

# PROJECT SRIJANA

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

### *Quarterly Update*

#### SUMMARY

This seventh quarterly update of Project SRIJANA covers interventions up until May 2023. During this reporting period, significant achievements have been made. An expert business development company, The Jansewa Foundation was successfully onboarded and at work supporting 100 farm and off-farm small and micro enterprises to sustain, linking them with government and financial institutions. A detailed report has been provided by Cordaid PMEL, following a 3-week field visit, highlighting the progress and identifying gaps and ways forward for these enterprises.

The project's remarkable results are evident through numerous success stories. In Bajhang, 265 farmers and entrepreneurs received support in the form of seeds, guidance, and materials for commercial production of various crops. Additionally, vocational trainings empowered 25 youths, with 48% being women, by enhancing their vocational skills. Beekeeping support, including modern beehives and a milk collection center, has been established. The fiber-making process in Bajhang is running smoothly. In Jumla, the project has led to a significant increase in goat populations for 19 farmers, the construction of a potato storage house, thriving trainees at the nursery who earned over 1 lakh by selling walnut saplings, and a successful revitalization of a fish farmer's business. Noteworthy personal transformations further demonstrate a substantial impact of the project, as evident in the stories of Mana Bahadur Rawat and Shakti Sing.

#### ONBOARDED JANSEWA FOUNDATION AND MAKING TANGABLE PROGRESS

In April and May 2023, the Jansewa Foundation, in partnership with UMN & PYS in Bajhang and INF in Jumla, has achieved significant progress. Field experts were recruited and trained, conducting thorough needs assessments, and creating individual business plans for 100 entrepreneurs in each district. Valuable support was provided by the experts, establishing communication channels with banks, cooperatives, and local governments. In May, extensive field visits and meetings were conducted with migrant youths, validating the identified needs and creating business plans on-site. Collaboration with various stakeholders enhanced access to finance, subsidies, and formal registration support, while connections with market players facilitated effective integration of enterprises. Overall, these efforts have opened up opportunities for the enterprises that will directly contribute towards sustaining their businesses.

#### MAJOR MILESTONES

**JANSEWA FOUNDATION, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING AGENCY, ONBOARDED AND MAKING TANGABLE PROGRESS**

**FIELD VISIT MISSION COMPLETED BY CORDAID, OBSERVERD CHANGES AND IDENTIFIED GAPS**

**BAJHANG – GOOD PROGRESS IN THE ALLO, POTATO FARMING, GOAT REARING AND BEE-KEEPING**

**JUMLA – KEY STAR PERFORMERS ARE TRANSFORMING THEIR INITIATIVES INTO ENTERPRISES**



## FIELD VISIT MISSION COMPLETED IN BAJHANG AND Jumla

Following up on the field mission done jointly by KiA and Cordaid in February/March 2023, Cordaid PMEL officer made a 3-week field mission to Jumla and Bajhang to work on the recommendations of the KiA-Cordaid field mission. Both field teams offered excellent logistical support, ensuring seamless operations. With a skilled team, interventions have been efficiently implemented on the field. In Jumla, the project team has demonstrated effective leadership and achieved remarkable results, as seen in the examination of 17 cases during field visits. Local communication and coordination have been maintained, fostering productive collaboration with concerned stakeholders including the Janasewa Foundation. Similarly in Bajhang, despite not being able to meet UMN representatives, the project team supported a visit of 21 field cases. Encouraging progress and collaboration have been seen here as well. The overall conclusion is that the project interventions have shown significant progress in the first quarter of 2023, and it is important to maintain this momentum.



## PROGRESS MADE IN BAJHANG

- Agri-support initiatives achieved remarkable success by benefiting diverse groups. Tomato farming training and resources were provided to 22 targeted groups, enabling them to begin their agricultural journey. Support was given to 140 farmers with vegetable seeds and 100 individuals with potato farming techniques.
- 25 returnees/youths (12 F) have taken 3-6 months certified training on skills such as welding, house wiring, cooking and plumbing.
- 5 young people involved in a cooperative are planning a homestay business (after an exposure visit to 9 persons).
- 2 promising women were trained on *Allo* fiber cloth weaving and fiber bag sewing
- 4 got additional poultry training and inputs support, 1 meat shop/fresh house has scaled up due to project support
- 8 are earning from turmeric production
- 18 agropreneurs are connected with financial institutions
- 8 have received loan assistance through the revolving fund



## PROGRESS MADE IN JUMLA

Jumla has witnessed remarkable achievements and positive impact through its various initiatives in this quarter as well.

- 19 commercial goat farmers have increased the no. of goats from 5-10 to 25-65 goats (goats and sheep)
- Honey (wild mountain flowers grazed) 15 youths, 1 is making around Rs. 100,000 annually
- A potato storage house (rustic store) is under construction, in direct partnership with local government
- Walnut nursery is doing very well, earning Rs. 100,000 this season alone by selling saplings
- A fishpond destroyed by a flood is restored and made better and is doing better earning now
- Vocational skills training, 70 youths, out of which above 40% have jobs locally



## Stories of Change



Dhanamani Rawat, 33 years old, returned to his village in Kanakasundari, Jumla during the Covid19 pandemic, with nothing in his pockets. Due to his interest, he received three months of intensive and practical carpentry training in the local market. Kanakasundari Godhijyula also received support from the project in terms of carpentry-related materials, such as a handsaw, metal smoothing plate, claw hammer and circular saw. Additionally, the project's field team facilitated connections with trained and experienced carpenters and a leading mason in the community. Since

completing the 3 months training program, Dhanamani has been working as a carpenter and mason's helper in the community. He earns approximately NRs 900 per day and additional facility of breakfast and food. He is also planning to purchase some additional machinery. Mr. Rawat is now a satisfied person living happily with his family in the village.



Mr. Hans Bahadur Rokaya is a 45-year-old migrant returnee from Kanakasundari Ward No. 4 in Sanjyaawada, Jumla. He received goat farming training from the project two years ago and was given five goats. After analyzing the situation and profit, he decided to sell all the goats that he received from the project in coordination with the project team and purchased sheep. He bought 10 sheep, and additional money was arranged from relatives and local cooperatives. Now, he has 30 sheep, and he is confident in earning from the sheep. In addition, he extracts the wool from the sheep, makes the thread, and weaves local hand-made

sheep woolen clothes and local floor mats called *Radi* and *Paki*. The amount of 1 *radi* is about 8–10 thousand. He is now into his own business and has a clear plan for sustaining his enterprise all gathered from the support of the project.

Mr. Jiwan Jyoti Katwal from Thalara, Bajhang received three months of carpentry training at the Olgapuri Vocational Training Center, in Kathmandu arranged by Cordaid. Upon completion of the training, he was also provided with some basic minimum materials from the project. During the training period, he demonstrated exceptional learning skills, and the organization offered him a job with a monthly salary of around NRs 24 thousand. Additionally, in Bajhang, a carpenter workshop offered him a salary of NRs 30 thousand. However, he declined these offers and decided to start his own carpentry enterprise within the

community, where he now earns a better monthly income of around NRs 40 thousand. He expresses his gratitude to the project and its team for providing him with this opportunity. He has gained a significant boost in confidence in his skills and work. His father and other family members are delighted with his success and continue to support him in his endeavors.



Mr. Padan Bahadur Bohara from Thalara ward no 4, Bajhang received a comprehensive beekeeping orientation, consultation, and 5 improved beehives along with bees and other necessary materials for beekeeping. Upon receiving the orientation and beehives, he was filled with excitement and managed to increase his beekeeping operation to 15 hives within a year. He shared that he is planning to sell

approximately 10 kg of honey, which is expected to generate a revenue of around 15,000 rupees next month. He is also seeking technical assistance, such as training and skills development, and expresses his satisfaction with his beekeeping enterprise.

