

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

CO - Kathmandu - Mission Report

Orientation Workshop with Bridge Project Partners in Nepal

Author(s)

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Mission Members(s)

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Overall Objective

The objectives of the mission are - to provide orientation about the procedures and rules/regulations for implementing the Implementation Agreement (IA) that ILO had signed with the four project partners; to receive first hand information on beneficiary selection for the livelihood programs in Kanchanpur and Bajura districts; and to visit/meet project sites/the beneficiaries of the livelihood program in Kanchanpur district.

Country / Regional Programme Outcome

NPL 828

The Bridge project intends to support the government and other relevant stakeholders for better policies and programs to combat forced labour at global and national level which is linked with the ILO P&B Outcomes 2, 8 and 9. The mission intends to orient the project partners for implementing the project activities in line with the ILO standards, rules and procedures as well as take a stock of on-going beneficiary selection progress in Kanchanpur and Bajura districts where the Bridge Project has planned to provide support to 600 freed Haliyas through skill/employability training programs. This will provide support to the government's ex-haliya rehabilitation program and also create conducive environment for Nepal government to take steps in ratification of ILO forced labour protocol 2014.

ILO Office

CO - Kathmandu

Period Covered

- Start Date:
Sep 19, 2017
- End Date:
Sep 24, 2017

Mission Type

Domestic

City

Dadeldhura and Kanchanpur

Mission Location(s)

Nepal

Theme(s)

Finance and Administrative Services, Forced Labour, Programming, M&E

Summary of Main Achievements

The following main achievements were made out of this mission:

1. The key staff members of the ILO/Bridge Project Partners became aware of the ILO rules, standards and procedures for implementing, monitoring and reporting of the Implementation Agreements signed with them.
2. Clarified roles and responsibilities of each partners with revised work plans and monitoring tools
3. Observed and interacted with some of the beneficiaries that have received government's resettlement support as well as potential beneficiaries of the Bridge Project in Dadeldhura and Kanchanpur districts
4. Monitored the progress made by the SNRTP Project in Dhangadi district and interacted with the beneficiaries of Road Maintenance Groups.

Mission Findings

Day – 0 (19th September, 2017):

On 19th afternoon, the NPC and D&B Officer visited the office of RMHSF-N at Kanchanpur and also conducted a written test of the three potential candidates to fulfill the positions of the Program Monitors at Kanchanpur and Bajura.

Day-1 (20th September, 2017):

The orientation workshop begun with welcome remarks by the NPC of the ILO Bridge Project. The participants were the staff members of the four partners (Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation – Nepal (RMHSF-N), Underprivileged Children’s Education Program (UCEP) - Bhaktapur, Rastriya Haliya Mukta Samaj (RHMS) - Kanchanpur and Human Resource Centre (HRC) - Bajura) of the bridge project took part in the workshop. The program schedule and list of participants are attached in the Annex - 1.

In the first session of the day 1, Mr. Oluremi Doherty, Monitoring and Database Officer of the Bridge Project, Geneva presented a snap shot on global component of the Bridge Project and Mr. Narayan Bhattarai, NCP of the Bridge Project shared the Nepal component of the Bridge Project interventions. The presentations shared by Mr. Doherty and Mr Bhattarai are attached as Annex - 2A and Annex - 2B respectively.

In the second session, the partner organizations were asked to present their progress so far. The Project Coordinator of the RMHSF-N, Mr Anand Bhatta presented about the preliminary findings of the beneficiary family selection and shared the experiences they have gathered while forming groups for the skill/employability training programs in Kanchanpur district. He shared that a total of 637 families (334 in Kanchanpur and 303 in Bajura) selected for the skill/employability training from Kanchanpur and Bajura. The RMHSF also has completed orientation to 195 actual beneficiaries (trainees) who will be enrolled into different training options with respective Training Partners (TPs). Similarly, the Project Coordinators of the Training Partners (TPs) presented about their proposed training details. After the presentations, the RMHSF and district leaders proposed for changing some training options that either are not suitable to their geography or not enough trainees could be found to form a group of 25 persons. The session was adjourned with a proposal to discuss further during bi-lateral meetings tomorrow.

In the last session on the first day, Mr Narayan Bhattarai, presented about the roles and responsibilities of the partners involved in the livelihood interventions. The details of the roles and responsibilities presented are attached in the Annex - 3.

Day-2 (21st September, 2017):

The second day begun with the presentation, by Ms. Marina Rai, Administrative/Finance Officer of the ILO office in Nepal, about the general rules on Implementation Agreement, obligations and standards to be followed by the implementing partners of the ILO, specific donor's requirements for implementing the Implementation Agreements, Basic Operating Guidelines-BOGS and No Excuse and Zero Tolerance on Sexual Harassment. The presentation is attached in the Annex - 4. A follow-up session was facilitated by Mr. Rum Gurung, Admin/Finance Assistant of the ILO office in Nepal in which he shared different templates (Financial expenditure reporting, Expenditure forecast, Summary of transactions, Cash book and Inventory reports) for financial monitoring of the project activities.

In the next session, the four partner organizations had intensive discussion and sharing about the difficulties they have faced during their field visits for selecting beneficiary families like:

1. Overwhelming demand by women beneficiaries on tailoring option
2. Difficulty in forming groups in some of the training options due to less number of participants in selected clusters
3. Difficulty in accommodating elderly and illiterate beneficiaries (this was due to the conditions

of age below 50 by the NSTB of CTEVT)

To overcome these practical difficulties, a revised training options were discussed and agreed upon. Some of the training options that seemed less viable for employment were replaced by others. Details of proposed training targets and revised targets in each district by each TPs are attached in the Annex - 5.

During this interactive session, the TPs were also asked to furnish the details (training start dates, end dates, tools/materials being provided to each trainees. As the actual beneficiary selection and group formation is yet to take place in Bajura, details could not be shared at this stage. However, the TPs have agreed to set a deadline for sending all these information to the ILO. The followings are key decisions:

- RMHSF-N will complete selection of actual beneficiaries, orientation and group formation at Bajura by the end of January, 2017,
- UCEP/Nepal will start the first group training from 1st November, 2017 at Kanchanpur and all other training will began by 20th November, 2017,
- RMHS-Kanchanpur will furnish revised work plans and budgets by the second week of October, 2017 and exact venues by 1st November 2017,
- HRC-Bajura will send the revised work plans, budget and training venues at Bajura by end of November, 2017.

An observation visit was made to interact with some family members of a freed-Haliya who has received government support for rehabilitation at Dadeldhura. A small concrete house was made by Mr. Man Bahadur Sarki in Amargadhi – 1, Malam receiving support from the government. In the interaction, some of the freed-Haliya right activists, expressed there is a need of better employment opportunities, proper wages and working conditions in addition to the resettlement supports like this. The discussion with the freed Haliyas, gathered that there is a need to provide tools and machineries to the beneficiaries after any livelihood training so that they can either enter as wage earners or entrepreneurs.

Day-3 (22nd September, 2017):

The first session on the third day begun with a PP presentation by Mr. Doherty on different templets used for monitoring and reporting of the livelihood interventions that are used to track the progress of the on-going livelihood interventions. The copy of presentation is attached in the Annex - 6.

The second session was on writing technical progress report in which the NPC of ILO Bridge Project provided some basic guidelines for writing reports of a project. The workshop concluded with expression of greetings and thanks by one of the participants, Mr. Bhim Kaini, the Chairperson of RMHSF-N, Mr. Rajuram Bhul and Monitoring and Database Officer, Mr. Oluremi Doherty.

The two staff members, Ms. Marina Rai and Mr. Rum Gurung also monitored the progress made by the SNRTP Program at Malakheti and Geta of Kailali district. They observed that Road Maintenance Groups (RMGs) were not paid their wages for the last three months. The District Roadn Maintenance Sub-Engineer, Mr. Shalilendra Prasad Chaudhary informed that this was due to the restructuring of the local government.

Day-4 (23rd September, 2017):

Upon return, on the way, the ILO team has visited three training sites (Jhalari, Betkot and Brahmadev) in Kanchanpur and met and interacted with some of the beneficiaries enlisted for skill/training (Tailoring, Hand-embroidery, Masonry and Motorcycle repairing). The participants seemed happy and hopeful to get training and jobs after completion of the training. In addition to the livelihood beneficiaries, the team also observed a residential area of freed-Haliyas (in Betkot, Kanchanpur) where about 10-12 houses were built with government support. A few houses were found to be incomplete and unused by the beneficiaries because of different reasons (lack of money to complete and get reimbursed 30% of the total support and lack of employment options nearby the residential areas).

Follow-up actions/next steps

Follow-ups:

1. Communicate all the partners about the deadlines
2. Explore the possibility of supporting additional 100 beneficiaries through FAIR Recruiters
3. Complete hiring and placement of Program Monitors
4. Arrangements to provide per diem (as incentives to the trainees)
5. Monitor the on-going training in due courses of time
6. Possible linkage with SNRTP Project to include beneficiaries as Road Maintenance Groups-RMGs

List of Contacts

1. Mr. Rajuram Bhul, President of RMHSF-N
2. Mr. Saroj Neupane, Program Manager of UCEP-Nepal
3. Mr. Nir Bahadur Shahi, Chairperson of HRN-Bajura
4. Mr. Shibi Luhar, President of RHMS-Kanchanpur
5. Mr. Lal Bir Sarki, President of RHMS-Bajura

Distribution List

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