

Project Newsletter

SUMMARY

The quarterly update on Project SRIJANA from January to June 2024 details the progress made on the project and the ongoing baseline survey. The project aims to create opportunities for migrant returnees and focuses on the skills development programs under phase II. It concentrates on strengthening local businesses that started in phase I and improvising their technical and vocational skills to enhance their employability prospects. The project’s second phase runs between January 2024 and December 2025, with funding

from Kerk in Actie and technical support from Cordaid Nepal. The implementing partners are the International Nepal Fellowship (INF) and the United Mission to Nepal (UMN).

The project helped returnees establish micro-enterprises in their home villages in phase I. It has provided them with the necessary skills to run these enterprises or be employed in the local job markets. Table 1 showcases the total number of returnees or youths who directly benefitted.

TABLE 1: The total number of returnees or youths who directly benefitted in Phase 1

Participation of Beneficiaries	Bajhang	Jumla	Grand Total
Training and material support for starting local enterprises	262	316	578
Counselling support	443	0	443
Materials support for local enterprises	46	15	61
Meeting participation	0	7	7
Training support for technical vocational skills development	291	542	833
Grand Total	1042	880	1922



KRM-02, MALikabota residency, Gobardhan Rawat has giving fee to poultry on his poultry farm

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CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENT

In the recent national budget for FY 2081/82, the government has prioritized self-employment for one hundred thousand returnees with the “Returnees Entrepreneurship Program.” This initiative aims to reintegrate returnee migrant workers into the local economy under the slogan “Rest of the Life in Homeland” by enhancing their skills and providing employment opportunities.

Furthermore, the government has initiated the registration of the unemployed, paving the way for the design and planning of effective employment strategies. In the provinces of Karnali and Sudurpaschim, there is a significant untapped potential in the form of registered unemployed youths, totaling 210,664 and 177,241 respectively. By focusing on skill

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The government, in the recent national budget for FY 2081/82, has prioritized self-employment for one hundred thousand returnees with the “Returnees Entrepreneurship Program.”

enhancement and entrepreneurial support, these provinces can maximize the potential of their labour force, driving economic growth and local development.

The government’s commitment to this program indicates recognition of returnees as significant local human resources and the role they can play in nation-building. Also, it aligns perfectly with the ambitions of SRIJANA II.

Key Activities and Progress (Jan-June'24)

Field Mission and Project Facilitation

On April 11-15, 2024, Cordaid facilitated and participated in a field mission to the project areas with Lin Tjeng, the KiA Program Officer. The project contracting and recruitment of key personnel, such as the Project Officer and Communications support personnel in the Cordaid Nepal office, have been completed.

Using the Kobo online tool, Cordaid organized an orientation session on baseline data collection for field staff. Data collection commenced immediately after that, and 107 entries have already been made. A total of 322 entries– 192 in Jumla and 127 in Bajhang were completed by June 11, 2024. In Thalara and Kanakasundari, field staff have been instructed to frequently visit municipal offices to align project plans with local government initiatives.

Project Updates

Jumla

From January to May 2024, the project made significant strides in Jumla, including organizing orientation and consultation meetings with local



Sajhana Shahi has started grocery shop with hotel after training received on hotel business

stakeholders (municipality, wards officials, and other stakeholders, including political parties at the rural Municipality Level) and providing technical training on fruit farming and homestay management. In addition, monthly project staff review and regular reflection meetings have started.

Success Story



Mr. Rup Bahadur Malla with his beekeeping farming, Kanakasundari RM, Jumla

One of our most inspiring success stories is that of Rup Malla. After returning from India, Rup Malla started his bee farm in Jumla. His farming is flourishing, and he now oversees 38 beehives, with approximately 50% of them fully occupied by bees. His income has soared to NPR 50,000 per season, as he now sells honey in two seasons annually. The project's support has impacted his livelihood and empowered him to continue the business. Additionally, Rup has successfully tapped into local government subsidies to further expand his operations.

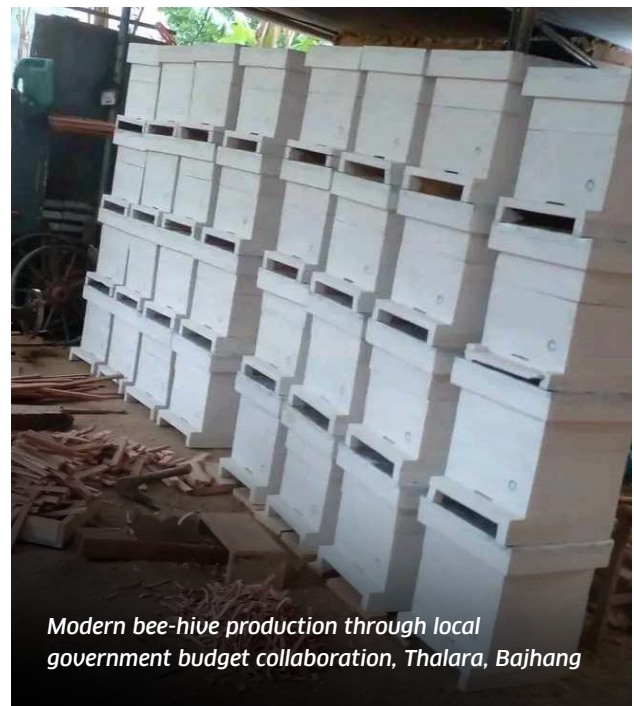
Project Updates

Bajhang

The project aims to support various market-oriented agribusinesses, off-farm businesses, vocational training, and business recovery initiatives. By April 2024, some progress had been made, and ongoing processes were in place for achieving set targets.

During this quarter, the project successfully collaborated with the local government of NPR 931,685 (EUR 6751.34). The project achieved a major milestone by providing support to 9 individuals for chicken subsistence, including two women, one of whom is a single mother. Additionally, the project provided soybean support to 29 individuals, 19 of whom were women, including 3 single mothers and persons with disabilities (PwDs). Furthermore, the project offered tailoring training to two women from the Badi community and provided beekeeping training along with beehive support to seven individuals.

In this quarter, the project conducted a reflection on the first phase and a second phase



Modern bee-hive production through local government budget collaboration, Thalara, Bajhang

inception meeting with local government and stakeholders. In the meeting, the Chairperson of Thalara Rural Municipality initiated taking over ownership of implementing a 'Five Year Youth Creation Strategic Plan of Thalara Rural Municipality (2023-2027)', formulated with the project's support on a cost-sharing basis.

Moving towards Local Ownership

The project collaborates with the local government and beneficiaries, who have invested in establishing sustainable entrepreneurship. For example, nine poultry farming entrepreneurs have made significant contributions. They invested equity of NPR 326,800 (2285.31 EUR), while the project provided a subsidy of NPR 86,000 (601.40 EUR) for purchasing chicks to scale their poultry farming businesses. The subsidy amount is NPR 25 (0.665 EUR) per chick, representing 80% equity investment and 20% support from the SRIJANA-II project.

Likewise, youth beekeeping entrepreneurs invested 50% of the equity, while the remaining

50% was subsidized by the project to purchase modern beehives. A total of 84 modern beehives, worth NPR 336,000 (equivalent to 2349.65 EUR), were distributed to fourteen beekeepers in Thalara, Bajhang. A total of 24 modern beehives (out of 84) were subsidized for 4 beekeepers through a collaboration with the local government's budget allocated for Ward No. 4. The collaboration was made possible to ensure the project's sustainability and to undertake work together for long-term benefits. This partnership underscores the importance of aligning project initiatives with local government strategies for maximum impact.



Mujura Khadka (30) in her poultry farm, Thalara, Bajhang. A 20% grant has been invested from the SRIJANA II Project.



Modern beehives were handed over to beekeepers in Thalara, Bajhang, with 50% of the cost subsidized by the project and government.

Book Publication



Youths' Effort Towards Creating Employments— a success storybook covering 45 stories of successful youth entrepreneurs, has been published and released in Thalara, Bajhang.

SRIJANA Project Field Monitoring and Technical Inputs

The Cordaid Project Officer (PO), visited Jumla from 10-13 June 2024. The visit aimed to monitor ongoing projects, assess their sustainability, and strengthen local partnerships.

During her visit, the PO visited the INF field office in Kanakasundari-05, Chudhilya, Jumla. She also participated in a meeting with the Kanakasundari Rural Municipality team and discussed future collaboration plans. The Chair, Vice Chair, and section officers, including the enterprise and veterinary sections participated in the meeting.

She also made a monitoring visit to the two successful enterprises— Prem Kali Kami-Fresh House, Apple Garden homestay and one improving stage case -collection center operation process at Kanakasundari, Jumla. During this visit, she actively engaged with the project partner team, sharing her feedback, previous practical experiences, and ideas.

Success Story



Young women from migrant youths' families are working in bags sewing enterprise, Thalara, Bajhang.

The bag sewing enterprise in Thalara, which uses the fibres of Himalayan nettle (sisno), is gaining remarkable recognition. Nine women produce and sell 231 bags, generating NPR 195,400 in revenue. This income will be reinvested into purchasing raw materials and training new participants, demonstrating the project's sustainable impact on local communities.



9 Women



Total bag production
410 bags

Sold out
231 bags



NPR 195,400

Gallery



Meeting with Kanakasundari Rural Municipality Chair, Vice Chair and Section Officers.



Interacting with fresh house runner Ms. Premkali Kaami, Kanakasundari, Jumla.



Apple Garden Homestay visit, Kanakasundari, Jumla.



3 days commercial Fuji and Gala varietal apple farming training

