

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (APR)

August, 2021-July, 2022



Project Title:

Land Rights Campaign (LRC)

Submitted to:

Open Society Foundation (OSF)

Submitted by:

Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal

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1. Introduction of the Organization:

Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal is the national level Dalit organization working in the field of Dalit rights, land rights, Haliya rights, Kamaiya rights, Harawa-Charawa rights and Human Rights through community mobilization, capacity building and advocacy campaigns since the time of its establishment. It is working all over the country in 77 Districts. It has one Dalit activist in each district and 7 provincial chapters formed and functional. RDN Nepal is registered as a non-governmental organization in District Administration Office, Kailali and affiliated in Social Welfare Council in 2003 AD. It organizes the General Assembly each year and election in each three years through democratic practice. Dalit rights and dignity, human rights and social justice, land rights and natural resource management are the core thematic organization. **Similarly, Public Sector Accountability, Deepening Democracy, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Mainstreaming** are its cross-cutting interventions.

The strengths of the organizations are outlined as below:

- *Inclusive and functional leadership with knowledge and skill on diversified thematic as well as cross-cutting interventions*
- *More than 15 years of working experience in the field of advocacy, empowerment, mass-mobilization, capacity building, litigation, service delivery etc*
- *At least 40% women representation has been provisioned in its constitution at all level*
- *Leading role in various national and international alliances and networking for collective advocacy interventions*

Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal is governed by its central board of directors led by **Mr. Ganesh B.K. central chairperson** of the organization who has more than 25 years of working experience in development sector. The organizational plan and policies are guided by the decision of its national assembly and regular general assembly. Out of the total 32 staffs in the organization, there are 5 regular also known as core staffs and rest 27 are project staffs who working under the implementation of various projects.

2. Operational Context:

Nepal is under the practice of federalism and inclusive development. There are 3 layers of government; local, provincial and federal. During this reporting period, three layers of government endorsed the policies, programs and budget. According to this, the budget appropriation of the federal government has started from May 17, 2022. Similarly, the budget is presented by the finance minister. Considering this time as a window of opportunity, regular discussions and sensitization programs were held with the concerned ministries of Nepal government, various parliamentary committees and high-ranking staff. As a result of that, Honourable President of Nepal presented the policy and program on May 24 as per the program item no.33.

The 2022 Nepalese local elections were held on 13 May, 2022 in 6 metropolitan cities, 11 sub-metropolitan cities, 276 municipalities and 460 rural municipalities. These were the second set of local-level elections to be held since the promulgation of the new constitution in 2015. From the local election result Nepali congress has become the single largest party of Nepal followed by CPN (UML) Maoist Centre. The current economic situation of Nepal does not look promising for a nation looking for foreign investments. Increasing trade deficit, rapidly declining foreign exchange reserve, and skyrocketing inflation have hit the life of Dalits, agriculture bonded labours and other vulnerable groups in the community.

Ministry of land reform, cooperative and poverty alleviation formed study committee to solve the problem of agriculture bonded labours led by Shyam Shrestha where RDN founder

Chairperson Mr. Ganesh BK and Hari Shreepaili are members having experience in this sector. It has been planned that the committee will visit the agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya focused district/area has submitted the report to government of Nepal with specific recommendations. The committee, after conducting a field study of the stakeholders and the affected communities, has made recommendations to the local, provincial and federal governments regarding their current situation and actions, including debt waiver with the Government of Nepal for their release, identification and full rehabilitation.

3. Summary of the Report

The **Annual Performance Report-APR** of "**Land Rights Campaign**" has been produced in order to view the project progress for the period of 1st August, 2021 to 31st July, 2022. Key results and successes have been reflected in this report. Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal has been implementing the project entitled as **Land Rights Campaign for the period from 1st August, 2021 to 31st July, 2023 with the financial support of the Open Society Foundation (OSF)**. The project has envisioned three objectives as;

- *To conduct the evidence and knowledge based advocacy to systematically claim for their rights and entitlements*
- *To enhance the collaboration with government bodies and land commission for increasing the access of Dalits in land rights*
- *To conduct the evidence and knowledge based advocacy to systematically claim for their rights and entitlements*

The project is being directly implemented 18 palikas (rural municipalities/municipalities) of 9 districts (Kailali, Kanchanpiur, Darchula, Baitadi, Bajhang, Dadeldhura, Doti, Aacham and Bajura) in Sudurpaschim province in Nepal. The project has been implementing the project considering that mostly, a total of 13.2% population of Dalits in Nepal is derived from land rights. The data shows that 23% Dalits in mountain region of Nepal are fully landless who are suppressed and oppressed for a long time. Similarly, 44% Dalits in Terai region are landless. 90% Dalits do not have sufficient land for their livelihood option. In addition 18% Dalits do not have legal documents to establish their ownership in land and housing

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 Open Society Foundation (OSF). The analysis and information contained in this report represent the work completed by RDN Nepal. During this reporting period under the implementation of land rights campaign for the period from 1st August, 2021 to 31st July, 2022, a total of 3365 (Male-1512 and Female-1853) actively participated in various project activities as outlined below;

SN	Name of the Activities	Male	Female	
1	Kick-off meeting	29	15	44
2	Strengthening People's organization	248	273	521
3	Meeting of People's organization	160	200	360
4	Door to door Campaign	678	1019	1697
5	Land Advocacy at local, provincial and federal level	186	209	395
6	Advocacy Workshop	21	11	32
7	Training on Land Advocacy and Activism	17	13	30
8	Collaboration with DSDF	173	113	286
	Total	1512	1853	3365

The overall activity performance during these twelve 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.

2.2 Project Activities (Progress towards project outcomes)

The following activities were conducted through development of detail implementation plan of the project as mentioned:

Project Kick-off Workshop: RDN organized one event of project kick-off/induction workshop with an aim to share campaign activities, its approach and procedures among the elected representatives, government officials, journalists, civil society organizations and other concerned stakeholders. The meeting was organized on 9th October, 2022 at Dhangadhi. The program was inaugurated by honourable Kulananda Upadhayay, chief of attorney in Sudurpaschim province.



Figure 1: Hon. Kula Nanda Upadhayay, chief of attorney of Sudurpaschim province inaugurating induction workshop of the project

Assembly hon. Hari Shreepaili said that the government has not formed laws based on needs to solve the problems of landless Dalits and there also is a lack of political willing power to implement the existing policies and programs. Mr. Ganesh BK-founder president of RDN said that the campaign will be milestone in building and mobilizing the landless Dalits to raise their collective voice in regards to ensure the land rights according to constitutional provisions.

In the Inauguration ceremony of the program, Mr, Hemkarna BK-secretary of FNJ, Mr.Prakash Bikram Shah-journalist, Mr. Ishwar Sunar, Mr. Milan Pariyar, Mr. Sher Bahadur Basnet-FAYA Nepal and Mr. Laxman BK expressed their views as remarks.Mr. Hukum Bahadur Sarki-Executive Director of RDN presented the project overview whereas Ms. Parbati Aagri-campaign coordinator welcomed to participants. The program was conducted in the chairmanship of Mr. Mohan Oad-acting chairperson of RDN. Ms. Geeta Nepali-board member of RDN facilitated the overall program. A total of **44 participants (Male-29 and Female-15)** took part in this project induction workshop. The media coverage of the program is outlined below;

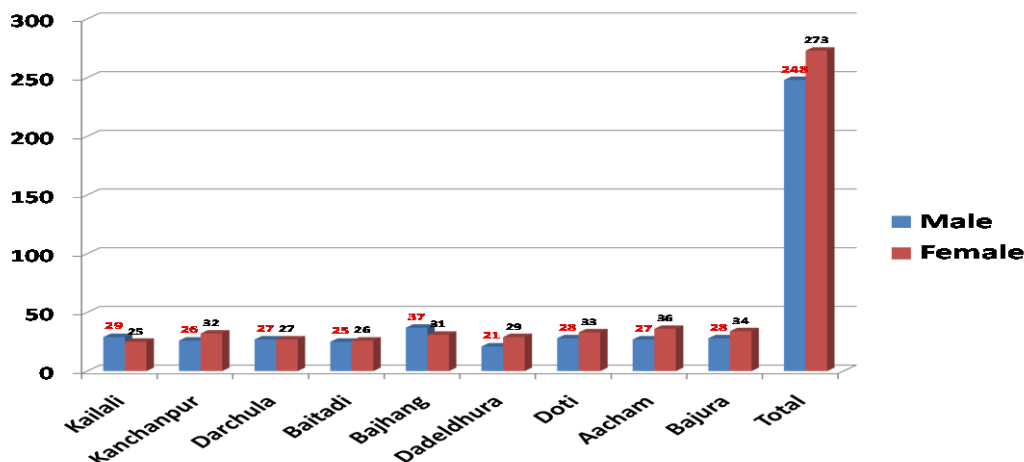
- <http://samatakhabar.com/2021/10/09/11367/>

Activity-1.1: Formation and Strengthening Peoples' Based Organization: Rastriya Dalit Network facilitated to form a total of 18 peoples' based organizations also known as Dalit land rights unions at 18 palikas (rural municipalities/municipalities) of 9 districts in Sudurpaschim province in Nepal. The main objective of the program was to facilitate in land registration of Dalits under the program of land problem solving commission. These networks were mobilized in-depth discussion, interaction, knowledge



Figure 2: Landless Dalits at Bajhang forming people based organization

building and information sharing/dissemination for lobby and advocacy for the voice and concerns of target beneficiaries. A total of **521 people (Male-248 and Female-273)** actively engaged in the process. The disaggregated data of the participation is outlined as below:



Similarly, a provincial level Dalit land rights union was formed in the leadership of Mr. Raju Ram Bhul. Mr. Shayam sunar has been elected as general secretary of that network. Ms. Harina Odd-Kanchanpur, Mr. Daniram Tiruwa-Darchula, Mr. Nand Bishwakarma-Ddeldhura, Mr. Karna Chunara-Doti, Mr. Manish BK-Aacham, Mr. Laxman BK-Kailali, Mr. Prem BK-Bajura, Ms. Sujata Okheda-Bajhang, Ms. Kalidevi Parki-Dadeldhura, Mr. Gopal Nepali-Kailali, Ms. Premkala Shob-Kailali and Ms. Raheka Parki-Darchula are members of that people based organization. The meeting was inaugurated by Ganesh Bishwakarma, central president of the Rastriya Dalit Network. Expressing his commitment after being elected as the President of the Union, Mr Rajuram Bhul said that pressure will be created on various political parties to increase the representation of Dalit Bhumihin in the local elections which is going to be held on 13th May, 2022. He also said the pressure needs to be created to ensure the land rights of Dalits through collective effort and advocacy campaign. The news link of the program is outlined as below;

- <http://samatakhbar.com/2022/03/24/12399/>

Activity-1.2: Development and mobilization of organization mobilizers: RDN facilitated

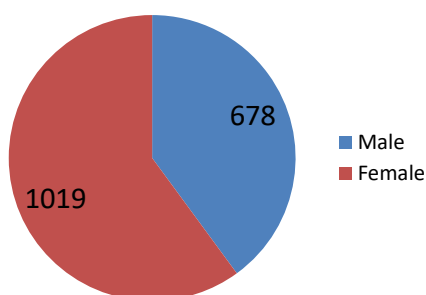


Figure 3: Members of Dalit Land Rights Union organizing meeting at Bhimdatta Kanchanpur

to conduct a total of 36 events (2 meetings* 18 networks) regular meetings of 18 peoples' based organizations also known as Dalit land rights unions at 18 palikas (rural municipalities/municipalities) of 9 districts in Sudurpaschim province in Nepal. Those meetings were focused to discuss over the land rights issues of landless Dalits as provisioned in newly promulgated constitution of Nepal relating to the article-40 (5) and (6) which has clearly mentioned the land and safe housing of Dalits.

Those meetings were held through the mobilization of 9 district land rights activists at 9 project coverage districts of Sudurpaschim province. With a result of this, a total of **360 members (Male-160 and Female-200)** peoples' based organizations also known as Dalit land rights unions of actively participated in various project activities to systematically claims for their rights. Similarly, 9 land rights activists facilitated the project activities smoothly. Particularly, they were mobilized in collaboration with land problem solving commission at district level for accessing the rights of Dalits on land and housing. They also facilitated target beneficiaries to increase their access in public services and resources.

Activity-1.3: Door to door campaign: RDN conducted 18 events of door to door campaign at 18 palikas (rural municipalities/municipalities) of 9 districts in Sudurpaschim province through the mobilization of 18 peoples' based organizations also known as Dalit land rights unions. The campaign was focused to aware landless Dalits on the policy and program of national land commission regarding land distribution process. The campaign team in the leadership of Dalit land rights union in the respective rural municipality and municipality visited door to door for one week to sensitize target beneficiaries on the constitutional provision. **A total of 1697 people including 678 male and 1019 female** mobilized in this process. The disaggregated data of the participants is outlined as below;



Activity-2.1: Advocacy in local and provincial level

Local Level advocacy on land Rights: RDN facilitated to 18 peoples' based organizations also known as Dalit land rights unions at 18 Palikas (rural municipalities/municipalities) of 9 districts in Sudurpaschim province in Nepal for the submission of memorandum to all 9 district land commissions through local government bodies. 18 Palika level networks demanded that the government would distribute the land to landless Dalits as per the constitutional provision soon.



Figure 4: Krishna Luhar- secretary of Dalit land rights union at Bedkot submitting the memorandum to local government

The memorandums were signed by the chairpersons of respective palika level Dalit land rights union and submitted the 9 points memorandum as mentioned below;

1. Ensure proportional participation of the Dalits in the District Land Commission which will be formed at the district level and the land distribution facilitation which will be formed at the local level.
2. Through the means of local authorities, the collection and updating of data should be done quickly with the separate identification of freed Haliyas who are still working as slavery, including Dalit landless in their local areas.
3. In terms of the role of the state in distributing landless people, Dalit landless and agricultural laborers should be given first priority.
4. Even now, for the landless Dalits and freed Haliyas who want to join agriculture, arable land for each household to cultivate throughout the year, land for both the landless families with houses and those without houses should be recommended for integrated settlement development projects in the resettled settlements.
5. Ensure the land use of Dalit landless according to the classification made on the basis of ability, suitability and need according to the utility policy.
6. Ensure the rights of marginalized groups including landless Dalits, unsettled residents and access of the freedmen to the land.
7. Prepare the basic infrastructure of the map based on modern technology and make land available to the Dalit landless on the same basis.
8. In accordance with the concept of geographic information infrastructure, the Dalit landless should be made available with basic geographic information and regional information in various areas.
9. All land administration services should be integrated into a single system to make the land distribution system easy, simple, reliable and transparent for the Dalit landless.

As a result of this, a total of **360 members (Male-160 and Female-200)** peoples' based organizations also known as Dalit land rights unions of actively participated in submission of memorandum event. The target groups and their networks were mobilized for the submission of demand paper to the land commission and policy makers in local and district level. They were provided the technical support for press release to sensitize the duty bearers on land rights issues of Dalits. The link of the media coverage is outlined below;

- <https://unitykhabar.com/24435/2022/03/05/?fbclid=IwAR3-ILhfGIEvRzDCn6ExyUAtR8yttUtbuZljl3FYaXGVJsaOqYDjrYA6SkQ>

Provincial level advocacy on land Rights: With the medium of continuous lobby and advocacy from RDN team members, the ministry of land management, agriculture and cooperative of Sudurpaschim government organized face to face meeting today on the dated 15th July, 2022 in close coordination with agriculture bonded labours; freed Haliya and ex-Kamaiya federations as well as RDN team members. The contemporary socio-economic issues such as housing, land and livelihood of ex-bonded labours were rigorously discussed in the meeting. Finally, the meeting concluded the following key action points;



Figure 5: Ms. Parbati Aagri -campaign coordinator of RDN submitting memorandum to ministry of land reform at Sudurpaschim province

-Development of coordination mechanism represented by working INGOs/NGOs at Sudurpaschim province which will be led by respective ministry so as to promote one door system and reduce duplication

- Housing support to freed Haliyas to 9 districts of Sudurpaschim province
- Strengthen ex-bonded and women led cooperative by providing seed money
- Effective implementation of integrated bonded labours Act of Sudurpaschim provincial government
- The ministry has also expected the support during land certificate distribution process by national land commission

The meeting was chaired by honorable Binita Chaudhary, land management, agriculture and cooperative minister. Mr. Jang Bdr. Sunar-treasurer, Ms. Parbati Aagri-board member, Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-executive Director, Kalpana Sunar-provincial contact person and Ms. Anita Shrestha-Social Mobilizer from RDN as well Ms. Tika Nepali-member of Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal were invited in the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Mr.Dharma Raj Ojha- section chief of ministry.

Federal level advocacy on land rights:RDN facilitated Forced Labours Elimination Advocacy Group (FLeAG) team members to organize one event of synergy meeting with national land commission at Kathmandu on 13th December, 2022. The meeting was held with an aim to discuss the land rights issues of agricultural bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya. On the behalf of national land commission, honorable Nehendra Khadka, vice-chairperson, honorable Data Ram Khanal, member and Mr. Mani Regmi, chief officer presented the meeting. Similarly, Mr. Ganesh BK, chairperson of RDN and coordinator of FLeAG, representatives of agriculture bonded labours organizations; Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal, National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum and Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj-KMJS took part in the meeting. Mr. Jiyam Shrestha, Nepal Program Advisor and Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai,



Figure 6: Mr. Ganesh BK-chairperson of RDN facilitating the meeting at national land commission

consultant and legal advisor kept their quarries and concerns. Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai said that the volume of distributed land needs to be sufficient for sustainable livelihood of agriculture bonded labours and there should be valid data collection. Similarly, Mr. Dasan Mandal emphasized on the emancipation and rehabilitation of Harawa-Charawa and Mr. Raju Ram Bhul and Ms. Sangita Tharu, Haliya and Kamaiya representative highlighted to collect the missed Haliya and Kamaiya for the further rehabilitation.

Mr. Ganesh BK submitted the 8 pints memorandum to honorable Nehendra Khadka, vice-chairperson of national land commission. The main demands mentions in the demand are outlined as below;

- Debt alleviation of agriculture bonded labouts initiated by the government of Nepal
- Let the Harawa-Charawa be identified, verified and distributed the Identity Cards for their further rehabilitation through local initiation
- Let the agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya be prioritized first while distributing the land
- Ensure the meaningful participation of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya in decision making forum
- Ensure the participation of agriculture bonded labours in the land distribution structure/committee of the government considering the Article-40 (5 and 6) under the constitution-2015 of Nepal
- Let the Land Concern People Counselling Group be formed with the engagement of agriculture bonded labours, journalists, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other human rights activists
- Let the sufficient land be distributed to agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya
- Create the ownership of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya in land distribution process analysing the existing gaps

Taking the memorandum by the team, honourable Nehendra Khadka, vice-chairperson of national land commission told that he is 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. Additionally, he said that the best practices of former commission would be replicated through possible area of collaboration. He emphasized that 1000 square meters fertile land would be distributed by land commission to landless people in Nepal. The synergy meeting concluded the way-forward to fulfil the existing gaps in the land distribution process to agricultural bonded labours. A total of 20 participants actively took part in the meeting.

Activity-2.3: Media Partnership Campaign: RDN mobilized Journalists to write the news, stories, features, and articles related to the socio-economic issues of landless Dalits to sensitize the policy makers. As a result of this, a total of 15 news published in national online newspapers. The journalists were connected with RDN activities mentioned above including engagement with different government stakeholders. The effective communication channel was used to communicate with journalist on regular basis.

Activity-2.4: Organize land rights policy workshop at provincial level: RDN organized



one event of 2 days land rights policy advocacy at Dhangadi to discuss on land rights advocacy agendas. The program was organized for the period from 12th April, 2022 to 13th April, 2022. It was held on the presence of RDN board members, land rights activists and representative of Dalit land rights union. A total 32 Participants including 21 male and 11 female actively took part in the workshop. The workshop

Figure 7: Mr. Ganesh BK-chairperson of RDN facilitating land advocacy workshop

also developed the land rights advocacy strategy through participatory approach. Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson and Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director of Rastriya Dalit Network facilitated the facilitated the workshop. Similarly, Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai-legal advi sor of RDN was invited to facilitate the various sessions of the workshop.

Activity-2.5: Activism Training to organization mobilizers and land rights leaders:

RDN organized one event of 2 days Activism Training to organization mobilizers and land rights leaders from 6th March, 2022 to 7th March, 2022 at Dhangadhi. The training was organized with an aim to strengthen the capacity of land rights activists on activism and advocacy. The following the outputs achieved so far due to organizing the training as; A total 30 participants (Male-17 and Female-13) actively took pa rt in the training. Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson and Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive



Figure 8: Participants of activism and land advocacy training

Director of Rastriya Dalit Network facilitated the facilitated the training. At the end of the training, the advocacy plan was developed to organize, empower and mobilize the members of Dalits lan d unions at local level to systematically claim for their rights and entitlements.

Collaboration with Dalit Bikas Manch:

RDN closely coordinated with Dalit Samaj Bikash Munch (DSDF) Baitadi to conduct the study on land situation of freed Haliyas in Baitadi. For, the contractual agreement was carried-out between both parties (RDN and DSDF-Baitadi) for the period from September-December, 2022. Based on the contract, DSDF carried-out the following activities;



Figure 9: Participants of interaction program at Baitadi

- Selection of enumerators
- Orientation and mobilizations of enumerators to collect the data of missed freed Haliyas
- Interaction with local government on the issues of freed Haliyas
- Interaction with stakeholders on freed Haliya

- issues at district level
- Publication and dissemination of report

The study recommended that the government of Nepal should collect the data of missed freed Haliyas including verification and ID cards distribution to provide the rehabilitation package soon. Similarly, it was also suggested that series of policy advocacy interventions needs to conducted at provincial and federal level to address the socio-economic issues of freed Haliyas. It was also recommended that the local government authorities should formulate and implement freed Haliya friendly plan, policies and guidelines to enhance the further rehabilitation process respectively.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Field Monitoring Visit: Monitoring and Evaluation: During this reporting period, RDN conducted field monitoring visit at all 9 working districts. RDN team members also provided to support the study committee formed by ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation that had conducted the field visit in the agriculture bonded labours; freed Haliya focused district/area. Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director and Ms. Parbati Aagri-Campaign coordinator participated in that monitoring visit. The field monitoring team

members of RDN facilitated the study committee members to discuss the issues of landless Dalits through the wider level discussion with the representatives of Dalit land rights unions at 9 districts of Sudurpaschim province.

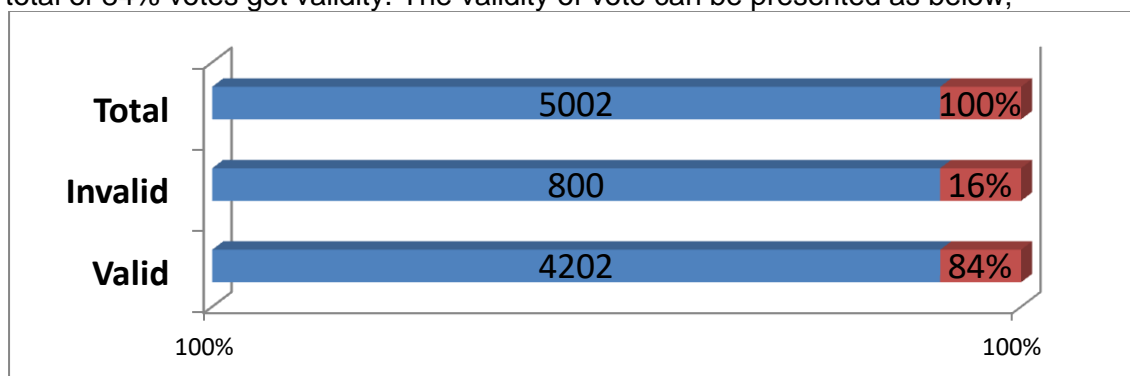
Periodic Review and Reflection meeting: RDN organized one event of periodic review and reflection with an aim to discuss over key achievements, lesson learned, issues/challenges as well as upcoming plan. The meeting was organized at 20th April, 2022 at Dev Training Centre Pvt. Ltd. Dhangadhi in the presence of RDN board members, project management team (PMT) and land rights activists at all 9 districts of Sudurpaschim province. The following were the agenda discussed in the meeting so far as;

- Overall Reflection (What went well and what did not?, issues/challenges, Lesson learned and way forward)
- Role of land Rights Activists on upcoming local level election
- Financial management
- Development of 3 moths implementation plan
- Wrap-up the meeting

In the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director of RDN Nepal highlighted the importance and objectives of the meeting. Ms. Parbati Aagri-campaign coordinator welcomed to participants. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of Rastriya Dalit Network. A total of 21 participants (Male-14 and Female-7) actively participated in the meeting to discuss on the agendas of meeting as mentioned above.

Other Activities:

Voter Education Campaign: RDN conducted voter education campaign in all at 18 Palikas (rural municipalities/municipalities) of 9 districts in Sudurpaschim province in Nepal in collaboration with Electoral Support Project (ESP) of United Nations Development Program. The campaign aimed to aims to conduct voter education program to Dalit marginalized community: freed Haliyas, landless Dalits and Badi through democratic political participation targeting 5,000 landless Dalits under Local Level Election (LLE) 2022. For this, RDN conducted mock polling among 5002 landless (Male-2036 and Female-2966) by conducting 90 events of voter education campaigns through mobilizations of 18 local level Dalit land rights unions. Out of 5002 votes, total of 84% votes got validity. The validity of vote can be presented as below;



For the voter education campaign as mentioned below, the office of district election commissions were widely coordinated. Similarly, 10 volunteers/land rights activists were trained on voting process by conducted one day orientation program at Dhangadhi. Similarly,

one day provincial level interaction program was conducted among potential candidates from Dalits, political parties, civil society organizations and journalists. In addition, 18 local level Dalit rights unions advocated for increasing the Dalit candidacy from different political parties in local level election which was conducted on 13th May, 2022.

4. Key Achievements:

In accordance with the agreed results of the project, following numeric and qualitative changes have been observed in the period of reporting period from April-June, 2022 as outlined below;

- A total of **44** stakeholders closely coordinated to implement the land rights campaign at 9 districts of Sudurpaschim province.
- A total of **18** local level peoples' based organizations also known as Dalit land rights unions were formed and functional at 18 palikas (rural municipalities/municipalities) of 9 districts in Sudurpaschim province in Nepal.
- A total of **360 members (Male-160 and Female-200)** peoples' based organizations also known as Dalit land rights unions of actively participated in various project activities to systematically claims for their rights.
- More than **10,000** landless Dalits at 18 palikas (rural municipalities/municipalities) of 9 districts in Sudurpaschim province were facilitate to register their name in government records under the land distribution process of government of Nepal.
- Ministry of land reform, cooperative and poverty alleviation formed study committee to solve the problem of agriculture bonded labours led by Shyam Shrestha where RDN founder Chairperson Mr. Ganesh BK was nominated as expert-,member of that committee.
- Due to the lobby and advocacy, Bedkot municipality of Kanchanpur has prioritized the landless Dalits and other marginalized groups; freed Haliyas in land distribution process.
- District land commission Kailali is planning to provide the joint land certificate to **147** Badi families at Lamki-Chuha municipality of Kailali.
- Due to the lobby and advocacy of RDN and also coordination with land commission, a total **22** landless Dalit families of Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan city- 9 Bangara katan received joint land certificate from national land commission.
- A total of **1697 people including 678 male and 1019** female sensitized on policy and program of national land commission regarding land distribution process
- Sudurpachim provincial government has allocated **NPR 90,00,000** to address the instrumental needs of Dalits and other vulnerable groups
- A total of **5002** voters belonging Dalit communities actively participated and sensitized on voter education campaign
- One land rights advocacy strategy plan developed and implemented.
- A total **30 participants (Male-17 and Female-13)** belong to RDN board and land rights activist strengthened their capacity on activism and land advocacy.
- The study conducted in close coordination with DSDF-Baitadi on land situation of freed Haliyas identified the current emerging issues of freed Haliyas,

5. Cross-Cutting Interventions:

During the implementation of the project, Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal adopted Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to development for overall empowerment of landless Dalits. The target beneficiaries were organized, empowered and mobilized to systematically claim for their rights and entitlements. The priority was given to mobilize the resource mobilization. The following cross-cutting issues were seriously undertaken to achieve the anticipate results of the project as

GESI Mainstreaming: The project followed Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) mainstreaming guideline of RDN to ensure gender and age balance in project cycle management. The issues of women will be prioritized first considering that women are behind men from social, economic, political and cultural dimensions. The different power relations between women and men establish the roles, responsibilities, opportunities and decision-making authority of women and men, usually positioning women as subordinate to men.

- More than 50% women's participation and the proportionate participation of all other excluded groups such as single women; PwDs was emphasized in regards to the implementation of project activities.
- The code of conduct (CoC) was duly followed to avoid the negative impact in order to promote women empowerment and gender equality.
- The disaggregated data including male and female was properly maintained during tracking the results of the project implementation. During this reporting period, a total of 2360 (Male-1120 and Female-1240) target beneficiaries were mobilized.

Complaints Response Mechanism (CRM): 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.

6. Lesson Learned:

- Targeting Dalits, women and other marginalized groups such as person with disabilities (PWDs), single women and elderly people in the project interventions highlighted the **organizational profile** which was widely accepted by local government authorities.
- Complaints handling practices supported for **transparency and ownership** of project from target groups and stakeholders as well that made easier to work smoothly in the ground
- Leadership and critical engagement of the rights holders have led towards ensuring the **sustainability of the project**
- **Capacity building of potential leaders from Dalits** contributed to **influence in decision making process**
- It was learned that we need to promote the economic empowerment of right holders along with the advocacy intervention.

7. Issues/Challenges:

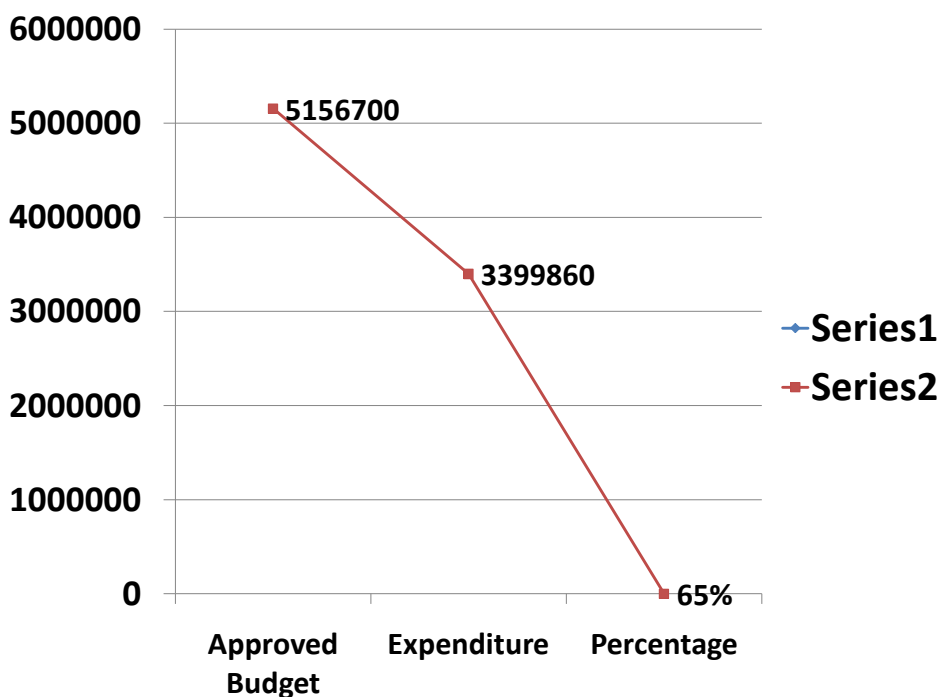
The project team faced following challenged during the reporting period as

- Covid-19 (Due to the covid-19 pandemic situation, the project team could not fully move to project target area.

Mitigation Measures: RDN Nepal Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) and oriented its project staffs on safety measures. The project team fully adopted safety measures such mask, sanitizer etc

8. Financial Performance:

The working budget for the 24 months for the period from 1st August, 2021 to 31st July, 2023 is NPR. **5,156,700**. Out of the total approved budget by the Open Society Foundation (OSF), a total expenditure for the period from 1st August, 2021 to 31st July, 2022 is sum of NPR **3,399,860** which is **65%** against the annual agreed budget. The plan Vs expenditure is outlined as below;



10. Way Forward:

The following activities have been planned for the next **(2022-2023)** to achieve the anticipate results of the campaign as;

- Formation and strengthening people based organization
- Development and mobilization of organization mobilizers
- Land Rights Vigilance Caravan
- Advocacy in local and provincial level
- Conduct Public Hearing
- Media Partnership Campaign

For the further **sustainability impact**, RDN will facilitate people based organizations for strategic links with local government bodies and other ward level organizations and build capacities of Dalits, GESI and Human Rights Organizations. Priority on use of locally available material and resources and promote local productions. Similarly, RDN will establish working relationship with local legal service providers and stakeholders as well as human rights organizations.

Annex-I: Story of Change

Harina Oad from house-wife to land rights leader



household activities.

Ms. Harina Oad in her early thirties (31 years old) resident at Bedkot municipality-6 Sisaiya of Kanchanpur has been recognized as land rights leader due to her engagement in land rights movement at local level. There are 4 members in her family including her husband and two sons. She passed her childhood life in struggle as her father did have very poor economic status. She was married in the age of seventeen so that she could not continue her academic carrier. She has completed her **Secondary Education Examination (SEE)**. Now, her husband Mr. Yagya Bahadur Oad is engaged in foreign employability at Saudi Arabia, country in the Middle East. Although she was educated, she had to work as house-wife and only limited in the

During the same course of time, Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal met her while the campaign team members had moved at Bedkot Kanchanpur to facilitate for forming municipality level people based organizations also known as Dalit land rights union under the implementation of land rights campaign. The project is being implemented at 9 districts of Sudurpaschim province in Nepal for the period from 1st August, 2021 to 31st July, 2023. The project aims to increase the access of landless Dalits on land and housing under the land distribution process of national land commission. The project had planned to form and strengthen a total of 18 people based organizations also known as Dalit land rights unions at 18 palikas (rural municipalities/municipalities) in 9 districts of Sudurpaschim province.

The RDN team members were glad with her to see her leadership skill so that the community members selected her as chairperson of Dalit land rights union at Bedkot municipality. After electing in that position, she coordinated with local government officials, elected representative, local level political parties, civil society organizations and other concerned stakeholders so as to discuss-over the land rights of Dalits as the newly promulgated constitution-2015 of Nepal has clearly mentioned the rights of land and housing in article no-40 of 5 and 6. She also took a lead to submit the memorandum to district land commission Kanchanpur through the office of Bedkot municipality. The 9 points memorandum was submitted highlighting the issues of landless Dalits and freed Haliyas by mobilizing the municipality level Dalit land rights union.

As a result of this, a total of **496** landless Dalits including freed Haliyas were identified in close coordination with office of Bedkot municipality and district land rights commission. She further says, 'I have great desire and passion to provide the joint land certificate to those **496 landless Dalits and freed Haliyas** who were identified in the initiation of Dalit land rights union. I would like to give special thanks to RDN team members and well wisher who encouraged me to take a lead of land rights campaign at local level.'

Due to her leadership skill, she has been elected as also member of Sudurpaschim provincial level Dalit land rights union led by Mr. Raju Ram Bhul also a leader of freed Haliya movement of Nepal. She is also taking a lead role as chairperson of unlisted freed Haliya committee of Kanchanpur district. She said that government of Nepal should collect the data of missed freed Haliyas including verification and ID cards distribution to provide the rehabilitation package soon.