

## Narrative Report Template

<b>ORGANISATION NAME:</b>	<b>RASTRIYA DALIT NETWORK (RDN) NEPAL</b>
<b>PROJECT LOCATION:</b>	Harawa-Charawa of 8 districts in Madesh province, freed Haliyas at Sudurpaschim province, Kamaiyas at Lumbini and Sudurpaschim province as well as joint advocacy movement at Kathmandu (Bagmati province)
<b>REPORTING PERIOD:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023</b>
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### 1. CONTEXTUAL CHANGES

#### 1.1 Government and Business

Has there been any significant policy/regulatory changes or business-led reforms relevant to your work during the reporting period? If yes, please use the following questions to guide your analysis:

- What was the change?
- How did the change affect your project activities?

The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) has just 32 seats in the 275-member House of Representatives (HoR). But its chairman, Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, managed to become prime minister on December 25, sidelining the first and second largest parties -Nepali Congress and CPN-UML, respectively-by securing the support of 169 lawmakers. After 17 days, on Tuesday, Dahal took a vote of confidence from the House, securing the support of 268 out of the 270 policy makers who were present for the voting. Gradually, the second largest party of Nepal; CPN (UML) left the government returning back its support. Now, the collation government of Nepal consists of Nepali Congress, the CPN (Maoist-Center), CPN (Unified Socialist), People's Socialist Party and Citizen Protection Party. There are many ups and down in political situation of Nepal. Nepali Congress (NC) general secretary Gagan Kumar Thapa indicated the possible changes in Nepal's current government coalition. 'If the existing ruling alliance fails to deliver, the new one will be in place to form the new government,' he said at a function in Kathmandu. Communist Party of Nepal–Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) had also claimed that the current government would lose the majority in a week if his party wished to do so.

Unemployment is another problem faced by Nepal. It has 63.7% of its local population below the age of 30 years. According to a report by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the unemployment rate for Nepali youths aged 15-29 is 19.2% compared to 2.7% for the whole population. Over 400,000 young people are estimated to enter the labour force every year. Unemployment and high inflation rate are forcing many young Nepali to seek jobs in other countries. Nepal is a "climate risk" country. According to the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank's publication on Climate Risk Country Profile, by 2030, around 199,000 Nepalese people may be affected by floods. Simultaneously, there may be an increase in the number of droughts in Nepal. The climate change and its impacts will severely affect the poor, those living in the remote regions of the country and people engaged in subsistence agriculture. Important adaptation approaches such as new irrigation methods, water storage and the use of high yielding and new varieties of seeds, as the report suggests, may be inaccessible to poor Nepalese people. In such a situation, without sufficient support from the state and civil society groups, many poor people may be pushed into grim poverty condition.

More than 97% freed Haliyas and Harawa-Charawa represent from Hill and Terai Dalits respectively \ are still facing the caste based discrimination and untouchability in the society. According to the survey, 60.7% Harawa-Charawa have experienced denial in entry into public places. The study shows that 8.7% Dalits are participating decision making. 14.6% Dalits experience discrimination in accessing health services. A total of 43% of Dalit women experience sexual harassment and also facing different five forms of gender based violence. Similarly, 57.9% Dalits are literate whereas only 43% has awareness on human rights issues.

The federal government has also sensitized towards the rehabilitation issues of recently freed Harawa-Charawa. During the mid-time of the caravan, the secretariat of the office of the prime-minister had informed Mr. Ganesh BK, chairperson of RDN in mobile via communication. The secretariat also requested him to come in negotiation with taking clear demands to be fulfilled instead of mobilizing Harawa-Charawa in warm weather at South East Terai Area. Similarly, some members of parliament namely hon. Rajendra Lingden, also central chairperson of National Democratic Party and hon. Samjhana Thapaliya represents from CPN (UML) from Siraha district strongly spoke to address the issues of Harawa-Charawa. Both members of parliament (MPs) told that they would themselves join in HC movement at Madesh until the government addressed the issues. Based on the concerns of both MPs, hon. Ranjita Shresth, land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation minister of federal government clearly responded telling she would take necessary action to solve the rehabilitation of Harawa-Charwa during her working period.

### **1.2 Other Changes**

Have there been any other contextual changes (positive or negative) that have affected the implementation of the project? Changes may be due to elections, natural disasters, conflicts etc. If yes, please use the following questions to guide your analysis:

- What was the change?
- How did the change affect your project activities?

During the reporting period, series of advocacy campaign on the issues of agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris were conducted at local, province and federal level. Agriculture bonded labours network members submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation along with the demand for data collection and verification of freed Harawa-Charawa and also distribution of identity cards for their just rehabilitation. Similarly, they also submitted a demand letter to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security with the Minister demanding for the creation of a minimum wage and integrated bonded labor Act. Representatives of National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum, Forced Labours elimination Advocacy Group (FleAG), RDN and the Freedom Fund participated in campaign. The team members also planned to meet honorable prime-minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal. The campaign was facilitated by Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN Nepal and said that the government should take immediate action and start the resettlement of freed Harawa-Charawa. Even though the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation made a rehabilitation procedure and action plan but progress could not be seen. Similarly, on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, The National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum submitted a memorandum to honorable Saroj Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhesh Province, with various demands. The team headed by Dashan Mandal, chairperson reached the Chief Minister Yadav's office and submitted a memorandum with the demand for the rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa.

RDN facilitated agriculture bonded labours to enhance the coordination with local, province and federal government. A total of 32 local governments at 8 districts of Madesh province (SE hotspot) were fully collaborated through the mobilization of local and district HC network members. Similarly, national HC network members collaborated with province and federal government. The ministry of land management, agriculture and cooperative, ministry of social development and also office of the chief minister at Sudurpaschim, Lumbini and Madesh province were cooperated particularly for agriculture bonded labours friendly policy, program and budget. In addition, ministry of land

management, cooperative and poverty alleviation, ministry of labour, employment and social security as well as office of the prime-minister at federal level were intensively collaborated.

During the time of caravan, dozens of mayor and deputy mayor of respective municipalities have delivered their commitment to address the issues of HC in upcoming policy and program. Similarly, the provincial government has committed to address the issues of HC by formulating appropriate plan and policies. The office of the local governments at all 8 districts in Madesh province have also provided the necessary logistic support such as tea/snack, water, local transportation cost and lunch etc which was needed for thousands of Harawa-Charawa engaged in the caravan. It was observed that the attitude and behavior of local government and concerned stakeholders was highly positive. They provided their support and cooperation as required in great deal. There were not any challenges occurred regarding the security of participants of caravan. The land-owners of Harawa-Charawa did not create any obstacles and during the event. The local police office also provided the full security in every route of the caravan. The central investigation department of police office also supported the caravan team by providing the necessary information regarding the security issues. Concerned stakeholders such as CSOs, human rights organizations, media and issues based movement at local level welcomed to caravan team members and also showed their solidarity.

## 2. PROJECT REPORT

### 2.1 Progress towards systems-level change

Please describe contributions your project has made towards systems changes.

- Some examples of systems changes are shifts in social norms, community practices, and government/business policy or law enforcement.
- Contributions may take the form of advocacy activities, public awareness campaigns, program activities etc.

**Please use the following questions to guide your analysis:**

- What changed?
- Why does it matter?
- What was the contribution of your organization? Which activities led to this change?

The **Six Months Performance Report (SMPR)** of the project entitled as "**Ending Agriculture Bonded Labours in Nepal**" has been produced in order to view the project progress for the period of 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. Key results and successes have been reflected in this report. RDN has been implementing the project for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 with the financial support of the Freedom Fund in close coordination agriculture bonded labours organizations in Nepal. The project has envisioned two outcomes as;

- The Harawa-Charawa networks formed, strengthened, and mobilized to contribute the united movement of the agriculture bonded labour*
- FLEAG platform mobilized to advocate for changes and implementation of legislative, policies and programs of provincial and federal government in favor of agricultural bonded labours*

The project is being directly implemented 8 south east terai districts, namely: Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rauthat, Bara and Parsa) of province 2 in Nepal. In addition, the project coordinated and collaborated with local implementing partners SCDC and JDC at Saptari, DJKYC at Siraha, CIC at Dhanusha, KMJS at Bardiya, EDC at Doti and Haliya Federation at Bajura also FLeAG to conduct policy advocacy federal level for rights, liberty and rehabilitation of agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris.

Staff members of RDN Nepal have collectively contributed in producing this annual completion report. It was rigorously reviewed and verified by Project management Team (PMT) and submitted secretariat of the organization. Finally, the executive board of RDN Nepal reviewed and synchronized the report against the Project Document and Work Plan and Budget and brought it into final shape to share the final report with Freedom Fund. The analysis and information contained in this report represent the

work completed by RDN under the implementation of the project.

**Key changes through the implementation of the project are outlined as below;**

- ❖ A total of **40** district and national HC network members (Male-**22** and Female-**18**) enhanced their capacity on leadership development and movement building.
- ❖ A total of **30** trained HC youth activists organized, empowered and mobilized through engagement in various advocacy activities on the issues of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa.
- ❖ A total of **50** district HC network members (Male-**23** and Female-**27**) strengthened their capacity on policy, program and budget formulation process.
- ❖ One event of Harawa-Charawa rights caravan successfully organized with the engagement of more than **10 thousand** people. Throughout this activity, local province and federal level policy makers and duty-bearers sensitized on HC issues and delivered their commitment focusing just rehabilitation of recently freed Harawa-Charawa
- ❖ A total of **32** participants (Male-**18** and Female-**14**) engaged in cross-learning and sharing meeting to replicate the best practices of HC movement through possible area of collaboration.
- ❖ A total **41** HC networks (Local-**32**, District-**8** and National-**1**) are formed and functional. Through these people based organizations, **490** HC network leaders received common platform to discuss over the emerging issues of recently freed Harawa-Charawa. During this reporting period, HC networks organized their **242** events of regular meetings (Local-**192**, District-**48** and National-**2**)
- ❖ National HC network legally registered in district administration office Saptari as umbrella organizations of local and district HC networks.
- ❖ A total of **32** local government bodies delivered their commitment for the just rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa through local initiatives.
- ❖ One event of synergy meeting with national land commission held. Throughout the activity, the commission committed that the land issues of agriculture bonded labours in Nepal would be solved through special provisions
- ❖ Honorable president of Nepal Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel addressed the issues of agriculture bonded labours while speaking to both house of parliament mentioning that the problem of freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris as well as unorganized settlement will be solved and also an integrated special program will be implemented for the overall development of those communities.
- ❖ Similarly, the issues of agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris have been indirectly addressed through policy, program and budget of federal government
- ❖ The policy, program and budget of province government at Madesh province has also addressed the issues of Harawa-Charawa
- ❖ More than **300** news and feature stories of freed Harawa-Charawa highlighted in different local and national print and electronic media for influencing in policy level
- ❖ Honorable Ranjita Chaudhary- Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation minister and also chief-guest of the program pointed out that since taking oath in the ministry, she has prioritized the issues of freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris. She also delivered her commitment that she would start the work by getting some important results in this question during his tenure

The overall activity performance during these six months reporting period was satisfactory. Overall, the project successfully implemented as it met its target over the agreed period of project. The efforts have also been made to align with Government and Non-governmental projects/programs for sustainability aspects from the starting of the project.

**2.1.1 Quantitative Policy Changes (Global Indicator 12)**

In your impact data, have you reported any policy changes this reporting period?



If yes, please explain what they were in this section using bullet points. Describe the change that you observed and your contribution to the change.

Please note that '**policy change**' refers to changes in laws and policies by government or business, or improvements in procedure or implementation. Policy changes may take place at the level of local government, state government or national government.

The following are the 'policy changes' that to changes in laws and policies by government or business, or improvements in procedure or implementation. Policy changes may take place at the province and federal government is as outlined below;

- Honorable president of Nepal Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel addressed the issues of agriculture bonded labours while speaking to both house of parliament mentioning that the problem of freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris as well as unorganized settlement will be solved and also an integrated special program will be implemented for the overall development of those communities.
- Similarly, it is also observed that the issues of agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris have been indirectly addressed through policy, program and budget of federal government as the budget in the agriculture under the work of ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation has been increased in great-deal.
- The policy, program and budget of province government at Madesh province also addressed the issues of Harawa-Charawa. It has been quoted in the policy and program point number-179 that the data of freed Harawa-Charawa would be collected, verified and distributed identity card in all 8 districts of Madesh province in close coordination with local government bodies.
- The ministry of labour, employment and social security has drafted integrated bonded labours act where Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN was nominated as expert-member of integrated bonded labour act drafting committee.
- Ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation has endorsed the freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamhlari rehabilitation guideline. The guideline has been forwarded to ministry of finance and law for further endorsement from ministry of council.

## 2.2 Progress towards your project outcomes

- Please comment on the progress towards each of your project's outcomes during the current reporting period. For each outcome, we are interested in an overview of your project activities and how they have led to change:

**Please use the following questions to guide your analysis.**

- What change did you see?
- What activities led to this change?
- Why is it significant?

### Outcome 1:

**What is your progress towards Outcome 1 this reporting period?**

#### Activity-1.1.1: Training to district, national HC network members' on leadership and movement building (REVISED)



RDN organized 2-days training on leadership development and movement building to conduct policy advocacy campaign for judicial rehabilitation of Harawa-Charawa as the government of Nepal declared the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. The training was held for the period from 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 to 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Simrik Hotel, Lahan Siraha. Inaugurating the training, the chief guest of the program, Honorable Lalita Bidrohi, Member of Madesh province assembly said that she would be consistent for the

effective implementation of the amendment of the Dalit Empowerment Act passed by the Madhesh province Assembly. She also said that the Madhesh province government should be accountable for

the judicial rehabilitation of the freed Harawa-Charawa.

Mr. Ganesh Bishwakarma, central president of Rasriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal pointed out that local, district and national level Harawa-Charawa network should collectively put pressure on the local, province and federal governments for the judicial rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa. In addition, he said that if only the concerns of freed Harawa-Charawa can be addressed in the upcoming policies and programs of the local and province governments, it will solve their social and economic problems. Mr. Balaram Bhattarai, Advocacy Advisor of the Freedom Fund emphasized that HC networks at all level should be active in order to spontaneously advance the upcoming campaign of the freed Harawa-Charawa. Also, he urged all the freed Harawa-Charawa leaders not to step back to break the culture of silence from their respective societies in order to take the movement forward strongly.

In the opening ceremony of the training, social activist Arjun Thapaliya and Program Advisor of the Freedom Fund, Brahamdeo Ram expressed their remarkable wishes. The opening ceremony of training was conducted in the chairmanship of Dashanlal Mandal, central chairperson of the National HC network and facilitated by Mr. Sanjay Mahara, advocacy officer where Hukum Bdr. Sarki, Executive Director RDN welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the training. The contents of the training were delivered as; situation analysis, legal and constitutional provision of HC, leadership development and movement building etc.

The training was facilitated by Mr. Ganesh BK, Jiyam Shrestha, Bala Ram Bhattarai, Brahmdeo Ram and Arjun Thapaliya by adopting different training methodologies such as group work discussion, power-point presentation, brainstorming and discussion, A total of 40 participants (Male-22 and Female-18) actively took part in the training. At the end of the training, the 3 month advocacy plan for the period from April-June, 2023 was prepared through participatory methodology.

### **Activity-1.1.2: Harawa-Charawa youth activism training**

During the reporting period, RDN facilitated to organize a total of 2 events of follow-up meeting of Harawa-Charawa Youth Activists with an aim to enhance the capacity of trained Harawa-Charawa youth activists on the joint movement of agriculture bonded labours; recently freed Harawa-Charawa. The first event of follow-up meeting was organized on 22 March, 2023 at Bardibas in the participation of 30 Harawa-Charawa Youths. The meeting was focused in the following agendas as;

- Engagement of HC youths in local level advocacy campaign on the issues of Harawa
- Participation and support of HC youth activists in Harawa-Charawa rights caravan-2023
- Advocate on freed Harawa-Charawa friendly policy and program of local government
- Involvement of HC youth in school enrolment campaign

The next event of follow-up meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at Bardibas in the participation of 23 Harawa-Charawa Youths. The meeting was focused in the following agendas as;

- Presence of HC youths in regular meeting local and district HC network
- Delegation to local government for freed Harawa-Charawa friendly policy and program

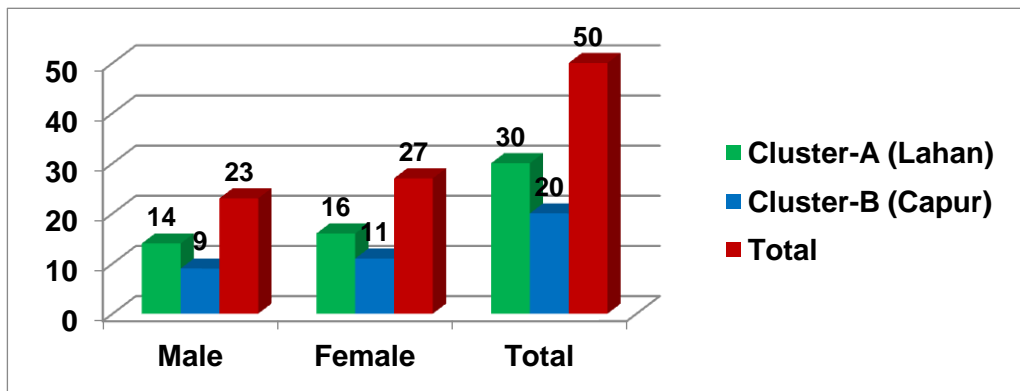
After the follow-up meeting, the trained HC youth were mobilized to provide their support during planning and implementation of various activities of the project and advocacy intervention focusing the issues of recently freed Harawa-Charawa. They were regularly monitored. Due to the events mentioned above, they were capacitated to express the issues and challenges of HC community fluently in the public.



**Activity-1.1.4: Orientation to HC network members on government policy and program**

During the reporting period, a total of 2 events of orientation to HC network members on government policy and program. The first event was held on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Chapur Rauthat. At the beginning of the orientation program, the 7 steps of local level planning process of the government were presented so as to discuss widely on the issues. Similarly, the participants will be facilitated to prepare budget advocacy plan to increase the access of Harawa-Charawa in government services and resources to address their instrumental needs by aligning it with other on-going activities of the project. A total of 30 participants (Male-14 and Female-16) actively took part in the program. Mr. Manilal BK, resource person and Mr. Sanjay Kumar Mahara, advocacy officer of RDN facilitated the program.

Similarly, the next event of orientation to HC network members on government policy and program was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Lahan Siraha. A total of 20 participants (Male-9 and Female-11) actively took part in the orientation program. Mr. Manilal BK, resource person and Mr. Rup Narayan Paswan, advocacy officer of RDN facilitated the program respectively. It was also discussed that the HC network members of respective district HC network were also facilitated to develop plan/proposal to be submitted in local government bodies. For this, it was agreed that RDN would facilitate to use the template of the municipality for plan/proposal submission in the municipality. The disaggregated data of the participants in the events mentioned above is presented below;



**Activity-1.1.5. HarawaCharawa Rights bicycle Caravan:**



RDN facilitated National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum to organize one event of Harawa-Charawa Rights Caravan-2023 for the period from 8-11 April, 2023. The main objectives of the caravan were to spread the message of the declaration of the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa among target communities, masters of HC (landlords), local government, government officials, police offices, civil society organizations and other concerned stakeholders in wider level including support the movement building and strengthening the HC network. The event also aimed to sensitize the policy makers and duty-bearers at

local and provincial level for the Kamaiya loan dismissal and justifiable rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa.

The caravan was conducted at all 8 districts (Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rauthat, Bara and Parsa) of Madesh Province in Nepal with the participation of a total of 50 Harawa-Charawa network members at local, district and national HC network. Out of total participants, 40% meaningful participation of women will be ensured for that event. Before the caravan, on the dated 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, two events of press conferences (Rajbiraj-1 and Birgunj-1) were conduct to disseminate the message of the caravan in wider level. During the campaign, a total of 27 events of local government commitment programs were held to deliver the commitment of government official where



mayor/deputy mayor of municipalities as well as chairperson/vice-chairperson of rural municipalities participated the events to deliver their commitment where more than 10,000 participants from CSOs, media, human rights organizations, lawyers and other concerned agencies engaged.

Due to engagement of thousands of HC network members in the caravan, their operational capacity further strengthened to systematically claim for their rights and entitlements. They were able to raise their voice and concern for policy changes that ultimately aims to increase their access in assets. Dozens of

mayor and deputy mayor of respective municipalities delivered their commitment to address the issues of HC in upcoming policy and program. Similarly, the provincial government committed to address the issues of HC by formulating appropriate plan and policies. In addition, the federal government was sensitized towards the rehabilitation issues of recently freed Harawa-Charawa. During the mid-time of the caravan, the secretariat of the office of the prime-minister informed Mr. Ganesh BK, chairperson of RDN in mobile via communication. The secretariat also requested him to come in negotiation with taking clear demands to be fulfilled instead of mobilizing Harawa-Charawa in warm weather at South East Terai Area. It was observed that the attitude and behavior of local government and concerned stakeholders was highly positive. They provided their support and cooperation as required in great deal.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, both caravan team (Team A from Rajbiraj to Janakpur and Team-B Birgunj to Janakpur) met together at Janakpur. Thousands of Harawa-Charawa gathered in Pidarichaowk. Then, national HC network organized huge mass rally with play cards by walking on feet around the Janakpur city and finally the rally reached at Kalawarkutti. On the occasion of the closing ceremony, honorable Surita Shah, social development minister of Madesh provincial government told that as much as we had fought to enshrine rights in the constitution and laws, there were some practical weaknesses in its implementation ensuring the basic fundamental rights like food, housing, education, and health. She also said that Harawa-Charawa caravan attracted the attention of the province and the entire country, so the demand will be addressed. She claimed that the goal of the state government is to development of the Harawa-Charawa, Dalit and poor disadvantaged communities. She finally said, "The provincial government is ready to work with the formation of a commission and budget allocation for the restoration of Harawa-Charawa,"

Shyam Shrestha, CA member and the coordinator of study committee said that although the newly promulgated constitution mentions special arrangements for the rehabilitation of Harawa-Charawa, including jobs and employment, the provincial government may have also question on the legitimacy. He said, "As the federal government has declared the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa, the provincial government would have been abolished," He said that the government of all three levels should work together for the just rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa. Mr. Hari Shreepaili, CA member and also member of study committee told that it is shyness for state for not initiating to rehabilitate freed Harawa-Charawa as the 9 months of time has been passed-over. During the same course of time, Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN told that it is primary responsibility of state to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of recently freed Harawa-Charawa by providing the rehabilitation package soon. On this occasion, Suresh Mandal, former tourism minister of Madesh provincial government, Hon. Jibachhi Yadav, provincial state assembly member of Madesh province, Mr. Jiyam Shrestha, program advisor and Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai, advocacy advisor from the Freedom Fund, Mr. Ram Prabesh Baitha, vice-chairperson of Dalit Development Committee of Madesh Provincial government, Mr. Shreeprasad Sada, vice-president and Ms. Rajbati Mandal, treasurer from national HC network, Mr. Amardev Paswan, chairperson of district HC network Parsa expressed their opinion. The closing ceremony of the caravan was chaired by Mr. Dasanlal Mandal,



chairperson of national HC network. Mr. Lagindra Sada, secretary general of national HC network welcomed to chief-guest, special guests, guests, other concerned stakeholders and participants of the program. The closing ceremony was facilitated by Mr. Sanjay Mahara, advocacy officer of RDN

In the final day of the caravan on the dated 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, the review and reflection meeting was held among participants of the caravan, RDN team members, TFF team including its local implementing partners in the presence of Shyam Sherestha and Hari Shreepailai at Janakpur. The meeting concluded that national HC network would take necessary action for further action if government could not listen the voice and concern of freed Harawa-Charawa for further rehabilitation. The reflection meeting was organized by Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal.

After the review and reflection meeting, national HC network organized press conference at Janakpur in close coordination with RDN, SCDC-Saptari and CIC-Dhanusha to disseminate the message of caravan and also the further advocacy campaign for the just rehabilitation. The press conference declared the following act on points as;

- Submission of memorandum to 32 RM/UM of 8 districts
- Organize provincial level strategic workshop on government policy and program
- Submission of memorandum to provincial and federal government
- Kathmandu focused campaign by walking on feet

#### **Activity-1.1.7: Learning and sharing meeting among HC network members**

RDN facilitated National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum to organize one event of cross-learning sharing meeting among HC network members from all 8 districts in province on 30 March, 2023 at Janakpur. The main objective of the meeting was to share the need of the network, key achievements, and lesson learned, issues/challenges as well as upcoming plan that contributed to enhance the capacity of network members on effective communication and group management skill. With the medium of the activity, the network members generated the possible area of collaboration to replicate the best practice. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director of RDN. The best practices of one working were shared to other working district through intensive discussion among HC network members at district and national level. A total of 32 participants (Male-18 and Female-14) actively participated in the events to share their learning and sharing openly.

#### **Activity-1.2.1: Formation and strengthening HC network at local level in new five districts**

During the reporting period, RDN facilitated a total of 192 regular monthly meetings of 32 local Harawa-Charawa networks (6 meetings of each one local HC network) to discuss on the emerging issues of recently freed Harawa-Charawa. A total of 4 local HC networks of each one district at all 8 districts of Madesh province are formed and functional. There are 11 members in local level HC network ensuring the equal participation of women. Through the meetings, local HC networks are empowered and mobilized to systematicall for their rights. These meetings were focused on the following agendas as;



- Advocate to local government for data collection, verification and distribution of Identity cards of recently freed Harawa-Charawa
- Delegation to local government for Harawa-Charawa friendly policy and program
- Advocate to local government on the commitment of local government for the further just rehabilitation of fredd Harawa-Charawa
- Lobby and advocacy to increase the meaningful participation of freed Harawa-Charawa in decision making process for accessing public services/resources
- Provide necessary support to Harawa-Charawa families for vital registration process

- School enrolment campaign
- Advocate on fair and equal wages

Similarly, RDN also facilitated to local HC network for the preparation of advocacy plan for local level campaign in line with 5 key small expected changes at local level as; i) Ensured vital registration and Citizenship of Harawa-Charawa ii) Identification, Verification and ID card distribution of HC iii) Increased ownership of landless HC on land iv) Increased access of Harawa-Charawa in livelihood skill development training and v) Established fair and equal wages of Harawa-Charawa as per the policy of government. These meetings were facilitated by respective District Harawa-Charawa Activists in all 8 working districts (Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rauthat, Bara and Parsa) of Madesh province (SE hotspot) in Nepal. A total of 352 (Male-140 Male and Female-212) engaged in the local level HC network meetings.

#### Activity-1.2.4. Support to national HC network in registration process

RDN provided its technical backstopping and assistance to National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum for the legal and formal registration in district administration office Saptari. Before the registration, series of meetings of HC network members together were facilitated to discuss over the drafted version of network constitution to bring it into final shape as per the outlined provided by DAO under government Act-2034 B.S. RDN explored the registration process and facilitated to prepare registration documents like; constitution and its copies, collecting citizenship of members, application letter, signature of all the members, photographs etc, that are required to fulfil the legal entity earlier.



The national HC network members were also trained on the opportunities of HC network registration that it would get the legal identity and will be recognized by the government and also easy to work independently as an organization. Similarly, they were also informed that the network would be able to mobilize the resources itself in dealing with funding partners and local, provincial and federal government in future days to come. In addition, national HC network members were sensitized on the challenges of registration that they would follow the rules and regulations and compliance of the government of Nepal as an organization and renew the HC network organization annually in district administration office as a compliance of the government. They were also capacitated on the renew purpose the HC network that they would prepare annual report, audit report and submit during the renew process. They have to register at Personal Account Number (PAN) as well and have to get tax clearance certificate in an annual basis to maintain it as an organization. RDN enhanced the capacity of HC network members and provided the technical support to mitigate the challenges mentioned above. Finally, national HC network is able to get registration certificate from DAO Saptari.

#### Activity-1.2.5. Facilitate quarterly meetings of national HC rights forum

During the reporting period, RDN facilitated 2 events of quarterly meetings of national Harawa-Charawa network to discuss over various issues. The first meeting of network was organized on 17 March, 2023 at Lahan Siraha focusing on the following issues as;

- Development of Quarterly Advocacy Plan to conduct joint movement
- Preparation of Harawa-Charawa Rights Caravan
- Registration process of national HC network
- Coordination and collaboration with local government officials, CSOs, elected representative
- Advocacy on HC friendly policy and program.

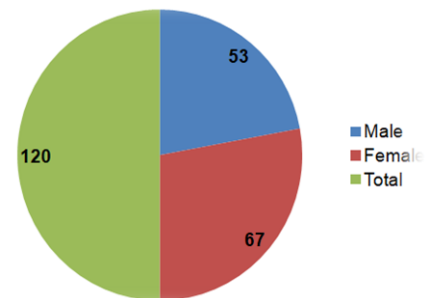
Similarly, the next meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at Lahan Siraha focusing on the following issues as;

- Province and federal level advocacy campaign
- Registration process of HC network at District Administration Office Saptari
- Overall Review and Reflection of Harawa-Charawa Rights Caravan
- Mobilization of local and district HC network as well as HC activists for advocacy activities at ground
- Coordination and collaboration with local, province and federal policy makers and duty bearers

The meetings were chaired by Mr. Dasanlal Mandal-chairperson- chairperson of national HC network. A total of 11 network members actively participated those meeting to raise their voice and concern. Those meetings were facilitated by Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki, Executive Director of RDN in the presence of advocacy officers; Mr. Sanjay Mahara and Mr. Rup Narayan Paswan. These meetings were facilitated to divide the roles and responsibilities of network leaders, develop the methods on establishing democratic and guidelines for conducting advocacy campaigns. Similarly, the existing strategic plan of HC network was updated in changing context to ensure the relevancy.

#### **Activity-1.2.6. Facilitate regular meeting of HC network at district level:**

RDN facilitated regular meetings of district HC networks at all 8 districts (Parsa, Bara, Rauthat, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Siraha and Saptari) of Madesh province on quarterly basis. A total of 48 meetings (6 in each one district) were organized. The meetings enhanced the capacity of network members on advocacy. Mainly those meetings were focused to identify and priority advocacy agendas of Harawa-Charawa. RDN project team and HC activists were fully engaged to facilitate these meetings to make more productive. A total of 120 (Male-53 and Female-67) participated in the monthly meetings mentioned above which be presented below;



The agendas discussed in the meetings were systematically documented to review further. The following agendas were discussed in those meetings as outlined below;

- ❖ Mobilization of local Harawa-Charawa network members for local level advocacy activities
- ❖ Regular follow-up and monitoring of trained Harawa-Charawa Youths
- ❖ Mobilization of district HC Activists
- ❖ Delegation to local government for HC friendly policy and program
- Advocate to local government for data collection, verification and distribution of Identity cards of recently freed Harawa-Charawa
- ❖ Selection of participants (HC network members) for Harawa-Charawa rights caravan
- ❖ Participation of district HC network in community of practice meeting
- ❖ Selection of participants for training on leadership development and movement building

The HC network members were organized, empowered, and mobilized for systematically claim for their rights on regular basis. National HC network members were closely be coordinated during the process. In addition, RDN provided the support for the network beyond the meeting to help them in implementing their activities. They were guided and coached over the phone on a more regular basis to support activities. RDN coordinated FF partners to organize the regular meetings of HC network at all districts by mobilizing its HC activists.

#### **Activity-8.1.17: Local Government Commitment Program for the rehabilitation of recently freed Harawa-Charawa (NEW)**

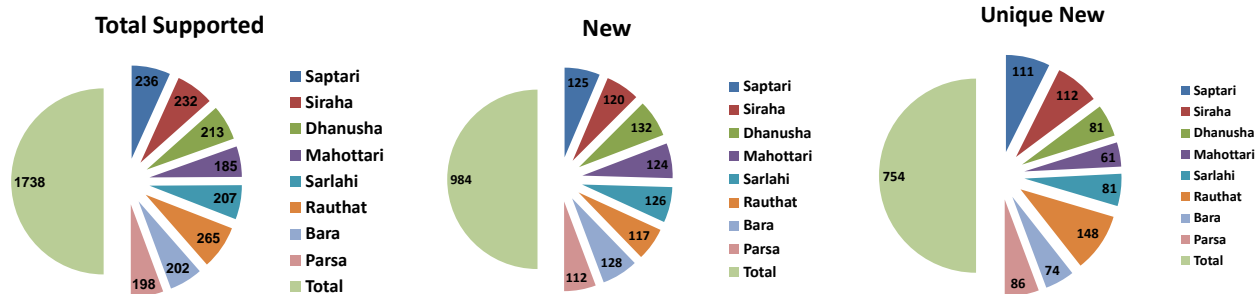
RDN facilitated local HC network to organize 32 events of local Government Commitment Program for the rehabilitation of recently freed Harawa-Charawa (4 in each one district) at all 8 districts of Madesh province. These programs were organized for the period from March-June, 2023. During these events, the following processes were adopted as;

- Preparation of the commitment program through organizing the formal meeting of local HC

network

- The agenda of the program specified
- Invitation of mayor/deputy-mayor of respective municipalities as well as chairperson/vice-chairperson of respective municipalities
- Submission of memorandum to chief of municipalities/rural municipality before commitment of the local government
- Document the commitment of the local government for further advocacy tools.

National HC network took overall leading for the delegation to 32 local governments of 8 districts (4 in each one district) Madhes province as second phase of agitation programs in order to address the issue of freed Harawa-Charawa in the upcoming policies and programs of local government. **A total of 1738 participants (New-984 and Unique New-754) engaged in the commitment program of local government which can be presented as below;**



The commitments local governments were that the local government would collect the actual data of the freed Haraarawa and provide them with a classified identity card in close coordination with province and federal government and also issue and implement the rehabilitation plan of freed Harawa-Charawa as guided by the federal government. The local government also committed that it would ensure the proportional and meaningful voice and representation of freed Harawa-Charawa in decision making process of the government and also allocate the budget for identification, identity card distribution and rehabilitation through local initiatives.

**Some Representatives Photos of Commitment of Local Government are presented below:**



**Outcome 2:**

**What is your progress towards Outcome 2 this reporting period?**

**Activity-2.1.2.1. Submission of memorandum**

On 23th January, 2023, the bonded laborers, who have been banned by the constitution of Nepal and other prevailing laws, reached Singhdarbar seeking the implementation of their liberation. The leaders of Harawa-Charawa leaders from 8 districts in Madesh province came to Kathmandu to draw the attention of government regarding the just rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa although the government of Nepal declared the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa but it has not been implemented.





During the same course of time, they submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation along with the demand for data collection and verification of freed Harawa-Charawa and also distribution of identity cards for restoration. Similarly, they also submitted a demand letter to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security with the Minister demanding for the creation of a minimum wage and integrated bonded labor Act. Representatives of National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum, Forced Labours elimination Advocacy Group (FleAG), RDN and the Freedom Fund participated in campaign. The team members also planned to meet honorable prime-minister Pushpa Kama I Dahal. The campaign was facilitated by Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN Nepal and said that the government should take immediate action and start the resettlement of freed Harawa-Charawa. Even though the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation made a rehabilitation procedure and action plan but progress could not be seen.

Similarly, on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, The National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum submitted a memorandum to honorable Saroj Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhesh Province, with various demands. The team headed by Dashan Mandal, chairperson reached the Chief Minister Yadav's office and submitted a memorandum with the demand for the rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa. The following were the demands mentioned in the memorandum as;

1. *A comprehensive action plan and procedure for the rehabilitation of Harawa-Charawa should be immediately approved by the Provincial Council of Ministers and an integrated package including adequate arable land, education, health, employment, social security and inclusion should be announced for freed Harawa-Charawa*
2. *It was also demanded to provide long-term skills training for more than 6 months, seed capital of NPR 1 lakh and necessary tools to the unemployed farmers who are willing to take up alternative employment.*
3. *Since the most poor and landless freed Harawa-Charawa are the only ones in Madhesh province, it was said that the multi-faceted poverty alleviation program should be initiated in the Harawa-Charawa of the Harawa-Charawa first.*
4. *It was requested that the provincial government should direct local government for data collection of freed Harawa-Charawa and powerful rehabilitation committee should be formed.*
5. *It was demanded that the specific problem of HC that exists only in Madhesh province should be solved by Madesh provincial government which is in favor of federalism, as the first priority, and for this, sufficient budget should be allocated for the rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa in upcoming policies, programs and budget.*

In the memorandum submission program, the representatives of National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum, Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal, the freedom Fund and the local implementing partners actively took part to raise the voices and concerns of agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaoyas and Kamhlaris.

#### **Activity-2.1.2.2. Signature Campaign:**



During the Harawa-Charawa Rights Campaign at all 8 districts (Cluster-A: Saptari, Siraha and Dhanusha as well as cluster-B: Parsa, Bara, Rautahat, Sarlahi and Mahottari) of Madhesh Province for the period from 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 to 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. The signatures were captured by representing civil society organizations, human rights activists, media, lawyers as well as elected representatives and government officials. Particularly, civil society organizations, human rights activists, media, lawyers as well as elected representatives and

government officials.

The demand of agriculture bonded labours; recently freed Harawa-Charawa was printed on flash with spaces for signatures. The printed flashes were displayed for the signature openly and the like-minded people signed as a solidarity observing the printed demands. Thousands of signatures were collected as evidences for the further advocacy tools. In the closing ceremony of the caravan on the dated 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, national Harawa-Charawa rights forum submitted the signatures to honorable Surita Shah, Social Development Madesh province government in the presence of honorable Jibasi Yadav, provincial state assembly member of Madesh province, Suresh Kumar Mandal-former Tourism, Forests and Environment minister of Madesh province, Mr. Ram Prabesh Baitha-vice president of Dalit Development Committee of Madesh province and Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of RDN Nepal.

#### **Activity-2.1.2.4. Organize sit in campaign in front of office of chief minister**

RDN facilitated a total of 2 events of delegation programs (Madesh Province-1 and Sudurpaschim-1) to the office of the chief ministers for advocating on the issues of agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa at Madesh Province and freed Haliya at Sudurpaschim province. During the delegation, the implementing partners of the Freedom Fund; SCDC-Saptari, JDS-Saptari, DJKYC-Siraha and CIC-Dhanusha as well as KMJS-Bardiya, EDC-Doti and Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federatio were



closely coordinated. In order to address the rehabilitation issues of freed Harawa-Charawa through the policy and program of province government for upcoming fiscal year-2023/24, National HC network held the delegation to office of chief minister at Madesh province. The memorandum was submitted to honorable Saroj Kumar Yadav-chief minister of Madesh province through Mr. Kishor Chaudhary-chief Secretary of Madesh province.

#### **Activity-2.1.2.7.: Advocacy for agricultural bonded labours friendly policy, program & budget:**

Series of advocacy campaigns were carried-out for agriculture bonded labours friendly policy, program and budget of local and province government. For this, a total of 32 delegations were held to 32 local governments (4 in each one district) at 8 districts in Masedh province. Initially, the memorandums were submitted to local government through delegation through the mobilization of local HC networks by keeping the following 7 points of demands as;



1. *The local government should collect the actual data of the freed Harawa-Charawa and provide them with a classified identity card in close coordination with province and federal government*
2. *The right to education, health and employment of freed Harawa-Charawa should be ensured including fair and equal wages without gender based discrimination.*
3. *All peace and security arrangements should be made for recently freed Harawa-Charawa.*
4. *A sustainable rehabilitation plan should be issued and implemented and ensuring the rights of HC on land, food and shelter including the rights of women and children*
5. *Ensure proportional and meaningful voice and representation of freed Harawa-Charawa at all policy-making levels of government.*
6. *The local government should allocate sufficient budget to freed Harawa-Charawa thought it upcoming policy, program and budget of the next financial year.*
7. *Procedures should be made at the local level for the data collection and distribution of identity card including rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa.*

Similarly, RDN also facilitated national Harawa-Charawa rights forum to conduct various advocacy activities for agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa friendly policy, program and budget at provincial level. The memorandum was submitted to ministry of land management, social development and office of chief minister at Madesh province government keeping various demands. Similarly, the network members were also widely cooperated with Dalit Development Committee (DDC) and policy commission of Madesh province government.

#### **Activity-2.1.2: 10. Synergy meeting with Land commission**

One event of synergy meeting with national land commission was organized at Kathmandu on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 to discuss over various issues. The meeting was organized in the presence of TFF, AAN, RDN and representatives of agriculture bonded labour networks (National HC network, Haliya Federation, Freed Kamaiya Society and Freed Kamhlaris Development Forum) representatives. At the beginning of the meeting agriculture bonded labours network members raised their voices and concerns as outlined below:

- **Mr. Dasan Mandal (Chairperson of National HC Network):** Although the government of Nepal declared the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, there is not any progress for rehabilitation. Therefore, the work of data collection, verification and distribution of identity cards to freed Harawa-Charawa should be started soon giving responsibility to local government. He also emphasized that the basket fund should be created with the financial support of development partners. He also requested to national land commission to distribute the land to landless Harawa-Charawa as soon as possible.
- **Mr. Pashupati Chaudhary (Chairperson of Freed Kamaiya Society-FKS):** The rehabilitation package should be provided to the freed Kamaiyas who have received identity card from the government but have not received any rehabilitation package. He demanded to provide the right to sell the land other than his house Ghaderi to the workers who have completed 10 years after acquiring the land to go to advanced or different professions.
- **Mr. Raju Ram Bhul (Former Chairperson of Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal):** The government of Nepal should take necessary action to collect the data of missed Haliyas and provide the rehabilitation package; housing and land soon.
- **Ms. Biruni Tharu (Chairperson of Kamiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj-KMJS):** The provincial government should be given responsibility of providing long-term life skills training and free technical-vocational education up to the highest level to all the Kamalharis who have received identity card from government of Nepal.

Listening to them, Mr. Nahendra Khadka-vice president of National Land Commission gave special thank to the Freedom Fund that provided its continuous support to end slavery in Nepal. He further said that Land commission is powerful commission of Nepal received some specific authority to distribute the land to land-poor and Dalits but it is not constitutional commission. He further said that land commission is planning to formulate some specific provisions for agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris to solve their land problem although the area of bonded labours does not related with the working area of Land commission. Finally, he told that he also come from land movement and understood the reality and dimensions of the demand. He highlighted that the government of Nepal should honestly implement the constitutional provision as mentioned that landless Dalit families would be distributed the land for one time. The former commission could not distribute the land but only increased the expectation of poor and oppressed groups in the society.

#### **Activity-8.2.10: Wishing to new provincial state assembly members for their commitment to rehabilitate the freed Harawa-Charawa through local and provincial initiative (Madesh Province)-NEW**

RDN organized one event of wishing to new provincial state assembly members for their commitment



to rehabilitate the freed Harawa-Charawa through local and provincial initiative Madesh province. The main objective of the program was to sensitize the new provincial state assembly members on the issues of Harawa-Charawa through their commitment. A total of 10 provincial state assembly members; honorable Palti Devi Ram, Kishori Devi, Laxmi Sah and Jibachhi Yadav expressed their opinion were given wishes. With the medium of program, it was observed that the attitude and behavior of policy makers and concerned stakeholders was highly positive. They committed to provide their support and cooperation as required in great deal. Concerned stakeholders such as CSOs, human rights organizations, media and issues based movement also presented the program and showed their solidarity.

**Activity-8.2.11: Provincial level round table discussion among policy makers, government officials, human rights organizations, media, lawyers, CSO and HC network members to advocate the rehabilitation issues of freed Harawa-Charawa (NEW)**

On 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 the province level round table discussion was held on the judicial rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa was held at Janakpur. The round-table discussion was jointly organized by RDN and CIC-Dhanusha in close coordination with national Harawa-Charawa network demanding rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa. Most of the speakers participating in the program expressed their opinion that it would be a historic step to effectively carry out the work of judicial rehabilitation for the



effective implementation of their liberation with an integrated package for the rehabilitation of Harawa-Charawa. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of RDN said that although the custom of working for wages is increasing in 8 districts of Madhes province, the practice of Harawa-Charawa prohibited by the constitution and law is still existed, especially for loans and small pieces of land.

It was discussed that most of Harawa-Charawa are forced to take loans for food and medicine in which practice of making TAMSUKH by doubling or tripling the amount of the loan is still widely seen. Currently, it was observed that this meter is being converted into meter interest. Honorable Pramod Jaisabal-province state assembly member of Madesh province and also chief guest of the program told that detailed action plan and procedure for the rehabilitation of Harawa-Charawa needs to be passed by the Provincial Council of Ministers without delay. He also emphasized to provide landless freed Harawa-Charawa with enough fertile land for livelihood and to provide house and shelter to homeless.

During the same course of time, member of provincial state assembly of Madesh province; honorable Palti Devi Ram, Kishori Devi, Laxmi Sah and Jibachhi Yadav expressed their opinion. The program was chaired by Mr. Dasanlal Mandal- chairperson of national Harawa-Charawa rights forum and facilitated by Mr. Rup Narayan Paswan-advocacy officer of RDN. Similarly, RDN Executive Director Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki welcomed to guests and participants and also briefly explained the objective and importance of the round-table discussion. A total of 62 participants (Male-43 and Female-19) participated the event.

**Activity-8.2.12: Evidence gathering/generate by mobilizing the national media persons/Fact finding mission at 8 districts of Madesh Province to effectively advocate on the issues of freed Harawa-Charawa (NEW)**

RDN mobilized a total of 11 national and local media persons to gather the evidences by organizing one event of Fact Finding mission at at 8 districts of Madesh Province to effectively advocate on the issues of freed Harawa-Charawa. These media persons were mobilized for the period from 5<sup>th</sup> April,



2023 to 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 developing specific Terms of Reference as outlined below:

1. Mr. Lok Bahadur Chaudhary-Gorkhapatra
2. Mr. Ashok Darnal-Dalit online
3. Mr. Tika Ram Sunar- Rastriya Samachar Samiti
4. Mr. Dhurba Satya Pariyar-Ratopati online
5. Mr. Shree Ram Chaulagai-Nepali Live
6. Mr. Anil Yadav-Naya Patrika
7. Mr. Subash Sah-Dristi News
8. Mr. Kiran Karn-Rato Pati Online
9. Mr. Shyam Paswan-Sajilo News
10. Mr. Suresh Bidari-Online Khabar
11. Mr. Sambhu Kumar Suman-Kalika Times

The local and national median (electronic and print both) mentioned above were partnered to highlight the issues of recently freed Harawa-Charawa. The media persons were fully mobilized during the event so as to sensitize the policy makers. The federal government has also sensitized towards the rehabilitation issues of recently freed Harawa-Charawa. During the mid-time of the caravan, the secretariat of the office of the prime-minister had informed Mr. Ganesh BK, chairperson of RDN in mobile via communication. The secretariat also requested him to come in negotiation with taking clear demands to be fulfilled instead of mobilizing Harawa-Charawa in warm weather at South East Terai Area. Similarly, some members of parliament namely hon. Rajendra Lingden, also central chairperson of National Democratic Party and hon. Samjhana Thapaliya represents from CPN (UML) from Siraha district strongly spoke to address the issues of Harawa-Charawa. Both members of parliament (MPs) told that they would themselves join in HC movement at Madesh until the government addressed the issues. Based on the concerns of both MPs, hon. Ranjita Shresth, land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation minister of federal government clearly responded telling she would take necessary action to solve the rehabilitation of Harawa-Charawa during her working period. We can see their voices in the following link of live-broadcasting;

[https://hr.parliament.gov.np/en/parliamentLive?fbclid=IwAR1Hz8ymMldSYW6nrAwNRoEREuLfXdWPCzKImYho6REMKscCaBeFuG\\_EJKw](https://hr.parliament.gov.np/en/parliamentLive?fbclid=IwAR1Hz8ymMldSYW6nrAwNRoEREuLfXdWPCzKImYho6REMKscCaBeFuG_EJKw)

#### **Activity-2.1.2.14.: Advocacy for agricultural bonded labour friendly policy and program**

RDN engaged in federal level advocacy and joint movement of agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamhlaris at Kathmandu to advocate on agricultural bonded labour friendly policy and program. For this, RDN coordinated and collaborated with National HC network including Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal (RMHSF-N) and Freed Kamaiya Society (FKS) together with Freed Kamhlaris Development Form (FKDF), the Freedom Fund (TFF) and Action Aid Nepal (AAN). Series of advocacy activities were jointly undertaken. At the beginning of the advocacy campaign on the dated 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, the meeting of freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamhlaris Rehabilitation Pressure Group in the chairmanship of Shyam Shresta who was coordinator of that plate-forum. The meeting planned for further as below;



- Discuss with concerned ministries at federal level to issue the circular in all municipalities for the data collection of freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris
- Meet former Prime Minister Shree Sher Bahadur Deuba to carry forward the task of data collection and rehabilitation freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris and request him to endorse integrated rehabilitation package and make arrangements for the same in the policy, program and budget of the coming fiscal year for the period 2023/24
- Delegate to the Honorable Prime Minister to endorse a integrated procedure for the

- rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris
- Discuss with the Hon'ble Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation minister to endorse the integrated procedure for the rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris
- Untill and unless the government addressed the issues of agriculture bonded labours, it was decided to gather 100 representatives from the organizations working in the field of freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris to smoothly conduct the collective advocacy and joint movement.

Based on the action plan mentioned above, the agriculture bonded labours network members together with Mr. Shyam Shrestha, Ganesh BK, Mr. Hari Shreepaili, Mr. Jiyam Shrestha and Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai met honourable Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'-prime-minister of Nepal and submitted the memorandum keeping with various demand on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 at Kathmandu. Similarly, the freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris network members also delegated to ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation along with ministry of labour, employment and social security respectively to advocate on agriculture bonded friendly policy, program and budget of federal government.

#### Activity-2.1.2.15.: Press-Meet



During the reporting period, RDN facilitated National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum to facilitate 2 events of press-conferences. The first conference was held on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at Rajbiraj Saptari with an aim to disseminate the message of Harawa-Charawa Rights Caravan-2023. A total of 25 local and national media persons from various electronic and print media attended in the conference. The program was

facilitated by Mr. Sanjay Mahara, advocacy officer of RDN and chaired by Mr. Lagendra Sada, general secretary of National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum. Similarly, Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN and Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai addressed the concerns of journalists. Due to the conference, the issues of Harawa-Charawa and also message of caravan was highlighted in the newspaper. Then participants' of the caravan were oriented on code of conduct/ethics and safeguarding issues.

Similarly, the next event was organized on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at Birgunj Parsa with an aim to disseminate the message of Harawa-Charawa Rights Caravan-2023. A total of 13 local and national media persons from various electronic and print media attended in the conference. The program was facilitated by Mr. Rupnarayan Paswas, advocacy officer of RDN and chaired by Mr. Shreeprasad Sada, vice-chairperson of National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum. Similarly, Mr. Jang Bahadur Sunar, treasurer of RDN Nepal expressed his views. Due to the conference, the issues of Harawa-Charawa and also message of caravan was highlighted in the newspaper. Then participants of the caravan were oriented on code of conduct/ethics and safeguarding issues.



#### Activity-2.1.3: Media Mobilization

RDN mobilized 5 Journalists to write the news, stories, features, and articles related to the socio-economic issues of Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas and Kamaiyas, to sensitize the policy makers towards the issues of HCHaK. For this mission, RDN carried-out contractual agreement with Kalika Times PVT. LTD to mobilize 5 journalists.

During the reporting period, the following national media persons were mobilized as;

- Dristi News: Mr. Subash Sah
- Online Khabar: Mr. Suresh Bidari

- Ratopati: Mr. Kiran Karn
- Sajilo News: Mr. Shyam Paswan
- Kalika Times: Mr. Shambhu Kumar Suman

As a result of this, hundreds of news published in national online newspapers which were shared to the Freedom Fund (FF) earlier. The journalists were connected with FleAG activities mentioned above including engagement with different government stakeholders. They disseminated the news in national media covering the FleAG led advocacy campaigns at federal level. The effective communication channel was used to communicate with journalist on regular basis. FleAG secretariat and RDN project management team took overall responsibility to coordinate and communicate with journalists. Some of the news links broadcasted from popular Televisions and FM radio are presented below:

- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1350391705536040>
- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=266265809057464>
- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=9004677046273259>
- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1402980180461014>
- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=210618521597873>
- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1209800262986901>[https://www.facebook.com/messenger\\_media?attachment\\_id=1663270994112244&message\\_id=mid.%24cAAAAAAjCfCNmuo\\_pmHaaTwKTMb\\_&thread\\_id=100000203696560](https://www.facebook.com/messenger_media?attachment_id=1663270994112244&message_id=mid.%24cAAAAAAjCfCNmuo_pmHaaTwKTMb_&thread_id=100000203696560)
- <https://www.facebook.com/HimalayaTV/videos/1379461326208758>
- <https://www.facebook.com/100091143874140/videos/759270405640932>
- <https://www.facebook.com/100091262601612/videos/612972447412425>
- <https://www.facebook.com/sanjay.mahara.5099/videos/244846301322511>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=VIC2YFs0jOo&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3KRSXenHQ3VwwqhlMetwtGLSfDPxBshyAR78mLz4NosSdaTKk3z6NRqO0>
- [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=559067926216872](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=559067926216872)

Similarly, the following are some links of news and feature stories published in national online media are outlined as below;

- <https://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/60736?fbclid=IwAR1qYdaqCJh5ml65ERO9hiAxryAwH3DmSMjyU-i1gbn0iV3JZmEoPuvqE>
- [https://ekagaj.com/article/society/136041/?fbclid=IwAR0zO93HcdfzOwKL8wCIVBGCMpjfXmyRnep8-8a2iukP\\_ieFzHlqdrDSWPg](https://ekagaj.com/article/society/136041/?fbclid=IwAR0zO93HcdfzOwKL8wCIVBGCMpjfXmyRnep8-8a2iukP_ieFzHlqdrDSWPg)
- <https://deshsanchar.com/2023/04/15/785707/?fbclid=IwAR1LiYMU2EYjRuQ2vReuiZZ34WFSgd0tWjUJG4Ji5BkNtaM1RcxDCUzuhTA>
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### Activity-2.1.5. FLeAG Secretariat Support

RDN conducted the contractual agreement with SAN for the period from 1st December, 2021 to 31st December, 2023 as currently, the secretariat is based on the office of SAN, one of the members of the alliance. RDN will discuss with the SAN and sign a contract for the expected support from the secretariat for the project activities for the effective mobilization of the FLeAG secretariat

The main objective of the contractual agreement is to provide support to FLeAG secretariat for enhancing the collaborative role with FLeAG members including concerned stakeholders. It was supported to deliver message to its network members through effective communication channel such as; email via telephone communication for their presence in various advocacy campaigns at federal level. It will share the periodic updates to RDN. The secretariat to take a lead to organize its regular meeting and support in joint movement building at federal level.



### Activity-2.3.3. Day Celebration 5 events

The International Labour Day (May-1<sup>st</sup>) was celebrated in close coordination at federal and provincial level. The agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiyas were encouraged to participate in the various programs organized on the occasion of international labours. The right-holders organizations raised their voice and concern. Similary, RDN provided its technical support to National HC network to disseminate the press release on the occasion of International Labour Day (May-1<sup>st</sup>, 2023).



### Activity-2.3.4.TV Talk program

During the reporting period, a total of 1 episode of TV talk programs was broadcasted from Nepal Television (NTV). As per the schedule, the TV talk program were conducted with Mr. Ganesh BK-chairperson of RDN and Mr. Chandra Sibakoti, undersecretary of ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation of federal government. For this mission, the SAMATA MEDIA CENTRE was selected. Throughout the intervention, most of the issues regarding agriculture bonded labours: Harawa-Charawa were captured.

The program broadcasting dates were shared in wider level by using social media platforms like i.e. face-book page, twitter and email to the FF partners so that they were informed to **agriculture bonded labours** network members. The visual recording of the program was also shared in social medias like; face-book. The link of the TV talk program is outlined as below:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohX-3nO-dBU>

### Activity-8.2.34: Collaboration with government for the further rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa



During the reporting period, RDN facilitated the agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris to coordinate with local, province and federal government. A total of 32 local governments at 8 districts of Madesh province (SE hotspot) were fully collaborated through the mobilization of local and district HC network members. Similarly, national HC network members collaborated with

province and federal government. The ministry of land management, agriculture and cooperative, ministry of social development and also office of the chief minister at Sudurpaschim, Lumbini and Madesh province were cooperated particularly for agriculture bonded labours friendly policy, program and budget. In addition, ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation, ministry of labour, employment and social security as well as office of the prime-minister at federal level were intensively collaborated.

On the dated 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, the discussion program, Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation of federal Government organized discussion program at Kathmandu regarding just rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris. Honorable Ranjita Chaudhary- Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation minister and also chief-guest of the program pointed out that since taking oath in the ministry, she has prioritized the issues of freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris. She also delivered her commitment that she would start the work by getting some important results in this question during his tenure. Mr. Shyam Shrestha-member of the Constituent Assembly and coordinator of the freed Harawa-Charawa,

Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris situation study committee told it is unacceptable that the country has enough resources to build large physical infrastructure but there is no money to end slavery. He also mentioned that many problems can be solved only if some political decisions are made. He suggested that even if the federal government only makes some decisions and circulars, the issues/problems of agriculture bonded labours would be solved through local and province government initiatives.

Constituent Assembly member Hari Sripaili requested Minister Ranjita Shrestha to immediately go to the 8 districts of SE terai and understand the real situation of freed Harawa-Charawa. He also emphasized that since the minister is well aware of the challenges of freed Haliyas, Kamaiyas, Kamalari and Harawa-Charawa; she needs to take historic initiative to solve this problem during her tenure by utilizing the opportunity through productive manner. Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of RDN emphasized that since freed Haliyas, Kamaiyas, Kamalari and Harawa-Charawa have been suffering from slavery for ages, it is the state's responsibility to respect, protect and fulfill their human rights through social security and recognition. In addition, he said that there are still millions of agricultural bonded labours in Nepal and they should be judiciously rehabilitated through an action plan by linking with Sustainable Development Goal 2030.

National HC network chairperson Mr. Dashanlal Mandal emphasized that the collection of data and the distribution of identity cards to freed Harawa-Charawa should be started from this fiscal year giving responsibility to local government. In addition, he pointed out that a basket fund should be created to collect and mobilize the support from development partners. On this occasion, Mr. Pashupati Chaudhary-chairperson of freed Kamaiya society, Mr. Ishwar Sunar-chairperson of Haliya federation, Ms. Hiramoti Chaudhary-chairperson of Freed Kamhlaris development forum, Mr. Jagat Deuja from CSRC, Mr. Jiyam Shrestha and Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai expressed their views. The program was chaired by Mr. Damodar Regmi- Secretary of the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation and Director General of Surveyors Department, Janakraj Joshi, made his presentation regarding the government initiatives and future directions for the rehabilitation of freed Kamaiyas, Haliyas, Kamhlaris and Harawa-Charawa. The program was facilitated by Chandra Sibakoti-under Secretary of the ministry.

#### **Activity-8.2.36: Advocate and Support in the Rehabilitation process of recently Freed Harawa-Charawa (NEW)**



RDN organized one event of one day round table discussion to advocate on the issues of recently freed Harawa-Charawa. The program was held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Kathmandu in close coordination with National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum. Inaugurating the program as chief guest Mr. Nahendra Khadka-vice chairperson of National Land Rights Commission told that he would provide land to the freed Harawa-Charawa at Madesh province during his tenure. Mr. Khadka also said that the announcement of the liberation of Harawa-Charawa is a historic step of the government and he is ready to provide any assistance for their rehabilitation on the behalf of national land commission.

Speaking at the same program, Shyam Shrestha, a member of the Constituent Assembly and coordinator of freed Haliya, Kamalari, Harawa-Charawa and Kamhlari situation study committee said that the government's weakness is that it has become delay in the rehabilitation of Harawa-Charawa after liberation. Shrestha said that since the declaration of liberation had caused an uprising, they were serious about the fact that the Harawa-Charawa would have to face more problems due to the delay in the rehabilitation.

On the occasion, Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of RDN, Mrs. Sarada Bhandari-joint secretary of ministry of labor, employment and social security, Mr. Jiyam Shrestha-program manager of the Freedom Fund (FF), Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai-advocacy advisor of the Freedom Fund expressed their remarkable speech. The program was chaired by Mr. Lagindra Sada-secretary general of National Harawa-Charawa rights forum and facilitated by Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director of RDN. Mr. Mohan Oad-general secretary of RDN welcomed to the participants of the round table discussion. A total of 46 Participants (Male-32 and Female-14) actively took part in the event.

**2.3 Unexpected impact:**

- Did anything unexpected (positive or negative) happen during this reporting period? If yes, please describe. Also include a short description of the activity that led to the unexpected impact.

There were not any unintended impacts/results observed in this reporting period.

**2.4 Changes to project activities:**

- Please include an explanation of any project activities that were changed or delayed.

There were not changed in planned activities of the project but due to the various circumstance, the following activities were delayed and could not be implemented within agreed time frame for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 as;

- Activity- 1.1.6: Sensitization campaign to policy makers on HC issues at federal level
- Activity-1.2.9: Facilitate the data collection and verification process of recently freed Harawa-Charawa initiated by government of Nepal (NEW)
- Activity-2.1.1: Conduct regular meeting of FLeAG

**3. CHALLENGES**

- Have you faced any challenges in this reporting period?
- If yes, please describe the challenges and explain how you addressed them?
- Do you need any additional assistance from the Freedom Fund to address these challenges?

During the implementation of the project, RDN identified the following Risks/Challenges and mitigated those risks as outlined below;

**Risk Identified:**

o Attract by land-owners/masters
o Sickness of participants
o Harawa-Charawa abused, dominated by land-owners/masters
o Theft
o Sexual Harassment
o Weak participants ignored
o Windstorm

**Mitigation Measures:**

o Delivered written information to local police office with details of caravan
o Managed first aid kits
o Provided orientation on code of conduct and information sharing to police office
o Take care of their own, obey code of conduct
o Orientation to participants on code of conduct
o Orientation to participants on code of conduct
o The caravan plan was adjusted accordingly

## 4. COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

### 4.1 Collaboration with hotspot partners

- Please provide up to 3 examples of when your organization has collaborated with one or several other hotspot partners to achieve an improved result within your project or organisation during the reporting period.
- By collaboration, we mean times when you have either directly worked with another organisation or learned from their approach. Examples can also be about exposure visits to learn about another organisation's project.

**Community of Practice Meeting (COP):** During this reporting period, the Freedom Fund organized 2 events of Community of Practice (COP) meetings to share the key achievements, lesson learned, issues/challenges and upcoming priorities among local partners and HC network members. The first event (Joint COP) was organized from 2-3 April, 2023 at Hotel Simrik Lahan. A total of 32 participants (Male-28 and Female-4) engaged in the event. On the behalf of RDN, Mr. Ganesh BK and Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki took part.

Similarly, the next event of COP was organized from 18-19 June, 2023 at Pacific Hotel Lahan Siraha in the presence of 24 participants including FF team. (SE Partners & RDN: 5X2 Chair and ED/Coordinator = 10, SE Network=8 (One from each district) and National HC Network-3 Person and FF: 3). On the first day of COP, SE partners; SCDC-Saptari, JDS-Saptari, DJKYC-Siraha, CIC-Dhanusha and RDN made their presentation on the program as; Plan vs Achievement , Key Achievement, Key Challenges, Key Learning and Way forward to mitigate the challenges. Then it was discussed on HC Quarterly Advocacy plan and Reporting. On second day, Mr. Jiyam Shrestha, program manager of the Freedom Fund (FF) facilitated on Coordination and Communication procedure of FF Team, Partners, and Network. He also highlighted on the organizational management. Then, Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN facilitated the session on Province policy program, budget and further procedure and step. It was discussed on the provisions of the policy, data collection of the HC, its verification process and identity card distribution and draw steps for the further process. Mr. Jiyam Shrestha recalled the Global indicators, discuss, question answer and practice difficult sections on the template.

### 4.2 Other hotspot activities

- Have you made any adjustments to your project or intervention as a result of OCAT or any Freedom Fund capacity building, technical assistance or research involvement?

**Organizational Capacity Assessment Tools (OCAT):** Recently, The Freedom Fund (TFF) has conducted Organizational Capacity Assessment Tools (OCAT). The findings of OCAT (Capacity gaps) are outlined below;

- ❖ Inclusion of sexual minority and differently-abled people in the board and as staff
- ❖ Encourage, motivate and build capacities of the younger generation
- ❖ Need to work more on diversified fundraising by developing fundraising strategy in place
- ❖ Need to formulate/revise organizational plan, policies and guidelines based on changing context
- ❖ Strengthen the result based planning, monitoring and reporting system

Based the capacity gaps mentioned above, RDN had developed organizational development (OD) plan with mentioning specific responsibilities and time-frame to strengthen the further capacity enhancement of the organization. Now, the action plan has been approved by board of director (BOD) for the further implementation. The OCAT was facilitated by Mrs. Muna Basnet-consultant of the Freedom Fund.



## 5. INTERNAL REPORT

### 5.1 Organizational changes

- Have there been organizational changes that have affected the implementation of the project?
- If yes, describe the changes, the impact of the changes, and anything the organization did to address the changes. For example, changes in executive leadership, staff roles, location, programmatic capacity etc.

The project was well managed by providing specific responsibilities to the staffs in RDN. There were not any changes in staff level occurred in regards to the organizational management. During the project period, the capacity of executive committee members and project staffs of RDN Nepal was strengthened by participating in various trainings, orientations and consultation meetings as outlined below;

- **Capacity Building Training:** Enhancing Access to Benefits while Lowering Emissions (EnABLE) funded by the World Bank aimed at building vital operational skills of Indigenous Peoples Organizations and Civil Society Organizations to implement EnABLE Country projects. It organized various capacity building trainings: Safeguards / Environmental and Social Risks Management, Financial Management, Procurement, and Monitoring & Evaluation focusing on the Asia & Pacific region, from 6—10 February, 2023. The training was organized at Anantara Hotel, Thailand. On the behalf of RDN, Mr Mohan Oad-secretary general, Mrs Parbati Aagri-safeguarding focal person, Mr Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director, Mr Bharat Aagri-Finance Manager and Mr Rup Narayan Paswan-Advocacy Officer actively took part in the trainings.
- **Participation of RDN Chair in Asia Region Anti-Trafficking Conference:** The Asia Region Anti-Trafficking Conference has been scheduled to take place in Bali, Indonesia from 17 to 19 July, 2023. The Freedom Fund Headquarters has nominated Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN Nepal to be participated as a panelist in this important event. The other members in the team will be Lagindra Sada, secretary general of National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum, Pauline, and Jiyam Shrestha from Freedom Fund. The focus of the panel discussion will revolve around **the** liberation of Harawa Charawa, an agricultural bonded labour group in Nepal.
- **Review and Reflection Meeting:** RDN organized a total of 2 events of staff review and reflection meetings during this reporting meeting. The meetings reflected the overall key achievements, lesson learned, issues/challenges and upcoming plan of the project. The meetings were held in Bardibas of Mahottari which were facilitated by Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-ED of RDN.
- Similarly, the organizational website: [www.rdnnepal.org.np](http://www.rdnnepal.org.np) has been constructed both in English and Nepali language to disseminate the organizational information. The software has also been renewed for financial reporting of the various projects belongs to RDN.

### 5.2 Safeguarding:

- Have any safeguarding concerns arisen in the current reporting period? If so, can you briefly describe them and have they been reported to the Freedom Fund?

Safeguarding means protecting the rights of target groups to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organizations working together to both prevent and responding to risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure the children, women and adult's well. Considering the situation mentioned above, RDN has safeguarding policy in place. RDN has formed safeguarding committee led by Ms. Parbati Aagri. Based on the policy there is safeguarding register has been maintained.

Similarly, RDN has Complain Response Mechanism (CRM) is in place. The complaints are further processed through opening the complaint box with necessary observation and nature of complain. Different complaint receiving methods have been established like; complain box, focal persons, phone no., e-mail, face to face talking. The rights holders are always encouraged to raise their dissatisfaction in the form of complaints, feedbacks and suggestion and treated positively as an opportunity for continuous learning and improvement. However, during this period no any serious complaints received. During this reporting period, RDN organized 2 events of safeguarding trainings to enhance the capacity of executive board committee members and staffs of RDN. Throughout the training the safeguarding plans of the organization. In addition, RDN developed Safeguarding Risk Assessment during freed Harawa-Charawa rights caravan.

### 5.3 Staffing:

- Please note an X in the relevant category if the following leadership positions in your organization are filled by either women or survivors of slavery.

Leadership Position	Filled by a woman	Filled by a survivor of slavery
Head of Organization		
Head of Programs		

## 6. CASE STUDY

Please provide **ONE** case study that demonstrates the positive impact of the organisation's Freedom Fund project. The case study can either be about:

- an individual, group or community.
- **OR** the impact of a policy or systems-level change that was the result of your organisation's advocacy.

**The case study should be approximately half a page in length, and no more than one page. Photographs may be included to illustrate the case study.**

Your case study must relate to your Freedom Fund project's overall goals and provide evidence that it is having an impact. For example, it is fine to include an individual case study about poverty alleviation, but the story must also show how your project has helped reduce systemic forms of exploitation in the community.

### Case Study Guidelines

#### **Introduction:**

Please provide a brief description of the profiled individual, group or community. If you are writing about policy or systems change, please give a description of the change that has happened.

#### **Case Presentation:**

The main part should tell the story of how a survivor has come out of exploitation, or of how a group/community has combated forms of modern slavery. It is often useful to quote the individual or a group/community member and allow them to describe their experience in their own words.

#### **Please use these guiding questions to write your case study:**

- 1) What problem or type of exploitation did the individual/group/community experience?
- 2) What assistance did your organisation provide to end the exploitation?
- 3) How has the individual/group/community's situation improved due to your organisation's actions, and what impact has this had on the larger community?
- 4). How have the root causes of slavery been addressed?

For example, is the profiled individual now an anti-slavery advocate? Is the community more

aware of or resilient to certain types of exploitation? Have harmful social norms been challenged? What lessons can be drawn from the profiled individual's or partner's experience?

### **Consent**

For all information involving an individual or community within the case study, and accompanying photos, we require that consent is given by the subject(s) for use by the Freedom Fund.

Please indicate below whether consent has been obtained from the subject(s):

**Consent obtained from subject(s) to use information in case study?**      ✓  Yes                       No

**Consent obtained from subject(s) to use photographs?**                      ✓  Yes                       No

### **Situation of Harawa-Charawa after liberation as observed by Lagindra Sada, Secretary General of National HC Network**

The government formally announced the liberation of Harawa-Charawa on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. Mr. Lagindra Sada, Secretary General of National HC Network says that happiness and sorrow have come together for them that after the declaration of emancipation of Harawa-Charawa. He says, "Where should we go after leaving landlord's house and land? No job! Many of us have been evicted by landlord from their lands"



According to Lagindra, there are more than 100,000 Harawa-Charawa in eight districts of Madhesh province. Now the government has announced the cancellation of debt along with the declaration of liberation. Lagindra's family owes NPR 50,000 to his master. When his father was sick, he took a loan of five thousand rupees in 2063 B.S. It has increased to 50,000. Initially, he was asked to pay 10% as interest. After they said that they could not pay, now they have to pay 5% as interest.

He demands that the meaningful representation of freed Harawa-Charawa in every mechanism of the state, especially the representative of Harawa-Charawa in the local government should be mandatory. According to Laginder, most of the Harawa-Charawas are to be indebted NPR 10,000 to 200,000 rupees to their landlords. The interest of those who took a loan of 1,000 has increased to thousands. Some have already paid the money after calculating the principal interest, the interest is increasing.

According to him, most Harawa-Charawas are engaged as agriculture bonded labours in 3 districts (Sirha, Saptari and Dhanusha) of Madesh province. He demands that the government should keep track of them. After that, the government should distribute the Harawa-Charawa s identity card for the further rehabilitation. He also request government to arrange training for employment or provide seed capital for self-employment. Most of HC children have not gone to school. Therefore, they should be given free education along with the environment to go to school. According to Lagindra, during the time of the previous local government, 53 lakh rupees came for the flood victims. He went to the ward office and the Red Cross to find out about the money, but they did not get any help. That money was not utilized and gone freeze.