



# RIMS-Nepal

Development through resource management

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



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## **RIMS-Nepal Annual Report 2014-15**

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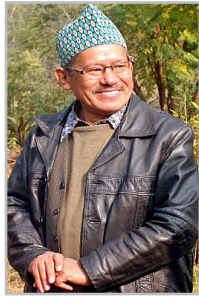
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Joint Statement from  
The Chairperson  
and  
Executive Director

Dear friends,

It's an honour to present to you, our partners and friends, our results from 2014 in the annual report. 2014 finds us leveraging the power of the multi-stakeholders' partnership; plugging into the interventions in agriculture, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and WASH sector; and scale up our reach to more poor and vulnerable families.

RIMS-Nepal is privileged to work with national as well as international partners, including USAID, SDC, iDE, DFID/ UK Aid, ADRA, Heifer and Mercy Corps this fiscal year. With their technical and financial support, we were able to deliver agricultural extension support, sustainable irrigation technology, and provide immediate relief and support to those affected by the earthquake. We were able to set a standard of inspiring positive changes in the communities.

Following promulgation of our Strategic Plan of action (2015-2019), we are committed to sustaining our achievements, address new challenges and bring about progressive changes in the livelihood of our impact groups. We have worked in align with local governing units and have contributed in achieving the national development goals while providing constructive feedbacks and recommendations at times, were deemed needed.

At RIMS-Nepal, we value the importance of harnessing the opportunities associated with resource management to bring about social transformation to the grass root level of the country. This year alone we have influenced more than 397 thousand families in 1,539 local groups and network in 25 districts of the country.

The past year has been an important one for RIMS-Nepal with many achievements. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported us over the period. We look forward to 2016 and to take yet more steps towards livelihood improvement, and reduction of poverty and vulnerability. On behalf of all of us at RIMS-Nepal, we acknowledge you for your support and partnerships.

Thank you.

**Jum Bahadur Gurung**  
(Chairperson)

**Bishnu Tripathi**  
(Executive Director)

# Abbreviations & Acronyms

ACDC	Adhikhola Samuhaik Bikash Kendra
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AFEC	Agriculture Forest Environment Committee
BRACED	Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disaster
CAP	Community Action Plan
CBO	Community Based Organization
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office
DAG	Disadvantaged Groups
DDC	District Development Committee
DECOS	Development Concern Society
DFID	Department for International Development
DLSO	District Livestock Service Office
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSCO	District Soil Conservation Office
FY	Fiscal Year
GoN	Government of Nepal
ha	Hector
HGP	Home Garden Project
HICODEF	Himalayan Community Development Forum
ICCA	Initiative for Climate Change Adaptation
ICS	Improved Cooking Stoves
iDE	International Development Enterprises
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
KIDS	Kapilvastu Integrated Development Society
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plan of Action
LDRMP	Local Disaster Risk Management Planning

LFG	Local Forest Groups
LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development
MSFP	Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme
MUS	Multi Water Use System
NECOS	Nepal Community Support Group
NEER	Nepal Earthquake Emergency Response
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NPR	Nepalese Rupees
NTAG	Nepali Technical Assistance Group
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
PAHAL	Promoting Agriculture, Health and Alternative Livelihood
PLMG	Public Land Management Group
RIMS-Nepal	Resource Identification and Management Society Nepal
RMD	Rural Mutual Development
SAPPROS	Support Activities for Poor Producers in Nepal
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
SHG	Self Help Groups
SSE	Strengthening Smallholder Enterprises
TWUC	Tharu Community Upliftment Centre
UCT	Unconditional Cash Transfer
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
VFCC	Village Forest Coordination Committee
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
YAC-Nepal	Youth Acting for Change Nepal

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# About us

**R**esource Identification and Management Society Nepal (RIMS-Nepal) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) found in 2001 A.D., committed to enhancing the livelihood of poor, vulnerable and marginalised people.

RIMS-Nepal is registered at District Administrative Office, Dhading, following its development under Non-Government Registration Act 2034 of Government of Nepal. We are affiliated with Social Welfare Council (SWC).

RIMS-Nepal was established by a group of professionals with experience in natural resource management, community development, and climate change adaptation. We pursue the working modality of United Mission to Nepal (UMN) acknowledging its ability to trigger progressive changes in socio-economic dimensions and community forestry management. RIMS-Nepal during its initial phase focused its activities on social development and environmental conservation in Dhading region and its periphery.

RIMS-Nepal adopts a "bottom-up approach" in order to develop programme activities and interventions prioritising local demand analysis with the unique aim of addressing their imperative issues and aspirations regarding natural resource management. We encourage community ownership and seek collaboration and coordination of development actors and sectorial line agencies to create synergies for undertaking the project activities more efficiently and effectively.

Since its establishment, RIMS-Nepal has supported thousands of families, particularly from vulnerable, pro-poor and discriminated group. Our programmes are designed to promote self-sufficient and sustainable communities

mainly in the rural areas and some parts of the urban areas as well. We have received national and international recognition for our efforts in bringing progressive transformation in lives of people in our working areas. We aspire to scale up good practices and lesson learnt including technology and knowledge to the wider geographical reach of Nepal.

## Mission

RIMS-Nepal is a not-for-profit organization which contributes-in the area of sustainable resource management, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and social justice of impact group through social mobilisation, institution building, technology transfer and multi-stakeholder partnership.

## Vision

RIMS-Nepal envisions an egalitarian and prosperous society where the impact group manages their resources effectively, equitably, efficiently and sustainably.

## Core Values

- Integrity in the work and delivery to ensure accountability to the impact groups and partners.
- Prioritise working with marginalised, women, vulnerable and poor people.
- Respect to culture, tradition, knowledge, gender and diversity.
- Recognise value for money, the theory of change and sustainability of the project and programme.

## Goal and Objectives

- To improve the quality of life of impact group



through empowerment, socio-economic transformation, risk reduction and inclusive development.

- Build capacity of impact groups to identify and manage available resources, local knowledge, skill, and technology.
- Increase livelihood security of resource-poor and marginalised communities through enhanced food security, nutrition and income generation opportunities.
- Empower, enhance and ensure the institutional development of communities for conservation and sustainable management biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Increase advocacy skills of the target communities to ensure basic rights of women, vulnerable and marginalised people.
- Increase access of basic goods and services to target community.

- Improve adaptive capacity and resilience of vulnerable people by addressing issues of climate change and maximising low carbon development opportunities.
- Develop institutional governance practice while giving emphasis on gender, social inclusion, and organisational accountability.

### Impact Group

RIMS-Nepal's primary impact groups are poor, vulnerable, women, ethnic and marginalised households, communities' dependent on natural resources for their livelihood and disaster affected people. We work both with rural and urban population but give emphasis to the remote, climate vulnerable and development deficit regions, sectors, households, and communities.

## Thematic Sectors & Work Approach

RIMS-Nepal focus on seven major thematic sectors that align with its overarching vision, mission and goal (shown in figure 2). Our programmatic approach includes; building a multi-stakeholder partnership among stakeholders to develop synergy for climate resilience and poverty reduction; promoting innovative and environmentally sustainable technologies and practices to address the immediate needs, building capacity and empowering grass route organisations for good governance, advocacy, health and sanitation and natural resource management; and focusing to deliver economic independence and well-being for women, poor, vulnerable and marginalised communities.

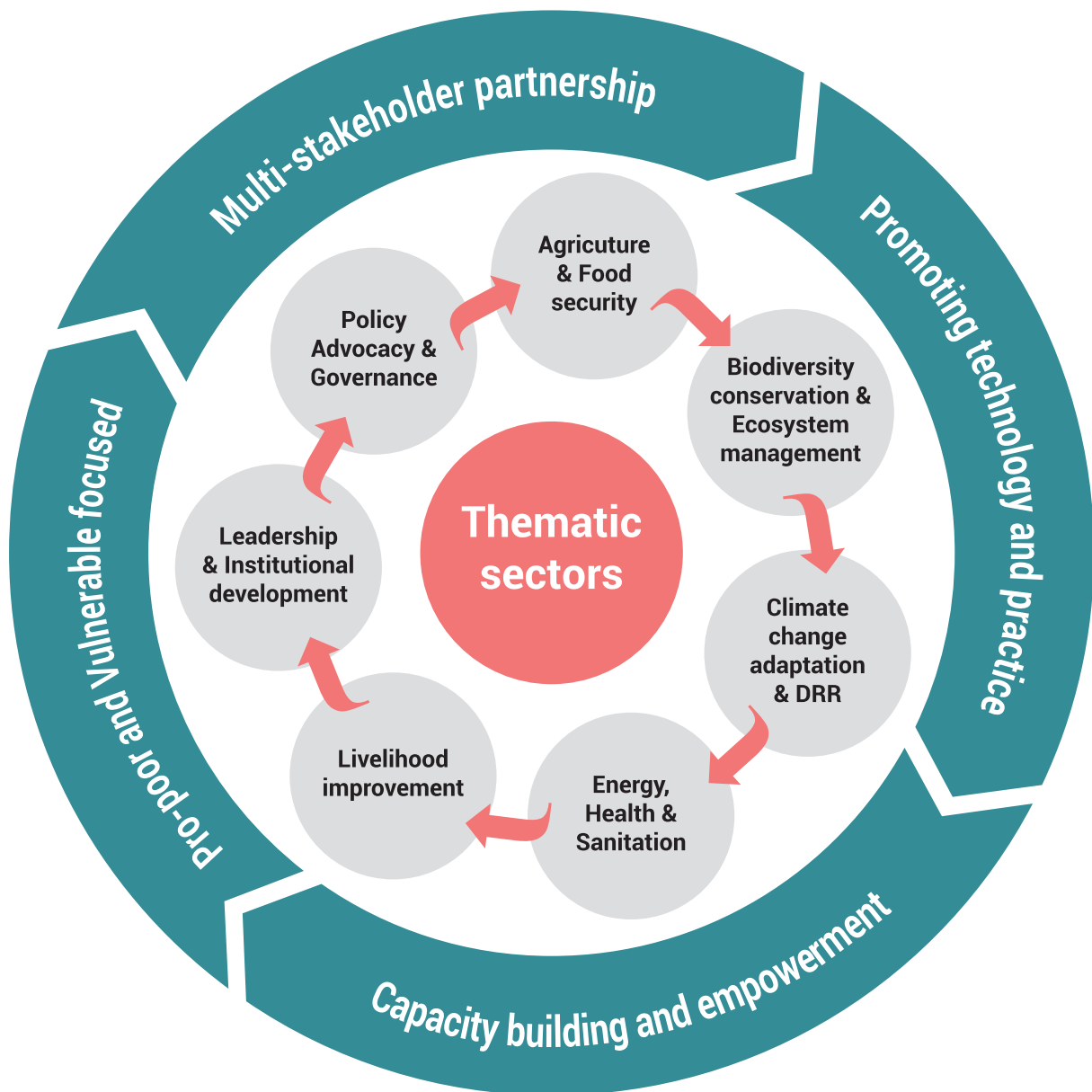


Figure 2: Thematic sectors and approach of RIMS-Nepal

## Geographical Coverage

Currently, we have been supporting 2.2 million people residing in 231 VDCs, 12 municipalities and 1 Sub-metropolitan city in 25 districts encompassing all Development Regions in Nepal but Eastern Developmental Region. We are working with 1,539 local groups and networks, 8 local NGOs and have the privilege of support from 17 I/NGOs and bilateral agencies, 3 ministries, 3 government agencies and number of municipalities, DDCs, and VDCs.

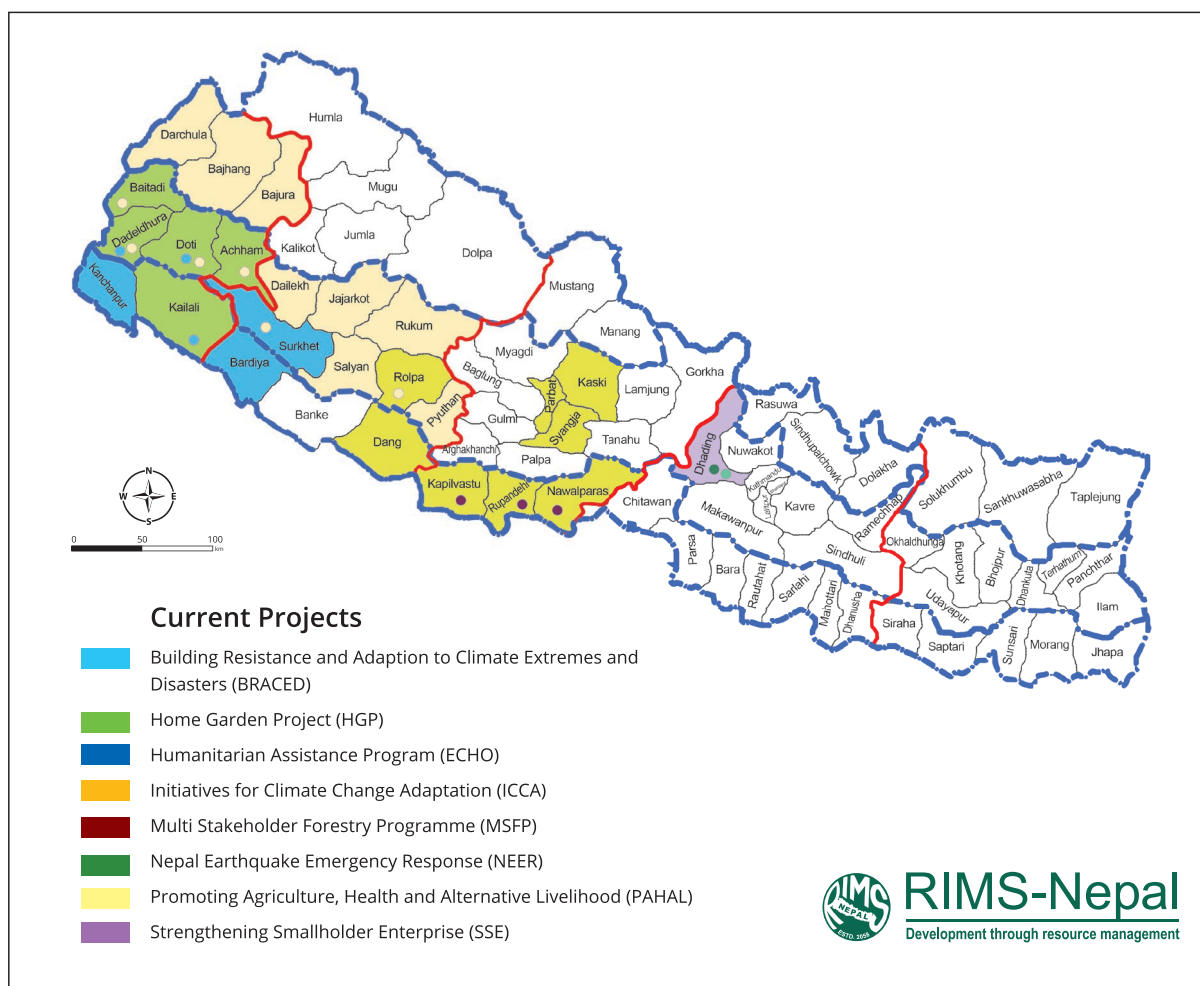


Figure 3: RIMS-Nepal's Program Coverage

## Program Accomplishment till 2015

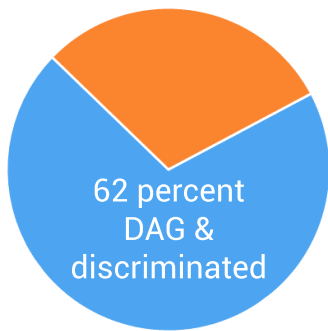
Table 1: List of RIMS-Nepal's current and past projects

On-going projects				
SN	Name of the project	Donor/Partners	Project duration	Project Area (District/s)
1	Initiatives for Climate Change Adaptation (ICCA)	USAID, Rupantaran Nepal/iDE	2012-2017	Kaski, Parbat, Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Dang, Syanja and Rolpa
2	Multi Stakeholder Forestry Program (MSFP)	Government of Nepal, Government of Finland, SDC, DFID/UK Aid	2013-2016	Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Kapilvastu
3	Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disaster (BRACED)	DFID/UK Aid, iDE	2015-2017	Bardiya, Kanchapur, Kailali, Surkhet, Doti and Dadeldhura
4	Home Garden Project (HGP) Phase IV	SDC, LI-BIRD	2015-2018	Accham, Baitadi, Dadeldhura, Doti and Kailali
5	Nepal Earthquake Emergency Response Programme (NEER)	ADRA New Zealand, ADRA Nepal	June _ October 2015	Dhading (5 VDCs)
6	Humanitarian Assistant Program (ECHO)	EU, ADRA Germany, ADRA Nepal	2015-2016	Dhading (11 VDCs)
7	Strengthening Smallholder Enterprise (SSE)	HEIFER International	2013-2018	Dhading
8	Promoting Agriculture, Health and Alternative Livelihood (PAHAL)	USAID, Mercy Corps, iDE	2015-2018	Darchula, Bajhang, Bajura, Baitadi, Dadeldhura, Doti, Achham, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Rukum, Surkhet, Salyan, Rolpa and Pyuthan

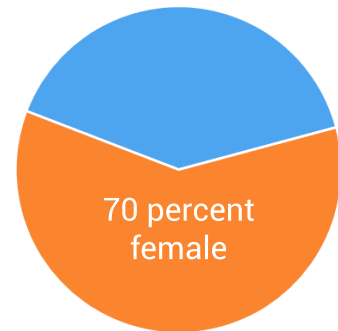
### Completed projects

SN	Name of the project	Donor/Partners	Project duration	Project Area (District/s)
1	Governance and Livelihoods Programme (GOAL)	ADRA Australia, ADRA Nepal	2014-2015	Dhading
2	Agro-Biodiversity Conservation (ABC)	UNDP, GEF, SGP	2012-2013	Benighat, Dhusa and Jogimara VDCs of Dhading
3	Leadership and Good Governance Phase II	ADRA Australia, ADRA Nepal	2011-2013	Dhading
4	RIMS Community Development Project (RCDP)	HEIFER International	2010-2012	Dhading
5	Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA): Scoping and Pilot Study	DFID, CADP-N	2010-2011	Dhading
6	Assessment of Climate Change Impacts	WWF-Nepal	October 2009 - December 2009	Dhading
7	Building Resilience of Farmers from Climate Change	WWF-Nepal	Feb 2010 - June 2010	Ramche and Borle VDCs of Rasuwa
8	Bhaktapur Livelihood Project (BLP)	World Vision International-Nepal	2009-2013	Chagunarayan, Sudal, Nangkhel, Sipadol, Balkumari, Chapacho, Nagadesh, Bode, Tigani of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality of Bhaktapur
9	Livestock for Income Generation	HEIFER International	2008-2012	Dhading
10	Integrating Population and Health into Forest Management Agenda in Nepal (PHE)	USAID, ADRA Nepal	2006-2008	Dhading
11	Strengthened Actions for Governance in Utilization of Natural Resources (SAGUN)	USAID, WWF-Nepal, CARE Nepal, FECOFUN	2002-2008	Dhading
12	Community Forestry Management Programme	USAID, FECOFUN	June 2002 - October 2002	Dhading
13	Resin Tapping Programme	USAID, MoFSC, DoF Dhading	2005-2006	Dhading
14	Non-timber Forest Product Programme	UNDP, GEF, SGP	2006-2007	Jogimara, Dhusa & Benighat VDCs of Dhading
15	Health and Sanitation	Germany Embassy	2006-2007	Dhading
16	Dhading Environment Protection (DEP) Programme	Uniting Protestant Churches in the Netherlands (UPCN)	2003-2004	Dhading

# Impact of RIMS-Nepal



**2.2 million**  
Total people reached  
in  
**397 thousand**  
families



Landscape Conservation and Carbon Offsetting	<b>485 ha (9,673 ropani)</b> Public/Private land, Community, Leasehold forest & urban area plantation	<b>EQ Relief Support</b>  <b>4,178</b> CGI sheets, <b>1,360</b> piece tarpaulin, <b>3,512</b> -piece nets & blankets,  <b>1800</b> piece poly fibre, <b>3,150</b> piece hygiene kits &  <b>600</b> piece water jar & <b>300</b> set agricultural tools distributed
Agro and Forest Enterprise Support	<b>25</b> Technical and financial support to enterprise	
Capacity Building	<b>117</b> Total trainings and workshops facilitated	
Technology Promotion	<b>3,843</b> energy, <b>69</b> water efficient and sustainable tools constructed/distributed	
Sanitation Awareness & Health Promotion	<b>211</b> toilet constructed, above <b>15,000</b> IEC materials distributed, <b>10</b> hoarding board & <b>160</b> flex established	
Cash for Community Revitalization	<b>2,559</b> revolving fund in-operation <b>NPR. 1,200,000</b> distributed under UCT scheme	
		<b>EQ Reconstruction</b>  <b>628</b> Mason and carpenters trained on "Earthquake Resilient Building Construction"  <b>24</b> Irrigation system repaired

# Programme Portfolio

To date, RIMS-Nepal has successfully completed sixteen projects, with additional eight that are currently underway. During the FY 2014/15, five new projects were launched while three were continuous from the previous year. Our programmes are influencing more than 397 thousand households presently, and we are coordinating with 1,539 community-based groups and network to further our activities.

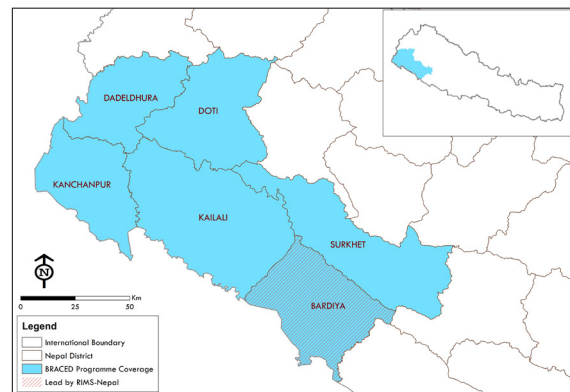
## 1. Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disaster (BRACED/ANUKULAN)

### Summary:

Program Duration	January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017
Donor	iDE-Nepal, UK Aid, DFID
Approved Funds	NPR.17,676,024.65 (GBP £ 111,450)
Partner/s	Tharu Women Upliftment Center (TWUC)

BRACED is a multi-million dollar, three years long programme under UK-Aid. It is designed to build the resilience of vulnerable poor, especially women and children to climate extremes and disasters, through technology interventions in mid and far west Nepal. The programme uses proven, sustainable approaches through a public-private partnership to scale-up interventions. Meanwhile, it develops the capacity of local grass root organisations to mainstream and institutionalise DRR and climate change adaptation planning and best practices.

BRACED is implemented by a consortium of eleven institutions, seven international - iDE (lead), ADRA, IWMI, CIMMYT, University of Middlesex, Renewable World and Netafim, and four national - Rupantaran, RIMS-Nepal, SAPPROS Nepal and NTAG. The program



interventions focus on six districts i.e. Kailali, Dadelhura, Doti and Kanchanpur in the far-west, and Bardiya and Surkhet in the mid-west. RIMS-Nepal is responsible for taking a principal role in agriculture-related climate change adaptation and livelihoods components as well as support in DRR components in Bardiya.

The programme aims to address immediate issues in water (Micro Irrigation Technologies (MITs), Multiple Use Water Systems (MUS), recharge ponds), renewable energy (biogas, Improved cooking Stove (ICS), bio-briquette), and agriculture (essential oil distillation, Integrated Pest Management (IPM)). The programme will also help in DRR related interventions thereby generating synergy for increasing the economic returns and adding to

resilience capacity.

### Expected Results

BRACED is designed to provide the impetus for building climate resilient livelihoods of 500,000 vulnerable and impoverished people in the region. At the end of the programme, BRACED expects to achieve following outcomes;

- Improve resilience of the communities to manage flood, drought, crop disease and pests through public-private partnership development, and access to interventions.
- Increase the annual income for 100,000

smallholder farmers to earn an extra £140 (NPR. 21,700) per year.

- Reduce the proportion of children under five suffering from malnutrition, thru advantage in climate-smart farming systems and small farm economic opportunities and investments.
- Empower women and marginalised groups to take leading roles in rural institutions contributing to economic opportunities.
- Transfer, utilisation of knowledge and evidence of climate change resilience at local and national levels.

### Box 1: Brief on Multiple Use Water System

One of the important aspect of the project is that it will promote climate resilient technology like MUS which ensures availability of efficient irrigation facility to the farmers.

MUS, a climate smart water management initiative for hill region, where water access is limited due to topographic difficulties. It uses locally available materials and harnesses the gravitational power to collect spring water down into community tanks and distribute it through a network of pipelines. This technology will not only help families to improve water access, but also support the growing season for crop/vegetable cultivation, reduces difficulties in fetching water, and helps to improve sanitation.

The technology is expected to escalate the farm income by \$200 (NPR 18,800) per household through improvement in

vegetable farming. Thus reducing the energy and time drain, especially for women and children, for collecting and hauling of water from the source to their kitchen substantially. The availability of year-round irrigation will increase the crop productivity (expected in the 30 percent range). Another social benefit that the technology will bring is reduction in social conflict and disputes over water access.

Such technology has the scope of out-scaling in typical rural settings in Nepal combating with water deficiency despite having a consistent source that is to be harnessed. MUS, is therefore, a cost-efficient alternative which provides sustainable benefit to the end users with minimal environmental impact.



## 2. Initiative for Climate Change Adaptation (ICCA)



Figure: Solar MUS installed at Jagatbhangjyan 2, Aarupata

### Summary:

Program Duration	April 1, 2012 to March 2, 2017
Donor	iDE-Nepal/USAID
Approved Funds	NPR. 32,738,400.00 (USD \$ 300,000.00)
Partner/s	ACDC, Syangja; DECoS, Rolpa

ICCA, a USAID funded five year project, is implemented by a consortium of RIMS-Nepal, Rupantaran in the leadership of iDE-Nepal. Following the national priorities and guidelines, ICCA program works with 30,000 climate vulnerable people to improve their adaptive capacity to climate change, a provision in the USAID environment /climate change initiative. The project operates in eight districts of Western and Mid-western Nepal of which RIMS-Nepal takes the lead in agriculture component in two districts, namely Syangja and Rolpa.

The overall goal of the program is to enhance the capacity of poor and vulnerable communities to foster adaptation against the adverse impact of climate change and also to check the emission, where possible. The integrated programme objectives are;

- Strengthen institutions and mechanisms to facilitate effective governance for climate change adaptation, resource mobilization and mainstreaming development planning linking forestry and agricultural development initiatives.
- Enhance communities' capacities to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and harness opportunities.
- Diversify and improve livelihood and resilience of poor and vulnerable communities through sustainable income generation, skills, and enterprise development.
- Identify and facilitate suitable adaptation interventions, innovations, and technologies.

ICCA focuses on assisting landless people, smallholder farmers, and forest-dependent people who have low food self-sufficiency to improve their livelihoods through income generating activities, efficient use of natural resources and use of improved, innovative and climate-friendly agriculture. It expects to mainstream into climate change adaptation into existing district / community institutions, develop resilient income opportunities for vulnerable communities and extend adaptation interventions from project pockets to GoN and other climate adaptation programmes.

## Project Activities

### Good governance

- Strengthening existing local institutions.
- Developing and implementing local adaptation plans of action (LAPA).
- Promoting participatory monitoring and evaluation systems.

### Capacity building

- Awareness raising and capacity building.
- Establishing Community Climate Resource Centres (CCRC).
- Mainstreaming climate change adaptation (CCA) and climate proofing.
- Strengthening the capacity of communities.

### Improve resilience

- Transfer of information, resources, technologies, market linkage, sustainable use and management of NTFPs/essential oils/high-value vegetables.
- Engaging poor communities in economic activities.

### Mitigating impacts

- Promoting low energy water application technologies.
- Managing critical watersheds.
- Improving agricultural practices.
- Developing schemes for social protection and safety nets.



Figure: Hydam pump established at Jagatbhnajyan 6, Syangja

## Project Accomplishments and Impact

Till its third year reporting, ICCA beneficiaries cumulated to more than 12,195 climate vulnerable households (7,312 core and 4,883 value chain). In the same period, 291 vegetables, NTFP's and coffee groups were formed, including 61 percent disadvantaged households (33 percent Dalit, 18 percent Janjati and 10 percent Madhesi) and 72 percent women. Other project accomplishments are;



Figure: Distillation unit established at Gajedi, Rupandehi

- 12 capacity building training strengthened 382 climate vulnerable households by developing group dynamics, good governance, leadership skills. Similarly, opportunities for optimum market benefits was realised through vegetable farming, NTFP's farming, and marketing while crop insurance/assurance helped farmers to secure their farm investments against prevailing climate risks.
- 6 Village Climate Change Coordination Committee (VCCCC) events raised awareness on role and responsibility of VFCC to coordinate climate change and environment-related activities, and taking the lead in the LAPA process. Similarly, 5 LAPA preparation workshops and 32 Community Adaption Plan (CAP) preparation events helped to develop local climate-resilient pathways, mainstreaming climate change into sectoral development initiatives.
- 347 (including 176 follow-ups) vegetable cultivation training encouraged the integration of climate smart technologies into farming to raise income generating

opportunities for 7,750 persons (69 percent were DAG and 67 percent were women).

- 13 nurseries have ensured local employment through the development of private nursery enterprises. Such nursery promotes the development of location specific quality seedlings that has the potential to increase the agriculture productivity and ensures availability of seedlings at a lower cost.
- Exhibition of agroforestry model to assist in food security, environmental resilience and improving income particularly of small-scale, resource-poor farmers by intercropping fast growing trees with high-value crops in 10 ha of land. Similarly, 5,000 seedlings of fodder and fruit tree like Sissoo, Bombax, Kadam, Khair, Jamun, Epil Epil, Badahar planted with peanut in additional 3 ha land in order to regenerate waste public land, improve soil health, nutrition, livestock production and provide shelter and energy alternatives.
- 44 low-cost irrigation technologies including 2 cement ponds, 13 plastic ponds, and 29 Thai Jars helped in water stress management and improving access.
- 9 revolving fund enabled credit access as a working capital with a low-interest rate for 66 poor and vulnerable households supporting income generating activities, biogas, and plastic house construction.
- 20 demos for improved cook stove and biogas curtailed pressure on the forest for firewood, improved energy efficiency, to reduce carbon footprint, and associated health benefits.
- 2 collection center bridged various value chain actors of the vegetable sector (producers and traders) together and established a common ground for sustainable marketing. This helped the farmer to get "good" price for their products, established a healthy competitive market culture among farmers where buyers have the opportunity to obtain vegetables directly, thus reducing the influence of "middle man".
- Market Information System (MIS) system initiated through Indreni FM in joint collaboration with DADO-Dang helped in mass sensitizing on issues of agriculture, climate change, market development mechanisms, IPM, etc. and hence encourage adoption of climate-smart behaviour.

## Project Learnings

- Establishment of collection centre and formation of market planning committee (MPC) is essential to motivate farmers for vegetable production.
- Encouraging the agro-vets, not only the farmer; is equally necessary to promote organic farming.
- Coverage and success of challenge fund implementation are highly dependent on the technical capacity of the community business facilitator (CBF). In practicality, CBFs are not equally capable and many are not able to be benefited by the application of its concept.
- Crop assurance schemes through cooperative/MPC i.e. collective institutions are better than crop assurance schemes supported at the group level thus covering more of the beneficiaries through the scheme.
- Meetings with government officers and other stakeholders, on a regular basis, and sharing of progress, problems and plans helps in effective implementation of activities at field level, reduces duplication, ensures transparency over functioning, evaluates the work progress and reduces controversy, if exists.
- A stronger level of motivational skills is required in field staffs to deal with difficult communities and to improve their effectiveness and efficiency, thus to assist in smooth programme functioning, regular and proper fund flow mechanism needs to be developed.

## Story of Change 1

# The Changing Face of Khalte Village



***Hydraulic Ram Pump or Hydrum, a technology that addresses rural household and irrigation requirement, is based on the gravity flow of the water. This technology harnesses its energy from the force of moving water and doesn't require heavy maintenance expenditure and skilled technicians for its operation.***

Khalte village occurs in Yaladi VDC in Syangja district of Nepal. Like many other parts of the country, water access was one of the major challenges for the village. Despite having the potential to be developed as a pocket area for vegetable farming, Khalte was largely dependent upon the seasonal rainfall which was influenced by the erratic pattern and therefore off-seasonal farming was restricted. The construction of Hydrum was thus rationalized in Khalte to encourage local farmers towards commercial vegetable production and develop

efficiency in the water supply. This help in developing alternative to water availability, building resilience and contributing largely to the livelihood of farmers.

The Hydrum construction was completed by the conjoint effort of Renewable World, Rural Technical Center, RIMS-Nepal and Adhikhola Samudhaik Bikash Kendra (ACDC) who contributed to the financial, technical and social requirements respectively. Initially, a Hariyali Hydraulic Ramp Pump Users Committee was formed which overtook its responsibility of construction and maintenance. The pump lifts water at the rate of 9-liter water per minute from Khalte river to be collected at tank located in Jethikanya Primary School. On an average, it collected 12,960 liters of water per day benefiting 32 households including 25 Dalit, Janjati, and 7 others ethnic groups, all of whom were involved in commercial vegetable, fruit, and NTFPs production.

The technology proved to be a milestone for the local farmers to bring about progressive changes in their life and reducing vulnerability to climate change. After its operation, households were able to increase their annual income by as much as by NPR 25,000. Similarly, vegetable farming and fruit cultivation was expanded to additional 2.16 ha and the productivity was reported to escalate by 30 percent. It paved the way to 17 households to adopt off seasonal vegetable farming all year round, using drip irrigation facility. Apart from the economic benefit, it ensured that the farmland would not remain fallow, which in another case was common.

## Story of Change 2

# Towards Healthy and Happy Life



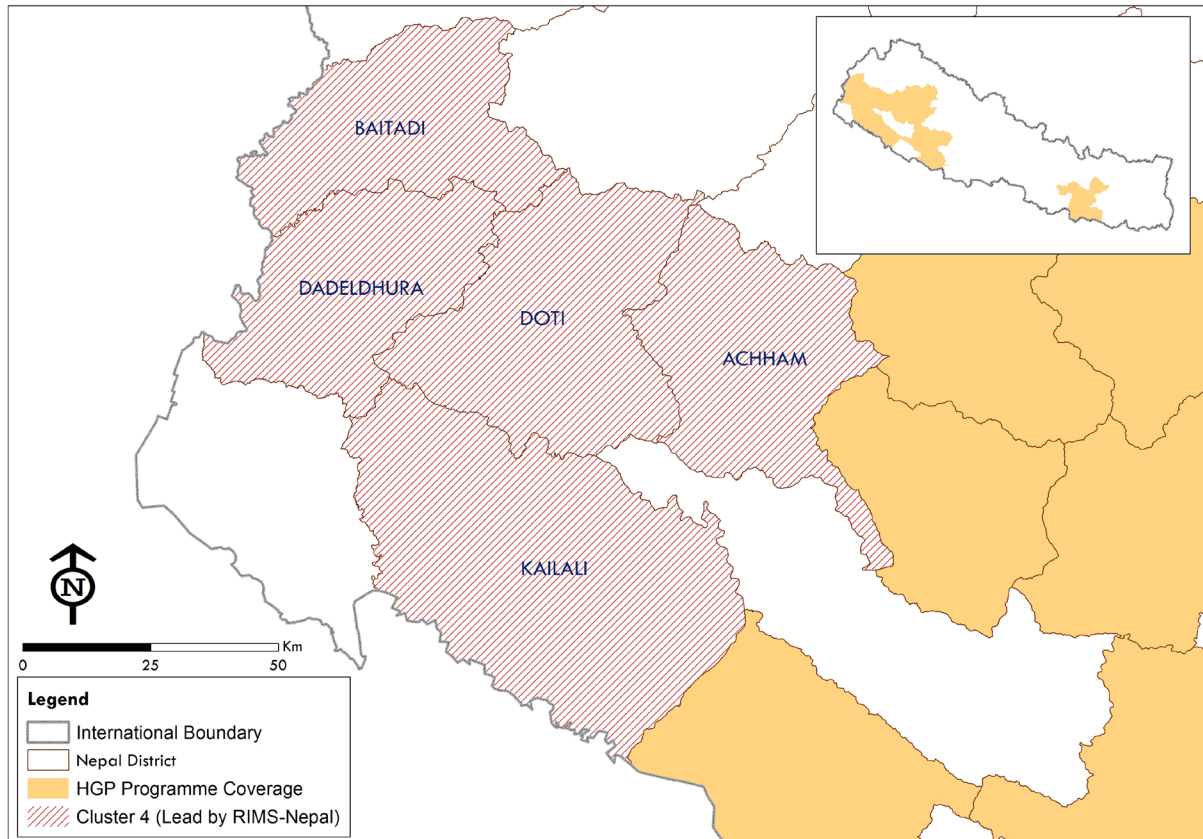
***Improved cooking stove (ICS), a fuel-efficient technology with multiple benefits that is convenient for the rural environment. It has high sides which assist heat transfer, are both affordable and easy to use. The device is designed to increase thermal efficiency, reduce women's labour time, minimise indoor air pollution and its associated health ailments, prevent fire hazard, and obtain efficient cooking time.***

Sita Khadka, age 24, is a residence of Jhenam-3, Dadagaira, and mother of a child. Her education was limited to some primary grades. After marriage, she spent most of the times on her household chores. Due to some personal reasons, her family had to get estranged from their joint family and has to live in a small home built out of old cow-shed. In pursuit of better living for the family, her husband was compelled to travel abroad.

Mrs. Khadka remembers, "I had an old cooking stove (chulo). My kitchen was small and had less height due to which it would get smoky. As such, I often had breathing problem but the eye burns were terrible. Obtaining fuel wood was another concern for me, I had to spend much of the time looking for twigs, branches, and woods, which was not so easy to gather. It was not only me who suffered, my eldest son too was unable to study during the cooking time in the smoke concentrated environment. Time and again, ICS promoters would visit my home and suggest me for installation and so did my son, however, I could not afford it due to my financial limitations".

But soon all this was about to change for Mrs. Khadka. Mr. Teklal Pun from ward Civil Forum (Oda Nagarik Manch) of ward 3 informed her about the material support provided by ICCA project for the construction of ICS, stocked her as a ray of hope. It was then she decided to construct ICS in her home. She obtained the support and exchanged her labour to construct the ICS at her home using local resources and materials. She now enjoys smoke-free cooking, getting rid of the suffocations and irritations. Another benefit it offered was an improvement in time efficiency and thus, she could give more time on her son's education in the bonus time gained. She reduced the volume of fuel wood needed for cooking by more than half and its associated expenditures. She has learnt minor repairing of the ICS and is willing to help her neighbours in need. It was the cumulative effort of the individuals like Mrs. Khadka that Jhenam VDC was declared as "Indoor air pollution free (IPF free) VDC" on October 1, 2015.

### 3. Home Garden Project (HGP)



#### Summary:

Program Duration	November 01, 2014 to January 15, 2018
Donor	SDC, LI-BIRD
Approved Funds	NPR. 24,923,300.00
Partner/s	YAC-Nepal

HGP, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), is a four-year project which is being implemented by Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) in coordination with government bodies, national and local partners. Following the successes and learnings from the previous three phases, a bilateral agreement was signed between Government of Nepal and Government of Switzerland to carry out phase IV in the four clusters across twenty districts of Nepal. The programme aims to benefit 40,000 families, directly representing the community groups in each ward within VDC's of programme districts, including project network members

beyond its coverage.

The Government of Nepal will be the main implementing agency with national level NGO providing technical backstopping, mentoring and capacity strengthening of government staff and civil society organizations responsible for programme implementation at the district level. RIMS-Nepal in coordination with YAC-Nepal is implementing the activities in cluster 4, which includes far-western districts of Achham, Baitadi, Dadeldhura, Doti, Kailali.

The overall goal of HGP is to contribute improving family nutrition and resilience of smallholders and disadvantaged groups, especially women, by scaling up home garden diversity. The programme contributes towards developing a framework for diversifying the dietary needs and enhancing the family nutrition by supplying affordable vegetables and fruits. It incorporates the issues of women empowerment, equity based development, markets access and expansion for vulnerable groups.

## Proposed Activities

Programmatically, HGP phase IV adopts following programming approach, government ownership and use of government system and mechanism, build synergy/complementarities, and developing capacity and building voice and agency of local groups for sustainability. It plans to implement the following activities;

### *Disseminate the home garden practices to improve family nutrition and build resilience*

- Escalate nutritional awareness through orientation, social mobilisation, and awareness.
- Diversify home garden products through low-cost home garden management training and capitalise on its income potentials.
- Need-based support to resource home gardens development.

### *Strengthen institutional capacity to respond to the demands of home garden farmers for inputs and services*

- Promote research, validation actions and technology for increased climate resilience

and scale out the interventions.

- Escalate capacity of DADOs, DLSOs, and local government structures and develop a mechanism to ensure inclusion of home garden component in VDC and AFEC planning.
- Encourage partner Department of Agriculture (DoA), NGOs for integrating home garden approach in their programmes.

## Expected Results

In the overall, HGP Phase IV aims to improve the quality of life of more than 35,000 underprivileged families by complementing various livelihood enhancement activities to ensure social, nutritional and financial security. It's expected to achieve;

- Improved family nutrition of small holders and disadvantaged groups and increased income from surplus production.
- Internalising of the home garden as a target programme for small-holders and disadvantaged groups for nutritional improvement by government agencies and NGOs.

## Box 2: Brief on Home Garden

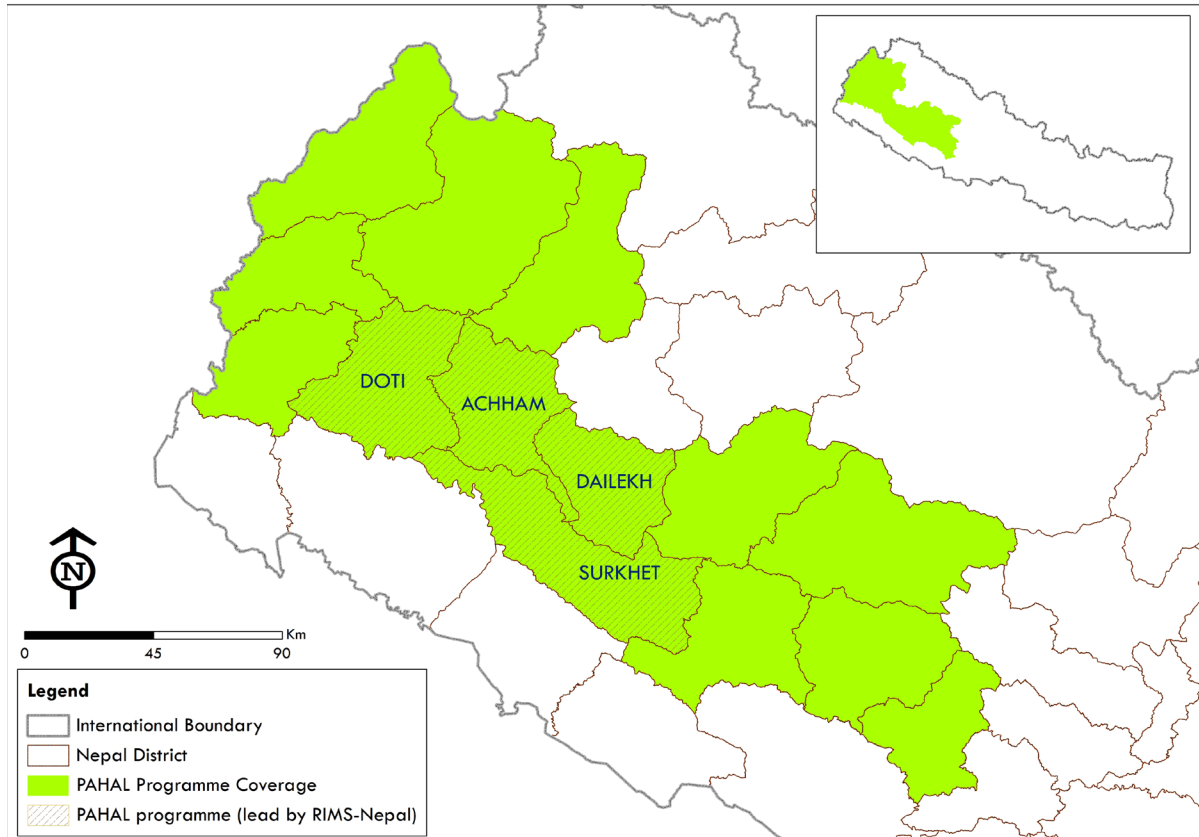
Home garden, a traditional land-use system around a homestead, maintained by the household for the production and family food consumption. It is conjoint of various farming components and interaction of kitchen garden (karesa bari), ornamental garden (ful bari), and fruit garden (bagaicha) with annual and perennial agricultural crops, fisheries, and livestock within homesteads.

Previous experience with the home garden has shown that its significance goes beyond the availability of quality food alone, cultural, aesthetic value conservation, agrobiodiversity maintenance and ecosystem service, and functions

promotion are its other key features. In a largely rural country like Nepal, home garden brings numerous opportunities and benefits for the households to maintain their family's dietary requirements and nutrition as well as economic empowerment through optimum utilization of available land while making provision for a safety net.

In a resource-poor, reduced farm sized, and agriculturally dependent rural context of Nepal, home garden promise for improving the food security and livelihoods of families and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and including the indigenous knowledge.

## 4. Promoting Agriculture, Health and Alternative Livelihood (PAHAL)



### Summary:

Program Duration	November 16, 2014 _ August 31, 2019
Donor	iDE Nepal, Mercy Corps, USAID
Approved Funds	NPR. 275,007,034.25 (USD \$ 2,520,041)

PAHAL, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Food for Peace (FFP), is a five-year programme which aims to address both the symptoms and root causes of food insecurity to build community resilience. It is being carried out by a consortium of Mercy Corps (as lead), Plan International USA, International Development Enterprises (iDE), Tufts University's Feinstein International Center (FIC) in coordination with Nepalese partners NTAG, Rupantaran, RIMS-Nepal, and SAPPROS.

PAHAL seeks to strengthen livelihoods, improve nutritional status and increase the resilience capacity of vulnerable households for mitigating, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses in fourteen hill and high hill districts of mid and far west Nepal. RIMS-Nepal takes a lead role in agriculture-related components and implementation of project activities in Doti, Achham, Surkhet and Dailekh districts.

PAHAL overall goal of the programme is to improve the resilience of vulnerable populations in Nepal to the stressors and shocks that impede food security. The program approach includes strengthening absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities to exposed stresses and potential shocks, and strengthening diverse livelihoods options.



## Proposed Activities

### *Mitigate risk of socio-ecological stressors and shocks*

- Integrate systems-level resilience assessment.
- Harmonise local-level VCAs the LAPA and LDRMP processes locally.
- Pilot payment for environmental services and early warning systems.
- Disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation capacity building at community and VDC level.
- Demonstration and promotion of climate-smart agriculture and livelihoods techniques.
- Facilitate market access to clean cooking technologies and fuels.
- Demonstration and promotion of water capture and storage.
- Upstream erosion control and watershed management.

### *Strengthen and Diversify Livelihoods*

- Build institutional capacity for community-based producer groups.
- Ensure access to affordable, profitable and appropriate information and technologies and financial services.
- Improve access to nutrition through home gardening.
- Establish marketing and planning committees and local collection centres.
- Facilitate public-private partnerships at District level.
- Facilitate linkages between market actors and marketing groups.

- Advocate on agricultural policy.
- Develop business skills, and practices through vocational training to disadvantaged youth and landless.

## Expected Results

PAHAL's effort will enable 1,625,000 individuals of the most vulnerable and food unsecured to build the resilience in the target districts in the region. At the end of the project, the following key results are expected:

- Improved knowledge and skills to manage and respond to the social and ecological hazards to their food security.
- Natural resource management to reduce the impact of urgent crises.
- Improved nutritional content and productivity of the crops and livestock.
- Market accessed through improved planning and local collection centres.
- Livelihoods diversified through access to financial services, financial and business skills and vocational training.
- Nutrition behaviour change strategies incorporated in natural resource management, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and livelihood activities.
- Safe water and sanitation facilities sustainably accessed and appropriately used.

Apart from contributing to the livelihood of people, PAHAL will provide the impetus for positive environmental feedback through improved water use efficiency, renewable energy improved livestock raising and sustainable agriculture promotion.

## 5. Strengthening Smallholder Enterprises (SSE) in Kewalpur VDC, Dhading District



Figure: Improve shed construction at Kewalpur of Dhading district

### Summary:

Program Duration	December 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016
Donor	Heifer International Nepal
Approved Funds	NPR. 18,037,810.00

SSE, a community empowerment programme in Dhading district, envisions sustainable social capital formation and economic empowerment of families. It is implemented by RIMS-Nepal in all wards of Kewalpur VDC since December 2013 with technical and financial support from Heifer International Nepal. Overall, the project goal is to improve the livelihood of smallholder rural families through agro-livestock based value chain enterprise development.

Taking into consideration for obtaining multiple impacts via physical aspect interventions, social capital, and women empowerment, the project aims for sustainable improvements and well-being of the 1,222 families. It promises a holistic community development through local government and stakeholders' engagement.

SSE approach includes social capital development, production and productivity enhancement, value chain promotion, enterprise development with the involvement of youths. More interestingly, agricultural inputs and supplies (improved seeds and saplings of forage and fodder, vegetable, fruit trees, and veterinary equipment) are provided to the women groups for the management of their livestock, fodder, and home gardens to increase their living standards.



Figure: Women awareness camp at Kewalpur of Dhading district

## Project Activities

### *Strengthening social capital*

- Capacity building training for village youths.
- Facilitate women-centered self-help group (SHGs) formation.
- Facilitate volunteering in training, campaigns, and planation activities.
- Exposure visits.

### *Enhancing livestock productivity*

- Community Agro-vet Entrepreneur (CAVE) training and mobilization.
- Artificial insemination (AI) for local cows and buffalo.
- Improved livestock management,

fodder forage development and nursery management.

- Shed improvement.
- Livestock insurance.

### *Integrating production with market channels*

- Kitchen garden, poultry, family nutrition training.
- Homestead gardens establishment.
- Toilet construction and promotion of personal hygiene.

## Project Accomplishments and Impact

SSE supported 232 rural households as direct and 951 households under the Pass on Families Mentoring Model as project beneficiaries, mainly

involving women as the family representative. Mainly the project has developed inter-personality skills and confidence in women to think beyond their household chores, institutionalize entrepreneurship and further economic gains.

- 41 SHGs federated into a Social Entrepreneur Cooperative, trained its members on pre-cooperative education to make them aware of the importance and fundamentals of a cooperative, and instituted a business platform thus providing savings and credit services along with farm inputs for purchase and bulking, aggregation and marketing of farm produce.
- 5 women earned a high-level position in Ward Citizens Forum. Their dedication towards work and fair execution of assignments helped in credence building as well as promise for the enthusiastic involvement of women in decisive positions.
- 39 livestock management training, improve breeds distribution reciprocated behaviour change in farmers, installed the concept of livestock rearing and awareness on animal disease and health resulting in improved goat productivity and gains in the annual

income of families up to NPR 120,000.

- Farmers have adopted organic farming and home garden system gradually replacing the use of chemical and pesticides in vegetable farms with compost manure and bio-pesticide. Grey water reuse for home garden irrigation is an instance of effective management initiative documented in the community.
- Families became more concerned about health status and maintaining sanitation. Similarly, environment conscious behaviour like reduced plastic use was diminishing waste and maintained aesthetics of the place.
- Fodder development initiatives encouraged plantation of 348 kg fodder tree and grass in 12.54 ha of land to improve fodder availability for livestock.
- Farmers developed confidence in growing networks and conducting a dialogue with concerned national agencies as well as local authorities to grab funding opportunities for development initiatives. In this regard, 12 water source conservation, gully control, and 8 plastic pond construction were concluded with the active participation of the community in coordination with DSCO.

### Box 3: Passing on the Gift (PoG) Model

The SSE project exercises the Passing on the Gift model, a hallmark approach of Heifer International which helps the recipients to turn into donor in due time. The Passing on the Gift symbolizes a chain of solidarity and a network of hope, dignity and sustainability among those who need it the most.

Apart from sharing resource, time or knowledge, it contributes in doubling the impact of the original gift, promote partnership at the local level, foster a strong social capital among people, and ultimately covers the entire community members. The tangible gifts come with intangible benefits of opportunity, dignity and acceptance.

In the case of SSE, every family passes on the gift of the first female offspring of the goat in 1:1 ratio from original group to pass group until all of the members are covered. This approach is especially of great potentiality for rural, resource-poor families in Nepal, contributing directly to economic strengthening, alternative livelihood and promoting social cohesion.

## 6. Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP)



Figure: Sri Ram PLMG, Nawalparasi

### Summary:

Program Duration	March 1, 2013 to July 16, 2016
Donor	GoN, DFID/UK Aid, SDC, and Government of Finland
Approved Funds	NPR. 313,749,464.79
Partner/s	HICODEF-Nawalparasi, NECOS-Rupandehi, and KIDS-Kapilvastu

MSFP is an ambitious initiation of the Government of Nepal (GoN) to improve livelihoods and resilience of the poor and disadvantaged people by maximising the contribution of country's forestry sector to inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, and tackling climate change. The multi-million dollar, three-year MSFP programme is funded jointly by Swiss Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Government of Finland, and Department for International Development (UK Aid/DFID). It is implemented in twenty-three districts, covering Hill and Terai eco-regions of Nepal.

The programme, closely aligned with the vision of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC), provides support for development and implementation of forestry strategy, policy and plan to endorse sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience for economic growth and improving socio-economy of impoverished communities. MSFP takes a holistic approach to multi-stakeholder partnership with development actors to address the issue of livelihood, biodiversity and climate change. Programme interventions occur through local forestry groups (LFGs), as an entry point while community participation and bottom-up approach are an integral part of the implementation design.

Within its scope of work, RIMS-Nepal is responsible for delivering in lot no. III in 112 VDCs, 12 municipalities and 1 Sub-metropolitan city of three western Terai districts namely, Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, and Kapilvastu in coordination with Himalayan Community Development Forum (HICODEF), Nepal Community Support Group (NECOS), and Kapilvastu Integrated Development Society

(KIDS). Its area of operation encompasses 690 LFGs and VDCs, which were selected based on proximate indicators like DAG, vulnerability status, forest status and potentiality for enterprise development.

### Project Activities



Figure: Gabbion constructed on Inguria river at Rupandehi

#### Forest Based Enterprise Development

- Capacity/skill enhancement for the entrepreneurs
- Business plans preparation and registration
- Technical as well as financial support and market linkage
- Forest Development and Climate Change Adaptation
- Plantation in public and private land, community and leasehold forest, and urban areas
- Strengthening of private nursery networks
- Climate change awareness, LAPA/CAP preparation, and implementation support

#### Social Mobilization

- Strengthening good governance (governance & leadership training, and community visioning)
- Social empowerment and inclusion
- Livelihoods improvement support to the poor and DAG households

### Project Accomplishments and Impact

MSFP efforts enabled 56,414 of the poor, DAG and climate vulnerable people to gain optimum benefit through more equitable, efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, including improved access to products and services, livelihood support and building resilience to changing climate. Of the total beneficiaries, 46 percent represents discriminated group while 41 percent are women.

- 3 enterprise development training benefited 63 furniture and handicraft based entrepreneurs in developing productive employment with principals of a decent job, improving living standards, raising productivity, and achieving more inclusive economic growth and social cohesion. The training helped participants to foster knowledge on business selection procedure, basic of enterprise, business risks, market and marketing procedures and enterprise.
- 25 forest-based enterprises supported for business plan preparation and installation of fixed assets, which in turn generated employment for 1,178 persons at \$1.25/day for at least 90 days.
- 145 local forestry groups in 26 community forest, 116 public land and 3 leasehold forest supported in developing their own constitution and forest operational plan thus enabling 4,732 households to manage 1,021.51 ha of forest area sustainably by allocating forest area in blocks, thinning, pruning, construction of fire line, and clearing weeds.
- 50 events on group governance and leadership training benefited 250 LFGs to improve their account and record keeping, documenting meeting minutes and public auditing skills, in addition to encouraging active women participation in the meeting and decision making, developing the confidence to overtake decisive position. It has developed the capacity to communicate and coordinate with government and non-governmental organisations for resource pooling.
- Under leasehold forestry, 608,140 quality tree seedlings (survival rate of 63 percent in the second year), 911,414 Amriso seeds, 34,500 Cinnamon planted in 380 ha of area.



Figure: Tharu Women selling their handicrafts, Hariyali CFUG, Kapilvastu

Interestingly, the programme is a “hallmark” for rejuvenating the land productivity sustainably which once was no more than wasteland, making a contribution for carbon sequestration, reversing land degradation, enhancing the forest coverage and creating a platform for forest-based enterprise development.

- 6,046 households benefitted from IGA through a revolving fund of the local forest user groups. Commercial goat, medicinal/ aromatic plantation, vegetable and fish farming have not only engaged farmers but also provided an opportunity for income increment.
- 1,463 ICS distribution helped in reducing pressure on the forest for fuel wood and additional 32 households were supported in biogas installation. Other than saving time for fuelwood collection, it helped in improving energy efficiency and health, especially for women and children.
- 16,456 households benefitted from 50 (30 LAPA and 20 CAP) adaptation planning, revision and implementation. Support for tube well, canal management, and pond management for drinking water and irrigation purposes has helped to combat drought, improve water access and deliver viable environmental alternatives.
- 1,386 households’ practised home garden activities to improve their family nutritional status, improve savings and expand their income generating options and thus build resilience capacity.
- 688 land-poor and vulnerable households benefitted from seasonal riverbed farming in 79 ha of land through 38 groups to improve

their nutritional and food sufficiency, and income by as much as NPR 270,000 through the production and selling of bitter gourd (Karela), bottle-gourd (Lauka), pumpkins, watermelon, and pointed gourd (Parwal).

- Altogether 27 VFCC/AFECs strengthened for raising the issues and developing a solution to issues relating to community forestry and public land management.
- Under Payment for Ecosystem (PES) mechanism, 300 ha of agricultural land was ensured year-round irrigation thus enabling 220 households in Rajapani Community Forest User Group (CFUG) to avoid drought and increase farm productivity.

### Project Challenges and Learnings

Issues with the legality of public land management group (PLMG), inter-project harmonization, up surging stakeholder’s expectations and lengthy registration process for forest-based industries are few concerns surfaced during MSFP implementation. Despite effective delivery of services, the programme team has observed the following issues and learnings;

- Existing social mobilisation approach needs to be adjusted for strengthening collaborative forest management (governance) in southern Terai communities.
- More than 80 percent forest product demand in Terai fulfilled by private land. So the emphasis should be given on quality seedlings production and plantation through private sectors.
- Linking IGA/pro-poor enterprises programmes with the microfinance is likely to be more effective in making financial arrangements/ security.
- Institutionalization of existing PLMGs, preparing the Forest Operational Plan (FOP) is crucial for sustainable management of the forest.
- Fencing is fundamental for the protection of plantation site from open grazing of livestock.
- Integration of home gardening and riverbed farming into livestock forage programme is an effective approach for maximizing the benefits.

### Story of Change 3

## Poultry Farm Provision Palti Devi's Life



***A revolving fund is used as a credit mechanism for resource-poor communities for production. It is managed by a farmers' organization or local groups which enable its members to access credit to be repaid at a low interest rate.***

Mrs. Palti Devi, a resident of Nadiyatole was a Treasurer of Nadiyatole PLMG executive committee in 2013. She used to raise chicken and grow vegetables to support her livelihood. She had taken a loan for her household errands but with limited income initiatives this loan repayment was a matter of grave concern for her family. However, she got the support of livelihood support intervention under MSFP programme, where she obtained NPR. 7,000 as a loan from the group's revolving fund and additional NPR. 3,500 as MSFP matching fund. With the support from the programme, she started commercialising the poultry farming that she had been doing from past years. In addition, she also obtained NPR. 23,000 loan from another source to build restructure and expand the poultry shed.

With her hard work, dedication towards the livelihood intervention and the financial support, Mrs. Devi was able to raise the economic condition of her household. She was able to make a profit of NPR. 130,000 with the sale of 4-5 lot chicks, meat, and egg. She was able to repay all her debts in time. With success obtained from poultry, she started diversifying growing different kind of vegetable as per the market need too, raising her income sources. It supported her to afford her children's better education and is able to help her neighbors in need.

Thanks to the revolving fund scheme, make alike Mrs. Devi obtained working capital for starting their own business or an alternative livelihood. Such initiatives are important for improving the social-economics of the people with limited access to capital and livelihood option, thus catalyzing the pro-poor development.



## Story of Change 4

# Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES): Best practice

According to Sven Wunder, "PES is a voluntary transaction in which well-defined environmental service (ES), or a form of land use likely to secure that service is transacted between buyer and the stewards, or providers, of ES." PES, therefore, provides an opportunity to value the previously unpriced ecosystem services and, in doing so, brings them into the wider economy.

Rajapani Community Forest User Group (CFUG) is located in Saljhandi VDC ward number 5 in Rupandehi. Consisting of 370 households, the group has been managing 141.5 ha of community forest and drawing different direct benefits such as timber, firewood, and fodder. The community forest has a permanent water source which has been used for irrigation for about 300 ha of agricultural land by 220 households.

Under the PES scheme, here farmers are the buyers and CFUG is a seller of the irrigation water service. All the 220 farmers have formed a representative committee, which is responsible for managing the irrigation water demand for about 300 ha of land, and performing necessary coordination with different stakeholders including Rajapani CFUG. Water source

protection is one of the objectives of Rajapani CFUG and therefore they have been protecting about 2 hectares of water source area since its establishment in 2058 B.S. In 2070 B.S., the group discussed with the representative committee of the farmers on the possible ways for water source protection for a long-run.

With RIMS-Nepal facilitation, the farmers have conceptually agreed to pay a certain amount of money to the CFUG so that the water source protection is sustainably possible. Presently, the farmers' committee is consulting its members on the possible amount of money that a household should pay for water source protection. The CFUG has already started construction works such as diversion channel, check dams, and works for seepage control. The group generated the support from RIMS-MSFP and District Soil Conservation Office, Rupandehi for these construction and maintenance works. The amount that a farmer pays to CFUG and the payment mechanism is under discussion among the farmers and between the farmers' group and CFUG's committee. Both parties have agreed on finalising the amount that each household pays to the CFUG.

## 7. Nepal Earthquake Emergency Response (NEER)



Figure: Relief distribution programme

### Summary:

Program Duration	May 16, 2015 to October 15, 2015
Donor	ADRA Nepal
Approved Funds	NPR. 2,836,530.75 (NZD \$ 40,000)
Partner/s	Rural Mutual Development Nepal (RMD Nepal)

On 25th of April 2015, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake devastated much of central Nepal. Dhading, a district located west of Kathmandu was among one of the severely affected districts with 679 deaths (56 percent female), and 92 percent damage to the physical infrastructures. To respond to the immediate need in health, nutrition and information access, RIMS-Nepal is rationalised. NEER project is implemented in coordination with RMD Nepal and local authorities with financial assistance from ADRA Nepal. Over its five months' duration, the program aimed to answer the concerned in agriculture, health, and sanitation, energy, and livelihood of communities in Mahadevsthan, Kalleri, Salyantar, Kusunde, Tallobesi, Muralibhanjanj, and Birtbesi VDCs of Dhading district.

### Project Activities

NEER influenced 2,380 earthquake-affected households to return back to their normal life as well as provide safety and security in social structures, food, and nutritional needs. Within the scope of its project outcomes, the major activities were;

- Refurbishing of damaged irrigation and portable water supply system.
- Facilitating hygiene and sanitation promotion campaigns.
- Supplying solar powered radio/mobile-phone charger and lighters.
- Providing agriculture extension support like tools, equipment, and seeds.
- Inject cash-for-work scheme to assist with the rehabilitate essential community water supply systems.
- Psycho-social counselling especially to women and children for the elimination of earthquake-related fear and anxiety.



Figure: WASH training for Local Health Workers

### Project Accomplishments and Impact

Various orientation and awareness activities helped to raise consensus among individuals over the need of sanitation especially during the aftermath of the disaster. All the beneficiary families increased/added diversity into their kitchen gardens with the help of supplementary kit (composite of seeds, tools, and saplings) as well as the management technologies shared by the project. Surplus production from vegetable farming not only had a direct contribution to family diet but also helped indirectly to benefit financially. The project not only achieved its set targets in quantities terms but also added to rapport building of RIMS-Nepal with the community and local authorities. 52 percent

of the total beneficiary households (including 7 Dalit, 108 Janajati) were female-headed households.

Major achievements in thematic sectors are gained, restoring and in cases sustaining the livelihood of the affected.

- The project fostered a good relationship with the community and local authorities, already in its initial phase. They were directly involved in the mapping of the beneficiaries, selection of the families and planning activities thus adding to the transparency in relief distribution. Such coordination ensured equitable distribution of relief and reduction

in any duplications.

- 300 agricultural tool sets and seed distribution supplemented in food availability, nutritional needs, and additional economic benefits opportunities.
- 600 water jars, buckets, and water purifier ensured the availability of clean water and prevention of the spread of water-borne pathogens.
- 25 farmers obtained home gardening training with a demonstration to help them to update their farming methodology to counter climate change using locally available tools. This ensured improved nutritional status of the family and provided an alternative for further economic benefits.
- From cash-for-work scheme, 2 irrigation canals and 5 hydram-water supply system got repaired generating 1,146 person-day work labour for 172 people, fulfilling their immediate cash requirement and ensured 30 families to have access to year-round irrigation from repaired hydram. Thus enabling multi-seasonal cultivation, doubling the productivity of the land. The improved irrigation system reduced vulnerability to change in monsoon timing and amount, other than that, ensured management of fallow land.
- 45 community volunteers trained on WASH initiatives furthered village level sensitisation process especially in the event of a natural disaster to address sanitation concerns and prevent the occurrence of an epidemic or its spread. More than 1,100 sets of sanitation kits (including hand wash soap, toothpaste and brush) and more than 2,000 pamphlets has been distributed. Similarly, 7 hoarding boards related to WASH issues has been established for mass awareness.
- 95 percent of target households has reported a reduction in earthquake-related stress and anxiety. People are prepared to live inside their house without fear. Similarly, children attendance in school has improved gradually.

### Project Challenges and Learnings

- NEER was a short and finite in duration (less than half a year) project, which presented dual challenges in achieving efficient and effective outcomes to address the immediate needs of the locals. Despite its limited timeframe, it has developed visual impacts on the livelihood of the people in the target location.
- Duration of the project was very short to evaluate the impacts of the project especially for agricultural outputs because at least one harvest period is required.
- Hand picking few beneficiaries among many in need was a tough ask for development agencies, especially in an area with similar social and economic standing. However, with the help of direct involvement of local community members and authorities, the target population is identified within each VDCs.
- Developing community ownership was mandatory for a social programme to achieve its target. Such initiations facilitated the priority needs of the community and help to develop the feeling of social acceptance.
- Regular supportive supervision from the management was necessary to increase the morality and dedication of the staffs towards their responsibilities.

## 8. Humanitarian Assistance to Earthquake Affected People in Nepal (ECHO)



Figure: Relief distribution programme

### Summary:

Program Duration	May 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016
Donor	ADRA Germany, ADRA Nepal, ECHO
Approved Funds	NPR. 11,926,164.00

ECHO, an emergency response programme of ADRA-Nepal, aimed to provide multi-sectoral humanitarian need-based assistance to most earthquake-vulnerable households in Nepal. The project addressed the urgent needs of the earthquake affected 63,640 households in the eleven VDCs of Dhading district, namely Maldi, Khalte, Kalleri, Thakre, Tasarpu, Naubise, Chhtreaurali, Kewalpur, Goganpani, Kumpur, and Mahadevsthan. It supplemented to the government relief and rehabilitation initiations and further, its scope to the most affected

communities or to those not attained. The project modality and approach were similar to that of NEER project but differ in coverage and sector of intervention.

ECHO intended to meet the emergency needs of the shelter, non-food items (NFI), water and sanitation (WASH) sector of the earthquake-affected population. Furthermore, within the nine months of the project duration, provision for shelter, capacity and skill development and public health and hygiene needs of the affected was addressed. The project focuses more on making shelter provision and WASH support.

### Project Activities

- Relief materials like tarpaulins, corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets, mattress, and blankets for shelter and settlement were distributed.



Figure: An elderly woman is delighted to obtain water jar and bucket

- Access to sufficient, adequate and culturally appropriate non-food items (NFIs), such as household items, mosquito nets, clothing and bedding, cooking utensils and lights for safety ensured.
- Providing disaster resilient shelter construction mason and carpenter training for future risk reduction.
- Provision of Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) to the most vulnerable, aged, and special need groups.
- Conducting door to door campaign, training and awareness session to improve public health concerns and hygiene practices.
- Provision of adequate and portable water by repairing and maintenance of water supply systems.
- Improve local sanitation through adequate latrine construction and encourage its use.

### Project Accomplishments and Impact

The timely provision of emergency relief materials assisted in rebuilding the livelihood of the affected, or, at least, getting it back on track. Similarly, the WASH initiatives ensuring any chance of epidemic spread is thoroughly addressed, and well-being is maintained.

Developing the capacity of local masons and carpenters has helped in germinating resilient construction practice. This is expected to decline the volume of damage for a similar case, in the case of a future event.

ECHO project has assisted 63,640 individuals, representing 55 percent women directly while it is assumed that roughly 80 percent of the district population benefited by the project interventions one way or the other. Major project accomplishments are enlisted as;

- 4,969 families (equivalent to 23,480 individuals) received shelter assistance in the form of trampoline and CGI sheets to counter monsoon, winter season and cold-induced illness. Similarly, 3,512 mosquito nets and blankets, and 1,800 poly-fibre mattresses distribution helped them to make their living in the makeshift shelters until they rebuilt their homes
- 120 families representing widows with minor children, elderly citizens, lactating mothers, differently abled and people with chronic diseases accessed UCT scheme to restructure their shelter, buy seeds and equipment while for other it was an investment for livelihood.
- 628 skilled mason and carpenter prepared for earthquake resilient construction as a long-term sustainable solution. Similarly, 38 one-day ward level orientation program has evolved understanding and enhanced knowledge on construction and importance of earthquake resilient buildings to the locals.
- 3,150 sets of hygiene kits, water jar (20 litre) and buckets distributed to 5,400



Mason training for earthquake resilient building construction

families ensuring safe storage of water and eliminating consumption of contaminated water and its health impacts.

- Distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material, WASH kit-box, flex-board placement, street drama providing impetus to mass awareness campaign for healthy behaviour and the environment.
- 17 water source repaired ensuring supply of portable water for households as well as to meet their agricultural needs of 1,371 families.
- 211 latrines constructed to enhance the sanitation status and check open defecation thus reducing the risk of epidemic spread and water source contamination.

### Project Challenges and Learnings

ECHO was efficacious in gaining respective impact against its set outcomes on the livelihood, managing disaster, and risk sustainably. Developing a mechanism for the direct involvement of responsive local authorities, community participation, and need-based planning are fundamental to overcome glitches that develop during disaster management programme implementation. Such learnings will act as a triggering point for transfer of knowledge and information need for community disaster preparedness. Major challenges and learning from the project are;

- The project was time bound, short duration in nature but efficient delivery mechanism ensured timely delivery of goods and service to the affected, protecting them from monsoon and the winter season. The allocated duration for the construction work was considered to be insufficient.
- The local and political interferences in the distribution of shelter support were minimized by the selection of social mobilizer from the concerned VDCs to smoothen the working environment.
- The selection of the potential beneficiaries was a tough assignment due to a high number of vulnerable households. As a standard practice, households without any physically able male were given preference for UCT to avoid additional burden to the women or elderly headed households with the additional workload.
- The slow response from local authorities was another tedious experience. As a result of the delay, the affected were compelled to reside under the open sky as the approval letter to carry out the assigned task was delayed.
- During the later stage of the project, national crises of blockage and fuel scarcity hindered and lingered the distribution program at most. The shelter support experienced some lagging, behind the proposed schedule. During the following phase, with the joint effort of the all the project team members and local stakeholders, the target was achieved.

**Story of Change 5**

# Cash Support for the Destitute



*Unconditional cash transfer (UCT) allows poor households the choice and flexibility to meet their most pressing needs by providing welfare programs without any conditions upon the receivers' actions. It is targeted to improve the economic and psychological welfare of the transfer recipients.*

Mr. Ghale Damai aged 72 and his wife Mrs. Hunkari Damai aged 71 are a resident of Maldi VDC, ward number 2 in Dhading district. They lived a simple life with their only child and hope of old age in Sunit. However, the old couple was devastated when Sunita passes away at an age of 37. The poor couple didn't own any land or ancestral properties by themselves. The couple lived in a shelter provided by Mr. Bhakta Bahadur in kind and their only source of livelihood was old-age allowance (Bridha bhata) provided by the government, which amounts to NPR. 1000 a month. Live for the couple was difficult and survival was a challenge for them.

ECHO programme had adopted a cash flow mechanism for low-income households who were unable to make important welfare-improving investments. The couple was noticed by community facilitator of Maldi Ms. Chandrakala Shrestha who proposed them to be enlisted for the scheme. After verification from the local authority, they were accepted as the beneficiary of the scheme like many others. The old couple received NPR. 10,000 in cash during an event organised in the district. With the amount, the couple plans to build a new shelter with the support of their neighbors. This small endeavor brought back a ray of hope to the couple's life.



# Our Team

RIMS-Nepal is governed by the General Assembly (GA), the highest body in the hierarchy of the organisation, which meets annually to share the yearly achievements and discuss amendments in the institutional policy framework, if required. It revives and approves strategies, and ensures that RIMS-Nepal is in operation within the overall policy framework towards its organisational mission and objectives.

## Executive Committee and Board

RIMS-Nepal has an executive committee which includes board members, financial monitoring committee, and programme management team. These committees comply with policies, guiding principles of the organisation and by prevailing law of the nation in order to ensure internal governance and efficient operational management practice. Presently, we have a 7-member Executive Board (EB) which is supported by 3-member Financial Monitoring Committee. Altogether there are thirty-five members board, 13 of whom are life members and 22 are general members including 11 Janjati and a Dalit.

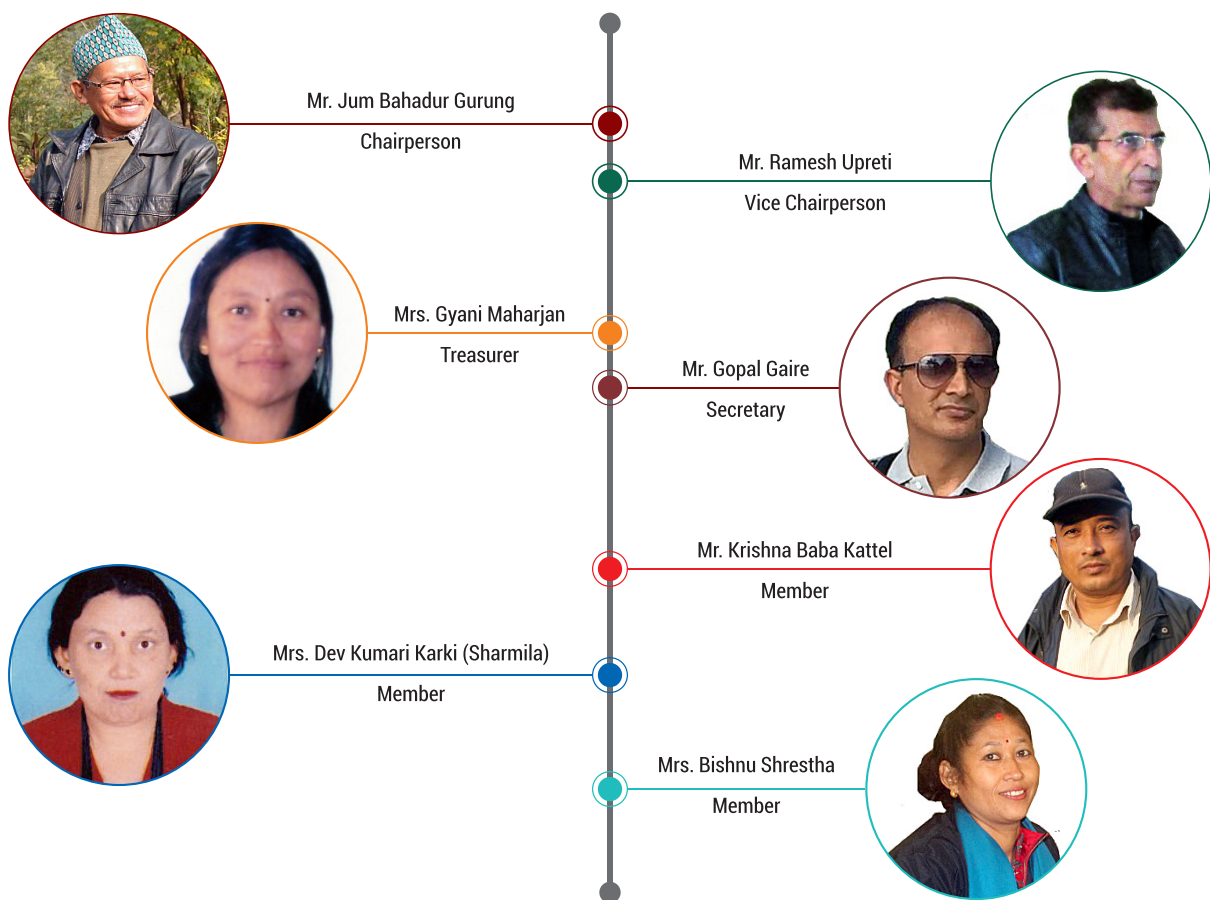


Figure 4: Executive Board of RIMS-Nepal

## Human Resource

RIMS-Nepal has a team of dedicated and enthusiast professionals belonging to diverse academic backgrounds with expertise in their respective subject matter. Presently, there are fifty-four full-time staffs including those in the central office and in various regional and project offices around the country. These staffs were appointed on a competitive basis following our Recruitment Guideline, their professional experiences, and academic merits. We seek assistance from a wide range of experts and consultants time to time.

Of the total staffs, 48 percent are female while 45 percent belongs to Janjati and 7 percent belong to Madeshi ethnic group. We have an inclusive human resource policy, committed to maintaining gender parity and believe in equal opportunity for all policy.

Table 2: RIMS Nepal's current staffs

Professionals	Programme	Admin & Finance	Total
Senior (Manager, Expert & Coordinator)	22	2	24
Mid (Officer)	6	2	8
Junior including interns	21	1	22
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>54</b>



Figure: RIMS-Nepal's associates during 18th AGM at Bairani, Dhading

# Partners and Donors

RIMS-Nepal is partners with government bodies (national and local), international donor agencies, and local communities to bring about holistic social development, and advocate for change. We seek support from various national and international institutes in the form of donation, technical assistance and partnership. The list of partner organisations is presented categorically hereafter.

## Local

- Adhikhola Samudhaik Bikash Kendra (ACDC)
- Development Concern Society (DECOS)
- District Agriculture Department Office (DADO)
- District Development Committee (DDC)
- District Disaster Response Committee (DDRC)
- Himalayan Community Development Forum (HICODEF)
- Kapilvastu Integrated Development Society (KIDS)
- Nepal Community Support Group (NECOS)
- Rural Mutual Development (RMD-Nepal)
- Tharu Community Upliftment Centre (TWUC)
- Youth Acting for Change Nepal (YAC-Nepal)

## National

- Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)
- Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD)
- Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC)
- Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP)
- Nepali Technical Assistance Group (NTAG)
- Rupantaran
- Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal (SAPPROS)

## International

- ADRA Nepal
- CARE Nepal
- DFID/UK Aid
- Heifer International
- iDE
- IIED
- GEF
- SGP
- Mercy Corps
- SDC
- UNDP
- USAID
- World Vision International-Nepal
- WWF Nepal

Figure 5: Partners of RIMS-Nepal

# Our Finances

The total income for the year ended July 2014 was NPR. 127.89 million. The total expenditure increased to 120.76 million to that of 24.01 million last fiscal years. The main factor behind the increased expenditure were the costs of programmatic activities under outputs/outcomes of MSFP project, which solely accounts for 68 percent of the total expenses in the fiscal year. The surplus of the year greatly exceeded our expectations and reflected our considerable fund-gaining success with donor and partner organisations, despite the challenges up ahead.

The net assets of RIMS-Nepal as per the last audit report are equivalent to NPR 6,717,690 represented in the form of property plant and equipment, and cash and cash equivalent. Details of financial transaction for the FY 2070/71 is presented as balance sheet and income and expenditure statements, presented in figure 6 to 7.

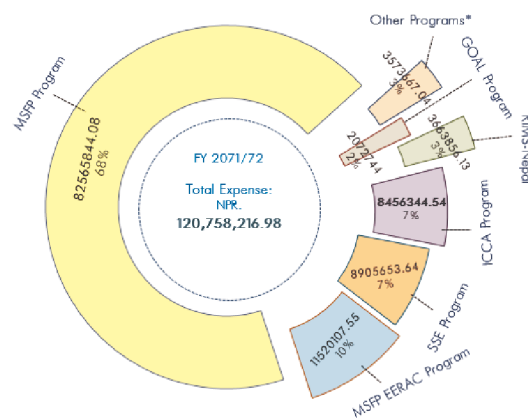


Figure 6: Income Details in FY 2070/71

\*Others refer to those programs whose yearly budgetary transaction was less than NPR. 1,000,000 in FY 2070/71 which includes HGP, ECHO, NEER, and BRACED program.

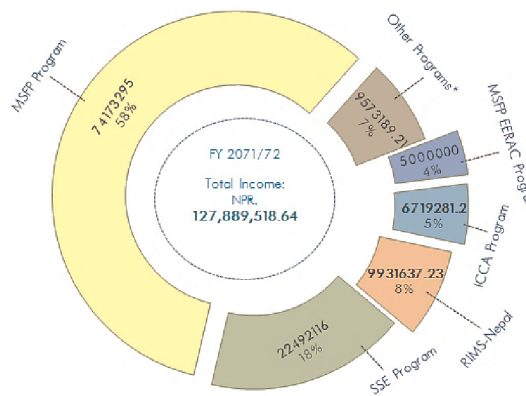


Figure 7: Expense Details in FY 2070/71

The gross revenue during the FY was 127.89 million, of which 92 percent was from various reimbursement projects.

**Resource Identification & Management Society-Nepal**  
**RIMS-Nepal**

Consolidated Balance Sheet  
As at 32 Ashadh 2071 (16 July 2014)

Last Year (NRs)	Notes	NRs)
4,305,073	1	4,449,713
541,483		(1,225,928)
<b>3,763,590</b>		<b>3,223,785</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
51,121		41,355
10,902		20,000
22,629,410		17,103,333
5,309,117		621,490
171,300		13,487,456
<b>28,171,850</b>		<b>30,652,144</b>
<b>INVESTMENT</b>		
2,741,100		2,741,100
<b>2,741,100</b>		<b>2,741,100</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
4,492,134		1,167,900
<b>4,492,134</b>		<b>1,167,900</b>
<b>PROGRAM LIABILITIES</b>		
26,478,192		28,731,440
<b>26,478,192</b>		<b>28,731,440</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
<b>3,706,214</b>		<b>6,717,690</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>		
10,035		8,028
3,696,179		6,709,662
<b>3,706,214</b>		<b>6,717,690</b>

As per our report of even date

*Bishnu Tripathi*  
Executive Director

*Vidhya Malakar*  
Treasurer

*Gyani Mahajan*  
Member

*Keshav Raj Kanel, Ph.D.*  
Chairperson

*Hari Ram Lohani*  
Secretary

*Pralhad Bhandari*  
Vice-Chairperson

*Indira Pathak*  
Member

*CA. Pradeep K. Shrestha*  
For Pradeep & Company  
Chartered Accountants

*Ram Bahadur Mijar*  
Member

*Rabindra Shrestha*  
Finance Manager

Figure 8: Balance Sheet

**Resource Identification & Management Society-Nepal**  
**RIMS-Nepal**

Consolidated Income & Expenditure Statement  
For the Year ended 32 Ashadh 2071 (16 July 2014)

Actual Last Year (NRs)	Budget FY 2070/2071 (NRs)	Actual Current Year (NRs)
2,489,921	2,200,000	5,491,943
808,028	2,637,775	2,470,304
5,522,200	-	2,205,606
361,402	-	-
1,849,657	-	-
3,302,633	8,403,000	7,314,125
621,490	-	53,373
8,265,240	86,363,405	65,770,492
795,681	13,736,848	662,080
<b>24,016,251</b>	<b>113,341,028</b>	<b>83,967,923</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
RIMS Income		
RCDP Program Income		
LeGGO Program Income		
BLP Program		
ABC Program		
ICCA Program		
BCP Program		
MSP Program		
Dr. Tilt Program		
GOAL Program		
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>RECURRING</b>		
RIMS Expenses	2,200,000	2,478,460
RCDP Program Expenses	2,637,775	2,470,304
LeGGO Program Expenses	-	2,205,606
BLP Program Expenses	-	-
ABC Program Expenses	-	-
ICCA Program	8,403,000	7,314,125
BCP Program	-	53,373
MSP Program	86,363,405	65,770,492
Dr. Tilt Program	13,736,848	-
GOAL Program	-	662,080
<b>24,017,588</b>	<b>113,341,028</b>	<b>80,954,440</b>
3,697,516		3,696,179
(1,337)		3,013,483
<b>3,696,179</b>		<b>6,709,662</b>

As per our report of even date

*Bishnu Tripathi*  
Executive Director

*Vidhya Malakar*  
Treasurer

*Gyani Mahajan*  
Member

*Keshav Raj Kanel, Ph.D.*  
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For Pradeep & Company  
Chartered Accountants

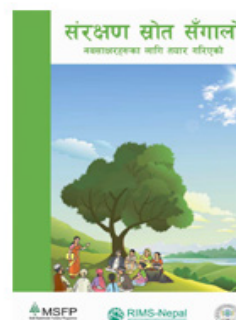
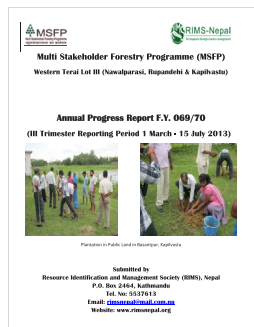
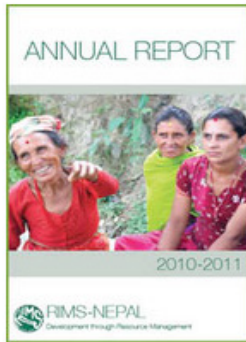
*Ram Bahadur Mijar*  
Member

*Rabindra Shrestha*  
Finance Manager

Figure 9: Income & Expense Statement

The external audit was performed by Pradip and Company, 'Class A' Chartered Accounts.

# Publications







**RIMS-Nepal**

Development through resource management

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