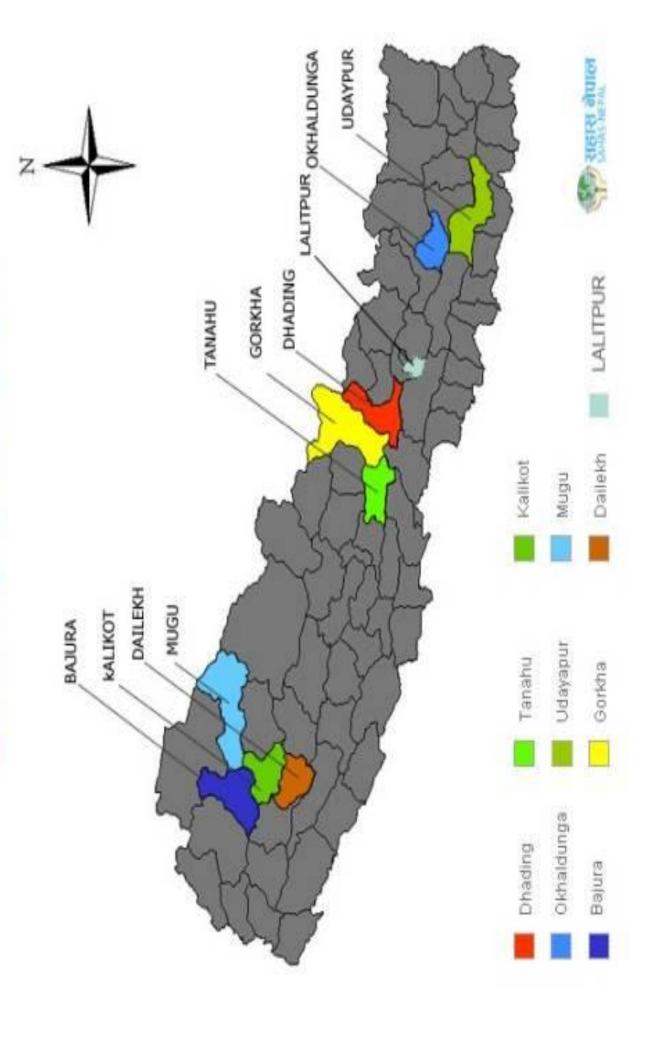
Annual Report 2010





Group of Helping Hands
(SAHAS) Nepal
Lalitpur

GENERAL MAP OF PROJET AREA



SAHAS-Nepal Annual Report 2010

FOREWORD



It is my pleasure to bring out the Annual Report of Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS) Nepal for the year 2010 and share with you about the organisation's contribution to empower the poor and socially excluded segment of the society in order to work together for collective changes and improve food security and livelihood improvement in general.

The year 2009 and 2010 held great promise for SAHAS-Nepal in its effort to scale up in terms of geographic areas, programme and project diversity, number of projects, number of senior staff, quality of work, and stakeholders and partners. We expanded our projects in seven districts in Far & Mid Western, Western and Central Development Regions. The organisation now has the opportunity to serve and work with resource poor and socially excluded communities in food insecure districts as well as meet the challenges to introduce SAHAS-Nepal's development intervention to empower and involve them in the decision making process in order to increase their access to resources from local development bodies, line agencies and I/NGOs and develop an alliance of those groups into a network organisation at ilaka and district levels-sometime negative perception taken by a few elites.

I would like to acknowledge and appreciate development cooperation and support of our partners, and stakeholders. I would like to thank for the timely guidance of board members and all the hard work put in by the staff. The organisation would not have been able to achieve its mission and objectives and successfully implement its diverse programmes and projects without the support and significant contribution of the poor and socially excluded communities. Therefore, I am grateful to these communities and their support in our development endeavour.

I would appreciate any further comments and suggestions to improve our work and reports.

Thank you,

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Surendra K. Shrestha PhD

Executive Board Director

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1. SAHAS-Nepal

1.1 Introduction

Organisation/ Features

The Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS)-Nepal is a not for profit, non-government social development organisation. It was established by creative former staff members of United Mission to Nepal's (UMN) Okhaldhunga Rural Development Project's (ORDP) in 1996 and is registered as a national NGO in Chief District Office, Lalitpur. Building on the successes and learning from the previous work, SAHAS-Nepal has been scaling up its programmes and projects, quality of work, geographic areas and networking with development agency.

SAHAS- Nepal works with the poor and socially excluded segment of society with a mission to empower them to overcome poverty, and realize basic human rights and social justice and to provide skilled-based trainings and inputs to improve livelihoods. Besides that the organisation also directed development efforts towards strengthening the capacities of the communities/CBOs and local development partner organisations to build a culture of peace and create an enabling environment for sustaining the development by CBOs Network Organisations themselves. Currently, the organisation has been working with 760 CBOs and covers 15000 households in 10 districts of Nepal. In other words, the organisation's projects' direct beneficiaries are 90000 people and partnering with 4 local CBOs network Organisations.

Our major development thematic areas include: community development, advocacy and action-research. The thematic activities under community development are: (i) livelihoods - agriculture, livestock, and income generation activities, (ii) education and training - civic and human rights education, training on education, community awareness, (iii) institutional development - leadership development, networking and alliance building, group facilitation, documentation, etc. (iv) disaster and relief activities, (v) infrastructure development - irrigation system, micro-hydro-power scheme, suspension bridge, drinking water scheme, and (vi) health and sanitation- hygiene, women's health and nutritional education. Similarly, the advocacy activities include: enhancement of capacity, lobbying together with communities for their pertinent issues/agendas (e.g. human rights, food sovereignty) addressing respective stakeholders, and support to communities for strategic planning and documentation of campaigns. The research activity undertaken focused on "Hill Maize Research Project" and bio-fuel by conducting various trials with the involvement of the local farmers.

Vision

The vision of the organisation is to build an inclusive society that respects human rights, sustains the growth of life of all citizens in general, and the poor, marginalised and excluded in particular, and fosters their own initiatives in a just and equitable manner.

Motto

"Able and Effective SAHAS-Nepal, Advancement of the Poor and the Marginalised".

Mission

The organisation is committed towards creating an enabling environment for development by empowering the poor, marginalised and excluded people to improve and sustain their quality of life, and advocating for their human rights and contributing to the national level.

Strategy

SAHAS-Nepal, adopts the rights-based and participatory approaches by sensitising the people that they have a right to development and live a life without fear. For planning and implementing development programmes, be it community empowerment or advocacy or research, SAHAS-Nepal puts the people right in the centre of development with a special focus on inclusion of the already excluded.

SAHAS-Nepal implements the programmes based on the experiences learned from the previous programmes and carries forward the approaches and activities that have proven to be effective in reaching the poor and marginalised communities by fostering strategic partnership with like-minded organisations.

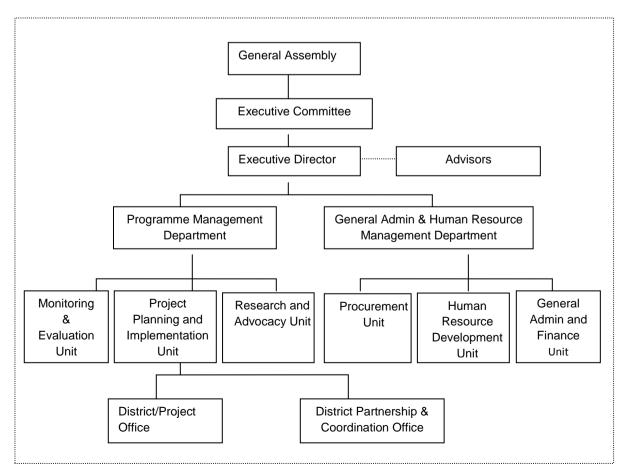
Objectives

The objective of SAHAS-Nepal is to strengthen the capacities of the poor and excluded people and their organisations in the social, economic and political spheres through its development, research and advocacy activities at all levels.

- To render the poor, marginalised and excluded people self-reliant through the process of empowerment,
- To bring together potential partners for collective action for community based development activities, pro-people research and advocacy activities, and
- To contribute to achieving national, regional and international development goals.

Organisational Structure

The General Assembly is the highest body in the organisation and they elect the Executive Committee, which is responsible for the overall policy, strategy, finance and management. All member and staff reflect the diversity of Nepalese society.



Programmes and projects

SAHAS-Nepal has been implementing various programmes and projects related to community development, research and advocacy. The ongoing programmes and projects of the year 2010 are presented below.

S.N.	Implementation	Projects	Project duration
	districts		
1	Okhaldhunga	Food Security Programme	■ Jan 2008 to Dec 2010
		 Poverty Alleviation Fund Programme 	■ 2010 to present
		 Biofuel Project 	•
		 Home Garden Project 	■ 2009 to present
		 Hill Maize Research Project 	•
		 Trail Bridge Suspension Programme 	■ 2005 to present
		 Rural Drinking water and Sanitation 	•
		Programme	
		 Institutional Network Capacity Building 	■ 2008 to present
		Programme	
		 Civic Education Programme 	■ Dec 2007 to present
2	Udaypur	 Food security Programme 	■ Jan 2008 to Dec 2010
		 Civic Education Project 	■ Dec 2007 to present
3	Dhading,	 Enhancing Livelihood through Local 	■ Jan 2010 to present
	Gorkha,	Effort Project	
	Tanahun	 Civic Education Project 	 Dec 2007 to present
4	Mugu, Bajura,	■ Community Empowerment for Food	■ Jan 2010 to present
	Kalikot	Security and Livelihood Project	
5	Dailekh	■ Improving Food Security through	■ Jan 2010 to present
		Community Organizing	

The following are partners of SAHAS-Nepal in 2010.

- 1. Church Development Service (EED), Germany
- 2. Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM), Finland.
- 3. International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) Nepal
- 4. Nepalteam, Germany
- 5. Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF), Kathmandu
- 6. Local Initiative for Biodiversity Conservation (LI-BIRD)
- 7. People, Energy, Environment Development Association (PEEDA)
- 8. District Development Committee, Okhaldhunga
- 9. DRLLIP/TBSP
- 10. Sanjal/Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Canada

1.2 Summary of major activities conducted in 2010

Like previous years, this organisation has been implementing various projects in different districts of the country. These projects have been helping to improve the living standard of target groups in the rural parts of the country. The projects have been running in partnership with various government and non government organisations in the districts and therefore various activities have been carried out through resource sharing. In this fiscal year, the organisation has been able to extend its working area to 7 VDCs of Lalitpur district. Various organisational activities in this fiscal year are discussed below.

15th General Assembly

The 15th general assembly of SAHAS-Nepal was held on October 3rd, 2010, under the chairmanship of Mr. Brahma Dhoj Gurung (the then acting chairperson of SAHAS Nepal) at Nagarkot, Bhaktapur. There were altogether 40 participants during the inauguration of this programme. The progress reports and financial reports of different projects implemented by SAHAS-Nepal were presented in the assembly. 28 general members reviewed and approved the financial and progress reports in the closed session. New executive board members were also appointed for the next 4 years. Dr.



Surendra K. Shrestha gave-up the chairperson position and was assigned as the Executive Director of the organisation. Conforming to the process of executive board member selection as per the organisational constitution, the new executive board members appointed were as follows:

- 1. Brahma Dhoj Gurung: Chairperson
- 2. Sati Shrestha: Vice Chairperson
- 3. Sunil Shakya: Treasurer
- 4. Dr. Surendra Kumar Shrestha: Member Secretatry
- 5. Bimala Gayak: JointSecretary
- 6. Devika Shrestha: Member
- 7. Saraswati Shrestha: Member
- 8. Bimala Shrestha Pokhrel: Member

Proposal writing development

In this process of developing proposal letters new information and information on diverse subjects has been gained. In this period the organisation has been able to submit proposal letters to EED for extending its work areas to 7 VDCs in Lalitpur, 9 VDCs in Okhaldhunga and 4 VDCs in Udaypur. Also, proposals have been submitted to the EED for the extension of the Civic Education Project (CEP) to the third phase. The project is being implemented by SAHAS-Nepal, Sansthagat Bikas Sanjal and Shtrii Shakti in 15 districts of the country. Proposals have also been submitted by the Home Garden Project, Hill Maize Research Project in Okhaldhunga district.

Project contract and work area expansion

On the basis of the proposal submitted to EED, the Local Initiative for Food Security Transformation (LIFT) project has been implemented in 7 VDCs in Lalitpur, 9 VDCs in Okhaldhunga and 4 VDCs in Udaypur. A contract has been signed between EED and SAHAS-Nepal for implementing the project for 3 years in the aforementioned districts. Similarly, contracts for the Home Garden Project and Hill

Maize Research Programme have been renewed for the fiscal year and activities have been implemented at community level.

Scholarships

The scholarship programme has been running continuously since the inception period of the organization through its own internal monetary sources. This programme provides scholarships at school to poor, disabled, orphan and intelligent students. As a result, today we can see some students continuing their schooling and some even landing jobs for themselves. Like previous years, this year as well, the organization selected some students from its work areas and provided them with scholarships. The organization provides support for tuition fee, books, dress and other stationery products. This year 8 students were provided support.

2. Programmes and projects of SAHAS-Nepal

2.1 Food Security Programme



Haat Bazar in Maney Bhanjyang, Okhaldhunga

The Food Security Project has been implemented in Okhaldhung and Udyapur districts of Nepal since 2008 January in partnership with Church Development Service (EED) Germany. The districts where the programme is implemented are rural and majority of population face food insecurity despite being rich in biological flora and fauna with wide range of climatic variation ranging from tropical to alpine. The local products can be easily sold in the weekly local market or Haatbazar and the areas have potential for commercial vegetable and cash crop production.

The target communities are selected in consultation with DDC and ex-VDC officials as well as from well-being ranking, poverty occurrence and I/NGOs presence and deterioration of socio-economic and environment position. Therefore, the programme aims at improving food security through sustainable agriculture; income generation, gender awareness, infrastructure development for better service, building member-based CBOs network organisation for social, political, economic and political empowerment and sustainable development. The programme covers four areas: awareness raising and social development, economic development, infrastructure development and local organisation development-CBOs network organisation.

SAHAS-Nepal has been working under the Food Security Programme for the poor and marginalized community in 9 VDCs of Okhaldhunga (Katunje, Chyanam, Mulkharka, Sisneri, Balekhu, Maneybhyanjyang, Toksel and Thakla) and 4 VDCs (Katari, Risku, Sirise and Tawashri) of Udaypur district. Development activities carried out in the year 2010 included various activities such as:

- Awareness and social development activities
 - School education
 - o Capacity building of dalit, women and other marginalised group in the community
 - o Establishing hoarding board
- Economic development and income generating activities
 - Various agricultural trainings such as commercial vegetable farming training, kitchen gardening, cash crop farming, grain storage training, bee keeping training, mushroom cultivation training etc
 - Non-agricultural trainings like hair cutting training, weaving, tailoring training etc
 - o Goat and pig rearing
- Infrastructure development activities
 - o Construction of drinking water schemes, toilets
 - o Repair and maintenance of school buildings, wells and roads



Mushroom cultivation

- o Construction of micro irrigation scheme, check dam
- o Construction of hydropower plant
- Institutional development activities
 - o Facilitation in group plan formulation
 - o Mul Samiti concept training
 - o Mul samiti formation
 - o Capacity building of group
 - Monitoring and supporting activities of other projects

2.1 Achievements

2.1.1 Awareness raising and social development

SAHAS Nepal has been actively working with local communities, creating awareness about various in-built social norms and rules that have both positive and negative impact in the society.

Consumption of excess alcohol, wasting time and money over card playing, discrimination between son and daughter, caste and gender based discrimination are some of the evils deep rooted in our society. In an attempt to minimize the negative impact of these elements in the society, SAHAS Nepal has been working with local people creating awareness campaigns.

Today we can see some positive change in the perception of the people towards these things in the society. Unity and "we feeling" among the people is clearly evident. A feeling



Giving out message through dramas

of ownership and self-help is well manifested. Dalit and other marginalized groups have come forward and even started taking leadership position in many groups. After people started joining groups, discrimination based on caste, gender and class has been reduced to imperceptible level. This has raised our hope as well as helped us spread message that we can do away with social evils if we try hard. These days whenever a meeting is called, people come and sit together irrespective of caste, class and gender; respect each other; and even take meals together. Poor and backward communities are now gaining access to education, drinking water, health and community forest. This has helped in the participation of lower level people in the community in various development activities. By declaring their village/tole as open latrine-free zone they have set themselves as examples for other communities. In their own initiation, they have successfully constructed a building for their group which has made it easier for them to conduct various activities.

2.1.2 Economic development

In order to improve the living condition of the people by increasing their income level, SAHAS Nepal has been conducting various income generation activities with full cooperation from support and the community. Alternative means of earning undertaking skill development trainings have helped poor households that do not have sufficient agriculture production



Commercial vegetable farming and goat rearing

to sustain them throughout the year and were earlier forced to work as unskilled wage labours. After taking skill development trainings, they have been able to earn enough money for educating their children and also improving their living standard as a whole.

Under these development activities, promotion of commercial vegetable farming is important achievement. The community that used to grow only traditional local vegetables has now started cultivating improved novel varieties. Selling of these vegetables in the local market has helped in increasing household income. Further, they have been able to establish themselves as models through commercial vegetable farming. In addition to commercial vegetable farming, they have also started looking for alternative sources of income through fish rearing, mushroom farming, ginger/turmeric cultivation, animal husbandry etc.

Poor members in the group are selected by the group members themselves and support is

A Little Investment, More Income

Mrs. Mana Maya Mijar, 43, is a member of a poor family residing at Gabuwa Tole of Ward No. 6, Katari VDC in Udayapur district. Mana Maya lives in a family of six members, i.e., 3 daughters, 2 sons, and husband. Her family has been sustaining with the income earned from working as dailywage laborers. In this context, Sahas-Nepal formed a group in 2008. Mana Maya also joined that group as a member. With the financial help received from Sahas-Nepal at the recommendation of the group and as per the work-plan of income generation, she started raising poultry. From raising poultry, Mana Maya has been successful to earn Rs. 15000 in five months. Now Mana Maya says 'It is possible to make good income even from a little investment if we work hard. I am thinking of earning still more money by keeping more number of chickens in the days to come'. The money earned from this enterprise has contributed to food security of Mana Maya's family and education of her children.

provided for goat rearing and other income generating activities through small farmer's grants and revolving fund. These supports have helped them considerably by raising their income. The habit of saving money in group has been inculcated among group members and this has made it easier to provide loans at lower (or even none) interest rate to needy members when required. Groups have even established "food banks" with an aim to secure food at times of low agriculture production.

2.1.3 Infrastructure development

Various infrastructure development activities have been gaining momentum at local level under the partnership of SAHAS Nepal with the local community, VDC, other organisations. Development of such infrastructures has not only helped in physical development at community level but has also opened up new avenues for alternate development activities. Under the initiation of the community, people have now gained access to

safe drinking water and are able to live a healthy life. Before, people were forced to drink water from rivers and streams and



Construction of school building

had to travel a long distance to fetch water. These days, when they have a regular supply of water at their own doorstep, people have realized that nothing is impossible if we work together. The physical state of many schools in the work area was pathetic. This had caused anxiety among parents who were unwilling to send their children to school. Plans were made to hold a discussion among school management committee, teachers and representatives from the local community in order to improve the wretched physical condition of the school. Accordingly, repair and maintenance of existing schools along with construction of new ones have been done successfully. This has led to increased enrolment of students in school as well as improvement in the quality of education imparted. Along with improvement in the physical structure of school

Safe drinking water for dalits

Under the facilitation of SAHAS Nepal in Sokhlaha village, Ward no. 8 of Katari VDC, a group was formed. This tole, comprising solely of dalit community is beyond the reach of development activities. After group formation, members started sitting for group meeting once a month. Problems faced by the community were the basic agendas in the meeting, drinking water problem being a major problem. Through discussions, they came to know that access to clean drinking water was their right. However, due to lack of sufficient fund and sources, they were forced to drink unsafe river water. They had to walk one hour to fetch water. The group decided to write an application letter to SAHAS Nepal for building source for clean drinking water. After receiving a monetary support of Rs. 11983 from SAHAS Nepal, the group further added Rs.6600 and constructed a well. The members of the group are now happy that they have a clean drinking water source at their own disposal. They no longer have to go elsewhere to fetch drinking water and most important of all, they do not have to hear disparaging remarks from non dalit people.



produce crops even during winter season.

buildings, the community also started focusing its attention on the construction of toilets. This has helped to keep the school area clean. Today, a separate toilet is provided for girls and boys in schools.

In most of the districts of terai region, flooding has washed away the fertile top soil leaving the land unfit for agriculture. To avoid this situation in their village, people held discussions at community level and through the support and partnership with various organisations they have been able to construct a dam. This has saved 100 bighas of fertile productive land from the risk of getting washed away. With the support from Energy programme as well as SAHAS Nepal, the community has also been able to launch a micro hydroelectricity scheme and thus generating electricity for their village. 390 households have directly benefitted from this scheme. This initiation has helped in improving health service in the village and has opened path for many other development activities. In addition, maintenance work for small irrigation canals have been carried out which has enabled 45 households to



2.1.4 Local organisation development-CBOs network organisation

Since its inception period, this organisation has been working with the aim of establishing groups, VDC level main committees and Community Based Network Organisations in order to carry out community development activities in an organised way with the help of the local community. This process has been helpful in

generating equal participation in development activities from all sectors of the society in a sustainable manner. Today, the district level Community Based Network Organisations in different districts have

Farmers in group meeting been able to build their own identity in the districts through

continuous efforts in development activities. Different groups and main committees have been able to develop their own action plans and work accordingly, as a result, they no longer have to be spoon fed and can make decisions for themselves. Altogether, 202 groups have been formed in Okhaldhunga and Udaypur districts with the help and active participation of the local community. Consequently, 13000 households have directly benefitted. These groups have been continuously mobilizing

development activities in their respective areas. Leadership development of Dalit, Janajati and other marginalized groups in the community has been regularly encouraged due to which they can now be seen taking lead in many of these groups. Participation in various institutional development trainings has helped the members to contribute to the development of their group, main committee and network organisation. These training programmes have also helped in individual capacity building and have enabled the members to draw sources on their own in VDC and even district level for different development activities.

Driven by the feeling that groups should be empowered; we can see that the community is now working towards the development of groups. The community feels that strengthening of these groups at lower level will help for a sustainable mobilization of community based network organisation in the future.

Construction of group's building

People belonging to the Brahmin and Magar community inhabit the Sirise and Gabhdanda Tole in Ward No. 6 of Sirise VDC. Under the facilitation of the staff of SAHAS Nepal, Sirise Mishrit Samuha was formed in this community in Chaitra 2066. The group consisted of 2 Brahmin and 19 Magar households. The group members started conducting regular monthly meetings where they discussed different problems in the community and sought out solutions for the same. Feelings of institutionalization and strengthening of the group aroused among the group members. As a result, the group has successfully constructed a building; repaired a 3 km long footpath; and carried out various other development activities in the village. Earlier, group members used to hold meetings in each other's house taking turns. Sometimes, meetings were even conducted in open space and it caused inconvenience particularly during rainy season. After the construction of the group's own building was completed in 17th Bishakh 2067, a well-organized and fixed venue was available for conducting meetings, trainings and various programmes in the group. In this way, SAHAS Nepal has helped people in this community by organizing them in a group. Members are benefitting from this group and are now capable of conducting different development activities in their community without any external support. They have learnt to work in a team and this team spirit has helped them evolve in a positive way. At present the group has saved Rs.630. The money saved in the group is used by group members in various income generating activities.

2.2 Poverty Alleviation Fund Programme

SAHAS Nepal has been working in partnership with PAF programme in 4 VDCs (Maneybhanjyang, Madhavpur, Toksel and Thakle) of ilaka 10 of Okhaldhunga. The PAF programme has been running since April 2010. Altogether 22 community organisations have been formed. 5 in Maneybhanjyang; 6 in Madhavpur; 6 in Toksel; and 5 in Thakle VDC of Okhaldhunga. These community organisations have been regularly holding meetings, saving money and utilising the money for various income generation activities.

Through the PAF programme, SAHAS-Nepal reaches out to the extremely poor community and after assessing their common problems through a participatory process, the organisation acts as a facilitator by providing them economical and technical support for raising their living standard. Support is provided in the form of social mobilisation, awareness creation, capacity building and community empowerment. Under the PAF programme SAHAS-Nepal has been conducting the following activities:

- VDC level assembly/ function
- Social economic analysis
- Social map construction
- Well-being ranking
- Leadership training of community organisation
- Monitoring by DDC, agricultural and political representatives
- Demand collection for investment in various income generating activities

Achievements

- There are 422 women and 108 men in the community organisation. Out of the total 530 people in the group 145 (35%) are from dalit community, 309 (54%) from janajati and 76 (11%) from other communities.
- In each community organisation, money is collected from the members and saved during the monthly meeting. This fund is then mobilized as loan at subsidized rate according to priority.



A PAF supported electric shop in Maneybhanjyang Okhaldhunga

- The chairperson, secretary and the treasurer of the community organisations have been given leadership development training.
- The group members have developed a feeling of ownership.
- Communities have started showing inclination towards income generating activities like animal husbandry, shop keeping, tailoring etc.
- Marginalised communities like women, dalit and janajati have started taking leadership roles in their community

2.3 Bio Fuel Project

In partnership with Human Energy and Environment development committee, SAHAS Nepal has been working in 7 VDCs (Kuntadevi, Rangadeep, Jyamire, Maneybhanjyang, Madhavpur, Toksel and Thakle) of Okhaldhunga districts. This Biofuel Project mainly works for organised management and promotion of the otherwise wasted Sajjiwan (*Jatropha Curcas*) plant. This plant that used to be treated as useless waste earlier has drawn the attention of people in this community. They believe that cultivation of this plant will not only help to earn money but also allow production of bio fuel at local level. Activities conducted within this period are:

- Plantation of jatropha
- District level assembly
- VDC level assembly
- Study tour
- Research and experiment
- Integrated cropping

Achievements

 High Yielding seedling support of jatropha No. of jatropha seedling distributed: 7059
 No. of farmers benefitted: 111



Rumdu Khola mill sanchalak samiti is earning Rs.1200 daily by expelling oilseeds

- 2. 3 day Study Tour to Lahan, Siraha district (Bhawanipur-4, Sunamati-4) Total No. of participants: 23
- 3. Jatropha seed purchased

Total: 182 kgs of locally produced jatropha seeds collected from different VDCs of Okhaldhunga.

(Ongoing activity)

4. Expelling of jatropha

Total seed expelled: 182 Kgs Total oil produced: 42 liters Ratio of jatropha to oil: 4.33

5. Research and development **I**t is seen that late (November) harvested jatropha has higher oil content than early harvested jatropha. Similarly other non-edible oil bearing seeds are also being collected to test their potential and possibilities.



Farmers performing intercropping trial

6. Trial of intercropping

2 farmers of Toksel VDC have experimented jatropha with turmeric and ginger and one farmer from Jyamire has done trial on chilly. Production analysis is to be taken.

2.4 Home Garden Project

Home Garden Project has been running in 4 VDCs of Okhaldhunga (Madhavpur, Baruneshwor, Toksel and Kuntadevi) in a partnership between SAHAS Nepal and LI-BIRD. Different activities are being conducted in order to raise the living standard of the poor people in this region. Seeds of traditionally cultivated crops are cultivated and integrated farming system is given emphasis through this project.

Activities conducted within this period are:

- Nursery management training
- Distribution of seed packets of various cultivar
- Group enhancement training
- Distribution of saplings of fruit trees
- Support for rabbit rearing
- Support for mushroom cultivation
- Support for pigeon raising



Achievements

- Availability of fresh vegetables at family level (home garden and nursery management; and off season vegetable production)
- Availability of seeds of local and indigenous cultivars (establishment of group seed bank and seed production)
- Improvement in the nutritional status of family (addition of variety in vegetables and fruits)
- Reduced use of Chemical fertilizers and pesticides (organic vegetable production)
- Increase in family income (sale of surplus production)

Bina Kumari Magar, 45, is a permanent resident of Toksel-6. She has a family size of eight. She has been involved in Laligurans Women Farmers' Group since three years and is now the president of the group. She has been involved in farming activities for 25 years. Despite being engaged in agriculture for a long time there has not been a substantial progress in her livelihood. Fresh vegetable was available only for 2-3 months. She and her group were unaware of the vegetables/spices suitable for the area and source of seed. Mushroom production was out of their imagination.

After the implementation of HG project, she now has enough vegetables for her family all year round. Not only vegetables integrated approach of HG has increased the availability of spices, ornamental plants, and small livestock, fish etc. in the community. She is now aware of her nutrition and daily diet. Several trainings on biodiversity conservation, family nutrition and HG management have made enabled her to identify her potential towards increasing biodiversity of her HH and family nutrition. Now in her HG there are more than 12 fresh vegetables, fish in pond, poultry, goat, swine etc. She has been conserving several unique species such as fitweed, aloe vera, several important medicinal plants. She has one of the resources HG of the district. She never thought that she could be able to produce such a large number of species in her HG.

Not only the production and consumption aspects, she is also leading the group which has increased her leading capacity on the other hand. Before the project implementation she could barely speak in front of strangers, but now she can demand and can even raise her voice for community welfare.

2.5 Hill Maize Research Project

SAHAS Nepal has been implementing the Hill Maize Research Programme (HMRP) with activities such as PVS trials, IRD, intercropping and Community Based Seed Production (CBSP) programmes in 11 VDCs of Okhaldhunga since 2008 in collaboration with HMRP\CIMMYT International. These activities have been contributing to improving the food security and livelihood of resource poor farmers. This project mainly focuses on the optimum utilization of seeds of traditionally cultivated local maize varieties while integrating improved maize varieties in the farming system. Practical knowledge on improved farming techniques are given in order to increase the production.



Farmer in his maize research field

This project has been conducting various activities in the district.

- Maize seed purchase, transportation and distribution
- Maize weeding by farmers
- Monitoring of crops by farmers
- Monitoring of crops by agriculture technician
- Training on seed production, storage and marketing

Achievements

- Production of quality seed of maize by CBSP groups. About 45 tons of Manakamana-3 and Deuti maize was produced
- The yield of improved maize was 50% more than that of local maize cultivar and thereby directly contributing to the improvement of food security in the region
- Improved relationship with District Agriculture Development Office
- Information dissemination of high yielding improved maize cultivars
- Formation of seed management sub group within seed production group for organised seed production, sale and distribution.
- Capacity building of CBSP groups through various trainings and workshops



2.6 Trail Bridge Programme

In a tripartite partnership between District Development Committee (DDC) Okhaldhunga, DRLIP Helvetas Nepal and SAHAS Nepal; construction of trail bridges has been going on since 2005 in different VDCs of the district under the active participation of the local community. Till date construction of 11 bridges has been completed and approved by the DDC with repair and maintenance committee established for the bridges. The DDC has provided a guard for maintenance of the bridge. Construction of other 3 bridges has been completed however they have yet to be approved. Similarly, design estimates for



Trail bridge in Okhaldhunga

construction of 7 bridges have been completed and 28 participants have been trained in Ghurmi, Udaypur for the construction of those bridges. The construction process has been going on at full pace.

Major Activities in the year 2010

- Prioritisation and selection of site for bridge construction
- Formation of Users' Committee
- Finalisation of financial agreement between Users' group and DDC
- Providing equipment support to the users' committee for the construction of the bridge
- Facilitating the users' committee for creating a bank accountant and depositing the advance for the construction purpose
- Bridge lay out finalised and construction work going on at full pace
- Regular monitoring and documentation of the activities and future plans of the users' committee



In the process of bridge lay out finalisaing

- Monthly reporting of the progress on bridge construction and its financial, social and technical aspect. The report is presented to the local bridge programme in the district.
- Training on the construction of suspension bridge was given to 28 participants (4 participants for each bridge)

Achievements:

- Parents no more anxious while sending their children to school
- Community feeling relieved due to no more risk while crossing the river
- Livestock no longer had to be guarded at the river banks and it was easier to cross the river
- Ease in practicing agriculture in khet land at the river banks
- Community's access to market and other livelihood options increased

Lessons Learnt

 Construction of bridge should not be initiated unless all the construction materials are available at hand.

2.7 Rural Drinking water and Sanitation Programme

In a joint venture with rural drinking water and sanitation fund development committee in Okhaldhunga district, SAHAS Nepal has launched 2 schemes in Chyanam and Sisneri VDC. All activities have been completed for these schemes.

- 3 drinking water projects have been completed, 1 in Chyanam and 2 in Sisneri VDC
- 190 households have directly benefited from the scheme and now have access to safe drinking water
- Construction of toilets has directly benefitted 1200 students



A woman using safe drinking water from tap

2.8 Institutional Network Capacity Building Programme

There are altogether 4 Community Based Network Organisations in Okhaldhunga districts viz., Likhudemba community development forum ilaka 6, Kotgadhi Shikhar Samaj (KOSHIS Nepal) ilaka 1, Rural women awareness group, Sunkoshi Kakani group development forum, ilaka 9. These organisations have been evolved by the facilitation, and development intervention of SAHAS-Nepal. Various activities are conducted with active participation of the community for capacity building of these network organisations.



• Institutional capacity building training

A 3 day training workshop was organised for the capacity building of the network organisations. In the training, participants were informed about the role of committee members of the organisation, important elements for smooth conduction of the organisation and analysis of the present situation of the organisation. This training had helped in preparation of the organisation's documents as well as in development of proposal letters. A work plan for creating the organisation's profile and developing a brochure had been made.

Account management training

SAHAS Nepal has been continuously working towards the capacity building of the network organisation in the field of organised account management. To this end, the account personnel of the organisations have been given various relevant trainings from time to time. In this process, the treasurer and account keeper of the organisations have been trained and coached on account keeping and documentation on various occasions. This has helped in the accounting and management of the organisations.

• Support for development of proposal

The organisations have been trained for developing good proposal letters so that they can apply to various national and international donor agencies for support. This has not only helped to maintain a good relationship with other organisations but has also helped the organisation to obtain support and funds from various donor agencies for carrying out development activities in their community. SAHAS Nepal has been providing support in forms of both monetary and human resources for resource sharing with the network organisations. The network organisations have been successful, without any external support, in writing proposal letter to various national and international donor agencies for implementing different projects in their community.

Achievements

- Support in documentation
- Clarification of responsibilities
- Support for efficient and organised account keeping
- Support for account auditing
- Acquiring projects form donor agencies and their implementation
- Support in conducting different activities

2.9 Civic Education Project

With the aim of mainstreaming the socially excluded group in the state, through their active and meaningful participation in the process of constitution making, SAHAS-Nepal has been conducting the second phase of Civic Education Project in the last two years in Okhaldhunga, Udaypur, Dhading, Gorkha and Tanahun districts. SAHAS Nepal has been implementing the project in 5 VDCs of each of the districts mentioned above. Besides SAHAS Nepal, Sansthagat Bikas Sanjal and Shtrii Shakti have been implementing the project in 10 other districts across the country.

Various activities conducted in the second phase of the Civic Education Project of SAHAS Nepal in the year 2010 are discussed below.

2.9.1 RBA Capacity building training

To strengthen the capacities of the communities on Rights Based Approach (RBA), SAHAS-Nepal organised two day training in Udaypur, Dhading, Gorkha and Tanahun districts. The trainings were facilitated by INSEC district representative, women and dalits activists and SAHAS staff members. DDC and DCWG had supported to share the resources in order to run the training jointly with SAHAS.



Participants in RBA training

Contents of the training:

- RBA concept and human rights
- Development approaches
- ILO Convention no. 169
- Provision of rights of women, dalits and aadivasis, janjatis in the interim constitution of Nepal 2007

The communities have started taking part in various programmes organised at local levels. Besides, they have also held discussions at local level on their rights provisioned in the interim constitution of Nepal 2007. Today they actively work to ensure that VDC budget is allocated for the poor and marginalised group in the society.

2.9.2 District level Workshop on draft report of CA Thematic Committees



Discussion on draft report of CA thematic issues

The tenure of the Constituent Assembly has been extended for one more year in 14th Jestha 2067. However, the CA has not been able to perform as per its time table. Although the draft of the new constitution is yet to be formed, the thematic committees of CA have submitted the draft report. In order to inform the general people about the main points existing in the draft report, discussion programmes were held in every 2 places of each VDC where the project has

been running.

issues The communities were able to know if their suggestions were heard and taken under consideration by the CA members of their respective area. They have agreed that most if not all of their suggestions have been incorporated into the draft report. This has instilled a feeling of ownership towards the new constitution among the community.

2.9.3 Radio programme

In order to convey the unheard voices of the community to the CA, a fortnightly radio programme called *Nagarik Sachetana* is aired in community radio across the project districts. This programme basically brings together the voices of people from the community and puts across their questions to the CA members. The feedback from the concerned CA members are recorded and aired. This has directly helped the community to be informed about the on goings in the CA regarding the drafting of the new constitution. In addition, the CA members are also clued-up about the type of constitution the general people want. In summary, these types of radio programmes have helped to bridge the gap between the community and the Constituent Assembly.



Community Radio worker taking community's voice for Community radio programme

The production and broadcasting of these programmes have been conducted in 50% partnership with community radios.

2.9.4 Question answer programme

To maintain peace by resolving major conflicts, district civic watch group in Dhading district organised a question answer discussion programme in partnership with other likeminded

organisations in the district. In the programme, questions were put forward by the general public to politicians and government officials. The programme had been aired live by different radio stations in Dhading. Representatives from major political parties, Chief District Officer, Local Development Officer, Civil society and members from the community along with media personnel had shown active participation in the programme.

The implementation of the agreement made by different political parties earlier was discussed in the programme.



A glimpse of Question Answer

Most of the parties were found to have drifted away from their obligations made in the past, and they pledged to fulfil their commitments in the future. Besides, agreement was made for calling immediate district council for budget and programme preparation as well as re-formation of peace committee. With 13 women and 47 men, a total of 60 participants had attended the programme.

Few weeks after the programme, a district council was called and programme and budget was appropriated along with re-formation of peace committee.

2.9.5 Support to district civic resource centre

Various publications on drafting of constitution, that were bought and some even donated by different organisations, were provided to district civic resource centres. Information materials were collected from IEC, UNDP project Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal (SPCBN), Centre for Constitutional Dialogue (CCD), Secretariat of the Constituent Assembly, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), INSEC, NCARD, IGD, Jagaran Nepal, NNDSWO, FIAN-Nepal and so on for use in these centres.

People visiting the centre not only read the books in the centre but also engage themselves in discussion of contemporary issues related to constitution formation.

Institutionalization of Resource Centre in Dhading

Unlike before, journalists in Dhading district do not go to the information centre of Nepalese Journalist's Federation (NJF) merely to read newspapers. These days, they have also started conducting discussions on drafting new constitution through the Constituent Assembly, state reconstruction and the role of civil society in the near future. Through the support of VDC, the information centre is daily supplied with 12 newspapers. Earlier, journalists used to go to the center every morning and return after reading the papers. At a time when the country was going through the process of constitution formation, many things that were not clear remained unsettled.

Under the facilitation of Civic Education Project of SAHAS Nepal, district civil awareness group was formed which consisted of district human rights activists and civil society journalists. This group later decided to establish a civil resource centre in the district in partnership with SAHAS Nepal. This resource centre was set up at the information centre of NJF. Initially there were only 37 books in the centre. These books provided information on constitution formation, state reconstruction, federal state and other burning issues. After SAHAS Nepal pledged to provide these books, the federation made provisions for racks and cupboards in the centre. Books from other organisations were also added to the library and these were well managed so that everybody could read them. Later, the organisation further provided 15 additional books. Now each book has been numbered. People can even issue books and read them at home. However, the chairperson of the federation feels that reading in the centre itself would be a better idea than issuing books. This is mainly because many people do not bother to return the books back to the centre once they take them home. Various publications by INSEC have also been added to the centre. According to Rita Lamsal, the manager of the centre, there are more number of people reading as well as issuing books from the centre especially during press conferences. At present, there are more books related to human rights in the centre. There is one regular staff in this centre that houses about 100 books. "The books in the centre are very relevant. These books have been helpful to us in many ways and are our wealth. We have been able to hold discussions among ourselves regarding various matters and these books have also helped us in writing articles," says Sita Ram Prasad Verma, the president of the federation.

"The Federation has plans to add other books to provide variety to the collection and manage them efficiently. SAHAS Nepal has shown us the path to efficient book keeping and management. We will go through any length for a sustainable management of the resource centre," said the coordinator of the awareness group, Hariram Lohani.

2.9.10 Rally and protest programme

For safeguarding peace, constitution and democracy in the country, the civil society staged remonstration programmes in front of the western gate of the Constituent Assembly building by sitting for 24, 48 and 72 hours. Members of the National Civic Watch Network participated in many rallies, walkathons, and protest programmes at both district and national level. Similarly different interactions, discussions, quiz contests, elocution competition, dohori competition and other



Walkathon for Democracy, Peace and Statute

programmes were organised on different occasions such as international human rights day, international women

labour's day and teej. The main aim behind organizing such programmes was to alert the lawmakers about integrating human rights and women rights in the new constitution. Members of

district civic watch groups have shown unity and strong participation in these programmes held in district level.

In many districts, the civil society has imposed restrictions on the entry of CA members into the village for purposes other than constitution formation and other extremely important tasks. This has forced the political parties to come into consensus with others.

2.9.10 Establishment of the countdown board for Constituent Assembly

A counting board had been erected in all the project districts to count the number of days to Jestha 14th 2068, the final date for the release of the new constitution. The board had been put up on 2067 Poush 24th, only 140 days to the stipulated time. This board was set up mainly to inform the people about the ultimatum and to create pressure on the political leaders and CA members. At present, this board shows that the new constitution should be built by Jestha 14th 2068, but it does not show the number of days remaining. These types of boards have been constructed and set up in partnership and coordination with VDC, local clubs and District Civic Watch Groups.



Constituent Assembly countdown board

2.9.11 Calendar Distribution and Discussion

S2, SAHAS-Nepal and Sanjal jointly published informative calendars and distributed them to communities, political parties and government offices in the districts. While distributing them in the community, discussions were held on the themes prepared so far by thematic committees of the CA and information was provided.

Enhancing Livelihood through Local Effort Project

Through the support of FELM Nepal, the ELLE project has been implemented in sixteen VDCs of four districts (Gorkha, Dhading Tanahun and Udaypur) with the main objective of capacity building and empowerment through formation of network organisation along with livelihood support. The project works with 183 focus groups, thus reaching out to more than 3854 households in the sixteen working VDCs. Various trainings and workshops on capacity building, empowerment, agriculture and livestock related activities implemented by SAHAS-Nepal have helped in community development and livelihood enhancement of the target communities.

Activities conducted

1. Institutional development and capacity building

Bearing in mind the importance of social organisation and the benefits of working together in community, 128 focus groups have been formed in the working areas of the project under active participation of the local people. Active female members in these groups were given various trainings on group formation and leadership development. These trainings have not only helped in group mobilization but have also helped in leadership development among the women in the group. The poor, dalits and women have been empowered and are now capable of voicing their concerns in group meetings and other development forum.



Members discussing during group meeting

Chetana Women's Group and model village

Tanahu district, Devghat VDC, Nayabasti-2 is the home to 42 households belonging to the Magar community. Women in this community used to be very busy since early morning till late in the evening doing household chores with no time left for other things. They were not aware about community development and the benefits of working together in groups. They felt shy and nervous when meeting new people. When ELLE-Project was launched in this village, Chetana Women's group was formed through active participation of the women in this community.

After various capacity building and group strengthening training, the group now discusses on the existing situation in regular monthly meeting. The group has even prepared annual action plan for community development and improvement works, commercial farming, income generating activities (bio-briquette, vegetable farming), group fund mobilization, group goal and objectives as well. They have also succeeded in monthly community sanitation work, group fund saving and mobilization, ginger and maize cultivation in group. After joining the group, women are now aware, active, confident and positive towards community development work. Nirmaya Fewali, the president of the group, feels very happy by such developmental changes in the community. The group wants to set their village as an example and hopes for support and facilitation from SAHAS-Nepal. Such type of leadership, unity and commitment in the group has filled the project team with enthusiasm to work for sustainable development.

Training on group strengthening and fund management was conducted for 3 days in 8 different VDCs of the project area. The committee members of the focus groups gained knowledge on group management; learnt to prepare annual action plans of the group; and were able to understand and practice proper fund management and mobilization within the group. Prioritization of problems in action plan made it easy for the group to work efficiently. The training focused and discussed on

various aspects of group strengthening through member responsibilities, fund mobilization, group management. Such type of training has provided support for the formation of a network organisation of CBOs in the future. The committee members are now clear about their roles and responsibilities in their group. After attending this training, the group members have developed a habit of saving money in the group. These groups have also already prepared plans for different development activities in the community.

The focus groups are now aware about development and their rights and so have been approaching VDC, DDC, DADO, DLSO and other line agencies with their group action plan for resource sharing. They regularly implement their group action plan for their community, e.g. community sanitation, support system maintenance and improvement, regular group meeting, following of group rules and regulations, group fund mobilization and so on. They can easily lead and manage their monthly meeting with discussion on community problems and situation.

2. Livelihood improvement through food security

With an aim to ensure food security to the poorest of the poor in the community, SAHAS Nepal has been organizing various training programmes in all 4 working districts. Some important trainings conducted so far are:

- Farmyard manure and urine Management Training
- Seasonal vegetable farming training
- Offseason vegetable farming training
- Integrated home garden training
- Training on fruit cultivation and orchard management
- Post-harvest training
- Sloppy Agriculture Land Technology (SALT)
- Hedge row management training

Farmers are increasingly using improved FYM and cattle urine, gradually replacing chemical fertilizers. This has not only improved their soil condition but has also increased the production by many folds. They have also started using composts and bio pesticides. One of the focus groups in



Participants in vegetable cultivation training



A woman engaged in cauliflower cultivation

Tanahun even planted herbs (basil, mint, bojho). Farmers have adopted improved cultivation practices and are growing a wide variety of vegetables (such as radish, bean, chilly, green pea, cabbage, and tomato) in place of the traditionally cultivated rice, maize and millet. They are now able to generate extra income by selling surplus products. Today, they get to consume fresh and nutritious vegetables from their own farm. Vegetable production increased by 2 times in Tanahun. The focus has now shifted to growing off season vegetables for higher income. Commercial potato farming has been started by a group in Gorkha. A total of 1980 kg improved maize was yielded from 37 kg seed in the project area which was a much higher production than the local maize variety grown earlier. Fruit cultivation and proper management of orchard has helped farmers gain higher profit. Post-harvest processing of various fruits, and even cereal crops like millet has served to fetch higher market price. Today, food availability status during the scarce period has risen from 2 to 6 months.

3. Income generation activities

Various skill trainings for income generation have provided the community with alternate sources of income. Trainings on income generation activities such as goat and pig rearing training, rural animal

health workers' training, mushroom cultivation training, bee keeping training have proved to be beneficial to the community people.

Goat and pig rearing trainings have helped farmers to transform and replace their traditional ways of goat/pig rearing with improved modern technologies so that they can benefit from it. After participating in such training, farmers have upgraded their animal rearing system and started raising them in a well organised manner. Today, commercial farming of goat and pig has been an important

Tomato cultivation as a source of livelihood

Chameli Thapa Magar, 23, generates income through selling vegetable to feed her family of 11 members in Bhumlichowk VDC, Gorkha. She sells seasonal vegetables amounting up to Rs. 1000 in a day. She could not continue her education after the fifth grade due to poor economic condition of her family. So, she started helping her parents in their field as agriculture was their only source of income. The production was barely sufficient for their daily food requirement. One day, Chameli attended the home garden training organised by SAHAS-Nepal. Her knowledge and skill on qualitative and quantitative vegetable production was enhanced. She also learnt about the various methods and management through optimum utilization of available local available resources. This helped her in commercial cultivation of vegetables for sale in the local market.

Today, she sells around 4-6 quintals of tomato in one season. Her income from the first two months supported the family's daily requirement. His father is very happy and satisfied with his daughter's hard work and success that she has achieved at such a young age. With a joyful expression, he further remarked that in the future Chameli will be

source of income for these farmers. Through the small farmers' support scheme, one buck is supported to each focus group. The buck is reared and managed by the focus group members taking turns. It has been a source of income by using it for breeding the goats of neighbouring communities. Nearly Rs. 2000 has been earned so far by the groups which is mobilised in the group fund.

With an aim to provide easy access to the farmers, 3 farmers were provided with training in animal health from animal health and consultation service organisation. In these rural areas where access to animal health service is not easy, the villagers are happy that they now have trained people in their own community. Today the number of animals dying due to unavailability of health service has dropped dramatically. The 3 farmers who received this training are glad that they can now serve their community with the new skills acquired and hope to continue their service in the future as well. They

have even made some extra money through this service.

Besides, commercial animal rearing, mushroom cultivation and bee keeping have also helped in gnerating extra income in the family. Farmers are now aware about the importance and benefits from such activities like mushroom cultivation and bee keeping.



Farmers after attending bee keeping and mushroom cultivation training

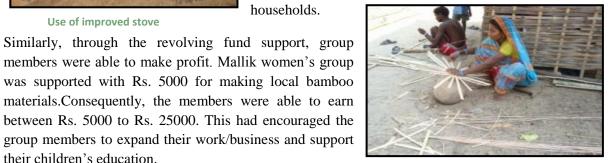
Some farmers have even earned money between Rs. 3000 to Rs. 100000.



Use of improved stove

Improved stove training was organised in Katari VDC in coordination with REMREC (Resource Management and Rural Empowerment Centre). 3 members were selected from the focus group for participation in the 8 days training. Total 16 improved stoves have been made and used by the focus group in the community. This has resulted saving of firewood, improved health and sanitation. 3 focus groups has prepared action plan for making improved stove in each

households.



Mallik woman making bamboo items

Community infrastructure support

their children's education.

According to the work plan prepared in its own initiation, groups have engaged themselves in the construction of physicals infrastructures in their community with the help from the project. School building has been constructed and furniture has also been provided for the school along with the construction of toilets. Toilet construction has directly benefitted 267 household and 2176 populations from these household. Erection of the school building has enabled 554 students to attend school and a total of 514 students have benefitted from convenient environment for study due to 50 sets of furniture provided to the school. The local



Construction of School Building in Gorkha

community had provided timber wood for making the furniture. This team effort has helped the community realize that nothing is impossible if we join hands and work together. Support from DDC and VDC in this process has encouraged the community.

Safe drinking water had always been a problem at community level and villagers were forced to walk miles to fetch water due to lack of drinking water source at their village. While discussing about the problems of drinking water source and the possible solution to these problems, the community came across the idea of harvesting rain water. With active participation from the community and support from the project, tanks for water collection were constructed which directly provided 30 members from 6 household with safe drinking water. The villagers are highly encouraged by this small success. Construction of safe



Construction of rain water harvesting tank in Tanahun

drinking water sources has improved the situation of personal hygiene and sanitation in the community. It has also cut down the time spent while travelling to fetch water from sources outside the village.

Repair and maintenance of irrigation canals has directly proved beneficial for 45 households. 600 ropani lands have been irrigated through this irrigation scheme. The community has now been able to practice commercial vegetable farming and earn extra money. The DDC and VDC had also contributed fund for the irrigation project.

A cooperative building has been constructed in PEEDA working VDC of Dhading district for establishing agricultural product collection centre. 12 household supporting 68 people regularly collect and sell 25 quintal of agricultural products daily. This has encouraged the group members for producing vegetables and fruits for sale in the local market. Group meetings are also held in this building.

Construction of such physical infrastructures at local level has strengthened the bond of trust between the project and the community. Moreover, the community themselves are keen to bring together audiences while such programmes are organised. The project has been conducting various development activities in partnership with DDC, VDC and other stakeholder agencies.

5. Social development

Earlier, people in the community used to live a narrow and conservative life. Social evils like gender disparity/discrimination, caste and class discrimination, alcohol consumption, illiteracy and early marriage were rampant in the community. Discrimination against girls caused most females in the community to live a miserable life. They had to do all the household work and were not allowed to go to school. Some were even married at an early age. Men in the community usually wasted their time drinking alcohol and playing cards. They hardly helped their female counterpart at home. The division of the



Literacy classes have enabled children to read

society into different classes and castes only made life much harder for the poor, marginalized and excluded section of the society. It was usually the women, dalits and janajatis who had to go through this hardship. People were not aware about the importance of education and did not encourage their children to go to school.

After, the ELLE-Project, started running children's classes, the community realized the importance of education. 8 classes are being conducted across Gorkha, Tanahun and Dhading districts in order to encourage children who could not afford to go to school for education. 92 boys and 97 girls have got an opportunity to study in these classes. After attending these classes, students have developed a habit of studying. They have also shown noticeable improvement in personal hygiene and are now leading a disciplined life. Three children in Tanglichowk VDC, Gorkha have been admitted to school in class 1 and 2 while 13 others are ready to join school in Gorkha. The Archanbaas child class centre in Gorkha has sensitized the community by organizing rally and campaign for sanitation as well as group picnic. The children collected and dumped waste materials and prepared placards with sanitation slogans. 3 children each 15 years of age who had never been to school before are now able to read and write in Archanbaas. In Udaypur district, 108 children and 120 adults have been able to read and write through the right based literacy classes.

Through the continued effort of SAHAS Nepal in creating social awareness, today, the community has not only started sending their children to school but has also been able to change themselves with time.

They are now aware that girls and boys should be treated alike. Realizing that caste based discrimination will bring no good to the community, people have now become more sensitive about this issue and are willing for a positive change in the society. Women, dalit and other marginalised group in the community have been empowered and they can now sit at par with others in the group and discuss their problem. Even the men have started indulging themselves in income generating activities instead of sitting idle and wasting time in merry making. An increased level of awareness and concern towards health and sanitation is well manifest among the community people. In this way, the project has been successful in touching the overall aspect of social life to ensure a sustainable social development.

No more difficulties for Santamaya

With tears in her eyes Santamaya remembers those hard days when she had to fetch water in earthen pots after walking for half an hour to the source due to water scarcity in her village. As if it was not enough, 55 year old Santamaya fell down on her way back to her home with the water pots in her doko. She remained unconscious for few hours due to the accident. Her neighbors and family took her to Bharatpur hospital in Chitwan district for treatment but she still has not recovered fully with occasional chest pain. But now she feels happy that her children will not have to go through the same hardship that she underwent. The sole reason behind her happiness is the community working in groups and implementing various activities for their sustainable development under the facilitation of SAHAS-Nepal.

Similarly, Maajhgaun Pokhari, Bhumllichowk-5 with 6 households had to face difficulty due to scarcity of water. SAHAS-Nepal, on a resource sharing basis, supported a 6.5 litre tank for harvesting rain water, with active participation of the focal community. The community now feels a great relief and happiness due to easy access to water during scarce period as said by the group member Nara Bahadur Thapa. They can now utilize their time for other purposes. Further, Santamaya adds "SAHAS-Nepal has done a great job; my best wishes are always with SAHAS-Nepal for the success of development works facilitated by the organisation in rural communities."

2.10 Community Empowerment for Food Security and Livelihood Project

In an effort to carry out development activities in remote parts of the country, SAHAS Nepal has extended its programmes to Mugu, Bajura and Kalikot districts since January 2010. The project has been running in 5 VDCs of each districts accounting for a total of 15 VDCs. These districts are some of the least developed districts in the country. People in these districts are heavily dependent on external sources for their livelihood. This project implemented by SAHAS Nepal focuses on providing sustainable income generation skills to the community. Various activities conducted in the year 2010 have been discussed below.

Activities conducted

1. Setting up of Office

With the aim of effectively implementing different development activities in the region, main office and branch offices have been set up at suitable sites across the districts. Successful setting up of office in the districts has helped the organization earn the trust of the community and other line agencies in the districts. Moreover, branch offices set up at community level have made the community more positive and receptive towards the organization.

2. Staff recruitment and project orientation

After office establishment, advertisement for staff recruitment was released in consultation with related district offices, representatives from political parties and other stakeholders. This process had helped in selection of capable and committed staff in the districts. Representatives from different political parties and district offices had welcomed the transparent and impartial selection of staff by the project. Positive discrimination while staff selection had encouraged many women, dalit and janajati candidates to apply for job. A fair selection of the staff has yielded positive result for the project and even today we can see honest and hardworking staff working in the district.

3. District level project orientation programme



Project orientation

A district level project orientation programme was conducted in the 3 districts in order to inform the community as well as other government and non-government organizations about the objectives and goals of the project, and its working modality. Representatives from different political parties, government and non-government organizations along with some well-established influential people in the region showed participation in the programme. The participants became positive towards the project after this orientation programme. They suggested good coordination and linkage with other line

agencies in the district for effective implementation of the project at district level. They also cautioned the project about possible duplication and suggested the mobilization of resources in partnership with other line agencies to avoid unwanted duplication.

4. VDC level assembly

A VDC level orientation programme was conducted in the respective VDCs to inform the community about the project and its working modality. Representatives from different political parties, government and non-government organizations, schools and other influential people from the society had attended the orientation workshop. The objective of the project, its working modality and work area were highlighted in the programme.

5. Data collection and group formation

After selection of the toles (where the project is to be launched) through various VDC and tole meetings, data of the respective toles were successfully collected. Surveys were conducted at all the 15 VDCs of 3 districts where the project is to be launched. This had helped in selection of target groups in the community. The target groups were then organized for identification of actual problems existing in the community. Reaching out to the target communities in their toles and homes had helped in establishing rapport with the community. The communities now welcome the project and are eager to get organized in a group.

6. Group strengthening training:

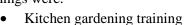
A three day group strengthening training was conducted in the respective VDCs. The training was able to acknowledge the participants about the organisation, the project and its way of working. On the other hand the participants got a good understanding about the group concept, duties and responsibilities of the group members, the importance of group and its benefits, the development concept etc. Social map was prepared by the participants with the aim of making the participants know the locally available resources. Also, preference ranking was done to know their actual problem and action plan preparation concept. Active participation of the community was seen and the participants believed that such trainings would help the group to be active and carry out their aim effectively. The participants made commitment to use the knowledge learned in the training into practice like minute writing, making action plan etc. The participants were also able to prepare the social map and action plan themselves.

7. Various capacity building trainings



Apple processing training

After the group members made action plan for their groups, SAHAS-Nepal facilitated in providing various capacity building trainings for the members. Besides training for institutional capacity building, the members were chiefly given trainings on skill building and other income generation activities from both agricultural and non-agricultural sources. Some important trainings were:



- Health and sanitation awareness training
- Saving and credit training
- Post-harvest training (Potato chips)
- Apple processing training



Kitchen garden

- Crop planning training
- Collection centre management training
- Cooperative encouragement training
- Animal health training

8. Support to the community

Besides empowering the community, SAHAS-Nepal also facilitated development process in these districts by providing support in various forms. Some major supports were:

- School/ Education support
- Teaching material distribution
- Material support to members for apple processing
- Potato seed distribution
- Relief support to landslide victims
- Support for the establishment of collection centre
- Suspension Bridge maintenance support
- Support for the renovation of rural road
- Support for infrastructure development survey



Survey for construction of irrigation canal

Income from the potato chips

Bal Bahadur Rokaya, a 32 year old member of Pariwartansil community group of Badalkot-1, Baratu was one of the participants of the five day training on potato chips making which was conducted with the aim of improving the income of the community with locally available potatoes. After the training, Rokaya implemented the learning into practice and started making potato chips and selling it for Rs 25-30 per packet. He has earned Rs. 3,500 till now and excited by this, he wishes to continue it as a profession. The potatoes production in his field is huge and he used to sell it in the local market but now he believes in producty diversification and admits that diversifying products brings greater profit as well. Father of 3 daughters and 2 sons, he is also an active member of his group.



2.11 Improving Food Security through Community Organising Project

The Improving Food Security through Community Organising (IFCO) project has been implemented by Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS) Nepal since 2010 with the partnership with Sansthagat Bikas Sanjal/ Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) USA and Nepalteam Germany. The project covers four VDCs namely Badalamji, Chamunda, Kanshikandh and Raniwan VDC and and 1 Municipality viz. Narayan Municipality of Dailekh district of mid-western Nepal. Currently, 45 Community-based Organisaions (CBOs) or groups are formed and more than 1150 members or households are affiliated to these CBOs. These CBOs have been implementing several development activities with the facilitation and support of SAHAS-Nepal. The direct beneficiaries of the project are 5800 people.

The project aims to increase food security for the poor and the marginalised people. Activities focus on raising awareness about the nutritious value of locally grown food such as maize, wheat millet and oat, establishing resource centres to provide market and product information, conducting training on value - chain and market, income generation through goat raising, proving cash for work such as path construction, collection centre and installation of MUS, and improving traditional occupation based technologies.

Major activities of the project for the year 2010

- Capacity building and empowering the groups through various trainings
- Nutrition education training
- Promoting integrated organic home garden training to enhance family nutrition with focus on women and children
- Conceptual training on local seed selection and seed management
- Biodiversity training for increasing food production and utilization of local crops, vegetables, fruits and livestock



Capacity building training for participants

- Promoting regenerative and conservation production technologies e.g. compost making, use of urine, organic pesticides, IPM, mixed cropping, soil conservation technologies
- Establishing community group funds and promote saving and credit scheme linking with income generating activity
- Cash for food; for work-renovation or construction of safe drinking water, footpath, irrigation system, waste water collection tank ;and support for establishing local collection centre for improved marketing of local produce
- Formation of CBOs network organisation for sustainable development of group.

Key achievements:

- Reaching out to the poor and marginalised communities
- Linkage with local development bodies such as DDC and VDCs, government offices and other development agencies, I/NGOs.
- Increased awareness in gender, health, sanitation and nutrition.
- Increased income of poor community by supporting in income generation activities.



Nutrition Education Training showing the classification of food

- Women, dalits and the poor working together, respecting each other and minimising social and gender discriminations.
- Dalits and women are empowered and they actively participate in decision making process at household and CBOs/groups.
- Increased capacity of staff

Employment in own village

Born to a muslim family in Kurahama, Badalamji-5, Dailekh, Mr. Mantaz Miya got an employment opportunity in his own village as a believable actor in the community. He is the member of "Chure parbat pragatishil" group formed by SAHAS Nepal, Dailekh.

After attendin the 35 day VAHW training in Pokhara, he established an agrovet in a small area in rent in his own village. He started making home visits in the group for the treatment of sick animal. Today he has become a popular figure among the group members due to his hardwork. These days, he receives many calls/ requests for animal treatment from the neighboring VDC-Chamunda, Basi, Rawatkot and Bhairikalikathum.

Mantaz says "After my attempts to pass the SLC failed, I decided to go to India. But it was very difficult over there and so I decided to return back to Nepal and do something in my own village. I joined the group formed by SAHAS Nepal and one day I got a chance to participate in a 35 day VAHW training. Earlier, I used to have no work but now I have no time at all. Now I earn more than Rs. 3500 per month. And this income has been very helpful to meet my family expense.

He feels the necessity of this group for the development and improvement of the society. He is very happy and wants to thank the group members and SAHAS-Nepal for providing him this wonderful opportunity of employment in his own village.

Financial Report

Chartered Accountant's Report



Sanepa, Lalitpur Post Box 12143 Nepal

Ashwin 10, 2067

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF HELPING HANDS NEPAL (SAHAS)

We have audited the attached balance sheet of the **Group of Helping Hands Nepal (SAHAS), Lalitpur Nepal** as of Ashadh 32, 2067 (July 16, 2010), and the Income and Expenditure Account for the period ended on that date. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Group of Helping Hands Nepal (SAHAS). Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit

We conducted our audit in accordance with Nepal Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion and report that:

- 1. We have obtained all information and explanation, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- 2. The Balance Sheet and the Income and expenditure Account dealt with by this report is in agreement with the books of account.
- 3. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanation given to us, the financial statements together with the schedules attached and read with Accounting Policies and Notes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles give a true and fair view of:
 - (i) In the case of Balance Sheet, the state of affairs of the **Group of Helping Hands Nepal (SAHAS)** as at Ashadh 32, 2067 (July 16, 2010); and
 - (ii) In the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, the surplus for the period ended on that date.

(Pradeep K. Shrestha) For Pradeep & Co

Chartered Accountants

Chartered Accountants

Telephone: 5551126, Fax 977-1-5532878 E-mail: pradeeps@htp.com.np

Balance Sheet

		SAHAS-BS	
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		इस्को समूह	
	120	SIGIN OF THE PARTY	
		1	
	Group of Helping H	ands-Nepal	
	Lalitpur	1	
	Balance She	et MOS.M	
	As at 31 Ashad 2067 (J	uly 16 2010)	
Previous Year			Current Year Amount in
Amount in Rs. 254,192	Fixed Assets	Schedule	Rs.
204,132	Current Assets	1	194,401
51,717	Receivable (Fund Board)		35,395
994 319,368	Bio Fuel old FSP 20040027		-
253,895	TBSSP		319,368
•	NSOS		433,134 6,953
	HMRP old Home Garden old		75,795
	Home Garden New		1,396
	Fund Board		141,357 372,886
	PAF FSP		42,412
77,230	Inventory		79,069 77,230
3,836	Cash in Hand		56,312
8,365,101	Cash at Bank (Standard Chartered Bank R.B.Bank	<)	8,059,677
9,072,141			5,054 9,706,037
1,117,167	Current Liabilities		3,700,037
600,471	Food Security Programme (Project No.2 DSCSEPCMP (Project No.20086061)	0070025)	-
150,000	HMRP (new)		18,593 54,794
23,727 1,065,520	RRN FLEM		-
1,613,107	ELLE Project		4 404 070
•	Bio fuel New		1,491,278 5,670
	CEFALS CEFALS, Dailekh		1,568,733
25,000	Auditor fee payable		728,725
	Income Tax		51,000 10,764
10,000	Gratuity Sundry Payable		409,038
4,604,992			4,338,595
4,721,341	Net Assets		5,561,844
	Represented By:		
38,208 224,192	Reserve Capital Account		363,469
153,600	Scholarship Fund		171,901
4,305,341	Fund Balance	2	5,026,474
4,721,341			5,561,844
angles	5 hreto	As per our	attached report of even date
Probable Division		ma	deeps. Shouts
Brahama Dhoj Gurung (Vice Chairperson)	Dr. Surendra Kumar Shrestha (Chairperson)		eep K. Shrestha
, and the second	(Chairperson)		Pradeep & Co. ered Accountants
Sharya	20 min Com	. 1	(C (stastamose) of
Sunil Shakya	Sati Shrestha Devi Gurun	de/2	Chartered / Chartered
(Treasurer)	(Vice Secretary) (Member	A	Kumar Shrestha Secretary)
Binala	Smithanana		(a) 535
Bimala Shrestha (Pokhare		lina Shakya	Pimale Day Co. 1
(Member)	(Member)	(Member)	Bimala Devi Gayak (Member)
	D	r. Thakw P. Tin	vari
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Income and Expenditure Statement

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		Group of Helping Ha Lalit	か / 200 三色。 タ へ A A	epal
		Income and Exper		
		As at 31 Ashad 20	67 (July 16 2010))
	Previous Year			Current Year
	Amount in Rs.	HMPD (OLD)		Amount in Rs.
	5,110	HMRP (OLD) Travel		
	38,000	Supplies and Material Farmers Training and Visit		•
	43,110	Total Recurring HMRP		
		CMC		
	24,265 24,265	Psychosocial support training Total Recurring CMC		<u> </u>
		RWSSFDB (OLD)		
	800	Overhead Overhead		
	800	Total Recurring RWSSFDB	- OLD	
	172,118	RWSSFDB (NEW)		
	25,818	Program Expenses Overhead		
	197,936	Total Recurring RWSSFDB	(NEW)	
		Right to Food		
	-	Programe Expense Total Recurring RTF		<u>14,801</u> 14,801
	957,874	Total Expenditure		527,044
Ų.	2,768,597	Surplus\(Deficit)	nor our attached	548,590
	5 hulle		per our attached	report of even date Raderfy, Sheetto
	Dr. Surendra Kum		Phoj Gurung	Pradeep K. Shrestha
	(Chairperson)	(Vice Cha		For Pradeep & Co.
	Statya	42	18	Chartered Accountants
-	Sunil Shakya Sab	pan Kumar Shrestha	Sati Shrestha	Dr. Tholaus Dropped Timesi
	(Treasurer)	(Secretary)	(Vice Secretary)	Dr. Thakur Prasad Tiwari (Member)
	0	C .	\wedge .	0.3
Ī	Bimala Shrestha (F	Pokharel) Sunita Pradhananga	Devi Gurung	Rimala David Caval
	(Member)	(Member)	(Member)	Bimala Devi Gayak (Member)

Partnership Programme Fund

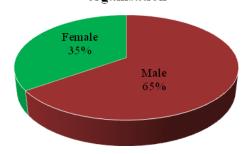
		Io					To.					~	Ta									4 CH	Chartered	4ccountants	DONDAHI			
Schedule 11	Fund Balance as as at 16 July 2010	(300.092)	(319,368)		1,077,177	585,874	(77.080)	(75,795)	61,569		(320,546)	(13,376)	(5063)	(506,0)	3,126,867	(85,779)	2,266,898	90,610	(126,342)	199	6,638,475	And	P	D ACC				
5	Surplus\(Deficit) Fun in FY 2009/10 as a	(48.229)	-	(51,877)	(36,233)	(1,382,795)	(77,080)	(170,375)	61,569	(187,109)	(459,858)	(1,701,323)	(30,866)	(315.787)	3,126,867	(85,779)	2,266,898	90,610	(126,342)	199	1,476,656	K, Shreedto	Shrestha	countants		Dr. Thakur Prasad Tiwari (Member)	Bimala Devi Gayak (Member)	
	Transferred Sur			51,877						187,109								-			238,986	Roden	Pradeep K. Shrestha For Pradeen & Co	Chartered Accountants			ļ ā	
is (SAHAS) Nepal is came Fund (July 16 2010).	Expenditure in FY 2009/10	261,466		•	6,880,962	13,230,653	321,180	170,375	136,681	740 000	713,031	3,719,673	80.858	315.787	5,430,240	525,374	668,728	287,390	126,342	14,801	38,081,772			8	335	Sati Shrestha (Vice Secretary)	Devi Gurung (Member)	
Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS) Nepal Lalitpur Partnership Programme Fund As at 31 Ashad 2067 (July 16 2010).	Received in FY 2009/10 in	13,237	•		6,844,730	518.846	244,100	•	198,250	017	253,173	2,018,350	50,000		8,557,107	439,595	2,935,626	378,000		15,000	39,797,415	4	j Gurung		8	Sal	Na š	
Group of He Partne As at 31 (1	Fund Balance as Ras at 16 July 2009 in	(251,863)	(319,368)	(51,877)	1,113,410	150.456		94,580		(187,109)	139,312	1,687,947	23 903	315,787							4,683,847	3	Brahama Dhoj Gurung (Vice Chairperson)				Fackarar Sunita Pradhananga (Member)	
	Funded By a	Helvetas	EED	Caritas Nepal	EED	PEEDA	PEEDA	HMRP	HMRP	EED	KWSSFUB	FELM	Sanial			PAF	SBS/TN	LIBIRD	LIBIRD	RTF				C	and a second	Saban Kumar Shrestha (Secretary)		
	S.N. Programme	1 Trail Bridge Sub-Sector Project	2 FSP (Project No. 20040277)	3 Civic Education	5 ESP (Project No. 20070025)	6 Bio-Fuel	7 Bio- Fuel New	8 HMRP -II	9 HMRP-III	10 Tour 11 Find Board (NEW)	12 FILEP	13 F1 I FP New	14 Nepal School of Shanti	15 Community Development Project in Terai	16 CEFALS	17 Poverty Alleviation Fund Programme	18 CEFALS, Dailekh	19 Home Garden Project (old)	20 Home Garden Project (New)	21 Right to Food	Total	& water	Dr. Surendra Kumar Shrestha (Chairperson)	٠ ـ ـ ـ ـ	Shather	Sunil Sflakya (Treasurer)	Bimala Shrestha (Pokharel) (Member)	

Annex 1: Human resources

Workforce diversity

Year		2010	
Gender	Male	Female	Total
Caste and			
ethnicity			
Dalit	10	5	15
Janajati	30	22	52
Others (BCT)	31	11	42
Total	71	38	109

Gender composition within the organisation



Social Inclusion within the organisation



Summary:

- Of the total 109 staff, excluding only a handful of core staff, majority of the staff were recruited at local level, to ensure maximum participation of the local community.
- Female staff accounted for about 35% of the total human resources within the organisation.
- Social composition of the organisation displays that marginalised groups in the society such as dalits and janajatis were given opportunities within the organisation through capacity building.

In Conclusion, the organisation highly encourages women, dalits and janajatis during staff selection process and thereby promoting gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) within the organisation.

SAHAS Nepal Personnel

Executive Board members

1.	Mr. Brahma Dhoj Gurung	Chairperson
2.	Mrs. Sati Shrestha	Vice chairperson
3.	Dr. Surendra K. Shrestha	Member Secretary
4.	Miss. Bimala Devi Gayak	Joint secretary
5.	Mr. Sunil Shakya	Treasurer
6.	Mrs. Bimala Shrestha (Pokharel)	Member
7.	Mrs. Devika Shrestha	Member
8.	Mrs. Sarswati Shrestha	Member

Central Office, Kathmandu staff members

1. Dr. Surendra K. Shrestha Executive Board Director

2. Claudia Mahneke Advisor

3. Somaya Gurung Administration and Finance Officer

4. Bindira Maharjan Office Assistant

Food Security Programme (Okhaldhunga, Udaypur)

1. Tanka Gautam Project Coordinator

2. Amrita Shakya Business Manager, Okhaldhunga

Mahesh Aryal
 Bandi Rai
 Admin /Finance Assistant, Okhaldhunga
 Admin /Finance Assistant, Udaypur

Poverty alleviation Fund Programme (Okhaldhunga)

1. Man Bdr Bishwokarma Project Officer

Biofuel Project, Home Garden Project, Hill Maize Research Project (Okhaldhunga)

1. Bikash Khatiwada Project Officer

Civic Education Project (Okhaldhunga, Udaypur, Gorkha, Tanahun, Dhading)

1. Mabin Ghale Project Coordinator

Enhancing Livelihood through Local Effort Project (Gorkha, Tanahun, Dhading)

Sarita Manandhar Project Coordinator
 Ramesh Lama Moktan Admin/ Finance Assistant

Community Empowerment for Food security and livelihood project (Mugu, Kalikot, Bajura)

Saban Shrestha
 Abun Pandey
 Sulav Shrestha
 Komal Dahal
 Project Coordinator
 Project Officer, Mugu
 Project Officer, Kalikot
 Bajura

Suden Rajbhandari Admin/ Finance Assistant, Mugu
 Anil Chaudhari Admin/ Finance Assistant, Kalikot
 Prem Punthoki Admin/ Finance Assistant, Bajura

Improving Food Security through Community Organisaing

1. Lochana Shahi Project Officer, Dailekh

2. Prabin Khadka Admin/ Finance Assistant, Dailekh

District Team Leader

1. Tej Kumar Rai, Okhaldhunga

- 2. Desindra Rai, Udaypur
- 3. Mina Shakya, Gorkha
- 4. Debindra Karki, Tanahun
- 5. Hari Ram Lohani, Dhading
- 6. Santosh Malla, Mugu
- 7. Naba Raj Sanjyal, Kalikot
- 8. Ram Bahadur Khatri, Bajura
- 9. Nirmala Sharma (Ghana), Dailekh

Note: The given list shows only key staff at project level.

Annex 2: Acronyms

CA: Constituent Assembly

CBO: Community Based Organisation CBSP: Community Based Seed Production CCD: Centre for Constitutional Dialogue

CDO: Chief District Officer

CEFAL: Community Empowerment for Food Security and Livelihood Project

CEP: Civic Education Programme

CIMMYT: International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre

DADO: District Agriculture Development Office

DCWG: District Civil Watch Group DDC: District Development Committee EED: Church Development Service

ELLEP: Enhancing Livelihood through Local Effort Project

FELM: Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission FIAN: Food First International Action Network

FSP: Food Security Programme

GESI: Gender Equity and Social Inclusion

HG: Home Garden

HMRP: Hill Maize Research Programme

IFCO: Improving Food Security through Community Organizing

ILO: International Labour Organisation

INGO: International Non Government Organisation

IRD: Integrated Rural Development LDO: Local Development Officer

LI-BIRD: Local Initiative for Biodiversity Conservation LIFT: Local Initiative for Food Security Transformation

MCC: Mennonite Central Committee NGO: Non Government Organisation NJF: Nepalese Journalist's Federation

ORDP: Okhaldhunga Rural Development Project

PAF: Poverty Alleviation Fund

PEEDA: People, Energy, Environment Development Association

PVS: Participatory Varietal Selection RBA: Rights Based Approach

REMREC: Resource Management and Rural Empowerment Centre

SALT: Sloppy Agriculture Land Technology

SPCBN: Support to Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal

TBSP: Trail Bridge Suspension Programme

UMN: United Mission to Nepal

VDC: Village Development Committee

"Able and Effective SAHAS Nepal,

Advancement of the poor and marginalised"



Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS) Nepal

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