

2017

Annual Progress Report



**Rural Community Development
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Acknowledgement

Since establishment of Rural Community Service Council (RCDSC) has continuously engaged in achieving its visions and mission by implementing different strategic programs which are aimed at enhancing community capacity and creating amicable environment for lives for most marginalized and vulnerable people who are living in the extreme conditions of deprivations and ignorance. During the period of 2017 also, RCDSC made its utmost efforts to improve social security and health condition of marginalized and vulnerable communities through the promotion of livelihood and health improvement initiatives. The projects funded by Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF), Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDEP)/UNDP, European Commission Nepal Office, Rural Water and Sanitation Fund Board (RWSFB) and ESP/UNDP have contributed significantly in the efforts of RCDSC towards achieving its goals and objectives through improved socio-economic and health condition of marginalized, poor and vulnerable communities. RCDSC successfully implemented the activities as planned for fiscal year 2017 under the funding support of different donor agencies which are definitely become a landmark for contributing holistic development interventions at local level.

During implementation of different programs at the field level, RCDSC received remarkable contributions from target communities which are definitely praiseworthy for effective execution of development activities through direct and active participation of target communities for which the projects are intended for. The collaborative support and direct involvement of different government line agencies, local authorities and local civil society organizations created trust and realization for joint initiatives for addressing issues of poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities. The cordial efforts carried forth by the dedication and commitment of project personnel, members and social activists are very commendable.

The annual report - features, in brief, about the status of the entire program implemented in the F/Y 2017, and comprises of the program essence as an abstract taken from the periodic reports of concerned program/project which were prepared and submitted to the respective donor/partners. This report also includes general background, achievements of the intervened program, and a brief introduction of organizational vision, mission and objectives along with financial statement of the financial year 2017.

Ram Aadhar Kapar, President

Summary of Annual Progress Report, 2017

Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC) has been continuously engaged for contributing sustainable development and protecting and promoting human rights of marginalized and vulnerable communities. During the fiscal year 2017, RCDSC engaged in innovations, partnerships, extension of both geographical and community (population) outreach for extending and accessing its services to marginalized and unreached population. The main focuses of different development interventions implemented by RCDSC were on promoting livelihood status of poor community of Mahottari district with continuous awareness raising initiatives for ensuring rights of the disadvantaged and marginalized community.

RCDSC is a non Governmental Organization (NGO) working in the mid-terai region of Nepal and it has been working for promoting the rights of socially, culturally and politically excluded groups/communities through the intervention of several program and activities. RCDSC has initiated expanding its working outreach beyond Mahottari district and engaged implementing some development activities in Dhanushat district as well through projects for creating and engaging poor and marginalized communities in livelihoods improvement enterprise development activities. Expanding its geographical outreach, RCDSC created an opportunity to enhance the organizational capacity of playing a facilitative and advocacy role to contribute in sustainable development of the country. Similarly, RCDSC has initiated strategies of interventions to overcome the challenges of social changes in the issues of human rights and democracy.

The Annual Progress Report of F/Y 2017 presents a glimpse of the progress of the different projects mentioned. During the year, projects like MEDPA, Poverty alleviation, MEDEP, Water and Sanitation, Women Empowerment and Human Rights Promotion, and some others were implemented. These projects are implemented through direct and active participation of poor and excluded community people for improving their livelihoods and protection of human rights. RCDSC has been implementing saving and credit activities for making rural population economically self reliance. Similarly Community FM program has also been effective for generating awareness to community people. The theme of this report is to maintain coherence in our perspective and programs as we undertake many different interventions in many different constituencies, locations and sites and also inform concerned stakeholders about RCDSC's activities and achievements.

Part 1

Brief Overview of Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDS)

Vision, Mission, Goal and Objectives of RCDS

VISION

Enabling an equitable society with improved social, economical and political situation

MISSION

- Organize and capacitate Dalits, Women, Children and Marginal Farmers against Untouchability, Child labor, Child Marriage, Human trafficking, Caste/class violence, Gender violence and all forms of social discrimination and violence.
- Strengthen community to have equal share in the resources and ensuring their dignified participation in the decision-making process
- Fostering democratic methods to strengthen the democratic fabric in the society; and to bring good governance, peace and progress.
- Empowering men and women for their equal multidimensional development.

Objectives

- To organize and capacitate dalits, men and women against untouchability and gender discriminations/violence.
- To initiate advocacy, lobby and campaign against various kinds of traditional obscurantism like, dowry system, veil system, child marriage, child labor, belief in "dyan" (witches), and to eliminate bonded/ semi bonded labor and child labor etc.
- To provide short term relief and support for rehabilitation to the victims of conflict and natural disaster.
- To raise awareness on disaster preparedness and protect the natural environment of the rural areas.
- To raise consciousness of the community about their rights to health and sanitation.
- To raise awareness on human rights, democracy and rights based development to foster human dignity and peace in the community.
- To make aware and provide services to the men, women and children of rural areas in their reproductive health, family planning, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV-AIDS etc.
- To organize the small and marginal farmers for their economic and social development.
- To promote 'Mithila Art' and facilitate in its market extension to boost economic condition of rural community people as well as to promote cultural heritage of Eastern Terai, Nepal.
- To work in partnership with other agencies and group in pursuit of these aims and objectives.

Organizational Structure

An executive board consisting of a President, one Vice President, one Secretary, one Treasurer 5 Executive members governs RCDS. Out of 9 board members, 4 (44%) are female, and 2 (22%) dalits with Vice-President Female. There are 85 (Female 35, Male 50) general members in RCDS. Out of total members, there are specialized two separate

committees (i) Gender committee and (ii) Dalit committee which are responsible to look after gender and dalit issues.

There is of small team of administrative staff (Three male and two female) for smooth functioning of office and the program. Besides, there is 92 staff that are hired and mobilized as per the needs of different project, implemented by RCDSC. Out of the total staff, 32 staffs are female and 16 staffs are dalits . In addition, all the staff have been oriented and trained on gender and dalit issues

Source of Funding

As RCDSC is a non profit organization, a larger number of funding comes from donors and International NGOs. Besides, RCDSC has mobilized its internal resource to generate its own fund. Membership contribution, rent from training equipments and hall, overhead from mobilizing cooperatives organizations are other sources internal of funding.

Part 2

Progress Details of F/Y 2017

1. *Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA)*

RCDSC implemented UNDP funded Micro Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) program in coordination with Regional office APSO of UNDP and District Small Cottage and Industry Development Officer. The overall objective of this project is to contribute to reduce the poverty by enhancing skill to local entrepreneurs to restoring the foundations for sustainable development by strengthening the capacities of communities. The program's key target groups are dalit communities, ethnic minorities, single women, economically disadvantaged and unemployed youths. The project was focused on developing enterprise skills in order to engage them in income generating activities.



RCDSC implemented the MEDPA in previously 5 VDCs of Mahottari district namely Akariya, Dhamaura, Singyahi, Belgachhi, Khopi and Sadha.

Total budget of the project was NRs. 7000000/-.

The final beneficiaries of the project were as follows;

Table:

New Entrepreneurs Developed					
Total	Male	Female	Dalit	Janajati	Other
295	280	15	156	52	87
Strengthened Capacity of Old Entrepreneurs					
115	108	7	41	23	51

Achievements:

- 295 marginalized and poor beneficiaries have been identified by using PRA tools and information is recorded in the computer.
- 295 marginalized individual received training in different enterprises and they were supported with different entrepreneurship equipments and capacity building initiatives.
- 115 entrepreneurs received refresher training on different enterprise skill and they were supported with business technology and equipments. Under the scale up support, 115 were provided clay-bangle training, bicycle for ice-cream selling, bangles making and cookies and bhujiya making training cum equipments support.

2. Poverty Alleviation Program

RCDSC has been implementing poverty alleviation program funded Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF) since June 2004. The program is being implemented in previously nine VDCs of Mahottari district namely Nainahi, Padaul, Siwa Katiya, Halkhori, Gauribas, Nainih, Koliwa Bagaiya, Bathnaha and Prasa Pateli VDCs of Mahottari. The main objective of the PAF program is to improve living conditions of poor, marginalized and vulnerable people thereby contribute to poverty reduction efforts of Government of Nepal. From the project about 3365 households of poor and marginalized population get benefitted from the project interventions. Among total population of 12991 have benefitted among which 46% i.e., 5,989 were women beneficiaries. Among total population 5518 were belonged to Dalit population, 3124 belonged 3124 and 4349 population were belonged to other.



Total Number of population benefitted from Poverty Alleviation Fund Programme

Households	Total Population				
	Female	Male	Dalit	Janajatis	Other
3665	5989	7002	5518	3124	4349

PAF has supported the poor and disadvantaged communities in developing their institutions, in different Income Generation activities, direct community support programs, training and capacity building. RCDSC has implemented the project through the application of 5 major components implemented as:

a. Community Mobilization and Facilitation

Total 93 community organization (COs) are formed (Nainhi -35, Padaul-29, Saswa Katiya-7, Bathnaha-11 and Parsa Pateli-11. They are registered in GoN/PAF. RCDSC has made a contractual agreement to work with them as per the guidelines of poverty alleviation in all the 5 VDCs. A pocket area for vegetable farming has been developed in each 5 VDCs and orientation is provided to the selected farmers. According to the demand of community organizations, community organizations are federated into 5 groups for implementing infrastructural development and pocket program activities. During this fiscal year, one business house, two rural foot trail, two drinking water scheme and one pocket area development for vegetable farming have been initiated. In all 5 project VDCs, the saving and credit groups have initiated to transform their groups into cooperatives.

b. Technical Assistance

Prefeasibility study, survey, design and estimation of the productive infrastructure as demanded by community organizations (Cos) have been carried out.

c. Capacity Building of COs

5 VDC level farmers' network has been formulated by bringing representatives of 5 different VDCs and accordingly oriented. The network has now becoming activated to advocate for the livelihood development of CO members and the COs have started facilitating its members if any misunderstanding occurred into their groups. RCDSC organized exposure visits, cooperative management training, micro enterprise development training, social mobilization training, financial management training and network development training to members of

community organizations. Under PAF, RCDSC provided training on off-season vegetable farming and seed distribution to the selected farmers and farmers groups.

d. Capacity Building of POs

A three day joint training was conducted among 21 staffs that included Project Coordinator, Supervisors and Social Mobilizers of 4 partner organizations in the project period. Similarly, an exposure visit was carried out to the staffs of 4 partner organizations to observe the new technology and success cases in other PAF implemented districts. The exposure visit was useful to adopt new ideas and working modality for improving livelihoods of poor and marginalized communities.

e. Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination

VDC level monitoring was done on regular basis by different project personnel and organizational committee members. A joint monitoring among PAF staff, District authorities were also done. Similarly, a PO level interaction program and District level interaction program was done to share challenges, best practices and lesson learns from the project interventions.

3. Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (RDWSSP)

RCDSC implemented Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (RDWSSP) from the funding of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Fund Board in 2 Municipalities and 1 Rural Municipality, in which 7 schemes were implemented. The main objective of the project was to improve health, hygiene and sanitation situation of poor and marginalized population by increasing their access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. The project carried massive sensitization activities on safe hygiene and sanitation behaviours.

The project provided training to Users Committee on leadership development and community mobilization.



The Users Committees are also linked with District level stakeholders. In order to sustain and develop community ownership, the communities have contributed at least 10% of the total project cost on their own. In development phase (other activities that started before drinking water system construction) of those scheme different activities already started. Those activities are; toilet construction in each household, user committees formation and provide health/sanitation training to beneficiaries, women group formation and started saving credit programme, training to mothers about personal hygiene and vaccination to children.

From the project interventions, about 1990 poor and marginalized households are directly benefitted.

Table: Number of population benefitted from the project

Total Population	Female	Male	Dalits	Janajatis	Other
1224	6204	6040	3192	852	8200

Achievements:

- 1990 poor households are linked with safe drinking water supply.
- Among four villages, two villages are declared Open Defecation Free areas.

4. Empowering Marginalized Madhesi Women for Inclusive Governance and Political Participation

RCDSC implemented Empowering Marginalized Madhesi Women for Inclusive Governance and Political Participation in previously six VDCs of Mahottari district namely Dirapur, Majhaura Bisanpur, Matihani, Simardahi, Suga Bhawani Pati and Mahottari.



The overall objective of the Action was to contribute in promoting inclusive governance and political participation for ensuring human rights and inclusive democratic reform process in Nepal. To contribute to the overall objective, specific objective for the action was to empower Marginalized Madhesi Women (MMW) for improving governance and their political participation and representation by strengthening institutional capacity of civil society on human rights and inclusive democratic reform process and supporting for improved economic and social capitals.

Dalit Madhesi women and marginalized Muslim women are one of the highly disadvantaged and marginalized groups in Nepal. They are the most suffered group from poverty, political and socio-economic exclusion and human rights violations. The participation and representation of marginalized Madhesi women in governance, socio-economic and political structures are very poor. Considering marginalization and deprivation situation of marginalized Madhesi women, there are mounting demands for improving their socio-economic situation through engaging them in governance reform process and increasing their participation and representation in public and political decision making process. The approach of empowering marginalized Madhesi women and increasing their participation in governance and political arena was envisioned as a pragmatic approach to overcome from the rooted human rights violations against marginalized Madhesi women. Realizing the needs of the target groups, the project on empowering Marginalized Madhesi Women for Inclusive Governance and Political Participation was carried out under the financial support from European Union. This project was implemented in previously six VDCs namely Dirapur, Majhaura Bisanpur, Matihani, Simardahi, Suga Bhawani Pati and Mahottari of the Mahottari district from 19th December 2014 to 18th June, 2017.

This project aimed to sensitize and enhance capacity of Marginalized Madhesi women and other marginalized people to bring political as well as human right awareness through encouraging marginalized Madhesi women's participation in local/national politics, and engaging local governmental authorities and political bodies to bring positive social-economic changes. The project successfully completed all activities as planned by the project. The project also consolidated its efforts to make tangible positive impacts on protecting and promoting rights of marginalized Madhesi women through the enhancing institutional capacities of the Women' Right Protection Groups (WRPGs) and Village level Alliance for Women' Rights (VAWRs).

The project facilitated marginalized Madhesi Women and governmental organizations and Civil Society Organizations to get informed about human rights issues of marginalized Madhesi women and girls and thus focused on increasing information and capacity of Marginalized Madhesi Women (MMW) for making them capable for claiming their rights,

strengthening local community capacities and role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for their proactive engagement for protecting and promoting rights of marginalized and disadvantaged communities, through constructive dialogues, with local political bodies, local authorities, Public Service Providers (PSP) and CSOs including media and communities. The project facilitated all concerned stakeholders to adopt inclusive and holistic approach for political participation and representation of MMW and accountability at local level, and enhanced their socio-economic status by providing income generating opportunities for building self confidence and encouragement. It is therefore, the project provided some income and employment generating trainings with materials support to marginalized Madhesi women and girls so that they can be engaged in enterprise development activities to improve their livelihoods and become economically self reliant.

The project supported WRPGs and VAWRs to effectively engage in advocating and lobbying human right issues of marginalized Madhesi women and girls. As a result, the participation and representation of marginalized women has been substantially increased community level decision making bodies and local election processes.

Success Case: How Mrs Dulari becomes Self Reliant

Mrs. Dulari Devi Paswan belongs to dalit family. Her family was so poor that they can hardly manage their daily livelihoods. But when RCDSC implemented European Commission supported project in her VDC, she became a treasure of Ganesh Women Group formed under the facilitative support of the project. Ms. Paswan is one of the active members of the group and she never misses the monthly meeting of the group. When project staff informed women group about seasonal vegetable farming and kitchen gardening training, the women group selected her to participate in the training. She actively took part the 3 days training and also received seeds and material support to initiate the vegetable farming. In the beginning she started doing vegetable farming in one Kattha land from which she garnered some income. She became so encouraged from the results of vegetable farming, she expanded vegetable farming in three Kattha land. She is now earning 20000/- per month. She is now comfortably managing 6 members her family and started providing quality education to her children.

5. Open Defecation Free (ODF)/Post ODF Programme

Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC) implemented the Open Defecation Free campaign in previously four VDCs of Mahottari district namely Dhirapur, Pigauna, Parsapatauli and Simardahi from the financial support of Rural Water and Sanitation Development Fund Board. The main objective of the project was to sensitize rural population on healthy sanitation behavior and improve sanitation situation by making open defecation free zone. The project also carried out post ODF activities to consolidate efforts for improving access of rural population to health sanitation services.



Also, the project formed and mobilized local monitoring committee to facilitate and support rural population in adhering Open Defecation Campaign and adopt health hygiene and sanitation behaviours.

The project facilitated to construct the toilet facility in 4188 poor and marginalized households so that it could minimize open defecation practices.

Table: Project coverage households

Total households	Benefitted Male Population	Benefitted Female Population
4188	11273	11984

Achievements:

- 4188 Rural households were facilitated to construct toilets in their houses.
- Formed and mobilized ward level drinking water, hygiene and sanitation coordination committee in all project villages.
- The child clubs were formed and mobilized in all schools of the project villages for promotion of healthy hygiene and sanitation behaviors.
- Mobilized Female Community Health Volunteers, Mothers' groups, Forest Users' groups and youth groups in disseminating information on safe drinking water and healthy hygiene and sanitation behaviors.

6. Safe Drinking Water Program

RCDSC in financial cooperation of Rotary clubs in New Zealand on behalf of Barrie and Mary implemented the safe drinking water programme to support most marginalized families living in Mahottari district who were out of access to safe drinking water. The project supported to install 21 set of hand pump in 21 poor and marginalized families to provide clean drinking water supply to them.

Achievements:

- 21 families have now safe and clean water to drink which has helped them to improve their hygiene and sanitation situation.
- 21 families who installed hand pump now started the kitchen gardening which helped to engage in income generating activities.



7. District Training of Trainers (DToT) and Community Level Civic and Voters' Education in Dhanusha and Mahottari districts

Rural Community Development Service Council carried out district level Training of Trainers (DToT) and Community Level Civic and Voters' Education in Dhanusha and Mahottari districts. The trained local resources were mobilized for community level orientation on women participation and Civic/voters' education for local elections through funding support of Electoral Support Project (ESP)/UNDP in Dhanusa and Mahottari districts.



Objectives:

The main objectives of the activities were as follows:

- Develop local resource persons who can be later mobilized for sensitizing rural women and other communities for their active participation in the local elections
- To sensitize local the marginalized communities, about their constitutional rights of representation in local bodies and their participation in local level elections not only as voters , but candidates
- To strengthen leadership capacity of marginalized communities including women, Dalits for their meaningful participation in the upcoming local level elections as candidates
- To sensitize rural communities the process of casting the votes and reduce the invalid voting.

Achievements:

- a. RCDSC conducted district level ToT training in Dhanusha and Mahottari district with participation of 25 local women and men leaders in each district.
- b. After the district level ToT training, the trained graduates were mobilized to organize one day community level training on women's participation and civic and voters' education for local elections
- c. The ToT became very effective to mobilize local trained resource persons to orient marginalized population on Civic and Voter education and promoting fair and inclusive election processes.
- d. The practical sessions of casting the votes and mock polling activities were carried to develop the confidence of marginalized communities for casting the votes properly.
- e. The participations of marginalized communities in casting votes were encouraging in most of the areas where community orientation activities were carried out.
- f. Due to civic and voters' education the number of invalid votes were minimized substantially in the areas where orientation activities were carried out.
- g. The effective coordination and collaboration were built up among local authorities, district election office and civil society organizations for promotion of free, fair and inclusive election activities.

8. Micro Capital Grant Program

Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDS) implemented Micro-Enterprise Development Program (MEDEP) under funding support of poverty reduction initiative implemented by the Government of Nepal with the technical and financial support of UNDP. This program has been in 4th phase completing its 3 different phases. The main objective of this program is to create new entrepreneur to minimize the poverty through enhancing traditional skills and optimum utilization of local resources. It has seen the created new entrepreneurs



are successful because of proper implementation of 6 steps strategy. By success of MEDEP model, different development agency and Government of Nepal has also included MEDEP model in their annual program through Small Home Cottage department. Micro Capital Grant program (MCG) was implemented by RCDS Mahottari at 4 rural market centers covering the 2 VDCs (Bijalpura & Dhirapur) and 2 municipalities (Gaushala & Bardibas) in coordination with MEDEP and financial support of AUSAID and UNDP. This program has cover the duration of 20 September 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Dalit, Janjati, Youth, Women and deprived rural community people are mainly targeted in program and to enhance their capacity technology transfer methodology has used. The target 150 people in 12 groups were selected through PRA, Data base entry and group management training. All the selected 150 persons were initiated on business concept through TOPE & TOSE. Among the selected 150 persons 140 were created as new entrepreneurs through skill development training. The new entrepreneurs were provided the appropriate technology and made their access towards the micro finance organization through interaction with micro finance organization. Mutual coordination has established among the new entrepreneur and local big business person through interaction for marketing of entrepreneur's productive goods. Regular business counseling services were provided to the entrepreneur as per their demand and or requirement to institutionalize the project activities.

Objectives

- To enhance life status of ultra poor, women, dalit, janjati, youth living under poverty line through establishing them as micro entrepreneurs.
- To create opportunity of self employment.
- To enhance the traditional occupation and skill through modern technology and diversification with optimum utilization of local resources.
- To contribute in national economy building the broad and strong base of micro entrepreneurship policy of nation.

- To assist in capacity building of MES and intuitional development.
- To make access on micro credit organization for succesful business.
- To activate the district stakeholders for their active participation in coordination, Co-relation and co-work.
- To provide technical & counseling services to entrepreneurs in whole process of planning, production and marketing.

Achievements:

- The project conducted resource and feasibility study in 4 VDCs.
- Formed 1 MEDC in Gausala during the program period and 3 MEDC has already formed through DMEGA Mahottari.
- The project conducted 4 VDCs level orientation and facilitated community people and stakeholder about strategy Of MCG Program.
- Provided 6 events group management training for 150 participants and formed 12 MEGs.
- Conducted TOPE/TOSE&GSI training for 150 participants to identify for skill development training.
- Conducted skill development training for 140 new MEs of different enterprise .(20 tomato tonal, 7 beauty parlor, 40 mudha making, 10 tailoring, 15 nursery management, 25 herbal oil extraction, 9 Lah bengal making)
- Provided appropriate technology for 140 new MES to start their enterprises.
- Prepared 80 business plans to guide new MEs for their enterprises.
- Conducted 4 interaction programs in all four rural market centers between new MEs and Micro finance agency where 120 MEs are participants.
- Conducted 1 interaction program between MES and local business men to link MEs product where 40 MEs participant in the program.