



LETTER FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I present to you the July-December 2017 edition of our newsletter featuring the latest news and updates during this period. As Heifer International Nepal enters its 20th year of service in Nepal, we celebrate the contributions we have been able to make in strengthening rural economies. We take this opportunity to thank our partners, collaborators and donors.

Remarkable achievement has been made in capacity strengthening of farmer's institutions, increasing production and productivity and developing market linkages. In this context, Heifer Nepal has entered into a partnership with Sakchyam UKaid funded access to finance program and Macchapuchre Bank Limited to increase access to finance for small and medium agri-enterprises.

This year, plains of Nepal saw a massive flooding which claimed the lives of many people and their valuable livestock. This issue also provides a comprehensive detail of exemplary work done by women led cooperatives during this flooding.

The key highlight of this issue is the impact data of our project from its baseline days in 2012 to its end date in 2017.

I hope this issue will be an interesting and insightful read. To learn more about our work, you can find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and our website.



Dr. Shubh N. Mahato
Country Director
Heifer International Nepal

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Our fundamental approach



Values-based
community
development



+ Livestock



+ Training



Our innovative ways to strengthen rural economies



Connection
to markets



+ Strengthening
agro enterprises



+ Access to capital
and partnerships



Will help achieve:



1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



13 CLIMATE ACTION



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PATAN VISITED PROJECT SITE IN CHANDIBHANJYANG

Longtime friends and donors of Heifer International Nepal, members of the Rotary Club of Patan visited the Chandibhanjyang Social Entrepreneur Women's Cooperative in Chitwan. Heifer Nepal and Rotary Club of Patan has been assisting women groups in training, organizing and equipping them to increase family income through the production of meat, dairy and vegetable products. For a country that is gripping with poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, social isolation and gender inequality, these efforts are helping to bring a positive change to the community. The rotary members visited farmer's homes to observe progress on improved animal management practices including improved goat sheds, interacted with the women's group to understand their immediate need, and provided general health checkup for children in and around the vicinity of the project site.



PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED WITH UKAID SAKCHYAM FOR VALUE CHAIN FINANCING

Heifer Nepal has entered into a partnership with Sakchyam Access to Finance for the Poor Program - an initiative funded by UKaid and implemented by Louis Berger - to enhance financial access for small-scale farmers involved in various agricultural value chains through value chain financing. The program works with public and private sectors

to leverage access and facilitate financial sector development in Nepal for small and medium enterprises and for poor people.

This partnership is expected to explore ways on how Heifer, Heifer facilitated cooperatives and value chain actors can be linked with Sakchyam, its partner banks and

financial institutions, ensuring all the value chain stakeholders have access to finance in effective and efficient manner. This collaborative effort intends to complement one another in areas of mutual interest in general, and to increase access to finance in goat, dairy, and vegetable value chains, in particular.



HEIFER CELEBRATED 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE IN NEPAL

Heifer Nepal celebrated its 20th anniversary in Kathmandu on September 25. What began as a humble project to provide goats to 25 women in Gitanagar, Chitwan in 1993 and came into agreement

presence of dignitaries including representatives from Government of Nepal, bi- and multilateral donors, INGOs, project partners, universities and research institutions, bank and financial institutions, insurance

Livestock Development, Mr. Shanta Kumar Tharu. Honorable Ms. Ranjana Shrestha, Member of the Parliament; Honorable Mr. Prem Giri, Member of Parliament, Mr. Nilmani Baral, Vice Chair of the Social Welfare Council; Mr.



with Social Welfare Council in 1997, Heifer Nepal on completion of 20 years has directly reached more than 250,000 resource poor smallholder families. It has also played a great role in training and empowering more than 100 local nonprofit organizations. The program saw the

companies, cooperatives, Heifer project participants, media, various associations, private value chain actors in goat and dairy, donor and Heifer staff. The event was chaired by Mr. Pierre Ferrari, President and CEO of Heifer International and chief guest was the Former Minister for

Chiribabu Maharjan, Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City; Dr. Mahendra Lohani, Senior Vice President of Programs were among the special guests. All the guests were welcomed and accompanied by Dr. Shubh Narayan Mahato, Country Director of Heifer Nepal.

PIERRE FERRARI, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF HEIFER INTERNATIONAL, ALONG WITH HEIFER DONORS VISITED PROJECTS IN NEPAL



President and CEO of Heifer International, Mr. Pierre Ferrari visited the projects in Banke along with a group of Heifer donors from USA, to understand the program approach and impact. The team was accompanied by Dr. Mahendra Lohani,

Senior Vice President of Programs and Ms. Vicky Clark, Vice President of Philanthropy and Development. The team visited Self-help groups and Cooperatives at Phattepur and Mahadevpuri. The visit ended with observation of goat marketing at goat

collection and marketing center of Cooperative District Union, Banke. The team participated in the insightful interaction with the community and cooperative members. The team also participated in the 20th Anniversary Celebration Event of Heifer Nepal.

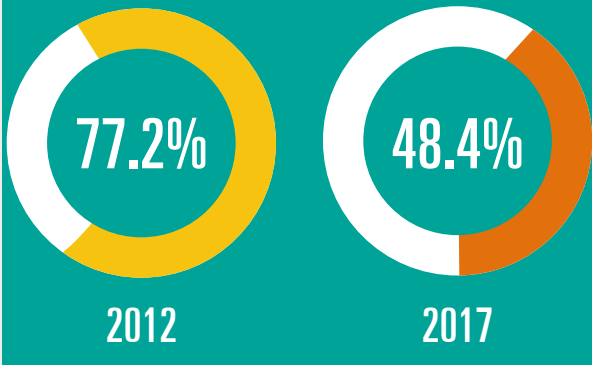
IMPACT OF HEIFER PROJECTS MEASURED ACROSS T



Poverty Line

28.8% of project families have come out of poverty.
Poverty line : USD 1.25/day (Constant Price)

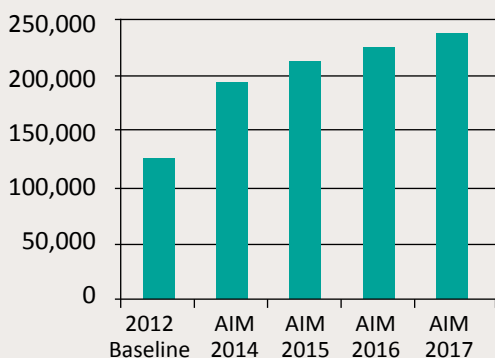
Project Households Below Poverty Line



Income

74% increase in average income of family within 5 years of project intervention. The average annual income increased from NPR 126,857 in 2012 to NPR 227,001 in 2017.

Annual Income Mean in NPR



Food Availability

Year round availability of food increased from 10.89 to 11.5 months.

Diet Diversity

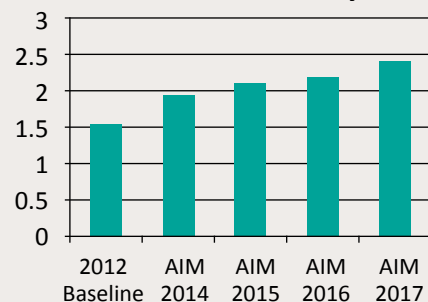
Out of 12 types of food ingredients recommended by FAO, the project families consumed 7.1 types of food ingredients on average each day including at least one type of animal source food.

Average number of meals per day has increased from 2.7 to 3.1.

Productivity

Goat productivity increased from the baseline of 1.54 kids/ doe/year in 2012 to 2.4 kids/ doe/year in 2017.

No. of Kids/doe/year



Fodder/forage coverage a

10,059.24 hec
planted with o
fodder and fo
from 2012-20

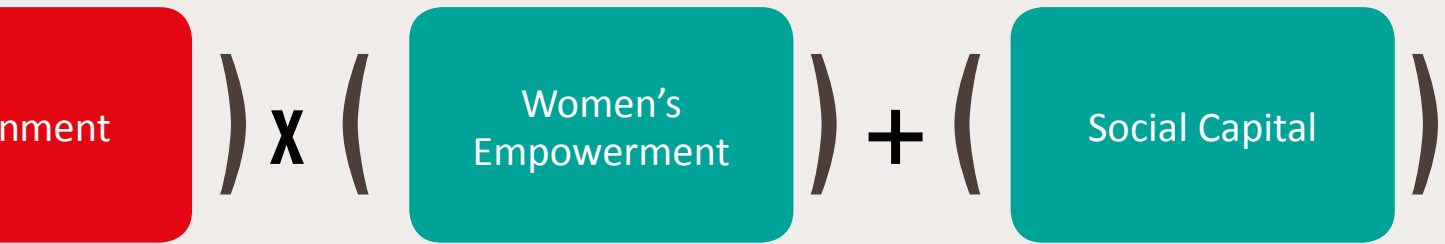


10,059
Hectares

Fodder/forage

In 2017, 54% of fam
round availability o
26% have for 4-8 m
have for below 4 m

THE FIVE DOMAINS OF HEIFER'S THEORY OF CHANGE



Range area
 hectares of land
 different
 range species
 17



Availability
 families have year
 of fodder/forage,
 months and 20%
 months.

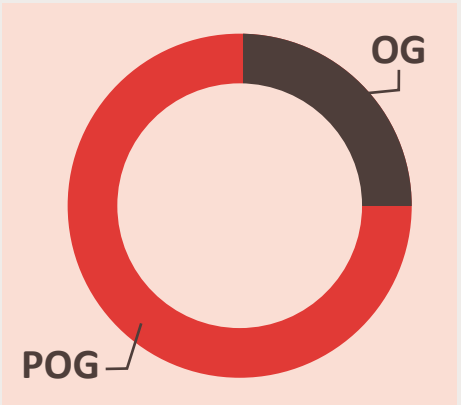
Women in leadership positions
 47% of women project participants hold leadership position in social/community.

Women making decisions
 Women's decision making power over productive assets has increased from 54.67% to 75.8% from 2015 to 2017.

Women control over family income
 85% of women project participants reported having equitable control over family income

Solidarity and cooperation
 98% families reported solidarity and cooperation among community members with 90.01% trust in each other.

 1,661 Original Groups helped in formation of 4,983 Pass on Groups.



Social Entrepreneur Womens' Cooperatives (SEWC)
 209 SEWC registered with 97,070 share members by June 2017.

 Total fund (share capital, reserves and savings) of NPR 817,593,483 mobilized by SEWC.

MOU WITH MACHHAPUCHCHHRE BANK TO EXPAND FINANCIAL ACCESS FOR SMALLHOLDERS

Heifer International Nepal signed MoU with Machhapuchchhre Bank Limited to expand access to finance for rural smallholder farmers, small and medium enterprises and other value chain actors through Heifer supported cooperatives as “Financial Intermediaries”. The major domain includes wholesale lending to cooperatives, direct lending to individual entrepreneurs, cooperatives as branchless banking agent, remittance agent, and other similar embedded services. Succeeding the MoU, Machhapuchchhre Bank Limited has signed agreement with four women led cooperatives in Satbariya, Dang. As per the agreement, the bank will provide direct loan of USD 1,000 to USD 3,000 to smallholder women farmers without collateral, facilitated by the cooperative. This agreement aims to avail easier access to capital to expand their agri-business.



HEIFER NEPAL RECOGNIZED FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE DURING TERAJ FLOOD

The Department of Livestock Services (DLS) recognized Heifer International Nepal during its Annual Day Celebration Event for the exemplary service Heifer provided during immediate relief for the victims of the recent flooding that devastated most of the Terai districts.

Working in collaboration with 35 Social Entrepreneurs Women's Cooperatives and local government, Heifer Nepal provided relief supplies of food and non-food items to more than 11,000 families in nine flood affected districts. Heifer Nepal understands the importance of livestock for smallholder families, who depend upon their livestock not only for nutrition but also for their survival. The relief operation for livestock benefitted more than 7,500 farmers. A total of 36 vet technicians were mobilized to provide door to door treatment services to farmers. Nearly 50,000 livestock benefitted by the treatment services, concentrate feed and supplements.



HEIFER NEPAL'S WOMEN-LED FARMER COOPERATIVES REBUILD AND DISTRIBUTE RELIEF IN THE WAKE OF FLOODING DISASTER

Every year, flat lands in Southern Nepal witnesses major floods in many of its rivers, which not only takes away the life of many but also cripples life chances of the people residing in these areas. This year too, Nepal witnessed massive rainfall because of which 1.7 million people were reported to be affected, with more than 460,000 people (>91,000 families) displaced from their homes. In Heifer working areas, more than 21,500 families were impacted. The floodwater seeped into people's houses leaving them no choice but to flee the situation, whatever grain and food reserve they had in their individual houses spoiled, recently planted crops destroyed and livestock died, injured and suffered disease outbreak, leaving them with literally nothing.

During this time of peril, the Social Entrepreneur Women's Cooperatives (SEWCs) came out as a strong force in the relief and rehabilitation effort. Though initially formed as a purely business entity, the cooperatives went beyond their business model and came forward as a philanthropic organization. The cooperatives were able to provide immediate relief distribution and support to the victims at the time when neither government nor other organizations had reached to affected areas. A large number of victim families got shelter at the cooperative buildings and the members provided them with food, water and clothes. The quick and immediate response from the local cooperatives not only benefitted their own members but also other people in need. Though millions of dollars' worth physical capitals are lost, the strong social capital developed by Heifer in the community has been successful in the emergency preparedness during such times of crisis.

Working with 35 cooperatives and the local government Heifer Nepal was



able to provide relief supplies to about 11,000 families and more than 58,500 people in nine hardest hit districts of Nepal. The relief supplies included food (both ready to eat and food that need cooking), cooking utensils, mosquito net and tarpaulins. The cooperatives were a

key force in flood relief activities and are the ones to take a lead on the ground. These organizations which include from a few hundred to more than a thousand members, took it upon themselves to work hand in hand to reach the people in need. The cooperatives normally serve



as business hubs that provide veterinary care, fertilizers, financial and insurance services. They provide farmers with better access to markets and greater bargaining power when negotiating prices for their livestock and agriculture products.

The members of the cooperatives who are farmers themselves were better capable of understanding the needs of fellow farmers. The cooperatives being legally registered bodies, led by local people have great connections with the local government and disaster management officials. Heifer Nepal organized animal health camps and livestock feed support programs with the help of cooperatives. These programs were able to reach more than 7,500 farmers with feeding support to nearly 5,000 goats, vitamin and mineral supplement to 3,000 goats and treatment services to 50,000 sick and injured livestock. In an agricultural country such as Nepal, livestock remains to be of great value to the smallholders. Loss of livestock is always a great loss to farmers.

Sangini SEWC in Rapti Sonari, Banke took first initiative to distribute relief materials of food and water to the flood affected members of the village, before any organization reached the village. As this approach was proven reliable, efficient and transparent, Heifer Nepal along with organizations such as Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), local leaders, district government agencies and rural municipality

"I have noticed Heifer to be the only organization dispatching such a huge relief support to flood victims. Further, the dispatch mechanism is transparent and rational. Therefore, I am confident that all needy families of Rapti Sonari will receive relief packages from Heifer and SEW Cooperative. I would heartily like to thank Heifer family and its network for such great work during this emergency," said Chakra Bahadur Adhikari, Chairman of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Kohalpur.

mobilized Sangini SEWC in Tikulipur and Kachanapur. The cooperative was a focal point to make sure the relief materials were timely distributed and reached to hands of the needy. A total of 502 families were reached in these areas in a matter of 2 days.

Many of the cooperatives utilized their emergency and reserve funds to procure the required relief packages, and supply to their fellow farmers. The members of the Dautari SEWC in Dulari village, Morang came forward

"This kind of relief program mobilized through Cooperatives and governed by women is really exemplary and a novel practice. Cooperatives can be the driving force for development. Women-led cooperatives coming to the front during such an emergency situation shows that Heifer has really empowered and equipped them with good leadership skills. It has contributed a lot in socio-economic transformation of the community and helped them to rise again after this serious disaster."
– Pattu Tharu, former Parliamentarian

and helped the residents of the surrounding areas with damaged road making transportation a tedious task, resulting in the delay of relief material support. The cooperative members collected USD 500 on their own and ran a community mess for 10 days. The cooperative managed to feed 500 people with least conflict and were able to perform need assessment swiftly. This is yet another example of the community becoming strong and coming up as a resilient force of the society. Heifer Nepal was able to perform a valid need assessment of Dulari village with the help of Dautari SEWC; the local knowledge of the cooperative members provided the biggest help in identifying the families requiring immediate help. After the need assessment, relief was handed over to the community members in form of food, dry bedding/mattress, mosquito nets and cooking utensils. All this was possible because of the SEWC, equipped knowledge and experience to act swiftly during times of disaster

As planned by Heifer Nepal's Strengthening Smallholders in Livestock Value Chain (SLVC) program, the SEWCs have become the backbone of the members of the community. The SEWCs as a resilient force and was most actively involved and served as the focal point for need identification and relief distribution. It can also be safely assumed that the tedious task of recuperating from this flood and the losses incurred will overcome slowly with the help of these cooperative.



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