



2014/2015  
ANNUAL REPORT



# REDUCING POVERTY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY JUSTICE

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**Text and production coordination**

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**Cover Image:** Practical Action beneficiaries at Bajura, Swarnima Shrestha

**Images:** Practical Action unless stated otherwise

*Printed on woodfree paper*

## Contents

Message from the Regional Director

Acknowledgements

Acronyms

Practical Action in Nepal

Programme Areas

- Access to energy
- Agriculture, markets and food security
- Urban waste, water and sanitation
- Disaster risk reduction

Practical Answers



## Mission

To contribute to poor people's wellbeing using technology to challenge poverty by:

- building the capabilities of poor people;
- improving their access to technical options and knowledge; and
- working with them to influence social, economic and institutional systems for innovation and the use of technology.

## Vision

A sustainable world free of poverty and injustice in which technology is used to the benefit of all.



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UK aid  
USAID/OFDA  
USAID  
Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment  
and Energy (WI)  
Zurich Foundation

# ACRONYMS

BLOP	— Better Life Option Programme	MRC	— Multi-Dimensional Resource Centre
BSP	— Business Service Provider	NAST	— Nepal Academy of Science and Technology
CAP	— Community Action Plan	NCCKMC	— Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Centre
CBDP	— Community Based Disaster Preparedness	NFRP	— Nepal Flood Resilience Project
CBDRR	— Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction	NMB	— Nepal Merchant Bank Ltd
CBO	— Community Based Organisation	NPR	— Nepalese Rupees
CCMD	— Climate Change Management Division	NRCS	— Nepal Red Cross Society
CDF	— Community Development Forum	NTFP	— Non-Timber Forest Product
CDMC	— Community Disaster Management Committee	ODF	— Open Defecation Free
CDO	— Chief District Officer	PEACEWIN	— Participatory Effort at Children Education and Women Initiatives
CIUD	— Centre for Integrated Urban Development	PMSD	— Participatory Market System Development
CNDRC	— Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee	PMM	— Participatory Market Mapping
CPGD	— Climate Proofing Growth and Development	POSAN-FS	— Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture for Nutrition and Food Security
CTEVT	— Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training	PRISM	— Poverty Reduction of Informal Workers in Solid Waste Management Sector
CSDR	— Centre for Social Development and Research	RAP	— Rural Access Programme
DADO	— District Agriculture Development Office	RBF	— Result Based Financing
DAO	— District Agriculture Office	RDSC	— Rural Development Service Centre
DCRDC	— Dhaulagiri Community Resource Development Centre	REMREC	— Resource Management and Rural Empowerment Centre
DEEP	— Development of Entrepreneur and Employment Promotion	RESDTN	— Rural Empowerment Society Damauli, Tanahun, Nepal
DEOC	— District Emergency Operation Centre	ROJGARI	— Raising Opportunities for Jobs in Gramin Areas for Rural Income
DHM	— Department of Hydrology and Meteorology	SAFER Nepal	— Strengthening Actions for Fostering Resilience through Early Warning and Risk Sensitive Planning in Nepal
DRR	— Disaster Risk Reduction	SASAJA	— Samyukta Sarsafai Jagaran
EFLG	— Environment Friendly Local Governance	SEBAC	— Social Empowerment and Building Accessibility Centre
EnDev	— Energising Development	SDS	— Saipal Development Society
ENPHO	— Environment and Public Health Organisation	SED	— Socio-Economic Development
EOC	— Emergency Operation Centre	SIDA	— Swedish International Development Agency
ESRL	— Energising Sustainable Rural Livelihood	SLNS	— School Led Nutrition System
EWS	— Early Warning System	SMRE	— Sustainable Micro-hydro through Energising Rural Enterprises and Livelihood
FFGS	— Flash Flood Guidance System	SWFF	— Securing Water For Food
FFS	— Farmers' Field School	TVTC	— Technical and Vocational Training Centre
FOCUS	— Forum for Community Upliftment System	UNDP	— United Nations Development Programme
IFRC	— International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	VAHW	— Village Animal Health Workers
ISAEPF	— Indoor Smoke Alleviation and Environment Protection Forum	VCA	— Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
IWW	— Informal Waste Worker	VDC	— Village Development Committees
JRC	— Job Resource Centre	WASH	— Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
KFA	— Koraput Farmers' Association	WUPAP	— Western Uplands Poverty Alleviation Project
LEN	— Local Entrepreneurs Network		
LDRMDC	— Local Disaster Risk Management Committee		
LDRMP	— Local Disaster Risk Management Planning		
LRP	— Local Resource Person		
MHP	— Micro-Hydro Power		
MoAD	— Ministry of Agriculture Development		
MoFALD	— Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development		
MoHA	— Ministry of Home Affairs		
MoSTE	— Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment		



# Message from the Regional Director

I am delighted to bring forth this annual report to share the works, efforts and impacts made by Practical Action in the year 2014-15. The report not only highlights our projects and activities but also presents the real stories from the field comprising the real voices of people.

The following pages will provide an overview of our work and the achievements that we have been able to make. This year, we were able to give more priority to inclusion and gender issues by reaching out to greater percentage of women, children and marginalised people through our projects.

We were able to enhance integration between and among our programme areas considering the comparative advantage and good practices in each of the programme areas. Our enquiry based knowledge service - Practical Answers is being integrated as an integral part in three of our major projects.

We have started working in newer geographical areas, particularly in the eastern part of the country based on our previous success. We have moved a step further in strengthening government system and machineries by working closely both at the district and central level. As a result we have Memorandum of Understanding with several central government institutions. We have also started working with newer donors initiating innovative form of collaborations to reach out to the most underprivileged people.

It is worthwhile to mention our response to massive earthquake that happened on 25 April with numerous aftershocks, though this report covers until end of March 2015. Practical Action is not a relief organisation. However, it was ethical for us to support the people and communities in one of the hardest time of their lives. In consultation with the District Disaster Risks Coordination Committees of Gorkha and Dhading, we provided relief materials to all the households of seven Village Development Committees. Then after, we are engaged in Gorkha in interim recovery helping the communities to build temporary shelters, reliable water systems and lighting and mobile charging facilities from solar. We plan to support the earthquake affected people to 'Build Back Better' by helping them to understand the building codes, earthquake resilient technologies and provide direct support through our strategic interventions in agriculture, markets, energy and so on.

Having regional remit, it is worthy to mention some of our new initiatives in the South Asia region. We have further strengthened our urban water, sanitation and waste works in more municipal areas in Odisha, India. We are continuing to work with the government body of Odisha to reach some of the deprived tribal communities to ensure modern renewable sources in their homes. In Sri Lanka too, we are working closely with the government and fisher communities in lagoons to ensure conservation of lagoon ecosystem and assure better livelihoods. We have piloted Smart Agriculture concept in Bhutan and plan to work and learn more to contribute in regional integration through our development works.

In conclusion, our works and achievements this year was able to add value to our goal of leveraging large scale change contributing to poverty reduction, technology justice and sustainable wellbeing for all. Like always, I take this opportunity to thank everyone who travelled this journey along with us. I want to thank the Government of Nepal at both national and local level. I would also like to express my gratefulness towards our donors who supported us and also all of our partners without whom it would not have been possible to come this far. And most essentially, I really want to thank the people, our beneficiaries who reciprocated our efforts and took the real practical action against poverty.

Happy reading!  
Achyut Luitel  
Regional Director



# Practical Action

2015 marks the fiftieth anniversary of Practical Action which was founded in 1966 by economist and philosopher Fritz Schumacher, the author of “Small is Beautiful”. It was established with the objective of reducing poverty through the wider use of appropriate technologies in the developing world. Schumacher believed strongly that technology could play an important role in lifting people out of poverty. But he saw the need for a different form of technology, human in scale, which allowed a form of economic development ‘as if people mattered’. This led to the establishment of the organisation which now operates with the same philosophy in different parts of the world. With head office in the UK, Practical Action works in more than 45 countries through its country and regional offices in Bangladesh, Bolivia, India, Kenya, Nepal, Rwanda, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

In Nepal, Practical Action started its work during 1979 and signed General Agreement with Social Welfare Council in 1998. In its current strategy

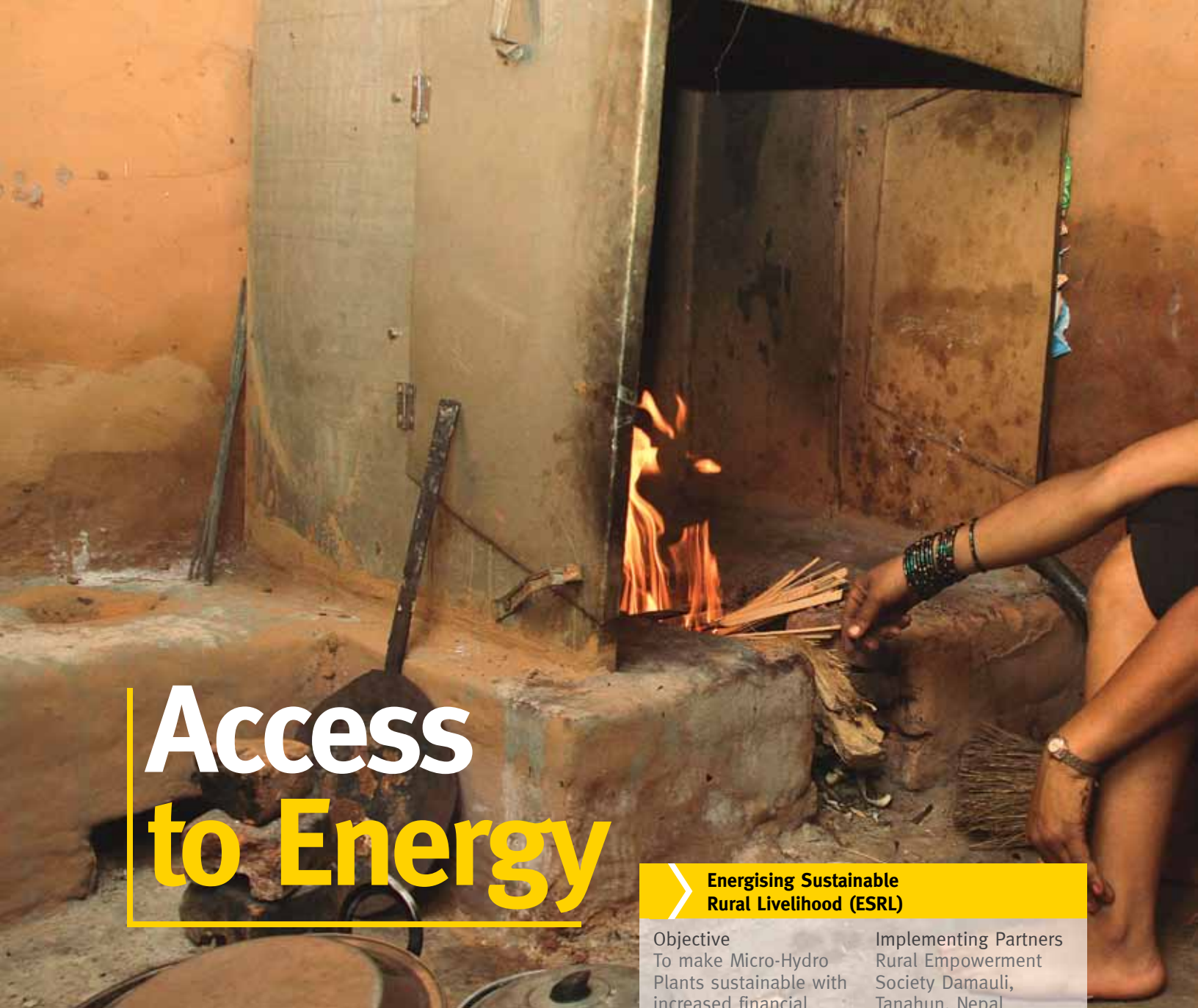
period 2012 -2017, Practical Action is more focused for leveraging large scale change that contributes to poverty reduction, technology justice and sustainable wellbeing for all. The strategy focuses on four areas of work in particular where Practical Action has recognised expertise, which are:

- Access to energy – Sustainable access to modern energy services for all by 2030.
- Agriculture, markets and food security – A transition to sustainable systems of agriculture and natural resource management that provides food security and livelihoods for the rural poor.
- Urban waste, water and sanitation – Improved access to drinking water, sanitation and waste services for urban dwellers.
- Disaster risk reduction – Reduced risk of disasters for marginalised groups and communities.

In addition, Practical Action is investing in learning and the development of best practices on cross cutting themes – Climate change, Making markets work for the poor and Practical Answers.

2015 marks the fiftieth anniversary of Practical Action which was founded in 1966 by economist and philosopher Fritz Schumacher, the author of “Small is Beautiful”.





# Access to Energy

This programme aims to increase access to energy for lighting and cooking using clean and efficient technologies. This programme focuses on demonstrating decentralised energy systems with particular focus on achieving minimum energy standards and total energy access to achieve universal access to energy by 2030.

## Energising Sustainable Rural Livelihood (ESRL)

**Objective**  
To make Micro-Hydro Plants sustainable with increased financial base through the use of participatory approach for promotion of enterprises by utilisation of energy.

**Target Group**  
MHP users and rural entrepreneurs

**Implementing Period**  
April 2014 to March 2015

**Project Area**  
Tanahun, Dolakha, Achham and Myagdi Districts

**Implementing Partners**  
Rural Empowerment Society Damauli, Tanahun, Nepal (RESDTN), Resource Management and Rural Empowerment Centre (REMREC), Rural Development Service Centre (RDSC), and Dhaulagiri Community Resource Development Centre (DCRDC)

**Funded by**  
Practical Action

**Project Benefitted**  
44,450 people



**Energising Sustainable Rural Livelihood (ESRL)** project ensured the sustainability of Micro-Hydro Power (MHP) Plants through increased energy utilisation by establishing enterprises that enhance rural livelihoods. The project worked to strengthen the linkage between energy market system and agro as well as non-agro based product market system. It build the local capacity on energy planning as well as utilisation and advocated for sustainability of MHP Plants through increased energy utilisation.

A total of 44,450 people benefitted through 128 enterprises and 35 income generating activities under 25 MHP Plants. Different kinds of enterprises established are photo studio, bakery shop, mobile repair centre, furniture shop, computer institute and noodles production industry among others. This has contributed to strengthen the financial base of the MHP Plants leading to sustainability of the system.

Participatory Market System Development (PMSD) approach was used in the project for establishing markets of decentralised energy systems and promoting end-uses of electricity. The project adopted a participatory approach in planning, executing, operating and maintaining the energy systems and enterprises. Moreover, interaction among the stakeholders identified barriers in the market system and way forward to establish vibrant market system. The project capacitated MHP Plants management committee, local economic development committee, end users, and enhanced supporting services and inputs system.

**Energising Sustainable Rural Livelihood (ESRL) project ensured the sustainability of Micro-Hydro Plants through increased energy utilisation by establishing enterprises that enhance rural livelihoods.**



**Result Based Financing for Sustainable Hood-stove Market project**

<p><b>Objective</b> To Promote hood-stoves through sustainable market creation and financing</p> <p><b>Target Group</b> Households using solid biomass fuel for cooking with inefficient cook stoves</p> <p><b>Implementing Period</b> August 2014 to July 2018</p> <p><b>Project Area</b> Gorkha, Dhading, Rasuwa and Makwanpur Districts</p>	<p><b>Implementing Partners</b> GORETO, Gorkha, Multi-Dimensional Resource Centre (MRC-Nepal), Makwanpur; Indoor Smoke Alleviation and Environment Protection Forum Nepal (ISAEPF-Nepal), Rasuwa; and Forum for Community Upliftment System (FOCUS Nepal), Dhading</p> <p><b>Funded by</b> UK aid through Energising Development (EnDev)</p>
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been set up by the project in collaboration with Nepal Merchant Bank Ltd (NMB). The bank has signed agreement with three hood-stove manufacturing companies and four district cooperative associations in the project districts. These cooperative associations have signed agreements with 20 local cooperatives. The hood-stove manufacturing companies make upfront investment and develop hood-stove market by marketing, fabrication, transportation and installation of hood-stoves. Currently, three companies are fabricating and supplying hood-stoves while the local cooperatives are providing loan to their members to purchase the hood-stove.

The Result Based Financing for Sustainable Hood-stove Market project is being implemented after a detailed research in developing a hood-stove technology which is a package of specifically designed smoke-hood and an improved biomass cook-stove, to provide clean, efficient and safe cooking solutions to rural households. The project is using result based financing measures to establish sustainable market of the hood-stoves by promoting private sectors' engagement in hood-stoves business. The project aims to benefit at least 30,000 households.

During this reporting period, more than 300 hood-stoves were fabricated and installation was completed in 20 households while further installation is in progress. Moreover, the project organised two district level orientation workshops, and fabrication and installation training. Altogether 60 local cooperatives and 20 local artisans participated in the workshop and training respectively. Among the trained artisan three individuals have already started their enterprise creating employment opportunities for about 50 people. The project also supported in developing a PMSD map and plan for each project districts for creating sustainable hood-stove market.

The Result Based Financing (RBF) funds have

Practical Action is implementing **Sustainable Micro-hydro through Energising Rural Enterprises and Livelihood (SMRE)** project in Nepal and Odisha, India. The project aims to ensure sustainability of MHPs by increasing energy utilisation enterprises that enhance rural livelihoods. The project is strengthening linkage between energy market system and agro as well as non-agro based product market system. It is expected that this initiative will create win-win scenario to rural livelihood as well as energy infrastructure operation and sustainability.

A total of five MHPs were rehabilitated along with sustainability plan. The project facilitated to identify potential enterprises using PMSD approach that can consume off peak energy production from the MHPs. During the reporting period, 18 enterprises such as meat shop, tailoring centre, *lokta* paper processing centre among others have been initiated. Technical support and financial incentives of around 30 per cent of the investment was provided by the project to motivate the initiation of these enterprises. Besides that, the

## Sustainable Micro-Hydro through Energising Rural Enterprises and Livelihood (SMRE) Project

**Objective**  
To improve the sustainability of micro-hydro systems with increased energy production and utilisation

**Target Group**  
MHP users and rural entrepreneurs

**Implementing Period**  
February 2014 to January 2016

**Project Area**  
Baglung, Nepal and Odisha, India

**Implementing Partners**  
Dhaulagiri Community Resource Development Centre (DCRDC), Baglung, Nepal and Koraput Farmers' Association (KFA), Koraput, Odisha, India

**Funded by**  
Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy (WI)

**Project Benefitted**  
9,075 people

project provided various capacity building and skill development training to the entrepreneurs, MHP management committee members and operators.





# Agriculture, markets and food security

This programme strives to bring a visible impact on food security situation in food deficit areas through promoting ecosystem based agriculture, improving the agricultural input technology, farmers friendly infrastructure, and market system development. The work under this sector over the strategic period aims to significantly increase the income of smallholder farmers through sustainable production and development of rural market linkage.

## Rural Access Programme (RAP) III Socio - Economic Development (SED) Component

### Objective

To improve incomes and resilience of poor people in mid and far western Nepal

### Target Group

Farmers, Business Service Providers and traders

### Implementing Period

October 2013 to September 2017

### Project Area

Achham, Bajura, Doti and Humla Districts

### Implementing Partners

Participatory Effort at Children Education and Women Initiatives (PEACEWIN), Social Empowerment and Building Accessibility Centre (SEBAC) Nepal, Community Development Forum (CDF)

### Funded by

UK aid through IMC Worldwide

### Project Benefitted

10,000 Households



Practical Action has been implementing the **Socio-Economic Component of the Rural Access Programme (RAP) phase III** since October 2013. The component seeks to contribute to improve incomes and resilience of poor people through agriculture commercialisation. PMSD is the guiding approach of the project. It focuses on four sub-sectors which are vegetable, goat, spice and Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP). The project intervenes at all the sphere of the market system – the main market chain, enabling environment and service providers.

A total of 28,938 people (50% female) from 5,887 households in four project districts benefitted from the income generating and economic infrastructure development activities. Out of the total households 24 per cent of the beneficiaries are *dalits*. All these households received improved seeds, technologies and capacity building training. After the project intervention, about 70 per cent of the vegetable producers have adopted new methods and technologies for vegetable cultivation and goat farming. Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs) were organised to provide basic knowledge about new farming techniques and technology. Likewise, farmers' business schools were organised to provide technical and entrepreneurship skills to commercial farmers. To enhance access of smallholder farmers to practical knowledge, Practical Answers component of the project is providing need and demand based locally applicable technical solutions using various dissemination channels.

To ensure the quality input and output services are available locally, Business Service Providers (BSPs) – agro-vets, mobile agro-vets, Local Resource Persons (LRPs), Village Animal Health Workers (VAHWs), collectors, and cooperatives were developed and strengthened. Off-farm enterprises have been introduced for disadvantaged groups mainly the *dalits* who own very little land and resources to engage in other income generating activities. These enterprises are mainly traditional skills based enterprises like blacksmithing, tailoring and bamboo products making. Vocational training is provided to disadvantaged groups members to enable them to get job at home and abroad.

The project intervenes at all the sphere of the market system – the main market chain, enabling environment and service providers.

The Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture for Nutrition and Food Security (POSAN-FS) project has been working in the most food insecure far western region in Nepal. The nutritional food security is expected to be achieved through commercialisation of goat, vegetable and spice sub-sectors and improved nutrition of women, children and vulnerable groups. After the project intervention, there have been significant accomplishments in the areas of production, market chain development and linkage, and coordination among market system actors. A total of 2,112 families have benefitted by technical know-how on improved technologies and practices. Similarly, 106 result and method demonstrations at leader farmers' fields were carried out benefitting 1,250 families. Disease and drought resistant varieties, water efficient irrigation technologies such as drip and sprinkler, post-harvest technology, improved breed, feed, shed, and disease and pest management were some of the key technologies promoted helping the farmers to commercialise their farming.

The project adopted cluster based approach as a key to intervene activities where farmers work in collaboration by forming groups. A total of eight cluster level networks have been formed and capacitated. Similarly, rural cooperatives are strengthened to develop as institutional service providers with improved service packages relating with loan, technical inputs, business inputs and market linkages. To promote goat farming and strengthen its business service delivery, two goat resource centres are established through local cooperative which is benefitting 549 families. Seven forage lands to fulfill the nutritional requirements for goats are established through cooperatives, groups and communities. This has helped in increasing productivity of goat farming and contributing to farm sustainability. From the development of forage land 641 households are getting benefits. The project initiated another innovative provision – goat insurance scheme to promote goat business. The insurance is operating through cooperative utilising the subsidy provision

Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture for Nutrition and Food Security (POSAN-FS)	
<b>Objective</b> To improve food and nutritional security of food insecure households	<b>Project Area</b> Doti, Achham, Bajhang and Bajura Districts
<b>Target Group</b> Smallholder farmers	<b>Implementing Partners</b> SEBAC Nepal and Saipal Development Society (SDS)
<b>Implementing Period</b> April 2014 to March 2017	<b>Funded by</b> The European Union
	<b>Project Benefitted</b> 7,530 Households

from Government of Nepal under livestock insurance programme which benefitted 243 goat farmers.

Along with an effort to increase production and productivity, market system has been strengthened through business service providers and collection systems. During the reporting period, 15 agro-vets were strengthened through a 35 day training and short refresher training. These agro-vets are now providing quality inputs and mobile training services to farmers. Three collection centres have been developed including *haat bazaars*. The project is piloting a new business model embedding knowledge services (Practical Answers) with the agro-vet services to enhance knowledge access of the smallholder farmers to offer locally appropriate technical solution to the problems related to agriculture.

Nutrition is another key component of the project. Till date, 343 families have initiated homestead gardens and neglected but nutritious crops have been well promoted. School Led Nutrition System (SLNS) has been initiated in 18 schools to develop nutrition smart community by means of the school student as a change agent.

The nutritional food security is expected to be achieved through commercialisation of goat, vegetable and spice sub-sectors and improved nutrition of women, children and vulnerable groups.



**Barsha: An innovative and Sustainable Irrigation Pump for Smallholder Farmers**

Practical Action has been implementing this pilot project under **Securing Water For Food (SWFF): A Grand Challenge for Development Programme**. The project is being implemented in partnership with aQysta B. V., a private start-up company based in the Netherlands. The project is demonstrating Barsha pump – a zero energy water pump which utilises the kinetic energy of flowing river or canal water to lift the water for irrigation. The project demonstrated this innovative pump in Doti, Lalitpur, Jhapa and Syangja Districts.

The project is piloting the Barsha pump for required modification in the technology to adapt to the local situation and increase efficiency. It is a simple technology that works on the proven principle of a spiral pumping mechanism. It is propelled by the flow of streaming water using the kinetic energy to pump part of the streaming water to higher located fields without the need for active mechanical parts to create the pumping action. The pump is a simple-to-operate, low-cost solution that requires virtually no maintenance as it contains only one moving part. Due to this, it does not involve any operating expenses nor does it emit any polluting greenhouse gases and

**Objective**  
To ensure affordable irrigation solution to farmers who live in areas of water scarcity

**Target Group**  
Smallholder farmers

**Implementing Period**  
October 2014 to September 2015

**Project Area**  
Along the side of the canals and river

corridors in hilly and terai regions of Nepal

**Partner**  
aQysta

**Funded by**  
USAID, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and Ministry of foreign affairs, the Netherlands

**Project Benefitted**  
166 people

saves almost 70 per cent of irrigation cost compared to conventional irrigation methods.

After piloting, the technology is being taken up by other institutions like Western Uplands Poverty Alleviation Project (WUPAP) which has started to replicate the Barsha pump in their working area. Similarly, Department of Agriculture has committed to pilot four pumps in coming fiscal year.



**Addressing Malnutrition through Integrated Rice-duck farming in Nepal**

<b>Objective</b> To increase the availability of nutritious diet and increase household income through increased rice productivity, consumption of duck meat and selling the surplus duck meat	<b>Implementing Period</b> April 2014 to September 2015
<b>Target Group</b> Smallholder farmers	<b>Project Area</b> Chitwan and Nawalparasi Districts
	<b>Funded by</b> Grand Challenges Canada
	<b>Project Benefitted</b> 423 farmers

Addressing Malnutrition through Integrated Rice-duck farming in Nepal is being implemented in Chitwan and Nawalparasi Districts by Practical Action with financial support of Grand Challenges Canada. This 18 month project is working towards building the capacity of 1,000 smallholder farmers to adopt the rice-duck integrated farming practice. In this reporting year, project enhanced the capacity of farmers, local government institutions and value chain actors on rice-duck integrated farming technology and marketing of duck meat. An agreement was signed between District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) and the project, after which, DADO has been involved in training and periodic monitoring as well as supervision of farmers' field to provide technical backstopping.

A total of 499 farmers were capacitated through training. Among these trained farmers, 23 groups were formed consisting 423 farmers (76% female) who have already adopted the rice-duck farming practice. The involvement of women farmers in the group was significantly higher which revealed their greater interest to learn and adopt new farming technology. Apart from the farmers, 20 intermediaries including agro-vets, rice millers, meat suppliers and duckling suppliers were capacitated on rice-duck integrated farming technology along with linkage development between farmers and these intermediaries.

The project succeeded in developing a formal

market chain of duck meat through buy back agreement between farmers and duckling supplier as well as meat outlets in Chitwan and Kathmandu. Local entrepreneurs were supported to start two duck meat outlets, each in Chitwan and Nawalparasi Districts. These outlets also act as the local collection point to collect ducks from farmers paying competitive price and selling hygienic duck meat to the consumers. "How to" knowledge products such as rice-duck manual, video documentary and leaflets have been developed to disseminate the information about the technology to many farmers in wider areas.

The project has been successful in generating visible impacts in the lives of the farmers by improving their nutritional status as well as income. Of the total ducks raised by farmers, 38 per cent are consumed at the household level which has contributed to improve the nutrition level of the families. Similarly, 51 per cent increment in the income of participating households is observed.

The Raising Opportunities for Jobs in Gramin Areas for Rural Income (ROJGARI) project was implemented by Practical Action from June 2011 to May 2014. The ROJGARI project improved the livelihood of poor and marginalised communities with better employment opportunities. Specifically, the project helped to strengthen the capacity and network of private and public Technical and Vocational Training Centres (TVTCs) to provide demand based skills and training to rural youths.

The project capacitated six TVTCs to deliver market oriented and quality training, and supported with infrastructure, technical and managerial assistance on cost sharing. Four new courses – banana paper making, fast food cook, housekeeping and cleaner, and power tiller repairing were developed and offered by these TVTCs which are accredited by Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT). With the support of the project, these TVTCs provided fee based training to 1,310 youths.

The project facilitated to form a local level network of TVTCs – Development of Entrepreneur and

Employment Promotion (DEEP) Network. This network first of its kind was formed with the aim of strengthening TVTCs institutional and organisational capacity for better advocacy and lobbying with government and stakeholders. During the project period, 16 TVTCs were affiliated with DEEP network.

The project implemented different activities to enhance the skills and confidence of youths. A total of 2,413 youths participated in Better Life Option Programmes (BLOPs), 3,000 youths participated in entrepreneurship training and 257 youths received short term skill training. During the project period, a total of 5,328 youths were involved in jobs and enterprises of which 2,912 individuals were employed and 2,416 started their own business. A total of 11 Job Resource Centres (JRCs) were established to help rural unemployed youths to develop linkages with the potential employers, and provide job related information and counselling services. At the VDC level, 16 Local Entrepreneurs Network (LEN) were formed for extending overall support to enterprises at local level with their enhanced advocacy and lobbying capacity.

The project launched rural job information web portal [www.rojgari.com](http://www.rojgari.com) in collaboration with the private sector to make the system commercially viable. During the project period, a total of 6,365 job seekers uploaded their personal information and 218 employers posted job vacancy in the web portal. To make the job information easily accessible to rural youths, mobile message based job information system was developed. The SMS service is used by 2,000 people each day which is generating enough revenue to make the system sustainable.

## ROJGARI - Raising Opportunities for Jobs in Gramin Areas for Rural Incomes

### Objective

To improve the livelihoods of poor and marginalised rural communities through better employment opportunities

### Target Group

5,000 rural youths from *dalit*, ethnic and other disadvantaged groups

### Implementing Period

June 2011 to May 2014

### Project Areas

Kailali, Doti and Achham Districts

### Implementing Partner

SEBAC Nepal

### Associates

- Dev Training and Management Service Centre Pvt. Ltd., Dhangadhi, Kailali

- Training and Consultancy Centre for Employment and Enterprising Pvt. Ltd., Dhangadhi, Kailali

- Bee Polytechnic Institute Pvt. Ltd., Dhangadhi, Kailali

- Far West IT Education Academy Pvt. Ltd., Dhangadhi, Kailali

- Kailali Polytechnic Institute, Dhangadhi, Kailali

- Bananas Training Centre Pvt. Ltd., Tikapur, Kailali

Funded by  
The European Union

Project Benefitted  
5,328 youths





## Enhancement of Dairy Production through Forage Based Livestock Farming

### Objective

To reduce cost of milk production through forage based dairy farming by making easy forage seed availability in market

### Target Group

Smallholder dairy farmers

### Implementing Period

January 2015 to March 2015

### Project Area

Dhading, Gorkha, Tanahun, Chitwan and Nawalparasi Districts

### Funded by

Practical Action

### Project Benefitted

295 households directly and 3,000 households indirectly

Practical Action identified forage based dairy farming as one of the best solutions in reducing milk production cost and initiated the implementation of [Enhancement of Dairy Production through Forage Based Livestock Farming](#) project. Agro-vet and para-vet training, farmers group training, resource centre establishment, demonstration on forage seed production, production and distribution of promotional materials, facilitation for produced seed marketing, support on forage seed storage were the major activities carried out by the project.

Two hundred ninety-five farmers from producer groups and 91 agro-vets and para-vets were trained on cultivation practices of different perennial and seasonal forage crops. More than 3,000 families received technical support and forage seed supply service from these agro-vets and para-vets. Eight resource nurseries were supported for raising the perennial forage plants for regular and timely supply of the planting materials. A total of 300 kilograms of teosinte seed was supplied for demonstration of seed production and seeds of perennial forage like joint vetch, molasses, stylo and desmodium hedge were also supported to nursery owners so that they can multiply the seeds and supply to their community.



## Young agro-vet becomes an example in the community

Bothered by extreme poverty and lack of proper economic opportunities, most of the youths of far western districts of Nepal opt to go abroad or to the neighbouring country India for employment. The increasing trend has made it difficult to find young people in the villages.

But Dambar Saud (22) from Bajura started something of his own in Bamka Bazaar, Bajura. It has been a year that he has started an agro-vet centre along with a vegetable collection centre. In this short period of time, Dambar has established himself as an exemplary service provider and entrepreneur in the district.

Dambar's agro-vet and vegetable collection centre remains busy most of the time, with people from 11 neighbouring VDCs utilising his service. His agro-vet has a remarkable supply of all the necessary materials most of which are available only in his shop throughout the district. The collection centre keeps Dambar's wife busy. Farmers from nearby places come to sell their vegetables at the centre without having to worry about market for their produces. Likewise, locals get to buy the fresh organic vegetables in a competitive price from there.

Not just individual farmers but different organisations and institutions including government organisations take his supplies and make use of his services. At least seven other small agro-vets take supplies from him to operate their own agro-vets at different parts of the district.

"It has been a year that I started this agro-vet. It was much smaller when I started. Now, I am doing a remarkable business," says Dambar confidently. "I added the vegetable collection centre as it complements the agro-vet. The farmers buy seeds from agro-vet and come afterwards to sell their vegetables at the collection centre. It all began after I participated in a training provided by RAP-III project."

Dambar participated in an Integrated Pest Management training organised by socio-economic component of Rural Access Programme (RAP)-III, which Practical Action has been implementing in Bajura among other districts of the farwest region. The training intended to enhance the skills and formalise the knowledge of people like Dambar who already had some skills in the area. Apart from the training, the project also supported the promising trainees to initiate their service.

"I got encouraged to start the agro-vet after I received the support of NPR 40,000 (£ 248) worth of goods from the project. I invested equal amount and started increasing the materials available as per the demand of the people," shares Dambar. He has already recovered his initial investment and makes a monthly profit of NPR 40,000 (£ 248) in average.

Apart from doing a significant business himself, his service is also assisting community people to get quality agricultural inputs and increase their own income.

"This kind of service was not available in this area before. It was difficult to buy quality seeds which discouraged people to be involved in commercial vegetable farming. Now, with the improved seeds being available in the agro-vet, more people in the nearby area have started vegetable farming from this year. The production has also increased after people started using quality seeds," says Harka Bahadur, a teacher at Ratna Higher Secondary School, Bajura who visits Dambar's agro-vet to buy seeds for his kitchen garden.

"I am happy that I am being able to help the community. I try my best to provide the farmers with useful knowledge along with selling the products to them. People have started appreciating my efforts. I feel more inspired and motivated to work when I hear such praises. I feel very happy and satisfied," exclaims Dambar.

Dambar's story can be an example to all the youths who think that there is no opportunity in the rural areas; he proves that there really is a way for those who have a will.



# Urban waste, water and sanitation

## Delivering Decentralisation: slum dwellers' access to decision making for pro poor infrastructure services

The programme aims to improve the health of urban residents, through increased awareness, providing access to safe drinking water, better sanitation facilities, waste services, proper solid waste management and practicing safe hygiene behaviours. The urban poor households and disadvantaged groups are the primary beneficiaries of this programme.

### Objective

To promote systems of decentralised urban governance so that slum dwellers are empowered to engage effectively in decision making and delivery of improved urban services

### Target Group

Urban slum dwellers

### Implementing Period

April 2012 to March 2016

### Project Area

Chitwan and Rupandehi Districts

### Implementing Partners

Lumanti – Support Group for Shelter

### Funded by

The European Union

### Project Benefitted

12,256 slum dwellers

Delivering Decentralisation: slum dwellers' access to decision making for pro poor infrastructure services project is being implemented since April 2012 in two municipalities of Chitwan and Rupandehi Districts. The project is working with the aim to help local authorities and other stakeholders to be more efficient and coordinated in their support to slum dwellers. This has aided in achieving sustainability in the services delivered

by the municipalities with better ownership from communities and local authorities.

To ensure the proper service delivery to the slum dwellers, Community Action Plans (CAPs) were prepared in 43 communities benefitting 12,256 people. Similarly, 3,053 people (1,416 female) were benefitted from 27 different types of capacity building events. A total of 283 different infrastructures such as individual toilets, community



buildings, individual shelters, community toilets, and street improvements were constructed that benefitted 8,126 (3,881 female) people.

Support to the Open Defecation Free (ODF) campaign benefitted more than 1,000 people in four wards of Butwal municipality consequently, three wards have been declared as ODF ward. Building of 239 individual toilets along with many awareness raising activities for behaviour change have helped people in upgrading their living environment. Additionally, 14 poorest homeless families have received individual shelter support to provide them a basic living facility.

The project organised a CAPs exhibition gathering development stakeholders from project districts at one platform where the need of community people was highlighted and commitments from these stakeholders was made in support to the needs of the slum dwellers.

### PRISM - Poverty Reduction of Informal Workers in Solid Waste Management sector

#### Objective

To improve living conditions of the informal waste workers in solid waste management sector in the project areas

#### Target Group

Informal waste workers of Kathmandu Valley

#### Implementing Period

June 2011 to May 2014

#### Project Areas

Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Madhyapur Thimi, Kirtipur and Bhaktapur Municipalities of Kathmandu Valley

#### Implementing Partner

Centre for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD)

#### Funded by

The European Union

#### Project Benefitted

6,408 waste workers

### The Poverty Reduction of Informal Workers in Solid Waste Management sector (PRISM)

project was implemented from June 2011 to May 2014. The project identified a total of 8,367 (1,785 female) Informal Waste Workers (IWWs), 416 scrap dealers and 63 waste disposal sites. In total, 59 waste pickers groups were formed including 10 women groups. During the project period nine social protection schemes were piloted i.e. – Health care, Child protection, Education, Women protection, Saving and credit mobilisation, Cooperative, Preventive health care, Recognition and ID card, Safety net, and Cash transfer.

Safety equipment with occupational health and safety training was provided to 5,622 IWWs (1,427 female) to minimise their health risk. The project provided entrepreneurship development training to 472 IWWs, of which 133 have already started their own waste based enterprise. These enterprises are also linked to other related entrepreneurs and saving groups. In order to provide recognition to IWWs and enhance financial accessibility, the project facilitated registration of first of its kind IWWs' organisation in Nepal - *Samyukta Sarsafai Jagaran* (SASAJA) and a cooperative of the same name. The IWWs were capacitated in cooperative management, account keeping, and minute preparation. For continuity of the activities and initiatives, 35 NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) are identified as the potential actors for the successful implementation and sustainability of project interventions.



SAFA & SWASTHA Gulariya project is being implemented to ensure significant improvement in the lives of residents in Gulariya with better access to improved environmental sanitation. This include increased coverage of sanitation facilities, enhanced capacity of local stakeholders, piloting innovative solutions in sanitation, and promoting inclusive planning and good governance.

During this reporting period, 41,879 people benefitted from improved sanitation in Gulariya Municipality with

construction of 8,071 individual toilets in their homes. Nine wards have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) and as of now 34,147 people (17,121 female) live in an ODF environment.

The project provided five different training to 145 local change agents (91 female) on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). These trained volunteers are effectively engaged for community mobilisation focusing on improved sanitation, promoting "one house one toilet". A total of 115 community orientations on water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) were provided to community people and local stakeholders with participation of 4,451 people (1,503 female). These people are mobilised in the communities for improved sanitation.

Various awareness and behaviour change campaigns were conducted to raise awareness on WASH benefitting 26,732 people (14,704 female). These include 201 events of street drama shows, clean-up campaigns, door to door visits, sanitation exhibition in local fair, mass rallies, radio broadcasts, print media campaigns, musical campaigns and poster campaigns among others.

As part of intervention in participatory planning in project communities, 10 neighbourhood communities have developed CAPs. These communities consist of 3,850 slum dwellers including women and marginalised groups.

**SAFA & SWASTHA Gulariya (Open Defecation Free Gulariya Municipality by 2015)**

<b>Objective</b> To improve the lives of residents of Gulariya as they gain access to improvements to their sanitation environment	<b>Project Area</b> Bardiya District
<b>Target Group</b> Slum dweller community members, particularly women, children and extremely marginalised residents in Gulariya	<b>Implementing Partner</b> Environment and Public Health Organisation (ENPHO)
<b>Implementing Period</b> August 2014 to July 2016	<b>Funded by</b> UK aid
	<b>Project Benefitted</b> 57,232 people

## Initiating Change

It has not been long that Ramkishor Khaira (38) from Khairanjhal tole, Gulariya, Bardiya came back from Malaysia after working there for three years. He had learned a lot from the life-style of people abroad. After being back, he expected some changes in the villages but found most of the things to be the same. His family of eight members did not have a toilet in their house. They defecated in open spaces like most of their neighbours. Ramkishor did want to construct a toilet but he faced financial problems. "I worked in Malaysia as a wage labourer for three years. After I came back, I wanted to construct a toilet at my household but had problem managing the financial resources," Ramkishor shares.

He and his family encountered different problems due to not having a toilet. Ramkishor's 60 year old mother Jalabarshi Khaira shares the family's woes, "it was very difficult for me to go to the bushes. There was always fear of snakes and it was a huge trouble during rainy season and at night time. When guests arrived in the community, it was embarrassing for us. Various water borne diseases were common in our family mainly among the children. There are three children in our family and they suffered from diarrhoea about 3-4 times a year. We used to spend around 7,000 (£44) to 9,000 (£56) rupees a year on medical expenses."

At the same time, he happened to participate in a video documentary show which highlighted the importance and benefits of toilet. He noticed that there were many posters, pamphlets and hoarding boards that constantly reminded him that he did not have a toilet at home. Finally, Ramkishor decided to construct a toilet at any cost. He decided to make an investment and construct a toilet with a bathroom attached. "I felt that investment in toilet construction will benefit the family so with the total cost of NPR 40,000 our toilet along with bathroom was complete."

Ramkishor and his family are very happy after the construction. He shares, "because of the toilet, my home and surrounding environment is cleaner,



odourless and healthier. Though

I wanted to construct the toilet from a long time, watching the video documentary really pushed me into action."

The SAFA & SWASTHA Gulariya project in collaboration with Gulariya Municipality has been conducting various activities for the promotion of toilets in Gulariya. Activities like video documentary shows, street drama shows, distribution of posters, pamphlets, leaflets to discourage open defecation with the objective of declaring an Open Defecation Free Gulariya Municipality by 2015.

Ramkishor's family has easily adapted to using toilet. Jalabarshi, Ramkishor's mother, now feels dignified to use the toilet, "I find it very convenient using toilet instead of going to the bushes. This gives me privacy to do my business with dignity. And our children have not fallen sick for the last seven months after the construction of the toilet."

Ramkishor's household has become a role model in his community as many have started following his example and construct toilets in a design similar to his. Apart from Ramkishor's example, his fellow community members participated in behaviour change campaigns organised by SAFA & SWASTHA Gulariya project promoting sanitation and hygiene in the community. This motivated them to have their own toilets.

Now the entire community of Khairanjhal has become (ODF) as all 71 households have broken off from the traditional practice of defecating in the open after constructing improved toilets in their homes. This proves that change starts from a single person.



# Disaster risk reduction

This programme focuses on early warning for flood and landslides and building resilience of the earthquake vulnerable communities. The programme aims to support local governments and national stakeholders for strengthening resilience through mainstreaming DRR and adaptation to climate change into development planning.



## Nepal Flood Resilience Project (NFRP)

<p><b>Objective</b> To build resilience of flood vulnerable communities in Nepal, particularly in Karnali River basin and provide technical support in Koshi River basin to Nepal Red Cross Society</p> <p><b>Target Group</b> Flood vulnerable people</p> <p><b>Implementing Period</b> July 2013 to June 2018</p>	<p><b>Project Area</b> Bardiya and Kailali in Karnali River basin; and Saptari, Sunsari, Udayapur, Bhojpur and Khotang in Koshi river basin</p> <p><b>Implementing Partners</b> Centre for Social Development and Research (CSDR) in Karnali and Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in Koshi</p> <p><b>Funded by</b> Zurich Foundation</p>
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The Nepal Flood Resilience Project (NFRP) is being implemented in Karnali and Koshi river basin since July 2013. In Koshi, the project is providing technical assistance in setting up early warning system to Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). In Karnali, the project is supporting communities and stakeholder agencies to improve their disaster preparedness and response capacities through structural and non-structural measures. The project aims to strengthen resilience capacity of the communities with interventions in the various livelihood assets i.e. natural resources, physical capital, social and institutional setups, financial assets and human capacities.

In Karnali, 2,648 people are benefitting from three emergency shelters, three safe escape routes such as improved culverts and walk ways. Similarly, in Koshi the project supported NRCS to build walk-ways and culverts benefitting 4,445 people. The project

provided orientation training to 8,604 people (majority of women) about the Early Warning Systems (EWS) and using the system to prepare for and respond to flood disaster. As part of resilience building, vocational training was provided to 162 (61 female) people in Karnali and supported NRCS in Koshi to train 196 people (99 female) on various livelihood entrepreneur skills. Communities in both river basins are provided support on agriculture and livestock through different training, Farmers' Field Schools (FFS) and Practical Answers knowledge service.

The project supported the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) to strengthen rainfall and flood forecasting and monitoring capacity. This was accomplished by upgrading weather and hydrology stations networks and technical capacity of staff to observe and communicate the situation at basin and national level. The project supported to upgrade five meteorological stations into automatic observation and real-time data transmission and trained 22 field staff to run and maintain stations in Karnali basin. In Koshi, automatic real-time display installed in District Emergency Operation Centres (DEOCs) of Sunsari, Saptari and Udayapur have potential to serve all flood vulnerable communities along the banks of Koshi River.

Additionally, the project has initiated mechanism to connect communities to flood information sharing between Nepal and India in Karnali. The project collaborates with an NGO in India and integrates activities with their cross-border community based EWS project.



[Strengthening Actions for Fostering Resilience through Early Warning and Risk Sensitive Planning in Nepal \(SAFER Nepal\)](#) project was completed on August 2015. The project was able to make remarkable achievements during the project period. The project facilitated in the formation and revision of Local Disaster Risk Management Plans (LDRMPs) in the project districts. The project established flood early warning systems in nine river systems in Nepal. These systems are demonstrated as good practices at the local level and district levels with technical supports from central government organisation and DHM. The systems have also been recognised by Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), the DRR focal ministry of Government of Nepal.

A national early warning strategy was drafted during the project period which is submitted to Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC). The final draft of the strategy is now called Natural Hazard Early Warning

System Strategic Action. This document will be a supportive document to National Disaster Response Framework.

A common framework for Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) was developed and implemented by DIPECHO partners in Nepal. The model helped all the DIPECHO partners to consolidate their actions and build synergy among all. The action worked with the government closely at all levels guided by the CBDP model to institutionalise DRR into the government system. As part of this institutionalisation, assistant Chief District Officer (CDO) has been nominated as DRR focal person in the district. Apart from this, mainstreaming DRR into development plan; institutionalisation of EWS for capacity building; emergency fund allocation by local government; and EWS replication by the local government has been



## SAFER Nepal - Strengthening Actions for Fostering Resilience through Early Warning and Risk Sensitive Planning in Nepal

### Objective

To enhance the capacity of communities and relevant institutions to strengthen DRR systems and structure and replicate DRR initiatives to ensure community based risk management at local level

### Target Group

Poor people living in the most disaster prone communities

### Implementing Period

March 2013 to August 2014

### Project Areas

Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Tanahun, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dadeldhura Districts

### Consortium Partners

Mercy Corps and Oxfam

### Implementing Partners

Nepal Red Cross Society

District Chapters Bardiya and Tanahun; Centre for Social Development and Research (CSDR) Banke; Radhakrishna Tharu Jan Sewa Kendra, Bardiya; Nepal National Social Welfare Association, Kanchanpur; Nepal Environment and Education Development Society, Kanchanpur; and Integrated Development Society, Dadeldhura

### Funded by

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department under DIPECHO VII Action Plan for South Asia

### Project Benefitted

411,239 people

the major achievements of the project during the reporting period.

All the project districts have developed district preparedness and response plan as guided by MoHA. These plans have now embedded the early warning information as well as communication channels to receive and disseminate the flood information. The communication channels developed for EWS were utilised during the monsoon.

EWS is linked with four District Emergency Operation Centres (DEOCs) in Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Banke, Bardiya and with National Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). The district flood simulations in Chitwan were proven to be the landmark in creating functional linkage between EOCs and communities through early warning.

A national early warning strategy was drafted during the project period which is submitted to Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC).

## Climate Proofing Growth and Development (CPGD) South Asia

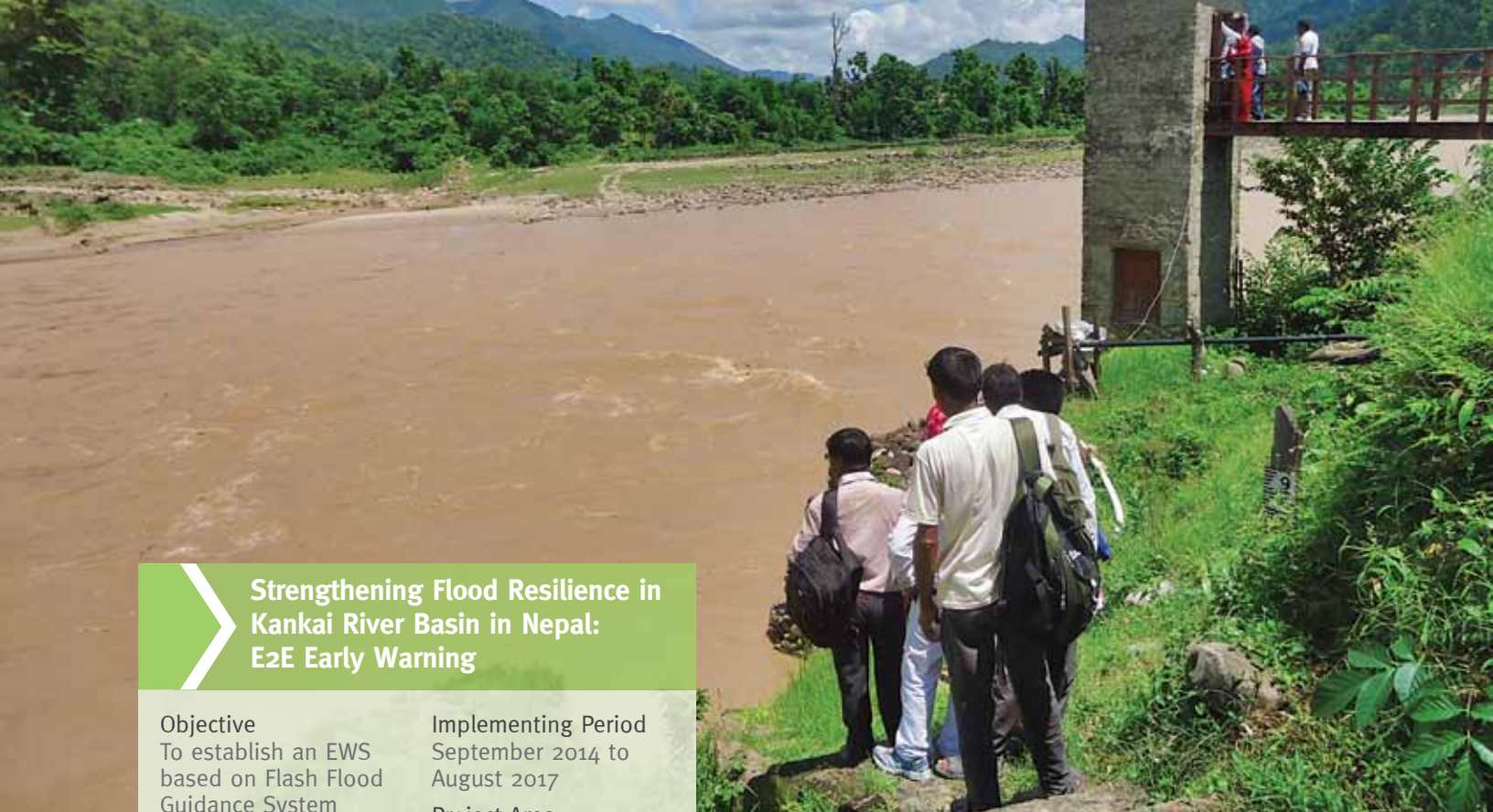
<b>Objective</b> To shift the ways governments plan for and deliver sustainable economic growth, reduce poverty and build people's resilience to changing climate	<b>Project Area</b> Nepal, Bangladesh and India
<b>Target Group</b> National, State and Local Government	<b>Implementing Partners</b> National, state and district level government authority
<b>Implementing Period</b> October 2014 to September 2019	<b>Funded by</b> UK Aid through Oxford Policy Management limited

Practical Action is implementing Nepal component of **Climate Proofing Growth and Development (CPGD) South Asia** programme from October 2014. The programme assists governments and other stakeholders in flexible and responsive manner to meet following objectives: transform their system of planning and delivery; build knowledge and capacity of political leaders, government, practitioners and investors; technical support to help government and communities design and deliver climate resilience and low carbon measure; and leverage and shape investments for climate compatible development.

As a start-up work, CPGD programme identified three climate change areas of work which are: i) Strengthening local government: includes supporting Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) to integrate climate change in its Environment Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) Programme. This will help government with necessary capacity support to integrate climate change into local development planning and implementation process; ii) Supporting Knowledge Exchange: includes support to Nepal Climate Change Knowledge Management Centre (NCKMC) of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) to understand national and local demand and supply of climate change knowledge management in Nepal; and iii) Climate Finance at the local level: aims to support Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD) to strengthen government systems to integrate climate change in planning and budgeting process and ensure improvement of climate compatible investments. This support on climate finance also seeks to build collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

One of the major achievements of the programme in this reporting period is being designated as a focal point for contact at Climate Change Management Division (CCMD) at Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE), Nepal.

One of the major achievements of the programme in this reporting period is being designated as a focal point for contact at Climate Change Management Division (CCMD) at MoSTE, Nepal.



## Strengthening Flood Resilience in Kankai River Basin in Nepal: E2E Early Warning

### Objective

To establish an EWS based on Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) in Kankai River and strengthen capacity of vulnerable communities, government agencies and non-government organisations for its sustainable management to save lives and properties

### Target Group

Flood vulnerable communities

### Implementing Period

September 2014 to August 2017

### Project Area

Jhapa and Ilam Districts

### Implementing Partner

Nepal Red Cross Society District Chapter Jhapa

### Funded by

USAID/OFDA

### Project Benefitted

Direct 1,223 population and 140,325 indirect populations

Practical Action is implementing **Strengthening Flood Resilience in Kankai River Basin in Nepal; E2E early warning** project in Jhapa and Ilam Districts. During the reporting period, vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) was carried out to analyse the situation of vulnerable communities to organise and motivate community people for DRR initiatives. The most vulnerable communities were identified through consultation with district authorities, VDCs, municipalities and likeminded organisations. The VCA exercise helped to organise the vulnerable people in different task forces and Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs). In order to support communities and mobilise them for DRR and emergency response, Local Disaster Risk Management

Committee (LDRMC) was formed and strengthened. In coordination with communities, capacity building and awareness raising activities like first aid training, EWS training and Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) training was organised for task force and CDMC members.

The DHM and project team assessed the situation of upstream in Kankai for requirements of automatic meteorology and hydrology stations and recommended the sites for installation of stations at different strategic points.

A total of 284 (103 female) people participated in four events of VCA and analysed vulnerabilities situation and development plan for DRR. Apart from that, 80 (27 female) people are involved in 16 task forces and gained knowledge about their roles and responsibilities through orientation. Seventy-seven (17 female) community members are involved in eight CDMCs and have gained skills to carry out their responsibilities. Four LDRMCs are formed in two municipalities and two VDCs with the involvement of 115 members. Two events of first aid training were conducted where 40 (18 female) members participated. Similarly, 46 (14 female) members participated in two events of EWS training from which the participants gained knowledge on importance of EWS, learned skill on calculation of lead time and prepare communication channel, and use megaphone and hand operated siren.



## Skill helps to build resilience

Mangal Ram Tharu (24) is one among 680 vulnerable people of 112 families in Murgahawa village at the bank of Karnali River in Rajapur, Bardiya. It has become usual for Mangal's family to repair or move their house annually as the flooded river destroys their house every monsoon.

Mangal had to drop out of his school after grade seven and worked as labour to support his family. The family could not fully depend upon the agriculture production from their tiny land as most of their summer harvest like paddy used to be washed away by flood. Mangal's family depended on his work which was uncertain as he used to do whatever he could find, lacking specific skills that would help him get better opportunities.

But the situation of Mangal's family has changed in the recent times after he started earning well enough to support his family. Mangal is now getting better opportunities and better payment for his work. "I participated in a two month mason training course certified by (CTEVT) after getting support from the project. My income has increased significantly after the training and my family members are quite happy," Mangal explains the reason for the positive change.

Nepal Flood Resilience Project (NFRP) has been

supporting vulnerable families in villages along the Karnali flood plains to improve their flood resilience capacity. Different training are being provided to people for enhancing their livelihood strategies to make them better prepared for disasters like flood.

"Before the training, I was not able get regular work and earned very little. I barely used to get 250 (£2) rupees per day but after being skilled, I am getting 600 (£4) per day," Mangal exclaims happily.

This increase in Mangal's income has not only improved the quality of life of his family but also made them more resilient towards flood. This has enhanced his confidence to cope with the impacts of flood. Mangal shares, "I plan to move my family to safer place after having enough savings to do so. For now, I plan to work on recovering past losses from flood and work towards restoring our house to be better prepared for flood. Regarding my own skills, I want to learn additional technical skills on earthquake resistant building construction."

Mangal's story is an example that people can be better prepared for flood if their livelihood is improved through better earning opportunities.



# Practical Answers to Poverty

Practical Answers programme is the technical information service and one of the cross cutting themes of Practical Action which provides knowledge resources about technologies on demand driven basis so as to improve the lives of people living in poverty. During this reporting period, Practical Answers received almost 60,000 enquiries of which 97 per cent were responded. Currently, the service is working in 16 districts of Nepal by facilitating access to technical knowledge. The service provides the knowledge and answers to the enquiries through the use of various knowledge objects such as flex prints, leaflets, videos, booklets and radio programmes among others. Additionally, different interaction

programmes with experts are also conducted for knowledge dissemination and reaching out directly to the people.

Practical Answers is working with 22 Community Libraries through READ and is integrated as a cross cutting theme in various projects being implemented by Practical Action. Currently Practical Answers service is embedded with NFRP, SED component of RAP III and POSAN-FS projects. Practical Answers is a complementary approach where project interventions go hand in hand with the service so as to make the learnings and knowledge dissemination more effective and accessible for people.



## Knowledge – Key to improve productivity

A resident of Madi, Chitwan, Saligram Neupane (49) was a subsistence farmer. He was struggling to keep his vegetable farming profitable and make ends meet for his family of seven. Like many rural farmers in Nepal, Saligram practised the same traditional methods of farming which are in use since generations.

For many years, he encountered various challenges in farming and suffered losses due to plant infections and diseases. In spite of working very hard, he was unable to make profit.

“I was getting frustrated due to all the loss. Different types of problems came up every now and then, but there was no place where I could go to seek help,” shares Saligram.

This situation changed after the initiation of technical enquiry service in the Gardi Community Library and Resource Centre in his locality. The Practical Answers programme within the library helps the local farmers by answering their queries on

agriculture and livelihood through interaction programmes, radio and video shows, focus group discussions, sharing knowledge materials and training. Saligram now had a place to go to seek answers to his problems.

Saligram participated in almost all agricultural interaction programmes conducted by the Gardi Community Library and Resource Centre which were led by agriculture experts from District Agriculture Office (DAO). After participating in an interaction programme on potato and cauliflower farming, he initiated cauliflower farming. It started well but after some time, some disease started infecting his plants. But this time, he knew where to go to seek help, thus he immediately visited the resource centre and inquired about his problem. After his query, an agriculture expert visited his farm to observe his problem and provided all the necessary information about cauliflower farming such as the technique to diagnose, manage and control infections and diseases. Saligram applied his newly gained knowledge and his cauliflower farming flourished gradually.

This year, Saligram invested NPR 35,000 (£217) to grow cauliflower in one acre land and has already earned NPR 70,000 (£434) by selling cauliflowers. He hopes to make NPR 80,000 (£496) more in a few months. Each day, he moves around the village to sell cauliflowers in a cart and has even hired two helpers. His success in such a short span of time has become an example in the community.

Recognising his hard work, dedication and success in agriculture, Saligram was awarded a grant support of NPR 10,000 (£62) to buy improved seeds by DAO, Chitwan.

“The Practical Answers service has played a great role in my success. There are various useful materials related with agriculture in the library and interaction programmes as well as agriculture experts who help us solve the problems,” says Saligram.

Saligram is motivated to work harder after this success. Satisfied with the profit he made this year, he is planning to call one of his sons back home who has gone abroad for earning. “You don’t need to go abroad to make money. Success comes to those who work hard and apply the best solutions to the problems,” Saligram exclaims.

## Financial Statement

For the period from April 2014 to March 2015

SOURCES OF INCOME	Restricted	Unrestricted	TOTAL 2015	TOTAL 2014
	£	£	£	£
Government Grants	1,349,246	-	1,349,246	1,622,146
NGO Grants	9,513	-	9,513	19,917
Other Grants	225,475	-	225,475	46,925
Donations	55,035	1,043	56,078	110,434
Other Income	-	206	206	-
Sales of Materials	-	39	39	64
Income from Services	-	-	-	321,418
Bank Interest Receivable	-	658	658	223
Grants from UK	-	709,654	709,654	342,673
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,639,269</b>	<b>711,600</b>	<b>2,350,869</b>	<b>2,463,799</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change	473,429	-	473,429	813,239
Energy	35,329	150,895	186,224	70,768
Food & Agriculture	699,527	10,811	710,338	581,676
Knowledge & Communications	-	168,055	168,055	13,441
Urban Wash	240,392	-	240,392	558,686
Directorate	-	478,053	478,053	284,137
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,448,677</b>	<b>807,814</b>	<b>2,256,491</b>	<b>2,321,947</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>190,592</b>	<b>(96,214)</b>	<b>94,378</b>	<b>141,852</b>

### Notes

1. A consolidated financial statement was signed at organisational level in the UK.
2. The figures provided are part of the report which are related only to Nepal Office.
3. Country programmes are realigned as per the country strategy 2012-2017

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