



# Progress Report

June, 2021

**Project: COVID-19 Response and Socio-Economic Recovery  
Initiatives  
Gaushala municipality, Mahottari, Nepal**

## Submitted To

**Gaushala Municipality, Gaushala Mahottari  
UNDP Field Office, Janakpur  
Nepal**

## **Submitted By:**



**Community Development & Advocacy Forum Nepal  
(CDAFN), Bardibas**



## Project summary

About the Project	Geographic coverage of the project																												
<p><b>Project title:</b> COVID-19 Response and Socio-economic Recovery Initiatives</p> <p><b>Target group/population:</b> 50% youth of age group 16-30 including 50% women, at least 25% will be included from abroad returnees' worker, Terai Dalit, Poor, marginal, gender and sexual minority group, Muslims and other ethnic group will be given priorities</p> <p><b>Number of direct beneficiaries (Households/People):</b> 600 HHs/ 3600 people</p> <p><b>Number of indirect beneficiaries:</b> 3000</p>	<p><b>Province:</b> Two (2)</p> <p><b>District:</b> Mahottari</p> <p><b>Municipality/Rural municipality:</b> Gaushala</p> <p><b>Number of wards covered:</b> 5</p> <p><i>Number of total households in covered wards:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ward No</th> <th>Households</th> <th>Population</th> <th>Direct beneficiaries of the project</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>700</td> <td>4800</td> <td>46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>2000</td> <td>10000</td> <td>434</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>855</td> <td>5800</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>960</td> <td>4800</td> <td>269</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>4515</b></td> <td><b>25400</b></td> <td><b>793</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Direct beneficiaries so far include those benefitted from 15 groups of vegetables, plantation, fisheries and goat enterprise, bioengineering activities, and daily wage opportunities)</p>	Ward No	Households	Population	Direct beneficiaries of the project	2				3	700	4800	46	8	2000	10000	434	10	855	5800	44	12	960	4800	269	<b>Total</b>	<b>4515</b>	<b>25400</b>	<b>793</b>
Ward No	Households	Population	Direct beneficiaries of the project																										
2																													
3	700	4800	46																										
8	2000	10000	434																										
10	855	5800	44																										
12	960	4800	269																										
<b>Total</b>	<b>4515</b>	<b>25400</b>	<b>793</b>																										
Contribution to Strategic Results																													
<p>UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) Outcome(s):</p> <p>CPD Outcome 1: By 2022, impoverished, especially economically vulnerable, unemployed and under-employed and vulnerable people are provided with increased access to sustainable livelihoods, safe and decent employment and income opportunities;</p> <p>CPD Outcome 2 - By 2022, inclusive, democratic, accountable and transparent institutions are further strengthened towards ensuring rule of law, social justice and human rights for all, particularly for vulnerable people; and</p> <p>CPD Outcome 3 - By 2022, environmental management, sustainable recovery and reconstruction, and resilience to climate change and natural disaster are strengthened at all levels</p>																													
<p>UNDP CPD Output(s): This project is collaboratively working with the groups and CBOs engaging the respective LGs in every process and procedure. Our information board at project sites/public places mentioning project key activities and associated cost are a key way of maintaining transparency and accountability on the part of UNDP supported fund. This has certainly highlighted the need of accountability and ownership on the part of each stakeholder in the process of ensuring the outputs targeted. Besides, we have organized the social audit once the particular scheme/activities/plantation program are accomplished. Such audits are conducted in the presence of LGs as well. Moreover, this joint project with the municipality is always progressed in the regular presence of local government</p>																													



including joint monitoring as well.

Intensive engagement with local governments is critically applied as the project is implemented with and co-funded from the municipality. Further, the mayor from the municipality has given his commitment to ensure the achieved results to be sustainable even after the project is accomplished. They will take over the initiatives made so far and work continuously through additional need base programs as well as through the follow up program to effectively contribute on the outputs provided.

UNDP COVID Marker:

- (i) Addressing social and economic impact of COVID-19

The project mainstreams GESI and addresses the specific needs of women, marginalized groups, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. The specific needs could be of immediate COVID support or gradual livelihood support needs to resume their disrupted livelihoods.

- (ii) Inclusive and multi-sectoral crisis management and response to COVID-19
- (iii) Resilient health systems to respond to COVID-19

Project activities (Indicate the appropriate one):

- (i) Capacity building: capacity development on sustainable and resilient infrastructure development for local governments
- (ii) Assets formulation: sustainable and resilient local infrastructure initiatives designed and implemented in selected local governments
- (iii) Livelihoods improvement: green employment opportunities created and promoted at the local level, with focus on the most vulnerable and severely affected groups

Basically, our project focuses on agriculture/Livestock/nature base livelihood and enterprise however it has logical linkages in strengthening irrigation and supply chain & market system. For instance, climate smart modal farms and multi-storey farming at riverbanks will have very good connection with irrigation facilities and the production of on-farm produces will link with the market for sustainable value chain promotion.

Core SDG Priority Areas (Goals and Targets): 1,2,5,8,10,13,17

The project during its 1<sup>st</sup> phase has been able to create short term local employment (daily wage labours) to more than 150 HHs by engaging people (specially the poor, unemployed and daily wage earners, migrant returnees, minorities, women and dalits) in the skilled/unskilled labour of plantation work. Similar kind of short-term employment will be created to at least 60 HHs in this project period as well. They will be earning 8000 to 12000 rupees within the 2-month plantation work. Besides, the sustainable income generation would be ensured in these HHs through on-farm and off-farm enterprise development support. This has helped to reduce extreme poverty by increasing income of local people more than 1.25 \$ in a day. Similarly, the project ensures equal rights to economic resources as well as increases access to basic services particularly to the poor and vulnerable as it has targeted at least 25% people from these sections. We have been working in building resilience of the poor and vulnerable and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate induced shocks and disasters.

Through various livelihood interventions and follow up plan, the project has been working to ensure food security and improved nutrition of targeted population in the Municipality. All forms of malnutrition in the project areas will be expected to be decreased significantly and also addresses the nutritional needs of adolescent, pregnant and lactating women and older people. Besides, poor vulnerable and minorities are also engaged in the sustainable food production system and implement resilient agriculture practices to increase productivity and production. This helps maintain ecosystem, strengthened capacity to cope with climate change impacts thereby improved land and soil quality as well.

At least 50% women and youth girls are expected to be empowered by engaging them in different intervention approaches. The soft issues of the community such as gender discrimination and violence against women/girls will bring in to the notice and given effort to discourage and eliminate all harmful



practices such as child, early and forced marriage. We will contribute in promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth to the beneficiaries of project HHs. This is a part of social mobilization hence such pertinent issues are carried forward continuously.

Our climate smart technologies such as converting the degraded river banks into fruit orchard and thereby in to riverbed farming, pond preservation, green house management and application of low-cost bioengineering measures to protect the vulnerable settlements/land will strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of the community against climate related hazards and natural disasters. We advocate through groups/CSOs to integrate climate change measures into LGs policies, strategies and planning. Through collaborative partnership with national and international organizations CDAFN will put its effort to the best possible way in strengthening its approaches and strategies for sustainable development.

Contribution to other SDGs (Goals and Target): 4,5,6,7,8,10,12

<b>Project Duration(day/month/year)</b>	June 2021 to February 2022 (9 months)
<b>Collaborating Institutions</b>	1.Gaushala Municipality 2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 3. Community Development & Advocacy Forum Nepal (CDAFN)
<b>Major Activities</b>	1.Riverbed Rehabilitation, 2. Improving the Irrigation access to producers, 3. Technology Introduction and support to Resource poor farmers, 4. Market system strengthening.
<b>Expected results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>150 new households organized in 5 different groups</u></li> <li>• <u>20 new HHs earn at least 60 thousand rupees annually through on and off-farm production in commercial scale</u></li> <li>• <u>Local employment created for at least 60 unemployed people of the age group (16-40)</u></li> <li>• <u>75 HHs (from pre-existing fishery groups) with 25% backward and minorities earn at least 50000 annually through fisheries and IGA</u></li> <li>• <u>Food security of excluded groups ensured by 6 months</u></li> <li>• <u>At least 50 hectares of riverbed land reclaimed and rehabilitated through multi-storey farming</u></li> <li>• <u>600 people reached through several trainings and capacity development events</u></li> <li>• <u>All existing 15 groups followed up, progress tracked down, and technically supported whenever necessary</u></li> </ul>



### Project Budget (NRS):

UNDP Contribution: **NRs. 5,758,374**

Local Government Contribution: **NRs. 5,750,000**

Other stakeholders' Contributions:

CDAFN: **NRs. 100,000**

Total Project Budget: **NRs. 11,608,384**



## Table of Contents

<b>1. Project Background and Context</b> .....	2
<b>2. Project Objectives</b> .....	2
<b>3. Expected Results</b> .....	2
<b>4. Target vs Achievement</b> .....	4
<b>5. Accomplished activities with disaggregated data</b> .....	4
<b>6. Implementation challenges</b> .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
<b>7. Financial progress</b> .....	5
<b>8. Planned activities for next month</b> .....	5
<b>9. Others (Media coverage, photographs, visibility etc)</b> .....	5
<b>10. Learning from the implementation</b> .....	6
<b>11. Annexes</b> .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>



## 1. Project Background and Context

*Describe the background and context in which the project will be implemented. Mention demographic and geographical situations including vulnerability and economic status of direct beneficiaries (max. 1,000 characters)*

In Gaushala Municipality about 40% people have no or very less volume of land holdings. They are depending on foreign labor, daily wages, informal jobs and other such low-income providing jobs. Such insecure daily work only can support for their family's daily or weekly foods. In the present situation of COVID pandemic, the conditions of already excluded groups such as elderly, PWDs, Dalits, ethnic minorities/Muslims, disadvantaged women and children seemed further worsen which may result highly food insecure. Climate smart agriculture considering the topography, raining pattern, possible drought, species selection with enhanced value chain is not prioritized hence the production has been continuously decreasing. Depletion and degradation of natural resources are notably seen in availability of water for drinking and irrigation and the huge patches of riverbeds are in the process of desertification due to inundation. Problems are further compounded due to widely overlooking of harmful social norms in the communities.

Therefore, with the continuation of COVID-19 Response and Socio-economic Recovery initiatives through resilience livelihood measures and Sustainable Infrastructure Development CDAFN would further enhance the already started socio-economic recovery activities based on on-farm and off-farm nature. This will certainly be supported and strengthened those initiatives which were focused to resume the livelihood of abroad returnees, poor, dalit and marginal women and children who are severely affected due to COVID-19. While we running the project, at least 60 daily wage workers would earn for their living through cash for work approach within the 2 months period and while the project accomplished, employment at local level generated thereby helps to uplift the livelihood of 600 farmers/HHs and small holders who are organized in the groups and are benefitted directly from the project in Gaushala municipality.

## 2. Project Objectives

*Describe the major anticipated objectives and its links with UNDP's global integrated response to Covid-19 including how the interventions support in socio-economic recover of the COVID-19 pandemic (max. 500 characters)*

Soon aftermath of the Pandemic in 2020, the COVID-19 Response and Socio-economic Recovery project was initiated. This has included daily wage workers, the unemployed youths age between (16-40), abroad returnees, women, and the most vulnerable households like musars (Terai Dalit) to enhance their resilience and restore their livelihoods by creating local employment and there by generating income from entrepreneurship development accompany with climate change issues.

As the pandemic situation is further worsen, the earlier initiatives require to be continued to sustain the results and to restored livelihoods of the most severely affected communities. Therefore, as UNDP aims, this project will be implemented or continue a dedicated socio-economic recovery initiative in Gaushala municipality to support socio-economic recovery and restore livelihoods of the most severely affected by the crisis.

## 3. Expected Results

*Update the planned results of the project*

### A. New activities

Expected Results	Baseline	Target	Result as of reporting month	Remarks
<u>150 new HHs organized in 5 different groups</u>	150 HHs selected are not organized on any groups	150 HHs		



<u>20 new HHs earn at least 60 thousand rupees annually through on and off-farm production in commercial scale</u>	150 HH rely on Daily wage labour for their livelihood	80 HHs		
<u>At least 60 new daily wage earners, unemployed youths of age group (16-40) earn short term income (Rs. 8000 to 12000)</u>	People have lost daily income and jobs	60 people		
<u>50 hectares of reclaimed riverbed land rehabilitated through multistorey farming</u>	50 ha of Riverbed is degrading continuously	50 ha		
<u>600 people reached through several (at least 22) trainings and capacity development events</u>	People unaware of several technical and market-related topics	600 people		
<b>B. Follow up activities</b>				
<u>75 HHs (including 25% poor and minorities) earn at least 50,000 rupees annually through</u>	50 HH have no any form or source of income through agri-enterprise	75 HHs	123 HHs have been organized into three fisheries groups.	Two of the groups (73 HHs) have already generated income of NPR. 72,600 (in total) from the first harvest. Second harvest is also supposed to generate similar income. However, second harvest wasn't feasible within May.



<u>fisheries and IGA</u>				
<u>All pre-existing 15 groups followed up regarding production status, technical support</u>	Not followed up since May 2021	15 groups	3 groups (2 vegetable producers' group and 1 goat production group) have been reached	The reached groups have been followed-up regarding the problems for smooth economic growth from our supported livelihood programs, prospects observed through intervention of the project. The immediate support that the groups need have been noted.

#### 4. Target vs Achievement

*Describe the Target vs Achievement of the planned activities.*

#### 5. Accomplished activities with disaggregated data

*Describe the major accomplished activities during the reporting period with disaggregated data (Max.1 paragraph for each activity.*

#### ***Graph showing the beneficiary added during the month of June***

##### Activity description

Under the activity 1.1 (Old groups follow up and registration), 3 pre-existing groups have been reached. Among the reached groups, two are vegetable producers' group (Jay Bajrangbali vegetable producer farmers group and Mahadev vegetable producer farmers group) and the rest is Laxmi goat rearing women's group. The group discussions were about problems being faced by the farmers, positive aspects and prospects of the project intervention, and immediate support to be made to the groups.

Under the activity 1.4 (Riverbed rehabilitation/ fruits plantation and riverbed farming), the sites have been identified at two places (Gaushala ward-10 and 12) on the bank of *Marha* river. Furthermore, meetings have been made between Gaushala municipality officials and project team accompanied by CDAFN management regarding efficient implementation of the multistorey farming approach on the riverbed. Also, locals from around the identified sites have been met and discussed about the approach. They have shown positive response and assured us about the sustainability of the program.

Under the activity 1.9 (Irrigation support/ Deep boring), 4 borings at Gaushala-12 have been constructed by the municipality. However, these borings have not yet come to functionality since the electrification is ongoing and not completed. The municipality plans to complete these by July. All these deep borings carry the specification of 6



inches but are of different depths (one of 190 feet depth, one of 166 feet depth, and two of 160 feet depth). These borings will support irrigation to two of our vegetable producers farmer group viz. Laligurans and Mahadev VPG and is believed to irrigate over 12 hectares of land.

The activity 3.1 (Project Kick-off meeting and orientation at Palika) was scheduled for June. However, due to the strict covid restrictions for gatherings and movement (which has been currently lifted up) the event was not conducted. We are in regular touch with the municipality and plan to complete it by first week of July.

*Describe the key implementation challenges encountered during the reporting period and how those challenges were addressed by the project team.*

Challenges	Mitigation measures

#### 7. Financial progress

*Provide the aggregated financial progress against the approved budget.*

Total approved budget (UNDP)	Expenditure till Apr 2021	Cumulative expenditure	Expenditure percentage
NRs. 13,648,530	13,593,686.37	13,593,686.37	99.598%

#### 8. Planned activities for next month

*Describe the planned activities for next month.*

#### 9. Others (Media coverage, photographs, visibility etc)

*Describe the project related media coverage, photographs with clear captions.*



## Media Coverage

### Photos:

### Monitoring and Coordination:

- Monitoring form UNDP Regional Office team and constructive feedback have been enlightening the space for further improvement towards the Project goal.
- Regular attendance during implementation and monitoring of the projects by Mayor and Vice Mayor of Gaushala Municipality, Ward Chairpersons of different wards have made strong linkage between the Organization and Local government as well project implementation more accountable and as per the needs of the local community.

## 10. Learning from the implementation

*Describe the key learnings including any success or failure story during the project implementation in reporting period.*

- Community contribution and stakeholders engagement during the Project activity has led to the ownership of project.

## 11. Annexes

*Please attach the following annexes along with this report.*

Annex 1: Detail financial report

Annex 2: M&E Tracker