



**HELNETAS**  
Swiss Intercooperation

NEPAL



## ANNUAL COUNTRY PROGRAMME REPORT

Country Programme: Nepal  
Reporting Period: January to December 2017  
Author: HELNETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal

---

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal is one of the decentralized country programmes of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, and has been operating in Nepal under an agreement with the Government of Nepal since 1956. It implements its programmes and projects throughout the country, cooperating with many technical and social organisations. Through its work at both local and national levels, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal supports activities leading to sustainable development and poverty reduction. It aims at creating environments in which people have new choices and become equipped with new skills and abilities to improve their livelihoods.

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal partners with local and national non-governmental organisations, private sector entities, and local and national government bodies. It promotes the principles of decentralization and subsidiarity in decision making, implementation and accountability for development.

Detailed information on the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal programme is available on the internet and can be accessed at <https://nepal.helvetas.org>

**Published by:** HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal  
Dhobighat, Lalitpur, GPO Box 688, Kathmandu Nepal

**Telephone:** +977 1 5524926, +977 1 5522013

**Fax:** +977 1 5531109

**E-mail:** [co.np@helvetas.org](mailto:co.np@helvetas.org)

**Photos:** HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal

**Map, Graphics and Compilation:** Om Khadka

**Language Editor:** Dr. Jane Carter / Banu Shrestha

**Cover photo:** Bio-charcoal production from forest weeds has been a highly successful project funded by the European Union. The charcoal is compressed into pellets and “pillows”, for which there is a high demand from restaurants. Providing new opportunities for decent employment along the value chain, the bio-charcoal activities are now self-sustaining as a result of uptake and investment by the private sector.

**Layout:** Sudip Bajracharya

**Printed by:** Mark Minds Pvt. Ltd.

---

# Contents

---

Message from the Country Director	1
Country Context	3
Country Strategy	4
Progress By Thematic and Cross-cutting Programme and Independent Projects	
Food Security and Nutrition Programme	5
Integrated Water Resource Management Programme	7
Economic Growth and Decent Employment Programme	9
Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Programme	11
Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Programme	13
Good Governance Programme	15
Independent Projects	17
Geographical Coverage	19
Human Resources	21
Personal Story	22
Budget and Investment	24
Audit Report	26
Way Forward	30
Portfolio	32
Thanks	33

## Message from the Country Director

---



**Dr. Bharat K. Pokharel**

Following the adoption of the new constitution in 2015, Nepal has embarked on an ambitious path to shift from a unitary to a federal governance system and is now constitutionally a federal democratic republican state. This has led to new opportunities for constructive engagement with federal, state and, specifically, local government. As per the Local Government Operation Act, we have already started to engage with local governments through our programmes and projects. The federal system brings us more development space, with a fresh start for supporting local governance processes. In this context, we have maintained our image as a credible development organisation over the course of this year – as illustrated by the following examples.

Through our Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management programme, CCDRM, we were able to continue our work with the National Reconstruction Authority, NRA, on post-earthquake reconstruction. The near-finalised CCDRM strategy lays the foundation for disaster preparedness, awareness, education, climate change adaptation and vulnerability assessment. We extended our disaster relief work in the Terai to help victims of floods, fire and the cold wave. Through working with youth in schools, and women in community groups in remote areas of Karnali, our initiatives have reached the most vulnerable individuals in society – supporting them to better understand risks associated with climate change and disasters, and to take appropriate action - thus reducing their vulnerability.

Over this reporting year, our Good Governance programme has engaged extensively with all our programmes, projects, partners and collaborators in orienting them on the provisions of the new constitution and legislation. We continued our engagement in local planning and public accountability practices such as public auditing, public hearing, decentralised service delivery, crafting local level funding mechanisms, internal governance assessment and the capacity building of civil society organisations. Where we have worked with local government, we have contributed to improved effectiveness, transparency and responsiveness – building towards the establishment of democratic governance, justice, rule of law and reduced corruption.

Through our Gender Equality and Social Inclusion programme, we have been able to raise awareness and recognition of the value of unpaid care work, and to support actions to reduce and redistribute it, thus leading to a better quality of life and effective representation of women. We have started to facilitate affirmative action for women and Dalits in local governments, supporting them to raise their voice and make legitimate demands for public services in accordance with their rights.

As part of our Economic Growth and Decent Employment programme, we have been able to offer vocational training and technical education to unemployed youth, who have thus found gainful employment. We have further improved our partnership with private sector service providers through a result-based service procurement system. Similarly, and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, we have enhanced knowledge in a result-based payment system for work place based trainings in earthquake reconstruction work. Our work with the Centre of Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) in the hospitality sector, and career guidance to school children, has laid the foundation for an innovative training model, entailing a possible partnership for further on the job training with industries. We have begun to work with Ministry of Industry for rapid market appraisal, area potential surveys, apprenticeships, business skills, life skills and joint monitoring of skill trainings.

---

Our long-standing collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to make foreign employment safer and beneficial, particularly through pre-departure information to the potential migrants provided by Information and Counselling Centres (ICC), has paved the way for the future establishment of Migration Resource Centres (MRCs) at municipal level. Our work in financial literacy has empowered left behind family members, especially women, to use remittances productively. In addition, psychosocial counselling has been of tremendous help to traumatised returnee migrants, and has assisted them and their families in seeking justice.

Our collaboration with the private sector in a number of value chains, especially in the central Terai, has continued to provide local employment and opportunities for the productive investment of remittances through the processing of, amongst others, banana paper, bio-charcoal, and essential oils. Facilitating market systems development has resulted in farmers gaining increased business knowledge, and the capacity to access finance, crop insurance, and new markets. Our offer of technical knowledge to farmers has improved the post-harvest management of agricultural products, especially the controlled storage of bananas, leading to the emergence of a sustainable agri-business model in rural areas.

Our Food Security and Nutrition programme is playing an important role in the redesign of a decentralised agriculture extension system, and has started to work with local government. Farmer-led research took momentum in our collaboration with the National Agriculture Research Council. We have built on our past experience of sustainable soil management, riverbed farming, improved cowsheds, organic manure, and bio-pesticides. Our analysis of the interface between market systems and climate change in selected value chains, especially nuts, has enriched our knowledge of potential opportunities and challenges for Nepal in the future. Farmers have benefited from our engagement in promoting fair trade, especially in organic coffee production.

Our Integrated Water Resource Management programme has promoted a participatory approach to Water Use Master Plans - facilitating local government to prioritise water supply schemes, improve hygiene and sanitation, promote good water governance, and design and implement farmer-managed small scale irrigation systems for efficient water use. Our household water treatment and safe storage initiative has demonstrated the benefit of using water filters in the home. The Water Integrity (transparency, accountability and participation) initiative has had a direct and positive impact on the functionality of water schemes. Rainwater harvesting has continued to work well, and is widely accepted by the communities. The promotion of the 3R (Recharge, Retention, and Reuse) approach and blue schools has also made a clear contribution to the sustainable management of water resources.

Our continued engagement in trail bridges, in close collaboration with the Department of Local Infrastructure and Roads (DoLIDAR) and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), has enabled us to provide technical assistance throughout the country - in the hills, mountains and Terai. This has a huge development impact in increasing access to services and markets for large numbers of people.

As in the past, we have adapted Conflict Sensitive Programme Management to a changing context – now reorienting our staff and partners to a “Constitution Sensitive Programme Management” approach. This entails reaching out to the marginalised through targeting and affirmative action for women, Dalits and people living in poverty - working with both right holders and duty bearers to enable citizens to enjoy their fundamental rights, as given by the constitution. We carried out a security risk assessment in the changed political context, and reoriented our partners and collaborators accordingly. We have continued our efforts to improve monitoring and knowledge management, human resource development, and project acquisition.

In 2017, we accomplished many things. Nevertheless, in the changed context of federalisation it is important to validate the relevancy, effectiveness, efficiency and geographical coverage of our programme. For this, we will be conducting a mid-term review of our country strategy in 2018. My special thanks go to the Government of Nepal and to our international development partners, particularly SDC, DFID, EU, IDRC, IFAD and Swiss citizens for entrusting us to undertake the activities described above. Without you, we would not have achieved what we have. Last but not least, I thank the local communities with whom we work, and my HELVETAS-Nepal <sup>1</sup> colleagues for their tireless efforts and hard work to make 2017 a successful year!

---

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this document, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation is shortened to HELVETAS

## Country Context

Following the adoption of the new constitution in 2015, Nepal is proceeding with a major political and administrative change process: shifting from a unitary to a federal system of government. Over the course of 2017, a series of elections were held at different levels, so that by the end of the year, elected representatives were in place in all 761 government units: one federal, seven states<sup>2</sup> and 753 urban and rural municipal (gaunpalika and nagarpalika) governments. The Local Government Operations Act 2074 BS (2017 AD) clearly delineates the responsibilities of these different governments, although the finer details remain to be worked out. The palikas have considerable executive, legislative, and judicial powers – whilst the District Development Committees that previously played important administrative and service delivery functions have ceased to exist. Whilst the palikas face many challenges in undertaking their assigned roles and responsibilities, their establishment represents a huge opportunity for transparent, accountable local governance.

In party political terms, national elections have resulted in a strong left alliance government, with all states excepting state 2 having such a majority. The pre-polling promise of the unification of the three Communist parties proved a successful tactic for uniting the left-wing vote. In state 2, the Madhesi parties have a majority under the Federal Socialist Forum (Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum). The hope is that with a strong national government, development should proceed without any disruption caused by political disagreements.

The year 2017 was marked by an exceptionally heavy late monsoon. The resulting floods, followed a few months later by a winter cold wave, brought misery to many of the poorest Terai residents, and triggered humanitarian responses. Meanwhile reconstruction after the 2015 earthquake is still painfully slow; in some areas (such as Ramechhap), 80% of the houses destroyed still remain to be rebuilt. Out-migration, although slightly reduced compared against previous years, continues to impact heavily on Nepali communities.

Young people from well-to-do families leave for educational opportunities abroad and often remain abroad, thus contributing to a “brain drain”; those from poorer families (particularly men) head to the Gulf or Malaysia; whilst the poorest of all seek work in India. Roughly every second Nepali household is in receipt of foreign earnings from at least one family member. As a stark indicator of the bad working conditions endured by many migrant labourers, on average four per day return home in a coffin. In recognition of this, the Nepal government has recently amended the Foreign Employment Regulation to more than double the compensation given to families of migrant workers who die, suffer serious injuries or become critically ill.

After the major drop in visitor numbers following the 2015 earthquake, the tourism sector is expanding, with visitors from the region, particularly China, increasingly rapidly. The growth of related industries such as hotels, restaurants and home stays gives some hope for better local employment prospects. However, significant infrastructure developments are needed for tourism to grow rapidly, in particular with regard to major roads and airports, many of which are in urgent need of major improvement.

<sup>2</sup> The Nepal government’s official translation of pradesh is state, rather than province. Thus the word state rather than province is used throughout this document.

---

## Country Strategy

---

The HELVETAS-Nepal Country Strategy (2016-2020) is a medium term planning document, used as a management tool to guide the current and future actions of the organisation in Nepal. Developed in 2015, it was inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as being shaped by the National Planning Commission's Thirteenth Plan of the Government of Nepal, and the organisational strategies of HELVETAS and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC. At its heart, the country strategy is based on SDG 1: end poverty in all its forms. Understanding poverty to be multifaceted and strongly linked in Nepal to entrenched social hierarchies based on caste and patriarchal norms, HELVETAS-Nepal specifically targets those who are both economically poor and socially discriminated – notably Dalits, indigenous groups (Janajatis), and women. Thus the overall country programme goal is that all women and men in Nepal, especially those who are economically poor and socially discriminated, have dignified lives.

The six programmes (three thematic and three cross-cutting) of HELVETAS-Nepal correspond to six important SDGs. The thematic programmes contribute to ending hunger, achieving food security and promoting sustainable agriculture (SDG 2); ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6); and promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8). The cross-cutting programmes contribute to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG5); taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (SDG 13); and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG16). Through its long-standing experience and competencies in all these areas of development, HELVETAS-Nepal seeks to make a measurable contribution to these six SDGs through its programmes.

The HELVETAS-Nepal country strategy further recognises the integral link between field implementation, technical assistance, and advocacy. It envisages that HELVETAS-Nepal will play a role in all three – continuing to implement projects and programmes, and building on this practical experience in offering backstopping, facilitating, coaching, as well as specific technical skills, to other projects. Advocacy on behalf of the most disadvantaged, bringing field-based experience to policy discussions and raising public awareness, is also an important part of this approach.

The country strategy originally foresaw an average budget of some 15 million Swiss Francs per annum. This figure mounted in the past two years to over 20 million Swiss Francs per annum, as a result of funding for post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction activities. However, it is expected to return to the originally foreseen sum in 2018. The main donors are expected to continue to be the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC; the UK Department for International Development, DfID, and the European Union, EU, alongside the Swiss public.

Given that the political and administrative landscape of Nepal has changed radically since the country strategy was developed, a reappraisal of its focus and working modalities has become necessary. This will be given priority in early 2018 through the mid-term review, which will take as its starting point that full support for the federalisation process is crucial. In giving such support, “business as usual” is not an option. An increasing geographical focus in activities is likely, maximising synergies between different projects and programmes to concentrate efforts in a number of selected palikas.

## Progress by Thematic and Cross-cutting Programme and Independent Projects

### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME

Women and men farmers implement sustainable and resilient food production and marketing systems that foster increased productivity and production

→ **Aligned to Sustainable Development Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**

The Food Security and Nutrition programme supports women and men in rural and peri-urban settlements to improve their livelihoods through increased agricultural productivity, income, and the sustainable management of agriculture and natural resources.

The programme has a dual strategy of promoting the commercialisation of agriculture whilst building the resilience of small women and men farmers – supporting them in adopting climate resilient and nutrition sensitive, sustainable agriculture, accessing productive resources, becoming integrated into markets, and accessing pluralistic and decentralised services. It also places emphasis on managing knowledge, documenting good practices and methods, and using evidence-based advocacy to influence policy and institutionalise changes in the system. In 2017, the key achievements of the programme through its two mandate projects, namely, Nepal Agricultural Service Development Programme (Prayas) and Nutrition in Mountain Agro-ecosystem as well as components Riverbed Farming and Coffee Promotion were as follows.

A total of 20,314 farming households benefitted from the programme; of them, 60% were supported in adopting sustainable and climate resilient agriculture technology and practices – resulting in 761 hectares of land being managed in this way. Of those individuals who received specific support through training and other interventions, 53% were women and 61% disadvantaged.

Eleven action research initiatives were carried out, and four workload reduction technologies were promoted. These were a manual hole digger (to ease planting) in riverbed farming, a special harvesting bag for coffee (rendering harvesting quicker and reducing back problems amongst pickers); a walnut shell cracking device in the nut initiative, and a corn de-husker cum sheller under Prayas. Four business plans of various value chain actors - three cooperatives and one souvenir gift shop - were also developed and executed to scale up their businesses. The District Coffee Cooperative Union of Sindhupalchowk reported obtaining a loan from a National Cooperative Bank as a result of the support they received. Altogether 203 Agriculture Service Providers (ASPs) received capacity building, and were able to provide agricultural extension services to 8,651 farming households. Having access to improved technology for production, and thus markets for trading, 5,075 farming households marketed their agricultural products and were able to increase their income.

As a working group member of the Food Security Cluster of the Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD), and a regular participant in various national and international fora, the programme has contributed to a conducive environment for agriculture development at policy level. Through continuous lobbying and technical contributions, a discussion paper on agriculture for health and nutrition has been finalised, and a draft version of a National Standard of Organic Green Coffee (Arabica) has been prepared. In addition, Paklihawa College of the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS) under Tribhuvan University, incorporated riverbed farming technology into its bachelor's degree course. With rigorous facilitation in planning and institutional capacity building, 19 palikas supported through the Prayas project allocated an average 5% of their annual budget to agricultural development. (However, it should be noted that the range is 2% to 14%). Moreover, NPR 1.9 million was allocated to nutrition sensitive agriculture, and NPR 6.6 million to the coffee subsector by two municipalities and government agencies in 2017. The latter was for establishing central coffee processing units in Nuwakot.

In the new political context of federalisation, responsibility for agricultural extension has been devolved to palikas. This represents both an opportunity and a challenge. The capacity of palikas in terms of structure and priorities; institutional mechanisms; implementation and accountability, is very mixed. Developing a sound local system for effective agriculture service delivery demands heavy engagement on the part of the programme, and a pluralistic partnership approach. Similarly, the capacity of the programme staff and their placement (duty station) needs to be reviewed and updated.



Developing and mobilising Rural/Local Service Providers has been found to be an effective means of delivering services in a sustainable manner, particularly in difficult geographical terrain and with limited government and donor resources. However, keeping such service providers motivated is a challenge. Thus the programme is encouraging their engagement in multiple businesses through a diversification of their services. It is anticipated that as a result, they will remain based in remote areas, rendering the system sustainable.

### **Nourishing the next generation: Fagulaal Rajbanshi's experience of Riverbed Farming**

Wherever 52 year-old Fagulaal Rajbanshi goes, his 13-month old grandson rarely leaves his side. "We work for the sake of our grandchildren, we have to feed them nutritious food, and to raise them well. I've realised that this is what life is all about" says Fagulaal, smilingly. Certainly his grandson looks very well nourished.

Fagulaal is a resident of Paanchgachhi 9, Jhapa. He is a beneficiary of the riverbed farming project, through which he gained access to a plot of land along a riverbed on lease. On this land, he first farmed cucumber and watermelon; with the profit made, he then started planting vegetables such as cauliflower, green leafy vegetables, bitter gourd, and pumpkin in his kitchen garden. The family have now also bought a buffalo which gives 7-8 litres of milk daily. Fagulaal's wife Lafosari Rajbanshi observes, "Nowadays, it is easy to feed milk and ghee to my sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren. We eat plenty of vegetables too. We always have two varieties of vegetables in our daily meal." Before they started this farming, they had to buy vegetables, and consumed only small quantities due to the expense. Fagulaal further remembers, "It was so difficult to consume dairy products such as milk and yoghurt. We only had it a few times in a year, but now we consume milk or yoghurt in our daily meal."



On asked, how often he and his family members get sick, Fagulaal thought for a while and replied, "It has minimised now; it's been a while since we had to get medicines for anyone. This could be the result of the nutritious products we are consuming in our meals." The family tries to avoid using pesticides and chemical fertilizers, and although they sometimes have to, they do so with proper guidance from FORWARD Nepal, the local NGO partner of HELVETAS Nepal for riverbed farming. Fagulaal commented, "FORWARD Nepal, in collaboration with HELVETAS Nepal, has taught us riverbed farming over the past four years; now we are even able to coach others ourselves."

Fagulaal is currently the local Resource Person for riverbed farming. He does not market any vegetables to which pesticides have been applied; neither does he even feed such vegetables to livestock such as buffaloes. He explained, "FORWARD Nepal has taught us all techniques of Integrated Pest Management in vegetables; that's why we use other low-cost techniques next to chemical pesticides in our vegetables cultivation." Fagulaal is hoping to expand his riverbed farming area in future, given the way that it has contributed to all aspects of his family's livelihood.



# 4,428

people improved their knowledge about nutrition and / or their access to a balance diet in 2017.

## INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

### Women and men in rural and urban settlements maintain adequate and sustained access to water for drinking, sanitation, hygiene and irrigation

→ **Aligned to Sustainable Development Goal 6:** *Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.*

The Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) programme aims to achieve outcome 2 through interventions in the supply of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, irrigation, water conservation and water governance.

This year, the programme's focus lay in a smooth closure of WARM-P phase V, including its two associated projects under Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium phase II, and Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage phase I. Endorsement of the IWRM programme strategy (July 2017-June 2021) was sought and given by the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, DWSS, Government of Nepal. Programme implementation was initiated in 12 palikas of Achham, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Kalikot, Surkhet and Bardiya districts, and has progressed well against the set targets for the year. The programme also conducted an internal outcome monitoring, and external peer review. The outcome monitoring revealed significant progress against the planned outcomes; 84 % of the schemes completed during the phase were fully functional while the remaining 16 % were still supplying water, but less than the design discharge. As measured at the point of use, 57% of households have improved water quality (E.coli concentration in samples is 0 or ≤ 10 CFU/100ml). Similarly, 48 % of them were practicing improved hygiene practices, which is roughly 2.5 times more than the baseline of 17.3 %. Access to WASH services directly contributed to the improved living conditions of these people and reduced the unpaid care work of women significantly. About 51 % of the households reported using the saved time for income generation activities (vegetable farming, livestock raising etc). Some 19 % of households reported generating an increased annual income of around NPR 23,400 on average through the use of the time that they had saved.

The major achievements of the programme against its planned outputs are presented below.

**Drinking Water Supply:** 43 water supply and sanitation schemes were completed, giving 16,757 people (about 50% women) direct access to improved drinking water. These beneficiaries also include 8,550 people from 25 water supply schemes under the Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP) in Dailekh district. Moreover, 1,733 students (50% girls) from seven schools benefitted from access to an improved water supply. Four schools were developed as blue schools and five additional schools began implementing the blue school concept.

**Sanitation and Hygiene:** 1,066 people from 159 households and 1,472 students from three schools benefitted from improved access to sanitation through newly constructed or upgraded sanitary facilities. The approach; "Social Marketing in WASH business" for total sanitation in general, and the promotion of household water treatment and safe storage in particular, triggered clear WASH behaviour change in communities. About 1,795 households bought and used candle filters for safe water and more than 2,221 households constructed hand washing platforms. About 2,439 households constructed a Chang (wooden rack to dry kitchen utensils after washing) and 2,204 households established a waste disposal pit. The promotional interventions on sanitation and hygiene reached about 15,334 people belonging to 2,319 households. The total sanitation campaign implemented by the programme led to the development of 12 wards, covering some 1,364 households, of former four Village Development Committees, VDCs as a model total sanitation wards.

**Small Irrigation and Multiple Water Use System:** Three water supply schemes were developed as multi-use systems, using surplus water for irrigation. Those schemes provided irrigation facilities for some 41 ropani (20 ropani = 1 hectare) of land to benefit 907 people. Similarly, under RVWRMP in Dailekh district, an additional 2,382 people benefitted from the implementation of five multiple use systems and one stand-alone irrigation scheme.

**Water Sources Conservation & 3R (Recharge, Retention and Reuse):** Six schemes of water conservation and 3R were implemented, benefitting 1,225 individuals. Similarly, source protection measures and conservation work were carried out in two drinking water schemes completed in 2017.

**Water Governance and Advocacy:** The IWRM programme continued its advocacy initiatives for the right to drinking water and sanitation, and the replication and scaling up of good practices. The programme facilitated the preparation of 31 Water Use Master Plans (WUMP) at former VDC (now ward) level under the RVWRMP project. The engagement demanded by the programme and its partners led to almost all the political parties and candidates underscoring their commitment to improving WASH services in their election manifesto and campaign materials.

About 88% of the people served by the schemes are economically poor, and about 58% socially are discriminated.

Looking to the future, the programme needs to streamline its interventions in response to federalisation, focusing more on strengthening the capacity and service delivery mechanisms of the palikas in its working area. The formulation of a strategic plan for improving WASH governance, menstrual hygiene management and other gender issues in WASH, and enhancing functionality of the WASH schemes are a high priority in most palikas. These are also the areas in which programme expertise lies. It is of note that the percentage of the functioning drinking water schemes implemented by IWRM programme is much higher than the national average, with 68% functioning well, compared with the national average of 25%. The overwhelming majority of the primary stakeholders recognise the interventions as being effective and sustainable, proving that the programme approaches are effective and should be continued. It has also been shown that the functionality of private taps is much better than that of public taps. Thus the programme will implement private connection drinking water schemes wherever feasible. The quality of drinking water in the programme supported scheme areas is gradually improving; however, sustaining this improvement is really challenging. To ensure long-term, sustainable impact, current efforts need to be continued.

### Where there is a will, there is a way: towards total sanitation in the emerging town of Katarniya

The Katarniya Emerging Town Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project is a joint initiative of HELVETAS-Nepal, the Swiss Red Cross and Terre des hommes through the Swiss Water Consortium. Katarniya lies in Barbardiya Municipality in the Terai (plains) of state 6. It currently comprises some 415 households, with a combined population of 2,275 people.

Under the project, an Environmental Sanitation Improvement Plan was developed, applying the Community Led Environmental Sanitation (CLUES) approach. This plan revealed that although Katarniya town was already declared an Open Defecation Free area (ODF), 2% of households did not have access to a toilet and still practiced open defecation. Even among those having access to toilets, 13% had no toilet of their own and they use that of their neighbours or relatives. One such person is 32-year old Baburam Gautam, who, lacking the financial means to build his own toilet, used that in his brother's house – as did his wife and children.

The first and the foremost action outlined in the Environmental Sanitation Improvement Plan was to support economically poor households to gain access to improved toilets. Accordingly, the project provided 50 such households with construction materials such as pan, ring and fittings; they provided their labour for toilet construction.

Baburam is one of those who was supported in toilet construction. Although the materials allowed him to build the base, he did not have enough money to buy the additional blocks, bricks, rods, concrete and cement to construct the super structure. He thus looked for alternative materials that suited his budget, and constructed the super structure using wood and tree leaves available in the nearby jungle almost free of cost. He has thus proved that “Where there is will, there is a way”!

Sarita, wife of Baburam, recalled that “As we had no toilet of our own before, we would use that of my brother-in-law. It used to be quite difficult to use the toilet when we had some quarrel with his family, so then we would go far away to defecate in the open. The worst thing used to be at the time of festivals, when relatives came to our home. I felt quite humiliated to tell them that we have no toilet, and to ask them to go to the neighbour's house. Now we have a toilet at our own home, we have got rid of all those problems and humiliations”.



# 28,082

People got direct access to water from newly built or rehabilitated source in 2017.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DECENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

**Private sector entities of varied sizes provide opportunities for decent wage and self-employment to adequately skilled women and men**

→ **Aligned to Sustainable Development Goal 8:** *Promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.*

The Economic Growth and Decent Employment programme aims to facilitate private sector entities of different sizes to provide decent employment opportunities to adequately skilled women and men. There are a number of mandated projects that contribute to this expected outcome, but the overall contribution of the programme is outlined below along more thematic lines.

**Creation of decent jobs:** In the reporting period, a total of 639 private sector entities were directly or indirectly engaged in the programme. This included enterprises in the construction sector, charcoal production and processing, banana value-chain, citrus, medicinal and aromatic herb sectors. Through programme support, they contributed to creating 16,621 full time equivalent jobs in the domestic market in 2017. Of these, 34% were held by women. The number of women owning and managing private entities that create jobs is also increasing significantly. Within the targeted value chains, an additional 5,619 persons have been able to start businesses for self-employment, whilst 6,862 have obtained gainful employment (with a minimum earning of NPR 9,700 per month). The Bio-Energy sector alone created an additional 548 private sector owned charcoal enterprises and business units, with an annual production of some 8,000 metric tonnes of charcoal. This was produced through the management of 17,500 ha forest by 111 local Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs). An annual turnover of over NPR 500 million was recorded, for which private sector entities have invested NPR 111 million. This heavy private investment is a very good sign for the long-term sustainability of the charcoal value chain.

**Decent work standards:** In total, all 152 partners of the programme were sensitised on decent work standards. In close collaboration with relevant stakeholders (partners and market actors), the programme identified seven different innovative business approaches, technologies, and products that would contribute to business expansion and employment creation. In the changed political and administrative context of federalisation, the programme is working to identify further opportunities for private sector growth.

**Safer migration:** Labour migrants to Gulf countries and Malaysia continue to be the major contributors to the remittance economy and gross domestic product. It is thus important to promote safer migration in order to maximise the economic benefits of migrants, and reduce the social costs to them and their families. The Safer Migration project, SaMi, was able to ensure that 173,409 persons accessed information regarding safer migration in 2017. In addition, 2,333 individuals received skills training that would equip them to gain overseas employment as skilled or semi-skilled workers, and thus earn more than a basic labourer.

**Skills for post-earthquake reconstruction:** The programme supported 11,196 persons to attend skills training in the reconstruction sector. Of them, 10,326 (92%) completed the training successfully. Due to the active promotion of women in such training (through quotas and other mechanisms), an increasing number of skilled and semi-skilled women are entering the job market. The percentage of women in gainful employment following different types of construction-related skills training is now 28%. These women have a high chance of getting further work elsewhere due to the reconstruction skill training being verified and recognised by the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT).

Overall, the thrust of the Programme continues to be on systems development. Consequently, private sector partners are increasingly investing by themselves, and have taken on more responsibilities. As the projects are facilitating the linking of investors and service providers, the targeted individuals and groups have increased access to business services and financial linkage. For example, with support from SDC, the foreign outreach and scaling up of reconstruction skills has been possible based on the successful demonstration of a workplace-based training approach even in the context of a post-earthquake response.



# 26,310

people received additional income due to support for marketing their produce in 2017.

The programme has actively engaged in advocacy and policy dialogue in the areas of safer migration and post-earthquake reconstruction (particularly regarding a targeted response towards the most disadvantaged). It has also worked to bring about the relaxation of the complex procedural provisions of enterprise registration, crop insurance, the productive use of remittances, the productive use of electricity, contract farming, and private sector involvement in skills training and economic development.

### **The value of training: The experience of labour migrant Gyan Bahadur B.K.**

Gyan Bahadur B.K. is from Haleshi Tuwaching Municipality in Khotang district. As a Dalit of limited means, he saw employment in the Gulf as his best chance to improve his livelihood. Four years ago, Gyan enrolled in a training course for electricians offered by the SaMi project for potential migrant workers. As soon as he finished the training, he took a loan from his relatives and flew to Qatar. Prior to his departure, he had obtained a verbal agreement with a manpower agency that would be employed in Qatar on with a monthly pay scale of 1,000 Riyal. However, once he arrived in Qatar, he found that the reality was rather different.



Gyan was forced to work as an electrician in a supply company, on a salary of 800 Riyals a month - 200 Riyals less than that agreed in Kathmandu. He only received his first pay packet of 2,400 Riyals after three months. He then worked another three months without pay, at which point the company went bankrupt and closed down. Gyan and his friends were left jobless, without a single Riyal of pay for three months of hard work.

After losing his job, Gyan struggled for a couple of months to get his release paper (required under Qatar law), and then started looking for a job. Thanks to the electrical training that he had received while in Nepal, and the proof that he had of it in the form of a certificate, he was able to find a job at the Al Jahawar Company. Here he was offered a basic pay of 1000 Riyal and an extra 300 Riyal for food. "If I had not enrolled in this training, or received a certificate, I would not have been qualified for the job. It was only when I was jobless that I realised the value of the training and the certificate," he told ICC staff when back in Nepal for a short vacation. He was motivated to return to the ICC and thank the staff in person for his training. Gyan now draws a monthly income of 1,800 to 2,000 Riyals. He has paid off his debt, and bought a plot of land from his savings. Very recently, his immediate supervisor recommended him for the job of lead electrician, so he is hopeful of earning even more in future. "My supervisor has asked the company to raise my pay-scale. I think the company will finish the paper work soon."



# 173,618

Migrants have been supported through interventions on migration and development in 2017.

## GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME

### Women and Dalit access equal and just opportunities in political, economic and public life

→ **Aligned to Sustainable Development Goal 5:** *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.*

As Gender Equality and Social Inclusion is a cross-cutting theme of the organisation, the programme seeks to integrate such an approach in all other programmes, as well as having stand-alone activities.

The year 2017 was dedicated to up-scaling the pilot action research and studies conducted in 2016, and replicating good practices in other programmes and working areas. Another important activity was the remodelling of various tools, methods and modules in a more gender-responsive and socially inclusive manner, and then piloting them in the field. The organisation's expertise in gender equality and women's rights was put to use both for the training of staff, and for the capacity building of other organisations and networks - nationally and internationally. The major agenda of the year was to compile and document all the practices and tools used and piloted, and to use them as a base for devising a strategy to guide the future. This envisages both stand-alone activities and work in synergy and collaboration with other programmes.

Through various knowledge management activities, policy advocacy and campaigns the programme was also able to reach a wide audience in Nepal and internationally, specifically on gender based violence, unpaid care work, gender mainstreaming and women's economic empowerment.

Multi-stakeholder engagement for community and/or women-led development initiatives and the strengthening of women's enterprises has been one major programme thrust. Conducted in all working areas, it has been shown that such engagement can not only create sufficient funds for the socio-political and economic empowerment of women of deprived communities, but also build synergetic, multi-dimensional support for them. GESI interventions were conducted in collaboration with nine government organisations, 11 Civil Society Organisations and network, and four private sector organisations. Thus in Rupandehi, Bara, Banke, Sarlahi and Kanchanpur, collaborative efforts have made it possible for 151 women to become engaged in skills development and business training. All of them have been able to become engaged in and have strengthened their business enterprises related to riverbed farming, herbal processing, shoe-making, off-seasonal vegetable farming and banana farming. In these activities, partnerships and collaborations have been built up with government and non-government agencies such as palikas, product associations, small and cottage industries, banks, cooperatives and others.

Apart from establishing their enterprises, 20 women farmers in Rupandehi have started recording the expenditures of their vegetable farming to better understand them. Both they and another women farmers' group in Banke have initiated the exploration of collective marketing mechanisms for the coming cropping season. Similarly, with local multi stakeholder engagements (the earlier VDCs, District Electricity Office, Women Development Office, small cottage industry, other private company, cooperatives and community input), the two groups of women have been able to access finances for a community child care centre and establish an electric mill. Both of these initiatives responded to a recognised need to reduce the burden of unpaid care work, and were planned in a participatory manner to ensure sustainability and (in the latter) a sound business base.

Breaking the culture of silence and taking action is the second programme thrust. Silence, in this case, is with regard to all kinds of social, cultural, economic, political and systemic discrimination experienced by disadvantaged women and Dalit communities in the programme's working areas. Small collaborative initiatives have been started in various communities. Thus in Dailekh, Kalikot and Achham, women and girls have broken the silence on menstrual hygiene and chhaupadi (banning from the house and toilet during menstruation). Menstruation is still considered a socio-cultural taboo in these areas, whilst chhaupadi has been criminalised in the court of law. Through awareness-raising campaigns, 2,000 community women and 1,500 school-going girls of Achham and Dailekh have been informed about menstrual hygiene. Of them, 372 women and men (including community leaders, traditional healers and school boys and teachers) took direct part in a RREI campaign. Similarly, all 150 women participants in Dailekh, Rupandehi, Banke and Bara have initiated dialogue (formal/informal) within family and community groups about care work distribution and ways to address the workload. In Dailekh, women have discussed, planned and carried out action in their households, community and in the palika planning council. As a result, they were able to harness support from both government and non-government agencies for the community child care centre and electric mill mentioned above - and obtain a specific budget focused on women and Dalit. In Banke, collective action was carried out for adult care.

Support in strengthening and building the system for service delivery along with advocacy is the programme's third thrust. In order to build a platform for strengthening the agency of rights holders, action is required that strengthens and builds a system for public social services and accountability mechanisms. The GESI programme has been able to do this in a number of cases. As mentioned above, energy and strength against the practice of chhapadi was created through organised voice and action in Kalikot, Dailekh and Achham. With the mobilisation of two local coaches under the "Community Action for Women's Empowerment" project in Achham and Kalikot, altogether four rapid results teams (having 28 members, 86% women and 64% Dalits) were formed. All the teams chose rapid results initiatives on chhapadi by setting appropriate and realistic targets, and pledging to achieve the goal within a 100-day period by mobilising the community. Both women and men were engaged in the process, making it a unified effort. Newly elected local leaders were observed to be paying attention and taking part in action against this harmful practice, whilst supporting menstrual hygiene management.

Similarly, the two women farmers groups in Banke and Dailekh obtained their goals through collective demands. As a part of policy advocacy conducted at the local level, the Dungeswor gaunpalika agreed to support NPR 100,000 to the Community Child Care Centre, as an up-scaling impact of the project.

### **Gaining the courage to speak: The political journey of Mankumari B.K.**

Mankumari B.K., aged 40 (shown in the photo with a neighbour's child in her lap), stood as a party-supported Dalit woman candidate in her gaunpalika. Although she was unable to secure enough votes to win, she was proud to have tried, explaining, "I used to be scared to even speak with others but now I am capable of leading all women."



Her journey to political leadership was not easy. She grew up as the eldest daughter among eight family members and was always busy helping mother in household chores. As her family was poor, she was unable to go to school, and at 15 she was married. She is now a mother of two daughters and two sons. She learned to read and write through adult literacy classes. "I realised the strength in being organised when I got into various groups and we started working together....In the course of being active in various local committees such as the Citizen's Awareness Centre, I took a lead in discussing the issues, prioritising problems and working towards a solution."

Mankumari B.K has been actively engaged in the REFLECT circle discussions facilitated by the CCDRM and GESI programmes since 2015, which is one of the reasons behind her extraordinary engagement and leadership in political and social arenas. She worked as a president of the drinking water maintenance committee for the Samala community and with a budget of just NRP 90,000 along with labour contribution, was able to organise the construction of a water tap near the village, as well as the reconstruction and maintenance of the water pipe and collection tank. The problem solving process was exercised in the REFLECT circle itself. According to Mankumari B.K., "Apart from participation in the discussions, my capacity and leadership skills have improved through various trainings and participation in a number of local level programmes and activities". She gained so much self confidence that standing for election was an obvious step. Loosing has not deterred her, "I am confident that I will be able to lead all women like me of my village."

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

**Women and men, particularly from vulnerable communities, reduce their vulnerability and increase their resilience to the effects of climate change and disasters**

→ **Aligned to Sustainable Development Goal 13:** *Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.*

The focus of the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management programme, CCDRM, has been to build a society that is resilient to the impact of climate change and disasters. In doing this, it intervenes at multiple levels - ranging from grassroots level planning, implementation and construction activities to evidence-based advocacy at policy level.

In 2017, the programme continued to focus on reconstruction and rehabilitation activities in earthquake affected areas, particularly Sindhupalchowk. The programme has also drafted its strategy for the future, and initiated some pilot work on climate change adaptation in Dailekh municipalities (reported under GESI).

As part of the response to the 2015 earthquake, by the end of December 2017, the CCDRM programme had physically completed 386 earthquake-resilient private houses, including 225 toilets and 227 improved cooking stoves. In addition, 25 drinking water supply schemes had been completed, providing 1,568 households with a private tap stand. In the course of supporting agriculture livelihoods, the programme has renovated or reconstructed 20 irrigation schemes covering 1,637 households, 14 water mills benefitting 1,483 households, as well as building an agriculture service centre aimed at providing services to at least 5,000 households. It is further planned to provide technical support in house construction to 2,000 households, and construct 10 additional drinking water supply schemes with sanitation and hygiene facilities. In collaboration with CARITAS Switzerland, the programme has also supported the provision of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities to 12 schools out of the total 31 targeted for the entire project period.

Capacity building for disaster resilience has been embedded in all programme activities. Training not only builds the capacity of the individuals concerned, but also contributes to the institutional strengthening of their respective local-level institutions. The types of training conducted are outlined below.

**Irrigation schemes:** Training courses have been provided in preconstruction management, in water distribution, in operation maintenance, in post construction maintenance, as well as specific care-taker training. Such training has been given to 20 Irrigation User Committee members, benefitting 94 men and 118 women belonging to these schemes.

**Agriculture:** The programme has built the capacity of 74 women and 78 men farmers through Farmers Business Schools and training on Business Plan Development.

**Drinking water and sanitation:** The programme has provided two training sessions for Village Maintenance Workers, benefitting 42 men, and 3 women. Likewise, training on building local latrines has been provided to 19 men and 1 woman.

**Schools:** In 18 schools, the programme has also developed a school-based disaster risk reduction plan followed by risk assessment exercise. This has benefited 4,500 students.

**Climate change adaptation:** through its own fund project, the programme worked on building the resilience of 117 households, providing training for 107 women, and 10 men.

At policy level, the CCDRM programme has provided technical and financial support for the preparation of National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, for which the Ministry of Home Affairs is the leading ministry. The elaboration of this document is mandatory for the government of Nepal as part of its commitments under the Sendai Framework 2015-2030. The programme has also supported conducting Vulnerability Capacity Assessment at local level, which is the part of Local Disaster Risk Management Plan (LDRMP) lead by the Melamchi Municipality. In addition, the programme has developed and published a guideline entitled "Guideline Assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities in market systems".



## Gaining dignity as a Village Maintenance Worker: Durga Prasad Chapagain



Durga Prasad Chapagain is physically disabled, but this has not prevented him from taking a masonry training, and becoming a village maintenance worker under the NayaBasti Drinking Water Supply Scheme, Helambu gaunpalika, Ward 6. He was trained in a 10-day course specifically for such maintenance workers, supported under the REAP project, which is implemented by HELVETAS-Nepal and SOLIDAR Switzerland.

"I started to work on the scheme after the training. I was a bit confused at first, but after finishing one structure, I was very happy. When I saw the whole drinking water supply scheme completed, I was quite overwhelmed. I constructed the intake, the flow regulating chamber, the distribution chamber, the reservoir tank, and private taps in people's yards. The training gave me both a skill and income. I worked almost single-handedly as a skilled mason, only taking help from the project technical persons when needed on technical matters. After this construction, I could do the work by myself [for another one] if given the design. Taking the period of six months after the commencement of scheme construction, and including the tap installation work, I have earned NPR 150,000. I will use the money to ease my financial situation. My friends and people in the community at large have really appreciated the work. People will remember me for this."

Durga Chapagain has become an extremely enthusiastic, skilled mason. As a result, he has also gained employment in other schemes supported through REAP.



# 29,881

people carried out activities to improve their capacities to adapt to climate change in 2017.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

**Institutions at different levels are effective, transparent and accountable to the rights of women and men and ensure inclusive and responsive decision making**

→ **Aligned to Sustainable Development Goal 16:** *Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

The As another cross-cutting programme, the Good Governance programme aims to make institutions at different levels effective, transparent and accountable to the rights of women and men and to ensure inclusive and responsive decision making. The programme has two thrusts: empowering rights-holders to claim their rights and demand services; and strengthening accountability-holders to fulfil their obligations and service delivery. The effective engagement of rights-holders in local governance and development processes, disclosure of information, priority based planning and resource allocation, and perception mapping of public service delivery are major programme interventions.

The paradigm shift in the Nepalese governance system following the rapid federalisation process and local, state and federal elections in 2017 has led to varied levels of awareness and understanding of new procedures amongst all stakeholders, including citizens. This situation impacted the implementation of the programme strategy both directly and indirectly, hindering its full-fledged implementation in this second year, as well as the first. The programme priority has shifted to discourses on state restructuring, federalism, the new constitution, and new acts/policies. In addition to the core Good Governance programme, a collaborative project known as the Socio-Economic Development Programme has also been implemented. Accordingly, the programme has entered into an agreement with two gaunpalikas and one nagarpalika in Bajura and established a partnership with five local NGOs in Achham, Dailekh, Jajarkot and Kalikot. The planned activities were implemented in altogether eight gaunpalikas and seven nagarpalikas. Furthermore, a HELVETAS led consortium bid successfully for an EU/EIDHR project entitled "Active Citizens for Accountable Local Governments" which will commence activities in 2018.

In line with the changed priorities, 126 events of orientation/interactions on the federalisation process and civic roles and responsibilities were held either at palika or ward level, benefitting 3,344 citizens (42% women, 16% Dalits). These served to localise discourse on the on-going federalisation process. Furthermore, 27 events of such orientation were organised for different HELVETAS-Nepal programmes and projects, other INGOs and development partners. Additionally, 608 citizens in Bajura (56% women, 21% Dalits) were oriented on public service entitlements, civic roles and responsibilities, accountability and social issues. As a result of governance support to extension services, 581 households (72% women) were facilitated in producing and trading agricultural products fetching an average annual income of NPR 22,640 per household. As a step towards promoting Right to Information (RTI), 61 individuals (16% women, 5% Dalits) were trained and mobilised as RTI Activists. Instead of organising separate events in this regard, a session on RTI and its use was included in other events, thereby also benefitting 3,344 citizens. As a separate event in Bajura, a four-day training of trainers (ToT) on RTI was organised for 37 participants from three palikas. The trainees practiced the use of RTI by seeking information from public service providers and local governments. Five events celebrating RTI day also took place.

Being recently constituted and often lacking organisational and institutional infrastructure, many palikas have found the formulation of their profiles and periodic plans quite a challenging exercise. Thus only preliminary actions were undertaken – although these included the orienting of 693 local representatives (36% women, 21% Dalits) on the need for and importance of profiles and periodic plans. As the palikas are only beginning to put in place their service delivery functions, no satisfaction surveys could be conducted. Instead, one social accountability training was organised for the programme staff, two events on governance assessment for in-house projects, and four events in celebration of anti-corruption day. In Bajura, a similar training on social accountability was organised for 39 participants. The trainees learned how to conduct community score card surveys for three local health posts, and public audits of three projects implemented by the palikas. The palikas mobilised these training graduates to conduct seven events orientations on social accountability and good governance, thereby benefitting 139 local citizens. Moreover, an association of local bodies was supported in organising a state level conference of gaunpalikas in state 6.

The programme's objective for the coming years is to continue to foster strategic engagements and collaboration with the selected palikas and other HELVETAS-Nepal programmes in effectively implementing the overall country strategy, at the same time as supporting federalisation. In this way, it aims to enhance transparency, accountability and participation in local governance.

## Right to Information: Kaushila BK demands women's entitlements

Despite constitutional recognition of Right to Information as a fundamental right, and the enactment of the RTI Act 2006, rural women often unaware of their and entitlements, and as a consequence do not claim them. Kaushila BK, a member of Municipal Executive of Bheri nagarpalika, Jajarkot, attended a two-day training on Right-To-Information (RTI) organised by the Good Governance Club, a local partner of the Good Governance programme. In the training, the participants learned about the legal provisions enshrined in the RTI Act and Regulations. In particular, the trainers explained how the RTI can help people gain their entitlements, especially women's entitlements and rights, with practical examples of how public affairs can be made more transparent.

Kaushila BK heard a number of women complain that they had not received any allowances from the erstwhile village development committee, due to many past irregularities in distribution and a lack of relevant information on the part of would-be beneficiaries. In the training, the participants were encouraged to seek information about their entitlements from public agencies, and shown how to draft an RTI application. With this new knowledge and information, Kaushila BK started raising awareness amongst citizens in her locality. It became apparent that a number of single women were not receiving the social security allowances and other facilities to which they had a right, as they had no habit or knowledge of asking for such support. With the facilitation of Kaushila BK, they approached the ward office and sought information. As a result, they are going to receive the social security allowances. Although the RTI act mandates public bodies, including palikas, to be proactive in disclosing information, many public bodies tend to only respond upon request.



# 6,161

people attended course on their civic rights and duties in 2017.

## INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

In addition to the six programmes, HELVETAS-Nepal manages two units providing technical assistance in infrastructure: the South-South Cooperation Unit, and the Trail Bridge Support Unit.

### SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The South-South Cooperation Unit (SSCU) was established with the aim to provide technical expertise in trail bridges to clients within and outside Nepal. To date, the Unit has offered such expertise to clients in both Africa and Asia - including Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Laos, Mozambique and Vietnam.

In 2017, the SSCU concluded an engagement with HELVETAS-Ethiopia in building capacities to implement trail bridges. A trail bridge training curriculum was finalised, and a training of trainers (ToT) conducted. In addition, the SSCU oversaw the construction of three bridges (two for light vehicles such as power tillers, and one pedestrian) in Laos, in collaboration with HELVETAS-Laos, and the Poverty Reduction Fund under the government of Laos. Negotiations with the governments of Burundi and Cameroon for support to both these countries in trail bridge construction also progressed, resulting in likely engagement in 2018.

### TRAIL BRIDGE SUPPORT UNIT

The Trail Bridge Support Unit (TBSU) provides technical assistance to the government led Trail Bridge Sector Wide Approach (TB SWAp) programme in all seven states. It is currently its fourth phase and is being implemented under the Trail Bridge Sector Wide Approach Framework-II (2014-2019).



---

During 2017, over 991,800 primary stakeholders (57% belonging to disadvantaged groups) were provided with safer and enhanced access to markets and services through the completion of 443 new trail bridges, and major maintenance or rehabilitation work on 148 trail bridges. Over 974,900 person-days of employment were generated from bridge construction, with 67% of this employment going to disadvantaged groups. It is calculated that this led to the inflow of NPR 463 million into local communities. Furthermore, the bridge user groups formed during the construction period gave individuals belonging to disadvantaged groups the opportunity to experience leadership positions, with women's representation being 46%.

There are now over 7,000 trail bridges in Nepal, with an estimated 818,600 people crossing the bridges every day. The improved access provided by the bridges has contributed towards an increase in school attendance by 16%, a rise in patients seeking treatments from health facilities by 23%, and the emergence of new shops and markets at 20% of the bridge sites (Post Bridge Building Assessment, 2017).

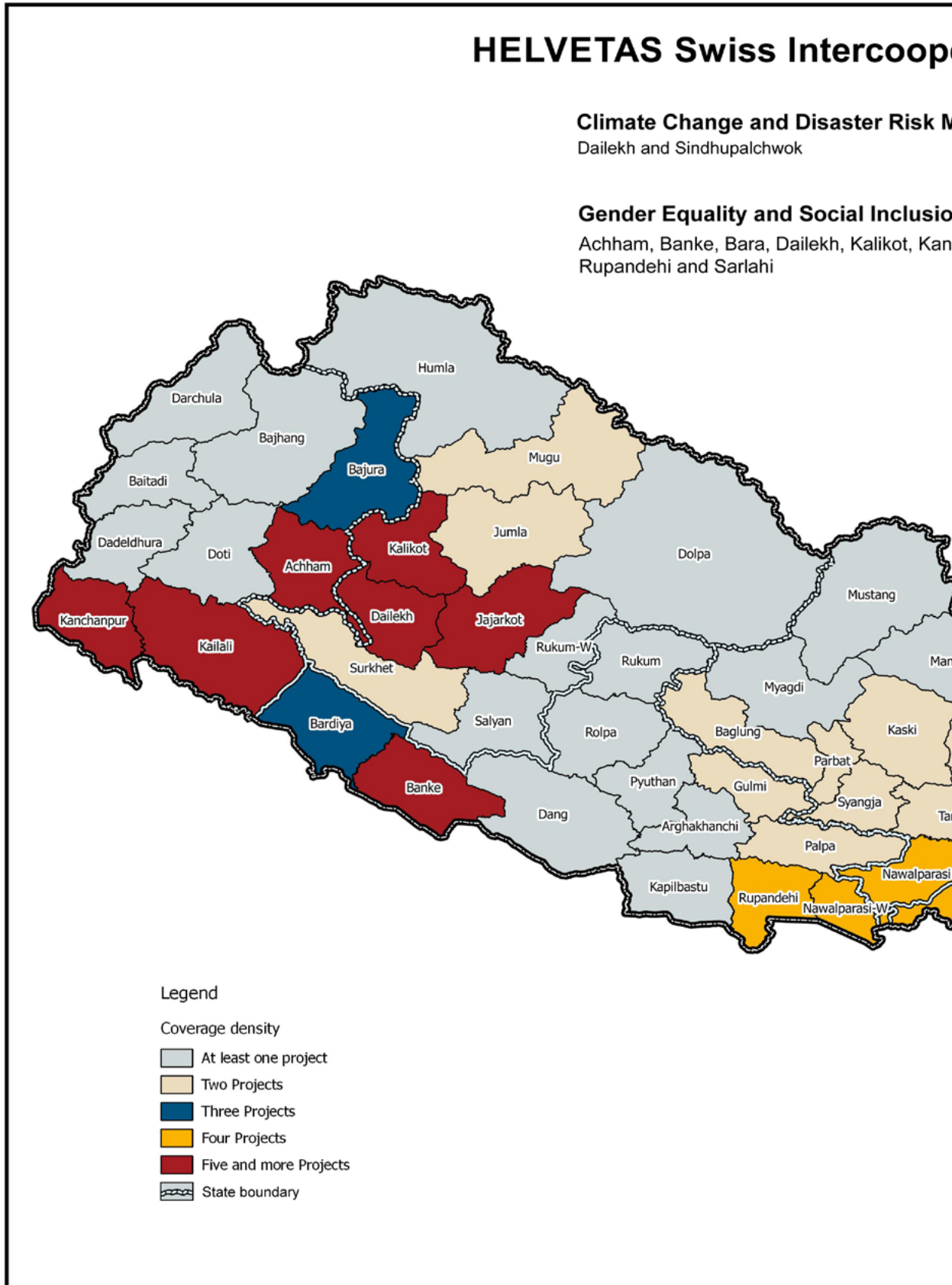
An important priority in 2017 was orientating the newly elected municipality representatives about the trail bridge programme. In order to facilitate this process, preparatory workshops were conducted for all TBSU and Regional Technical Assistance Providers (RTAPs) to bring a uniform understanding about the programme (after the roll out of federal structures), and to streamline key messages that need to be delivered. Accordingly, orientations for all palikas have been planned for the first half of 2018. In addition, TBSU offices will be established in all seven states to align programme activities with the newly established federal system, address existing human resource gaps within the palikas, and expand technical assistance to (potentially) 753 palikas (from the previously supported 75 districts). This will involve establishing a satellite office in state 7 and the introduction of a new RTAP for state 6 by early 2018. Furthermore, internships will be provided to 35 sub-engineers and 14 engineers to develop human resources in the market.



**991,829**

people benefited from 591 newly built bridges in 2017 of which 57 % are disadvantaged in 2017.

# Geographical Coverage



# Operation Nepal 2017 Coverage

## Management



### Economic Growth and Decent Employment

Bara, Banke, Bardiya, Bhaktapur, Chitawan, Dang, Dhading, Dhanusa, Dolakha, Jhapa, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Kaski, Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchok, Khotang, Lalitpur, Makwanpur, Mahottari, Nawalparasi, Nuwakot, Okhadhunga, Parsa, Ramechhap, Rasuwa, Rautahat, Rupandehi, Sarlahi, Saptari, Sindhupalchok, Sindhuli, Siraha, Sunsari, Syangja and Udayapur



n  
chanpur



### Food Security and Nutrition

Achham, Bajura, Banke, Bardiya, Dailekh, Dhanusa, Gorkha, Gulmi, Jajarkot, Jhapa, Jumla, Kalikot, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Kapilbastu, Kaski, Kavrepalanchok, Khotang, Lalitpur, Lamjung, Morang, Mugu, Nawalparasi, Nuwakot, Okhadhunga, Palpa, Parbat, Ramechhap, Rautahat, Rupandehi, Sarlahi, Sindhuli, Sindhupalchok, Surkhet, Sunsari, Syangja, Tanahun, Udayapur



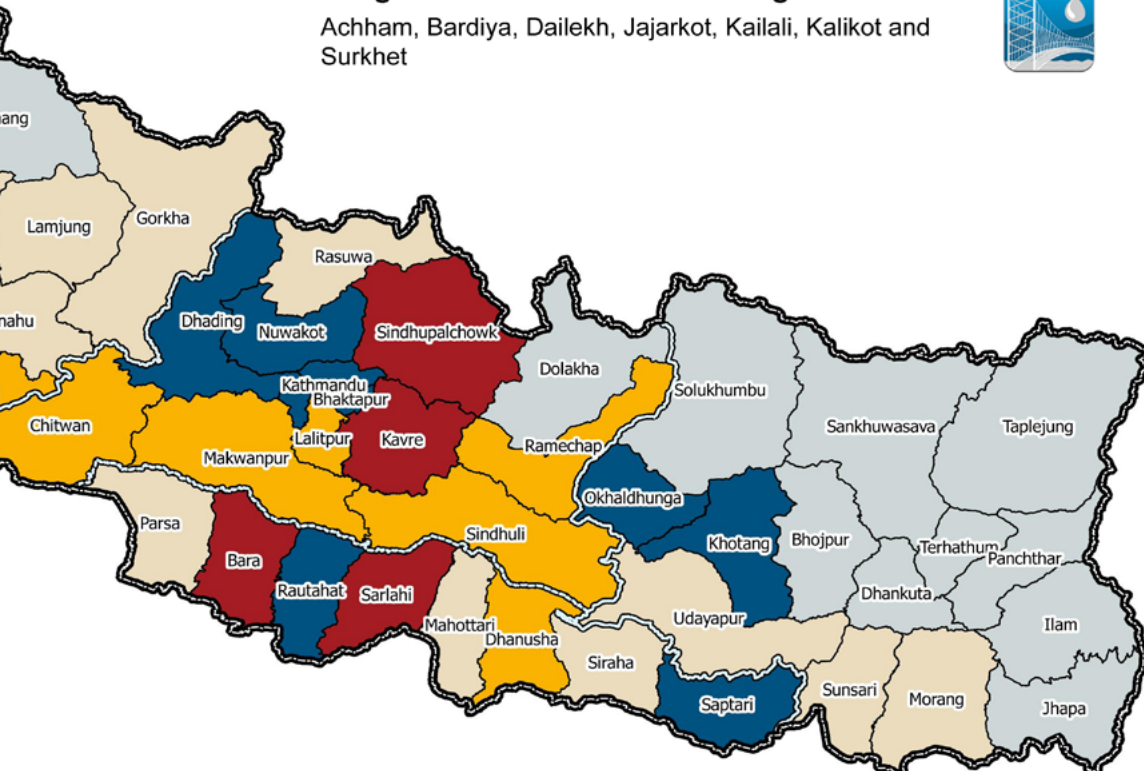
### Good Governance

Achham, Bajura, Dailekh, Jajarkot and Kalikot



### Integrated Water Resource Management

Achham, Bardiya, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Kailali, Kalikot and Surkhet



## Human Resources

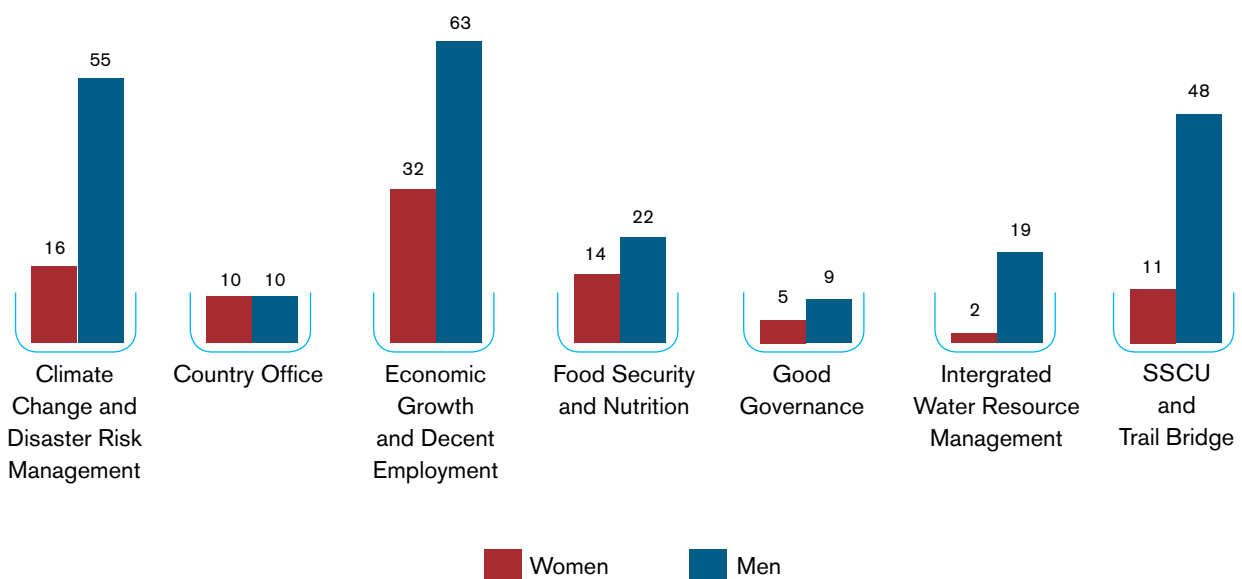
Organisational restructuring continued in 2017 in order to fully align staffing to the programmatic structure foreseen in the Country Strategy. The restructuring process, separation of staff due to projects being phased out, and retaining committed and experienced staff were major challenges for the management in 2017. However, these challenges also served as an opportunity to better match human resources to the programmes and projects. HELVETAS-Nepal was able to retain its competent staff in the REAP II and EVENT II projects.

Continued effort was made in 2017 to promote workforce diversity and build team spirit in HELVETAS-Nepal programmes. Whilst we have still not been able to attain the desired diversity in our workforce, we are committed to do so, and have strong processes in place to foster workforce diversity in the organisation. In 2017, representation of women in leadership positions remained at 33%, which is the same as in the previous year.

In 2017, as in previous years, HELVETAS-Nepal staff enjoyed a number of opportunities to attend national and international trainings and development programmes, and contributed their knowledge to the same. These included participation in an Unpaid Care Work session in SDC's Gender Learning Day in Bern, Switzerland and a Women's Political Empowerment workshop in Albania; sharing meetings on safer migration in the Philippines and India; study visits on apprentice training in the Philippines and on skills training in India; a Blue School workshop in Kenya, an exposure visit on climate change adaptation and women's rights in Bangladesh, and a remote sensing course in Thailand. In addition, HELVETAS-Nepal staff provided specific capacity building or backstopping support to a number of country programmes or other organisations, or exchanged knowledge on a peer-to-peer basis. These included contributions to two peer reviews of HELVETAS-Ethiopia projects - one on WASH, and the other on nutrition/sensitive agriculture, both in the context of SDC-supported knowledge exchange programmes; back-stopping support on gender to Action Aid projects in Cambodia and Vietnam and to a market systems development project of HELVETAS-Bangladesh; and technical assistance to the Mountain Hazelnut Project, Bhutan.

In the latter part of 2017, as federalisation became a reality and new project phases were being planned, the structure and staffing of future HELVETAS-Nepal offices became a major topic. We anticipate that this will be a major preoccupation in 2018, with certain staff currently based in Kathmandu being asked to relocate to states, and some of those in District headquarters being asked to relocate to selected palikas.

### Staff Composition Based on Gender by Programme





## Personal Story

### Down memory lane



**Bhim Ghotane**  
Executive Secretary (Until August 2017)

I joined the organisation just the other day. So it seems; but in real time this was thirty-three years ago – on 1st August 1984. On the eve of my retirement, on 13th August 2017, I cannot help but go back in time, with a tinge of nostalgia.

Unwittingly, I had picked an auspicious day to enter what was to truly become my second home, for it was my first Swiss national day celebration. In Nepal the organisation was then called SATA (Swiss Association for Technical Assistance).

From the early years, amongst many impressive team members, two very compassionate persons have left a lasting impression on me - Ben Dolf and Anni Guntli. The former was the Deputy Director of SATA and my immediate boss, while the latter was secretary to the Director. Hopefully they have influenced me, even if in very little ways. As the decades flew by, I had the continued good fortune of working with very hardworking, knowledgeable and capable colleagues and supervisors. Quite a few also possessed enviable human qualities. They include also individuals from other country programmes, as well as individuals working in head office, Switzerland. Especially since the merger of Helvetas and Intercooperation, I felt an increasing tempo of face-to-face interactions and learning amongst HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation personnel across country programmes. This was exceedingly gratifying as we were able to share our thoughts - in person as well as through e-mail and Skype. Equally gratifying were those experiences when I had opportunities to communicate with, and work with, individuals and a team from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland.

Over the decades I witnessed the interestingly organic evolution of the organization, as well as changing global trends in development aid. For many years – until June 1988 – projects under the umbrella of SATA used to be categorised as SDC projects and Helvetas projects. The Deputy Director of SATA used to be in charge of the latter. Since then, our organisational structure has changed drastically. So has our working approach. Whatever the context, there is no absence of challenges and opportunities, and I believe we have taken them in good stride.

After brief stints in a government school in Pokhara, a renowned travel agency in Kathmandu and a not-so-brief tenure in a mega American project, my long and initially inadvertent foray into Swiss development work has given me much gratification. This despite an early culture of holding official events in big hotels. The Swiss, I soon began to feel, are amongst altruistic donors. They are also good implementers. I used to compare notes about organisational culture with a few close friends who were working in projects run by the United Nations Development Programme in Nepal in the late 1980s and early 1990s. How they used to envy me!

As my reminiscing comes to a close I wish to thank everyone with whom I have had the opportunity to work. My life has been enriched.

## Granted a second birth



**Karan Dhama**  
**Technical Officer, Trail Bridge Support Unit (Until February 2018)**

I was born into a very ordinary family of nine members in the district of Dadeldhura, then one of the least developed districts of the far-western region. I had to walk two hours every day to go to school. After completing my school level education, my relatives supported me to pursue my studies as an overseer. Our family faced acute financial difficulties in those days, and we had to take a loan of six lakh rupees – just paying back the interest was a significant burden. As the eldest son, the responsibility of supporting my family fell on my shoulders when I was just 19 years old.

November 2009 was a turning point in my life as I got a job with the Trail Bridge Support Unit / HELVETAS. I was posted to the district of Mugu, where I worked for eight years. Supporting trail bridge construction in Mugu was very challenging, mainly to due to the rugged terrain and general remoteness. However, the trail bridge programme has taken momentum due to the policies put in place, the transparent working approach, the straight forward processes and regular monitoring, and the organisational commitment.

There are many memorable moments of my life working in Mugu on the trail bridge programme. For the first time, I bought a pair of shoes costing NRs. 1,600/- in order to go on a site survey. We had to start walking early in the morning and continued until late in the evening in order to reach the bridge site. Unfortunately, my shoes got torn on the way, and I had to buy plastic sandals to continue the journey. We used to sleep overnight in local houses; one night it started raining and the roof leaked, so I had to shelter under an umbrella all night to avoid getting wet. From trail bridge commencement to completion, I spent about 50 days on site per bridge. This meant that I had very little free time to go home, so I underwent my thread ceremony (traditional “coming of age” ritual, bartaman) in Mugu, in the presence of some of my friends. One of my toughest experiences was in building the Nerghat bridge. This lay three days walk from Gamgadhi, the district headquarters, along a trail made risky by falling overhead stones. Some pranksters stole my shoes and umbrella whilst I was conducting survey work during the rainy season. We visited this bridge site many times, only to return disappointed as no progress had been made. However, the bridge was finally completed after four years.

As a staff member of TBSU, I had the opportunity to travel in a plane for the first time in my life, and to see Kathmandu. I also learned to cross a river using a tuin (rope pulley system). In 2014, a fatal accident occurred in Kalikot, where I was supporting the construction of Sanigad bridge. There had been heavy rainfall over the previous two or three days, and at night there was a sudden flood which swept away the lodging in which I and a number of DDC (District Development Committee) and NGO colleagues were sleeping. My DDC and NGO colleagues lost their lives, along with twelve local people. I alone was the fortunate one to survive. Having found me on the bank of the river, colleagues from TBSU and HELVETAS chartered a helicopter to fly me to Dhangadi hospital for treatment. In view of my condition, the doctors in Dhangadi referred me to Kathmandu for further treatment, where I recovered fully. I believe this to be my second birth. It is also a true example of “Our staff are our top priority.”

During DDC and NGO meetings I used to be stressed and hesitant to voice my opinion due to a lack of confidence. Nevertheless, my colleagues insisted that I speak on social and technical matters; as a result, I developed my presentation skills. Over my eight years with TBSU, 31 bridges were completed, including the Sipghat bridge which had been pending for 20 years. Moreover, in one case the local community constructed a long span trail bridge of 148 metres; normally a bridge of such a length is implemented by a contractor. The District Council of Mugu declared the Trail Bridge Programme as a role model programme, and honoured me for my engagement.

With the aspiration of studying up to Masters level in engineering, I took the Public Service Commission exam three times, and finally succeeded. I have now joined the Irrigation Department at Nawalparasi as a sub-engineer.

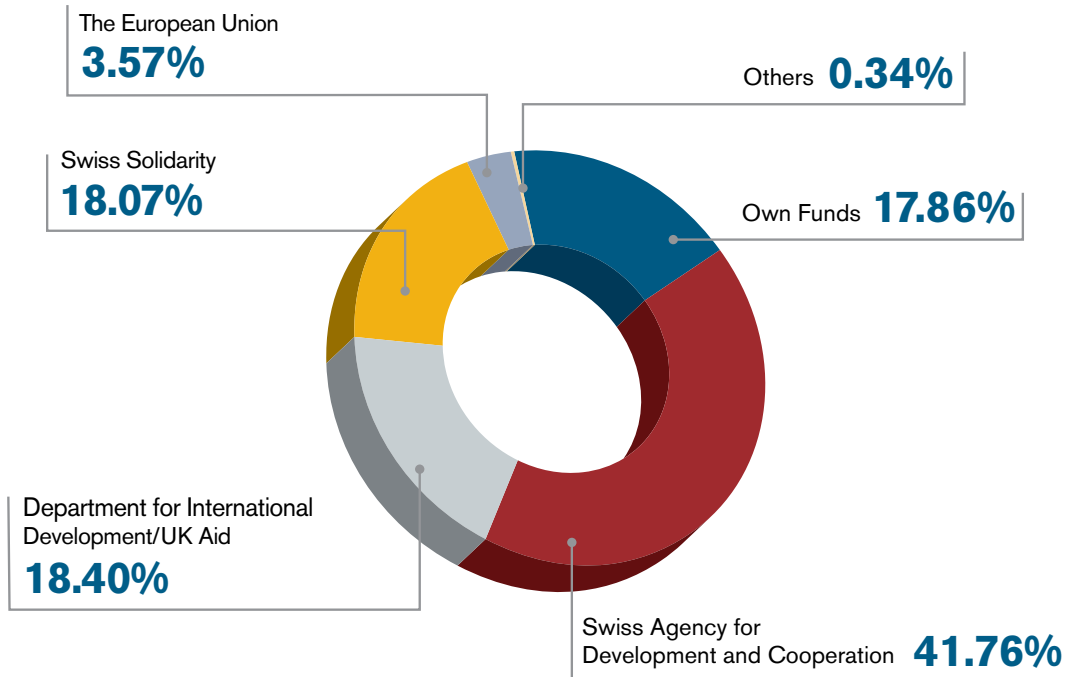
I am forever indebted to TBSU for the opportunity it gave me to change my life for the better, and for enabling me to support my two younger brothers to study up to Master’s level in Kathmandu.

## Budget and Investment

The approved budget for 2017 remained at 22.15 million Swiss Francs, a slight increase from 2016's approved budget of 22.13 million Swiss Francs. Progress with the reconstruction projects resulted in a better budget utilization ratio of 80% against utilization ratio of 59% of the previous year. The state restructuring process required major changes in working modalities of some of the projects. This resulted in less than optimal budget utilization ratio. The total spending for 2017 remained at 17.69 million Swiss Francs.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation continued to be the biggest source of fund spent in 2017 with a share of 42 per cent of the total funding. 18 per cent of the funds were from the organisation's own fund raising and programme contribution. Swiss Solidarity accounted for 18 per cent of the total funds supporting earthquake response, recovery and rehabilitation initiatives. The Department for International Development/UK Aid contributed a share of 18 per cent. The European Union contributed 4 per cent, while other donors combined contributed to less than 0.5 per cent.

### Sources of Funds (%)

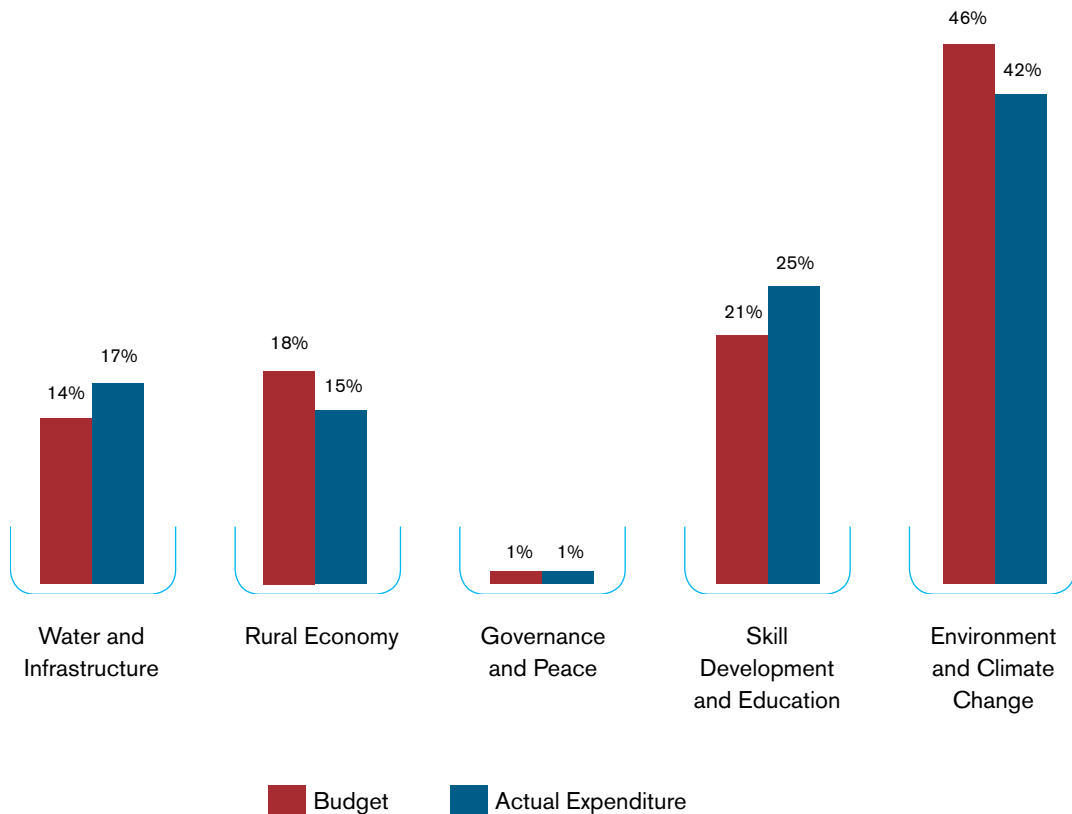


## Investment by Working Areas Budget vs. Actual Expenditure

The budget and investment for year 2017 is reported by the working areas of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation. The five working areas are the technical areas of global organisational expertise and experience:

- Education and Skills Development includes vocational training
- Environment and Climate includes sustainable natural resource management, climate change and disaster risk management
- Governance and Peace includes decentralisation, governance and human rights, conflict prevention and transformation, and migration
- Rural Economy includes sustainable agriculture and food security, income, markets and fair trade
- Water and Infrastructure includes drinking water, sanitation and water for food, rural roads and bridges.

### Investment by Working Areas Budget vs. Actual Expenditure



---

# Audit Report

---

 **JOSHI & BHANDARY** ■ Chartered Accountants

■ G.P.O. Box: 3423  
Kosi Compound, Dillibazar  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 977-1-4419364  
Tel: 977-1-4423550  
Fax: 977-1-4413038  
Web: www.jb.com.np

## Auditor's Report to

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal  
Lalitpur, Nepal

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Nepal. The financial statements comprise the Balance Sheet, Statement of Income and expenditure and related Schedules for the period January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 together with a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

## Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error ; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstance.

## Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standard on Auditing and as per the relevant standards issued by Auditing Standard Board of Nepal and as per terms of reference for audit. These standards and guidelines require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedure selected depends upon auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluation of the overall presentation of the financial statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

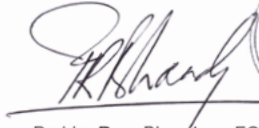
The HELVETAS policy is to prepare the accompanying Financial Statement on cash receipt and disbursement basis. On this basis revenue is recognized when received rather than earned and expenses are recognized when incurred. However some period and expense are booked under accrual basis of accounting as disclosed in the notes to the account.



**Opinion**

In our opinion and to the best of our information and explanation given to us, the financial statements referred to above, read with notes thereon, present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position as on December 31, 2017 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and accounting policies of the Organization where stated otherwise in the Notes to the financial statements.

For and on behalf of  
Joshi and Bhandary



Prabhu Ram Bhandary, FCA


Managing Partner

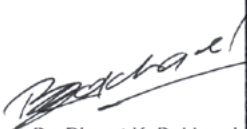
Date: March 23, 2018

Place: Kathmandu

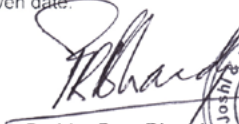
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal				
BALANCE SHEET				
As At December 31, 2017				
Currency ( NPR)				
Account Group	Description	Reference/ Schedule Numbers	2017	2016
	<b>ASSETS</b>			
1000	Cash in hand	1	231,419.15	238,144.65
1100	Cash at Bank	2	179,982,359.35	146,298,861.59
1150	Uncashed Cheques		-	-
1200	Debtors		-	344.00
1300	Internal Current Account		-	-
1400	Advances	3	202,337,798.51	115,658,678.88
1500	Deposits	4	560,191.32	19,529,401.32
	<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>383,111,768.33</b>	<b>281,725,430.44</b>
	<b>CAPITAL &amp; LIABILITIES</b>			
2000	<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
2010	Statutory Liabilities	5	856,648.33	196,422.13
2020	Staff Liabilities	5	22,023,089.98	21,198,592.57
2030	Other Current Liabilities	5	8,634,555.89	11,688,770.60
2040	Programme Creditors	5	42,500.00	42,500.00
	<b>Fund Balance</b>			
2100	<b>CAPITAL HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation</b>		351,554,974.13	248,599,145.14
	<b>Head Office, Switzerland</b>			
			<b>383,111,768.33</b>	<b>281,725,430.44</b>


The annexed notes form an integral part of this Balance Sheet

  
**Pragma Adhikari**  
 Head of Finance and Administration

  
**Dr. Bharat K. Pokharel**  
 Country Director

This Balance Sheet referred to in our separate report of even date.

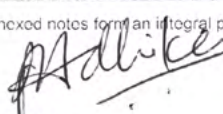
  
**Prabhu Ram Bhandary**  
 Chartered Accountant  
 Partner  
 Joshi & Bhandary  
 Chartered Accountants

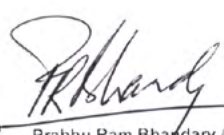


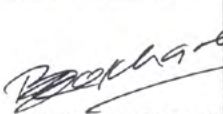
Place: Dobigahat, Lalitpur  
 Date: 23 March 2018

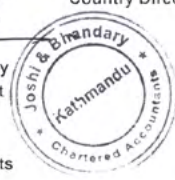
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal Statement of Income and Expenditure For the year 2017 : 1st January to 31st December 2017				
Currency (NPR)				
Account Group	Description	Reference/ Schedule Numbers	2017	2016
	<b>INCOME</b>			
9000	<b>Remittances / Grant receipts</b>			
	Remittances from Head Office	6	1,785,058,539.84	1,307,050,797.72
	Remittances from local donors	7	49,940,005.35	27,018,334.02
	<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>1,834,998,545.19</b>	<b>1,334,069,131.74</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
51	<b>Personnel costs Expatriates</b>			
5130	Expatriates Recruitment costs			-
5140	Expatriates HRD costs			-
5150	Expatriate Travelling and Representation costs		684,448.30	1,520,560.62
5151	Expatriate Homeleave & Transfer Costs			-
5160	Expatriate Foreign residence costs			-
5169	Other Expatriation costs		60,878.75	60,878.75
52	<b>Personnel costs Nationals</b>			
5200	Personnel Cost Nationals		462,857,033.44	395,073,892.62
5250	Travel & Representation costs National Staff		42,868,212.54	40,301,642.23
54	<b>Local Consultants</b>			
5400	National Consultants fees		29,277,736.25	11,624,001.74
5450	National Consultants Travel & Repr. Costs		802,105.87	813,325.37
71	<b>Operating Cost</b>			
7110	Vehicles		20,031,994.50	20,277,062.22
7120	Office costs		65,991,673.70	58,998,332.27
7150	Other Operating costs		11,932,483.88	7,729,704.32
72	<b>Project Costs International</b>			
7210	Education and Training costs		54,117,075.22	67,323,720.90
7220	Investment and Equipment costs		11,102,343.74	5,024,494.38
7231	Contribution to NGO		177,129,531.29	230,852,890.48
7232	Contribution to Govt Authorities		1,624,280.00	-
7233	Contribution to Private Sector		-	-
7234	Contribution to Beneficiaries		192,137,796.48	46,806,981.95
7239	Various contribution to Partners		629,557,768.48	410,287,809.63
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>1,700,175,362.44</b>	<b>1,296,695,297.48</b>
	<b>OTHER RECEIPTS</b>			
8200	Bank Interest		-	-
	<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>134,823,182.75</b>	<b>37,373,834.26</b>

The annexed notes form an integral part of this Income & Expenditure Statement.

  
 Pragya Adhikari  
 Head of Finance and Administration

  
 Prabhuram Bhandary  
 Chartered Accountant  
 Partner  
 Joshi & Bhandary  
 Chartered Accountants

  
 Dr. Bharat K. Pokharel  
 Country Director



Place: Dobigahat, Lalitpur  
Date: 23 March 2018



---

## Way Forward

---

The major focus in 2017 was to implement the country strategy. However, by the later part of the year, it was clear that major further adjustment was needed, to respond to the federalisation process. Much energy went into the reorientation of staff and partners about the provisions of the constitution, the legal framework, and their implications for the work of HELVETAS-Nepal. This is still an on-going process.

Changes in the political and institutional context have brought huge opportunities and many challenges. The mid-term review of the country strategy in early 2018 will therefore be an important step in guiding any further restructuring and adjustment to the existing programme strategies that is deemed necessary. This must also take into account the new strategy of SDC-Nepal as well as the response of other donors to federalisation. Since the political context has changed so massively, we anticipate that the mid-term review may recommend considerable reorganisation of the Country Office, the six programmes, and all the supporting functions that ensure the smooth and efficient implementation of activities. It is clear that an increased field presence at gaunpalika, nagarpalika and state level is needed.

**Food Security and Nutrition:** Adjustment of the programme will take place to respond to the federalisation process. Implementation of the various components envisaged in the programme strategy will continue with the funding support of SDC, IFAD, EU and the Swiss public, providing technical assistance to the government on a decentralised agricultural extension system as well as riverbed farming and coffee. The current scope of work on riverbeds will be expanded to riverbanks, while technical inputs to partners, research and innovations will continue, particularly on extension methods, coffee, nuts. The programme will place particular emphasis in 2018 on documentation, knowledge sharing and the development of advocacy materials.

**Integrated Water Resources Management:** Adjustment to the Water Use Master Planning process, as well as the programme's own structure, will be made in the context of the new federal structures and the role of the gaunpalikas and nagarpalikas. The implementation of the various components envisaged in the programme strategy will continue with funding support from the Finnish Government, the Swiss public, Viva con Agua, and Solaqua. Particular emphasis will be placed on sanitation and hygiene schemes, and the promotion of total sanitation including menstrual hygiene management.

**Economic Growth and Decent Employment:** The draft strategy for Economic Growth and Decent Employment programme, which is also subject to review by the MTR team, has envisioned four components. These are employability and decent employment; safer and beneficial migration; enterprise development and job creation; and sectoral capacity and system building. All these components are an integral part of on-going projects. SDC mandates such as the Safer Migration (SaMi) Project Phase III, Skills for Reconstruction, skills development through short courses, On the Job training, apprenticeships, and career guidance will continue. The project Elam, funded through contributions from the Swiss public, will also continue.

**Good governance:** In addition to the implementation of the EU mandated project, the main focus of the Good Governance programme in 2018 will be to reorient our staff and partners in all our programmes and projects about the key features of federalism, the implications for the working modality of HELVETAS-Nepal, and the adjustment needed. There are many new opportunities for the expansion of this programme in the context of federalisation, which will be harnessed as far as possible.

**Gender Equality and Social Inclusion:** The draft strategy for this programme envisions interventions through a two-pronged approach: stand-alone, and cross-cutting interventions. These will be mainly in women's economic empowerment (WEE); unpaid care work; violence against women; legal camps; engagement with women's movements and campaigns, and capacity building training and technical support to other projects. In coordination with other HELVETAS programmes and projects, women's enterprise development will be facilitated and strengthened, working with women's groups. Efforts will be made to document and publish different tools and experiences such as an Unpaid Care Work guideline, time diary, important legal aspects, and labour-saving devices. A strategic engagement with rural women's networks is envisaged to support women's movements and campaigns. It is expected that the programme will be mainly funded through contributions by the Swiss public.

**Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management:** A large part of this programme has, to now, been focused on earthquake reconstruction activities. Projects funded by HELVETAS and Swiss Solidarity Fund will continue to support the NRA in shelter, WASH, irrigation, rehabilitation of water mills and other services in 2018. Looking further ahead, a final draft strategy for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management is already prepared. This proposes four components namely: understanding vulnerability; risk and preparedness adaptation to build socio-ecological resilience; disaster risk management; and mainstreaming and integration. As in the case of other programme strategies, this will be reviewed by the MTR in the context of federalisation, donor interest, and potential synergies with other programmes.

# Portfolio

## Programme



**Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management**

## Coverage (Districts)

Dailekh and Sindhupalchok



**Economic Growth and Decent Employment**

Bara, Banke, Bardiya, Bhaktapur, Chitwan, Dang, Dhading, Dhanusa, Dolakha, Jhapa, Kailaki, Kanchanpur, Kaski, Kathmandu, Kaverpalanchok, Khotang, Lalitpur, Makwanpur, Mahottari, Nawalparasi, Nuwakot, Okhaldhunga, Parsa, Ramechhap, Rasuwa, Rautahat, Rupandehi, Sarlahi, Saptari, Sindhupalchok, Sindhuli, Siraha, Sunsari, Syangja and Udayapur



**Food Security and Nutrition**

Achham, Bajura, Banke, Bardiya, Dailekh, Dhanusa, Gorkha, Gulmi, Jajarkot, Jhapa, Jumla, Kalikot, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Kapilbastu, Kaski, Kavrepalanchok, Khotang, Lalitpur, Lamjung, Morang, Mugu, Nawalparasi, Nuwakot, Okhaldhunga, Palpa, Parbat, Ramechhap, Rautahat, Rupandehi, Sarlahi, Sindhuli, Sindhupalchok, Surkhet, Sunsari, Syangja, Tanahun and Udayapur



**Gender Equality and Social Inclusion**

Achham, Banke, Bara, Dailekh, Kalikot, Kanchanpur, Rupandehi and Sarlahi



**Good Governance**

Achham, Bajura, Dailekh and Kalikot



**Integrated Water Resource Management**

Achham, Bardiya, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Kailali, Kalikot and Surkhet

## Independent Projects

South-South Cooperation

International cooperation

Trail Bridge

Nationwide

UNNATI - Monitoring and Result Measurement

Bhojpur, Dhankuta, Ilam, Panchthar, Sankhuwasabha, Taplejung and Terhathum

## Thanks

---

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation would like to sincerely thank all its partners who continue to support in achieving the desired outcomes and outputs:

### Government Agencies and Projects

Budhinanda Municipality, Bajura  
Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT)  
Department of Agriculture  
Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads  
Department of Water Supply and Sewerage  
District Agriculture Office, Bardiya for Prime Minister Agricultural Modernization Project  
District Agriculture Office, Sindhuli for Prime Minister Agricultural Modernization Project, Sindhuli  
Gulanjor Gaupalika, Sindhuli  
Hariwan Nagarpalika, Sarlahi  
Helambu Nagarpalika, Sindhupalchowk  
Krisnapur Nagarpalika, Kanchanpur  
Melamchi Nagarpalika  
Ministry of Agricultural Development and its district units  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and its district units  
Ministry of Finance  
Ministry of Labour, Employment and Commerce and its units  
Ministry of Physical Planning and Works  
National Planning Commission  
National Tea and Coffee Development Board  
Nepal Agriculture Research Council  
Nijgud Nagarpalika, Bara  
Poverty Alleviation Fund  
Training Institute for Technical Instruction (TITI) / CTEVT

### Donor and International Implementation Partners

CARITAS Switzerland  
Department for International Development (UKAid)  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit  
Eawag  
Embassy of Denmark  
Fastenopfer  
GFA Consulting Group  
ICCO Cooperation  
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)  
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)  
Lutheran World Relief  
NIRAS  
RAIN Foundation  
Rights and Resources Group  
Solaqua  
Solidar Suisse  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
Swiss Solidarity  
The European Union  
The Glacier Trust  
The International Development Research Centre  
The Water Integrity Network  
VivaConAgua

## Non-Governmental National and Local Implementation Partners

Action for Development Pvt. Ltd. (AFD)  
 Alliance For Social Mobilization Pvt. Ltd. (AN)  
 ANTARANG  
 Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio resources (ANSAB)  
 Asian Forum  
 Associates' Nepal Synergy (ANS)  
 Awaj Abhiyan Nepal  
 Bahuudashaya Capital Trainig Center  
 Bal Sewa Samaj  
 Bedkot Nagar Palika, Kanchanpur  
 Bhimdutta Nagar Palika, Kanchanpur  
 Byabasaya Talim Bikas Tatha Paramarsha Kendra Pvt. Ltd. (BDCC)  
 Centre for Mental Health and Counseling Nepal (CMC-Nepal)  
 Chamber of Commerce and Industries Birgunj, Parsa  
 Chandarjyoti Ekikrit Gramin Bikash Samaj  
 Charghare Sewa Samiti  
 Civil Society Alliance for Nutrition, Nepal (CSANN)  
 Community Human Resource Development Programme  
 Community Development and Environment Conservation Forum, Sindhupalchok  
 Community for Social Development Centre  
 Cooperation For Development (CFD)-Jajarkot  
 Creative Skills Private Limited ( CMES)  
 Everest club  
 Fine Smart International Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.-Banke  
 Foreign Employment Promotion Board (FEPB)  
 FORWARD Nepal  
 F-Skill Pvt Ltd. ( F-SKILL)  
 Genius Multi Technical Institute Pvt. Ltd. (GMTI)  
 Good Governance Club, Jajarkot  
 Growth Sellers Pvt. Ltd  
 Himalaya Social Development Centre (HSDC)-Jajarkot  
 Himalayan Community Development Forum  
 Hotel Association of Nepal  
 Human Rights, and Environmental Development Centre (HuREnDeC)  
 Indreni Social Development Forum  
 Ishorpur Nagarpalika, Sarlahi  
 Jana Chetana Abhiyan Nepal (PACN)  
 Jayan Technical College of Technology Pvt. Ltd. (JAYAN)  
 Junar Coperative Association Of Nepal, Sindhuli  
 Kamala Mai Nagarpalika, Sindhuli  
 Kantipur Bahu Prabidhik Shikshalaya (KBPS)  
 Kathmandu University (KU)  
 Kohalpur Institute of Technical Education Pvt Ltd (KITE)  
 Mahila Aatmanirbhar Kendra (MANK), Sindhupalchok  
 Mega Bank Pvt Ltd  
 Mitra Dhanusha  
 Multi Skill & Environment Development (MSED)  
 National Association of VDCs in Nepal (NAVIN)  
 National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM)  
 National Reconstruction Authority  
 Nawa Kiran Sewa Samaj Nepal  
 Nepal Biotech Private Ltd , Bhaisepati Kathmandu  
 Nepal Engineering and Technical Science Academy (NETSA)  
 Nepal Federation of Saving and Credit Cooperative Unions Ltd. (NEFSCUN)

Nepal Herbs and Herbal Association of Nepal  
Nikhil Multiservice  
North Star and Miteri  
Panchakanya Training Institute (PTI)  
Pathibhara Himalayan Polytechnic Institute (PHPI)  
People Forum for Human Rights (PF)  
Pourakhi Nepal  
Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee (PNCC)  
Rastriya Rojgar Prabardhan Kendra  
Reconstruction Development Centre (RRDC)-Bajura  
REMREC and SITARA  
Rural Development Centre (RUDEC)-Achham  
Rural Development Nepal (RDN)-Kalikot  
Rural Infrastructure & Management Consultant Pvt. Ltd. (RIMC)  
Rural Society Development Center (RSDC), Sunsari  
Rural Women Upliftment Association  
Sabal Nepal  
Sahayogi Samaj Nepal  
Sana Byabasaya Pramasha tatha Talim Kendra Pvt. Ltd. (BCC)  
Saptari Samudahik Bikash Kendra  
SEBAC-Nepal  
Shangri-La Association-Jumla  
Shreeram Niketan Biotech Pvt. Ltd  
Social Awareness Development Academy (SADA)  
Social Development Centre (SODEC) Pvt. Ltd.  
Srijansil Samaj ko Srijana  
Subarna Multiple Training Center  
Surya Samajik Sewa Sangh (4S)-Jumla  
Sustainable Agriculture and Environment and Water Conservation Centre (SAEWCC)  
Sustainable Technology Adaptive Research and Implementation Center, Nepal (STARIC/N),  
Trade Link  
Training and Consultancy Centre for Employment (TRACE)  
Training Center Nepal (TCN)  
TUKI Sindhupalchok  
Ujyaalo 90 Network  
Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs Nepal (UCEP Nepal)  
Women Development Forum (WDF), Bajura  
Women Empowerment Action Forum, Dailekh  
Women Upliftment and Awareness Centre (WUAC)-Mugu

We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude and thanks to all individual local resource persons, cooperatives, users' committees, experienced leader farmers and consultants for their valuable support and services extended by them.





**HELVETAS**  
Swiss Intercooperation

**NEPAL**

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal  
Dhobighat, Lalitpur  
G.P.O. Box 688, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Phone: +977 1 5522013, +977 1 5524926  
Fax: + 977 1 5531109  
E-Mail: [co.np@helvetas.org](mailto:co.np@helvetas.org)  
<https://nepal.helvetas.org>