

Terms of Reference (ToR)

For

Strengthening Harawa-Charawa Networks at Local, District & National Level

1. Context Analysis:

Harawa/Charawa is the system of forceful bonded labor being practiced since the Rana era in the middle Terai of Nepal. The issue of bonded labour among the Harawa/Charawa community is perpetuated based on a variety of inter-connected social, economic, cultural, political, and systemic underlying causes. The underlying causes of victimizing Harawa-Charawa families includes their landlessness i.e. lack of ownership of cultivable land, with combination in lack of education or vocational skills, increases their vulnerability to landowners' and/or money lenders' demands.

The deepening process of poverty into vicious circle faced by Harawa-Charawa family means that when additional financial expenses arise the only option is to obtain a loan from the landlord. Once a loan is taken, the landlord/ money lenders expect the borrowers and their families to provide labour indefinitely to pay off the debt. On the other hand, combination of interest rates, as high as 60% to 72% per annum, and extremely low wages resulted in years of bonded labour and even to hereditary debt.

2. Background:

Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal has been implementing the project entitled as "**Network Capacity Building of Harawa-Charawa and their Organizations in Nepal-NCB Project**" since last April, 2019 with the financial support of the Freedom Fund (FF). The project aims 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.

Target beneficiaries (Harawa-Charawa) of the project have been organized in different saving and credit groups at community level. These groups are affiliated in rural municipality/municipality level Harawa Charawa Rights Forums. There are 15 H-C rights forums at 15 working rural municipalities/municipality at Saptari, Siraha and Dhanusha district. Similarly, there are 3 district level H-C rights forums in the districts (one in each district) mentioned above. The national level H-C rights forum has been formed representing Harawa-Charawa from 8 districts of province-2.

Although Harawa-Charawa organizations are formed at local, district and national level, the new leadership has not come into existence due to the inadequate operational capacity of those networks. In this connection, the concept note has been developed to strengthen the H-C networks by organizing conferences through democratic practice.

3. Objectives of H-C networks

- To conduct the conference of Harawa-Charawa networks at local, district and national level
- To elect the new leadership of Harawa-Charawa networks at local, district and national level through democratic practices
- To endorse the organizational plan , policies, guidelines and strategies of Harawa-Charawa networks at various level

4. Process & Methodologies:

The following processes and methodologies will be carried-out to conduct the conference of Harawa-Charawa organizations at local, district and national level

Local Level

Venue	Office of the rural municipality/municipality
Representatives	At least 5 members (Male-2 and Female-3) from each saving and credit groups will participate the conference
Date	Till mid of December, 2019
Committee Formation	There will be 7-11 members in local level Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum (H-CRF)
Process/Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selection of representatives through meeting of local level H-C network• Preparation of schedule of election• Sharing of progressive reports of H-C networks• Coordination with local government and FF partners• Selection of new leadership through democratic process• The program will be inaugurated by respective chairperson of rural municipality or mayor of municipality

District Level:

Venue	Headquarter of respective districts (Saptari, Siraha and Dhanusha)
Representatives	At least 5 members (Male-2 and Female-3) from each rural municipality/municipality level H-C rights forum will participate the conference
Date	Till end of December, 2019
Committee Formation	There will be 9-15 members in district level Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum (H-CRF)
Process/Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selection of representatives through meeting of district level H-C network• Preparation of schedule of election• Sharing of progressive reports of H-C networks• Coordination with local government and FF partners• Selection of new leadership through democratic process• The program will be inaugurated by member of state assembly (MSA)

National Level:

Venue	Janakpurdham (Capital of province Capital)
Representatives	Altogether there will be 60-70 representatives from district and national level Harawa rights forum will participate the national conference of Harawa-Charawa
Date	Till first week of January, 2020
Committee Formation	There will be 11-21 members in national level Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum (H-CRF)
Process/Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selection of representatives through meeting of national H-C network• Preparation of schedule of election• Sharing of progressive reports of H-C networks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with local government and FF partners • Selection of new leadership through democratic process • The program will be inaugurated by chief minister of province-2 in Nepal • Coordination meeting with implementing partners of the Freedom Fund (FF)
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5. Expected Results (Outcomes):

- ❖ Increased capacity of Harawa-Charawa and their organizations to successfully conduct the conference with an aim to generate new leadership for the growth and developments of Harawa-Charawa organizations/networks
- ❖ Guidance of Harawa-Charawa organizations through endorsing various organizational plan, policies, guidelines and strategies
- ❖ Enhanced critical engagement of Harawa-Charawa and their organizations with government bodies at local and provincial level and other relevant duty bearers to develop the linkage for the further sustainability impact.

Roles & Responsibilities:

The following roles and responsibilities have been sketched-out among Harawa-Charawa networks, Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal and the Freedom Fund (FF);

Organizations	Roles and Responsibilities
Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum (HCRF) at local, district and national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select the representatives for the conference at various level • Take a lead to conduct inauguration and open sessions of the conference • Coordination and collaboration with government mechanism at local, district and provincial level including civil society organizations, media and FF partners • Elect the new leadership through democratic practices • Endorse the organizational plan, policies, strategies and guidelines for the effective implementation • Hand-over the responsibilities to newly elected committee through formal process
Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical backstopping support to H-C and their networks to develop organizational plan, policies, guidelines and strategies • Conduct regular monitoring to successfully organize the conference of H-C networks • Financial and logistic arrangement of the conference at various level
The Freedom Fund (FF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide financial support to organize the conference of H-C networks at local, district and national level • Conduct periodic monitoring to successfully organize the conference of H-C networks

6. Conclusion:

The H-C networks from local to national level will play crucial role for the rights, emancipation and rehabilitation. As the federal government has devolved more powers to the local and provincial governments in the changed context, advocacy for ensuring the rights of the forced labors need to be done by strengthening H-C organizations.