

PROJECT SRIJANA

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF MIGRANT YOUTHS

Quarterly Update

SUMMARY

This is the fourth quarterly update of Project SRIJANA. In this report, interventions up till March 2022 have been covered. The major achievements of this reporting period are: development of a reporting tool to record and monitor small enterprises, finalization and publication of TOR to develop a business coaching/mentoring package for consolidation and growth of local enterprises started by migrant returnees under this project, finalization and publication of TOR for the Management Information System (MIS) in discussion with field team and local government, and a review meeting conducted between consortium partners regarding progress, challenges, and work plan for the second year of implementation.

ONE YEAR OF PROJECT SRIJANA

After one year of implementation, concrete and measurable results are being noted at the community level. As of now 42 business/enterprises have been established and are in operation in Bajhang with project assistance.

In the last quarter, UMN found that 60 migrant youths trained and supported by the project are earning on average around Rs 13000 (€ 100) per month by selling seasonal vegetables, 64 migrants returnees are earning on average upto Rs 30,000 (€ 230) per month running their small enterprises such as snack shop, metal workshop, tailoring business and wiring business at the local level.

In Bajhang, due to the positive impression of Project SRIJANA, the local government has allocated Rs 500,000 (€ 3890) fund for construction of 7 fishponds with the intention of supporting the

MAJOR MILESTONES

DEVELOPED THE RECORDING TOOL FOR DATA COLLECTION ON SMALL ENTERPRISES, WITH DATA COLLECTION UNDERWAY

TOR FOR MIS DEVELOPMENT, TOR FOR BUSINESS COACHING PACKAGE FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES PUBLISHED

42 SMALL ENTERPRISES ESTABLISHED IN ONE YEAR OF SRIJANA

EURO 5634 COMMITTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO COMPLEMENT PROJECT INITIATIVES



livelihoods of migrant returnees, In addition, Rs 225,000 (€1744) budget has been allocated for goat farming beneficiaries trained through the project. In Jumla, the data collection process on small enterprises is underway.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES:

In Thalara Municipality, Bajhang

- 3 days poultry farming skills training was conducted for 40 migrant returnees
- 5 days mushroom farming training conducted for 25 migrant returnees
- 3 days spice farming training conducted for 25 migrant returnees
- 25 migrants returnees supported with agri-inputs such as seeds, garden pipe, drip irrigation materials
- 3 days banana farming training delivered for 40 migrants returnees.
- 3 days Allo processing training conducted for 16 migrant returnees.

In Kanakasundari Rural Municipality, Jumla

- 2 days training on modern techniques of farming and sapling support was provided to 60 migrant returnees.
- Technical support provided to each individual for working on orchard management and establishment of apple and walnut orchard.
- Procurement process for the collection center underway.
- 2 returnee migrants completed apple and walnut plants grafting and nursery management training and are preparing to start the nurseries in their locality.
- 56 youth returnee migrants have been selected for different vocational training under the project, in close coordination with local government, ward representatives. 51 of the selected youths have been sent to Sanothimi Technical School in Bhaktapur for vocational training programmes such as tailoring, plumbing, electrician, cooking, light vehicle driving, mechanic, mobile repairing. 5 youths have been sent to Nepal Youth Foundation in Lalitpur for vocational training on carpentry and welding.



EARNED MONEY, EARNED TRUST: DIPESH OLI

Dipesh Oli (23) is a migrant returnee youth of Thalara ward no.1, Bajhang. He was working in south India as assistant cook in a busy hotel before the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Unfortunately, when the pandemic broke out, he had no choice but to return to Nepal. Oli shares, "I never want to relive those painful moments. I felt so much anxiety about my future, but with no other choice, I used the little money I had with me to get to the Nepal border."



When he finally made it back home, he had no money left. His family was living hand to mouth, as they have very little land and their own produce is not enough to last them 3 months. There was four members in his family including one lactating baby. He was looking for work, but could not find even daily wage labour work. Fortunately, he was selected for the one-month house wiring vocational skill training at Thalara. With keen interest, Oli learnt wiring skills during the training and built his confidence up by gaining practical experience in the field. Immediately after receiving his training completion certificate, he accepted some orders locally for house wiring service. One satisfied customer at a time, he was able to build his customer base around the neighbouring villages as well. He counts his earning, "Till now I completed more than 50 house wiring orders and earned a total more than 1 lakh rupees (€ 750). I have more pending orders from nearby villages. I earned money as well as trust in my own village community. I am busy, and happy in my field'. He expresses his excitement, "I am proud that I am self employed and have created a steady livelihood for myself. I would like to say every youth, learn a skill: it is much better than working as a labourer in India."

NEW LEASE OF LIFE WITH CARPENTRY

Dhanmuni was a seasonal migrant to India. Every year he relied on this source of income, to supplement his family's income. After COVID-19, Dhanmuni had no choice but to return. As a returnee migrant, he had the opportunity to join a vocational training through Project SRIJANA. He received training in woodworking and carpentry at Him Shikhar Furniture Industry.

Rawat shares, "I worked really hard during the three months of training. And after completion, I also received some input support to start on my own. Nowadays my business is running well. I build doors, windows, beds, wardrobes and other pieces of furniture on order. And my services are on high demand, though I have just started. I make about Rs 20,000 (€ 155) per month."

Rawat expressed that he is putting money aside every month to invest in bigger equipment and scale up his business.

