

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

(1stDecember, 2020 to 28th February, 2021)



Title of the Project:
**Promoting Policy Advocacy Campaign against Forced
Labours; Harawa-Charawa (PAC against HC)**

Submitted to:



Submitted by:

Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal
Dhangadhi Metropolitan City –5, HasanpurDhangadhi, Kailali
Contact no- +977-91520604 (Office) Email: rdnepal@yahoo.com
Phone: 01-4102605 (Liaison Office, 62/63 Sahayog Marg, AnamNagar,
Kathmandu)



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Progress Report Narrative – TA Providers

ORGANIZATION NAME:	Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal
PROJECT:	Promoting Policy Advocacy Campaign against Forced Labours;Harawa-Charawa (PAC against HC)
REPORTING PERIOD:	1 December, 2020 to 28 February, 2021
COMPLETED BY:	Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki, Team Leader, RDN Nepal

Please address each of the questions below regarding your Freedom Fund project, by filling in the corresponding white box. Please feel free to expand the boxes below and use as much space as needed. Please answer each question for the CURRENT 6-MONTH REPORTING PERIOD.

1. PROGRESS TO-DATE ON ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES:

Please discuss the activities undertaken to achieve your deliverables in this reporting period.

The end of the grant reporting of "Promoting Policy Advocacy Campaign against Forced Labours; Harawa-Charawa (PAC against HC)" has been produced in order to view the project progress for the period of 1stDecember, 2020 to 28th February, 2021. Key results and successes have been reflected in this report. The project aimed to support each network's development, strengthening network members' leadership for advocacy, collective bargaining and negotiation skills, enabling members to challenge all the forms of exploitation and claim their rights.

The project was successfully implemented by Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal at **South-East hotspot** are in province-2 of Nepal and also federal level for policy advocacy regarding the rights and rehabilitation of forced labours;Harawa-Charawa with the financial support of Freedom Fund (FF).

Staff members of RDN Nepal have collectively contributed to producing this final progress report in close coordination with **Forced Labours elimination Advocacy Group (FLeAG)** members. It was rigorously reviewed and verified by Project management Team (PMT) and submitted secretariat of the organization. Finally, the executive board of RDN Nepal reviewed and synchronized the report against the Project Document and Work Plan and Budget and brought it into final shape to share the final report with Freedom Fund. The analysis and information contained in this report represent the work completed by RDN Nepal.

The overall activity performance during these **three** months reporting period was excellent. The target Vs Achievements of the project has been outlined as below:

SN	Activity	Unit	Total Target	Progress
A	A. Hamro Mukti Kahile (When Our Liberation?)	Episode	15	15
B	Policy dialogue between Ministry of law and Justice, Attorney journalGeneral and concern stakeholders	Event	1	1
C	Delegation to Ministry of Labor and Employment	Time	1	1

Overall, the project successfully implemented as it met its target over the agreed period of project.

Did anything unexpected happen this reporting period?

There were not any unintended consequences happened during this reporting period.

Comment [MOU1]: It would be better to mention few points on each of the activities A,B and C respectively and its achievements. For example; In Activity A, How the flow of the radio episodes carried out. What messages delivered on the HC issues? How the liberation issues raised? Who were interviewed? Is there any responses from listeners? Etc. similar in Activity B and C.

Response: The key achievements of the planned activities (budget head A, B and C) are outlined as below:
A.Hamro Mukti Kahile (When Our Liberation?)

- A total of 15 episodes were broadcasted from local FM radio having key message regarding the rights and emancipation of HC.
- HC leaders, social activists and policy makers were interviewed during fm radio program
- Increased awareness of target groups on the issues of Harawa-Charawa
- It was observed that some responses were received from listeners. Some of them told that they listened the radio and some of told that they did not listen
- The interview also covered the impact of COVID-19 on HC and on-going Dalit rights movement. The atrocities happening against Dalits were linked to reveal the crimes against HC

B.Policy Dialogue: One event of policy dialogue was conducted between ministry of law and justice, general and concerned stakeholders considering that There is not enough provisions on compensation and support to forced labourers.

C.Delegation to Ministry of labour: One event of delegation was conducted to Ministry of Labor and Employment to activate and functioning of central labor advisory committee for effective monitoring of forced labor situation in Nepal. The issues of the delegation were; minimum wage/fair and equal wages, debt alleviation as well as development labour inspectors.

Comment [MOU2]: Are the recordings available? It would be better to share through other media sources as well. Like U tube, face book live etc.

Response: The recording of the FM radio program are available. The link of the broadcasted materials are in place.

Please provide an assessment of and reflection on Freedom Fund partners in relation to the above activities and deliverables. Is there anything Freedom Fund should be aware of about a particular partner organization?

The coordination, collaboration and relationship with Freedom Fund and its partners at project targeted area was quite satisfactory during this last three months. Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal established very good relationship in FF partners in 3 project coverage districts by sharing the knowledge and skill for the effective implementation of the project.

The network capacity of Harawa/Charawa and their networks and organizations were built in close coordination and support of Freedom Fund partners so as to raise their voice and concern for advocacy campaigns. Relevant stakeholders and partner organizations of Freedom Fund in the project targeted area were intensively coordinated to bring the synergy and reduce duplication.

The Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) approach was adopted to implement the project that contributed to ensure the ownership of rights holders for the sustainability of the project. In addition, Freedom Fund partners supported to build the relationship with local government bodies, political parties and civil society organizations (CSOs).

2. SUCCESSES

Please describe what you consider to be your greatest successes in this reporting period.

- A total of 15 episodes regarding the interview of HC leaders as well as other stakeholders; like elected representatives and policy makers broadcasted from local FM radio. The interviews were collected through the mobilization of one journalist. The journalists went to HC leaders and talked with concerned stakeholders, conducted their interview for broadcasting from FMs. The interview focused on the current emerging socio-economic issues of Harawa-Charawa. Similarly, the interview also covered the impact of COVID-19 on HC and on-going Dalit rights movement. The atrocities happening against Dalits were linked to reveal the crimes against HC, many of whom are Dalits. Throughout the action, target groups were well aware on their constitutional rights and duty bearers were sensitized on rights, emancipation and rehabilitation of forced labours; Harawa-Charawa.
- One event of policy dialogue was organized between relevant ministries and concern stakeholders to make their attention on the issues and ask for revision as there is not enough provisions on compensation and support to forced labourers. Different thematic subject-experts were invited to present their papers for the further discussion.
- The project organized one delegation to Ministry of Labor and Employment as well as ministry land management with an aim to activate and functioning of central labor advisory committee for effective monitoring of forced labor situation in Nepal.

3. CHALLENGES

Have you faced any challenges or obstacles in this reporting period? If yes, please describe the challenges or obstacles and discuss how you addressed them.

- Inadequate operational capacity of Harawa-Charawa networks to conduct advocacy and campaign
- Covid-19 pandemic context
- Political parties do not proper monitoring mechanism to implement their commitment.

Comment [MOU3]: Can you give more detail on this? Any examples?

Response: The Freedom Fund (FF) partners were coordinated in regards to deliver the information about the time of FM radio that the interviews were broadcasted. The time of radio broadcasting were told to Harawa-Charawa saving credit groups through the medium FF partners in at local level. FF partners were also requested to encourage HC network members to listen the radio respectively.

Comment [MOU4]: Freedom Fund partners has been working in the HC bonded labour issues, I think some of

Comment [MOU5]: Can you provide examples?

Response: The participants of the activity required from HC network were also

Comment [MOU6]: What we did reflecting the approach? Please add few examples.

Comment [MOU7]: Examples?

Response: It is observed that target group took ownership through their direct engagement in various campaigns in

Comment [MOU8]: How do you know they are aware as a result of the radio program?

Comment [MOU9]: It would be better if you mentioned the date, number of participants, the key conclusions and short term impact of the event.

Comment [MOU10]: Also please state what were the main issue discussed? Were any commitments made? How do you intend to follow up on this?

Comment [MOU11]: Please add Date, number of participants and key decisions or commitments from the concerned minister

Comment [MOU12]: Also please state what were the main issue discussed? Were any commitments made? How do you intend to follow up on this?

Comment [MOU13]: Can you say more about this? How can you address the issue?

Comment [MOU14]: How did it impact the project?

Comment [MOU15]: Which political party? NC, Communist, JSP, Rastriya Prajatantra Party, Sajha Party, Nepal MajdoorKisan Party or others

They have lack of willing power to fully address the issues of Harawa-Charawa.

- Political parties do not have widely accepted the issues of Harawa-Charawa.
- Harawa-Charawa community are not fully empowered yet

Do you need any additional assistance to address these challenges? If yes, is there anything that Freedom Fund can do to help you overcome these challenges? Or, is there anything that Freedom Fund could have done to help?

The continuous guidance and technical backstopping as well as financial support from Freedom Fund is required to address the above-mentioned challenges.

Comment [MOU16]: Which political party? All or some better to mention, to make easy to focus in the days top come.

Response: all the political parties mentioned above are positive towards the socio-economic rights of HC, they do not have willing power to make the HC issues as social common agenda.

4. ORGANIZATIONAL AND/OR CONTEXTUAL CHANGES
Have there been any other changes that have affected the project in a *positive* or *negative* way during the reporting period (not discussed above)?

Organizational changes:
Have there been organizational changes (positive or negative) that have affected the implementation of the project? If yes, describe the changes, the impact of the changes, and anything the organization did to address the changes.
For example, changes in executive leadership, facilities, location, programmatic capacity. Have there been changes to the staff roles and degree of time involvement in the project?

Comment [MOU17]: Good jargon but meaning might different from person to person. Please mention specifically.

Response: It means, HC in the community level are empowered but their capacity needs to be still enhanced to systematically claim for their rights and entitlements.

Comment [MOU18]: But how do you intend to address the challenges?

Response: We have intended to develop their advocacy capacity of HC and their organizations to address the challenges.

The project was well managed by providing specific responsibilities to the staffs in Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal. There were not any organizational changes. Considering the covid-19 pandemic situation, the network capacity building of HC was strengthened as below;

- Regular telephone conversation with field level staffs (Lagenda-Saprati, Shyam Sundar Sada-Siraha and Shreeprasad-Dhanusha) to get the current situation update
- Guide, coach and support field staffs to implement the planned activities of the project
- Coordination and collaboration with leaders of district and national Harawa-Charawa networks
- Coordination with the local implementing partners of Freedom Fund (FF) at Saptari, Siraha and Dhanusha
- Coordination and collaboration with Jiyam sir and Bala sir to share the update and current situation

Comment [MOU19]: Is this to do with FLEAG contract or RDN Network capacity building contract? You should be report on FLEAG here.

Response: It was done with RDN Network capacity building network contract. They are HC activist represent from HC community, so that they were mobilized in regards to collaboration and coordination as well as informing sharing.

Contextual changes:
Have there been contextual changes (positive or negative) that have affected the implementation of the project? If yes, describe the changes, the impact of the changes, and anything your organization did to address the changes.
For example, elections, disasters or conflicts, media coverage, etc.

Comment [MOU20]: From the activities described above it doesn't seem that any HC Network people were engaged in the activities? Please explain. As this is a project on the bonded labour of HC they should be central to all activities.

Response: Due to the covid-19 pandemic situation, HC could not be engaged in the program activities but other FLEAG members took part in the intervention. The programs were fully focused on the socio-economic issues of Harawa-Charawa.

The newly promulgated constitution-2015 under the federal democratic republic Nepal has ensured that every citizen has equal opportunities in civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights. The article of new constitution (Article-29) has clearly stated that nobody is compelled to be engaged in forced labours such as exploitation, human trafficking as well as slavery system. Such deeds are liable to be punished by law in constitutional point of view. Every citizen has identical civil liberties for consuming the rights. Although there are legal and constitutional provisions, poor and disadvantaged groups in the community are still deprived from their fundamental human rights. Dalits, women, children and land-poor are not only excluded due to gender, classical and caste based discrimination in the society but also they are also victim of exploitation, forced labours and modern slavery.

Comment [MOU21]: For coming days it would be better to develop action plan and discuss in certain time specifically focusing the activities and its achievements. I can manage time for that.

Response: Yes, we will develop action plan and discuss in certain time specifically focusing the activities and its achievements. Your time for this will be highly appreciated.

A domestic outbreak of COVID-19 commenced in May, prolonging the lockdown and imposing substantial human and further economic costs. As a result of the impact of COVID-19, GDP growth in Nepal is estimated at 1.8 percent in FY2020, compared to 7 percent in FY2019. Growth in the service

sector is now estimated at 1 percent, the lowest since FY2002, while growth in the industrial sector is estimated at 3.2 percent, a four-year low, due to the deceleration in overall growth. The corona-virus (covid-19) has also impacted Nepal. Due to the lock-down, all the industries, educational institutions, transportation, tourism were fully closed and human life has become more suffering. It has impacted the income generation of whole people for their livelihood options. Particularly Harawa-Charawa who are engaged in daily wage work are facing the problem of joining their hands to mouth and also suffering from starvation.

There is new development in science and technology. Similarly, the average temperature is increasing by 1.8 to 4 degree in global basis through which we have to face great challenges of covid-19 pandemic.

Similarly, the government of Nepal is eager to implement the fundamental rights by formulating relevant bylaws and procedures. The government of Nepal has also initiated to solve the problem of land by forming land problem solving commission. The commission has provisioned to provide the land to landless Dalits. The special authority has been given to this commission as per law. The federal government has also planned to participate Dalits in regards to operate the land bank under ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation targeting to Harawa-Charawa.

XXX

The government of province 2 has endorsed the Dalit Empowerment Act.

XXX

Nepal's democracy is in crisis. When a long-simmering row within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) flared up last December, Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli dissolved Parliament—a move critics decried as unconstitutional. Then, on February 3, Oli moved to consolidate control over key constitutional bodies that are supposed to serve as checks and balances to the government. These actions have led critics to question whether elections for a new Parliament, slated for April 30 and May 10, can be held freely and fairly. Much still remains uncertain as the country awaits a Supreme Court verdict on the constitutionality of Oli's maneuvers. Now, dissolved parliament has been rehabilitated by Supreme Court. Political parties are trying to exercise for new government.

Please describe any significant policy or implementation changes by governments to improve anti-slavery prevention or response at national, state and local levels or significant improvements in anti-slavery safeguards/remediation by business during the reporting period.

During the reporting period, some significant and foresight actions have been carried-out. The government of Nepal is eager to implement the fundamental rights of citizens by formulating relevant bylaws and procedures. The budget session of federal government is being kicked-off. Honorable Yuva Raj Khatiwada, ministry of finance emphasized that the allocated budget will prioritize the corona-virus (covid-19) affected people. The budget has also tried its best to address the socio-economic rights of Harawa-Charawa. Under the same provision, the food for work including minimum wage has been ensured. The budget has shifted into advancing dignified lives of forced labor in which the issue of child protection of Dalits has come into existence. The federal government has also planned to provide the land to landless people and people housing program. The budget has also

Comment [MOU22]: Any specific context from Province 2?

Response: The government of province-2 has endorsed the Dalit Empowerment Act.

Comment [MOU23]: You haven't mentioned the political problems at federal level. Considering this project with FLEAG is focused on federal level advocacy it seems very relevant to mention this and how it impact your project activities.

Response: Nepal's democracy is in crisis. When a long-simmering row within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) flared up last December, Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli dissolved Parliament—a move critics decried as unconstitutional. Then, on February 3, Oli moved to consolidate control over key constitutional bodies that are supposed to serve as checks and balances to the government. These actions have led critics to question whether elections for a new Parliament, slated for April 30 and May 10, can be held freely and fairly. Much still remains uncertain as the country awaits a Supreme Court verdict on the constitutionality of Oli's maneuvers. Now, dissolved parliament has been rehabilitated by Supreme Court. Political parties are trying to exercise for new government.

Comment [MOU24]: What Socio-economic rights of HC addressed by the budget and plan? I did not find any clear plan in the budget. I did not get any relevant publications as well.

Response: Yes, Although the federal government provisioned to address some issues of HC such as land and housing, the provincial government does not have any clear plan.

prioritized the livelihood of the Harawa-Charawa. It has also incorporated the scholarship and school nutrition program.

Similarly, the government of Nepal has initiated to solve the problem of land by forming land problem solving commission. The commission has provisioned to provide the land to landless Dalits. The special authority has been given to this commission as per law. The federal government has also planned to participate Harawa-Charawa in regards to operate the land bank under ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation targeting to Harawa-Charawa. Recently, Nepal has revised its constitution.

5. PLANS FOR NEXT 6-MONTHS

Please list any significant events/plans for the next 6-months.

The significant events/plans for the next-6 months are outlined below;

- High level field monitoring visit
- Pre-Budget discussion at local, provincial and federal level
- Solidarity workshop with Madesi Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Talk Show TV program
- FM program with media mobilization
- Regular lobby and advocacy on the rights and rehabilitation of forced labours; Harawa-Charawa

Are there any anticipated changes that will affect your ability to carry out work planned in the next 6-months? If yes, please describe.

The anticipated changes that may affect our ability to carry out work planned in the next 6-months. Due to the impact of COVID-19, there is still problem in field mobility and mass gathering.

6. CONSENT TO SHARE INFORMATION

Full Consent: Our organization gives Freedom Fund consent to use any information or photos provided in this report for promotional purposes.

Yes No

Partial Consent: If your organization gives Freedom Fund consent to use some information or photos provided in this report for promotional purposes, please describe what information or photos cannot be shared.

Annex-I (Financial Report)

	Activity Cost	Target	Progrees	Approved Budget	Expentiture NPR	Expentiture USD	Budget Balance	Burn rate (Annual budget)%
A	Hamro Mukti Kahile (When Our Liberation?)	3	3	210000	210000	1826	0	100
B	Webinar Policy dialogue between Ministry of law and Justice, Attorney journal and concern stakeholders	9	9	45000	45000	391.3	0	100
C	Delegation to Ministry of Labor and Employment	1	1	37500	37500	326.1	0	100
	Total Activity Cost			292500	292500	2543	0	100
	10% Over head			29250	29250	254.3	0	100
	Toal Activity Cost & Over head			321750	321750	2798	0	100

Comment [MOU25]: High level means, who we need to include? Is it necessary? I hope it is risky and expensive task.

Response: The High level monitoring mission includes the representation of NHRC, FLeAG members, civil society organizations and media. The proper monitoring plan will developed to mitigate potential risk. Although, it will be risky but it will have high level of impact and result oriented.

Comment [MOU26]: Is it necessary?

Response: Yes, it will be necessary to develop their common understanding on the issues of Harawa-Charawa.

Comment [MOU27]: What about engaging with province government? - Delegations to Chief Ministry, Land reforms Ministry, Joint workshop with Province Land reforms, labour Ministry on HC emancipation issue, Dalit empowerment regulation, support in drafting the law and its wide consultation, lobbying to the province parliamentarians, province planning commission etc?

Write open letter to Federal Parliamentarians and concerned Ministry?

Response: Yes, your suggestions on that as mentioned above are exactly all rights which we would like to appreciate in regards to conduct lobby/ advocacy on rights and rehabilitation of HC. We will follow-up these during development and implementation of advocacy plan.