**Rastriya Mukt Haliya Samaj Federation-N (RMHSF-N)**

**Center Office- Dadeldhura**

**ILO Supported The Bridge Project**

**Quarterly Progress Report**

**National Level Civic Conference:**

RMHSF-N has jointly organized a 2 days National level civic conference in Kathmandu on 28-29 August 2017 in the presence of Government agencies (Minister of MOLARM, Secretary of Ministries, International Organizations (ILO, DCA, FCA) National NGOs, Political Parties and their sister organizations, Journalist, Alliances representatives, civil society and other stakeholders. More than 150 stakeholders were invited in the program. The program discussed on emerging issues of freed Haliyas and urged for effective implementation of government plan and policies for rehabilitation of freed Haliyas.

The following were the objectives of the conference:

* To remind Government of Nepal in the context of status and rehabilitation problems of freed Haliya's,
* To remind MoLRM to address ex-bonded labor categorization issues,
* Create pressure to policy makers for making forced labor friendly laws following the international labour standards like ILO forced labour Protocol 2014,
* To generate common understanding on policy and provisions regarding to rights to food bill and food security policy among the priority population such as Dalits, women, ex-bonded labors as well as other minority groups, duty bearers and policy makers at national level
* To sensitize the duty bearers for effectively implement the plan and policies of the government in line with labour and food security rights to address the instrumental needs of poor and oppressed people
* To develop the coordination and networking among the issue based people organizations at national level creating wider level of solidarity for nonviolence rights to food movement through evidence and knowledge based advocacy

In the inaugural session, the guests emphasized on forced labor issues and urged for implementation of rehabilitation plans. The Chief guest honorable minister Dr. Gopal Dahit expressed his commitment for improving status of ex-bonded/forced labours like Haliyas, Kamaiyas, Kamlahari and, Harwa-Charwas in Nepal

In the technical sessions, the experts facilitated on different subjects. Dr Keshab Khadka Coordinator Right to food Network presented a paper on right to food in Nepal (Land right and Livelihood), Dr Purna Nepali presented another paper on South-Asian Strategic Paper on Land-right and Advocacy. Dr Sarva Raj Khadka highlighted on the need of networking in evidence based advocacy, MR Dharma Pathak Commented on Eco-friendly agriculture system. Ex scientist of NARC Dr. Devendra Gautam commented on Local experience based agriculture system, effect of climate change, Technology and best practices.

In the second day of the conference, a presentation was made by the ILO Bridge Project Coordinator. He highlighted on the need of integrated policies and laws to fight forced labour in Nepal. He also highlighted on how the Forced Labour Protocol 2014 can be an important instrument to draft bonded/forced labor laws in Nepal.

A comprehensive, 20 point declaration was prepared and adopted in Nepali language at the end of the conference and shared to the government agencies and other stakeholders.

Participation details are given below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.N.** | **Date** | **No. of Participant** | | | | | | **Total** | | |
| **Dalits** | | **Janajatis** | | **Other** | |
| **Female** | **Male** | **Female** | **Male** | **Female** | **Male** | **Female** | **Male** | **Total** |
| 1 | 28 Aug. 2017 | 5 | 45 | 8 | 16 | 5 | 35 | 18 | 96 | 114 |
| 2 | 29  Aug. 2017 | 6 | 37 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 32 | 10 | 77 | 87 |

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