

NDRI



Nepal Development Research Institute

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2019/20



NDRI

Regd. No: 1746/060/61, Lalitpur

SWC Regd. No: 16962

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Published by:

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CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	4
ABBREVIATIONS	5
NDRI AT-A-GLANCE	6
PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT	8
❑ ANTI-TOBACCO COMMITMENT	9
❑ SECTION 1 POLICY STUDIES	9
❑ SECTION 2 HEALTH AND SANITATION	14
❑ SECTION 3 LINGUISTIC AND EDUCATION	16
❑ SECTION 4 WATER AND CLIMATE.....	20
❑ SECTION 5 LIVELIHOOD AND GENDER.....	23
❑ SECTION 6 AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY	33
❑ SECTION 7 NEW INITIATIVES	36
❑ SECTION 8 NDRI EVENTS.....	45
REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS	50
NDRI MEMBERS AND STAFFS	51
AVENUE FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH	53
NDRI QUALITY POLICY	54
FINANCIAL REPORT	55
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS	56
COPYRIGHT CERTIFICATE OF SORTING NETWORK	57
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA) WITH MAHA SANCHAR	58
GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE OF NDRI	59

FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amid the challenges from the pandemic, the year 2020 remained historical for NDRI in many ways: the way we live, the way we work, and the way we get interconnected, globally. The regular activities of NDRI were unaffected by the unprecedented challenges forced by COVID-19. Rather, NDRI was able to identify its additional untapped potential that has driven us to the startup of many new initiatives. NDRI got acclimatized steadily with the unprecedented circumstances created by the pandemic. NDRI issued a protocol for the safety of all staff and resumed its regular activities through Work from Home Policy. Few projects designed for field-based research switched into the virtual modality.



NDRI has taken lead to a new initiative called COVID-19 Control Support Network Group to support the Government of Nepal to address the pandemic, engaging laureates from the country and diaspora; academia, senior researchers, government employees on various topics related to sciences, policy, awareness, and management aspects of COVID-19.

There is a paradigm shift in the modality of project execution; mostly being executed remotely establishing smart communication mechanisms. The operation of the database research has been done virtually. A few examples of new initiatives such as the Cheli-Maiti Program dedicated to supporting Nepali women stranded in different countries on their way back to home due to COVID-19, and the Automatic Call Tree Program resuming classes connecting students, teachers, and parents in school. NDRI's mission of policy advocacy continued this year too, such as tax-raising in tobacco products, use of enhanced AI in school education, etc. NDRI was illuminated with a series of publications this year as well. From now onward, NDRI has the plan to bring its publication initially from NDRI Occasional Paper.

For the completion of this year successfully, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Executive Committee Members, the General Members, the Development Partners, and the Government of Nepal. To celebrate this accomplishment of the year, the role of all researchers and management staff is highly adorable.

On the eve of the New Year, I assure you that NDRI will augment its size and quality ever than before in this coming year 2021 retaining its current position of National Think Tank Institute.

I wish you all a healthy and productive year of 2021.

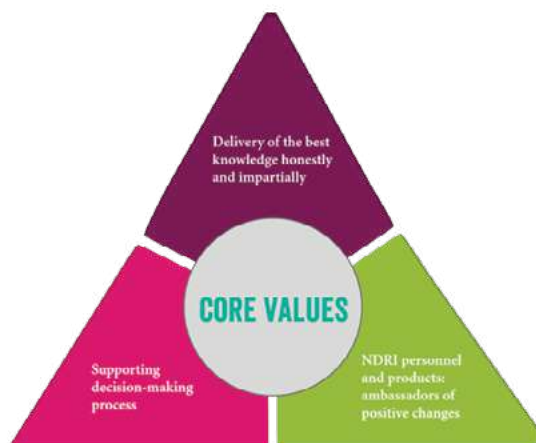
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Gurung', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung
Executive Director

ABBREVIATIONS

ACT	Automatic Call Tree	MNCAH	Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
AI	Artificial Intelligent	MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology	MoFE	Ministry of Forests and Environment
AITM	Asian Institute of Technology and Management	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics	NAST	Nepal Academy of Science and Technology
CRT	Cluster Randomized Trail	NCD	Non Communicable Disease
CRUK	Cancer Research UK	NCRS	Nepal Cancer Relief society
CSS	Cascading Style Sheets	NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
DBIEA	Digital Broadcast Initiative Equal Access	NDMS	NDRI's Database Management System
ECE	Early Childhood Education	NDRI	Nepal Development Research Institute
ECED	Early Childhood Education and Development	NHEICC	National Health Education Information and Communication Center
ED	Executive Director	NLSS	Nepal Living Standards Survey
EOI	Expression of Interest	NTA	Nepal Telecommunication Authority
EPRI	Economic Policy Research Institution	PHP	Hypertext Preprocessor
FGD	Focus Group Discussion	PMT	Proxy Means Testing
GBV	Gender Based Violence	PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
HMIS	Health Management Information System	QMS	Quality Management System
HTML	Hyper Text Markup Language	SAHAJ	Strengthening Access to Holistic, Gender Responsive and Accountable Justice in Nepal
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
IGA	Income Generating Activities	SSA	Social Security Allowance
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies	SQL	Structured Query Language
ILO	International Labor Organization	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
IT	Information Technology	VRF	Vitti Research Foundation
KII	Key Informant Interview	XAMPP	Cross-platform, Apache, Maria DB (MySQL), PHP and Perl
LQAS	Lot Quality Assurance Sampling		

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) was established in 2004 by an interdisciplinary team of experts, with the highest academic degrees and a wide range of experiences. NDRI aims to address the current and emerging policy challenges and offer practical and credible recommendations for the benefit of policy makers and the general public. Since its establishment, NDRI has been continuously working to create opportunities for research, dialogue and collaboration to strengthen the communication and partnership between policymakers, academia and pool of experts.



The focal working areas of NDRI are: policy analysis on the nation's economy, infrastructure policy and planning, poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and climate change, agriculture and natural resources.

The outcomes achieved by NDRI so far have clearly demonstrated the potential of NDRI to evolve as the leading public policy think tank in Nepal. The experience of NDRI in identifying a niche of research on policy processes in Nepal, creating a cross-disciplinary intellectual community across national boundaries, developing externally-funded research projects on a partnership basis, capacity building of young researchers, and disseminating research results provides a solid foundation for strengthening the institute even further.

We believe that NDRI will be an important hub for long-term knowledge generation in research and academic activities on issues related to economic development and social advancement, and become a Centre of Excellence for quality research, education and development.

MISSION

Provide evidence-based analytical inputs for policy making in regional, national and local level on contemporary issues through rigorous research.

VISION

To become a center of excellence for policy research, education and development.

THEMATIC AREAS



OBJECTIVES

Carry out research and academic activities on contemporary issues related to economic development.

Contribute to rational opinion building by disseminating information.

Exchange resources, technology and information with both national and international institutions.

Contribute to capacity building of young professionals and local communities.

Provide professional services to the clients as per their demands.

A scenic view of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there are terraced fields and some small houses. The middle ground shows a large, flat green field with a few trees and a small building. The background is a steep, forested hill. The text "PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2019/20" is overlaid on the image.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2019/20

Anti-tobacco Commitment

A serious attention of Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) has been drawn into the rising cancer patients caused by tobacco all over the world including Nepal. NDRI being a Policy Think Tank Research Institute, we hereby express our commitment to support in policy research and advocacy in all kinds of anti-tobacco initiatives around the world and in South Asian Countries starting from Nepal. The commitment encompasses the following:

- ✓ NDRI offices (Head office and all branches) and their premises are tobacco free zone.
- ✓ All the members and associates (General Members, Board Members, Researchers, staff) will not directly and indirectly promote any tobacco promotional activities, declare not bound to any kind of merchandise of tobacco related business, should not be involved in investment, purchase-sale tobacco or related corporate shares.
- ✓ NDRI plays instrumental role in all kinds of anti-tobacco movement particularly in research and advocacy.
- ✓ Those associates in NDRI shall be asked clarification in case of breaches in the above mentioned three clauses.

Verified by:



Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung

Executive Director, NDRI

31 March, 2019



SECTION : 1 POLICY STUDIES



TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMME

Study Team

Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung
Dr. Rudra Suwal
Dr. Pranil Man Singh Pradhan
Ms. Sangita Shakya
Mr. Ruzel Shrestha
Ms. Inisa Shrestha

Client:



Collaborator:



Synergy Partners: Nepal Cancer Relief Society and Digital Broadcast Initiative Equal Access

BACKGROUND

Tobacco Control Program Steps into next execution year with number of achievements. Tobacco is a major risk factor for Non-communicable disease such as cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, diabetes, and cancers, and is estimated to kill more 27000 Nepalese every year. It is well known that both the active and passive smoking are harmful for human health and is associated with huge economic costs. Despite knowing the health and economic costs of tobacco use, tobacco control remains a “second order issue” in Nepal. Realizing the problem, Cancer Research UK (CRUK) has funded the Tobacco Control Program (April 2019-March 2021) to work on tobacco control policies in Nepal, partnering with NDRI. The main aim of this program is to raise the salience of tobacco control as an issue, or lift it from second order issue to first order through generating evidences and to build stronger call for raising tobacco tax through advocacy.



OBJECTIVE

To expand and strengthen the capacity of the tobacco control research community in Nepal: Increase the supply of policy-relevant, politically informed research that is linked to policy influence.

To develop effective policy influencing networks with prominent tobacco control partners: Sustainable and long-term strengthening and expansion of the tobacco control research community in Nepal.

METHODOLOGY

The research team have utilized both primary and secondary research data related to tobacco to generate evidences. Along with that, regular consultations with experts and collaborators have been carried out. National survey on socio-economic and policy aspects of tobacco use in Nepal was carried out to collect primary data and evidences on tobacco economics in terms of both policies, literatures and research papers around the world was collected for secondary data for the project. Collected data have been re-used to produce various other advocacy papers such as policy briefs, factsheets, articles, flyers etc. and have been continuously used for policy advocacy.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

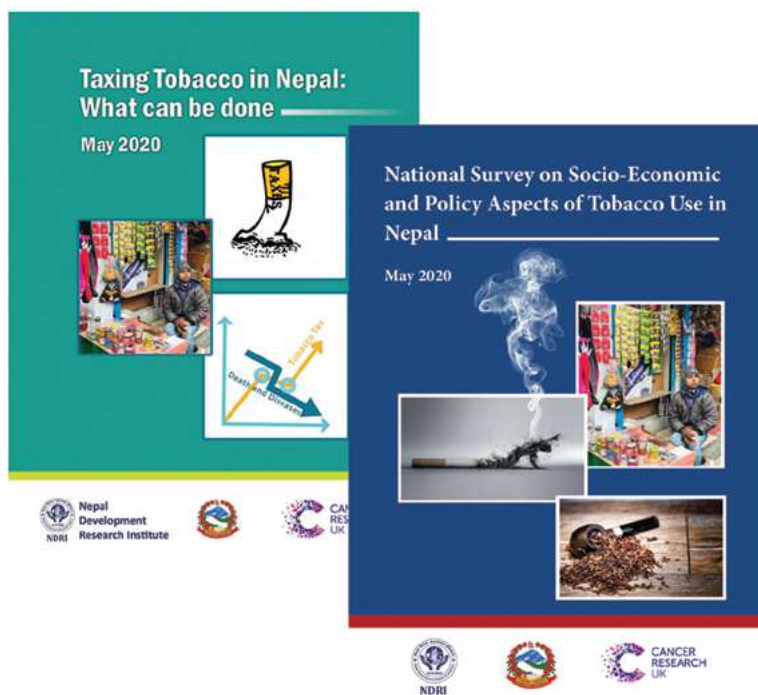
National Survey on Socio-Economic and Policy Aspects of Tobacco Use in Nepal

NDRI conducted a nationwide survey titled “National Survey on Socio-Economic and Policy Aspects of Tobacco Use in Nepal” 9th Dec. 2019-7th Jan. 2020, to find out the prevalence, understand the tobacco related behaviours and attitudes and how tobacco control policies are working in Nepal. The survey included both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Population-based household survey of adults aged 18+ years in 2800 households was conducted to collect quantitative data. For representative sampling, multi-stage sampling with mix of probability proportional to size and systematic random sampling was used. KII, FGD, and Observation were carried out for qualitative information. Based on the findings of the survey, a report was published and disseminated to the key stakeholders and other concerned organizations.

Tobacco Taxes in Nepal: What can be done

The report, “Tobacco Taxes in Nepal: What can be done”, was published as a part of the tobacco control program. It was prepared with the aim of having a solid research foundation for our advocacy effort of increasing taxes in tobacco products in Nepal. Primary data collected from National Survey on Socio-Economic and Policy Aspects of Tobacco Use in Nepal 2019/2020 and other information gathered through review

of international best practices and taxation policies as well as consultative meetings with various experts were used to produce the report.



Context mapping document

Context Mapping Document was prepared to highlight tobacco use and its impacts as the first degree issue through pointing out the evidences of context of tobacco use, its associated policy implications status and gaps in curbing its use in Nepal. This document is mainly based on review of secondary data, and it explored the current situation of tobacco industry and market, and integrated the health impacts and cost of tobacco use as well as policy and legal framework associated with tobacco control. It has also assembled the information regarding tobacco price and taxation system in Nepal with inputs from national and international experts involved in project.

Along with this, publishing articles in newspapers, awareness raising documents in social media, organizing webinars and programs, and broadcasting radio programs are the important activities of the project.

MAPPING OF EXISTING POLICIES AND REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S DISTRIBUTION OF CASH RELIEF FOR DISASTER RESPONSE

Study Team

Dr. Manjeshwori Singh
Mr. Rajendra Khatri

Client:



Collaborator:



BACKGROUND

UNICEF Nepal has commissioned the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), South Africa in collaboration with NDRI to conduct a mapping of existing policies and review of government's distribution of cash relief for disaster response. This study was carried out in four flood prone districts namely; Parsa, Rautahat, Banke and Saptari of Nepal. This study is one among many that has sought to understand the disaster risk management framework in Nepal and among a few that has explored the use of social protection programmes for disaster relief. The main purpose of the study was mapping out the current disaster response framework in Nepal which was done first by reviewing the emergency cash response mechanism that was used during the 2017 and 2019 floods.

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of this project is to generate new and policy relevant knowledge about the government's cash relief/compensation schemes to families affected by disasters as well as support dissemination and joint approaches towards shock-responsive social protection in Nepal. In addition to mapping, this study reviewed the emergency cash response mechanism that was used during the 2017 and 2019 floods to compare response strategies and lessons learnt.



METHODOLOGY

A mixed-methods comprising primary qualitative data collection and secondary qualitative and quantitative data (reported) was employed. The primary data collection was conducted through participatory methods including focus group discussions, risk matrices and risk profiling with those affected by the 2017 and 2019 floods living in four purposively selected high food insecure districts. It also conducted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and broader consultations with government and non-government organisations involved in cash-based disaster relief or working on the ground at the national, provincial, district, municipal and ward levels. Similarly, secondary data was collected through a review of relevant national policies, reports on flood risk and disaster relief, existing reviews of disaster relief experiences of 2017 and 2019, and studies exploring the possibility of using SSA infrastructure to disburse cash relief during disasters, etc. In addition, this study employed qualitative tools like historical profile to collect historical information and identifies trends and municipal survey to acquire information on the administrative capacity to deliver services, understand implementation challenges and take note of enablers that facilitated emergency relief implementation in the four sample districts.



SECTION : 2

HEALTH AND SANITATION

STATUS OF MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH IN MUGU

Study Team

Mr. Bhim Prasad Shrestha
Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi
Mr. Rajendra Khatri

Ms. Kabita Yadhav
Ms. Pratigya Regmi
Ms. Noora Shrestha

Client:



BACKGROUND

NDRI, in association with UNICEF Nepal, to conduct an End-line survey (both quantitative and qualitative) in areas of maternal, newborn and child health in Mugu district has been undertaking since February, 2020. In the country programme (2018-2022), UNICEF strives to improve the access and quality of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (MNCAH) services in Mugu district. The main aim of this study to measure changes in MNCH comparing to results from the baseline survey.

OBJECTIVE

1. To conduct household survey through Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) to estimate coverage of the key MNCH indicators.
2. To conduct qualitative assessment through Focus Group Discussion (FGD), Key Informant Interview (KII) and observation to gain in-depth information on:
 - i. MNCH services and its quality/availability among health workers and
 - ii. Social and cultural behaviours and knowledge on MNCAH among community and local government.
3. To conduct ethnographic study on household level, community level and health facility level for accessing the 'Best Practices' on MNCAH interventions.

METHODOLOGY

Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be followed to assess the coverage of key MNCH indicators. Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) method will be used to collect the quantitative information and qualitative method includes KII, FGD and observation. Moreover, ethnographic approach will be used to produce documents regarding best practices on MNCH interventions in Mugu. Study participants will be mothers having child 0-5 and 12- 23 months. It is anticipated that survey will help to validate the coverage of the key indicators that have been reported through health management information system (HMIS).



SECTION : 3
LINGUISTICS AND EDUCATION

STUDY ON NEPAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SCALE-UP

Study Team

Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi
Ms. Pratigya Regmi
Mr. Rajendra Khatri

Collaborator:



THE WORLD BANK

BACKGROUND

NDRI has been undertaking a baseline survey entitled 'Study on Nepal Early Childhood Education scale-up', based on the Jhapa district, in coordination with the Department of Education and collaboration with the World Bank. The primary purpose of this study is to collect information to understand the current status of Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED) program, and assist to make the child education more systematic and scientific through upgrading the ECED program. This survey mainly focuses on 200 public schools having ECE centers. The proposed project period was from February to June 2020, however, it is extended till June 2021 due to the COVID-19 situation.

OBJECTIVE

1. To understand the overall information regarding school management, personal skills of Head Teachers, their perception towards ECED program and training status of teachers
2. To evaluate the ECED teacher's knowledge on child's development process and health, teacher's skills, motivation towards the profession and mental health.
3. To understand the knowledge and perception towards physical, emotional, cognitive, linguistic, social development of a child, health of child, financial status and priorities of the parents.
4. To assess the overall development and early learning of the young children.

METHODOLOGY

This survey is mainly based on 15 local governments of Jhapa, Nepal. A Cluster Randomized Trail (CRT) design was used to select the 200 public schools having ECE centers (at least 20 students should be in each ECE center) among 367 public schools. Quantitative method of data collection is used in the survey with structured questionnaire. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, first phase of the survey (survey of Head Teachers & Teachers in all sample schools) is completed remotely through phone based interview and the second phase (survey of parents and students in the same sample schools) will be field based survey, so it will start soon after reopening the schools.

ACT – BASED EDUCATION MODALITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF PANDEMIC

Implementing ACT-based Modalities for Establishing Connectivity among Teachers and their respective Students; Resuming Teaching and Learning in Community and Institutional Schools of Nepal in the context of COVID-19

Study Team

Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada
Mr. Santosh Kumar Mahato
Ms. Pratigya Regmi
Ms. Rojina Shrestha
Ms. Sampada Dhungana

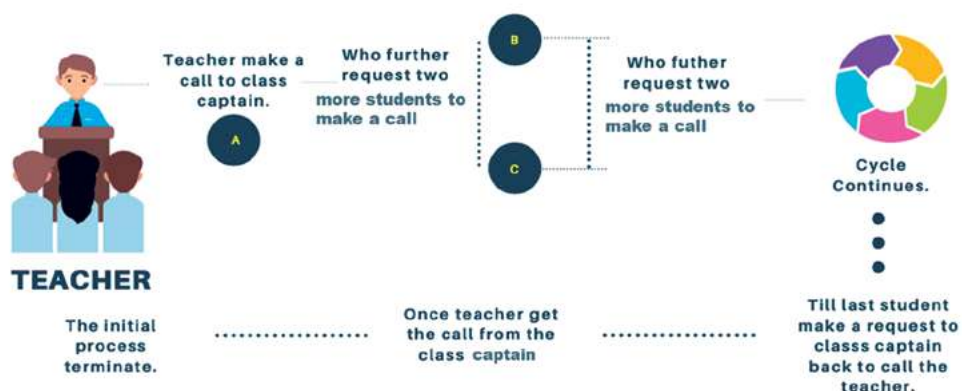
Collaborator:



BACKGROUND

In 2020, NDRI, in collaboration with Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA) initiated an Automatic Call Tree (ACT) model to resume teaching and learning in public schools of every seven provinces of Nepal. ACT model was introduced in five public schools from each of seven provinces, so 35 schools with approximately 300 active teachers participated in the program. This project has provided a situational analysis of the state of education during

the COVID-19 closures of schools and educational boards in Nepal. The program incorporated an efficient utilization of ICT as a method of gaining knowledge, securing new information, and building capacities in public schools of Nepal. It has analyzed the impacts the pandemic has had on school education, pointed out some of the challenges arising from the school closures, and suggested some responses and strategies for the management of the impacts.



An Illustrative Figure of Automatic Call Tree (ACT) Model

OBJECTIVES

The main objective is to propose suitable ACT-based modalities on initiating the piloting of schools; student centric teaching and learning in context of COVID-19.

Specific Objectives

1. Piloting 35 schools; 5 schools of both rural and urban areas from each province.
2. Resuming teaching and learning in some schools of every 7 provinces on the current situation of students' and teachers' unidentified location via mobile phone.
3. Conducting Skype, Zoom meetings with school heads, teachers management committees members and other experts.
4. Strengthening the 'Automatic Call Tree System' initiative and connect as much as the schools and students.

METHODOLOGY

Firstly, the team started with a desk review of relevant information. Successful models in developed and other developing countries such as the Automatic Call Tree (ACT) model (Japan) and other successful examples were reviewed to see its suitability in the context of Nepal

Secondly, the team randomly selected the 5 palikas from each province. Then they moved forward establishing the connection with the representatives of local government and made request to recommend a sample school from their area. After receiving the school name and contact, NDRI team communicated with the head teachers of respective schools, and requested them to choose lead teachers to handle grade 6 to 10. The NDRI personnel then illustrated the whole working procedure of Automatic Call Tree (ACT) Model to them via telephone. The lead teachers then choose two students as a class captain via telephone who further requested two

students from his/her class to make a call to other two students from the remaining students. And the cycle continues till it reaches the last students left in the class. The last students then make a request to the class captain to call the teacher via the same medium used to receive the call. Once the teacher gets the call from the class captain the initial process terminates. Therefore, this methodology is used for effective communication and the exchange of teaching and learning materials and the conducting required assessments. Moreover, weekly virtual meetings were conducted via ZOOM for the purpose of training to head teachers, lead teachers, and school management committees.



Fig: Proposed System



FINDINGS

- » Almost 85% of students from each school continued their education via mobile phones, and remaining 15% of students faced some challenges such as network issues, limited balance, family problems, etc.
- » ACT based Education modality is found more effective in rural area in the context of crisis like COVID-19 pandemic.
- » Adaptation of the conference call method by the participants (teachers as well as students) of 35 selected schools made the ACT approach more time-efficient.



SECTION : 4
WATER AND CLIMATE

COOPERATION FOR CARBON NEUTRAL AND CLIMATE RESILIENT LEAPFROGGING DEVELOPMENT OF ASIAN COUNTRIES: CASE OF NEPAL

Study Team

Prof. Dr. Ram Manohar Shrestha Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada
Dr. Divas Bd Basnyat Ms. Srijana Thapa
Dr. Jaya K Gurung Mr. Amnaya Paudel

Client:
IGES
Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies

BACKGROUND

NDRI, in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), a think tank of Japan, conducted a study on the feasibility of Nepal for decarbonization and climate resilience (Jan-Feb, 2020). This study reviewed and discussed the development plans of Nepal in mid and long terms, plans for utilizing natural resources for the development, obstacles in utilizing its natural resources; Progress of planning and implementation for NDC and long-term carbon neutral and climate resilient strategy; International cooperation for carbon neutral and climate resilient

leapfrogging development; Scenario works for carbon neutral Nepal. The findings of the study will serve as the country's case study report.



OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study are:

- » to prepare a case-study report on 'Cooperation for carbon neutral and climate resilient leapfrogging development of Asian countries: case of Nepal'
- » to arrange a mini-workshop and to prepare a workshop report

METHODOLOGY

This study mainly based on desk review. Study team reviewed the present status of Nepal along with sector-wise future development plans, institutional and regulatory frameworks, major acts, policies, programs from on National Development Plans, National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, Green House Gases Inventory, Climate change policies on mitigation and adaptation, Carbon neutral and climate resilience, barriers to implementation of climate friendly development

strategies, and role of international cooperation for low carbon development and other available literature. Finally, a workshop was organized to disseminate the preliminary findings and collect feedback from the key stakeholders.

FINDINGS

- » Overall agricultural share will decrease in five years to 23% as government is planning to boost the industry sector; the total hydropower capacity in the next five years is targeted to reach to 5000 MW.
- » Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) published in 2016 include a list of proposed actions to address climate change, like achieving 80% electrification through renewables by 2050 and reduce dependency on fossil fuels by 50%.
- » There are 4 key barriers to climate friendly development strategies, which are as follows:
 - » Structure of the Government
 - » Climate Technology
 - » Research and Technology
 - » Capacity Building
- » Nepal has good policies, plans and programs however to implement those policies, plans and programs at the grassroot level, some sort of internalization and national mainstreaming is necessary.
- » Internalization among different tiers of government is also necessary to implement program related to climate change adaptation and mitigation to local level.
- » Low Carbon Economic Development Strategy is a precursor to promote climate friendly development in Nepal.
- » Many forests are very aged that their carbon sequestration potential has probably saturated. So, with better forest management, higher productivity of the biomass production and the highest level of sequestration can be attained from the forest.





SECTION : 5

LIVELIHOOD AND GENDER

UNDERSTANDING INCIDENCES OF VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN THE HEALTH SECTORS OF BAGMATI PROVINCE IN NEPAL

Study Team

Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi Mr. Ram Devkota
Dr. Manjeswori Singh Ms. Shreya Bajimaya
Mr. Rajendra Khatri Ms. Sujana Silwal

Client:



BACKGROUND

Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) conducted a study entitled “Understanding incidences of violence and harassment in the health sectors of Bagmati Province in Nepal” which was commissioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Country Office for Nepal from February 2020 to April 2020. The main objective of this study was to understand the nature, incidences, and dimensions/forms of violence and harassment in the world of work in the health sectors and identify successful strategies in responding to violence and harassment in the world of work. The information collected from this study will be further used to design and implement appropriate measures to prevent and address violence and harassment in the world of work.

METHODOLOGY

This study was carried out in six districts of Bagmati Province: Dolakha, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Makwanpur and Chitwan, and 1014 workers were surveyed from different public and private health facilities. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used to conduct the study. The information was collected through self-administered questionnaire, Focus Group Discussion, Key Informant Interview, In-depth interview and case studies.

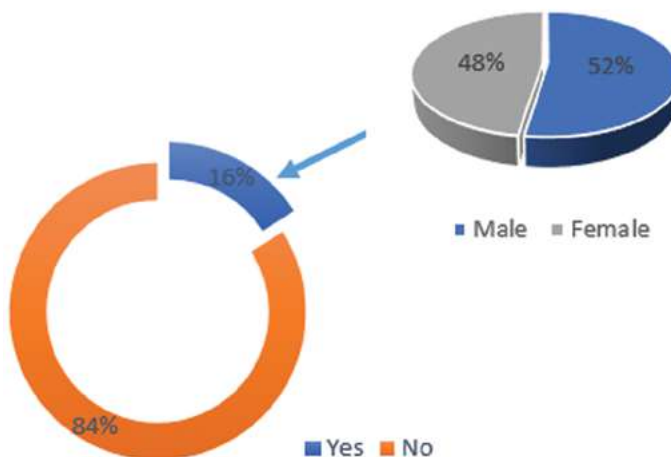


KEY FINDINGS

- » Almost 16% of the health workers (52% male and 48% female) reported facing some form of violence and harassment in their workplace.
- » Greater number of male respondents, the younger population and the staff at lower level of hierarchy faced violence and harassment in the world of work than their other counterparts.
- » Verbal abuse and psychological harassment were most prevalent in the health sectors.
- » Lack of definite code of conduct including stringent measures on violence and harassment, lack of adequate security measures and basic welfare facilities, lack of enabling environment for (victim) staff to seek help and report are some of the critical factors that may lead to the exposure to incidences of violence and harassment in the world of work.

- » Many victims of violence and harassment at workplace did not disclose the incidence because of the fear of future consequences, risk of losing their job and risk of being defamed; and also because of casual acceptance of such incidents.
- » The major challenge in reporting and seeking justice were the lack of policies or regulatory mechanisms in the health facilities to address such issues and lack of awareness of such mechanisms.

Violence and harassment faced by respondent in their workplace (%)



RECOMMENDATION

- » An inclusive, integrated and gender-responsive policy in line with the ILO Convention 190 would be desirable to address and eliminate violence and harassment in the world of work.
- » The coordination among all tiers of government, and with implementing organizations is desirable to effectively implement the existing relevant policies.
- » The role of local government could be vital in two aspects: i) directly coordinating with organization of their locality to ensure that they develop code of conduct addressing violence and harassment in their workplace; and reviewing such policies and ii) providing awareness to employer as well as the employee of those workplaces about existing policies.
- » There is an immense need to prioritize issues on violence and harassment in the world of work apart from gender-based violence.
- » The workplaces need to develop an inclusive and integrated code of conduct or organizational policy incorporating issues relating to violence and harassment.
- » It is employers' accountability to ensure enabling and safe working environment for the staff.

Study Team

Dr. Rudra Suwal
Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung
Dr. Shankar Shrestha

Client:



THE WORLD BANK

Collaborator:



Government
of Nepal
Central Bureau
of Statistics

BACKGROUND

In collaboration with Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and World Bank Nepal, NDRI is carrying out the Nepal Living Standards Survey-IV (NLSS-IV) since February 2020. NLSS is the key poverty monitoring instrument for Nepal but it is much more than a survey for poverty monitoring. It is a multi-module survey covering a wide range of subjects spanning a wide spectrum of economic and social sectors. Many significant political and economic changes over the last decade have reshaped the country context and it is timely for the information to be updated. The NLSS-IV sample consists of 9000 households in 750 primary sampling units (PSUs) nationwide. Interviews for the NLSS-IV is conducted using paper questionnaires, with simultaneous data entry being done while in the field. Data collection will take place in three rounds over the course of twelve months (has started from March 2020) in order to capture seasonal variation. Each phase of data collection will cover 3000 households. The NLSS-IV will provide information for:

- i. Updating poverty estimates and the profile of poverty.
- ii. Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- iii. Monitoring a range of sectoral indicators.
- iv. Conducting policy analysis of a broad range of sectoral and cross-sectoral issues.
- v. Poverty mapping and small-area estimation of welfare indicators.
- vi. Providing information for proxy means testing (PMT) in identification of poor households



METHODOLOGY

The following approach and methodology are being/ will be adopted

- » Development of survey instruments and questionnaires
- » Staffing for conducting the survey (25 supervisors, 75 enumerators and 25 data entry operators)
- » Equipment and logistics preparation for survey
- » Conduction of Training to field staff
- » Field test of the survey tools
- » Fieldwork / Data collection in three phases
- » Regional Workshops during each phase of fieldwork
- » Monitoring and supervision of fieldwork
- » Data Management
- » Report Preparation

REVIEW OF COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ASSESS THEIR STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION SO AS TO BRING THE KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION, AS WELL AS ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF CLIMATE FRAGILITY RISK

Client:

Study Team

Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai
Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi

Ms. Shreya Bajimaya
Mr. Rajendra Khatri
Ms. Sujana Silwal



BACKGROUND

Practical Action is implementing United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) funded Climate Change and Fragility Project (CCFP). One of the focus area of the project is on strengthening cooperatives as well as the federation of cooperatives to state functional rules and regulations for inclusive natural resource dispute resolution mechanisms as well as their contribution to livelihood diversification while ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups and communities. Under this perspective, this study reviewed cooperative management plans and assessed their state of implementation so as to bring the knowledge and learning of their contribution to livelihood diversification, as well as addressing the issues of climate fragility risking CCFP implementing districts. The study was carried out in four municipalities of Bardiya and Kailali District. Apart from rigorous review of relevant documents, the tools such as Key Informant Interview, Focus Group Discussion and Observation were used to collect primary data.

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

The study noted that the main scope of cooperative regulation was growth of their cooperative, and social and economic development of their members with key priority to poor, underprivileged, marginalized, women and socially deprived groups. The cooperatives have the potential to support enterprise development, poverty reduction, employment generation and livelihood diversification, however none of the cooperatives had provisions in relation to addressing issues of climate change fragility risk. GESI integration is in a progressive stage within cooperative but there is still big room for improvement. The study also noted a huge gap in the coordination between local government and the cooperative. The study strongly recommends that cooperative should be well capacitated and strengthened at both institutional level and policy level, and their relationship with local government needs to be prioritized which could be beneficial for the entire community, and mainly in addressing issues of climate change fragility risk.

RAPID ASSESSMENT OF COVID-19 ON ENTERPRISES AND WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

Study Team

Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai
Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi
Dr. Rudra Suwal
Mr. Rajendra Khatri

Mr. Ram Devkota
Ms. Shreya Bajimaya
Mr. Santosh Mahato

Client:



BACKGROUND

As the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the global population, the restrictive measures such as lockdown have halted the growing economy of the nation. Every citizen is affected by the health crisis while the most vulnerable to this economic depression are the informal sector workers and entrepreneurs. Although contribution of informal employment is significant to the nation's economy, their visibility is limited and therefore are most vulnerable during the times of crisis. In this context, this study aims to conduct rapid impact assessment of COVID-19 on the enterprises and workers in the informal economy. The study was rapid and hence was carried out from 7 July to 24 August 2020.

OBJECTIVES

- » To present their status in this pandemic, identify their needs and expectations
- » To recommend possible measures that concerned authorities can implement to reduce negative consequences on the informal economy.

METHODOLOGY

The study has attempted to reflect diversity of situations and point of view and therefore has been carried out in all seven provinces of Nepal. The priority sectors chosen for this study are-Agriculture, Accommodation and food services, Manufacturing, Wholesale and Retail and others. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used for data collection. Considering the pandemic situation, efforts were made to collect data through remote survey. The tools used for data collection were- Desk review, Telephone survey, Telephone interview, WhatsApp Live Discussion and WhatsApp Chat Discussion.



KEY FINDINGS

- » COVID-19 has largely affected economy and labour market of Nepal. In terms of informal economy, accommodation and food services, wholesale and retail, construction are the most hard hit sectors along with transportation, manufacturing and many other small businesses
- » Specifically, Daily wage workers and low-skilled workers are the most affected in informal economy.
- » The lockdown and economic turndown is exacerbating the vulnerability of women and girls to the violence.
- » Likewise, there is a rise in mental illness and suicidal rate with the advent of COVID-19.
- » Informal sector actors are usually unaware or are not the direct recipient of social support mechanism and economic stimulus proposed by the government.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- » A comprehensive database and roster of informal workers and entrepreneurs at local level needs to be regularly maintained and updated.
- » The informal-formal-incompatibility that exists in the entire economy should be reduced.
- » Promotion of labour-intensive projects at local level/rural areas is a must.
- » Entrepreneurship based on local materials, traditional knowledge and skills need to be rapidly promoted, subsidized, and relieved from regulatory requirements of business registration, rates, and taxes at least for three years of post-COVID-19.
- » The initiatives such as the Prime Minister's Employment Program needs to be made more accessible and effective.
- » The government needs to ensure that infected person has access to appropriate and adequate health access easily, especially during this time of crisis.

STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO HOLISTIC, GENDER RESPONSIVE, AND ACCOUNTABLE JUSTICE IN NEPAL

Study Team

Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai
Ms. Shreya Bajimaya

Client:



BACKGROUND

Strengthening Access to Holistic, Gender Responsive, and Accountable Justice in Nepal (SAHAJ) project of VSO aims to reduce vulnerability towards different forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV) with increased breaking culture of silence around GBV and increased access to security and justice services. This study is part of the SAHAJ project that aims to conduct market study and skill gap analysis in Province 2 and 5 to support the young married women and unmarried adolescent girls of the study area to design their business plan based on their skill and run income generating activities with support from their family; and to contextualize the existing Economic Empowerment and Income Generating Activities manual. The study was conducted from November 2019 -March 2020.



METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Siraha and Saptari districts of Province 2; and Rupandehi and Kapilbastu districts of Province 5. Review of secondary source of information, Focus Group Discussion, Key Informant Interview and Direct Observation of the local market and family contexts were used as tools for collection of information.



KEY FINDINGS

- » Most of the respondents were more interested in learning different skills for Income Generating Activities (IGA) instead of utilizing the ones they already know
- » The respondents had very limited idea and knowledge about the skills related to business development indicating huge skill gap in business plan development and running IGA as a whole.
- » The respondents had limited idea about accessing finance from financial institutions.
- » The annual plans of local government of study area reveals that there are plans set out for the development of women in the municipality in terms of capacitating them, ending gender-based violence, generating awareness about several pertinent issues or increasing their access to health, education and employment but this has not materialized fully.
- » There are many socio-cultural barriers and constraints for women that restricts them from fully exploring their potential for IGA.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Developing interdependence between the women and entrepreneurship development programs
- » Ensuring markets for the products produced by the women.
- » Linking the women entrepreneurship to the different facets of tourism are instrumental for the success and sustainability of the IGAs of the young married women and unmarried adolescent girls.





SECTION : 6

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

SENSITIZATION ON ISSUE OF MYCOTOXIN CONTAMINATION IN FOOD AND FEED IN NEPAL

Study Team

Dr. Gopal KC

Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung

Ms. Inisa Shrestha

Client:



BACKGROUND

NDRI completed the project entitled “Characterizing prevalence of mycotoxins in value chain crops and livestock feeds in Nepal” successfully in last October 2019. The project classified peanut as high risk and child’s complementary food and rice as low risk food consumed in western parts of Nepal. The project left us with the query about status of mycotoxin in food consumed in central and eastern part of Nepal and awareness about mycotoxin in those areas. As an exit plan to the project and to continue working in the sector of food safety, NDRI had proposed to train and aware governmental officials from Ministry of Land management, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Department of Agriculture and Department of Livestock as well as innovative group of farmers and veterinarians about mycotoxin contamination before the start of pandemic and implementation of lock down to control the spread of COVID-19. Since the lockdown made it impossible to conduct it in person, the webinar was conducted in partnership with promotion department of NAST. The program was conducted for two days targeting two provinces: Karnali and Bagmati province on June 22 and June 23, 2020.

OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the webinar was to establish the participants of webinar as critical role model to disseminate strategies and information regarding mycotoxin mitigation in the country.

Specific objectives are as follows:

- » Aware provincial officials, active farmers and agriculture related personnel and others regarding hazards of mycotoxins to humans and animals.
- » Teach mitigation measures of mycotoxins in foods and feeds, and post-harvest losses in agricultural produce in Nepalese context.
- » Educate detection techniques of aflatoxins by ELISA.

METHODOLOGY

The webinar was carried out virtually in the zoom platform for two days. List of target, relevant participants and resource person were prepared by surfing governmental official websites related to agriculture and livestock. Their respective contact details (number and email address) were extracted via phone calls in the offices for the webinar. Enlisted participants were sent official invitation letter in email and followed up to ensure the receipt of an invitation letter and their interest and active participation was confirmed.

RESULT

Two days long webinar on Analysis of Mycotoxin in Various Food and Feed Commodities Nepal was conducted by Development Research Institute (NDRI) under the support of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) with 27 vibrant participants from Karnali Province and 28 dynamic participants from Bagmati Province. A milestone was added to secure food safety in Nepal by preventing the food from mycotoxin contamination via the awareness and training program. The fruitful, interactive and informative webinar was conducted under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Punya Prasad Regmi, vice chairman, Planning Commission, Karnali Province, and in presence of Dr. Deependra Rokaya, member, Planning Commission, Karnali Province and Ms. Jaishree Sijapati, Head of Faculty of Science from NAST. Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Executive Director of NDRI.



SECTION : 7

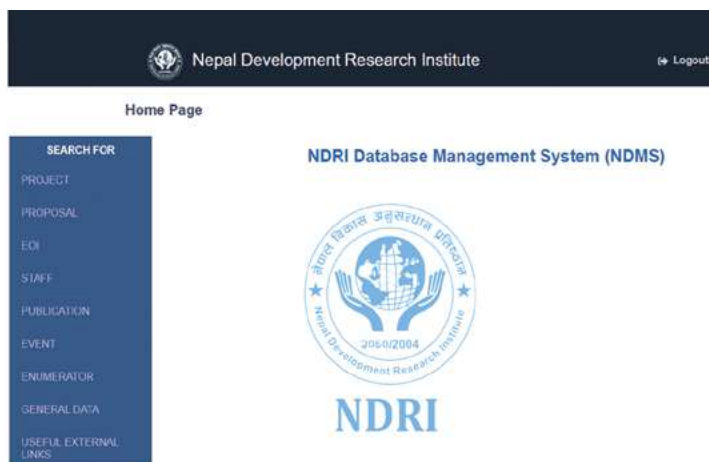
NEW INITIATIVES

NDRI'S DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NDMS)

Developers

Mr. Dibesh Shrestha

Mr. Manoj Karki



NDMS Home page Interface

INTRODUCTION

Since the establishment of NDRI in 2004, it has conducted plethora of projects that encompasses diversified sectors that include agriculture and food security, water and climate, disaster risk management, livelihood and gender, health and sanitation, policy research, linguistics and education and others. Nature of these projects range from household surveys to policy-oriented researches; with many of the projects acknowledged at national and international levels. During its operation of projects, large amount of data has been collected and stored in above mentioned sectors in NDRI, which is a valuable resource that has a promising potential to aid policy process in context of Nepal's development path.

NDRI focuses on to capitalize on this potential and hence initiated **NDRI's Database Management System (NDMS)** program. NDMS is an initiative towards centralized structured database organization and management. It aims to structure NDRI's existing database that facilitates simple and systematic creation, archiving and retrieval of data.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of NDMS is to restructure and manage NDRI's existing database in simplified manner. This includes developing a framework for-

- (a) Repository of structured storage of existing database
- (b) Creation, archiving, querying and administration of data in NDRI's projects database

NDMS SEARCH ENGINE

NDMS Search Engine is a simple web-based application in order to facilitate the search of different NDMS elements. It is developed using web development tools like html, CSS, PHP in which SQL query has been implemented. Users can search projects, proposals, EOIs, member / staff / enumerator, events, publications and general data using the NDMS Search platform.

PLATFORM FOR NDMS

XAMPP platform is used with MARIADB / MySQL database system for implementation of NDMS. It is a free and open-source cross-platform web server solution stack package to create a complete product. It is one of the popular PHP development environment. XAMPP works as a platform between the server side (where database is maintained) and the client side (where the data is entered and queried). It also facilitates editing, retrieval and deletion of the data. It supports SQL language for data query. For NDMS, XAMPP platform is being used for the data entry, editing and storage of data in the server.

NDMS Search												
PROJECT												
FACILITY DATE FROM: dd/mm/yyyy ☐ TO: dd/mm/yyyy ☐ STAFF NAME PROJECT NAME / WORD KEYWORD CLIENT SEARCH												
ID	FACULTY	TYPE	REGISTRY	NAME	STARTDATE	ENDDATE	CLIENT	UNITS	AMOUNT	TEAMLEADER	SITES	SUMMARY
PR-2015-N006	PVRL WCP			Business Climate Study	2019-03-01	2019-09-30	Mott MacDonald	NPR	2076740	Raj_Kumar_Bhattarai	Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot	
PR-2011-N001	WCP, DRMP	policy		Community-based flood damage assessment approach for lower West Rapti River basin in Nepal under the impact of climate change	2011-01-01	2012-12-31	ICHARM			Divas_B_Basnyat	VDCs of lower West Rapti River basin, Barile, Nepal	NA
PR-2019-N006	PRR			Conducting a Market Research on Custom Hiring Centre on Province-1	2019-04-01	2019-06-31	Swiss contact Nepal Office	NPR	590040	Kamal_Raj_Gautam	Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Dhankuta	NA
PR-2019-N001	WCP			Cooperation for carbon neutral and climate resilient leapfrogging development for Asian countries: case of Nepal	2019-12-01	2020-03-31	IGES	Yan	800000	Ram_Manohar_Shrestha	NA	NA

NDMS search platform for project

BACKGROUND

As the country went into lockdown from March 23, 2020. NDRI initiated to take a step forward to contribute to control the COVID-19 pandemic in its capacity. In coordination with former Minister Er. Ganesh Shah, NDRI initiated to form a committee named “Control COVID-19 Support Network Group” on March 26, 2020. The committee is formed with the participations of high level intellectuals: politicians, academicians, scientists, civil societies, health experts, development planners and many other experts.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the group is to provide support to the Nepal Government to fight against COVID-19 through continuous and rigorous discussion from the Scientific Community and to find the way forward after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The committee has been divided into four thematic groups;

1. Building public understanding and awareness

Main Objective of the Group:

- » To build public understanding of the science of coronavirus
- » To enhance awareness to take precautionary measures and support combating COVID-19

2. Engaging academia and building science

Main Objective of the Group:

- » To explore what and how can the academia contribute in COVID-19
- » To know what exactly is the capacity of our resources and the commitment of human resources

3. Pandemic disaster and preparedness

Main Objective of the Group

- » Saving and protecting human life
- » Containing the emergency – limiting its escalation or spread and mitigating its impacts
- » Protecting the health and safety of responding personnel

4. Policy and strategies to combat COVID-19

Main Objective of the Group

- » To create a universal understanding regarding the prevention and control of COVID-19 by creating different working groups.

Some of the published reports are:

Summary Report of Control COVID-19 Support Group Nepal

» To build public understanding of the science of coronavirus

The report has been prepared to summarize all the discussions, initiations, and works done by all four thematic groups of Control COVID-19 Support Network Group in the pandemic situation.

» Karnali Pradesh COVID-19 Control and Preparedness Status in Karnali Province

The report has been prepared considering the geographical location, food security accessibility and affordability, health care and facilities, dependency on India for employment, and the risk of corona pandemic in coordination with Hon'ble Prof. Dr. Punya Prada Regmi, Vice Chairmen, Planning Commission, Karnali Province and Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI).

» Awareness Raising Document

The report has been published to create awareness regarding COVID-19 to the general public. This report includes the general information regarding COVID-19, mode of transmission, symptoms, and prevention.



Few among Various events are listed below:

- » Till December 22, 2020 there has been continuous 72 Talk series On COVID-19 by Control COVID-19 Support Network Group, With various Hon'ble and respected guests like:
 - » Hon'ble Former Prime Minister, Mr. Jhala Nath Khanal
 - » Hon'ble Former President, Mr. Ram Baran Yadav
 - » Former Chief Secretary, Mr. Leela Mani Paudyal
 - » Dr. Bimala Paudyal Rai, Member, National Assembly
 - » Mr. Laxman Aryal, Secretary, Minister of Health and Population
- » Webinar on - Agriculture and Research on 27 April 2020
- » Webinar on - Livelihood and Food Security Impacts of Covid-19 in Nepal, Prospect of Research on May 3rd, 2020.
- » Campus Management During COVID-19: Practices from Dalian University of Technology, China: NDRI Initiation to Resume Higher Education in Nepal during COVID-19 Lockdown Situation on May 25, 2020
- » E-Conference on "Build Awareness Eliminate Coronavirus" on the occasion of the "50th Session of Control COVID-19 Support Group Nepal" on July 24, 2020
- » The effect of misleading information on food, being mixed with inedible items, and the panic that has been created in the minds of the consumer on August 21, 2020
- » Covid-19 Science - Media Dialogue on August 28, 2020
- » COVID-19 Vaccine Development: Challenges and Opportunities

LANDSLIDE DISASTER IN NEPAL

Study Team

Dr. Divas Bahadur Basnyat
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Mr. Shanmukesh Amatya
Ms. Durga Khatiwada

Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung
Dr. Shankar Shrestha
Ms. Srijana Thapa

INTRODUCTION

Landslide is one of the very common natural hazards in the hilly region of Nepal. Both natural and human factors such as steep slopes, fragile geology, high intensity of rainfall, deforestation, unplanned human settlements are the major causes of landslide. The risk of landslide is further exacerbated by anthropogenic activities like improper land use, encroachment into vulnerable land slopes and unplanned development activities such as construction of roads and irrigation canals without proper protection measures in the vulnerable mountain belt. The hilly districts of Nepal located in the Siwalik, Mahabharat range, Mid-land, and also fore and higher Himalayas are more susceptible to landslide because of steep topography and fragile ecosystem.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the study was to prepare systematically filling of documents related to landslide policy, acts, rules and regulations in Nepal along with the study on landslide history of Nepal of past ten years (2010-2019). Further, the monsoon data of 2020 was collected and based on it, watershed of Sindhupalchowk district was selected for the preparation of landslide susceptibility map using Frequency Ratio method in Arc GIS environment to identify the landslide hazard of the selected watershed. The duration of the project is 3 months and currently, the position paper preparation is in progress.

METHODOLOGY

- i. Collection, review and listing of the documents and reports relevant to the policy, acts, rules and regulation related to disaster risk reduction in Nepal.
- ii. History of landslide evidences in Nepal (2010-2019) has been collected from the MoHA website and based on number of landslide events occurred, number of death occurred, missing number of people, affected family and its estimated loss in each district of year 2010-2019 data has been analyzed.
- iii. The study of landslide events of Monsoon 2020 was extracted and tabulated from the data source of MoHA and Bipad.gov.np, The data were further analyzed based on the number of landslide events occurred, number of death occurred, missing number of people, affected family and its estimated loss in each district of year 2020 from March –August.
- iv. Landslide inventory map of the selected watershed area of Sindhupalchowk district is made of three consecutive years 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- v. Landslide Susceptibility Map of the selected watershed area was made using Frequency Ratio method in Arc GIS with the calculation of the causative factors to the landslide like slope, aspect, curvature, elevation, land use, geology, distance to road and distance to river.

SCHOOL AI PROGRAM

Study Team

Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada
Mr. Santosh Kumar Mahato
Ms. Pratigya Regmi

Mr. Manoj Karki
Ms. Rojina Shrestha
Ms. Sampada Dhungana

INTRODUCTION

In 2019, NDRI initiated connecting the schools from every province through Skype video conferencing on a regular basis. The communication is made with experts, head teachers, computer teachers and students from number of interested schools from all over Nepal addressing the difficulties they are facing relating to computer subject teaching-learning approach, computer labs and resources provided with and the way of teaching. There seems to be a lack of IT hubs in almost every school and the complete absence of resources and materials.

Besides, NDRI is developing the school AI contents in real time manner, organizing game sessions related to computers in the form of videos and Skype video conferencing along with live video streaming in YouTube on a regular basis. The students entertain themselves in the full session and come up with their own solution with core concepts. The developed videos are the resources that help to enhance the existing model of teaching in all over 29035 community schools and 6566 institutional schools on real time equipment with every IT component required.

OBJECTIVES

- » To establish ICT hubs in the Schools; Computer Laboratories.
- » To connect 29035 community schools and 6566 institutional schools.
- » To apply Computers in teaching other courses: Mathematics, Science and Language Analytical skills.
- » To deliver quality knowledge, skills and technology equipped with core concepts, overall processes and real world examples.
- » To develop necessary Curriculum and study materials.
- » To contribute in formulating policy efficient; integrating AI into ICT based education systems.

THE CHELI MAITI GROUP

Due to the global pandemic- COVID-19, employment opportunities abroad are not expected to be as normal as they were before the epidemic. Some have already lost their jobs, while others are on the verge of job contract expiry and some of them are now stuck, as the country went into lockdown. Statistics by the Department of Foreign Employment showed that in the fiscal years 2017/18 and 2018/19, out of 11, 21,525 persons who obtained work permits 5.80 per cent were females. The number of female migrant workers could be higher than the official data due to the trend of trafficking of women to banned countries through informal channels. The problems and challenges being faced by female migrant workers in the cycle of labor migration are of special nature, which their male counterparts don't experience. Returnee women migrants have been subjected to the ordeal of stigmatization and discrimination in the home communities especially who came back with pregnancy.

Taking this issue to heart, the “Cheli Maiti Group” has been formed under the leadership of Dr. Nawaraj Khatiwada, President of NDRI and coordination of Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi, NDRI Member. The group has set up with the objective of helping the Nepali citizens who have returned from or are preparing to return from foreign employment, especially women who are at high risk (pregnant women, victims of violence abroad) to return, to provide employment to those returnees who have been subjected to violence, rehabilitate them in their family and the society, address their needs, help the unemployed become self-reliant through skills training and maintaining high morale through psychological counseling.

With the facilitation of NDRI, one NGO working for the upliftment of women and children from each of the seven provinces, one Honorable Member from each Province Assembly, skill learning centers and other interested professionals from inside the country and abroad (media workers, social engineers, psychologists, youth leaders) and social workers are involved in this group. Through this campaign, there has been an exchange information, coordination and cooperation to provide necessary assistance to women, children and the general public who have been affected by injustice due to COVID-19. It is assured that the cooperation will be done in the spirit of volunteerism and the assistance will be provided keeping in view the privacy and humanitarian sensitivities of the victims and the service recipients.

RADIO PROGRAM ‘MUKTI KA LAGI JUKTI’

In collaboration with DBIEA, NDRI has produced tobacco related radio program, “Mukti Ka Lagi Jukti”, broadcasted fortnightly on every Saturday from Radio Nepal and Kantipur FM at national level and through other 5 regional radios at regional level. Altogether, 15 episodes have been broadcasted in different themes: Tobacco taxation, Commentary on budget speech FY2020 on tobacco tax, Tobacco health tax, Situation of tobacco use and attitudes, Debate on status of tobacco use in Nepal among policy makers, Youth tobacco use and role of youths in curbing the problem, Situation of smokeless tobacco use and its severity, Situation of tobacco control policy implementation, Health impacts of tobacco-linked with NCDs and Situation of access of tobacco to minors and pregnant women including attitude to smoking among women and youth people. It is expected that this initiative of NDRI broadens the horizon of the NDRI, and contributed for advocacy and raising awareness in the society.

NDRI INITIATIVES ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Study Team

Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada
Er. Santosh Kumar Mahato

Collaborator:



The Memorandum of Understanding (“Memorandum” or “MOU”) is made on 12st June, 2020 between Vitti Research Foundation and NDRI. Vitti Research Foundation, a non-profit Section-8 company has a focus to promote Artificial Intelligence & Robotics through Research, Training & Education, Consultancy, Projects & Products as well as Incubating & Mentoring Start-ups, having its registered office at 8/3, Second Floor, AbdulAziz Road, W.E.A, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005, India. VRF aims to provide domestic and international clients access to world-class services on Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics to drive innovation, create new business opportunities, and transform the economic landscape.

PURPOSE OF THIS MOU

This MoU has been developed and finalized in a spirit of mutual cooperation and assistance between the two parties. It will be interpreted in light of its primary purpose of identifying joint key projects. The MoU will set a platform for analyzing possibilities of joint collaborations on various development projects between the parties. Once such joint collaborations are identified, a separate agreement will be made between the parties on each of the project

SCOPE OF THIS MOU

The scope of this MoU is to create a mutual agreement between the parties to study and identify new possibilities for joint collaborations on some development projects for Nepal. This does not mean that all the projects undertaken by a party will have to be collaborated with another party. Each collaboration will be identified and agreed upon separately with a “Partnership Agreement”. The scope of the MoU is also to create an understanding in supporting and contributing to both the parties larger vision of social and economic transformation of Nepal.

AREAS OF COOPERATION AND AGREEMENT

- » Both the parties will scope out collaboration opportunities for the larger economic transformation of Nepal with focus on socio-economic development projects.
- » The projects shall be focused on all three tiers of governance in Nepal - Central Provincial and Local.
- » The parties will provide their own individual expertise in each of the joint collaborations and the detailed involvement and contribution of the parties will be mutually finalized separately in each “Partnership Agreement”.
- » NDRI as the strategic partner of Vitti Research Foundation for Nepal shall coordinate locally and act with other roles required for fulfillment.



SECTION : 8 **NDRI EVENTS**

NEWSCAST ON TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM AND RELEASE OF “CONTEXT MAPPING DOCUMENT”

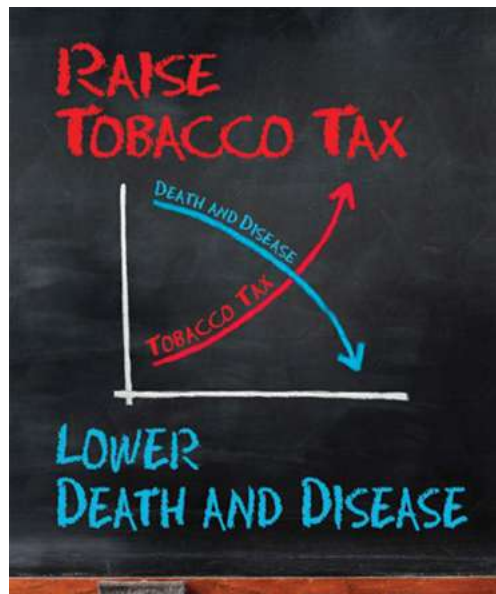
The press release event was organized by NDRI in collaboration with Cancer Research UK on 25th November 2019 at Pulchowk, Lalitpur. This event was organized to show the urgency of action for controlling tobacco use in Nepal and spread the information about the work NDRI has initiated in the field of tobacco control to wider public through media.



On the event, the context-mapping document, “Tobacco in Nepal: The Current Context”, a comprehensive assessment of the existing evidence on the scale and nature of tobacco and challenges in Nepal and fact sheets were released by Er. Ganesh Shah (former Minister, Environment, Science and Technology and Dr. Basu Dev Pandey, (Director, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division) in the presence of 14 media personnel from different media houses, government and non-government stakeholders, and Director of Kivu International, UK. During the event, Dr. Shah highlighted on the crucial role of the media in tackling the problem of tobacco use. At the event, Dr. Pranil Man Singh Pradhan (Assistant Professor of Institute of Medicine), Mr. Kunj Joshi (Senior Health and Education Administrator, NHEICC), and Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung (ED, NDRI) highlighted the increasing problem of Tobacco use, its health and economic burden to society, and urgent need of evidence based action to curb the rising problem.

PRESS CONFERENCE ON “TOBACCO RELATED POLICY AND TAXATION: CONTEXT OF COVID-19”

After completion of the national survey on tobacco and analysis of its findings, on 20th May 2020, NDRI and Nepal Cancer Relief Society (NCRS) jointly organized a virtual press conference, in coordination with NHEICC, with media partner Digital Broadcast Initiative Equal Access (DBIEA). The press conference event was organized to release a press statement and publish two research reports of NDRI: “National Survey on Socio-Economic and Policy Aspects of Tobacco Use in Nepal” and “Taxing Tobacco in Nepal: What Can be Done” Both research reports were the result of the nationwide survey conducted in Dec 2019 to Jan 2020, secondary document reviews, and experts’ consultations



At the event, Er. Ganesh Shah, former Minister of Environment, Science and Technology inaugurated two reports by sharing the cover pages. The brief summary of the results of the research were shared by Ms. Sangita Shakya, Program Manager for Tobacco Control Program and Mr. Ruzel Shrestha, Economist of NDRI in presence of the press, key stakeholders, and government organizations. At the event, Mr. Mahesh Shrestha (Chairperson, NCRS), Mr. Kunj Joshi (NHEICC), Mr. Vimala Honda (General Secretary, NCRS), and Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung (ED, NDRI) emphasized on the role of increasing tax in reducing tobacco related impacts and increasing government's revenue at the wake of COVID-19, when government's economy is being hard hit and smoking is linked with COVID-19. The press statement that included major findings of the both research documents and urged government to raise tobacco tax as a win-win situation to raise revenue and reduce tobacco consumption was shared by Mr. Upendra Aryal of DBIEA in the presence of 42 participants including 19 media personnel representing various media houses.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DENGUE OUTBREAK IN NEPAL

A workshop on dengue titled “Climate Change and Dengue Outbreak in Nepal” to discuss the science behind the disease, assess our understanding, and highlight preventive measures for the future to prevent an even more dangerous outbreak was organized by NDRI in Yalamaya Kendra, Lalitpur on 12 November 2019. Dr. Basu Dev Pandey, Director of Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease, highlighted the exponential increase in incidences of dengue in 2019 – from around 800 in 2018 to over 14,000 in 2019 – grasping its hold on 68 out of 77 districts in the country. Further, Dr. Divas Bahadur Basnyat, program coordinator of Water and Climate Program at NDRI, discussed about the interrelation between climate change and changes in temperature, precipitation and relative humidity with the spread of the disease. Likewise, the president at NDRI, Dr. Nawaraj Khatiwada, illustrated how the transmission of disease is related to improper solid waste management system. Referring to past studies, Dr. Khatiwada notified that as any items (discarded tyres, bottles, cans, gutters, plastic containers etc.) can become water receiver, which could be a good hatcheries for dengue carrying mosquito larvae, so timely collection and proper management of solid waste is a must to check on the spread of the disease.

The workshop provided an opportunity for other experts in the attendance to share their own personal experiences. Rigorous discussion on the potential preventive measures yielded unanimous results - culling the habitable spaces of the mosquitoes by regularly cleaning street and surrounding areas to remove discarded water-bearing containers, indoor residual spraying, using repellents, traps, biological and chemical control measures, and releasing modified vectors can prove pivotal in preventing future incidences of dengue.

WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DENGUE OUTBREAK IN NEPAL



Dengue Kills!
Keep Your Environment Clean



12 November, 2019
Yalamaya Kendra (Dhokaima Cafe)
Patandhoka Lalitpur



Nepal Development Research Institute
नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal

‘COOPERATION FOR CARBON NEUTRAL AND CLIMATE RESILIENT LEAPFROGGING DEVELOPMENT OF ASIAN COUNTRIES: CASE OF NEPAL’

On 20th February, 2020, NDRI conducted a mini - workshop on “Cooperation for carbon neutral and climate resilient leapfrogging development of Asian countries: case of Nepal” at Summit Hotel, Lalitpur. The workshop aimed at presenting the findings of the study that is conducted in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), a think tank of Japan. The main objective of the workshop is to provide insight into carbon neutral and climate resilient development strategies in the context of enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The panel discussion is aimed at reflecting the barriers to implementation of climate friendly development strategies; and the role of international cooperation for low carbon development in the country. The workshop ended with a note that international cooperation plays a vital role to implement carbon neutral development path in Nepal by utilizing its own resources.

The workshop began with welcome remarks by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung (Executive Director, NDRI). Following, Ms. Tomoko Ishikawa (Joint Director, Knowledge and Communication Unit, IGES, Japan) commenced by sharing background of the study and giving brief introduction on IGES. Then, Dr. Shuzo Nishioka (Counsellor, IGES, Japan) presented on research cooperation to support carbon neutral development policy in natural resource-dependent countries. Dr. Keshab Raj Gautam (Under Secretary, Technical), (MoFE) discussed on carbon neutral and climate resilient development strategies in the context of enhanced NDCs. Similarly, Prof. Dr. Ram Manohar Shrestha (Professor Emeritus, AIT, Thailand and Chairman, Academic Council, AITM, Nepal) presented low carbon development scenario and carbon neutrality in the case of Nepal. Finally, Dr. Divas Bahadur Basnyat (Coordinator, Water and Climate Program, NDRI) highlighted the findings on climate change adaptation in hydropower and water resources development.



The panel discussion was aimed at reflecting the barriers to implementation of climate friendly development strategies; and the role of international cooperation for low carbon development in the country. The workshop ended with a note that international cooperation plays a vital role to implement carbon neutral development path in Nepal by utilizing its own resources.



NDRI MEMBERS AND STAFF 2019/20

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Disaster Management

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Reduction



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Management



Deependra Rokaya, Ph.D.
Political Science

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Shankar Shrestha, PhD
Water Resource/Hydrology



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Natural Resource Management



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Linguistic



Shreya Bajimaya
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Sabita Rai Gautam



Bina Poudel



Sarita Chaudhary



Kumar Kadel



Bishnu Hari Mishra

AVENUE FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Working with NDRI has been a unique experience that I wish I could have experienced in person. The team are very supportive and accommodating, especially with taking on two Australian university students. I had no previous professional experience in this type of work, but I was eager to learn and develop my skills in research and writing. Dr Jaya, Dr Shankar and Ms Sangita have been extremely supportive of my goals and try to allocate me into topics of research that I would find interesting. I have enjoyed my experience working with them and the rest of the team. Achieving clear communication was a worry of mine prior to commencing this placement. However, I've been able to communicate effectively with the team and openly ask questions whenever needed. This placement has had its uncertainties, due

to the COVID-19 pandemic however, it has been an extremely insightful and encouraging experience. I hope to keep in contact with NDRI after this placement concludes and to one day be able to visit in Nepal when international borders reopen.



Kenisha Teodoro
Western Sydney University



Claire Ambrose
Western Sydney University

"Working with NDRI has been an excellent experience. My internship was intended to be in-person, living and working on Kathmandu - circumstances this year made that impossible. Even as I was incredibly disappointed, I found that my virtual internship was interesting, engaging and extremely valuable. NDRI and my supervisors engaged me in a project that involved my passion for disaster management and risk reduction. I was given support and autonomy to write a piece about my interests, conducting research that compared disaster risk reduction in Australia and Nepal. This paper allowed me to learn invaluable information about DRR best practice, and to hopefully utilise this knowledge in my future career. My colleagues at NDRI offered invaluable

advice, support and critiques - they were helpful, friendly and honest, which are the best possible qualities in co-workers. I sincerely hope that when circumstances change, I can have the opportunity to come to Kathmandu, engage in the experiences I missed this year, and meet my colleagues in person - and offer my thanks!"

NDRI QUALITY POLICY



NDRI is to provide that it always meets or exceeds quality objectives and customer requirements, based on the following precepts:

- ❑ Customer requirements are collected effectively to ensure that NDRI is capable of achieving their requirements.
- ❑ Interested parties' requirements are also clearly understood so that our products and services can be delivered in a timely and professional manner.
- ❑ All processes employed by NDRI to deliver services are determined, resourced appropriately documented, monitored and measured to ensure its objectives and any statutory and regulatory requirements.
- ❑ All NDRI employees are competent for their areas of work through academic achievements, training and experience where appropriate.
- ❑ The QMS is an integral part of our process management and NDRI has established a Quality Management System (QMS) in line with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 Standard.
- ❑ NDRI top management is dedicated to evaluate risks and opportunities throughout the process of service AND its continual improvement by evaluating, monitoring and measuring the performance of the QMS and customer satisfaction.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Gurung', written over a dotted line.

Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung
Executive Director

FINANCIAL REPORT

ACCOUNTING SYSTEM:

NDRI has been following systematic accounting system and record keeping which has led the organization to achieve the desired output. The reliable system for collecting, recording and reporting financial transactions is followed by the organization. The accounting procedures therefore permit a direct reconciliation of the costs and revenue declared in respect to the work programme with the corresponding supporting documents. Grant income is recorded in cash basis and programs income, membership fees, bank interest on deposits and miscellaneous income are accounted as revenue income on accrual basis. Regarding the payment procedure, the payment to vendors and service providers are made timely.

This organization believes in producing outstanding result with proper accounting system. The accounting policies have been consistently applied by NDRI. The accounts of this institute have been kept on the current general principles in accordance with Nepal accounting standards. It is to be committed for continuity to the practices of deducting income tax at source and depositing it in concerned account in time. Financial and administrative laws and by laws developed by the institute are in practice as per the requirement.

AUDITING OF THE ORGANIZATION:

The internal audit of the organization is carried on timely basis to check the financial accuracy of the organization. This is done for the purpose of daily monitoring and evaluation activities on whether the income and expenditure statements managed for daily conduct of the Institution are related to the operation of the organization or not. Regular financial auditing is done by accredited firm that is endorsed by the General Meeting. Any non-compliance declared by auditor is critically discussed in Executive Committee meeting and addressed properly. There is a system of performance auditing.

PROCESS FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO 9001:2015

NDRI has also initiated the process for international standardization ISO 9001:2015 which is the most popular and most commonly used standard for quality management system. With this approach, the firm is trying to establish a system of quality control and quality management system designed to provide the firm and its personnel comply with professional standards and regulatory and legal requirements. It aims to enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system, including processes for improvement of the system and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY:

The Financial functions of the organization are performed by separate "Financial" department headed by Finance Officer with supporting administrative assistants. The Finance officer is responsible for the preparation of consolidated financial statements as well as managing daily financial and administrative functions. There is separate financial regulation for expenditure. The statement is checked by treasurer and finally approved by Executive Director. If there are any changes in the statement, it needs to be approved by the Board of Directors. The financial statements of the organization include Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Cash Flow Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Notes to the Financial Statements. There is policy of formulating the annual plans and budget of the institute and implementing them transparently and effectively, and running its financial activities in pursuant to the prevailing laws.

VAT REGISTRATION:

NDRI got registered in VAT system. With the registration in VAT system NDRI pays the sizable amount of VAT to the tax office.

Ms. Manisha Rayamajhi
Finance and Administration Officer

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Governmental Organizations

- ❑ Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPIC)
- ❑ Agriculture Information and Communication Centre (AICC)
- ❑ Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)
- ❑ Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM)
- ❑ Department of Agriculture (DOA)
- ❑ Karnali Province Planning Commission
- ❑ Lalitpur Metropolitan City (LMC)
- ❑ Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD)
- ❑ Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
- ❑ Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD)
- ❑ Ministry of Finance (MoF)
- ❑ Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE)
- ❑ Ministry of Social Development Karnali Province
- ❑ National Health Research Council (NHRC)
- ❑ National Planning Commission (NPC)
- ❑ Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)
- ❑ Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
- ❑ Nepal Telecom Authority (NTA)
- ❑ Tribhuvan University (T.U.)
- ❑ Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS)

Non-Governmental Organizations

- ❑ American Red Cross
- ❑ Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)
- ❑ Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
- ❑ Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- ❑ Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
- ❑ Cancer Research UK (CRUK)
- ❑ Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)
- ❑ Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (CCSAP)
- ❑ Climate and Development Network (CDKN)
- ❑ Cornell University
- ❑ Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI)
- ❑ Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
- ❑ Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)
- ❑ Department For International Development (DFID)
- ❑ Department of Human Ecology University
- ❑ Danish Hydraulic Institution (DHI)
- ❑ Department of Human Ecology (HUMECO), University of Tokyo
- ❑ Economic Policy Research Institution (EPRI)
- ❑ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- ❑ Frost and Sullivan (F&S)

- ❑ Global Climate Adaptation Partnership (GCAP)
- ❑ Good Neighbors International
- ❑ Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- ❑ Helen Keller International (HKI)
- ❑ ICHARM
- ❑ Ipas
- ❑ International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- ❑ International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- ❑ International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- ❑ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- ❑ Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- ❑ International Labor Organization (ILO)
- ❑ Kansas State University
- ❑ Kivu International
- ❑ Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- ❑ Mercy Corps Nepal
- ❑ Mott MacDonald
- ❑ NDI Consulting
- ❑ Nepal Red Cross Society
- ❑ Norwegian Embassy
- ❑ OXFAM Nepal
- ❑ Plan Nepal
- ❑ Planete Enfants & Development (PE&D)
- ❑ Practical Action Nepal
- ❑ Prakriti Resources Centre (PRC)
- ❑ Project for Agricultural Commercialization & Trade Nepal (PACT)
- ❑ PSI Nepal
- ❑ SAMARTH
- ❑ Save The Children
- ❑ SOS Children's Village Nepal
- ❑ Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- ❑ Swiss Contact
- ❑ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- ❑ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- ❑ United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- ❑ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- ❑ United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO)
- ❑ UN Women
- ❑ United States Agency for international Development (USAID)
- ❑ United States Forest Service (USFS)
- ❑ Vitti Research Foundation
- ❑ Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
- ❑ World Bank
- ❑ World Food Programme (WFP)
- ❑ World Health Organization (WHO)
- ❑ WWF Nepal

THE COPYRIGHT CERTIFICATION FOR SORTING NETWORK FOR ARRANGING NAMES OF SAARC NATIONS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

Nepal Copyright Registration Office, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Nepal has awarded Nepal Development Research Institute with the CopyRight Certification for "Sorting Network for Arranging Names of the SAARC Nations in Alphabetical Order" on February 16, 2020.

संस्कृत, पर्यटन तथा नागरिक उड्डयन मन्त्रालय
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation
नेपाल प्रतिलिपि अधिकार रजिष्ट्रारको कार्यालय
Nepal Copyright Registrar's Office

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1. Name of the author: **Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI)**

२. ठेगाना : **पुल्चोक ललितपुर**
2. Address: **Pulchowk, Lalitpur**

३. नागरिकता : **नेपाली**
3. Citizenship: **Nepali**

४. जन्म मिति: **वि.सं. २०६०/१२/३० (दर्ता मिति)**
4. Date of Birth: **2004-04-12 A.D (Registration Date)**

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(ख) भाषा : **नेपाली**
(b) Language: **Nepali**
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Date: **February 16, 2020**

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA) WITH MAHA SANCHAR

YouTube NP

नेपाल सरकार
स्वास्थ्य तथा जनसंख्या मन्त्रालय
राष्ट्रिय स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा तथा सूचना केन्द्र

“सूर्तिजन्य पदार्थको लतमा फस्दै नफसौं: फसेकाले आजै छोडौं”

नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute

Nepal Cancer Relief Society
NCRS नेपाल कर्करोग रोग निवारण संस्था

0:51 / 0:51

Churot khane paisa le | चुरोट खाने पैसाले | Male | Madan krishna | Hari Bansa

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1K 10 SHARE SAVE ...



“चुरोट खाने पैसाले धेरै कुरा टर्छ, हजुरले खोक्दा खेरि छाती मेरो दुख्छ,
सूर्ति किन्ने पैसाले फलफुल किने हुन्छ, सुर्ति चुरोटको सेनवले ज्याने जान सक्छ,
सूर्ति जन्य पदार्थले क्यान्सर जस्तो घातक रोग लाग्न सक्छ,
महंगो उपचारमा जानु सट्टा धुम्रपान र सुर्तिजन्य पदार्थलाई आजैदेखि त्यागौं।”

Geographical Coverage of NDRI for the year 2019/2020

Sudurpashchim

Karnali

Gandaki

Bagmati

Province 1

Lumbini

Province 2

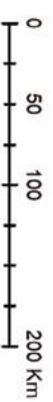
Legend

Province Boundary

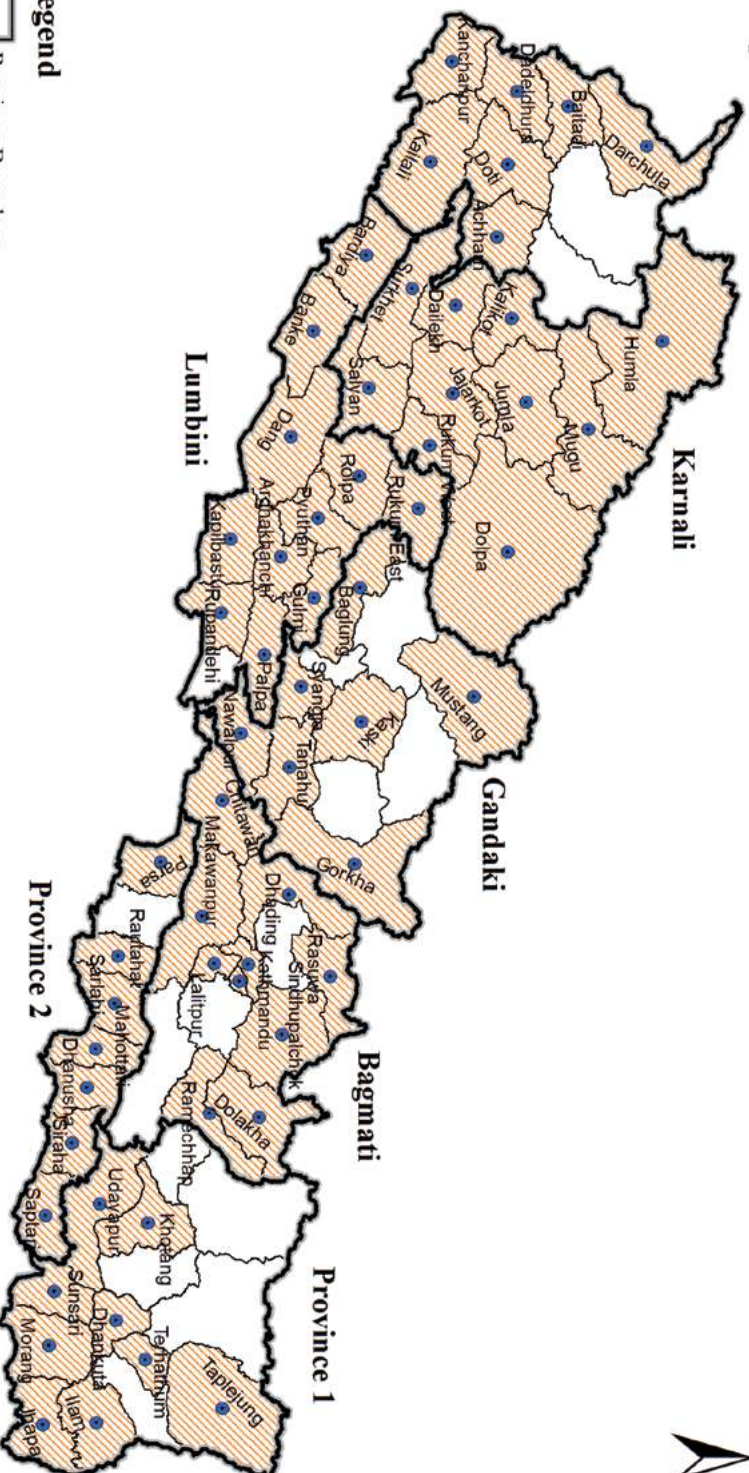
District Boundary

Covered Districts

Covered Districts (points)



Data Source: Survey Department, Government of Nepal





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