



REFLECTIONS

Land And Agrarian Rights Movement In Nepal, 2018



Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC)

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Citation

Reflections, Land and Agrarian Rights Movement in Nepal, 2018

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www.csrcnepal.org

Published by

Community Self Reliance Centre

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All photos by CSRC

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Printed in Nepal by

Nebula Printers, Kathmandu

Foreword

This year, as in the previous years, many landless, tenants and small producers gained ownership over the land they were cultivating as tenants and Gaun Block (Village Block) residents with the facilitation of Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) together with national and district land rights forums. A number of land-related laws and guideline were formulated or amended. Hundreds of earthquake-affected displaced and landless families were able to get land for their new housing with CSRC support.

An inclusive executive board of CSRC was elected and the new strategy formulation work has started.

CSRC is aware that women suffer more due to the sheer fact of having no access to land and related resources and entitlements. To address this, CSRC initiated a joint land ownership campaign to ensure an equal access to land. This campaign has enabled thousands of women to share land ownership and legitimized their access to property rights. Building on this, and drawing upon the transformative zeal of the new constitution, CSRC expects to make a leap in advancing land issues in Nepal to significantly improve the conditions of the landless, tenants and small holders. With the change in the pattern of land ownership, CSRC also hopes to contribute to the entire realm of the economic, social and cultural rights in Nepal, which are still in need of being addressed seriously.

Many individuals and organizations especially right holders and their organization National Land Rights Forum (NLRF), activists, collaborating partners, and supportive government agencies deserve credit for the achievements of the land rights campaign in 2018. The achievements would not have been possible without their support, dedication and contribution. On behalf of CSRC, we would like to applaud the contributions made by the participating individuals and organizations from different nooks and corners of the country in making the land rights campaign meaningful and helping to gain widespread recognition of land campaign linked to social justice and national development. In 2018, some international organizations such as Action Aid Nepal (AAN), CARE Nepal, The Freedom Fund (TFF), Foundation De France (FDF), Governance Facility (GF), Helvetas, International Land Coalition (ILC), Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), People in Need (PIN), Oxfam, and UN agencies including UN-Habitat and UNDP in Nepal contributed towards the land rights campaign by providing financial and technical support to CSRC.

Finally, we are thankful to the CSRC team for all their support, hard work and contributions to the land rights campaign and helping to shape this publication into a valuable knowledge content.

Gopal Bahadur Thapa Magar
Chairperson

Jagat Deuja
Executive Director

Context Overview

Land distribution in Nepal is still uneven. Over half of the population does not have enough land to sustain their livelihood, and barely enough for agriculture productivity to ensure food security. Nearly 53% are small land holding farmers owning less than 0.5 hectare of land. Total arable land makes up 27% of total land of Country, 22 % is surveyed and 5 % is out of cadastral coverage of Nepal. A total of 2,525,639.2 hectares of agricultural land is in the private ownership out of 3,091,000 hectares of cultivated agricultural land. 26.1% of agricultural households, who are mainly ethnic minorities, indigenous people and Dalits do not have land to farm . These families are tilling land of other land owners. Share-croppers are paying half of the production to landowners, which is very high rent for poor families. Such system aggravates their poverty situation.

Nepal has successfully implemented the federal system of governance by holding elections at the local, provincial and federal levels. Some positive signals have come into surface when the Members of Parliament passed some land-related bills such as Housing Rights, Food and Food Sovereignty Rights, Right to Housing Act in stipulated time. The roles and responsibility regarding land reform and management are distributed at all three levels. The uneven land distribution does not benefit the poor, marginalized, vulnerable and backward communities. The agricultural land of Nepal is decreasing due to haphazard urbanization, land grabbing and encroachment. Landless and land tillers, who constitute the majority of people in farming communities, are deprived of their basic human rights. They neither own the very land, which they had been cultivating for generations, nor benefit judiciously from what they produce. The Government of Nepal (GoN) has asked applications for tenant farmers to claim their land share. However, they are still deprived of getting land from landowners. The current bureaucratic system, political interest and elite mind-set of policy makers hinder the process of separation of land between landowners and tenants.

The Government of Nepal has set the goals of 'Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali'. This is the right time to manage the foundation of prosperous Nepal by addressing the pertinent challenges of land reform, poverty alleviation, and livelihood development of all people.

Abbreviation and Acronym

AAN	Action Aid Nepal
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFA	Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
APA	Annual Performance Appraisal
CBI	Community Based Initiative
CDO	Chief District Officer
CLRP	Community-Led Reconstruction Program
CPN	Communist Party of Nepal
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSRC	Community Self-reliance Centre
DAO	District Administrative Office
DLRF	District Land Rights Forum
FFPLA	Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration
FORUM-ASIA	Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development
GF	Governance Facility
GLTN	Global Land Tool Network
GoN	Government of Nepal
HHs	Households
IGOs	Inter Governmental Organizations
ILC	International Land Coalition
JLO	Joint Land Ownership
LGWG	Land Governance Working Group
LRFs	Land Rights Forums
MoLD	Ministry of Local Development
MoLMCPA	Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation
MoLRM	Ministry of Land Reform Management
MP	Members of Parliament
NES	National Engagement Strategy
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NLRF	National Land Right Forum
NRA	National Reconstruction Authority
PIN	People in Need
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STDM	Social Tenure Domain Model
SWC	Social Welfare Council
ToR	Terms of Reference
UCPVA	Underlining Causes of Poverty and Vulnerability Analysis
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
VLRF	Village Land Rights Forum
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WRF	World Rural Forum

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Executive Summary

The year 2018 witnessed significant progress in the land rights campaign. A total of 145 LRFs were formed, organizing 3,164 landless, land-poor and small holder farmers of which 53% are women. CSRC also supported landless, informal settlers, and tenant farmers to secure land ownership over their land. A total of 836 households of tenant farmers and 3,980 households of village block residents acquired ownership over 188 hectares and 63.69 hectares of land respectively.

CSRC also facilitated to lodge 20,620 applications for the separation of land from their previous landowners. CSRC actively engaged with Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA) to formulate gender-friendly policies as well as their implementation for the establishment of secure and sustainable land rights of families.

CSRC has also been working for inclusive reconstruction in 31 earthquake-affected districts of Nepal. In 2018, altogether 1,556 households bought 30.93 hectare area of land for the reconstruction of their houses in safer places. It has also worked for the livelihood strategies of the poorest and earthquake-affected and landless family members. CSRC has also provided support to the Damp-Proof Course (DPC) construction of 158 vulnerable households in Sindhupalchok district. It has also supported 1,046 households for livelihood development alternatives.

CSRC also facilitated policy advocacy-related works in 2018. This year, the Members of Federal Parliament passed Food and Food Sovereignty 2018 and Housing Rights Act. The Land Reform Act was also amended

to ensure land rights for landless Dalit. CSRC, in collaboration with other organizations, worked for long to enact these acts. Similarly, some laws including the long-awaited Land Use Act was submitted to the Members of Parliament in 2018 and the land policy, which is almost in the process of finalization.

The campaign led by CSRC has contributed towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through dignified, secured and equal ownership of land for both men and women. Till date, 47,789 tenant farmers have successfully acquired 7181.78 hectares of land. Their ownership over land contributed to reduce hunger and provided security over land reducing poverty.

CSRC has contributed towards promoting knowledge about land issues for the most marginalized and vulnerable communities through regular orientation on land and agrarian issues, capacity development training, interaction with government agencies, dialogue and other activities. CSRC also publishes different publications such as *Bhumiadhi*kar bulletin, reports, collection and compilation of best practices. These activities of CSRC have strengthened the landless, land-poor, most marginalized, vulnerable and other people to increase their voices for ensuring their land and agrarian rights.

CSRC believes that Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) is also core part of its program. Out of 86,436 members of land rights forum in Nepal 49,267 are women, and 26,337 are Dalit. CSRC has GESI policy, which has a provision of giving preference to women, marginalized, Dalit, landless farmers during the

staff recruitment process. Out of seven members in its executive board, three members including the vice-chairperson and treasurer are women. In the same way, of the total 90 CSRC staff, 41 are female of which 8 are Dalit, and 30 are Janajatis.

CSRC has been continuously working for the sustainability of its programs and achievements. It mobilizes Land Rights Forums (LRFs) for the maximum utilization of local resources. Some of their exemplary work include development and implementation of local livelihood strategies, construction of Bhumighars, and collection and utilization of the movement funds to sustain the land rights campaign. Local people, governments and other stakeholders are supporting in the construction of Bhumighars in the districts and local wards. Altogether, 27 Bhumighars were constructed by DLRFs and VLRFs in 2018.

CSRC has learned some important lessons in 2018. The engagement with the parliamentarians and politician with concrete alternatives is very effective for policy reform rather than other stakeholders.

The local governments have also taken the ownership of CSRC's campaign on land rights and joint land ownership by including their policies and programs. For example, the Helambu rural municipality of Sindhupalchok district has planned to declare to initiate campaign to provide JLO to all couples in all wards of the rural municipality after five years. In the same way, the process of context mapping is underway in Belaka municipality of Udayapur district.



Number of LRFs gather in regular meeting in Mahottari district

CHAPTER I

Consolidating People's Power for Land Movement

CSRC has been facilitating for the landless, land-poor and small holders who are historically deprived of enjoyment of their human rights including land rights in Nepal. The people-led land rights campaign had brought some notable outcomes in 2018. CSRC is not only supporting the marginalized and ultra-poor households for ensuring their land rights but also for their livelihood alternatives. The followings are some outcomes that were materialized through the support of CSRC in 2018.

Strengthening and Mobilization of LRFs

CSRC has been focusing on institutionalizing land rights movement through the formation and strengthening of LRFs from the local village wards to national level. A total of 145 LRFs were formed in 2018 organizing altogether 3,164 landless, land-poor and small land holder farmers with 53% of women. With an aim of strengthening the capacity of LRF members, CSRC, as in previous years, continued to organize or facilitate seven leadership development trainings, five thematic interactions, and two learning and sharing sessions. These inputs have enabled the LRFs to map issues, sort out agenda, conduct regular meetings, keep records of decisions and action points, and implement those actions at subnational levels. In addition, people were organized to systematically raise their voices in effectively demanding land and resource rights.

Campaign Initiated by LRFs

CSRC has been assisting LRFs in 37 districts for ensuring their rights over land. This year, the LRFs organized 55 different campaigns such as rallies, sit-ins and tenancy encampment and other campaigns to bolster the land campaign. These campaigns were focused on mobilizing resources, educating local people, facilitating legal assistance for tenants on their rights, women on joint land ownership, and other pivotal decisions, ordinances, and information related to land. As a result of this campaign, the government opened the application for separation of tenancy right. The statistics show that 20,620 applications for tenancy rights have been filed this year. This number has increased at an unprecedented

scale through the campaigns conducted by CSRC and NLRF.

CSRC is also leading the International Land Coalition (ILC) National Engagement Strategy (NES) initiatives in Nepal. This initiative also contributed to strengthen people's organization and land rights campaign.

Sustainability

CSRC has been continuously working for the sustainability of its programs and achievements. It mobilizes LRFs for the maximum utilization of local resources. Development and implementation of local livelihood strategies, construction of Bhumighars and collection and utilization of the movement fund are some the exemplary works they have pursued towards sustainability.

"As a result, of this campaign, the government opened the application for separation of tenancy right. The statistics show that 20,620 applications for tenancy rights have been filed this year."

Construction of Bhumighars

CSRC has been providing technical support to the DLRFs/VLRFs to construct Bhumighars through the mobilization of local resources. Local people, governments and other stakeholders are supporting in the construction of Bhumighars in the district and local levels. Altogether, 27 Bhumighars were constructed by DLRFs/VLRFs in 2018. The members of LRFs voluntarily work to construct the Bhumighars and they have been used as the resource center of land rights campaigns in the districts and villages. The members of LRFs organize meetings, discussions, dialogues and other land related activities at the local and district levels.



Charghare Bhumighar in Bardibas Municipality-6, Mahottari District

“Altogether, 27 Bhumighars were constructed by DLRFs/VLRFs in 2018. The members of LRFs voluntarily work to construct the Bhumighars and they have been used as the resource centers of land rights campaigns in the districts and villages.”

Action Research

CSRC in collaboration with NES initiated the context mapping to help local government to create a database of existing land and natural resources. This year, three local governments, i.e. Dangisharan Rural Municipality of Dang district, Bhajani municipality of Kailali district, and Ramdhuni municipality of Sunsari district were selected for context mapping. This is expected to help local governments in planning their development plans, land and natural resource related policies, acts and laws putting people's need in focus.



Shree Janabhumi Primary School Constructed by locals living in the land leased to Sagarnath Forest Development Programme

A Bud Blossoming in Sagarnath

Sagarnath area of Sarlahi district had thick forest before 2005. Gradually, the forest smugglers cleared the forest and sold the trees inside and outside of Nepal. Many people who were living along the bank of the rivers of Makawanpur, Sindhuli, Parsa and other districts came to live inside the area. They cultivated land and grew food crops. They also constructed small huts near the cultivable land. When the landless people started living in the area, the Government of Nepal provided the area to Asian Development Bank (ADB) to plant trees for 30 years. ADB started working through the Sagarnath Forest Project in the area. The project hindered the people to construct homes, to cultivate land and frequently threatened them to evict from their homes. Sometimes, the project staffs used to come with security forces and start burning their huts.

The landless, land-poor and vulnerable people did not have any alternatives but to be organized in defense of such interference and illegal act of the project officials. They asked project team for their alternative settlement before being evicted. Several times, the project destroyed their homes. The people immediately constructed new huts and were ready to take any risk to survive.

CSRC supported their movement and asked them to be adamant in their movement. The local community were organized for Village level Land Rights Forum (VLRf) in 2000. However, their children were deprived of health and educational access, as there were no schools and health centers in the village. The school going children were working in the village with their parents. The members of VLRf decided to establish a school

“The local governments allocated Rs 400,000 for school construction. However, the amount was inadequate to construct even a single building. The members of VLRF worked free of cost. Finally, a beautiful school building was constructed in the village”

by taking resources from local governments and met the representatives for allocation of budget. As per the demand of the members of VLRF, local government representatives agreed to allocate necessary budget for the school building.

They had only their homes in the same place. The chairperson of Janakalyan VLRF Sharada Prasad Ghimire said, “A large number of youths including my son and daughter never got the chance to go to school. We requested the representatives of local government for the allocation budget to construct school in this village. Finally, they agreed on it. The local governments allocated Rs 400,000 for school construction. However, the amount was inadequate to construct even a single building. The members of VLRF worked free

of cost. Finally, a beautiful school building was constructed in the village”.

Now, a total of 114 students including 60 girls are studying in the school. The newly established school is named as Janabhumi (People’s Land) Primary School to establish the identity of land rights campaign for long. The members of DLRF are now planning to establish a health post, and the local government is positive towards their agenda. Chairperson of District Land Rights Forum, Jeet Bahadur Gole said, “The children of Sagarnath will be policy makers, government officials and political leaders one day. Let the buds bloom.”



Land Movement Fund

Land Movement fund is the backbone of LRFs to sustain project for long from the local to national levels. The members of LRFs collect handfuls of rice and other food materials from each member for regular activities such as conferences, sit-ins, and rallies. Such food supplies are also distributed to the members of LRFs during the emergency situations (natural disasters and other calamities) to express solidarity in tragedy. They also deposit certain amount every month for their funds. The amount was collected from the members of LRFs for the sustainability of land rights movement in Nepal. The members of LRFs utilized the fund for their regular conferences, treatment of members, mobilization of members in different land related activities. The 157 LRFs including 17 DLRFs have collected Rs 1,255,143 as movement fund in 2018.

Promotion of Women Agriculture Cooperatives

CSRC does not only work for establishing land right for the landless and land-poor farmers but also focuses on their sustainable livelihood. For this, CSRC has promoted women agriculture cooperatives to generate income for the LRF members. It has supported 106 women agriculture cooperatives for sustainable livelihood in 2018. The members of the cooperatives are also doing agro-based enterprises in the district. For example, the members of Laligunras women agriculture cooperatives of Mahottari district has conducted mushroom farming through the utilization of unregistered land. According to the chairperson of the cooperative, Sita Bhujel said that they sold mushroom of Rs 47,000 produced in unregistered land in the village in 2018.

Similarly, the members of Alanagar Women Agricultural Cooperatives of Banke district have produced seasonal vegetables in the public land by using the fund of the cooperatives they had deposited. According to them, they used to work in brick kilns in Nepalganj. When CSRC supported them, they started mobilizing fund collected regularly by the members of the cooperatives and conducted vegetable farmings. They have now Rs 940,800 as savings deposited in the bank account of the cooperatives. They mobilize the fund for the production of vegetables in every households, which has helped the members of cooperatives to serve their family members.

Bal Bahadur Tamang

Treasurer, National Land Rights Forum

The National Land Rights Forum (NLRF) and Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) are two parts of a single coin. Our common goal is to resolve the convoluted issue of land in Nepal. We are struggling for ensuring rights of the land poor farmers and marginalized groups. Furthermore, the tenancy Campaign is focussed to end the practice of dual ownership over land. Our activists have complained of newly elected local representative not supporting in this campaign. Therefore, we need to increase our campaign, advocacy, and lobbying in local level acquainting government, community, and authorities on the urgency of land management in the coming years as well.



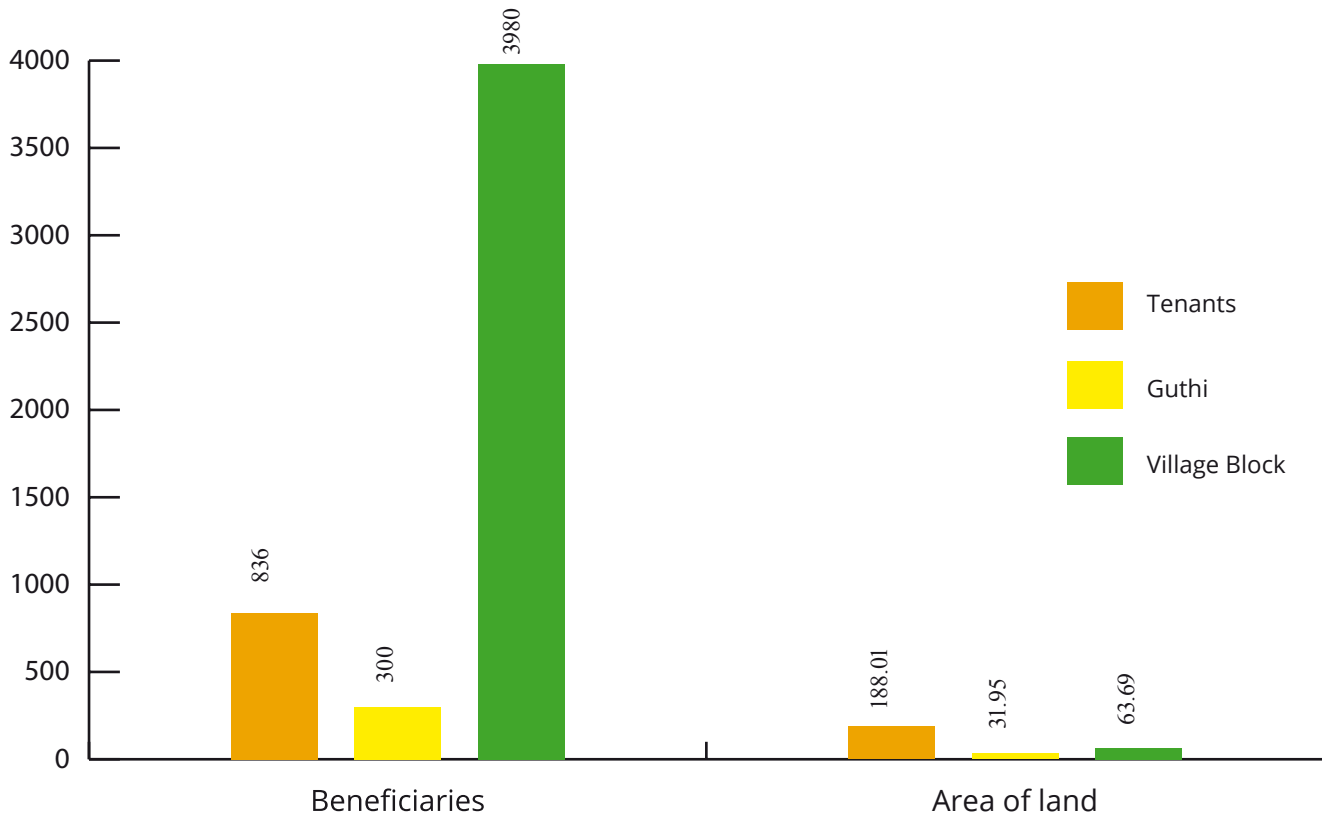
Sunandha chaudhari of Dhangadimai Municipality- 4, in Siraha district planting wheat in her newly acquired tenancy land.

CHAPTER II

Access to Land

CSRC continues to support the landless, land-poor and small holders for claiming their rights as well as for strengthening their capacity. CSRC also helped landless, informal settlers, and tenant farmers to acquire secure land ownership over their land. This resulted in 836 households of tenant farmers and 3980 households of village block residents to acquire ownership over 188 hectares and 63.69 hectares of land respectively. 300 households of Guthi settlers acquired 31.90 hectares of land in 2018. They have ensured their permanent settlement in the land with the ownership of land certificate. CSRC involved in policy advocacy work to extend the deadline of the application for the submission of tenancy application as well as for assistance of the landless, land-poor, small holder communities to prepare necessary credentials for claiming their rights. CSRC facilitated to lodge 20,620 applications for claiming tenancy land share in 2018.

LAND OWNERSHIP ESTABLISHED



Ownership of Land Causes Social Status

“One day, my wife suggested me not to fight with the landowner after receiving threats from unknown persons several times but I never gave up my fight.”

Suruj Kumar Danuwar’s family in Haripur municipality-4 of Sarlahi district had been tilling landowner’s farm for three generations. They were regularly paying half portion of productions generated from the field. He was deprived of having his land certificate. “I spent 10 years struggling to get land from my landowner but I could not get my land share from my landowner. He was derailing the process of land transfer by saying that he was busy in his personal business all the time,” said Suruj.

Suruj has struggled a lot. He faced

several hurdles to separate land from his landowner. “I used to escape from work to transfer land in my name from the landowner every morning and returned home late nights. One day, my wife suggested me not to fight with the landowner after receiving threats from unknown persons several times but I never gave up my fight”, he said.

Suruj joined the land rights forum in 2011. After joining the forum, he came to know that he was not the only person who was fighting for his rights. Several members in the forum had faced similar ordeals. “When I joined in the forum, I took part in several campaigns such as sit-ins, rallies, picketing and



Suruj Kumar Dunuwar, working to clear his newly acquired tenancy land.

tenancy campaigns in the premises of government offices including the District Land Revenue Office", said Suruj. According to him, the government officials always postponed the date of land separation under different pretexts. CSRC has been supporting the land rights movement in Sarlahi district for several years.

"CSRC also taught us to be adamant in the truth for justice," he said. The long struggle of the members of the land rights forum resulted in Suruj acquiring 0.67 hectare of land from his landowner. "After I immediately received the land certificate from the District Land Revenue Office, I headed directly to my home and showed the certificate to my wife. She was so overwhelmed to see the certificate."

The social status of Suruj's family

members changed after they received land through their tenancy rights. For the first time in his life, he realized that the ownership of land makes such a difference in the social status and dignity of landless people like him.

"Nowadays, some relatives are suggesting to get my daughter married with a government officer, because now I am finally a landowner and have respect in the community. This year, I am planning to get her married with a government official", said Suruj with a big smile on his face.

Ensure Access to Land for Flood Victims

There was a village of 33 landless households in Guleriya municipality-4 of Bardiya district. The landless people had been living in the

public land since 1987. They were struggling to get land rights certificate for a long time. However, due to the apathy of government officials, they were deprived of having ownership of land. When their several attempts to register the land in their names failed, they decided to be united in a forum. The DLRF of Bardiya supported in the formation of VLRF. Finally, they got united in a VLRF in 2006. Since then the VLRF has been continuously working for claiming their access to land through collective efforts.

Unfortunately, an unintended catastrophe occurred in the village. In a night of 2015, the whole village was swept away by massive flood. Six members of the village were killed and several others were injured. All families became landless. At that time, many organizations including DLRF distrib-

uted relief to the flood victims. But the landless family members needed safe settlement. CSRC and NLRF initiated to include their names as the beneficiaries for the government's grant. After several discussions, policy advocacies and interactions, the government agreed to provide Rs 300,000 only for the house construction. However, the landless people did not have any land for house construction. Once again, they struggled for the acquisition of land. CSRC and NLRF also submitted their demand to the then MoLRM. Several discussions were held with government officials to discuss their issues.

Finally, the MoLMCPA dispatched a letter to District Land Revenue office of Bardiya to provide grant worth Rs. 50,000 to each households to purchase land in safe places. After getting ministry-level decision, the District Land Revenue office asked Bardiya DLRF to submit the name list of the landless people. Following DLRF's recommendations, 33 landless flood victims purchased 0.67 hectare of land in safe place. They bought a single plot to construct houses in safe places. The land was equally divided into each household. Separate land certificate was granted to each households. Following the acquisition of land certificate, they

were eligible to construct their own houses through the government's grant.

Flood victim Gopal Singh Rana said, "We have acquired land certificates after a long hard struggle. This achievement would be impossible without the help of Bardiya DLRF and CSRC. This certificate paved way to construct our homes."



Flood victim of Guleriya Municipality ward no 4 Rampur working in his vegetable farm created in his newly acquired land.



Rajharan Bantha and Nira Kumari Bantha of Rautahat district with their joint land ownership certificate.

CHAPTER III

Women's Land Rights

CSRC strongly believes that the essence of human rights remains incomplete without recognizing the rights of women as their fundamental rights. Lack of equal access for women to power and resources results in gender-based discrimination and violence against women in the society. Since land is both a source of power and resource, CSRC has been working for promoting equal ownership of land between men and women. and thereby contributing to an equal and just society. Altogether 2,553 families acquired joint land ownership in 622.68 hectares of land in 2018. CSRC facilitated to formulate and implement the joint land ownership guideline.

Joint Land Ownership Campaign: Promotion of Equal Rights from Home

When the members of DLRF engaged in the discussion with district level stakeholders and tried to inform about the importance of JLO, the stakeholders and family members did not show their interest for the acquisition of JLO in Okhaldhunga district. The members of DLRF organized different awareness raising classes, current policies and programs for the acquisition of JLO. They also convinced the government officials about the importance of JLO.

District Coordinator of DLRF Okhaldhunga Shantinath Adhikari shared that at the beginning, the couples were not interested in the acquisition of JLO. In the same way, the government officials refused going to the field for providing JLO

by saying that there are no related laws or policies to do so. According to him, the members of DLRF oriented the couples and government officials on the importance of JLO. When they realized the importance of JLO, the number of couples became ready for JLO in the villages and the DLRF members organized them a field visit.

CSRC lobbied for the formulation of a JLO guideline and asked the then MoLRM, currently known as Ministry of Land Management Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA) to ease the process of JLO at community level. MoLRM formulated a JLO guideline with recommendations. Based on the recommendations submitted by CSRC, MoLRM incorporated some provisions including a joint ownership distribution team visits any village, which has at least 20 couples who can write their own ap-

plications for joint ownership, and they do not need to pay for the scribe.

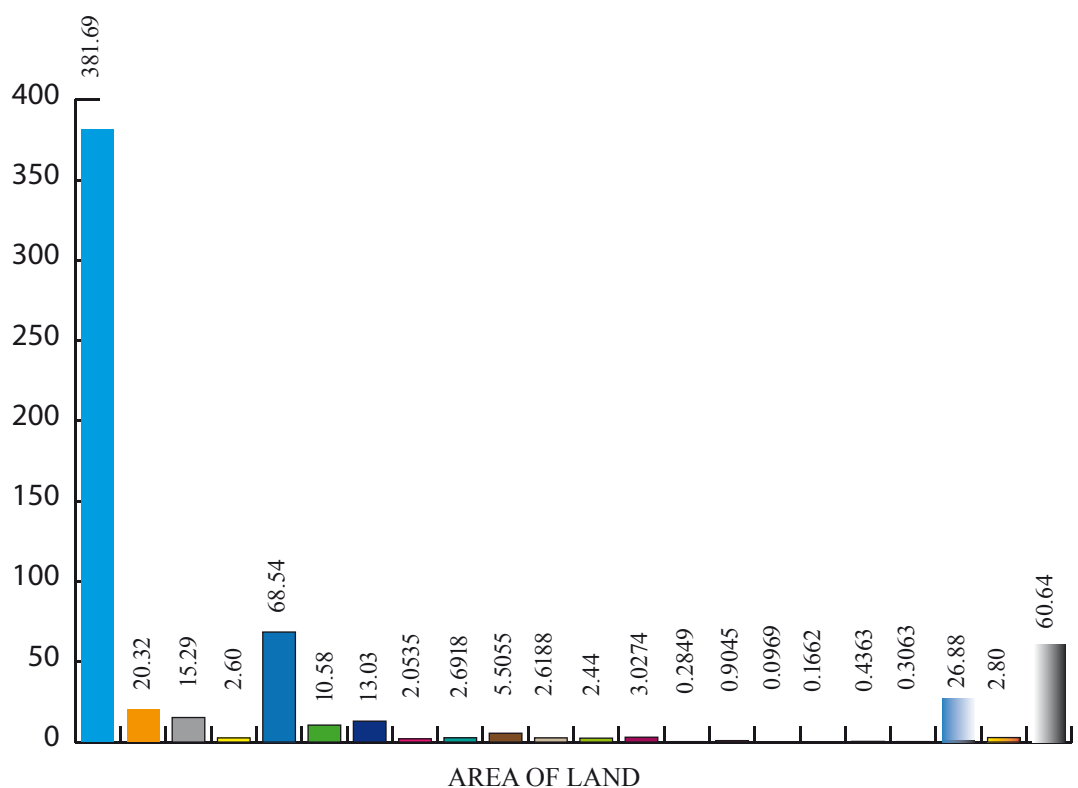
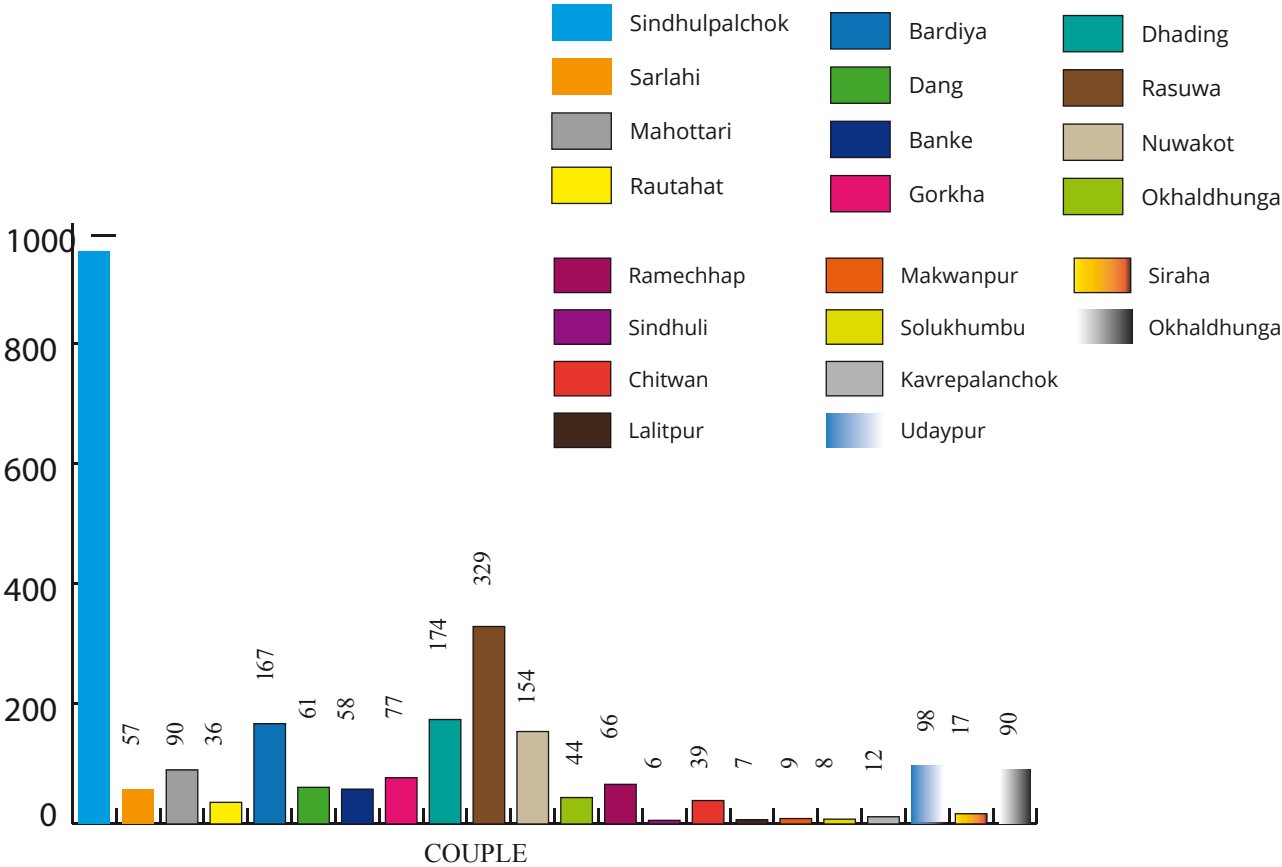
Okhaldhunga became the first district to implement the guideline. Altogether 37 families of Molung rural municipality ward-4 acquired JLO certificate on 28 April 2018 in a single encampment. DLRF took the government officials to the field to grant JLO certificates to the families.

After the acquisition of JLO certificate, Arjun and Hemkala Dhama-la said, "We feel that JLO ensured both men and women's rights with equal ownership between them. It has also helped in my wife's participation in decision-making because my single decision is now worthless for selling our property."



Glimpse of JLO encampment organized in Okhaldhunga

JOINT LAND OWNERSHIP (JLO)



Mutual consent: Men's sole consent is not valid anymore

Konu Kumari Karki with her family of five members are one of the typical examples of rural families of Nepal. Like other families, her family was also affected by massive earthquake of 2015. Farmers of Helambu Rural Municipality ward-7, Ichok had been severely affected by the devastating earthquake.

"Our ward was the worst affected in our district. Death toll was the highest in our area. We spent days in despair and empty stomach. Three houses had to use a single tent for shelter," shared Konu. She added, "This was a transitional shelter but our production was still rotting in the open air. The reptiles made it worse. After two years and six months in transitional shelter, the government announced grant of Rs. 300,000. The amount was not sufficient to construct bigger house. Our neighbors started construction of the houses by adding their own saving in the government's grant. But our family did not have any savings to add for house construction. We decided to choose the alternative and went to HELVETAS for technical support."

Currently, Konu and her family have a three room disaster-resil

ient house. She shared, "Agencies did not only support for the construction of my house but also helped to acquire land ownership. After 16 years of marriage, I am now legal owner of my house. I have no words to express my gratitude. Earlier, we worked together to run our family but my husband was the sole legal owner. I always dreaded what if my husband sold the land. Now I don't have that fear anymore."

Konu further said, "We all want to stop gender discrimination. Joint land ownership is one of the

solutions to establish equal ownership between husband and wife. In the beginning, all of us were skeptical on what difference would it make by just adding one more name in the land ownership. I have felt that my decision was right at this time. Orientation on JLO is being done in Ichok area regularly. I also participated and suggested all families to acquire JLOs for uplifting the status of women in our society."



Konu Kumar Karki with her joint land ownership certificate



Delmo tamang of Gosaikunda Rural Municipality 1, Rasuwa in her newly constructed house.

CHAPTER IV

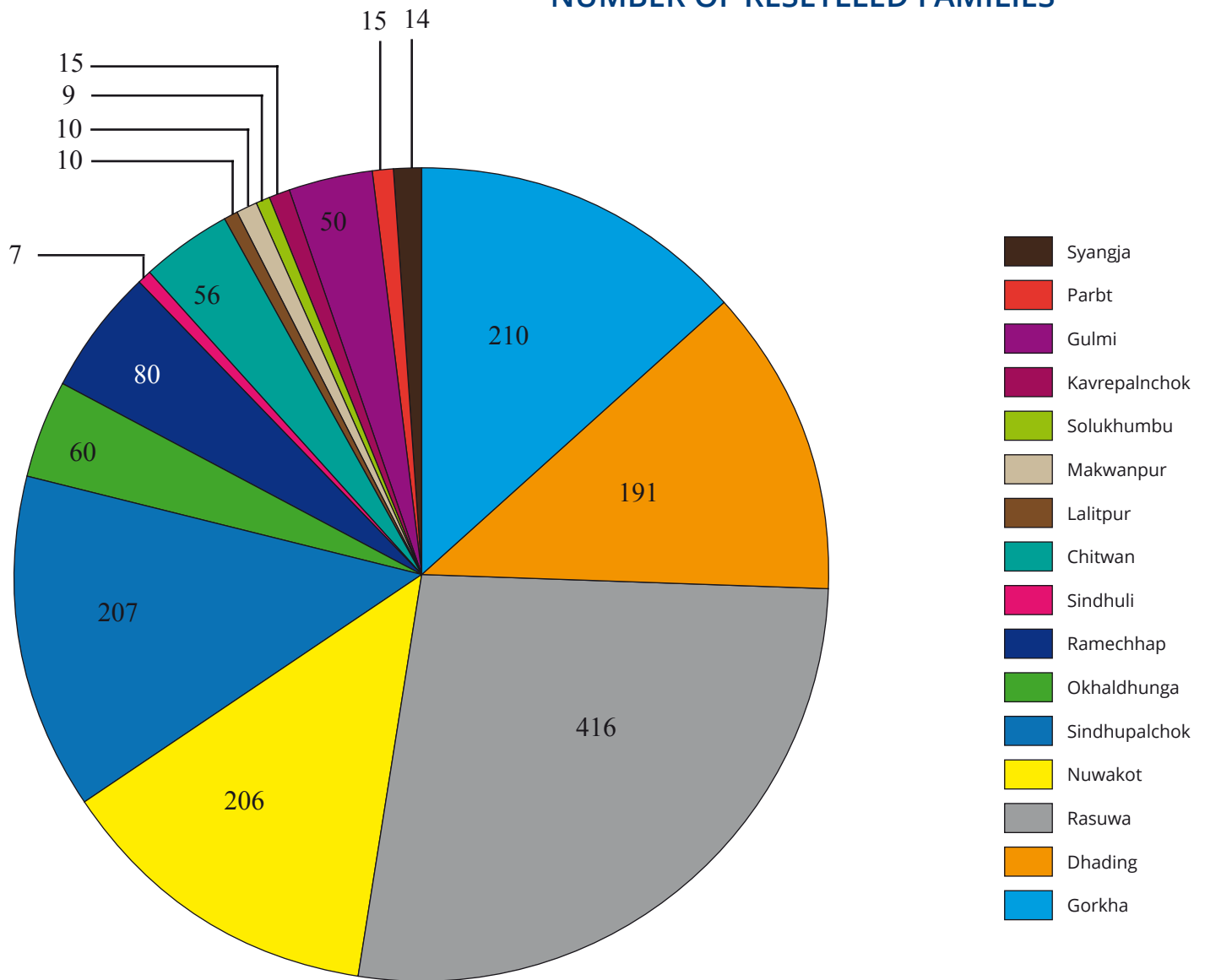
Inclusive Reconstruction

CSRC has been proposing a management-oriented consortium-based partnership with strong expertise in the protection of land rights to scale up the implementation of national Reconstruction Authority's (NRA) Durable Solutions (DS) programs in order to ensure that the affected households are put on the path to resilient reconstruction. Altogether 1,556 households in vulnerable areas bought parcel of land for the construction of houses in safe places with CSRC's facilitation in 2018.

CSRC has been facilitating in 20 districts for the resettlement of vulnerable households in

safe places. The team has also collected data of landless households that have been living in vulnerable areas. In 2018, the data of 4,893 landless households were collected and handed over to NRA office for further action in 11 districts. NRA has issued a notice to provide government land to the landless beneficiaries who are living in public land. CSRC has led in exerting pressure on the NRA for the resettlement of landless households. It has also worked for the livelihood development of resettled households in disaster-affected districts.

NUMBER OF RESETTLED FAMILIES



Newly Constructed House in Safe Places Restored New Optimism

On 25 April 2015, Nepal was struck by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. It resulted in huge casualties, devastating thousands of houses and hampering their livelihoods. The most affected were 14 districts

by the mega-earthquake and its aftershocks. Sindhupalchok was one of the worst-hit districts. More than 90% of the houses in the district were turned into rubble. In, Golche VDC, none of the houses received the green sticker from the NRA. Thus, all houses of the VDC were declared uninhabitable.

Lal Bahadur Kami of Jugul Rural

municipality ward-2, Nemlung (previously Golche VDC ward no 4) had experienced the worst change in his life after the mega-earthquake. Traditionally, working as blacksmith, Kami's family was dependent on agriculture as the main source of income. Their only piece of land was also swept away by the earthquake-induced landslide after the 2015 quake.



Lal Bahadur Kami and Kamala Kami in courtyard of their newly constructed house showcasing their joint land ownership certificate

another catastrophe followed the Kami family. Their daughter died while collecting sand for reconstructing their house. Life was filled with struggle for Lal Bahadur. The family lived in neighbor's house for more than three months.

Lal Bahadur said, "We were hopeless, helpless and panicked a lot. However, there was positive turn in his family's life. After one year, they found about the geo-hazard survey. Their ward chairperson took Lal Bahadur to the meetings. The report from the geological survey suggested their land unsafe for settlement. They were

included in the list for NRA cash grant support for displaced families.

"We were elated by this news. After the consultation with DS team, I took part in the orientation of land acquisition process organized and discussed with my family about the acquisition process in safe places. Then we purchased safe land in Chautara Sangachowkgadhi Municipality ward 5, Bhirkuna with support from the grant provided by NRA".

Lal Bahadur has bought 0.012 hectare of land and also acquired JLO with his wife Kamala Kami.

Kamala shares, "I was unaware of JLO. When my husband shared about this provision, I could not sleep the whole night. We are both happy to acquire the JLO certificate."

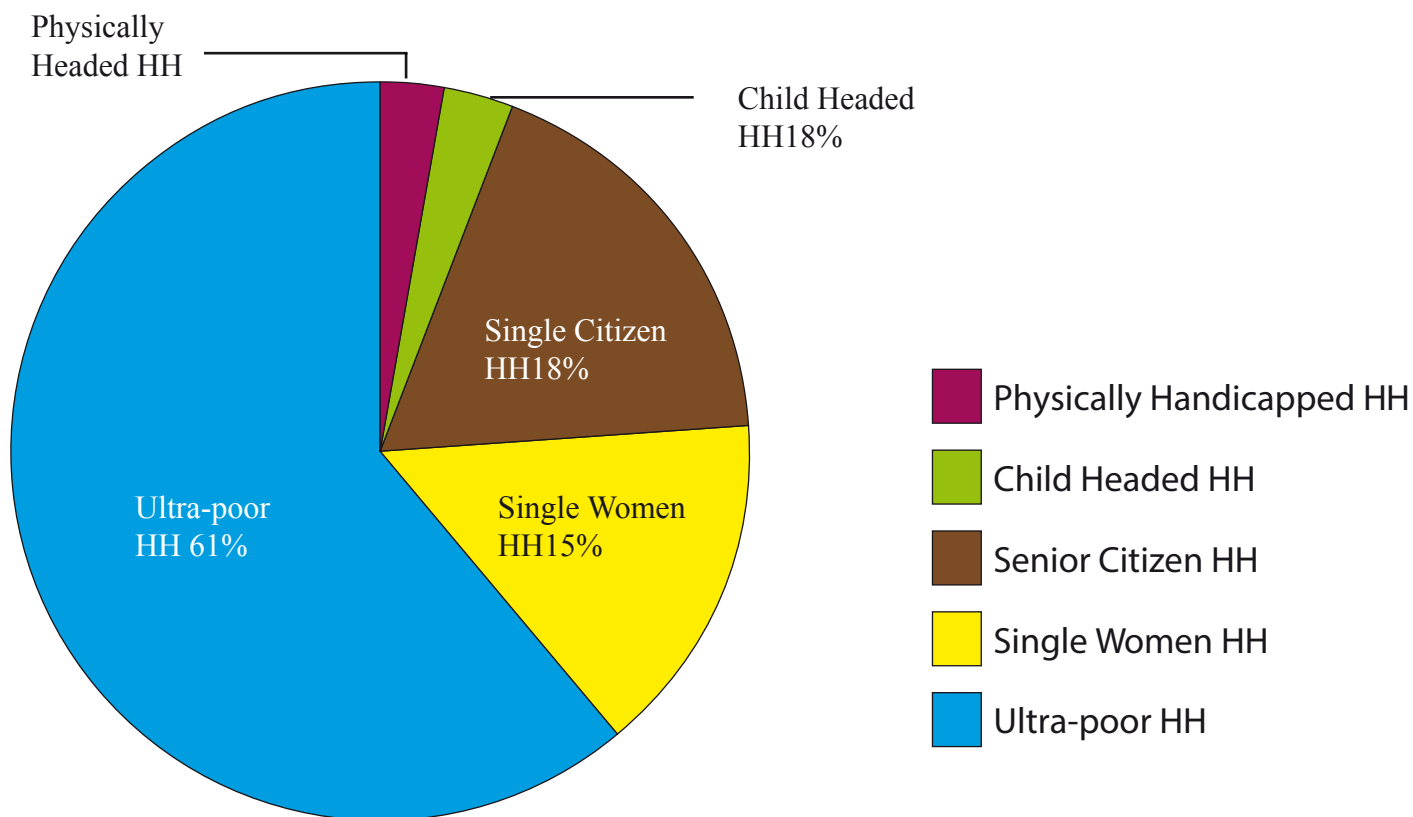
Further, through the support of housing reconstruction program, his family has completed construction of their new house. Kami shares, "My dream of owning a permanent house is fulfilled. The days of hardship are now over. Now, I do not have any frustration to build my house and am free to work outside of my village."

Efforts for Disaster Resilient Community

CSRC internalizes the fact that the marginalized landless, tenant and small holders' families were devastated by the earthquake of 2015. Despite the housing reconstruction program initiated by NRA, these communities were left behind. The topic of housing reconstruction is a far-cry for these households. In collaboration with NRA, and the local government, CSRC has supported for the Damp-Proof Course (DPC) level construction of 158 vulnerable households in Sindhupalchok district.



DISAGGREGATE DATA OF SUPPORTED HH's





From Tragedy to Relief: A Life Changing Story of Phulmaya

Sushil Gyawali
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
National Reconstruction Authority

The Durable Solution programme initiated by CSRC in consortium partnership with PIN is a milestone programme for the resettlement of the displaced communities from the mega-earthquake of 2015. It has made a profound impact in the lives of the displaced communities, ensuring their fundamental rights of safe shelter. But, the reconstruction efforts are not yet completed. All the stakeholders need to work meticulously for achieving the envisioned goal of “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali”.

Born into a poor family and deprived of education during her childhood, Phulmaya Tamang, aged 73 of Melamchi municipality-07 Duwachaur, Sindhupalchok lost her husband while she was 27 years old. Phulmaya spent her life by working in other people's houses as a daily wage laborer.

“I had a son but I could not provide dietary food to him and he became ill several times. I did not have money for his treatment in a good hospital. Unfortunately, he died”, said Phulmaya wiping her tears.

Phulmaya has been through a lot of ordeal. She lost her husband and her beloved son. This tragedy

made her ill several times. She could not work as wage laborer for long. Another tragedy struck her life when she lost her home during the 2015 earthquake.

“I was working in the farm while the earthquake occurred at about noon. When the first tremor stopped, the debris of my shattered building was blowing in the sky”, Phulmaya shared.

To support the ultra-poor earthquake victims like Phulmaya CSRC started collecting data of the poorest households by using Underline Causes of Poverty Vulnerable Analysis (UCPVA) tool. Phulmaya was listed as one of the beneficiaries for assistance.

Despite the provision of NRA to provide Rs 300,000 for housing reconstruction of earthquake victims, the clause to provide the cash grant in installment basis created

a havoc for the elderly and single women like Phulmaya, who could not reconstruct their houses on their own. She received Rs 50,000 as a first tranche.

According to the government provision, the beneficiaries are only eligible to get second tranche when they complete the plinth level from first tranche. CSRC decided to support them to construct plinth level that would be eligible to get second tranche. The team proposed and decided to support

the poor households for the completion of plinth level. Altogether 104 households were listed as beneficiaries.

CSRC mobilized engineers for the construction of their houses. They also supported in completing the plinth level of the house of Phulmaya, "I was quite unaware on the next process after completion of plinth level of my house. A team of CSRC also took me to NRA office for the submission of necessary credentials to get second tranche,"

said Phulmaya.

Phulmaya hired a contractor to complete her house. Finally, a small house was built in the village. "I can at least live decently and in dignity now. CSRC helped me to construct this house," Phulmaya shared with the CSRC team.



Farmers market being organized in Panchpokhari Thangpal-3, Bhotang.

Livelihood and Food Security

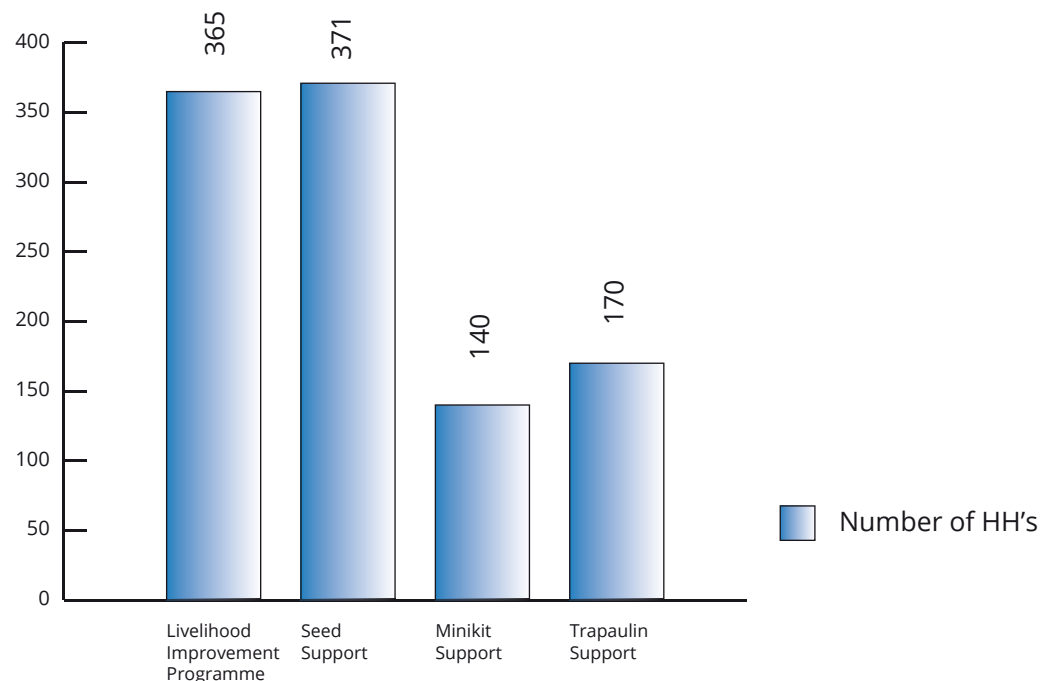
Land is directly related to an individual's livelihood, and the food security of a whole nation. CSRC has been working for ensuring sustainability of the land rights campaign through the mobilization of local resources, and support to economic empowerment for earthquake affected families of Sindhupalchok district.

This year, 1,046 households have been supported through the livelihood improvement programs in Sindhupalchok district. Similarly, as an effort to bolster the women-led economic empowerment movement, three women collective group have been supported with one hundred thousand tea plants. These groups have utilized 12.55 hectares of fallow land for tea plantation. In addition to that, 365 ultra-poor households as identified through the Underlying Causes of Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment (UCPVA) have been supported cash grant up to Rs 15,000 for improving their livelihood practices, making them more market orientated.

"The earthquake wreaked havoc in our village. It resulted in hundreds of houses being destroyed, with few fatalities as well. Slowly, life returned to normal. The aftershocks regularly reminded us of the dreadful day. We had built a transitional shelter after few months of hardship but to improve our livelihood was a major challenge in front of us. CSRC was the first to come up with livelihood improvement program. I participated in the off-season vegetable farming training. Earlier, I used to produce around 96 Kg of wheat, the income was limited to only Rs 3000. While from the same land, I currently earn up to Rs 25,000 from selling vegetables. I have started growing garlic in my fallow land. Vegetable farming is the new agriculture revolution, and I suggest all to adopt it."

*Tek Bahadur Khadka,
Panchpokhari Rural Municipality 8,
Langarche*

LIVELIHOOD



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH is an integral part of the inclusive reconstruction campaign initiated by CSRC in Sindhupalchok district. These initiatives are made up of majorly three components: i) water supply construction, ii) sanitation training, and iii) hygiene-related behavioral change campaign.

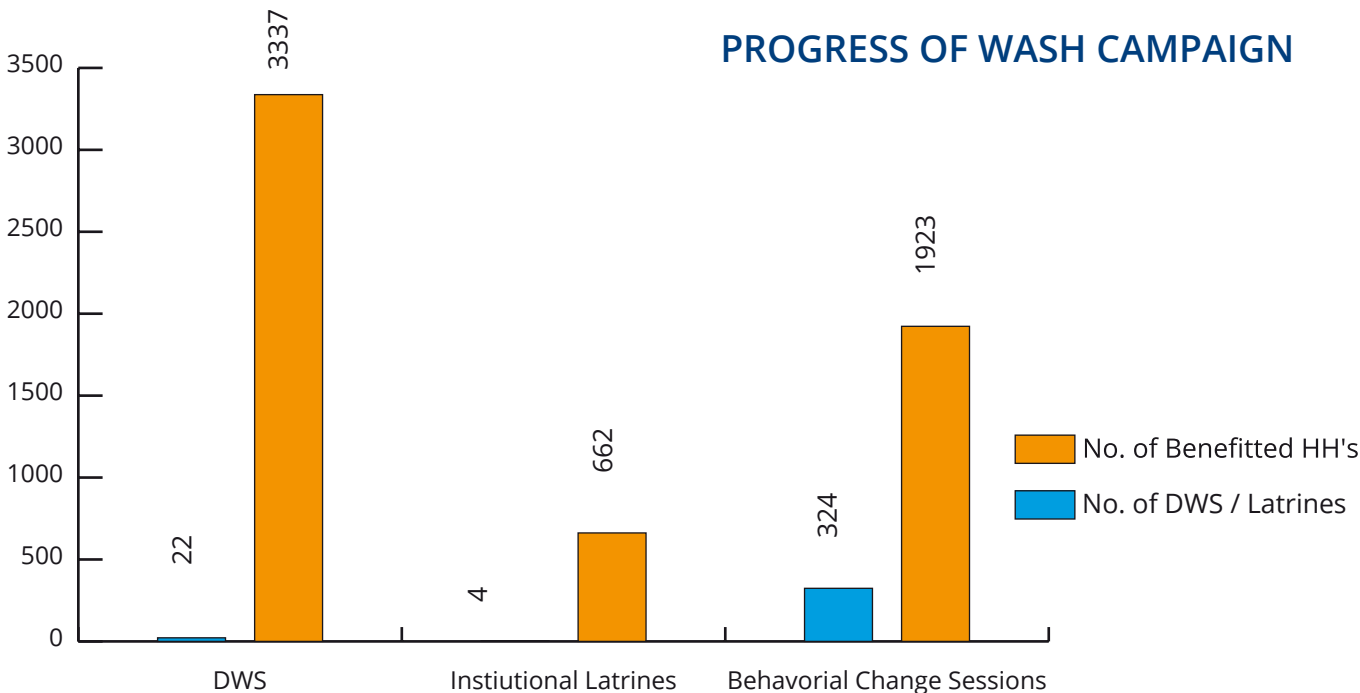
Altogether 22 water supply scheme projects have been completed benefitting 3,337 households of Sindhupalchok district. In addition, CSRC has also constructed institutional latrines in four schools of Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality to promote sanitation and hygiene related activities in these schools. This has benefitted 662 students of the rural municipality, while the 324 behavioral change session conducted with the women collective groups, and female adolescent groups have resulted in the groups leading the settlement level cleanliness campaign in the area.

Further, the water supply, sanitation and hygiene mas-

ter plan of Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality has also been developed and endorsed by the local government. The Master Plan will help the rural municipality in effective planning, budgeting, human resource mobilization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and follow up of hygiene and sanitation programs and projects.



Mrs Damsani tamang of Melamchi Municipality 4, Thakani washing the dishes in her newly constructed tap.





CHAPTER V

Policy Actions

Policy advocacy is a key feature of the work of CSRC. Its advocacy focus is on formulation of land policies and laws in favor of landless and land-poor farmers. To this end, CSRC works closely with the Ministry of Land Management Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation (MoLMCPA), parliamentarians, government officials at subnational level and civil society members. With these actors and agencies, CSRC discusses the need for new laws to address the problems facing landless and tenants and small holders, and works with them to bring in new laws as necessary. In 2018, CSRC developed model land act for local government. CSRC hopes that the proposed land act will be reference for local level to enact laws as per the current context. In the same way, several consultations, dialogues and consultations were organized to support provincial governments to develop land-related laws and policies. In 2018, CSRC also got involved in the formulation of land-related laws in Province-3 and Province 5. Beside these, CSRC was also involved in the following policy formulation process in 2018:

Draft of National Land Use Act

CSRC engaged with the government and the other actors to develop long-term laws covering inclusive distribution and optimum utilization of land, community-led land administration and access to land for marginalized communities. All this began in 2012 with the objective of dealing with the contradictory laws on these issues. This finally led to the Council of Ministers forming a steering committee led by the then MoLRM secretary with NLRF and CSRC representation. The steering committee drafted the Land Use Policy after the wider consultation with CSOs, development partners and other stakeholders.

For the sustainable implementation of land reform, the policy committee also recommended the government to enact separate Land Use Act based on the consultation with CSOs, development partners and other stakeholders. CSRC has continuously lobbied for the formulation of Land Use Act for the benefits of landless, land-poor and small holders. In 2018, the draft committee of Members of Parliament finalized the Land Use Act and submitted to the Members of Parliament for approval.

Based on the act, the total zone of land should be classified into nine different categories including agricultural zone, residential zone, commercial zone, industrial one, mines and minerals zone, cultural and archaeological zone, river and lake-reservoir zones, forest zones, public use and open space zone, building materials (Stone, Sands, Concrete) excavation zone, other zones as specified as per necessity.

The act has encompassed that the land which has been categorized for one purpose should not be

used for another. The act is a milestone to prevent the current issues of land grabbing and land encroachment in Nepal.

Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2018

One of advocacy issues raised by CSRC and NLRF and other concerned organizations was for the enactment of Food and Food Sovereignty Act consistent with the fundamental rights of the constitution of Nepal. The team of CSRC and NLRF met policy makers several times to exert pressure for the act. The two also developed the policy brief by reviewing the major land-related issues, which were difficult to be addressed by the existing laws in Nepal. Both organizations led rallies, campaigns, sit-in and other movements for the development of landless, land poor and small holder-friendly laws. Finally, the Members of Parliament passed a bill on Food and Food Sovereignty 2018 on 15 September 2018.

The same bill was passed by the National Assembly on 17 October 2018. Some progressive provisions, which CSRC was demanding, such as sustainable utilization of agricultural land, food assistance in free of cost, identification of food insecurity households and declaration of food crisis area and so on. CSRC, NLRF and other concerned organizations had been raising voices for separate food and food sovereignty for five years. About 25,000 food insecure families of Nepal are expected to benefit from this act.

Housing Rights Act, 2018

The Members of Parliament passed Housing Rights Act 2018. The act has provisioned for the protection of people's housing rights through the categories of housing area. The act has also enshrined some progressive provisions such as resettlement of homeless families from local governments, protection of cultural and natural resources, certification of homeless for grant, integrated settlement and monitoring of housing rights by federal, provincial and local governments.

CSRC and NLRG had led different campaigns and policy advocacy for several times. CSRC, NLRG and other organizations handed over memorandum and demand papers to the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliament, Vice-Chairperson of National Assembly, Members of Parliament, and major leaders of political parties including the chairpersons of Communist Party of Nepal (CPN). Besides this, several formal and informal meetings were organized with policy makers, bureaucrats, CSO members and other stakeholders.

Seventh Amendment to Land Act, 1964

Another major advocacy issue raised by CSRC was the seventh amendment of the Land Act, 1964. A clause has now been included in the Act to resolve the much-awaited cases related to the distribution of land to the landless Dalit for one time. There was considerable amount of lobbying by the members of both organizations to get the support of MPs for its inclusion in the amendment bill. The two also consulted with different organizations that work for the promotion and protection of Dalit's rights, prepared policy paper on land distribution, and formation of the working group to decide the amount of land and data of landless Dalit. CSRC and NLRG are still exerting pressure on the government to amend the act after wider consultation with concerned stakeholders.

Sashi Kala Dahal

Vice Chairperson, National Assembly

Community Self Reliance Centre with slogan of "Safe shelter for all, and agricultural land of farmers" has completed its 25 glorious years of land rights campaign. A social campaign started from a mere two VDC's of the Sindhupalchok district has now outgrown to a national movement for ensuring land rights in more than 50 districts. This campaign has liberated the true victims of poverty and landlessness. We are in a position to formulate policies. The suggestions provided by the non-governmental sector are crucial for resolving the issue of poor and marginalized groups. After years of struggle this historic opportunity has arrived and we need to solidify it for ensuring the rights of the marginalized group. Until and unless all the problem of the marginalized group is resolved the national goal of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali" cannot be achieved. For achieving this goal, I request all agencies and individual needs to fulfil their obligations from their side.

Multi-Stakeholders Platform: Land Governance Working Group (LGWG)

CSRC led to the formation of LGWG under the chairmanship of the Joint-secretary of MoLMCPA this year. Altogether 28 organizations, including CSOs, Government, IGOs and INGOs, working on land and land related resource have joined LGWG. It is established to provide a common platform to come together and discuss, learn, share and grow together towards good land governance in Nepal. It also seeks to reduce duplications in the programs and help channelize resources for concrete results through regular meetings, common priorities and joint actions plans. The members of LGWG sit together occasionally and discuss on the current land-related issues of Nepal.

Develop strategy for Fit-for Purpose

A country strategy for implementing Fit-For-Purpose land administration with a spatial, legal and institutional framework has been drafted in consultations with national and international experts to implement the land policy in the country context. The document was reviewed by MoLMCPA officials, Kathmandu University experts and UN-Habitat/ GLTN experts in the country. As additional and special contribution from GLTN known FFP international expert Prof. Stig Enemark thoroughly reviewed and gave his inputs to finalize the document.



Members of District Land Rights Forum (DLRF), Mahottari, showcasing their land survey documents.



Land right activists discussing on the upcoming path for the land rights movement, at the yearly PRRP of 2018, Chitwan Thimura

CHAPTER VI

Knowledge Building and Organizational Development

CSRC operates based on organizational policies and systems developed through a participatory process involving all stakeholders concerned. Transparency, accountability and honesty are non-negotiable, and apply to all, including the board, management, staff, activists, volunteers and LRFs at all levels equally. Systems and policies are revised as necessary. CSRC also provides equal opportunity to all board members, staff, land rights activists for national and international trainings, exposures, symposiums, workshops and so on.

New Board Member of CSRC

The Executive Board of CSRC, which is changed by General Assembly every three years, has been inclusive with the equal participation of men and women. The 23rd General Assembly held on 6 October 2018 at Bhumighar in Kathmandu elected new board members of CSRC under the leadership of Gopal Thapa Magar. The General Assembly elected Uma Aryal as the Vice Chairperson, Hari Prasad Pudasaini as Secretary, Saraswati Kattawal as Treasurer and Sarika Rai, Man Bahadur Chhettri, Narayan Ram Sarki as members. The then secretary Gopal Thapa Magar had shared annual report with major achievements, learning and some challenges, which CSRC felt in the past one year. The General Assembly was held with the participation of the general members, former board members, CSRC staffs, members of NLR, and some well-wishers of CSRC.

CSRC's Elected as the Board Member of FORUM-ASIA

The 9th general assembly of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) has elected CSRC in its executive board for three years. The assembly held in Bali of Indonesia from 28-30 September 2018 has elected the then Chairperson of CSRC, Suresh Kumar Dhakal as the member of its executive board. CSRC served the next three years' tenure of FORUM-ASIA with the seven executive board members of different countries.

Speaking among the 81 representatives of 21 countries, Dhakal said, "CSRC, which came from a small movement in the villages, and is now spreading across the country. It has now represented as one of the members of FORUM-ASIA

through the 9th General Assembly. CSRC's representation has widened its network in the international forum too. Let's collectively work for the rights of landless, tenants and small holders."

Evaluation of SWC

CSRC implemented all projects and programs by taking approval from Social Welfare Council (SWC). Some periodical bilateral meetings have been also conducted between CSRC and SWC. This year, SWC conducted the evaluation of CSRC's program. The independent evaluation team formed by SWC visited Banke, Bardiya and Sindhupalchok districts to collect necessary data for the evaluation. After the evaluation, a detail report of the evaluation was prepared by the team and submitted to SWC.

The evaluation team recommended that CSRC should work for the sustainability of its project. According to the report submitted by SWC, the Joint Land Ownership initiatives of CSRC is one of the important aspects for ensuring equal access of right between men and women in property. CSRC has been suggested to encourage the local governments to incorporate this initiative in other local areas. The report also acknowledged some initiatives such as social audit, participatory review and reflection process and mentioned that these practices can also be exemplary for NGOs.

Social Audit

Apart from internal, external and donor audits, CSRC follows the practices of social audit every year to evaluate its programs implemented across the country. The government stakeholders, partner organizations, networks and alliances are invited to review the existing strategies and working procedures in land rights campaigns of CSRC. CSRC organized its 11th Social Audit on 7 October 2018 in Kathmandu. The key achievements of fiscal year 2017/18, area of improvements, implementation status of the recommendations of last fiscal year and strategies of upcoming years were shared among the representatives of SWC, funding partners, networks, alliances and other participants in the program.

The internal auditor of CSRC, stakeholders including funding partners, the Vice Chairperson of National Assembly, the Chairperson of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resource Committee put their view during the audit. Speaking during the program, Chairperson of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resource Committee Honorable Purna Kumari Subedi said that the issues raised by CSRC and NLRP have contributed to the government's campaign of the 'Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali,' and that the government should also support the campaign of these organizations.

National Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP)

Participatory Review and Reflection (PRRP) is a platform of CSRC to review the land rights campaign periodically (quarterly, half-yearly and yearly). The frontline leaders, full time workers, district coordinators, members of LRFs and repre-

sentatives of CSRC takes part in the process and discusses on the major changes brought from the campaigns. This common platform has given an opportunity to the representatives of CSRC and its partners to discuss about the existing strategies, and further plan of the land rights campaign held in the year. In this regard, CSRC organized its national participatory review and reflection process on 30-31 December 2018 at Thimura of Chitwan district. The participants of the review and reflection process for their critically reviewed the overall land rights campaign of Nepal. Key strengths of land rights campaign were conducted in 2018. Altogether 66 land rights activists from 40 districts participated in the PRRP. To discuss on the upcoming principles, ideologies and other aspects of land rights campaign in Nepal, a province-wise group discussion was held in the PRRP. The members of NLRP stressed that the role of CSRC becomes crucial to conduct land rights movement in upcoming days as well. The participants also raised questions on the major principles of land rights movement in Nepal, including core values, resource mobilization strategies, sustainability of land rights movement in Nepal and major commitments of the land rights activists.

The Joint Land Ownership initiatives of CSRC is one of the important aspects for ensuring equal access of right between men and women in property.

Capacity Development of CSRC Members

CSRC provides equal opportunity for their participation of its board members, staffs and members of LRFs in different activities organized by national and international organizations. Based on the resources, need and applicability of the events, CSRC supports its members for different national and international training courses, exposure visits, workshops, conferences and other related activities. In 2018, altogether 33 members of CSRC got opportunity to participate in international symposium, workshop, training and other capacity development related activities.

Binod Gautam, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator of CSRC took part in the Global Human Rights Advocacy training organized by FORUM-ASIA from 26 October-2 September 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. According to him, training helped to sharpen his knowledge on the advocacy and campaign strategies for protecting human rights.

“Global Human Rights Advocacy Training provided opportunity for me to be exposed among the international human rights defenders. I learnt about the relationship between human rights and land rights through the training. The training not only expanded my network but it also supported to be united for the promotion and protection of human rights around the world,” said Binod.

Similarly, CSRC’s team members Geeta Pandit, Administration and Finance Coordinator, and Anita Kharel Administration and Finance Manager participated in the regional workshop of CBI 9 and 10 organized by ANGOG in Bangkok, Thailand. According to them, the workshop was a great opportunity to learn, interact and share

ideas from one country to another.

Geeta said, “This workshop energized me to learn many things on management system of the organizations. The most important lesson I learnt from this workshop was how to manage the program effectively from the workshop.”

Rabindra Lamichhane participated in the commitment-based initiative II Strengthening Small-Scale Farming Systems Regional Strategic Planning Meeting in Philippines from 27 to 28 November 2019, which was organized by The People’s Campaign for Agrarian Reform Network and the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA). “This meeting helped me to understand the regional strategy framework for CBI II with specified and clear goals, strategies, activities and potential partnerships. Personally, I benefited in the major land rights campaign organized in various countries of Asian countries,” said Rabindra.



Learning

CSRC has learnt the followings in 2018:

1. Orientation to all family members of tenants' households yields quick and effective result:

To get effective and quick results, all family members should be oriented on the importance of different campaigns such as submission of applications for the separation of tenancy land. Almost all households, who were tilling land for generations of Digiya of Banke district, lodged applications for the separation of tenancy land after the members of DLRP oriented all family members about the procedures to claim tenancy rights.

2. Continuous coordination and collaboration supports to change the perception of government's stakeholders:

The government officials who were denied addressing the issues of landless people at the beginning worked day and night to register applications submitted for the separation of tenancy land in Sindhupalchok district. In the same way, the political parties, CDO office and other government officials were ready to prevent all the processes of eviction in Dang district. The CDO office had issued a notice to evict the households who had been living in Swargadwari Ashram of the same district.

3. Flexibility in advocacy methods:

Efficiency of the advocacy initiative is much higher when local level frontline leaders are institutionally allowed to function independently as per the local context, and urgency and immediacy of the specific issue through regular institutional support, as opposed to the systemic practice of imposing advocacy initiatives on them.

4. Focus on Good documentation:

The institutional culture of documenting the cases of 'land rights violation' by assigning a particular person has, indeed, been a very effective means of recording many evidences on various specific advocacy issues simultaneously (which, in turn, have been instrumental for initiating and accelerating the pace of evidence-based advocacy at all levels).

The Way Forward

Keeping in mind the successes and challenges of land rights movement, the following strategies have been identified:

I. There should be strategic discussion among policy makers, landless, tenant and small holders to enact the laws on behalf of them. For this, CSRC will be involved in **lobby and advocacy at the policy level** for the formulation of land-related laws and policies. It will closely work with local governments to facilitate for context mapping of respective governments.

II. Many landless, land-poor and smallholder communities have been benefited through the acquisition of land from tenancy rights, village block and Guthi. It has been claimed that the number of food-insecure families have been decreased after the acquisition of land from such communities. CSRC needs strong evidence for policy advocacy as well as further strategic development of organization, and, therefore, it will conduct some **action research** with the consultation of academia, research organizations and other stakeholders.

III. Further, **capacity development** of activists, civil society alliances, tenant and landless farmers' organizations will remain emphasis in the days ahead. Likewise, policy advocacy, lobby, dialogues to local, provincial and federal governments will also be continued as a prime focus.

IV. Recently, some successes have been identified at policy level. This is the right time to institutionalize the successes through their effective implementation. CSRC will be involved in the **implementation of land-related laws** such as Land Use Act 2018, Food and Food Sovereignty Act 2018, Housing Act 2018. For this, it will also involve in the formulation of such laws at provincial and local level. CSRC will also be involved in the context mapping and land-related studies at local level.

V. The land right movement needs to strike balance between the strategic and immediate needs of the right holders. This can be done through balancing between the **advocacy work and livelihood programs**. Many people have begun to receive lands but they are adopting traditional farming system and technologies. Most of the poor people do not have ways and means to increase productivity from the land. Thus, CSRC will complement the land rights movement through some livelihood support initiatives.

VI. CSRC has more than 25 years of experiences in land rights movement in Nepal. The stakeholders, development partners, CSOs are expecting technical support from CSRC in land related issues. CSRC itself needs to be upgraded from its current position. For this, at least two **capable land rights activists** will be developed and mobilized in every local governments, where it has been working for long. The capacity of the activists will be strengthened through regular training, exposure and other activities.

Annexes

Financial Performance

Name of Project	Partner	Duration	Working Area	Total Budget
Right to Food- SAMARTHYA	CARE Nepal	June 2018- Dec 2018	Udayapur, Siraha and Okhaldhunga	3,120,528
Durable Solutions- II	People in Need (PIN)	15 Feb 2018- 15 Feb 2020	Earthquake affected 31 Districts	40,305,325
Change the Game Academy	Wilde Ganzen	Nov 2018- June 2019	Capacity Building	1,409,725
National Engagement Strategy	International Land Coalition (ILC)	25 Sep 2017 - 25 Sep 2018	Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Kapilbastu, Nawalparasi, Nawalpur, Dang	12,096,100
Dashboard Initiative	International Land Coalition (ILC)	Oct 2018-Feb 2019	Research	3,067,200
Advocacy Technical Assistance Project	The Freedom Fund	Apr 2018- Mar 2019	Dhanusha, Siraha, Saptari	3,973,944
CBIs	International Land Coalition (ILC)-(CBI-4)	May 2018- Dec 2018	Policy Level	1,012,024
	International Land Coalition (ILC)-(CBI-8)	15 Mar 2018- 15 Dec 2018	Policy Level	1,664,000
	International Land Coalition (ILC)-(CBI-9&10)	12 Oct 2017- 30 Nov 2018	Policy Level	582,400
Reconstruction Programme- FDF	FDF	July 2018- Feb 2019	Sindhupalchok	3,594,105
PELSAP	Action Aid Nepal	Dec 2016- Nov 2018	Sindhupalchok	5,083,041
REAP- II	Helvetas	July 2018- May 2019	Sindhupalchok	2,768,720
PRAYAAS- II	CARE Nepal	July 2018- Aug 2019	Sindhupalchok	20,705,646
Safer Habitat	CARE Nepal	Oct 2018- Jan 2019	Sindhupalchok	10,595,473
WASH	CARE Nepal	Apr 2017- Mar 2019	Sindhupalchok	29,978,506
SUPPER (FSL/ Pool WASH)	CARE Nepal	Apr 2017- Mar 2019	Sindhupalchok	49,836,419
Total				189,793,156

Financial Performance

Utilization of Budget (2018)	Percentage	Status of Programme
3,047,803	98%	Accomplished
21,517,655	53%	Ongoing
286,441	20%	Ongoing
12,036,856	100%	Accomplished
178,965	6%	Ongoing
1,994,824	50%	Ongoing
874,414	86%	Accomplished
1,663,680	100%	Accomplished
540,616	93%	Accomplished
169,547	5%	Ongoing
5,076,767	100%	Accomplished
1,106,954	40%	Ongoing
2,262,597	11%	Ongoing
7,924,989	75%	Ongoing
25,368,534	85%	Ongoing
33,796,649	68%	Ongoing
117,847,291	62%	

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