

## Annual Progress Report of estilient Community through Vulnerable Earth

## Resilient Community through Vulnerable Earthquake Recovery in Nepal (ReCoVER Project)





#### **Submitted to:**

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Nepal

Damauli, Tanahun

#### **Submitted by:**

Support Activities for Poor Producers in Nepal (SAPPROS Nepal)/ReCoVER Project

Damauli, Tanahun

January 2023

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#### **Photo Credit:**

ReCoVER project participants in Manahari Rural Municipality-7, Ramauli are directly receiving the irrigation facilities from Deurali Simalchok Irrigation Canal constructed by ReCoVER project (top-left) and public audit of Chillikhola Dobhan Irrigation Canal of Dudhpokhari-5 is happening in the presence of Ward Chairperson (right-down).

Photo: Mahesh Dhakal and Surendra Ray Yadav/ReCoVER Project

#### **Acknowledgement**

For their support and collaboration to implement ReCoVER Project, we are very thankful to the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Ward Chairpersons and other officials and members of Bakaiya Rural Municipality, Manahari Rural Municipality, Raksiramg Rural Municipality, Makawanpurgadhi Rural Municipality and Bhimfedi Rural Municipality of Makawanpur districts, Ichchhakamana Rural Municipality and Rapti Municipality of Chitwan district of Cluster-II. Similarly, sincere respect goes to Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Ward Chairpersons and other Official and members of Madi Rural Municipality and Rupa Municipality of Kaski, Myagde Rural Municipality, Byas Municipality and Bhanu Municipality of Tanahun and Sundarbazar Municipality, Dordi Rural Municipality and Dudhpokhari Rural Municipality of Lamjung districts.

A special credit goes to CRS Nepal for providing financial support as well as technical inputs for implementation of ReCoVER project in the 15 local levels of 5 districts. Our sincere gratitude goes to Mr. Mehul Savla, Project Director of ReCoVER Project, Mr. Arun Sharma and Ms. Sanjita Shrestha Programme Managers of Cluster-I&II respectively. Similarly, huge respect to Mr. Ganesh Raj Bhatt, MEAL Coordinator, Ms. Anubhavi Thapa, Senior MEAL Officer, Ms. Sajina Sherpa, WASH and Shelter Coordinator, Ms. Laxmi Saiju, WASH and Shelter Officer, Mr. Namita Nepal, Livelihood Expert, and Mr. Dipendra Chaudhary, Livelihood Coordinator of ReCoVER team. We are also equally obliged to Donor/Officials of ReCoVER Project for providing valuable inputs during field visits for better impacts.

In addition, we thanked to the entire team of Lumanti in central and district level for the joint collaboration for implementing a project activity in community level.

Last but not least, our sincere thanks goes to all vulnerable project participants who joined hands with ReCoVER Project to create the enabling working environment and made such wonderful achievement in socio-economic change through their contribution.

#### **SAPPROS Nepal**

#### **Executive Summary**

#### Livelihood Mapping

Livelihood Mapping is an initial process of the demand collection, capacity assessment and analysis for the support activities of ReCoVER Project. The technical team of the project finds the real situation of identified project participants through livelihood mapping and physical verification of their request, need and capacity. Till the reporting date (December 31st, 2022), the data and information of total 4,267 identified project participant are collected in MEAL system. Based on need or follow up supports, the regular backstopping to field level staffs is providing in CommCare Application regularly for the smooth operation by MEAL team of the project.

#### Farm-based training

Farm based training is the major intervention of the project which is provided to project participants before providing the input support for the improvement of their livelihood. The specific training is the foundation of the knowledge development, enhancement and sharpening their skill and knowledge of the farm-based livelihood activities like vegetable farming, goat rearing, poultry farming, buck rearing and off-farm supports during project period. By the end of 2022, 4341 had received a farm-based training provided by the project. The effectiveness of the training is measured by the scoring in post test of the training as provisioned by the major indicators of the project

#### Input Supports

After providing a specific trainings to the identified project participants, the project has been supporting a vegetable seed support, especially seed/tuber of Cauli, Cucumber, Potato and Tomato to the participants to increase their livelihood options for the better lives. Under the section of livestock, goat, chicken are provided to the interested participants based on their need and capacity assessment. The total 615 HHs had received a support of goat whereas 1,235 HHs are supported by the chicken till the end of Dec. 2022. Similarly, the project has been supporting to 14 project participants a breeding buck to semi-commercial project participant in breed improvement of goat in their community. Till the date, the project had supported input support to 3414 project participants in both Cluster during Year-I and II (2021 & 2022).

Additionally, the total 24 project participants had received Off-farm supports like Aron Support, Sewing Machine support, Stone Cutting machine support, Hotel training and support for meat fresh house in both clusters.

#### Financial Management Training

To improve the skills of saving and credit, income and expense tracking, business plan making of their business, daily expenses management, the financial management training is the effective tools that is implemented by the project. Till the date, 4,162 project participants had received a financial management training in both Clusters of ReCoVER project. The effectiveness of the training is measured by the pre and posttest of the training. 57 per cent (773 out of 1359) of participants scored a number above 75 per cent in posttest of the training mean they had increased their knowledge of financial management training.

#### **WASH Progress**

To restore the critical water schemes affected by the Nepal Earthquake 2015, the ReCoVER project jointly worked with the local levels of working palikas and districts. The identification, selection, prioritization, budget leveraging and construction of water schemes and irrigation canal are jointly or solely completed by the project. Till the end of 2022, total 40 water and irrigation schemes are constructed in both Clusters. The 800 HHs are directly benefitted by the project during its timeframe.

#### FCRM and Coordination

Feedback, Complaint and Response Mechanism (FCRM) is established to listen the voice of community people about the project and make more transparency for the lens of good governance. The project team has providing an orientation in community level about FCRM system and process of registering their complaint, feedback about the project and response by the project team. The suggestion box, toll-free number, in-person meetings, spot checking are the amplified tools for collecting suggestion, advice, complaints of the project participants. In an initial phase, most of the complaints are recorded of housing reconstruction in compare to livelihood supports. In the last quarter of 2022, total 41 feedbacks are received related to the government grants for the housing reconstruction. It means that most of the people still are discussing about the grants provided by the government.

Coordination with the Local Government is an inevitable part of the project. From the confirmation of project participants to handover of the WASH schemes and sustainability, the project jointly work with the local governments. All the activities of the WASH schemes construction, project fixes its pathways as per suggestion of local governments. Along with housing reconstruction, confirmation of the species of input supports like types of seed, breed of livestock support is taken from government official of local governments. It ultimately helps to sustain a good impact in community level and linked the people with local governments than before.

#### **Acronyms**

CAO Chief Executive Officer

CRS Catholic Relief Services

DCC District Coordination Committee

FCH Full Construction House

FCRM Feedback, Complaint, Response Mechanism

FFS Farmer Field School

GRRP Gorkha Recovery and Resilience Program

HRRP Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform

IEC Information. Education and Communication

IPs Implementing Partners

IR Intermediate Result

IVR Internet Voice Response

Kg Kilograms

KRRP Kavre Recovery and Resilience Project

LG Local Government

MEAL Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

Mun Municipality

NGO Non-Government Organization

ORRP OKhaldhunga Recovery and Resilience Program

PDM Post Distribution Monitoring

ReCoVER Resilient Communities through Vulnerabale Earthquake

RM Rural Municipality

SAPPROS Support Activities for Poor Producers in Nepal

SO Strategic Objective

ToT Training of Trainers

WASH Water Sanitation and Hygiene

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

#### Background

CRS is an international NGO based in the United States that works in over 100 countries to promote human development by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies. CRS was established in 1943 to help wartorn Europe and its refugees recover. CRS continually seek to help those most in need, providing assistance based on need, without regard to race, creed or nationality.

CRS Nepal arrived in response to the 2015 earthquake with emergency support to over 19,000 households in partnership with local NGOs. CRS has transitioned to recovery programming in Nepal through shelter, livelihoods and community infrastructure programming. CRS Nepal already completed two major recovery projects namely Gorkha Recovery and Resilience Program (GRRP) and OKhaldhunga Recovery and Resilience Program (ORRP). Currently CRS Nepal is implementing KRRP (Kavre Recovery and Resilience Project), USAID-funded Farmer to Farmer (F2F) program and HRRP (Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (HRRP). In addition to these, CRS Nepal has two recovery projects that are in design phase namely ReCOVER (Resilient Communities through Vulnerable Earthquake Recovery) and CERRP (COVID-19 Emergency Response and Recovery Project). CRS Nepal is ensuring accountability to project participants through a robust feedback mechanism.

Resilient Communities through Vulnerable Earthquake Recovery (ReCoVER) is a three-year multisectoral recovery project (Jan 2021 – Dec 2023) that will support 6,240 families affected by the 2015 earthquake. Using a targeted, tailored approach to reconstruction, ReCoVER will assist 4,000 households in earthquake-affected districts of Nepal to build back safer homes and 6,240 including 4000 HHs will be supported with the livelihood activities for improved economic resilience and opportunity. Similarly, restoration of critical water supply for the most vulnerable families who have been unable to recover is also one of the components of the project.

Recently, ReCoVER project has been implementing in 15 Palikas of 5 districts to rebuild the house damaged by the Nepal Earthquake of 2015. Especially, the most vulnerable people

who are not able to reconstruct their house due to lack of technical support, poor economic condition, geographical remoteness and other follow up for the reconstruction process ahead. The project is providing a support on Top-up, Materials, Labour and Transportation (MLT) and Full Construction House (FCH) to the selected most vulnerable people in its working areas.

Along with housing supports, the livelihood part of the identified project participants is implementing simultaneously based on their need, capacity and skills that is linked with the local market. Under the livelihood component (SO2), the project envisions to have improved economic resilience and opportunities through livelihood activities and restoration of critical water schemes caused by the Nepal Earthquake 2015.

With the technical supports from CRS Nepal, two national level Non-Government Organization (NGO) named Support Activities for Poor Producers in Nepal (SAPPROS Nepal) and Lumanti, Support Group for Shelter are working for the Livelihood/WASH component and Housing Reconstruction respectively. With the intensive working experience in respective fields, two implementing organizations are jointly working for achieving the goal, Earthquake affected households in Western and central Nepal to rebuild their lives and livelihood, of ReCoVER Project.

#### 2. TARGET VS ACHIEVEMENT

ReCoVER Project aims to provide a support to reconstruct the households of Nepal Earthquake affected people in Western and Central Nepal to rebuild their lives and livelihoods through housing reconstruction, improved livelihood activities and restore the critical water schemes of the affected areas.

To achieve this goal of the project, the ReCoVER team set the different level project activities like housing reconstruction, livelihood input supports, livelihood trainings and water schemes. In Year-I and II, the total target of the livelihood inputs in 15 working Palikas of Tanahun and Makawanpur Clusters is 3500 project participants and 40 Water and Irrigation Schemes.

Under the livelihood components, the total target of the project in Year I&II is 3500 project participants. By the end of the December 2022, the project team reached the target (3511 out of 3500). Due to deletion of project participants (97) of Year-I, it is reported that the supported project participants is 3414 right now. Behind the case, when project was initially implemented in October 2021, the project team agreed to supports the listed project participants before the agreement for the housing reconstruction. When their name is deleted in CommCare Application, the cases are two: i) They applied for the third tranche, not received when the project supported livelihood support, ii) They denied to reconstruct the houses and not agreed to contract with Lumanti. The separated file of "Deleted but Supported Participants" is attached separately.

The total target of Financial Management Training is 4110 and project team achieved it (4162) till the end of December 2022. The financial management training is provided to the project participants and neighbouring participants of it. In the project cycle period, the total 6000 project participants (Direct/Indirect) will be covered by the trainings. The main objective of the trainings is skills and knowledge development of daily record keeping, saving and credit practices, income and expenditure tracking and development of record keeping system of livelihood activities.

By the end of the December 2022, the project has set a target of WASH schemes construction is 30 in both clusters. By the end of reporting date (15 Dec. 2023), all 30 Water and Irrigation Schemes are completed and handed over to the user committee with proper operation and maintenance plan.

	Palika	Livelihood input support (YI+Y2)		Livelihood training (YI+Y2)				Water system (YI+Y2)			
District		Target	Achieved till date	Financial Manage ment Target	Financial Managemen t Training till date	Livelihood training target	Livelihood training (farm and off farm) till date	Target	Achieved till date	Water Infrastru cture construc tion ongoing	Water user group formed/functio nal
	Bakaiya	533	587	531	802	590	625	6	7	0	7
	Bhimphedi	268	189	285	203	264	188	2	2	0	2
Makwanpur	Makawanpurg adi	204	199	312	319	302	262	2	I	0	1
	Manahari	417	435	313	561	472	457	6	5	0	5
	Raksirang	105	110	326	200	177	133	2	3	0	3
Chitwan	Icchakamana	277	207	215	311	297	237	I	2	0	2
Cilitwali	Rapti	96	98	208	241	120	100	I	0	0	0
	Bhanu	385	361	297	203	389	367	4	3	I	4
Tanahun	Byas	208	221	250	225	298	297	2	I	0	I
	Myagde	105	98	172	122	177	180	2	0	I	I
	Dordi	158	169	255	219	317	365	3	2	0	2
Lamjung	Dudhpokhari	166	164	300	212	262	320	2	4	I	5
	Sundarbazar	198	189	270	239	265	273	2	2	0	2
Kaski	Madi	195	209	230	216	293	357	2	4	0	4
Naski	Rupa	185	178	176	89	265	180	3	I	0	I
Grand	l Total	3500	3414	4140	4162	4488	4341	40	37	3	40

Project specific trainings is provisioned to provide before the input supports of the livelihood activities. It helps to acquire the technical knowledge and skills of livelihood supported activities such as agriculture supports (Potato, Cucumber, Tomato and Cauli along with Beans, Turmeric, Ginger, Brinjal etc.) and livestock supports (Goat, Buck and Poultry) to the project participants. The project achieved 96.74% (4341 Out of 4488) by the end of December 2022. The project planned the remaining number of the specific trainings in Year-III.

#### 3. DETAIL OF ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN

## 3.1 SO2 Targeted affected households have improved economic resilience and opportunity

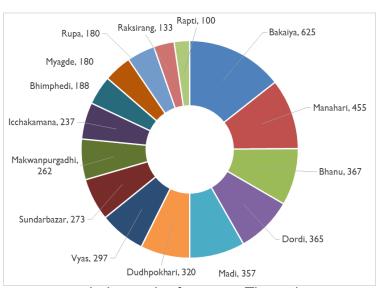
### 3.1.1 IR 2.1 Targeted households use improved livelihood practices and Input to increase their income

Output 2.1.1 Targeted households developed skills on improved income generation practices promoted in the project.

Under the Farm-based Vegetable Farming, Chicken, Goat, vegetable and Cardamom training is

included. The total 4,339 (69.53%) out of 6,240 project participants of the project are provided a trainings of input supports.

Under the vegetable training, especially, project promoted vegetable like Potato, Cucumber, Tomato and Cauliflower along with Beans, Brinjal, Bitter Gourd are included and develop training manual accordingly. Based on the nature of vegetable items, trainings are provided in different level. Before providing a



training, pre-test is taken by the facilitators and compare it with the result of posttest. This is the tool to measure the effectiveness of the training under this project.



A technical skill and knowledge of Poultry Farming is provided before distribution of Chicken to the identified project participants.

Photo: Chandra Sartunge/ReCoVER Project

Similarly, trainings of livestock like Poultry and Goat rearing is organized in community based training. The technical person of the project along with focal person of respective unit in local levels/Palika facilitates the session of the livestock respectively. The schedule covers the content of selection of goat, feeding culture, feed

making process by using local materials, basic medication, insurance and market linkage of it.

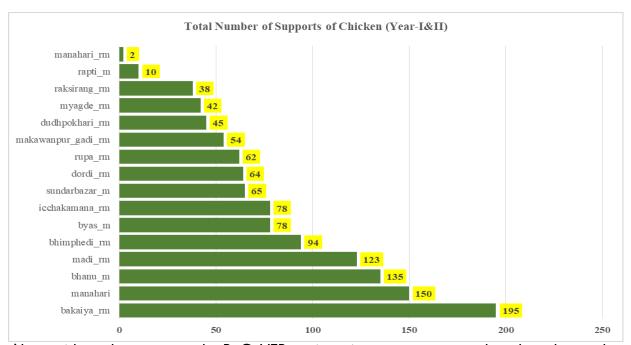
To make uniformity in trainings of project promoted support, the team has developed a guideline of each trainings and provided an orientation to all technical staff accordingly. Some guidelines like Tomato Farming, Goat rearing, Chicken rearing, Cauliflower and Potato farming are developed.

Output 2.1.2 Targeted households received materials inputs to start/strengthen their income generation activities

The mapping of identified project participants is the very initial process to check the needs, capacity assessment, and effectiveness of the project activities, especially for the livelihood supports. The gathered data through livelihood mapping is the basic data for the requirements of supports by ReCoVER project.

#### **Livestock Supports:**

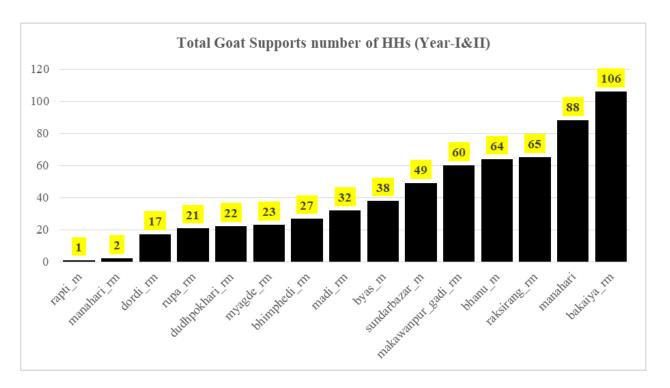
Under the livestock support, till the date, the total 1,235 HHs had received a chicken supports from ReCoVER project since October 2021. with feed, feeders, basic medicine and other supports through project in Tanahun and Makawanpur cluster. Before providing chicken supports, the project has provided a field-based practical training of chicken rearing in close coordination with local levels. The level of understanding of the chicken rearing is checked before the training through pre-test and level of understanding is checked after training. It helps to measure the increased knowledge of chicken rearing of the project participants. The training sessions are shared by the team with focal person of livestock and agriculture of respective palikas. It helps to tighten the connection with local level by the community people. And, in future the supports will be provided to them by the government offices respectively.



Along with poultry support, the ReCoVER project aims to support goat based on the need and capacity assessment of the identified project participants. The livelihood mapping confirms the

capacity of project participants to rear the goat, status of shed, and proper land for the grazing and other basic requirements for the goat rearing. The team also confirmed that each goat is secured by the insurance policies for unexpected loss in coming future. The project provides a goat supports with basic medical items such as medicine, vitamins, leaflet/information, and guidance of insurance policies to the identified project participants after field level verification. Till the date, 615 HHs had received a goat support by the project participants. Before supporting a goat, the project confirms that the insurance of each goat with knowledge sharing with community people must be provided. The terms and condition of insurance policy are highlighted by the project's technical person.

ReCoVER project provisions that each supported participants should be trained before handing over a goat and other supports. The training schedule covers a goat rearing techniques, feed management, local feed making process, insurance policies, basic medical treatment process and linkage with local market/vendors. The level of understanding is checked through pre/post test of the trainings.



Additionally, the project aims also to improve the breed of local goats. At the end of Year-II, total I4 bucks are provided to project participants in Cluster-I & II based on cost-sharing (35% cost contributed by the project participants) modalities. It really helps to improve the breed of local goats and produce healthy goat of local community. And, the cost contribution with interested project non/participants makes more responsible and higher ownership of supported livelihood interventions.



The project is providing a Buck support for the breed improvement of the goat in project working areas of Bhanu Municipality to Ms. Nanu Pandey in Tanahun.

Photo: Shiva Paudel/ReCoVER Project

Recently, Ms. Nanu Maya Pandey, Bhanu-9, Tanahun earned NRs. 18,500 till the reporting data in the annual report of the project. She has been providing facilities to the villagers through the buck for the purpose of breed improvements.

#### Off Farm Support:

During this project period, the total 28 HHs received a project supports of Off-farm in both Cluster. The project promoted a skilled based support to identified project participants. The assessment of the market is completed before the support to the prarticipants. Some traditional

business-like Aron<sup>1</sup> Support, Tailoring Machine Support, and Stone Cutting Machine Support are promoted to do more professionally.



#### Details of the photo:

Off-farm support to project participant from Rupa-7, Kaski Mr. Hom bdr BK had brought some positive changes from the ReCoVER project on his daily livelihood and his service to his customers in the village. He is doing a traditional business to improve better economic condition of his family. The project had provided modern technologies like electric blower, hammer, wielding machine and other items for the improvement of his traditional skills and wider coverage areas of his business. He manages local

materials to construct a safer working areas for the Aron business.

#### Successful Income Generation and Business Expansion through Project Participation

The project aimed to increase the annual income of participants by 15,000 by continuing their income-earning activities. To reach this goal, capacity-building activities were conducted with the direct participation of local bodies, as required by the project. Additionally, in order to make their businesses profitable, participants continued to coordinate and cooperate with local-level service providers and market actors as per needed. It appears that the annual income of project participants has increased as a result of continuous advice and technical support from partner organizations. Analysis of data on the increase in income for project participants engaged in livelihood activities until September 2022 reveals this outcome.

Type of Support	Average Annual Income (NRs.)
Agri Input Support	26962
Chicken	23254

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Aron is a traditional business of domestic weapon making like sickle, Khukuri, knife, Spade and other tool which are mostly used for agriculture product

From their annual income, the community has been able to manage their necessary expenses for daily living, as well as continue and expand their businesses.

One example of this is Deepak Moktan from Manhari-7 Ramauli. With the help of the project, Moktan, who began potato farming on I kattha\* of land in November 2021, earned 23,000 from producing Encouraged by this first potatoes. production, the Moktan family, inspired by the project, rented 8 kattha of land and began cultivating Potato, Brinjal and Chilies. They have earned 200,000 from the farm so far and have also purchased 4 piglets and 7 goats. "I am very happy that the project has provided a reliable source



The given income data is taken from Income Tracking Sheet as maintained by ReCoVER project

of income for my family and I plan to expand it further," the Moktan family expresses their happiness.

#### Farmer Field School (FFS): A Complete Package of Vegetable Production

Farmer Field School (FFS) is one of the effective project activities to provide practical field-based training to identified project shelter and non-shelter participants during project period. This school helps to extend the knowhow of vegetable production. In Cluster-I, Paribartan Farmer Field School (FFS) of Bhanu Municipality-9, Baisjangar, Tanahun is running to provide technical orientation on Tomato



farming. Additional two FFS like Bikalpa FFS and Chudibeshi FFS are running in Bhanu Municipality. Tomato farming is the prime vegetable production preferred by the community and market-led vegetable produce.



In Cluster-II, Farmer Field School are running in Bakaiya Rural Municipality-I, Basan, Makawanpur. Within this period, 21 plastic tunnel are constructed under the ReCoVER Project. Similarly, Farmer Field School of Manahari Rural Municipality-9, Musle is providing practical education and skills of tomato farming. In Musle FFS, completely

project participants are from Praja Community, a marginalized community of Nepal. They learned right now how to cultivate vegetables in a huge number like tomato, cauli, and cucumber in their own land. Most of individuals of Musle are sustaining their source of livelihood by collection of sands and stone in the back of Manahri River before. Right now, they are cultivating a vegetables, especially tomato and sell it in Manahari Bazar. And, the total 7 plastic tunnel are constructed in Musle under this FFS. Moreover, FFS is the common platform to share the knowledge and skills of vegetable production. Most of the member of this schools are directly engaged and gained filed-based practical knowledge. Some Farmer Groups driven by FFS are registered in local palikas and proceed for the agri-supports.

### 3.1.2 IR 2.2 Targeted households adapt strong financial management practices at household level

ReCoVER Project envisions that during its implementation period, the project participants would have followed the financial management practices like record keeping, saving and credits practices, daily expenses management practices, business plan of their business. After receiving a multiple financial management trainings, the project participants would have abled to analysis their income and expenditure of their business and finance and banking practices in their community.

To achieve, the project set a two major activities as follow:

## 3.1.2.1 Output 2.2.1 Targeted households and community institutions have developed skills on household level financial

Financial Management Training to project participants is one of the major indicator to extend the knowledge, practice and involvement with financial institutions of the project. This training also expects the improvements on financial skills and knowledge of project participants. Till the date, the total number of 4,162 project participants had received a financial management trainings in community level by the trained facilitators. The project team has been monitoring the effectiveness of financial management training during and after training of it. The team found that the training participants are keeping a record of income and expenses of their family. The comparison of pre and post-test marked in the month of December by the 26 trained participants,

85.77% is the average score of the post test. The improvement is seen in the knowledge of project participants after completion of financial management training in average.

In the above bar graph, the financial management training in Bakaiya Rural Municipality of Makawanpur district is highest



number of Financial Management Training completion in Year-I and II (2021&2022).

#### Methodology of Financial Management Training:

Financial Management Training is especially designed for the vulnerable people who are selected as the project participants of ReCoVER project. The training manual is developed by the expert of the Financial Management Training and provided a three days residential training named Training of Trainers (ToT) in both clusters to the selected facilitators. The participants of the training are selected from the local financial institutions like Micro Finance, Saving and Credit Cooperatives, Development Banks, saving groups and other.

Based on the ToT trainings and other supportive documents, trained facilitators are providing a community based practical trainings as per the need and financial literacy level of participants. In the financial trainings, 57 per cent (773 out of 1359) of participants scored a number above 75 per cent in posttest of the training. The pre-test and post-test paper is provided in the training. Some behaviour like management of daily expenses, saving behaviors, knowledge of banking system, income record techniques, record-keeping system of livelihood activities are provided in

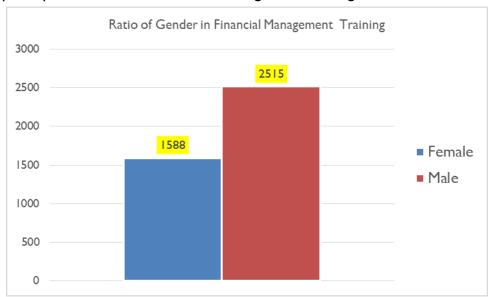


A group photo is taking after the completion of field level Financial Management Training in Dudhpokhari Rural Municipality-6, Lamjung. *Photo: Krishna Pd. Neupane/ReCoVER Project* 

#### **Gender Analysis:**

To review the data of the participants of the financial management training conducted in Makawanpur and Tanahun Cluster, the number of Male is 2,515 (61.30%) out of 4,103. And, 59 project participants do not mention the sex or missing by the JTAs to entry the type of sex in the system. It indicates that the participation of female in financial management training should be

promoted and ensure the participation of female in the financial management training and other trainings too. The project should design its activities to promote female participation in capacity building trainings and programme.



## 3.1.3 IR 2.3 Targeted Earthquake-affected households have increased access to improved source of water for households and livelihoods

Output 2.3.1 Targeted communities have restored water infrastructure systems

Under the ReCoVER Project, 30 Water and Irrigation Schemes are completed in Year-II. The identification, selection, budget leveraging with local level are prioritized by the project in Cluster-I and II. In the working areas of the project, the government policy of "One House, One Water Tap" is promoted and made accessible safe drinking water facilities to the community people. For the sustainability of the Water Schemes and Irrigation Canal, the operation maintenance plan of each schemes are formulated and is being implementing right now by the user committee.

In Cluster-I, total 15 Water and Irrigation Schemes are constructed where 12 are Water Schemes and 3 are Irrigation Canal. Similarly, in Cluster-II, 2 are Irrigation Canal and 13 are Water Schemes constructed in Year-II (2022). The decade-long problems of drinking water is solved right now by the support of ReCoVER project. A case from Musle village of Manahari-8, Makawanpur indicates that after 20 years, people are getting facilities of

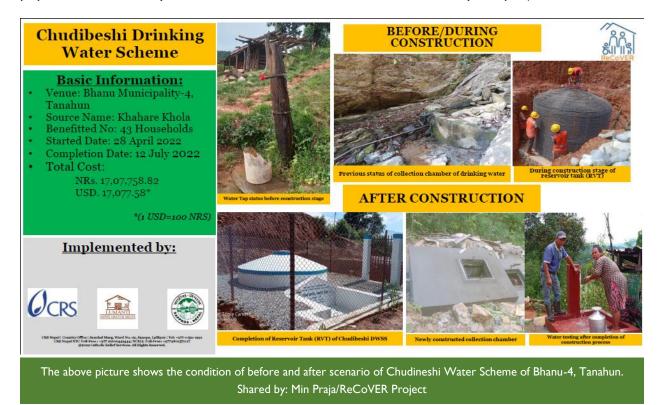


Reservoir tank of Musle Drinking Water Schemes of Manahari-8, Musle,
Makawanpur
Photo: Prabin Aryal/ReCOVER Project

drinking water in their house. Before construction of water schemes, they were compelled to fetch water from the bank of Manahari Khola.

Similar case from Chudibeshi Drinking Water Scheme of Bhanu-4, Chudibeshi, Tanahun. Before construction of Water scheme, people are obliged to use the temporary water pipeline for their daily usage. No permanent pipeline and reservoir tank were managed for the long-lasting facilities of water. One RVT was partially leakage which was affected by the Earthquake. So, in coordination with Bhanu Municipality, the project completed a Chudibeshi Water Scheme and provided a facilities to 59 HHs of Chudibeshi village.

In both Clusters, 800 HHs are benefitted by the 30 Water and Irrigation Schemes and total 4,014 population are directly benefitted from those schemes constructed by the project.



And, in Year-I (2021/Oct-Dec.), total 10 Water and Irrigation Schemes were completed and handed over to User Committee. Till now, total 40 Water and Irrigation Schemes are completed and handed over to User Committee. Government budget leveraging is one of the major supports for the completion of water and irrigation schemes during the implementation of ReCoVER project. The project always lobby for the budgetary contribution by the local government. The joint financial and technical supports make possible the irrigation and water scheme construction process more sustainable and reliable that community can take it easily as their own properties. The project always promote the Government Policy of "One House, One Water Tap" in each water schemes. For the operation and maintenance fund establishment, minimum water consumption fee are collected in each schemes.

As reported in event report, budget equals to NRs. 28,08,302 (9.57%) is provisioned by the LGs in Cluster-II for the construction of water and irrigation canal under the ReCoVER Project. The total cost of 15 WASH schemes is NRs. 2,93,17,256 in Year-II re/constructed by the project.

Similarly, in Tanahun Cluster, 15 WASH schemes are completed right now and by the end of second half of January, 2022. The total cost of 15 WASH schemes is NRs. 2,03,69,382 and LGs has contributed the total budget equals to NRs. 7,65,500 (3.75%) to construct the WASH schemes in three districts (Tanahun, Kaski and Lamjung).

Output 2.3.2 Targeted communities developed a sustainable water-resources utilization master plan Operation and Maintenance Plan of 40 Water and Irrigation Canal schemes are formulated and is being implementing by the member of User Committee. The regular monthly meeting are conducted and followed by the technical team of the project. The project provisioned an agreement between or among the User Committee, Project and Palikas/Ward Officer for the sustainability of the Water and Irrigation Schemes.

#### 4. MONITORING EVALUATION LEARNING AND DOCUMENTATION

#### 4.1 Information Sharing System

CommCare Application for the data collection, reporting and analysis is used in ReCoVER project. Mostly field level staff are prioritized in the orientation of it and provided access to entry all the field level data like livelihood mapping, details of input supports of agriculture and livestock supports. The data of training is reported through CommCare Application to the concerned staff. A separated document for the project is created by the MEAL team of ReCoVER project, especially all the technical supports are undertaken by the staff of



Data for Midline Survey are collection though CommCare Application in Rupa, Kaski Photo: Sabin Chhetri/ReCoVER

MEAL/CRS Nepal. The feedbacks, complaints and advices from project participants, community people, government officials, and local leaders are incorporated in FCRM mechanism through CommCare Application. In-person suggestion and complaints are manually registered in CommCare Application and submitted it in the system.

MEAL team of ReCoVER project provided periodically orientation to staff of the project. The refresher trainings and follow up are provided to them as per monthly basis or need base by the concerned staff of the implementing partners like SAPPROS Nepal and Lumanti respectively. The issues seen in CommCare are reported by the staff and solved as soon as possible by the core MEAL team.

CommCare Application is renowned data collection tool that works offline and tracks data over time with CommCare, the world's most powerful mobile data collection platform promoted by CRS and in its working areas<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.dimagi.com/

#### 4.2 Feedback, Complaint, Response Mechanism (FCRM)

#### 4.2.1 FCRM Sticker

Feedback, Complaint and Mechanism Response sticker is one of the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) tool to provide the information of the project and its feedback and complaint mechanism. During project implementation period,



This FCRM Sticker is pasted in the house of Raj Kumari Praja, Manahari-8, Makawanpur Photo: Chandra Sartunge/ReCoVER

di/satisfaction by the project participants and community people should register their opinion in this space. Especially to the project participants, the quality and standard along with other information of the supported inputs by the project is being shared in this mechanism. The focal person of the FCRM system conveys the information to the respective persons of the project and response accordingly. CRS Nepal Feedback, Complaints, and Responses Mechanism, Operating Guideline is the guiding documents for the FCRM System.

By the end of 2022, at least 3,510 stickers are pasted in supported household of the project participants by SAPPROS Nepal. The importance of the sticker is shared in multiple community-based meeting by the project staff. The sticker is the easiest and effective way of communication to community people to voice their opinion in FCRM system and about the project. Now, project participants, in different monitoring and field visit found, understand the importance of it and easily talks about it.

#### 4.2.2 Suggestion Box

To collect the field level complaints, suggestion and advices, the ReCoVER project had installed three suggestion boxes in three working districts of Tanahun cluster. Based on previous experience of CRS Nepal and other two implementing partners, the suggestion box was not much effective than hotline telephone number. Focusing the vulnerable project

participants, the boxes are installed in Dordi Municipality of Lamjung, Ward Office, Bhanu Municipality-9, Tanahun and Ward Office, Rupa Rural Municipality-5, Kaski.



A sample suggestion box was installed in Dordi Rural Municipality Office, Dordi for collecting a suggestion, complaints and feedbacks from community people and government officials.

Photo: Chandra Sartunge/ReCoVER

#### 4.2.3 Toll Free Number

The Toll Free Number is handled by CRS Nepal MEAL Officer-Accountability who is working as FCRM Point to receive, review, categorize, refer to and consult with related person and responds to feedback provider. Project participants and stakeholders can make free of cost to Toll Free numbers to put any questions, feedback and suggestions. The operator service is open during working days (9 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday except in Public Holidays) and there will be Interactive Voice Response (IVR) or voicemail system available for non-working days and hours.

The IVR or voicemail system will have prerecorded audio that helps callers to navigate through the system and helps make them feel that CRS is responsive to the feedback provides. The calls received during non-working days will be responded when office reopens. All the feedback received through this channel will be entered into CommCare form or YouTrack (and will be resolved as mentioned in FCRM Flow and Reporting Map. A call log will be mentioned for all incoming and outgoing calls which will be maintained separately than Feedback log sheet. The purpose of this log-sheet is to track total numbers of call that we

received and responded whereas Feedback log-sheet will have in one row in excel per one feedback.	formation per feedback i.e.

#### 5. COORDINATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Coordination with Local Governments (LGs) is the key of the successful implementation of project activities in community level. In a very initial phase, the ReCoVER project verified the Earthquake affected data in respective palikas, wards and government officials. The inclusion and exclusion of the earthquake affected people by the Nepal Earthquake 2015 epicentered in Gorkah, Barpak was started in second half of 2021 by CRS Nepal.

#### 5.1 Palika Level Inception and Progress Sharing

Before ReCoVER project kick-off, CRS Nepal, Lumanti and SAPPROS Nepal jointly organized a Palika Level Inception Meeting in all 15 working palikas of five districts. The project team shared an overall activities of housing reconstruction, livelihood and WASH schemes along with budget of activities in the meeting. The probable areas of joint budget leveraging and implementation activities were highlighted and selection, verification, inclusion and exclusion of earthquake effected people who do not complete a hosing reconstruction till the meeting date were the key agendas of discussion in the meeting.

Election Commission of Nepal<sup>3</sup> conducted a Local Level Election on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022 during the project implementation timeframe. The newly elected representatives were set in local bodies and project conducted a Coordination and Progress Sharing meeting



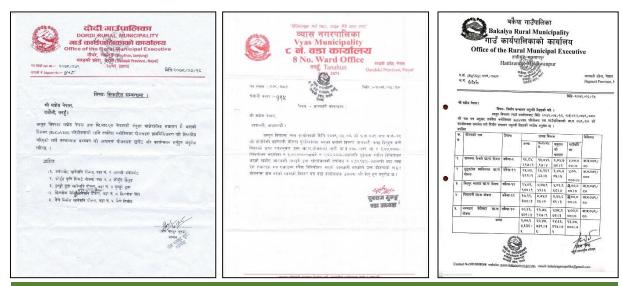
Palika Level Inception Meeting at Dordi Rural Municipality, Lamjung.
Photo: Chandra Sartunge/ReCoVER

with all Palikas to update the project's goal, activities and progress. In the second phase of the coordination meetings, mostly progress of the project was shared with the member of Palikas and Ward level committee. The inception and coordination meetings were jointly organized by the IPs in respective working areas.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://election.gov.np/np/

#### 5.2 WASH Component:

From the initial phase, ReCoVER Project organized a Palika Level Meetings for the confirmation of WASH schemes to construct in their areas. Most of the Palika provided a supports by providing a scheme prioritized name list with field level verification and budget allocation. The coordination for the construction of water and irrigation canal schemes helps to solve the community level dispute among the beneficiaries. They facilitates for the working environment of the WASH schemes.



A shared letters are provided by the local level for the scheme selection, budget leveraging and coordination for the joint monitoring visit.

For instance, Ichchhakamana Rural Municipality of Chitwan distirct shared the 11.70% (NRs. 2,65,000) cost out of NRs. 22,53,800 for the construction of Orek Barbang Khola Drinking Water Schemes. Similarly, it also shared the 15.16% (NRs. 2,55,000) cost of the Dahaki Water Scheme out of total cost (NRs. 16,81,232) in close coordination with ReCoVER project.

In Year-I & II, the total 40 WASH and Irrigation Canal Schemes are completed by 15th Jan. 2023.

#### 5.3 Livelihood Component

Under the livelihood component, the ReCoVER Project team, especially technical team of SAPPROS Nepal has a strong relationship with the focal person of livestock and agriculture unit of respective palikas. To share the ideas and technical expertise of livelihood inputs, the multiple meetings between SAPPROS Nepal and LGs were conducted in different level. For instance, the project team sent a request letter to all Palikas to recommend the seeds of Potato, species of goat and chickens, seeds of tomato, cucumber and beans. This practices help to share the ideas and knowledge in local level. It clears confusion among project staff and government officials that ultimately benefits the people of same communities. The government recommended seeds and species of agriculture and livestock supports respectively eases the risk of loss and other unproductiveness.

The project envisions that each project participants should be participated in the specific trainings of livelihood supports. For instance, each project participants who received a goat under the livestock support, must be oriented in multiple trainings of goat rearing and insurance along with financial management trainings. For that purpose, the team coordinates with Palika level officials for the facilitation of trainings and linked the communities' people with Government officials. The part of sustainability of project promoted activities after its closure is expected to be continued.



Local goat name "Khari" is provided to identified project participants in Manahari, RM Makawanpur Photo: Shankar Gairhe/ReCoVER Project

#### 5.4 Joint Monitoring Visit

To check the quality and standards of the project interventions in community level, Joint Monitoring Visit comprised by the member of District Coordination Committee (DCC), Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of Palikas, Ward Chairperson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Focal person of livestock and agriculture unit, Engineers, representative of CRS, Lumanit and SAPPROS with community leaders. The monitoring visit team talked with the project participants about the project interventions, transparency of the budget, internal governance system and other requirements as per need.

Till the reporting date (Dec. 2022), total four joint monitoring visit in Cluster-II are completed. Mr. Lalit Bahadur Ghalan, chairperson of DCC, Makawanpur thanked to the project team for completion of housing, water schemes and livelihood activities which are implementing in community level effectively in Manahari-7/8, Makawanpur.



Scheme Handover and Joint Monitoring Team Visit of Ichchhakamana Rural Municipality of Chitwan.

Photo: Prabin Aryal/ReCoVER

#### 6. LESSON LEARNT AND GOOD PRACTICES

#### 6. I Lesson Learnt

- I. Project working areas is scattered due to the skipped earthquake physical, economical and geographical remoteness vulnerable people. Around 1:3 project participants are most vulnerable due to their physical disabilities, elderly, poor economic condition and lack of proper land for the vegetable production and housing reconstruction. Sometimes, it makes difficult to provide tangible supports to them in desired time.
- 2. The project envisioned that housing reconstruction, livelihood and WASH schemes should be provided to project participants in integrated approach. Due to most vulnerability people, they denies livelihood supports due to lack of proper workforce, co-investment or continuity of the business, accessible market like chicken rearing, Potato supports, goat rearing and off-farm supports. They do not agree with the livelihood supports. So, we have to provide multiple options to them as per their vulnerability.
- 3. Basically project aims that when the project participants agreed to make their house or sign an agreement paper with Lumanti, then livelihood supports should be provided to them. The agreement process of housing reconstruction is also linked with the respective palikas and ward offices. So, it takes longer time than expected by the team of SO2 component. So, the name list of project participants is not access in time to SAPPROS Nepal. It ultimately delays the working speed of SO2 component within signed timeframe.
- 4. Under the SO2 component, SAPPROS Nepal lead the activities of livelihood supports and WASH re/constructions damaged by Nepal Earthquake. One JTA is assigned a one palika right now. No other staff is dedicated for the livelihood activities in field level. The workload to JTA is higher than expected to cover all the Palika where the project participants are scattered. So, proper staff makes result in time with proper follow up and more sustainable.
- 5. Programme team with CRS Nepal revised a project activities in multiple level. But, the budgetary part of it is not changed as per the changed status of programmatic level.

- So, it makes confusion to expense the budget in time and freely. It makes always trouble to make approval again and again.
- 6. Some Input supports items like Brinjal, Turmeric, Ginger, Beans, and Onion have a huge demand in the local market. The community people also desired those items of agriculture supports. But, the project theoretically is not allowed such mentioned items. So, we have to think about it for the implementation in Year-III.
- 7. Similarly, the project promoted "4 Weeks Chicks" for the support under the poultry rearing. When the project team visited and surveyed about it and finds that the project participants has lack the rearing skills of chick of one week with the proper medication system. And, another part of the market is, mostly 2-5 days chicks are sold in the market. It makes the huge gaps between market and the practice of the project.

#### **6.2 Innovation and Good Practices**

- I. Jointly work with the LGs helps to implement all the project designed activities in time and performed as per standards. The coordination with Palikas assists to leverage the budget for the WASH schemes and livelihood activities. The ownership taken by the LGs is great assets for the project after its closure.
- 2. Organization of Palika Level Meetings by ReCoVER project makes possible to understand the integrated approach of the project. It means that the housing reconstruction status of the project is important to implementer of livelihood components and vice versa. So, after completion of housing reconstruction, project has to work for the establishment of livelihood options for the project participants.
- 3. A closed Facebook group (<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/653664719354566">https://www.facebook.com/groups/653664719354566</a>) is the effective means of sharing a progress activities in time. It helps to update the progress and achievement of the interventions by the entire team of the project. Monitoring by the staff, to some extent, is possible through the shared photo in Facebook Group.
- 4. Toll Free Number of FCRM is mostly effective in the project to provide suggestion, complaints and queries by the project participants and community people. The project provisions to paste FCRM Sticker in each households of supported project

participants and other. It is accessible to share the opinions in senior staffs easily. It makes helpful to make more responsive to the beneficiaries.

#### **6.3 Recommendation**

- To cover the scattered project participants under this project, proper project staff like Social Mobilizer, JTA (2 in each Palikas) should be managed for the effective implementation of the project activities in community level.
- 2. The project conceptualizes that one time input support is provided to each project participants and double/multiple support is not allowed to them. It makes a trouble to make sustainable project activities, especially to the most vulnerable people in the community. Mostly, the project participants are more vulnerable due to poor economic condition, elderly, person with disabilities, lack of proper land and work force in their family. Therefore, to sustain their livelihood supports, more required supports should be injected to them based on their need and capacity.
- 3. Full Construction House (FCH) is constructed to the most vulnerable who has no capacity to do anything for the housing reconstruction. Lumanti has been constructing their household with full supports like labour, cash and other. But, the house owner or project participant do not interested in the livelihood supports and other income generation activities. Due to their multiple vulnerabilities, they cannot do it. So, project have to think alternative options for the livelihood sustainability.

#### 7. SUCCESS STORIES

## Farmer Field School: A Complete School for Theoretical and Practical Knowledge

Bikalpa Farmer Field School is the voluntarily member-based school or farmers' group of Chudibeshi village of Bhanu-4, Tanahun. This school is primarily focused on the field-based practical knowledge of vegetable farming led by the local Resilient Communities through Vulnerable Earthquake Recovery (ReCoVER) project non/participants. The concept of farmer field school is promoted by the project in its implementing areas.



Mr. Puroshottam Shrestha is inspecting the condition of tomato in Bikalpa FFS.

Photo: Chandra Sartunge/ReCoVER

Mr. Purushottam Shrestha, chairperson of this school manages all the day to day activities in the school like working routine by the member, visiting schedule to government offices such as agriculture unit of local Palika, farmer group registration in Palika and other assignments. The total 10 member are involved in the school where other 9 are female. The team rented a land (around 8 ropani/0.40 hector) and agreed to pay NRs10,000 per annum to land owner. Shrestha says," Every

members are actively engaged in the Farmers' Field School. We all have received a theoretical and practical knowledge of vegetable production. This school is like an education institute where theory and practice are merged and provides a practical knowledge."

The farmers' Group is registered in Palika (Local Government Office) and legal entities is taken by the group. "The registration process of group helps to receive government facilities in vegetable production and other supports. The technical supports also will be provided by the government officials before and after of project. When project will be phase-out, we can take a supports from local government. It makes more sustainable." Shrestha added. The irrigation facility is taken by using waste water of



Member of Bikalpa FFS, Anita Gurung is collection mustard green (Rayoko Saag) from their farm.

Photo: Chandra Sartunge/ReCoVER

Chudibeshi drinking water scheme which is also made by the project.

Other farmers and community people are interested to the practice of farmers' field school. They are visiting Bikalpa Farmers' Field School and receives a technical knowledge too. Ms. Anita Gurung, member of this school opined, "Individually, I am doing this similar vegetable production in my house/farm. But, production was not satisfactory. The difference is, sharing of skills and knowledge among member helps to do better than individual. Knowledge sharing of vegetable farming and saving is one of the key message of this school. When we sell the vegetable produce, we kept it in our fund and provide to the member based on lowest interest rate and need. It also provides financial access to the members."

Recently, member of the Bikalpa Farmer Field School sold cucumber in the local market with best price. Around 400 kg is used in local market. The team has been promoting an organic production. Therefore, local are directly bought a vegetable from their field. Right now, cauliflower and broccoli are ready to sell in the market. Around 85 kg of cauliflower is sold from their farm. Similarly, tomato is ready to sell in the market. So, in this season, tomato, cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage are the vegetable produces produced by the member of farmers' field school. Shrestha added, "Youth are inspired by our business. I regularly met to government officials for the monitoring visit and helps to coordinate with them. I am age of 40 years. This is my first well-experienced in vegetable production in my village. It is really inspirable to youngster."

## Struggle: A Beauty of Life

Ful Kumari Lopchan lives with her family in Manahari Rural Municipality-4, Runchedada, Makawanpur district. Due to Earthquake 2015, her house was partially damaged and been not safer shelter to her family. Her husband, Jay Bahadur Moktan was in foreign country for the employment and remittance was the main source to sustain her daily expenses of her house, education fee of her children and medical expenses of her family member. To get a proper idea for the vegetable productions and other livelihood options is the big challenges to her life. Due to sole dependency in remittance makes trouble more day by day.

Poor economic condition of Ful Kumari's family do not construct a house which was damaged by the earthquake in time as per government's request. The house was left without proper windows and doors in incomplete phase. When ReCoVER project lunched in Nepal, especially in Makawanpur district, her name was listed as the Earthquake affected people who do not complete



Ms. Ful Kumari Lopchan is sharing her experience in vegetable production and story of struggle. *Photo: Prabin Aryal/ReCoVER* 

a house yet. Based on this provision, Lumanti, a group for shelter identified this household and did a details technical survey for the housing reconstruction. And, another part of livelihood is led by SAPPROS Nepal with details survey such as livelihood mapping for the need and capacity assessment of Ful Kumari.



Cabbage are well planting in the farm of Fulkumari Lochan. After 15-20 days, it will be ready for selling in local market. *Photo: Chandra Sartunge/ReCoVER* 

After the confirmation of housing support, the ReCoVER project started to support in skills development of vegetable production and financial management of her household. In a very initial phase, the project supported a yard long beans (*Tane Bodi*) to her because every vegetable product mostly depends in its seasons. The field-based

training of vegetable production is provided to her. She says," I traditionally do a vegetable farming in my

agriculture land. But, its production is always lower than expectation. How to mitigate the risk of insect is not known. The idea of nursery management and making of bio-pesticide are not in my mind. All of the basic but practical ideas for vegetable production is acquired from multiple trainings provided to me by project within short time." In the first season of Yard-long Beans, she



Tomato Farming of Ful Kumari Lochan in second season. This will be ready to harvest in off-season of tomato which has a better price than season. *Photo: Chandra Sartunge/ReCoVER* 

produced 500 kgs. in her land and sell it in the Hetauda Bazar, a nearest market of her production. After completion of its season, she planted a seedling of cucumber in same land. She managed a nursery of cucumber herself which is known from the trainings. Almost 1200 Kgs cucumber was produced in its entire season. The local market price was satisfactory for the production. She deposited NRs. 18,000 in her bank account that was really helpful to manage daily expenses of her family.

Due to loss in maize production, she discontinued it in this season. She planted tomato seedling instead of maize crops. The calculation of benefits is higher of vegetable production in comparison with maize production. Ful Kumari highlights, "In its season of tomato that was support by the project, I sold around 750 Kgs. in the local market. I received around NRs. 45,000 from tomato selling within three months. The income and good ratio of vegetables production develop a confidence on it. I with husband totally have been engaging in vegetable production right now. It means, vegetable production is our main occupation right now which is promoted and encouraged by the project."

"We are planting a second season of tomato in our land. The seedlings looks fine and expected for good production. The knowledge of vegetable production and skills of saving are main themes of the trainings that is really helpful to us. The income from vegetable production makes our life easier than before. It is the beauty of Life." Jay said.

## A Changed Identity: Labor to Salesperson

Ms. Bindu Marpak Magar, daughter-in-law of Suk Bahadur Thapa of Chhirkan, Vyas Municipality-12, Tanahun district is engaging her whole day in vegetable farming in her own land. Bindu flash back her bygone days and says, "We are wander here and there for the money based on daily wages. Physical labor is mostly used in labor work. We have no proper ideas on vegetable production. Especially in Tomato, we have been planting it traditionally. The innovative plastic mulching with tunnel house is the very first

time in my life."

Bindu's father-in-law, Mr. Suk Bahadur Thapa is the project participants of ReCoVER Project. Nepal Earthquake 2015 collapsed his house, livestock and other things and spent many days with his family in the tent. Due to poor economic condition, he couldn't construct a safer house based on the guidelines and timelines given by Nepal Government. He spent many seasons in risk-oriented house which is partially damaged. When ReCoVER project is implemented in his village, he



is selected as the project participants. Then, housing reconstruction process is initiated and livelihood



supports also provided based on his need and capacity.

As the elderly, Mr. Suk is taken as the guardian of the family. His daughter-in-law, Ms. Bindu Marpak Magar has a vital role to caring a Potato farm. Binud says, "Agriculture is the major occupation of our family. Daily wages is also a partial source of income. But, right now, entire family is engaging in the field of vegetable farming. Especially, a tomato farming which is

supported by the project is the source of inspiration for us. I never thinks that this would be the cashgenerated occupation." From the beginning, all the technical supports, skills and knowledge with agriculture input are supported by the project. "Regular follow and technical backstopping with our devotion is the key of success. Till the date, around 180 kilogram tomato is sold out and earned 12,600 NRs. It supports to manage a daily expenses of our family. I am so happy to share the key of success." Bindu highlights. She adds, "Before the start-up of tomato



farming, we are wandering for the daily wages that helps to manage the expense of our family. We hardly manage the education fee of our kids. We are going to local market for the labor work. After the vegetable production, out identity is changed from labor to Tomato salesperson. It gives us a unique identity. This is the happiness for our family."

Local markets demand local productions for the daily usage. Bindu and her neighbour are busy to sell tomato and other vegetable production in local market. Local salesperson are calling to them for the supply of local vegetable. Bindu opines, "When they (local businessperson) need a vegetable production, the telephones and demand tomato for the sales. This is the changed-identity for us. An identity of Labor to Salesperson is possible due to commercial tomato production and other vegetables." (Video link:

https://www.facebook.com/100001421937523/videos/349973860676261/)

## A Resilient Backfire to Adversity

Many farmers are quitting agriculture nowadays and moving to foreign countries in search of better income opportunity for enhancing their livelihood. Under these challenging circumstances, Mr. Dudh Raj Lungba, 34, a project participant from Sikharpur village, Bakaiya Rural Municipality, decided to return from Qatar to initiate commercial vegetable farming on his own backyard adopting climate resilient technologies. Over a period of time, facing plenty of hurdles; lack of capital, technical knowledge, and resources, he's gradually marching towards his aspiration under the support of ReCoVER project.



Dudhraj during initial stage of tomato farming after receiving support from ReCoVER



Pruning of tomatoes grown inside tunnel by Dudhraj

Sikharpur, located at 504 MASL, is one of the villages in Bakaiya Rural Municipality of inhabited Makwanpur district mostly impoverished families affected by massive earthquake of 2015 that shook whole country. Stranded in the debris of earthquake, lives and livelihood of residents of Sikharpur got more vulnerable day by day. In the meantime, Dudh Raj decided commence tomato farming, considering the higher market price and demand of the commodity without having appropriate

technical knowledge and support from any kind of organizations. With a great hope growing organic tomatoes and selling them into the local market, he utilized money earned in foreign soil to purchase Agriinputs and then started farming. Despite all enthusiasm and hope, Dudh Raj had to face setback. Due to the earthquake of 2015, many water sources in Sikharpur dried, turning the land barren and infertile. Furthermore, infestation of disease and pest was high as the Agri-inputs he purchased; without technical facilitation, weren't resilient. Failure of tomato farming for consecutive two seasons in a row induced massive financial turmoil in his family, thereby compelling him to quit that enterprise and head to foreign land again for the employment.



Heavy and healthy tomatoes grown under the farm of Dudhraj

As quoted by Dudh Raj,' With every breath, we must have hope that ignites us', with the beginning of ReCoVER project, his ambition of giving better food and house to his family revived. ReCoVER's tailor-made support approach to project participants for livelihood activities and housing invigorated Dudh Raj to go back to the drawing board and start the tomato farming in resilient way. At first, he was visited by technician from SAPPROS and participated in livelihood mapping.

Considering this situation from field level assessment he was provided with field-level training for nursery management and intercultural operation to elevate his confidence. On top of that, he was supported with Agri-inputs like hybrid seeds, silpaulin plastic, mulching plastic, and drip irrigation set. Despite having bitter taste of failure in the past, ReCoVER's influx of support transformed him from conventional subsistence farmer to a modern technology friendly farmer. Now; after 3 months of initiating farming, very impressive results have been shown due to hardship of Dudh Raj. Drip irrigation set and mulching plastic installed have increased the soil moisture and contributed in producing healthy crop. Drip irrigation has proved as climate resilient technology for farming tomato for Dudh Raj as it has sorted the problem of dryness in soil and improved the fertility of land. Regular care and maintenance of field have led to healthy and vigorous plants with optimum number of fruits of tomato. He's supposed to harvest these tomatoes within a month and will be adding 30,000 NPR in his income. In the near future he's planning to utilize the income from this harvest for adding two more tunnels and expand his agri-business, providing employment to local people after registering it as a private farm under local government.

Dudh Raj quotes - "With every failure, we get incapacitated and do not look suitable options around us. If we dare to transform our approach receiving proper guidance, more crop per drop could be achieved"

## Mr. Prem Thokar's successful transition into commercial agriculture

Mr. Prem Thokar, a twenty-nine year old resident of Basan, Bakaiya Rural Municipality has endured a live of hardship. The head of a household of four recalls living his childhood in poverty. Despite his family's misfortune, he managed to acquire his diploma, after which he became eligible for an university scholarship. As he considered pursuing his path as a scholar, it soon became apparent that he would have to take up responsibility in caring for his family by taking job in Kathmandu, thus passing on the opportunity of acquiring an academic degree. Prem worked hard in order to enable his family to live a dignified life. His time in Kathmandu was not without any setbacks or struggles. He had to persevere through adverse times but, after a while, things started to look up. Their appeared to be light at the end of the tunnel for Prem and his family in Basan. It would not be long till his family's economic state would be stabilised and allow for a comfortable life style.



2072, Gorkha earthquake the destroyed the Thokar family's home, shattering Prem's dreams and depleting all of his resources for which he had worked so hard all those years. That day, well aware of the severity of the situation and the long and dire time ahead, the twentynine-year-old hit rock bottom. As his family grew hungry in a house that urgently needed repair, the pressure which Prem felt to relieve his loved ones of their misery caused his life to become unbearable. He states that he had literally

nothing left at that point in time. Survival seemed very hard for him.

Fast forward a couple of years. The ReCoVER project is being initiated. The Bakaiya Rural Municipality has been assessed and Basan got shortlisted for housing reconstruction, and WASH and livelihood support due to the vast presence of financially and socially disadvantaged indigenous vulnerable households. As an educated and capable young man, Mr. Prem Thokar was appointed resource person for his village. The ReCoVER team provided Prem with the necessary training to become an adequate community resource person. Additionally, he and his household received a field-level training on vegetable farming, agro-input support, housing reconstruction support, and WASH support which enabled him to irrigate his farm land. The agro-input support included the provision of seeds, pesticides and sprayer.

Following the interventions facilitated by the ReCoVER project, Prem was eager to prove his capabilities as a new vegetable farmer. He worked hard and went on to produce a stunning 700 Kilos of cauliflower on his single Kattha (340 m2) of land. Of the 700 kilos of cauliflower harvest, he was able to sell 556 kilos at the local collection center. The remaining 144 kilos was

sold at local markets. Within the span of three months, Prem managed to make a net-profit of no less than 23.000 Rupees. The support provided by the ReCoVER project enabled Prem to enforce a significant positive change in his livelihood strategy and outcomes.

Moreover, Prem's success as a vegetable farmer inspired 18 other households in Basan to implement similar lifestyle changes. As the resource person, Prem took responsibility for sharing his newly found knowledge of vegetable farming. Due to Prem's guidance of the villagers, based on the knowledge he acquired through the ReCoVER project, in combination with the newly established irrigation facilities, households in Basal are now producing both seasonal and off-season vegetables. In collaboration with a few other successful farmers in Basal, Prem is planning to register their agricultural venture with the local government as a private firm. By doing so, they hope to achieve three things: to make their production process more sustainable, to gain better market access, and to benefit from support from local government agencies.

Mr. Prem Thokar's story ends with a final quote by the new, successful, vegetable farmer: 'Every one of will find themselves facing adversity at some point in our lifes. We must re-establish ourselves with a greater emphasis of enthusiasm. Increased enthusiasm among people may transform whole societies. A single drop up water can create ripples stretching for miles.'

## A new generation of vegetable farmers in Mushle

Mushle is a remote rural community, located in the outskirts of Manahari Municipality in Makawanpur district. Mr. Ram Krishna Praja, the 48 year old community leader, school president, pastor of the local church, and president of the water-user-committee, reflects back on the old days. He recalls the mere presence of five households when he first arrived in Mushle back in 2047. Today, the village counts 18 households, hosting a population of 125, 54 of which are male and 71 are female.



Mr. Ram explains that, prior to the initiation of the ReCoVER project, all households were completely reliant on the men who worked in non-skilled labour, earning between 500 and 600 rupees per day. The women would stay at home in order to take care of their house and their family. Their livelihood inputs solely existed of the man's daily wage income. No vegetables or fruits were cultivated, nor did any of the households keep livestock of any kind. Due to the fact that none of Mushle's inhabitants have an educational background, all remain illiterate until today.

Sharmila Praja (22), mother of two, explains that the nearest water source required the women to embark on a treacherous descent down the hill, which finally

allowed them to fetch water from the Manahari River. A round trip took between 30 and 40 minutes to complete.

The 2015 Gorkha earthquake caused severe damage to 90% of the houses, while only minimally affecting the other structures due to their, already, poor conditions. Overall, the quake had a relatively small impact on Mushle.

As a result of the damage inflicted on three of the households, the village fell under the loop of the national government's earthquake damage assessment and were later suggested to be included within the ReCoVER project. During the initiation phase of the ReCoVER project, needs assessments conducted by the ReCoVER team pointed towards the need for improved access to both drinking water and water for irrigation purposes, as well as livelihood support, shelter support, and various trainings.



The ReCoVER project was initiated in Mushle in November of 2021 and will run till 2023. Ongoing and completed activities include shelter support, potato, tomato, and bitter gourd agroinput support and farming training, as well as the establishment of a farmer field school which educates 18 of Mushle's villagers on basic farming practices. Further activities include the facilitation of financial training, the construction of a WASH scheme, and the establishment of a farmers group.

The interventions were welcomed by the community with open arms, and have yielded significant successes thus far; two out of the three shelter support participants have been able to finalise the construction of their homes thanks to the financial support provided by ReCoVER (in combination with financial support

provided by the national and local government, and personal financial and physical inputs).

As a result of the construction of the water scheme the villagers now have access to clean and safe drinking water from their very doorstep, saving them of the strenuous journey down the hill. Moreover, the water scheme enables the farmers to irrigate their once barren lands.

The vegetable farming trainings and the farmer field school are manifesting great results. A community which was unfamiliar and unexperienced with vegetable farming practices are now producing several types of seasonal crops such as tomatoes, potatoes, beans, brinjal, bitter gourd, spinach, and corn.

Farmers are now requesting buffaloes or cows in order to create fertilisers, and mini/power tilers to plough their land. The fact that these new farmers have identified their needs for these items shows their progressive understanding of agricultural practices. It is a true testament to the effectiveness of the farmer trainings and the farmer field school.

Thanks to the financial training facilitated to all project participants, the villagers are now able to apply basic financial management and incorporate their newly found knowledge of



basic economic principles while selling their vegetable yields. They acquired skills such as book keeping, marketing,

and general awareness of market developments. Finally, the farmer's resilience is increased through the newly established farmer group in which resources are shared, market strategies are discussed and labour force can be exchanged.

To sum up, a community living on barren land with very few livelihood assets has made its first steps towards a more sustainable and resilient future. They find themselves today with a more diversified arrangement of both livelihood assets and strategies, and are likely to continue progressing in the future thanks to the support provided by the ReCoVER project.



Participants of the Upalabdhi Mushle Farmers Field School in Manahari pose in front of the tunnel where they are growing tomatoes. *Photo: Noah Huibers* 

## The Ramauli irrigation canal's significant contribution to livelihood development

Ramauli is a village located in 7. It has 69 housholds and hosts 349 inhabitants. In an interview with Mrs. Maina Rijal (41), she describes the scenes in Ramauli prior to the interventions implemented by the ReCoVER project. Most household's incomes came from unskilled labour in the sand sieving sand, clearing rocks in the river bed, and cutting grass in the jungle. Most households already had access to farm land but used it only to produce a single seasonal harvest of corn. The land was left barren and unattended for the remainder of the year due to the lack of irrigation facilities. The village is occasionally plagued by wild animals such as rhinos and elephants which roam around their lands looking for food.

Maina has to work hard in order to put her four girls through school. Her husband is blind and is therefore limited in the ways he can support his family.



The village children attend school and are therefore literate, something that cannot be said for the majority of the adults in Ramauli who did not have access to education while growing up.

The 2015 Gorkha earthquake devastated the region, causing widespread damage to homes. Ever since then, the affected families have continued living in their impaired houses, facing increased vulnerability to the elements. Following the tragic event, their livelihoods remained the same. However, this all changed in 2021 when the 3 got selected to be included in the ReCoVER project. The families living in the earthquake-affected houses received a sum of 50 thousand in order to repair and rebuild their homes. Additionally, all project participants received financial management training and agro-input support in the shape of seeds, poultry, goats, and essential farming equipment. Most recently, the ReCoVER staff provided the farmers with two scales which has enabled them to keep exact track of their production and their sales.

However, the undoubtedly most influential intervention is the construction of the 350 meter long Ramauli-simalchowk irrigation canal. The irrigation canal, in combination with informal farmer trainings provided by ReCoVER's Junior Technical Assistants (JTAs), has enabled 65 households to engage in year round commercial vegetable farming on 52 katthas of their once neglected lands. Villagers can now found cultivating crops such brinjal, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, mustard, buckwheat, cauliflower, cabbage, and broccoli.

Farmers such as Maina Rijal are already turning profits and are noticing significant increases in income. She loaned 30.000 rupees from her neighbours in order to buy inputs for her farm land. Within the following four months, she managed to harvest 130.000 rupees worth of brinjal on here 2.5 katthas of land and sold it to middleman who in turn distributed the product to large cities. She paid of her loan and is now planning to expand her farm land by renting an additional plot of land from a neighbour.



Despite the big successes thus far, there is still room for improvement. Depending on market supply and demand, the prices of the crops cultivated by the villagers vary greatly. In September 2022 brinjal was sold for 45 Rs./kg, compared to a 13 Rs./kg in December of the same year. The farmers sell their product to middleman rather than trying directly link to the retailers at the market. This causes them to lose out on a considerable amount of the total profit made. Their lack of knowledge on basic economic concepts and marketing strategies causes them to lose out on profits that they could be making, giving the right business plan.

Furthermore, the self-taught farmers are exploring farming methods based on a trial and error bases,

causing them to lose significant percentages of their yield to rot, disease, and poor storage and transportation methods.

Nevertheless, overall It can be concluded that the construction of the irrigation canal, the shelter support, agro-input support, financial and farmer training has had a significant impact on the lives of the of Ramauli. They openly expressed their gratitude towards the ReCoVER staff for their support. Mrs. Maina Rijal

states that she is motivated to pursue a future as a successful vegetable farmer, and that ReCoVER's
support has brought helped her come a lot closer to her future vision.

#### Mr. Dhan's furniture shop

Mr. Dhan Kumar Waiba is a 36-year-old resident of Bakaiya Rural Municipality-6. He has endured a lifetime of hardship. He never had access to proper education, forcing him to resort to strenuous manual labour from a young age. He got married at 18 and had three children since then; two daughters and one son. Life was never easy, but bearable for Mr. Waiba. The 2015 Gorkha earthquake changed that. The earthquake severely damaged his home, causing him to have live without in a house without a roof. The cold winter, and hot summer months became more unendurable than ever before.

As he struggled to make ends meet, he took every possible manual labour job he could. As he was carrying cement on his back while working for a concrete factory, he would often think back to the struggles of his past days, which now seemed less significant compared to the issues he was facing after the earthquake in 2015. On top of having to provide a bearable life for his family, he now had to finance the reconstruction of his home too. Despite reaching out to the municipality for assistance, he received no help.

It was not until he got selected for the ReCoVER project that things started to look up. One of the partner organizations of the project, Lumanti, supported Dhan by providing him with 50.000 rupees worth of materials for the reconstruction of his home.



Mr. Dhan Kumar Waiba working on his own furniture industry. *Photo: Pradeshu Tharu/ReCoVER* 

Mr. Waiba then started a shared business in the

furniture industry with his friends. Over time however, this endeavour hit a dead end due to a dispute between himself and his friends. In a needs assessment conducted by SAPPROS Nepal, it was found that he had prior experience as an carpenter. Therefore, the SAPPROS Nepal facilitated off-farm income generating activity support aimed at enabling Mr. Waiba to utilise his carpentry skills. He was supplied with hardware inputs amounting to 130,000 rupees, consisting of motorized saws, drilling machines, and a planer.

The support provided by the ReCoVER project allowed him to run his business independently and successfully. He registered his business with the municipality as 'Bimal Furniture Udhyog', and it has been running smoothly ever since. Nowadays, he earns 12 to 15 thousand rupees per month from his own business. As a result, his children now have access to quality education.

As a newly emerged businessman, he is now an inspiration for entrepreneurship in his community. He also received financial management training from Sappros Nepal, which he says helped him greatly. He started saving money from his business and learned to calculate profits and costs for his products. He is now planning to expand his business to be able to compete with other furniture industries and to earn a larger profit. He thanks the ReCoVER project for helping him and believes that supporting people to develop their own skills and knowledge is important for their success.

## Sarala's veggies for positive change



Sarala Rawal is a 23-year-old woman from Magar Chowk, Manahari municipality in Nepal. After having studied till grade eight, she started doing manual labour work on the neighbouring agricultural fields. She did so for two years, but struggled to earn enough money to support her household, including her daughter, with sufficient funds for healthy food, proper shelter, and quality education. Sarala's husband works as a bus driver for minimum wage, which, too, provides an inadequate income. Sarala has one child who is currently in third grade. Sarala's home got severely damaged by the 2015 Gorkha

earthquake, leaving herself and her family in an even further deteriorated state.

Despite having a small piece of land, Sarala was unable to effectively utilize it for farming due to a lack of knowledge and resources. She was interested in starting a business of her own, but did not know where to begin. Fortunately, her household got selected to be included in the ReCoVER project. The implementing partner SAPPROS Nepal visited Sarala at her home and assessed her livelihood. She was asked about her current income sources and what support she was hoping to receive. Sarala expressed an interest in farming, but mentioned that she did not have any specific ideas as to what to farm and how to get started. In response, SAPPROS Nepal offered a vegetable farming training to Sarala and the community she is living in. Adding on, they provided Sarala with cauliflower, cabbage, and beans seeds, as well as pesticides and sprayers.

Sarala began by planting the seeds she received on her three katthas of land. Her harvest turned out successful as she yielded a profit of 21,000 rupees after the first harvest season. Encouraged by this success, Sarala decided to expand her farming operation and diversify her crops, cultivating a variety of vegetables on 8 katthas of land. She continued to receive technical support from SAPPROS Nepal, and her profits reached a total of 90,000 rupees in the season that followed.

Aiming to further expand her farming operation, Sarala is now seeking additional land to rent. She credits the ReCoVER project for providing valuable technical guidance and support, and has become a role model

for her community. Inspired by Sarala's example, other community members have also started to farm commercially. Sarala is grateful for the help that SAPPROS Nepal has provided, as it has allowed her to improve her family's livelihood and overcome the challenges they were facing.



Ms. Sarala Rawat is sharing her experience in vegetable production and story of struggle. Photo: Shankar Prasad Gairhe/ReCoVER

## 8. ANNEXES

- 8.1 Completion of WASH and Irrigation Schemes (Year-II)
  - Completion Status of WASH Schemes (Year-II)

S.N	% Status of Completion	Project/Scheme name	Type of Scheme	Scheme type(newly constructed/rehab)	District	Palika 🔻
1	100%	Aapgairi DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Tanahun	Bhanu
2	100%	Kaishwara MUS	Both	Rehab	Lamjung	Dordi
3	100%	Musle Lift	Water Supply Scheme		Makwanpur	Manahari
4	100%	Masane Lift	Water Supply Scheme		Makwanpur	Bakaiya
5	100%	Kharanga	Water Supply Scheme	Rehab	Makwanpur	Manahari
6	100.00%	Basan Lifting Irrigation	Irrigation Scheme		Makwanpur	Bakaiya
7	100.00%	Deurali Irrigation	Irrigation Scheme		Makwanpur	Manahari
8	100.00%	Barhabise Thulokhola Irrigation Scheme	Irrigation Scheme	Rehab	Tanahun	Bhanu
9	100.00%	Khinchowk Besi Irrigation Canal Scheme	Irrigation Scheme	Rehab	Lumjung	Dordi
10	100.00%	Basaula Phat Irrigation Scheme	Irrigation Scheme	Rehab	Kaski	Rupa

# • Completion Status of WASH Schemes (Year-II)

S.N	% Status of Completion	Project/Scheme name	Type of Scheme	Scheme type (newly constructed/rehab)	District	Palika
I	100%	Orek Barbang Khola DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Chitwan	Ichchhakamana
2	100%	Dahaki DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Chitwan	Ichchhakamana
3	100%	Bangdirang DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Newly constructed	Makwanpur	Raksirang
4	100%	Kamle DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Newly constructed	Makwanpur	Raksirang
5	100%	Kafalchaur DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Makwanpur	Bhimfedi
6	100%	Majhtole Irrigation Scheme	Irrigation Scheme	Rehabilitation	Makwanpur	Bhimfedi
7	100%	Nayagaun DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Kaski	Madi
8	100%	Kauretari Irrigation Scheme	Irrigation Scheme	Rehabilitation	Kaski	Madi
9	100%	Chillikhola dovan irrigation scheme	Irrigation Scheme	Rehabilitation	Lamjung	Dudhapokhari
10	100%	Sotibesi DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Tanahun	Vyas
11	100%	Chudibesi DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Tanahun	Bhanu
12	100%	Gajedanda DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Kaski	Madi
13	100%	Thulibari padhero basthala dws	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Lamjung	Dudhapokhari
14	100%	Thulibari chharekhola serindada dws	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Lamjung	Dudhapokhari
15	100%	Nauledanda DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Kaski	Madi
16	100%	Aashramtole Irrigation scheme	Micro Irrigation scheme	Rehabilitation	Makwanpur	Manahari
17	100%	Chisapani DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Makwanpur	Bakaiya
18	100%	Ghattekhola DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Makwanpur	Raksirang
19	100%	Bhuluntole Kalidamar DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Makwanpur	Bakaiya
20	100%	Talche DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Makwanpur	Makawanpurgadi
21	100%	Jitpur Bhanjyang DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Newly constructed	Makwanpur	Bakaiya
22	100%	Damnagar DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Makwanpur	Bakaiya
23	100%	Champatar DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Makwanpur	Bakaiya
24	100%	Satraghare DWSS	Water Supply Scheme	Newly constructed	Makwanpur	Manahari
25	100%	Simpani Water supply scheme	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Lamjung	Sundarbazar
26	96%	Dhuseni Water supply scheme	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Lamjung	Sundarbazar

27	100%	Madi Water Supply Scheme	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Lamjung	Dudhpokhari
28	90%	Khadgapaani Takura Irrigation Scheme	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Lamjung	Dudhpokhari
		Thulo Pandhero Water Supply				
29	85%	Scheme	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Tanahun	Bhanu
30	84%	Mochabari Water Supply Scheme	Water Supply Scheme	Rehabilitation	Tanahun	Myagde

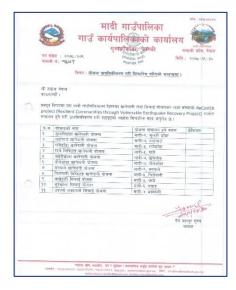
## 8.2 Registration Certificate of Farmer Groups in LGs

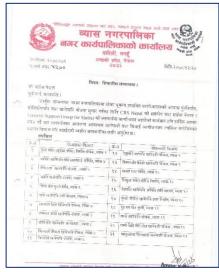




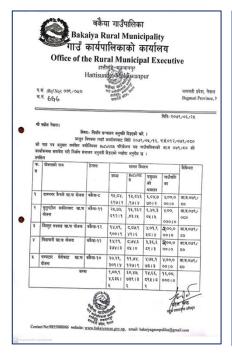
Registration Certificate of Farmers' Group promoted and encouraged by ReCoVER Project in Byas-12, Tanahun. Recently, Byas Municipality provided a hardware supports for construction of Plastic Tunnel for Tomato Farming equals to NRs. 5,00,000 only.

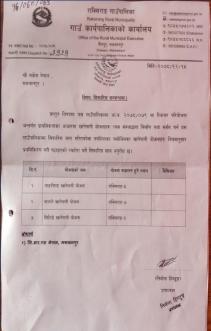
## 8.3 Recommendation Letter by LGs for the re/construction of WASH and Irrigation Schemes

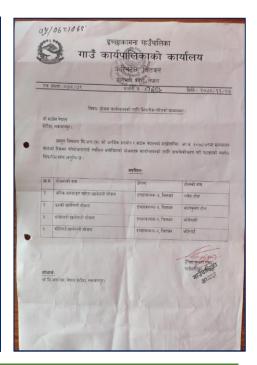












A recommendation letter for the construction of WASH schemes are provided by the LGs as per requested by the project.