and cultural status and role.

- **Group fund mobilization:** Group fund (of total CGs) has reached over 78 million. The current standing of community group saving fund and its mobilization ensures their self-sustaining capacity. The fund enables the members to mobilize their fund in income generation activities and economic growth of marginalized communities thus reducing dependency on other financial institutions.
- All the **groups are being registered in the Agriculture and Livestock Branch** to help increase access to government service facilities.
- Entrepreneurial activities conducted with the support of the program were encouraged to commercialize and register the firm.
- Coordination and cooperation with the municipality and ward.

## Methodology of data collection.

### Data collection for result framework:

- Were other information sources (than those indicated in the Annex B) used for project progress and results monitoring? If so, please indicate the specific methods you used under the following categories;
  - Quantitative methods (other than HH survey): N/A
  - Qualitative methods: KII, Direct Observation; Key Informants Interview (KII) was conducted with the representatives of the local government and government staff to reflect on the overall progress of the project along with assessing their understanding about the project and its impact.
  - Beneficiary feedback mechanisms: Regular meetings, Training and workshop feedbacks; Regular community meetings and meetings with the MCs and CBNOs made it possible to collect the feedbacks, suggestions and grievances if any from the beneficiaries. Similarly, at the end of the trainings and workshops, feedbacks were collected from the participants about the training and their views on the overall project
  - control group methods: N/A
- Were there any challenges or problems during the process of data collection and analysis this year? No.

## B. Progress report

### Narrative description of causes of deviations:

List all **outcomes (Immediate and Intermediate)**, and under each one, include a narrative text on the following points:

- a. Progress made towards reaching the expected outcomes:

- Discuss whether the project was implemented as planned and explain reasons for any deviations. Include any relevant factors (internal and external) that have influenced achievements for 2022. In relation to this, reflect also on the risk management description under section A in this report and refer to any specific relevant risks.
  - Discuss other factors (in addition to program activities/outputs) that influenced the achievement of the above results, either positively or negatively. Consider for example the how of other actors (community leaders, other NGOs, government programs) as well as climate, COVID-19, economic or political context, cultural norms, have influenced the achievement of results. Give concrete examples where possible.
- b. Deviations from targets:
- In **Annex B** (Results framework) you will include a brief explanation of the reasons for deviations from targets (+/- 15%) for all indicators. If any of these deviations require a more in-depth explanation, include it here, including details on how these will be dealt with in the coming year(s). Otherwise, you do not need to repeat information already included in Annex B.
- c. Deviations in budget utilization and activities:
- Explain the reasons for deviations in the budget utilization (+/- 10%) and how these affected activities or the achievement of results.
  - Use **Annex A (Annual Financial Report) and Registers** to identify the deviations.

The project was implemented with enthusiasm and excitement as it was a continuation of the previous successful venture that was highly appreciated by project beneficiaries, local government and its line agencies and other stakeholders. However, transmission of the third wave of the COVID-19 has some implication on the overall progress of the project. Below, we have explained the progress achieved during 2022 and the context in which the project was carried out.

## ***INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES***

### ***IO 1: IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION FOR RURAL HOUSEHOLDS***

#### **a) Progress made towards reaching the expected outcome.**

CGs have developed collective actions to raise nutritional awareness. During group meetings and preparation of action plans, the action plans are focused on food security and nutrition and their implementation. There is an increased practice of sharing of experiences and knowledge transfer among the CG members. The main committees are also being responsible and sensible on the issues of nutrition and food security. Their knowledge on nutrition has been enhanced and have developed the habit of balanced diet. Through regular field observation, it was evident that they are changing their food eating habit and are focused on the consumption of locally available organic food and reducing junk food intake. Their health, hygiene and sanitation practices are being improved. HHs have secured food production through the use of kitchen gardens and other climate-smart

agriculture techniques. The number of HHs implementing Kitchen/home garden has increased. They are following improved seed protection and conservation techniques. They are striving to secure their access to proper and adequate food all-round the year through increased production. Municipalities are also being supportive to secure food and nutrition in the local level. They have allocated and provided budgets to support kitchen gardening. It is evident that the community development groups are claiming available resources with local government.

**b) Deviation from targets**

Exact results could not be mapped since HHS was not conducted this year.

***IO 2: INCREASED ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENTS FOR RURAL HOUSEHOLDS, ESPECIALLY, WOMEN, YOUTH AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS***

**a) Progress made towards reaching the expected outcome.**

Individuals, especially women and youth from marginalized communities have gained skills and capacity through various trainings and workshops. Although from small IGAs, they are self-employed. Women in the family have been involved in income generation activities supporting their families. The HHs have somehow managed to have their ends met. The work division have been ensured to some level at HHs. It can be felt during direct observations that there is just and productive work division between men and women. Access to control and decision making over the resources have been enhanced to some level in women. Habit of regular savings has been increased. CGs' saving fund have been significantly increased and successfully mobilized in the income generation and productivity increasing ventures. The CGs have been able to manage their fund successfully with exception in some groups where there are no literate group members. The capacity of CGs to borrow from group funds to the members, monitor the process, support for proper implementation and revolve the fund among the members have been increased. Internal resources identification, generation and mobilization has been strengthened to some level. Advocacy and lobby at palika and province level has allowed increased access over the resources and support for economic empowerment. Wards have created easy access for the marginalized groups, women and youths and linked them with various government schemes aimed at economic empowerment of marginalized communities. Palikas have created easy access for the marginalized groups, women and youths and linked them with various government schemes aimed at economic empowerment of marginalized communities. Regular saving from HHs have been ensured and functional to some extent. Individuals have increased access to loans and support from group saving fund, local cooperatives and government agencies.

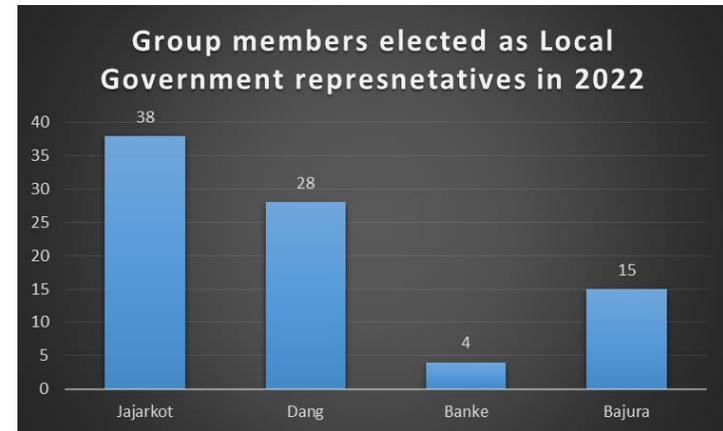
**b) Deviation from targets**

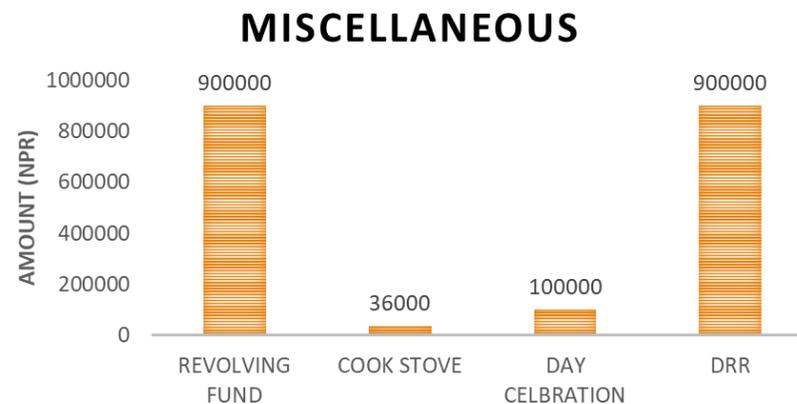
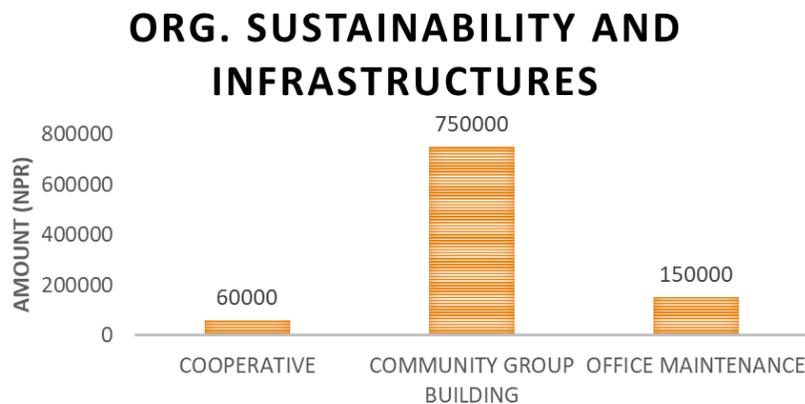
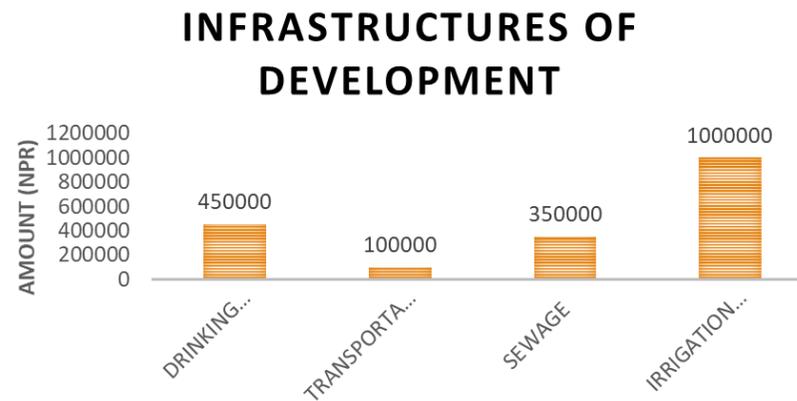
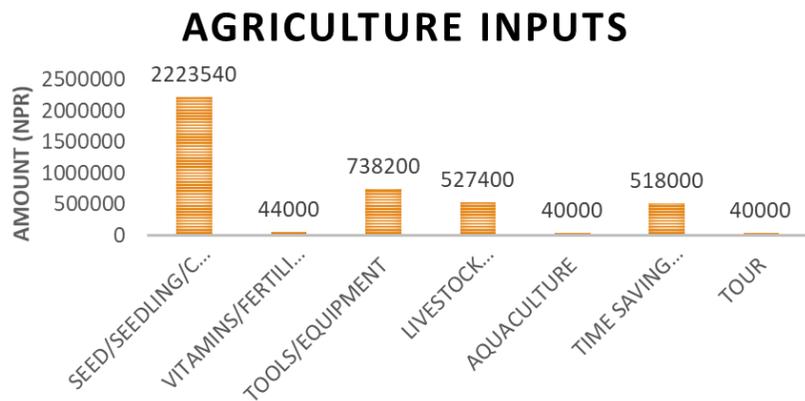
In case of SS no tangible targets were set as per ANNEX B.

***IO 3: IMPROVED GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS IN LINE WITH RURAL COMMUNITIES' NEEDS, RIGHTS AND PRIORITIES***

**a) Progress made towards reaching the expected outcome.**

Individuals have developed skills and knowledge of advocacy and lobby. They have understood their rights and duties and implement accordingly as well as obligations and accountability of duty-bearers. They have increased claiming power over the government services and resources. HHs have easy access to the services of the government. Participation of HHs have been increased in the local planning process. They have increased claiming power over the government services and resources. CGs have gained enough experience of advocating and lobbying with Palika and wards for the concerns of the groups. They are well informed on the procedures and mechanism of local government. Organizing and collective action implementation skill have been increased. CBNOs will have understood the mechanism of lobby and advocacy. They have cordial relation with the local and provincial government to have meaningful interface.





**b) Deviation from targets**

Deviations are explained in ANNEX B.

***IO 4: RURAL WOMEN AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS HAVE INCREASED INFLUENCE AND RECOGNITION WITHIN THEIR HOUSEHOLDS, GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES***

**c) Progress made towards reaching the expected outcome.**

CG members have improved skills and knowledge of problem identification, analysis; solution search; planning and implementation. Self-analysis and realization culture has been increased and positive behavior change has been realized. Leadership skills and respect for diversity has been increased. CG members have been able to raise voice and communicate effectively to the broader audience. Social mal-practices have been discouraged and behavior have been changed with reduced discrimination. Self-respect, self-value and dignity and broader social integration have been practiced and enhanced. Representation of women and marginalized group has been increased in in/formal institution. There is improvement in family relation. Inclusive practices will have been increased with focus on the number of women and marginalized groups. Common problem identification, analysis, action plan, implementation and evaluation of the implementation (action reflection process) skills have been increased. Capacity on settling social disputes and conflicts has been enhanced. Degree of acceptance of women and marginalized communities have been increased. Cooperation and supportive nature and culture have been enhanced. Women and marginalized communities have increased meaningful participation in decision making of the grass-root organization. Average percentage of decision making position held by women in grassroots organizations has reached to 100% from 83% (*source: PROJ REG. of and ORG. Survey held in 2021*). CBNOs' status, recognition and rapport building skill have been increased. Representation of CG members in social and political structure will have been increased. Trust for collaboration will local government have been enhanced.

**d) Deviation from targets**

Deviations are explained in brief in ANNEX B.

***Immediate outcomes***

***IM 1: RURAL HOUSEHOLDS HAVE IMPROVED NUTRITION AND CARE PRACTICES***

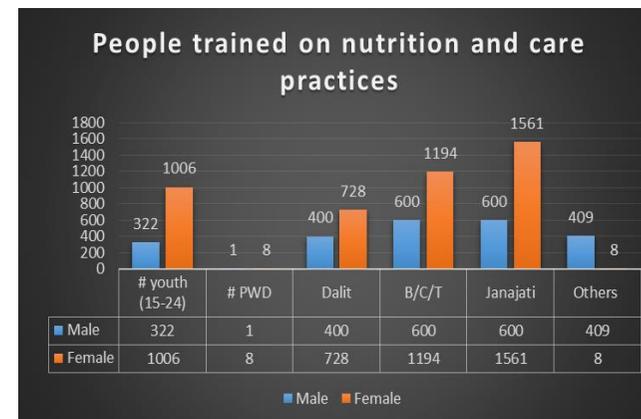
**a) Progress made towards reaching the expected outcome.**

During direct observation and field monitoring visits, it was manifested that community people are following nutrition and care practices such as washing hand with soap after before and after stool contact. Almost every households were found which consumed iodized salts and more diverse food after inception of concept of home/kitchen garden through regular group interactions. It was also found during field visits and group discussions that pregnant women are visiting hospital for their regular health checkup and for delivery.



**OP 1: Awareness raising provided by partners and community leaders to improve nutrition and care practices**

Around 6023 households were trained in nutrition and care practices. 194 events of nutrition awareness raising campaigns were held in project areas. 8 events of multi-stakeholder interaction meetings were conducted on nutrition and care practices. This helped in disseminating knowledge and information on nutrition and care practices to the larger section of communities especially those from marginalized and deprived groups. The interaction was focused on complementary and synergy of actions of various stakeholders. 53 events of nutrition awareness events were conducted with school students. In these events, interactions, discussion, knowledge transfer, and information sharing on the nutrition and care practice was discussed and shared with the school students. Similarly, 37 events of interaction meetings on nutrition and care practices were conducted by CEs conducted with CGs. This helped in identifying and promoting nutritious local foods and changing the food habit and food consumption culture at community level. Additionally 85 interaction meetings were facilitated on the concept of healthy home and kitchen garden were members of the CGs were encouraged to practice home garden and kitchen garden. Moreover, 5 events of Palika level nutrition fair were held in project areas where local cooking methods, ingredients and nutrition facts of local foods were exhibited. The events were conducted in collaboration with ward/Palika. The CEs during their HHs visit collected data on the children with



severe malnutrition issues and coach the parents of 806 households. The CEs also supported for referral to the concerned rehabilitation facilities to the affected families. The CEs will conducted 207 events of interaction meetings with pregnant, lactating, adolescents, and women with uterus prolapse issues on nutrition. These interactions helped them to understand their context and incorporate necessary measures to maintain nutrition for their reproductive health. During health and nutrition consultation meeting, the participants were oriented on importance of nutrition on human health, balanced diet, physical and mental health, health care practices, causes of malnutrition and solutions for it. Lactating and reproductive women were the major targeted participants of the orientation meeting and were participated accordingly.

**b) Deviation from targets**

Deviations are explained in ANNEX B.

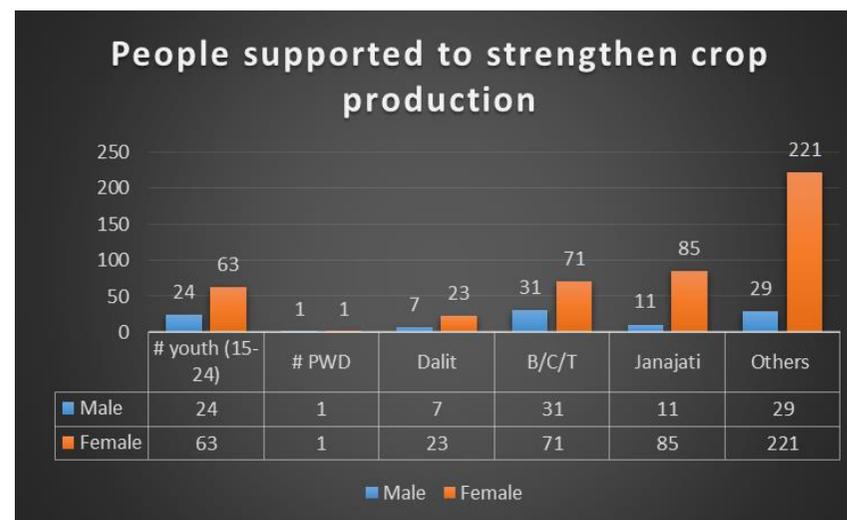
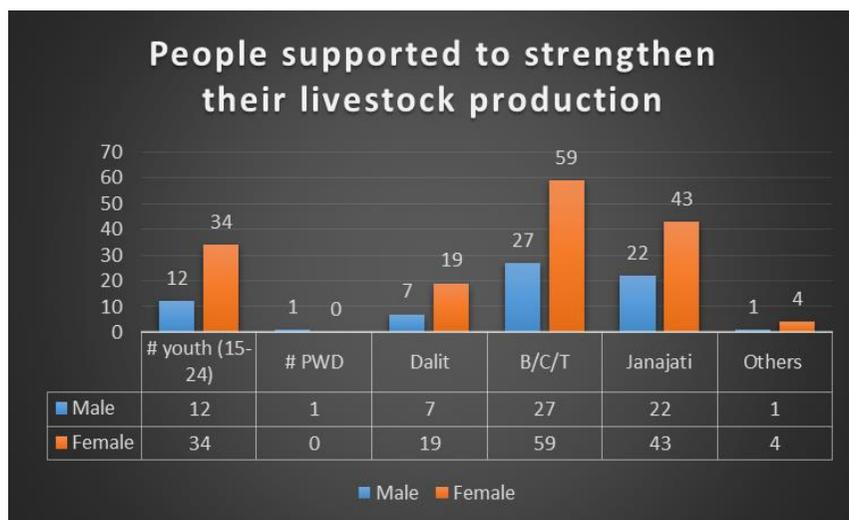
***IM 2: INCREASED DIVERSITY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF SMALLHOLDER FARMER'S AND PASTORALISTS' FOOD PRODUCTION***

**a) Progress made towards reaching the expected outcome.**

Training and support to establish vegetable seed and seedling nursery at community level has helped in the availability of required vegetable seeds and seedlings at local level at reasonable price and easy access of the local farmers. Approximately 80% of the beneficiaries' households have their kitchen garden. CG members are experiencing low seed storage loss as a result of seed storage training. Participants are more aligned to using local and homemade pesticides to minimize crop loss. Most of the CGs have been able to mobilize their group fund in agricultural income generation activities such as seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable farming and livestock production. Training on livestock related diseases and their remedies has helped farmers to explore the local remedies used to cure animals along with different influenzas and epidemics that hits hard the animal husbandry.

***OP 2: Support provided to smallholder farmers and pastoralists on sustainable agriculture, seed systems and livestock production*** 56 lead farmers from the working area were trained on the basic concept of fruit plant nursery and were then supported to establish fruit plant nursery at Palika level. 103 lead farmers were supported to establish vegetable seed and seedlings nursery at community level. Training on the concept and idea of vegetable seed and seedling nursery was conducted for the selected lead farmers and matching support was provided to the 8 lead farmers to establish vegetable seed nursery in collaboration with local government. This has helped in availability of required vegetable seeds and seedlings at local level at reasonable price and easy access of the local farmers. The CEs facilitated the discussion on the importance of home/kitchen garden during regular group meetings (428 meetings) of CGs among 7047 group members. The members of CGs analyzed on establishing home/kitchen and made action plan to do the same. Fruit saplings were provided with matching support from Palika to 4694 group members. The CEs have facilitated 72 group meetings where 1049 members of CGs analyzed on the different eco-friendly traditional storage practices and have made action plan to revive, promote and continue such practices. 11 events of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) were conducted participating 346 members with coordination with local agriculture unit. The training focused on exploring local homemade pesticides and insecticides and has encouraged the farmers to reduce

the application of chemical and factory made pesticides and insecticides. Initially, there was a problem of funds being stagnated in many CGs saving funds. To minimize this, 235 CGs were facilitated for the mobilization of group saving fund for the development of local entrepreneurship and encouraged them in income generation activities. An event of entrepreneurship training on livestock was provided to a group member. 4 events of training on livestock related diseases and their remedies were provided to 112 participants. 47 CGs were facilitated and supported for planning of improvement of livestock production. 10 selected farmers were provided matching support for cowshed improvement. 18 CGs were supported with time saving agricultural technologies such as power tiller, mini tiller, thresher, grinding mills, etc. with matching support from Local Government. 42 CGs were facilitated for preparing plans and develop proposal to submit to local government for small scale mechanization.



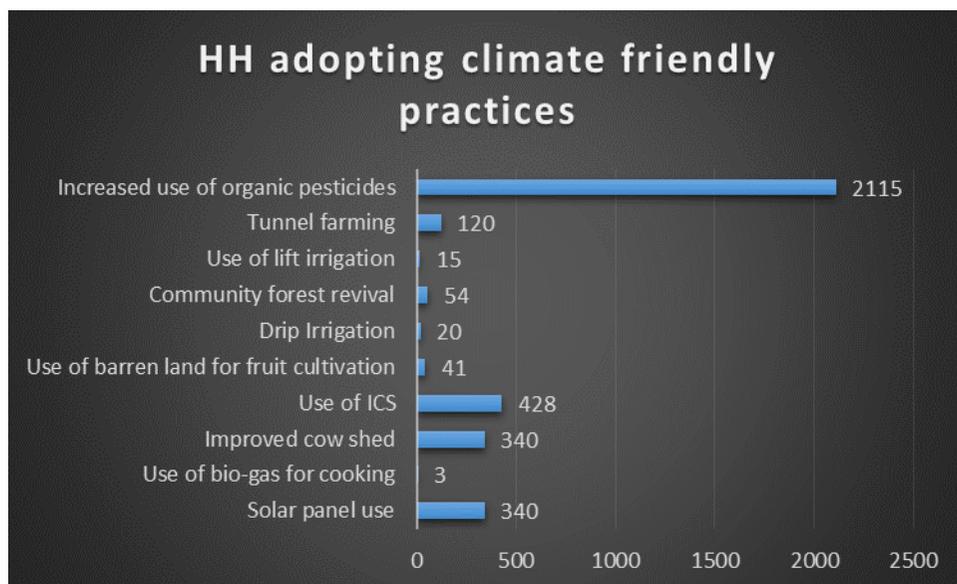
**b) Deviation from targets**

Deviations are mentioned in ANNEX B.

**IM 3: RURAL COMMUNITIES HAVE ENHANCED ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE MANAGED LAND AND WATER RESOURCES**

**a) Progress made towards reaching the expected outcome.**

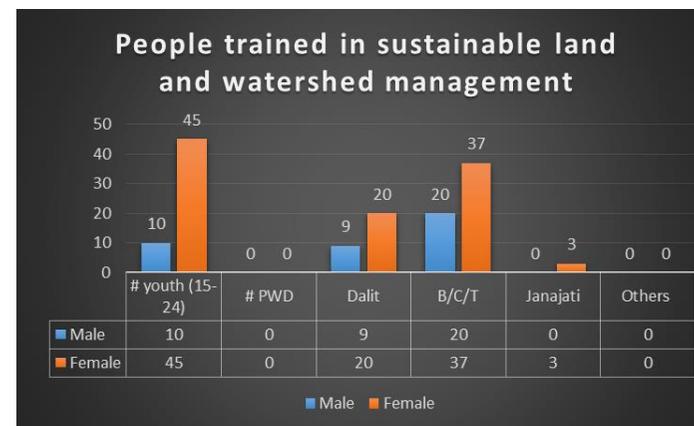
CODE facilitation on climate related issues has enhanced the collective in-depth analysis on the issue of the community and made them realize the strength of collectiveness to address those issues. This process has helped them to differentiate between the internal and external factors of the problems and work on the root-cause of the problem for sustainable addressing climate related issues. Use of local resource in implementing the action plans for remedy of climate related issues has helped the communities to become proactive, creative and self-reliant. The training on formulation of plans for sustainable land/watershed management has helped the groups identify the importance of protection and management of land/watersheds and the consequences of ignoring and misusing the resources.



***OP 3: Support provided to rural communities develop CAV plans and manage/restore land and water resources***

CODE facilitation was done in 401 Community Groups and were facilitated to develop action plans and implement them on climate related issues. The issues of the communities relating to climate change, global warming, flood, draught, landslides, change in crop pattern and food insecurity were facilitated through the means of CODE (role-play, picture, mimes, stories) to the CGs. The participants of the meeting related, analyzed and discussed on the issues and identified root-cause and their remedies. After identification of root-cause of the problem, the CGs entered into Action reflection cycle where they made action plans against the identified problems and issues, then they implemented those action plans and reviewed and evaluated on the performance and the outcome of the implementation. The implementation of the action plan was done through the use of local resources

(local skills, methods, personnel) and depending on the nature of the action plan, outer resources were also sought from ward and thematic section of Palikas. 5 CGs were trained to formulate plans for sustainable land/watershed management. 12 CGs of Dang and Jajarkot were trained on rain water harvesting system. They were oriented and trained on system of collecting and storage of rain which can be used in watering gardens, livestock, irrigation, domestic use with proper treatment, domestic heating, and to commit the harvested water to longer-term storage/groundwater recharge. 12 MCs were facilitate for water resource management with collaboration with local government. The CEs facilitated 48 CGs in regular group meetings to the members to dig ditches to collect rainwater for irrigating kitchen garden. The CEs facilitated CGs' regular group meetings where for reconstruction and effective use of the existing structure of water resources. 6 water infrastructures were reconstructed for their effective use. 18 events of CODE facilitation were done on problem related to natural and consumable energy to CGs. The issues of the communities relating to extinction and loss of natural resources, scarce and limited availability of resources, climate change and global warming were facilitated through the means of CODE (role-play, picture, mimes, and stories) to the CGs. 20 CGs were facilitated to prepare plan for carrying out alternative energy. 30 CG members were trained for the construction of improved cook stove. Training on the concept of recharge, retention and recycle (3R) were also provided to project staffs who in turn oriented CG members regarding the same.



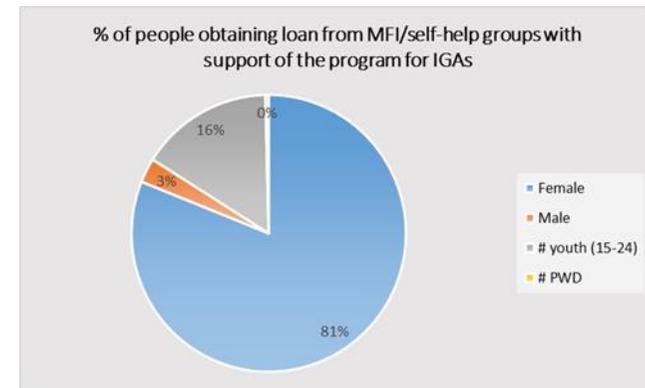
**b) Deviation from targets**

Deviations are mentioned in ANNEX B.

**IM 4: RURAL WOMEN, YOUTH AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS HAVE IMPROVED CAPACITY TO GENERATE INCOME**

**a) Progress made towards reaching the expected outcome.**

The support of the program has resulted in rural women, youth and marginalized people improving their capacity to generate income. Group fund mobilization guideline has helped the groups to prepare a guideline as per their need, requirement and one that best suits their group. These guidelines have guided the CGs for fund mobilization, loan category, interest rates, and term of loan. Saving through seasonal crops has encouraged CG members for exploring alternative options of income generation and saving from such incomes. Making plans of small business by group saving fund has helped to address the immediate need of the ultra-poor communities for economic stability. Loan support to interested and trained entrepreneurs as revolving fund through the group fund has helped to mobilize the existing group saving fund and acted as catalyst grant fund to circulate and make the stagnant saving fund more vibrant and robust that encourage entrepreneurship and productivity at local level. Need based skill trainings to group members enhanced their capacity and provided opportunities to the members to be trained to themes they need and wish. Training on value addition has helped the lead farmers get optimum from their product thus creating a local brand for supporting economic upgrading of the communities.



***OP 4: Support provided to women, youth and marginalized groups to develop income generation opportunities and businesses***

The CEs supported 369 CGs to promote the saving habit and assist in credit process and management. They also facilitated the CGs to focus and prioritize the mobilization of the fund in income generation and entrepreneurship development. Refresher training on book keeping and simple accounting on saving and credit was provided to 45 selected responsible members of CGs to strengthen the groups' saving and credit management. 4 CBNOs (TBS, JSBS, BSBM and SSD) were facilitated to prepare standard group fund mobilization and operational guidelines. Similarly, the CEs facilitated 51 CG group meetings emphasizing on saving from the income from seasonal crops to boost the group saving fund. Moreover, they facilitated 254 CGs to mobilize group saving fund in small business ventures to support ultra-poor section of communities. 37 CG interested trained entrepreneurs members were provided loan support for income generation through revolving fund support. Members from 95 CGs were provided with need based skill training. 2,686 CG members were linked with group saving funds as well as with local cooperatives for soft loan. 8 CGs were provided with revolving fund support to promote savings and loan to trained members through community group. The training focused on exploring various business option, oriented, and trained the participants on different business ventures available at local level, trained them on developing business plan and proposal. The trainees were selected based on their interest to involve in enterprise and social sector. During the training, the project encouraged the trainees to choose commercially viable enterprise and develop business model and linked them to group saving fund's revolving fund and other local cooperatives to provide soft loan for starting these enterprises. Cooperative concept training was provided to 161 CG leaders for the establishment of cooperatives. Training on the concept of cooperative was provided to 161 CG leaders for establishing group cooperative at local level to connect and unite the funds of various CGs and help in the proper management and mobilization of the fund. 87 lead

farmers will be trained on value-addition to their product for maximization of the product and were trained on processing, packaging, branding and marketing of their product. Selected lead farmers were also provided with revolving fund support to promote value addition of foods and their marketing.

**b) Deviation from targets**

Deviations are mentioned in ANNEX B.

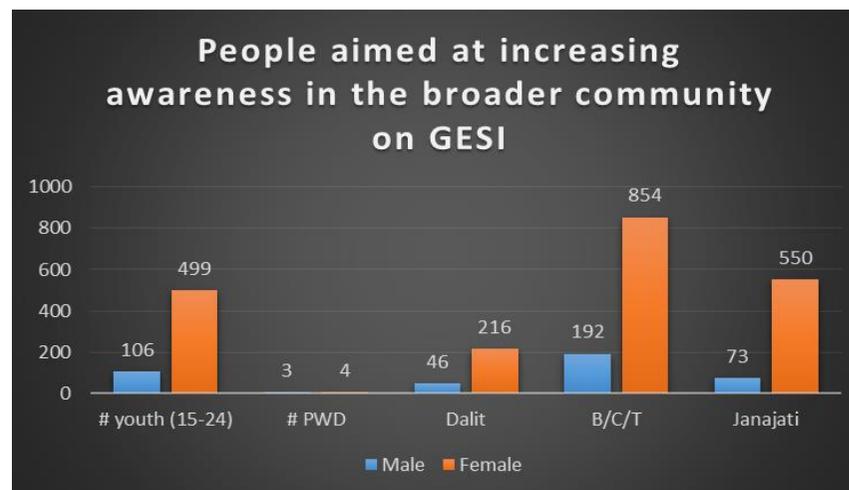
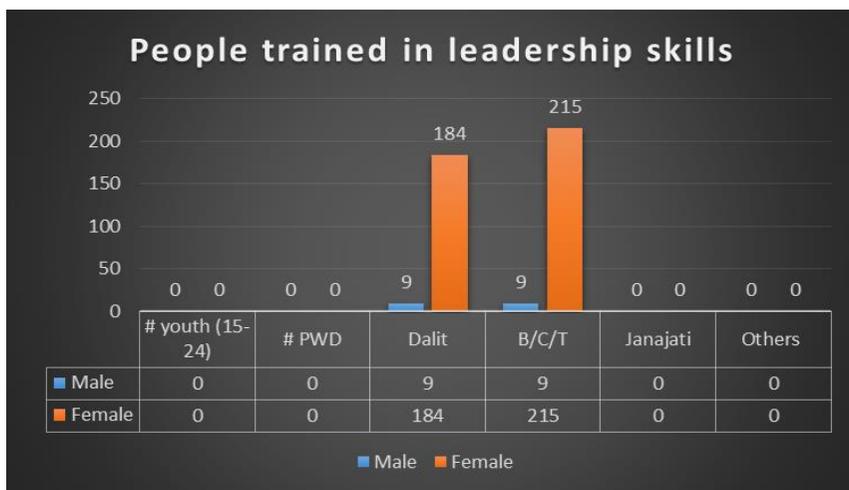
**IM 5: INCREASED CAPACITY OF GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS TO ADVOCATE FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**

**a) Progress made towards reaching the expected outcome.**

50 grassroots organizations (CBNO and MC) are established so far through this project and are registered in Ward Offices of each district. There organization leaders were provided with leadership trainings and supported in their rights and advocacy at different tiers of government.

**OP 5: Support provided to promote inclusive rural communities and grassroots organizations**

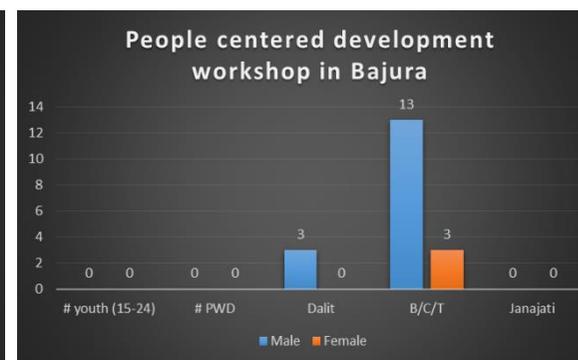
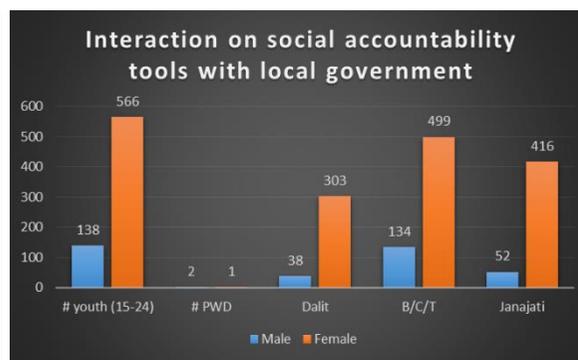
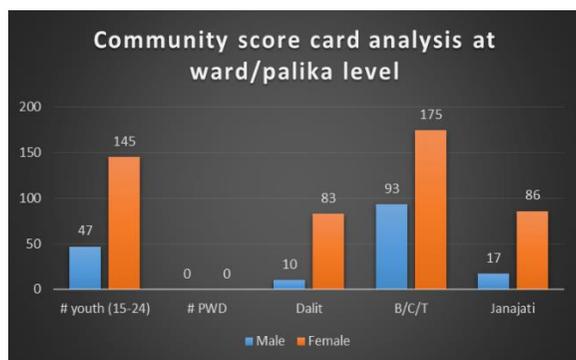
50 new community groups are formed and 38 community groups are reformed so far by ensuring inclusive participation of Dalit, Women, PWD, and other marginal community followed by facilitating their monthly meeting, holding regular discussion on generative themes under FEST. 319 CGs were



facilitated in planning and their implementation. Policies and procedures of 4 CBNOs were developed/reviewed. ODFs and CEs facilitated and support the CBNOs to develop their organizational policies regarding administration and financial policies; GESI policy; Anti-corruption policy; Good Governance policy; and other related policies in the CBNOs who do not have such policies and facilitate in reviewing existing policies in line with national and international standards to ensure proper functioning; transparency; inclusion and; good governance within the organization. 7 events of workshop were held with CBNOs on gender equality and social inclusion to ensure inclusion within the CBNOs as well as in the communities. The workshop was important for CBNOs to understand the significance of inclusion and implementation of GESI policy in their CBNOs. SS conducted community organisation strengthening training (COST) to the 417 CG leaders who were the participants from the training of CFT as a part of assuring the sustainability and self-reliant community groups. The participants were equipped with knowledge and skills of institutional management and organizing the groups to be able to facilitate the community groups post the project. The CBNOs celebrated occasional days such as women's day, to commemorate the significance of the day. They arranged rallies and display play cards, pamphlet to raise awareness on the issues of GESI.

**OP 6: Support provided to communities and grassroots organizations to advocate for good government services and legal frameworks**

51 CGs were supported to advocate to prepare and revise CAV plan and its implementation at Palika level. CEs facilitated groups meetings and analyzed on the importance of CAV and eco-balance. 4 CBNOs were supported to advocate to enhance access to government resources. CGs were facilitated to advocate at ward and Palika level to increase access to the government resources. Different lobby visits, interactions, meetings were held and local government representatives were invited to their group meetings to enhance interface and advocate the issues of the communities. Similarly, 4 events of disaster response and prepared training were provided to 119 CG members to take measures to prepare for and reduce the effects of disasters and to help to reduce duplication of efforts and increase the overall effectiveness of community members' disaster preparedness and response efforts. 2 CBNOs were supported to prepare DRR advocacy and response policy review. DRR advocacy and response policy incorporate risk reduction measures that can prevent disaster situations. 6 interaction events on social accountability tools with the local government were conducted by CBNOs to make them aware on social accountability and good governance. This activity helped the local government to be accountable, responsive and inclusive and encouraged them to use these social accountability tools. Community score card analysis were conducted by all CBNOs



at ward level. CBNOs prepared a participatory community scorecard format and conducted CSC in the working area with inclusive participation of all networks and duty-bearers. This event made Local government more responsible and transparent, and provided information about how the government has been providing services to the target communities.

**b) Deviation from targets**

Deviations are mentioned in ANNEX B.

### Number of People Supported by the Programme

Please, complete below the number of people supported by the programme in 2022 (without double-counting):

Total # of people	5115
# female	4214
# youth (15-24)	672
# PWD	10

(NB: This is in addition to the section of Annual Reach for #Communities (R-1) and # of HH (R-3) that is included in the Annex B, use your own Participants register to calculate number of people supported as indicated above)

### Annexes to accompany the report (please send as separate attachments; *do not insert into the narrative report*):

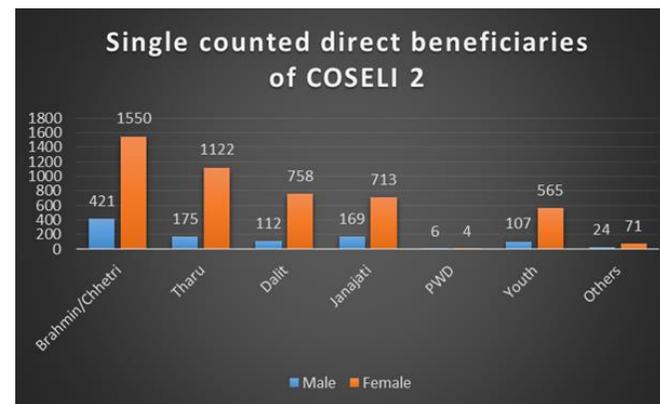
- a. Partner Financial report 2022 (**Annex A**): Please use the updated Annex A format provided by DF for the 2022 report
- b. Partner Financial report 2022 (**Annex A**): Please use the updated Annex A format provided by DF for the 2022 report
- c. Annual result framework (**Annex B**): Report on the annual results (actuals) of the indicators from the Result Framework (note that for 2022 this is only applicable to indicators not measured by HHS), and provide a brief explanation of the reasons for deviations from the target of more than 15%. *Please use the updated Annex B format provided by DF for the 2022 report.*
- d. Registers (**CAV-REG** and **PROJ-REG**): Update information in the reporting columns for 2022 in both registers

### C. Cross-cutting issues

Referring the cross-cutting issues; Anti-corruption, Human rights, Gender, People with disabilities (or other identified vulnerable groups), Conflict sensitivity, Environment and climate change vulnerability, answer the following questions:

- What activities and / or strategies were applied in 2022 to ensure progress in regard to the cross-cutting issues?
- o **Gender and inclusion:** How and to what extent has the program in the reporting year managed to create equal opportunities for different members of the community (reference to gender, particularly vulnerable groups)?

SS has strictly followed the GESI policy and practices in the organization and project level with revisions. As most of CGs/MCs have majority of women members, the project has its focus on ensuring participation of people for different background in the trainings and other activities carried out during the year. The project covered beneficiaries from both gender, marginalized community, Dalit, indigenous and other excluded groups. Out of the total people participating in different trainings, interaction, workshops and discussion 82% were women; 17% were from Janajati, 25 % from Tharu, 39 % from Brahmin/Chhetri community whereas 17% were from Dalit community. Similarly, there were 13 % youth and 10 PWDs. The program has built on the achievement from the previous phase and has been able to continue the good work of empowering women and marginalized groups for dignified life. Equal opportunity was provided for all for utilization of resources provided by the project. GESI friendly practices orientation and facilitation meeting was regularly conducted. In the group, a large number of women are in the key position. 100 % of grassroots organizations have at least 20% of decision making positions held by women who actively participate.



- o **Environment and climate change vulnerability:** How and to what extent has the project contributed to reduce negative impact on the environment?

The effect of extreme weather was is evident during the year resulting in off-seasonal heavy rainfall in October. Similarly, the communities residing at hilly region are in particular vulnerable to climate change as crop pattern is disrupted, inconsistent rainfall as they lack proper facilities of irrigation. The project has initiated to aware communities on climate change and measures to contribute to environment protection. Similarly, the project has capacitated staff and community leaders on CAV and 3R concept.

- o **Human rights:** How and to what extent has the project in the reporting year worked to ensure participation of marginalized or vulnerable groups (e.g. indigenous people and PWD)?

Human rights was mainstreamed by the RBA method applied by SS and its implementing partners CBNOs which the action supported the target groups (CGs, networks and local government) to use. This enabled people, especially the marginalized and vulnerable, to claim their rights. Advocacy and lobby

were conducted for guaranteeing economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights ensured by the Constitution of Nepal, 2072. The issues of PWDs was also advocated and prioritized for mainstreaming as human rights assures equal and indivisible rights to all the human being.

- **Conflict sensitivity:** How and to what extent as the project worked to prevent any conflict within or between communities?

Potential conflicts and appropriate possibilities to minimize them were thoroughly analyzed and put into practice. During and prior to the implementation of the project and project activities, SS conducted risk and stakeholders' analysis to know connectors and dividers, used non-partiality during implementation of the activities to reduce the conflict between men and women, different types of social and economic groups, citizen and LGs, and among LGs and provincial government. Thus, in this project period, different interaction meeting and workshops were conducted participating all relevant stakeholders in order to minimize conflicts. The "do no harm" approach was strictly followed during project intervention.

- **Anti-corruption:** How has the project work to reduce the risk of corruption?

Transparency and efficiency are core values of SS. Embedding these values, SS has zero tolerance against corruption and irregularities. Double accounting systems, cross verifications, Procurement Policy ensures the check of corruption and irregularities. Joint monitoring was conducted including government and other like-minded stakeholders. Internal audit is regularly carried out. Project Management Committee meeting was regularly conducted where detailed description of project activities is shared. SS promotes sharing culture also in the group level. During board meeting, there is regular sharing of project outcomes and achievements. Organizational and project level financial audit is regularly done by external auditor/funding agencies. SS members strictly follow the code of conduct and has the clear financial policy including with procurement. There is the check and balance mechanism by executive board, departments and staff team members.

- Has any of the risk factors described in A. Risk Management had any unintended negative consequences on any of the cross-cutting issues in 2021? If, so how and how was it handled?

No

## D. Institutional Strengthening

Answer the following questions:

- a) Describe any improvements in your institution's organisational capacity in 2022 and how these changes benefit the organization. Briefly explain how the improvements were achieved (this may or may not be linked to DF support).

Sahakarmi has enhanced its organizational capacity by reviewing its policies (GESI, etc.) and drafting SEAH policy. New "organizational strategic plan 2023-2028" has been drafted. The STRC is in full operation and conducting different programs and events. Similarly, SS has supported partner CBNOs to draft DDR policy. SS and its CBNOs partners have enhanced their knowledge on 3R, however, knowledge on CAV is yet to be enhanced.

- b) Has being part of the DF program added value to the work of your organization in the past year (2022) beyond receiving financial support/funding? If so, how?

DF has always been supporting SS in its endeavor to empower marginalized communities. It also has supported matching fund for a governance project in far west Nepal. This year, SS had opportunity to discuss on possible collaboration for matching fund with FEMI in Dangisaran RM of Dang district to scale up the project to wider level. Similarly, it has enabled SS to interface different donor, for instance, with SIMAVI the Netherlands in Bangalachuli RM, Dang.

- c) Describe any challenges in organizational capacity that your institution has faced in the last year and/or areas your institution plans to strengthen in the future. Explain how you plan to address these (including your own initiatives as well as seeking support from DF or other donors/institutions). M&E is an aspect SS is trying to excel and built a robust M&E system to ensure smooth implementation of the activities and achieving desired results. However, due to HR inadequacy and other factors, there is a challenge. SS has supported M & E personal with trainings and seek support from DF to further capacitate with intensive trainings and mentorship.

In the above discussion you may consider any areas of organizational capacity, including (but not limited to): Governance, leadership, strategy; Finance, administration & human resources; Planning, project design and management; Technical capacity/programme implementation; Networking and advocacy; Gender equality and social inclusion.

## **E. Feedback to DF**

For DF learning purposes. We appreciate your inputs in order to improve our collaboration. Please share here your views and experiences from working with DF in general and specifically from the Inception phase of the new programme, both positive and negative. Include any suggestions for follow up if relevant. All inputs are welcomed and valued.

We would appreciate if DF could initiate and provide further avenues for FEST to be disseminated and replicated in other areas as well.

## **F. Case Story**

One case story of maximum 1 (one) page is to be included in the report. The story should explain direct results from the project (if it's too early to document results, describe participation in activities), with concrete examples from an individual participant (or a group of beneficiaries if that's more relevant for the project).

The story should follow either follow the Most Significant Change format or answer questions such as:

- What was the situation for the person(s) before the project? (What were the main problems the project set out to solve?)
- What have been done (main activities and provisions)?
- What is the change (food security, income, health, behavior, and environment)?
- What does this change mean for the people involved (now and in the future)?
- Please include information about individuals, such as full name, age, family data, how and for how long they have been part of the project etc. Include also relevant quantitative project data such as cost of items provided, income, profit, yield increase etc. Please use some direct quotes from the interviewed person(s) in the story.

Attach 1-3 photos, preferably taken at the spot of the project activities, including a close up of the individual(s) in question. The photos should be sent as separate photo file attachment (jpeg). Please do not insert photos in the word document. Text information about the photographs can be written in the document or saved to the photo file.

The case stories can be used for fund-raising purposes, reporting to back donors and other publications. **Please make sure that the individuals are informed and have consented to the use of stories and photographs for these purposes.**

#### **Debtor Krishna became investor through tomato cultivation**

Krishna Khatri, who used to be busy with her household chores has now challenged men who used to say women can do nothing but household works and has succeeded in earning nearly NRs. 120,000 per year from tomato farming and has become a model woman farmer in the community.

Version: January 2022

Krishna Khatri, the president of Hariyali Group, formed in Shivalaya Rural Municipality-02, Kapra has a small family of five members. Growing up in a lower middle class family, her main occupation was subsistence farming. Since farming was the only source of their income, she had economic hardships in educating and nurturing her children.

Her husband, who is unemployed even after graduating, and Krishna, who has passed class 12, were both unemployed. She, who is interested in social change and social reform, joined and participated in every group discussion and meetings, as a result of which her leadership, her capacity was improving and her social identity was increasing.

In a group discussion she was affiliated to, there was once a discussion about unemployment. In the discussion, different opinions came up. During the discussion, when discussing what can be done in this community, it was concluded that goat rearing, chicken rearing, vegetable and tomato farming can be done.



*Krishna Khatri in her tomato tunnel*

In the beginning, there was a problem of how to do what to do, but now she is able to teach other people about tomato cultivation techniques. During morning, she is busy in tomato cultivation. Her earnings are now the basis of livelihood and children's education. Due to her work and progress, now more than 10 members of that group have cultivated vegetables. Authorities of Agriculture Section Office say that while visiting that community 5 years ago, people used to eat noodles and bread, now the same community has become a center of vegetable cultivation and has become one of the suppliers of vegetables for Shivalaya.

The response of the farmers is that vegetable farming, which was started in the first year with the help of their own investment and the support of Sahakarmi Samaj, has now been able to get the support of many organizations. Krishna Khatri, has been participating in training and programs by various organizations. She and women like her have become exemplary figure for people of other communities.

Krishna Khatri, who used to have debt has now become an investor. Krishna, who is passionate about vegetable farming and tomato farming, plans to organize this business and increase the range of income, and with the earnings, she plans to add land and support her children's education. Her commitment is to make the group meeting more effective and involve all women in vegetable farming and business.

Story recorder: Sita Sharma, Community Educator, Paschim Jajarkot Bikas Samaj.