

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear friends,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you highlights of our work and progress that has been accomplished during the period of June-December 2014. With the end of 2014, we completed 3 years of implementation of our project “Strengthening Smallholders in Livestock Value Chain” (SLVC). And I am happy to share with you, its positive impact on the field through the results of our annual project survey. By working together with our local development partners, we have been able to support families to move out of poverty and vulnerability towards leading resilient and self-reliant lives.

Putting faces to the positive impact achieved in the community –we would like to share the stories of four exceptional women who have brought major transformation in the lives of their family and community through courage and perseverance.

Through this issue, we also share some of the important highlights of the six months period. An important highlight is Heifer’s Global Impact Goal: by 2020, Heifer International has aimed to help 4 million families – who currently experience extreme hunger and poverty – secure an annual livable wage to live resilient, self-reliant lives. Our team in Nepal is confident on scalability of our program to adapt to this goal as we intensify our program coverage through our accelerated Passing on the Gift model and work in collaboration with local stakeholders and partners.

We hope that this issue will be a good read and will help our readers to better understand the work that we are doing to build resilient communities that live together in peace and equitably share the resources of a healthy planet.

Dr. Shubh N. Mahato

Country Director

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Heifer Nepal launched Bridging Project to support flood and landslide victims



Three days of incessant rain led to multiple landslides and flooding in different parts of the country in August 2014, killing at least 256 people, while 157 were injured, more than 254 went missing, 16,966 families were affected and 15,234 families displaced. Heifer project areas were hit in 5

districts in Mid-western and Eastern Region affecting 14,302 households.

Heifer Nepal provided support of USD 50,000 in total for immediate relief programs for flood victims through respective District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs) in Banke, Bardiya, Dang, Surkhet and Sindhuli. Heifer's network of NGO partners, field staffs, Self Help Groups and Cooperatives were proactively involved at the community level to disseminate the relief support to ensure that it reaches to the real victims.

In addition, Heifer has also started its work on facilitating the victim families for economic recovery through a bridging project. This project particularly provides agriculture (seeds, equipment), livestock (animal shed, poultry, fodder/forage) support, and facilitate for development of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) plans. A total of 6,165 flood affected families in 25 VDCs of Banke, Bardiya, Dang and Surkhet benefit from the bridging support of USD 552,680.

Heifer Nepal conducted Central Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting



On September 5, 2014, Heifer Nepal organized its annual CPAC meeting. The event was chaired jointly by Er. Rabindra Kumar, Member Secretary for Social Welfare Council (SWC) and Dr. Shubh N. Mahato, Country Director for Heifer Nepal. The committee is comprised of members from Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, National Planning Commission, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture Development. Ms. Lucky

Gurung, Manager, Association of International NGOs (AIN) was present as an observer during the meeting.

The meeting reviewed progress and achievements of current Heifer programs, analyzed the status of resource mobilization and provided feedback/advice to the project stakeholders for achieving desired project impact.

The CPAC members made following recommendations for Heifer Nepal:

- Work on a detailed exit plan, including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) targets, and address the gaps of market, resource constraint and coordination in the next Project Agreement.
- In program implementation proactively involve and strengthen networking with all the relevant Ministries and government line agencies at central and district level.
- Organize a field visit program for CPAC members for on-site monitoring for deeper understanding of impacts of Heifer's work.

Heifer celebrated 17 years of community building in Nepal

On September 26, 2014 Heifer Nepal celebrated its 17 years anniversary of working in Nepal to build communities and empower poor farmers to overcome poverty and vulnerability. Heifer started its journey in Nepal through the shipment of high-yielding improved breeds of cattle, sheep and pigs for cross-breeding in 1957. “ Heifer’s first two projects in Nepal were implemented in 1993 and 1995.” As a further step to give continuity and institutionalize then efforts,



Heifer International established its Country Program office in Nepal in 1997. Seventeen years later Nepal has moved beyond leaps and bounds to support 171,041 families in 38 districts out of 75.

To mark this auspicious occasion, Heifer Nepal organized its anniversary event in three regions – Chitwan, Kapilvastu and Morang. These events were attended by important stakeholders from government bodies, political parties and community members which presented an excellent opportunity for networking and to give update on Heifer’s work to the local donors.

Nepal team leaders participated in Global Team Meeting



More than 120 senior leaders from over 30 Heifer country programs, CEO cabinet and HQ team participated in the Global Team Meeting (GTM) held in Heifer Headquarters on November 2014. Dr. Shubh N. Mahato, Nepal Country Director and Raj Kumar Adhikari, Enterprise Development Manager represented Nepal in the global platform. The purpose of the GTM

was to build unity and understanding around the current state and to co-plan a future (2020) state in which Heifer is generating significantly greater impact.

According to Pierre Ferrari, Heifer International CEO, “Greater convergence and connectivity of our work has positioned Heifer to do something greater than we ever could have imagined. Under our new Global Impact Goal, Heifer International will move four million families completely out of hunger and poverty by 2020.”

Heifer’s Global Impact Goal: By 2020, Heifer International will have helped 4 million families in the places where we work – who currently experience extreme hunger and poverty – secure an annual livable wage to live resilient, self-reliant lives.

IMPACT OF SLVC PROJECT MEASURED ACROSS THE

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN PROJECT BASELINE 2012

Increase income and Asset

+

Food Security and Nutrition

+

Environment

Poverty Line

19% of the project families have come out of poverty line within 2 years of project participation.

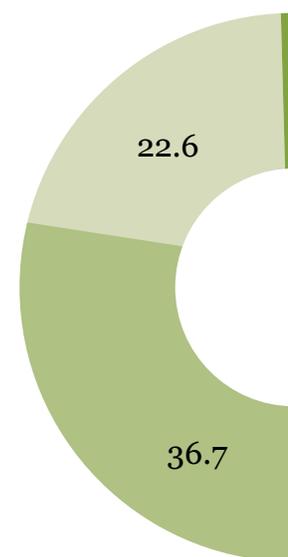
Poverty line 1.25 USD/day (PPP)

Food availability

75% of the project families have food availability year round.

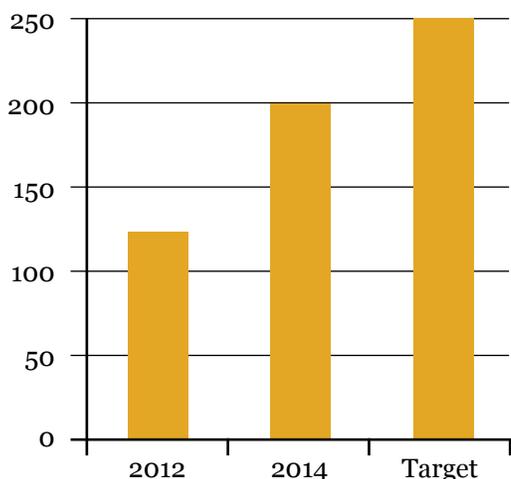
Percentage of families with food availability for less than 3 months/year has decreased from 35.9% to 0%.

% of Families with availability of



- Enough for year
- 4-8 months
- Below 4 months

Household Income in Thousands



Diet Diversity

Heifer families consumed 7 types of food ingredients on average each day including atleast one type of animal source food.

12 types of food ingredients recommended by FAO are Cereals and Grains, White tubers and roots, legumes, nuts and seeds, eggs, fish, milk and milk products, meat and poultry, vegetables, oil and fruits sweets and condiments.

Assets

Each project family has acquired assets worth NPR 93,253 in FY 14.

Livestock productivity and production

Goat Productivity increased by 26%.

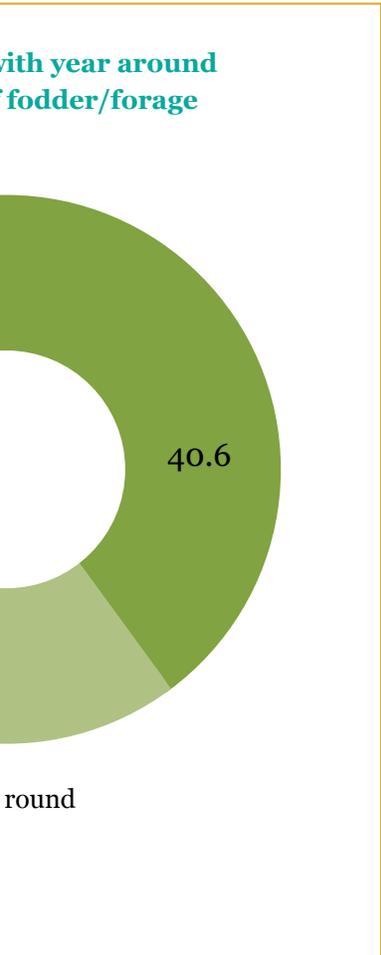
Milk Production increased by 69%.

Fodder/forage coverage

After Heifer's intervention, both leguminous and non-leguminous forage have increased drastically. The area of fodder and forage cultivation is also more. The area of fodder and forage cultivation has increased from 0.76 kattha to 2.23 kattha, an increase of 185%.

THE FIVE DOMAINS OF HEIFER'S THEORY OF CHANGE

12 AND RESULTS OF ANNUAL PROJECT SURVEY AS OF FY2014



e area

cultivation practices of leguminous fodder and; the land use pattern more diversified. The average cultivated land has increased ttha/HH with an increment

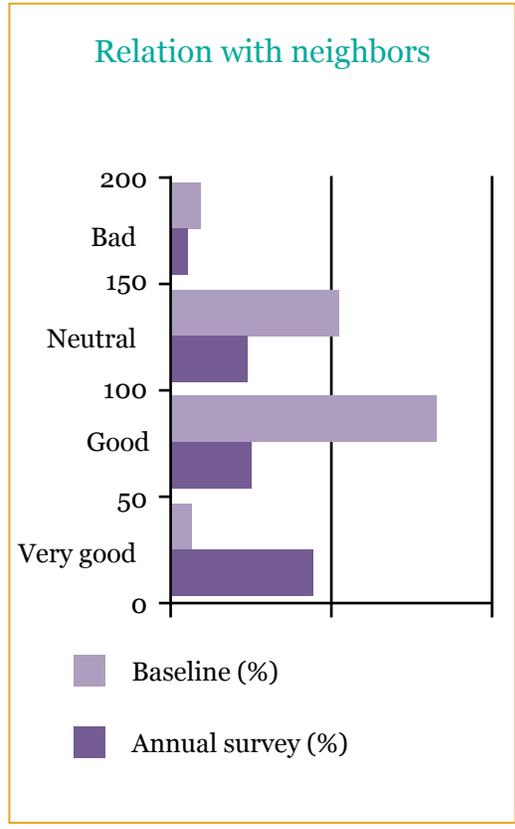
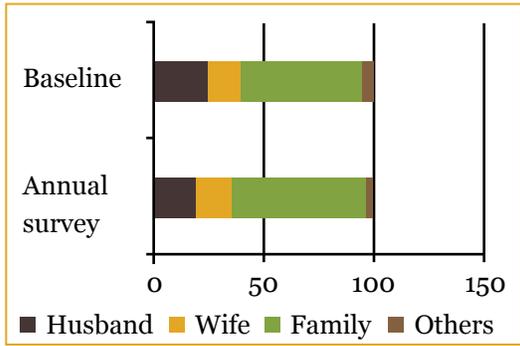
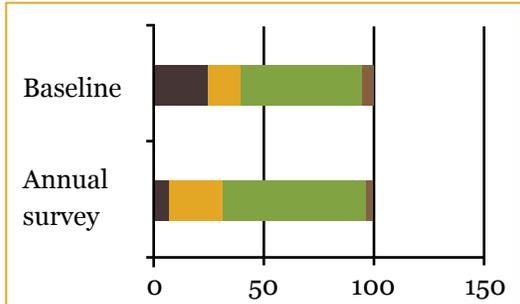
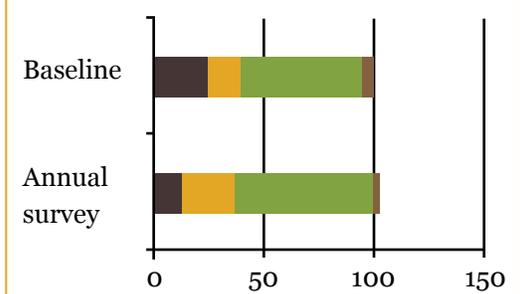
Participation in Social Events

Women's active participation in social events has increased from 26.32% to 94% within 2 years of project participation

Male engagement in Household chores

63.2% of the women respondents felt that their male counterparts equally contributed in household chores contrary to only 5.1% believing so before the project.

Decision making on Children's health, Sale or purchase of fixed property and family's health



Social Entrepreneur Cooperatives (SEW)

131 SEW registered as of Oct 2014
28,516 farmers joined SEW as share members

1,140 Original Groups helped in the formation of 3266 Pass on Groups.

Golden Talent Award winners for 2014

The Golden Talent Award (GTA) is established to recognize an individual or a family that has taken “a minimum of resources, converted it into a sustaining source of income and other resources, while at the same time helping other families and the community at large.” Each year Heifer Nepal awards 4 such individuals or groups, one from each of the 4 Heifer regions. In this issue, we present you with our winners for this year, who have been a shining example of hope and perseverance to many other individuals and families.

Sabitra Gharti - A proud donor



Sabitra received capacity building trainings and 4 goats from Heifer's project in in Kopuwa -9, Kapilvastu on May 2012. Applying the knowledge she had learnt during her trainings, she planted nutritious mix of fodder/forage, constructed improved shed for her goats and provided deworming medicines and vaccinations regularly. She utilized her group's savings fund to borrow NPR 15,000 to invest in improved goat shed, poultry and poultry coop.

Within two brief years she has made remarkable socio-economic progress. Just this year, Sabitra earned NPR 250,000 by selling goats, chickens, vegetables and fodder saplings. The best part is that she is sharing her prosperity with other families who are in need of a helping hand. She has passed on gifts of 5 goats, fodder/forage seed/saplings, mineral blocks, and school materials to children from poor families. Sabitra shares “it is through Heifer's support that my family is able to achieve this prosperity and being able to help another struggling family is the right way of repaying my debts”.

Bishnu Maya Chepang breaks the chain of poverty through goats

Born as the eldest of four children in a Chepang family in Siddhi VDC, Chitwan, Bishnu never knew anything except for hard labor and half-filled half-empty stomach. Traditionally semi-nomads, Chepangs have only recently started to settle down and practice agriculture, before which they were heavily dependent on forest for their survival. The increasing population has exhausted the forest resources leaving families like Bishnu's with food insecurity.

Bishnu received 5 does and 1 breeding buck along with sapling for mangoes, guava, lemon and fodder/forage. She planted foddres/forages in 0.67 ha land and built an improved shed for the goats. The home-made mineral blocks combined with regular vaccination and deworming medicines has improved her goat's productivity. Her husband attended Farm enterprise analysis and planning training and now they are planning to scale up their goat farm to a commercial level. Today she sells her goats through Social Women Entrepreneur's (SEW) Cooperative and receives fair price for them. This year she earned NPR



109,120 (USD 1000) by selling goats, double of what she earned the previous year. Bishnu invested this income in a plot of land to build a new house with permanent structure and in educating her children.

Dil Kumari's giving heart



Dil Kumari from Titihiriya, Banke, grew up as an orphan and barely remembers her parents. Handicapped from birth, Dil Kumari was neglected by her brothers, and abused by her sister in law.

In December 2011, Dil Kumari received 2 goats, vegetable seeds and fodder/forage seeds and saplings from Heifer. She was able to substantially increase her income by diversifying it. She also received a loan of NPR 20,000 from her group's fund to open up a tailor shop. She reinvested the income from the shop and took additional loan to purchase productive breed dairy cattle. She has also invested in additional assets such as a drinking water tap, irrigation motor, and livestock shed. Dil Kumari has built a new life for herself and people around her. She now lives in her new home with her adopted daughter, 3 adopted sisters and her friend, Koili. Now her brothers and sister in law treat her with more respect due to the progress she has made. She has passed on gifts of 2 goats, fodder/forage seeds and saplings and free sewing training to 7 needy people. She has also been supporting her daughter's and sisters' education.

Bhagwati Parajuli becomes a role model for many in her community

Bhagwati Parajuli lost her husband during the insurgency period. Her daughter was just 6 months old then. Bhagwati had to fight with depression alone as she barely had anyone to talk to.

Heifer's project in Sundarpur, Morang brought with it a promise of new life to Bhagwati as for the first time she found her life's purpose. She became a part of Heifer's Self Help Group (SHG). The group offered her a safe ground and the company of other women with whom she could share her feelings with. Bhagwati is now serving as the president of her SHG. She is also an active member of Community Forest User Group where she represents the voice of women from her community. Her strong leadership has steered her group members towards social and economic prosperity as they have more than doubled their income from livestock and agriculture and are more actively involved in community development platforms. Her daughter looks up to her as her role model as she is also serving as the president of a local Children's club.



Program achievements (Jan-June 2014)

Families benefitted

19,213

Livestock placed

32,416

Group fund collected

NPR 24,78,83,257

People trained

87,058

Cooperatives registered

17

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