

# Project Completion Report (PCR)

(1<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023)



Project Title: **LAND RIGHTS CAMPAIGN**

Submitted To:



Submitted By:

Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal  
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Date of Submission: 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2023

**REPORT DETAILS AND SCORE CARD:**

Project Title	<b>Land Rights Campaign</b>		
Project Number	<b>OR2021-81714_OSPC_RDN</b>		
Project Period	1 <sup>st</sup> August, 2021 to 31 <sup>st</sup> July, 2023		
Reporting Period	1 <sup>st</sup> August, 2021 to 31 <sup>st</sup> July, 2023		
Thematic Area(s)	<b>Social Mobilization, Land Advocacy &amp; Coordination</b>		
Goal	To contribute promoting the socio-economic status of Dalits through increasing their access in land and housing rights.		
Objective	<b>A.</b> To organize and mobilize the target communities for land and housing rights of Dalits <b>B.</b> To enhance the collaboration with government bodies and land commission for increasing the access of Dalits in land rights <b>C.</b> To conduct the evidence and knowledge based advocacy to systematically claim for their rights and entitlements		
Target Populations	Landless, dalit, ex-bonded labors: freed Haliyas and badi		
Coverage Area	18 palikas of 9 districts (2 in each district-1 rural municipality and 1 municipality) in Sudurpaschim province of Nepal		
Collaboration	Local and Province Government		
Total Budget (NPR)	<b>5,478,395</b>		
Expenditure (NPR)	<b>5,504,464</b>		
% Financial Variance	<b>0.47%</b>		
Funding Partner	<b>Open Society Foundation (OSF)</b>		
<b>PROJECT SCORECARD</b>	<b>Green (Satisfactory)</b> Green = On-track (over 80% achievement - Confident that planned year-end targets will be achieved)	<b>Yellow (Some cause for concern)</b> Yellow = Slightly behind schedule (between 50%-80% achievement - Some cause for concern that year-end targets may not be achieved)	<b>Red (Cause for concern)</b> Red = Off-track (less than 50% achievement - Cause for concern that year-end targets are likely to be missed)
Activity Performance	<b>100%</b> activities completed		
Financial Performance	<b>100.47%</b> budget utilized		
<b>Preparation, Certification and Approval of Report</b>			
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<b>Report Approved By:</b>	Name: Mr. Ganesh BK Position: <b>Central Chairperson</b> Contact: +977-9848671361(Cell) Email: <a href="mailto:ganesh@rdnnepal.org.np">ganesh@rdnnepal.org.np</a>		

## **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 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 2004. It organizes the General Assembly each year and election in each three years through democratic practice. It has regular audit and social audit from the very beginning. It has been working on human rights and social justice to end impunity, deprivation through human rights based to development. There are 17 members in executive committee board. Out of them, more than 40% represents from women. A total 12 members (5 from key position and 7 from each province) are directly elected from its general assembly and rest 5 are nominated from various sectors (1 from Badi, one from freed Haliyas, one from elected Dalit representatives and 2 from women. It has ample of experiences advocating on the issues of forced labors and modern slavery.

## **2. Operational Context:**

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. During this reporting period, the local, province and federal government prepared the policy and program for upcoming fiscal year-2023/2024.

### 3. Executive Summary:

The **Project Completion Report (PCR)** of the project entitled as "**Land Rights Campaign**" has been produced in order to view the project progress for the period of 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 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> August, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 with the technical and financial support of Open Society Foundation in collaboration with local and province government.

The project was implemented considering that the Land right is also issue of human rights and social justice. Now it has become a compulsory subject-matter to be addressing the socio-economic and political transformation of marginalized groups in the society. 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. The article of new constitution (40 of (5) and (6) has provisioned the land to landless Dalits community. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) has pointed-out the housing rights as fundamental human rights.

Staff members of RDN Nepal have collectively contributed in producing this **Project Completion Report (PCR)**. 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 under the implementation of the project. A total of **6159 (Male-2740 and Female-3419)** actively participated in various project activities as outlined below;

SN	Name of the Activities	Male	Female	Total
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	Conduct Public Hearing	224	219	443
7	Media Partnership Campaign	7	2	9
8	Land Rights Vigilance Caravan	997	1345	2342
9	Advocacy Workshop	21	11	32
10	Training on Land Advocacy and Activism	17	13	30
11	Collaboration with DSDF	173	113	286
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2740</b>	<b>3419</b>	<b>6159</b>

The overall activity performance during these twenty-four 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

#### 4. Project Activities completed towards Project Outcomes/Outputs

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

**Activity-1: 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 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 at Dhangadhi. The program was inaugurated by honourable Kulananda Upadhyay, chief of attorney in Sudurpaschim province.



Inaugurating the workshop, he said that the problem of landless Dalits has not been solved because the law cannot have enacted in accordance with the spirit and spirit of the Constitution of Nepal. The special guest of the program and member of the Constituent 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.

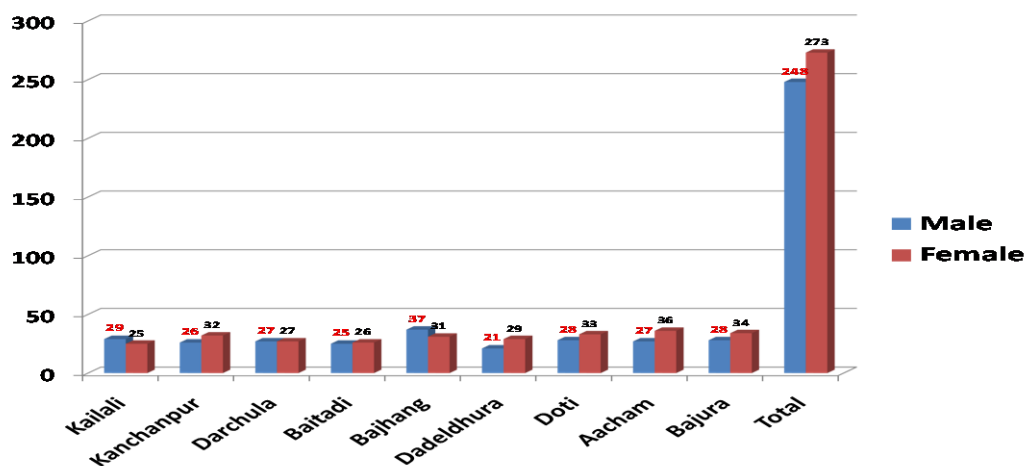
In the Inauguration ceremony of the program, Mr, Hemkarna BK-secretary of FNJ, Mr.Prakash Bikram Shah-journalist, Mr. Ishwar Sunar, Mr. Milan Pariyar, Mr. Sher Bahadur Basnet-FAYA Nepal and Mr. Laxman BK expressed their views as remarks.Mr. Hukum Bahadur Sarki- Executive Director of RDN presented the 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://samatakhbar.com/2021/10/09/11367/>

**Activity-2: 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 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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-3: Development and mobilization of organization mobilizers: RDN facilitated to

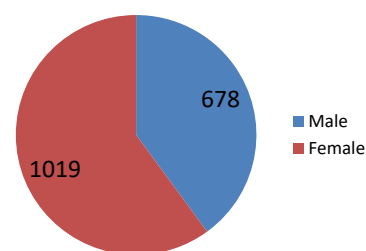


conduct a total of 36 events (2 meetings\* 18 networks) regular meetings of 18 peoples' based organizations also known as Dalit land rights unions at 18 palikas (rural municipalities/municipalities) of 9 districts in Sudurpaschim province in Nepal. Those meetings were focused to discuss over the land 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-4: 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-5: Advocacy in local and provincial level**

##### **Activity-5.1: 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. The memorandums were signed by the chairpersons of respective palika level Dalit land rights union and submitted the 9 points memorandum. 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-ILhfGIEvRzDCn6ExyUAtR8yttUtbuZljj3FYaXGVJsaOqYDjrYA6SkQ>

##### **Activity-5.2: 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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;

- 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.

**Activity- 5.3: 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, 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.

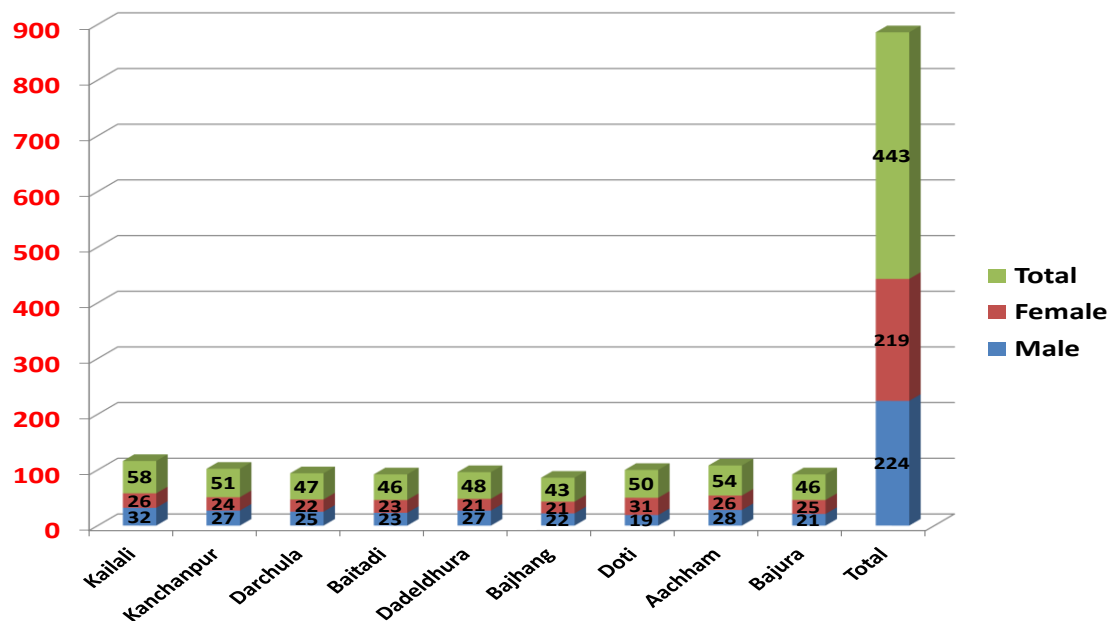
Similarly, the next event of synergy meeting with national land commission was organized at Kathmandu on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 to discuss over various issues. The meeting was organized in the presence of TFF, AAN, RDN and representatives of agriculture bonded labour networks (National HC network, Haliya Federation, Freed Kamaiya Society and Freed Kamhlaris Development Forum) representatives.

**Activity-5.4: Delegation to office of the central committee of political parties:**

On the dated 25 September, 2022, targeting the upcoming provincial and House of Representatives elections, taking it as a golden opportunity, the letter of attention was submitted to the central office of parties to address the issues of agriculture-based forced labourers: freed Harwacharwa, Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamalari in the election manifesto of various political parties. The letter signed by Ganesh Bishwakarma, the National Coordinator of Forced Labor elimination Advocacy Group (FLeAG), member Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai and Dashanlal Mandal, the Central Chairman of the National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum and also a Coordinator of the National Agricultural Bonded Labor struggle committee was submitted to different political parties as; Nepali Congress, CPN (UML), CPN (Maoist-Center), CPN (United Socialist) and Janata Samajbadi Party (JASAPA) respectively.



**Activity-6: Public Hearing:** A total of 9 episodes of 9 events of district level public hearing were lively broadcasted from local FMs with an aim to sensitize the duty bearers on land rights issues of Dalits. Each event of public hearing consisted of more than 40 participants among both target beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders. Before conducting the public hearing, the resource person conducted exit-poll/perception survey that aims to predict the final results on the basis of the information collected from the right holders and relevant stakeholders. The district-wise disaggregation of the participants is presented below:



**Activity-7: 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-8: Land Rights Vigilance Campaign:** RDN conducted one event of land rights caravan with an aim to create mass solidarity on land rights issues of Dalits. The event sensitized the policy makers and stakeholders. The caravan was started from all 18 palikas of 9 working districts in Sudurpaschim province; The caravan was started from 26 August, 2022 and ended on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. During that period, various campaigns were conducted for policy makers. The land rights caravan was organized in close coordination Equity Development Center (EDC)



Doti and Sudurpaschim province level Dalit land rights union. The memorandums were submitted by Dalit land rights unions to 18 local government bodies at 9 districts of Sudurpaschim province. The following demands were mentioned in the memorandum as;

1. Landless Dalits and agriculture bonded labours; freed Haliyas should be given the first priority for the distribution of land by the land commission
2. It was requested to recommend an integrated settlement development project in the for landless Dalits, freed Haliyas and other marginalized groups.
3. It was also demanded that the statistics of the missed Haliyas should be collected and the rehabilitation program should be provided to them and the rehabilitation program should be carried forward in close coordination with province government
4. It was mentioned in the memorandum that the employment opportunities should be created by providing short-term skills training for the landless Dalits and freed Haliya families by providing seed capital and tools and also access to education should be increased.
5. Similarly, it was also demanded that also access of landless Dalits and freed Haliya children to the education should be increased

The land rights caravan was closed at Dhangadhi was closed at Dhangadhi on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 organizing huge rally with interaction program. In the closing ceremony of the caravan, honorable Dirgh Sodari, the chief guest of the program and Minister of Physical Infrastructure Development of the Sudurpaschim Province government inaugurated the program said that the provincial government is committed to the rehabilitation of freed Haliyas. He also told that the government of Sudurpaschim Province has recently passed the Dalit Empowerment Act and the government will form Dalit Development Committee in consultation with the leaders according to law. He also emphasized that it would be implemented effectively.



Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN Nepal pointed-out that the government of Nepal did not collect the data in a sensitive manner in 12 districts of Sudurpaschim and Karnali province so thousands of freed Haliyas are deprived of the package of identification, verification and rehabilitation. He also emphasized that a commission or structure should be formed at different level to monitor, facilitate, coordinate and ensure implementation of all levels of work related to rehabilitation of agriculture bonded labours; freed Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris.

Arjun Shah, the former president of Nepal Journalist Federation, Sudurpaschim Province, presented a working paper on the question to the rehabilitation of freed Haliyas the responsibility of the state. It was concluded that the literal implementation of the national and international human rights laws, the Constitution of Nepal, the orders of the Supreme Court, the commitments and declarations and decisions made by the government at various times is the only way to find a lasting solution to the existing problem of rehabilitation of freed Haliyas. On

that occasion, Kalawati Bhad, vice-president of Ajaimeru rural municipality Dadeldhura, Bala Ram Bhattarai from the Freedom Fund, Sujat Shramnera, from Action Aid Nepal, Chakra BK-chairperson of NNDSWO Kailali, Mangal Sarki, general secretary of Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal, Tularam Sarki, Kashi Nepali and Milan Pariyar expressed their views. The program was chaired by Mr. Raju Ram Bhul-chairperson of Dalit land rights union Sudurpaschim provincial committee. Mr. Mohan Oad-general secretary of RDN Nepal welcomed to participants. Mr. Shankar BK-program coordinator of EDC Doti highlighted the importance of the program. The program was facilitated by Mr. Shyam Sunar-secretary general of Dalit land rights union Sudurpaschim provincial committee. At the end of the program 8 points Dhangadhi was promulgated to pressure the state mechanism as an advocacy tool. The links of the news related to the activity is outlined below;



- [https://rastriyasaharadaily.com/2022/08/31/1289/?fbclid=IwAR0kVqX-Kqllqeuxt3c2tqEf4cGMqvl4FrUqJxOi20tLqI8gwhYPP\\_TMNgk](https://rastriyasaharadaily.com/2022/08/31/1289/?fbclid=IwAR0kVqX-Kqllqeuxt3c2tqEf4cGMqvl4FrUqJxOi20tLqI8gwhYPP_TMNgk)
- [https://chhanbinnews.com/?p=2696&fbclid=IwAR2hdQe1FnIL5O\\_jD2QNKcKUS7vRAo8n4EhcjeriKoEnSXR3vkXhV\\_DNv5s](https://chhanbinnews.com/?p=2696&fbclid=IwAR2hdQe1FnIL5O_jD2QNKcKUS7vRAo8n4EhcjeriKoEnSXR3vkXhV_DNv5s)

**Activity-9: 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 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 to 13<sup>th</sup> 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 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 workshop. Similarly, Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai-legal advisor of RDN was invited to facilitate the various sessions of the workshop.



**Activity-10: 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 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 to 7<sup>th</sup> 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 part in the training. Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson and Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive 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 land unions at local level to systematically claim for their rights and entitlements.

### **Activity-11: 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;

- 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 be 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 support to 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 months implementation plan
- Wrap-up the meeting

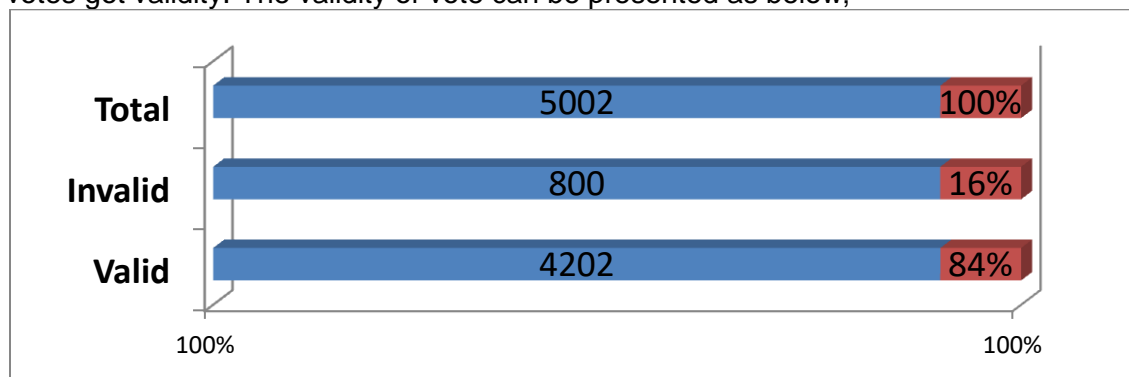
In the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director of RDN Nepal highlighted the importance and objectives of the meeting. Ms. Parbati Aagri-campaign coordinator welcomed to participants. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of Rastriya Dalit Network. 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 (Non-Budgetary):**

**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 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

**Solidarity in Cycle Caravan of Freed Kamaiya:** Freed Kamaiya Society (FKS) conducted cycle caravan for the rehabilitation of freed Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris from Tikapur to Dhangadhi

for the period from 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. During the same course of time on the third day of the caravan on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, RDN and Dalit Land Rights Union Sudurpaschim province committee organized welcome program for the wider level of solidarity at Kailari rural municipality-7 Bipatpur Kailali. Speaking at the solidarity program, RDN general secretary Mohan Od said that even after 22 years of Kamaiya Emancipation Declaration, the government has not taken full responsibility for the rehabilitation of freed Kamaiyas. Rajuram Bhul, Coordinator of Dalit Land Rights Union, Sudurpaschim Province, warned that if the government of Nepal fails to address the demands of agricultural bonded labours; freed Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Harawa-Charawa in time, they will be forced to surround Singhdarwar through a common movement. In the solidarity program, Freed Kamaiya society Kailali President Bharat Chaudhary, community leader Shivacharan Chaudhary expressed their views. The program was facilitated by Mr. Pashupati Chaudhary-central chairperson of Freed Kamaiya Society.



**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.



**12 Days Dalit Rights Campaign:** RDN organized 12 days Dalit Rights Campaign for the period from 24 May, 2023 to 4th June, 2023 as outlined below:

- Follow-up of delegation and meeting with heads of 32 municipalities of 8 districts of Madhes Pradesh to address frequent questions on local government policies and programs
- Stakeholder monitoring of Safe housing under construction in Kailari rural municipality, Ghodaghodi and Lamki Municipality of Kailali District
- Delegation by Dalit land rights Union to District Land Commission of 9 districts of Sudurpaschim Province with memorandum



**5. 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,
- A total of 443 (Male-224 and Female-219) were fully mobilized in the public hearing in which local government bodies delivered their commitment to address the land rights issues of landless Dalits and agriculture bonded labours; freed Haliyas and other marginalized groups.
- A total of 2343 (Male-997 and Female-1345) participated in land rights caravan. The event sensitized policy makers, duty bearers and other concerned stakeholders on the issues of land at local and province level.
- Due to the delegation to the central committees of different political parties, the issues of landless Dalits and agriculture bonded labours; freed Haliyas and Harawa-Charawa incorporated in election manifesto of different political parties such as Nepali Congress, CPN (UML), CPN (Maoist-Center), CPN (United Socialist) and Janata Samajbadi Party (JASAPA) respectively



- During the project implementation project, RDN collaborated with various issues based movements such land rights campaign, freed Haliya, Kamaiya and Harawa-Charawa campaign
- A total of 5 personnel from RDN (board-2 and staffs-3) got opportunity to participate in capacity development trainings organized by EnABLE funded by World Bank.
- The accounting software and website of the organization updated and functional
- A total of 21 participants from RDN (Board-7 and project staffs-14) capacitated in safeguarding mechanism and protection.
- The Freedom Fund Headquarters nominated Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN Nepal to participate **Asia Region Anti-Trafficking Conference at Indonesia Bali** as a panelist to discuss on land rights issues of Dalits and agriculture bonded labours in Nepal

#### 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.**
- Regular coordination and cooperation is necessary with provincial and local government bodies to tap the resources to construct safe housing of very poor and oppressed groups in the community.

#### 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

**5. Organizational Changes:** 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;**

- ❖ 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

- ❖ **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 was organized in Bali, Indonesia from 17 to 19 July, 2023. The Freedom Fund Headquarters nominated Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN Nepal to participate as a panelist in that important event. The focus of the panel discussion revolved around the **liberation of Harawa Charawa, an agricultural bonded labour group in Nepal.**
- ❖ **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.

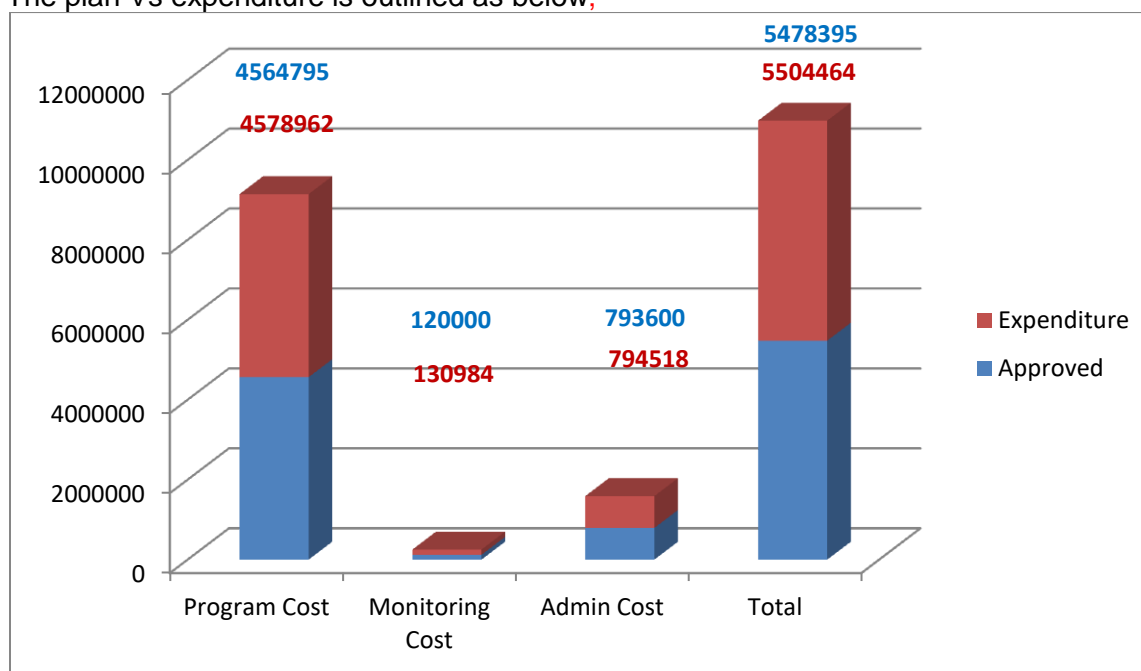
**10. Safeguarding and Complaints Response Mechanism:** Safeguarding means for protecting the rights of target groups to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organizations working together to both prevent and responding to risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while 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.

**11. 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 **6159 (Male-2740 and Female-3419)** actively participated in various project activities.

**12. Financial Performance:** The working budget for the 24 months for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 is **NPR 5,478,395**. Out of the total approved budget funded by the Open Society Foundation (OSF), a total expenditure for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 is sum of NPR **5,504,464** which is **100.47%** against the annual agreed budget. The plan Vs expenditure is outlined as below;



**13. Way Forward:** The following activities have been planned for the next to replicate the best practices of the campaign for the possible area of collaboration as;

- Strengthening Dalit Land Rights Unions (People Based Organizations) at local, district and province level for land advocacy
- Coordination and collaboration with local, province and federal government to address the land rights issues of landless Dalits and other vulnerable groups; agriculture bonded labours; freed Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Harawa-Charawa as well as, Badi
- Advocacy and Land Rights movement,

## Annex-I: Story of Change

### **Harina Oad from house-wife to land rights leader**

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 household activities.



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 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Annex-II (Story of Change)

### 28th Prakash Human Rights Award” to Land Rights activist Rajuram Bhul



The 28th Prakash Human Rights Award was awarded to land rights campaigner Rajuram Bhul. Rajuram Bhul of Dasharathchand Municipality-4, who has been active for almost three decades for the protection of caste discrimination, exploitation, oppression and human rights in Nepali society, was honored with the "28th Prakash Human Rights Award". Appreciating his contribution, the Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) honored him through a formal program on July 16, 2022 in Kathmandu.

Due to his struggle for the liberation of Haliya he carried a plow and encircled Singhdarwar, on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2008, the government of Nepal officially announced the liberation of Halia by signing a 5-day agreement with the Rastriya

Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal under his leadership. Founder General Secretary of INSEC Prakash Kafle passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1992 in a Thai Air accident at Ghoptevir in Nuwakot. People who have made special contributions in the fields of human rights, politics, education, health and social life of Nepal are awarded on the occasion of "Prakash Smriti Diwas". According to INSEC, 27 people have been honored with this award before.

It is mentioned in a statement released by INSECA that Bhul was honored at a program held in Kathmandu on July 16 under the chief hospitality of the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, Tap Bahadur Magar. He was former Central President of Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal and also coordinator of Dalit land rights union Sudurpaschim province committee.