

Year II First quarterly report of R&R Holistic Development Project

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Karuna Foundation Nepal in Partnership with Reach Out2, the Netherlands

Introduction

Below is the first quarterly report second year of implementation of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Holistic Development project in five villages in Rasuwa. The report summarizes the major achievements made in the last three months of the project while at the same time weighs the challenges overcome and the lessons learnt during the period from 16th July 2016 to 16th October 2016.

The quarter, which started with the monsoon triggering landslides ended up with the closure of the office for the main festival of Nepali, the Dashain which affected implementation of planned activities in the period under review. The major work of post-earthquake reconstruction of health posts did not make a satisfactory leap.

Amidst the above challenges, few significant activities were completed keeping the project still vibrant. This included orientation on Best Wishes Program to 18 officials from District Health Office (DHO) and other line agencies, In charges and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) from five health facilities of project VDCs. This was further tickled down to the level of Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and the members of Health Facility Management and Operation Committee (HFMOOC). Following the orientation on Best wishes program, FCHVs from five of the villages tracked 103 pregnant women during the period of whom 41 of them received the best



Photo 1: Best Wishes Program Orientation at District level



wishes card, reason being the women in Bhorle could not receive those owing to the absence of midwife at the health post in the village.

Health post construction still showed a turtle paced progress owing to the reason of landslides compounded by the festive season. The orientation of the mother groups and students at school on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health continued during the quarter reaching 80 students and 61 women in total. 13 women were reached through an awareness even on safe pregnancy, safe delivery and safe infancy.

To part of education and social empowerment, start of the non-formal education came into being during the quarter within which each of the villages are divided into five clusters except for Bhorle which has been divided into nine clusters. A cluster has a non-formal education facilitator who has already received two days of facilitation at the district level. Presently, at total of 460 constituents have been undertaking the education program. No different from the health post reconstruction, the reconstruction of schools was worry some; no progress could be made in Thuman and Bridhim.

The livelihood component of the project emerged very promising this quarter; as many as 84 members of the Self Help Groups from five project villages took loans out of the seed money to start their own income generating options. The commonly opted options were vegetable farming, grocery shops, animal husbandry, poultry farming, incense sticks making, etc. The SHG members in Thuman, Syafru, Ramche and Bridhim did not limit themselves to loan taking but also started making saving of NRS 100, NRS 100, NRS 100 and NRS 50 per member every month. Meetings of the SHGs remained fairly regular.

Progress Stock Taking

Health Post Construction

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Health (MoH), Karuna Foundation Nepal (KFN) has been reconstructing 11 health posts and repairing three health posts.

Till this quarter, KFN has already completed reconstruction of five health posts and Ramche Health Post (HP) and Rasuwa HP, Dhunche were already handed over to local government in previous quarter while Syafru HP, Gatlang HP and Dandagaun HP are in the completion phase and are in process of handing over to the government preceded by a technical monitoring visit from the government engineers.

Thulogaun health post, which remains to the other side of the highway with muddy road connection, remained disconnected due to heavy rain and subsequent landslides and we hope, by the 2nd week of November the road will be open so we can transport materials and work can be resumed. Till date, truss and CGI sheet are placed on the roof. The construction situation in Yarsha and Saramthali remains alike. The progress is limited to completion of truss work and CGI roofing is on-going. Most of the materials have been carried up to the venue.

Similarly, the progress in Bridhim is slow where trussing and CGI roofing has been finished, cement boards are transported to the site and work will start soon. In the contrast, the progress in Thuman remains poor. Only the retention wall, excavation and foundation wall are the progress made. Likewise, with the denial of land by the National Agricultural Research Council (NARC) for the health post construction in Langtang, the locals have finalized and come up with a land provided by a local monastery but no further progress has been made. We are trying our level best to partner with the Nepal Army for airlifting but the effort is not being fruitful as of now.

To the part of repair, KFN deployed structural engineers for detailed assessment of all three health facilities by visiting the sites and they already given an assessment report during the first week of November. KFN is undergoing to this report as this report will give us a clear idea as how to move ahead with the repair.

Besides, the approval for construction of three new health facilities in Nuwakot has been received from National Reconstruction Authority (NRA).

VDC Wise Progress

Bhorle VDC

Health

Orientation of Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and other staffs on Best Wishes Program was held in the VDC. 29 FCHVs and other staffs were oriented about pregnancy registration (best wishes) in Bhorle. After all staffs and FCHVs were oriented, Health Post (HP) was able to register 62 pregnancies but they are unable to distribute best wishes cards to pregnant women due to absence of concerned midwife. Distribution will start after Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) resumes her duty.

The conduction of awareness events did continue this quarter; 42 mothers received orientation on safe pregnancy, safe Institutional deliveries and safe infancy. 33 and 22 students of Gosaikunda Secondary School and Jwalamukhi Lower Secondary School respectively, received one-day orientation on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH).

Education

In this quarter, KFN had meeting with community learning centre and along with community people, KFN selected facilitators for conduction of non-formal education in Bhorle. Considering the area and the population of the VDC, the community decided to have nine non-formal education classroom settings, thus selected nine facilitators from Bhorle. The constructions of two schools are undergoing. Both schools have completed first floor of 2-storey school buildings.

Livelihood

As 24 people were given training on entrepreneurship development, they already developed their individual livelihood plans and they had planned to open bank account in third quarter they were able to open bank account of their Self Help Group (SHG) according to their plan. In this quarter one family started goat farming after they received loan NRS. 40,000/- from SHG. Other remaining people are in the process of getting money to start their own business/livelihood.

Social Empowerment

In this quarter series of meetings were held with Community Learning Centre (CLC) to finalize numbers of cluster for non-formal education and to start non-formal education. Coordination with District Education Office (DEO) had been made continuously. In close coordination with DEO and community leaders, facilitators were selected for nine cluster of non-formal education. 178 females who had never gone to school are undertaking non-formal education in CLC from all nine CLCs of Bhorle. Meeting of child club took place along with extra-curricular activities done.

Ramche VDC

Health

The health post of Ramche has already been handed over back in February, 2016. The health post is fully operational catering services to the population with no interruption. The conduction of awareness events did continue this quarter; 27 adolescent and mothers received orientation on Adolescence Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH), which was facilitated by staff of health post. In addition, orientation on safe pregnancy, safe delivery and safe infancy was provided to women of reproductive age. Orientation about ASRH was given to adolescent students of Seti Bhumi Higher Secondary School where altogether 25 students were reached. Alike in Bhorle, HP In-charge and midwife of this health post were oriented on pregnancy registration (Best Wishes) in Dhunche with all participants from 5 health facilities and staffs of District Health Office (DHO) followed by best wishes orientation to FCHVs, Health Facility Operation and Management Committee (HFOMC) and other staffs of health post. After orientation of best wishes, 23 pregnancies were registered and all were reached with best wishes cards. While pregnancy registration started, Skilled Birth Attendant (SBA) assisted one delivery in health post.

Education

Apart from on-going construction of four-roomed structure at Seti Bhume Higher Secondary School, the activities targeting to the start-up of non-formal education was carried out. Regular coordination with District Education Office (DEO) and local stakeholders and effort from KFN Rasuwa team finalized five clusters to cover all illiterate women of Ramche. Now five facilitators are facilitating non-formal education in five different settings regularly.

Livelihood

While entrepreneurship development training and assessment of potential members for livelihood were already done in previous quarter, this quarter witnessed the distribution of seed money to 30 members of SHG through SHG bank account. Among the 30 potential members, 28 were supported for vegetable farming, one for meat shop and another for goat farming. SHG members are regularly having monthly meetings and they have started to collect NRs.100 as saving per month per member from this quarter.

Social Empowerment

Events of social empowerment took place in Ramche. Five facilitators for non-formal education has been oriented and they started to facilitate non-formal education in five different CLCs. They are currently teaching 108 females, i.e. on an average each facilitators are teaching 21 females.

Sports materials have been supported to child club of Seti Bhumi Secondary School so that they can play with friends and they can enhance their knowledge and skills.

Syafu VDC

Health

The construction of health post in the village long affected by the indecisiveness of the site has now finished with minor works to do, as construction taking in new site.

Alike Ramche and Bhorle VDCs, best wishes orientation was given to HP In-charge and nursing staff at DHO and FCHVs and other staffs were oriented at VDC level. In this event, six FCHVs, five HFOMC members and four HP staffs were present.

After best wishes orientation, 13 pregnant women were registered and they were provided with best wishes cards. Orientation on safe pregnancy, safe delivery and safe infancy was executed by HP in-charge and 16 females were oriented on the topic.

Education

Alike Ramche, five clusters have been selected for non-formal education in Syafru. Five facilitators were oriented and they are regularly running non-formal classes for all together 60 females.

Livelihood

Regular monthly meeting of SHG were held and members have been started to collect NRS.100 as saving per month per member. In this quarter, 21 members of SHG received seed money as a loan from SHG to start up their livelihood activities. Among 21, 11 of the members invested the money for vegetable farming, five did it for herb farming, two for poultry farming and among remaining three, each of them utilized the money for goat farming, grocery shop and pig farming.

Social Empowerment

Non-formal classes started in five clusters of Syafru VDC. Child club of Shyamewangfel Higher Secondary School carried out extra-curricular activities and 15 students participated in art competition, 27 students participated in running competition and 13 students participated in musical chair game. One hoarding Board has been installed in Syafru displaying message on child protection.

Bridhim VDC

Health

Regarding the construction of health post, foundation work to truss work has been finished, cement board has been transported and the work has resumed after festival vacation.

As far as the implementation of software component in the village is concerned, the HP In-charge facilitated orientation on adolescent sexual and reproductive health reaching 19 mothers. Similarly, another event of orientation on best wishes was facilitated by the HP In-charge after in-charge got orientation at district level. In this best wishes orientation, seven FCHVs were oriented and other seven members from HFOMC and staffs were present during orientation. After that orientation four pregnant women have been registered and same numbers of best wishes cards have been issued to these pregnant women.

Education

Still school reconstruction at Khanjim for a primary school is on halt owing to the reason of delay in registering the land donated by one of the locals in the name of school.

Similar to other VDCs, non-formal education classes have been started in this VDC too. Five clusters were defined and one facilitator has been selected for each cluster.

Livelihood

In the previous quarter 16 potential members of SHG were identified out for livelihood and 14 of them were trained on entrepreneurship development and in this quarter adding one more possible entrepreneur, total 17 possible members for livelihood were supported with seed money. Among them, five opted for weaving, three for vegetable farming and small grocery shop each, while 4 family member preferred animal husbandry. Similarly, SHG members have started to collect NRs. 50 as monthly saving per member to make their fund bigger.

Social Empowerment

Non-formal classes started in five clusters of Bridhim VDC. Five facilitators were oriented after they were selected. Every facilitator is running non-formal class in every cluster after being orientated on how to facilitate the non-formal education and what content to be taught. Currently in this VDC, 50 mothers are regularly going to community learning centre where non-formal education is being taught.

Thuman VDC

Health

With regards to the health post construction in the VDC, the progress is not satisfactory. In this quarter the issue of land has been solved and excavation work and foundation work has been completed till date while retaining wall was already placed in previous quarter. One event of orientation of FCHVs on ASRH was conducted by ANM in the early period of the quarter. From this event, 15 mothers got information about adolescent sexual & reproductive health. Alike other VDCs, HP in-charge and ANM facilitated the orientation program to FCHVs about best wishes after themselves got orientation about it. At the orientation at HP level, total 18 participants got informed while FCHVs were only eight and remaining were other staffs of HP and members of HFOMC. After the best wishes orientation, one pregnancy has been registered and best wishes card has been delivered.



Similarly, ANM of Thuman HP conducted an event of orientation safe pregnancy, safe delivery and safe infancy to 13 women.

Education

No any progress has been made for education except non-formal education. Five clusters have been defined with coordination and discussion made with DEO, CLC and local stakeholders of this VDC. Five facilitators were selected and orientation was given to them with all facilitators of other four VDCs.

Livelihood

SHG members have started to collect NRs.100 per month per member to make their fund big so they can serve more people. In this quarter, 20 people were supported with seed money among 21 who were assessed. 15 among the 20 people got seed money for incense (Dhoop) making and remaining were supported for animal husbandry and grocery shop.

Assessment were done for 21 individuals hailing from vulnerable groups including marginalized and those with disabilities. Training on skill and entrepreneurship training was conducted to these individuals. Similarly, the Self Help Groups met twice this quarter during which roles and responsibilities of SHG members were discussed in the first meeting and the second meeting concentrated in discussion relating to livelihood activities and decision to open the bank account.

Social Empowerment

Five facilitators were selected from five cluster of Thuman VDC. After orientation of non-formal education to facilitators, facilitators are running their respective non-formal classes and altogether 64 women are regularly taking classes in Thuman VDC. One hoarding board has been hung in Thuman spelling message on child protection.

Challenges / problems

1. The festive season that fell during the quarter compromised the direct participation of the community people.
2. It is difficult to access remote areas due to poorly maintained mountain roads, rugged terrain and numerous landslides resulted as of the shaken hills, now exacerbated by rainfall

Lessons learned

1. Micro planning and regular follow up helps to push the activities
2. Endorsement of livelihood activities from SHG and PCC has increased ownership

Focus Q2 of Year II

The second quarter of the project for the second year will be moved forward keeping into consideration the learnings garnered in the previous quarters. Back from the festival mood, the team will concentrate their efforts to push further the construction of health facilities and school. With the new approval from NRA for reconstruction of three health posts in Nuwakot, the horizon of the reconstruction work has even grown wider; this is what the team is equally weighing too.

The focus of the team under health component will be towards strengthening the Out Reach Clinics and conducting General health camps. Attempt to aware the community people on maternal and child health will still continue this quarter but via different approaches; this time the team is planning for street drama in all of the villages.

Towards education, the sub engineer in the field will still continue his efforts to gear up the reconstruction works. The provision of school materials including a computer has been a major plan for the coming three months. Basic disaster preparedness training is among the others planned under this component.

Livelihood component includes entrepreneurial training followed by skill training to the selected as plans for the quarter. Provision of nutritional foddors to the ones who have opted for animal husbandry is an added plan. One of the important planning for the quarter also includes Saving and Credit training to SHGs.

Under social empowerment the project team will move on with encouraging mothers' groups meeting. Orientation on violence against women will also be conducted. Non-informal education program that started the previous quarter will still continue. Wall paintings will be made as part of raising the awareness against social problems and the ways to mitigate them. Awareness on government's provision for marginalized and Dalits groups will be carried out supplemented by lobby and advocacy at the village and district level.



Inspire2Care component of the project are to be sped up and reported. Many of the activities are contributing to I2C. However, the CBR part of I2C is to be given focus upon. Now the CCs will devote their part of time to identify the children and adults with disabilities in each VDCs. Then assessment camps will be organized which gives further planning on individual level which will be followed thereafter. VDRC formation and activation will be another issue of focus for the next quarter.



Acronyms

ANC	Ante Natal Care
DDC	District Development Committee
DEO	District Education Office
DHO	District Health Office
WCO	Women and Children Office
FCHV	Female Community Health Worker
HFMOC	Health Facility Management and Operation Committee
HP	Health Post
HW	Health Worker
I2C	Inspire2Care
KFN	Karuna Foundation Nepal
MoH	Ministry of Health
PNC	Post Natal Care
VDC	Village Development Committee