

Concept Note on Central Level Advocacy Campaign

Background

ActionAid International Nepal is implementing "Ending Agriculture Bonded Labour in Nepal (EABL)" in Bardiya, Doti and Bajura Districts with partial implementation in Dang, Banke, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. The overall goal of the project is a significant reduction in the prevalence of agricultural bonded labour in Nepal and survivors accessing sustainable freedom by receiving support for recovery and long-term resilience against exploitation. The project is also being implemented in Eastern Terai districts by the Freedom, who are working with Harwa-Charwas in Saptari, Siraha and Dhanusa Districts.

In the aftermath of prime ministerial decision to cancel all the loans of Harwa-Charwa on Shwan 2, 2079; in the occasion of 22nd Kamaiya Emancipation Day, Rastriya Harwa-Charwa Adhikar Manch conducted a press meet, where they welcomed the government decision and shared their further action plans. Despite the cancelation of Harwa-Charwa loans, the 4-point declared by the government couldn't provide clear decision on further government actions regarding bonded labours; i.e, data collection and verification of Harwa-Charwa communities, data collection of Haliyas and Kamaiyas who were previously left out and distribution of rehabilitation packages.

Introduction

During the central level training on Leadership and Advocacy the bonded labour communities formed a joint National Agricultural Bonded Labour struggle committee which consists of 9 members: 3 from each community. The committee has been led by Darshan Mandal (Chairperson, Harwa-Charwa Adhikar Manch), co-led by Rajuram Bhool (Haliya Representative) and Pashupati Chaudhary (Chairperson, Freed Kamaiya Society) as the secretary. The struggle committee held its first meeting on July 2, 2022.

Since the cancellation of loans of Harwa-Charwas by Nepal government; the struggle committee is yet to decide its position on the announcement and develop its further action plans; focusing the rehabilitation of Harwa-Charwa communities and the left out Haliya and Kamaiyas. During the meeting conducted by Rastriya Dalit Network on August 4, 2022; the parliamentarian members committed to raise the issues of bonded labour in the parliament during the Zero Hour and Special time. Addressing the parliamentarian member's request to conduct interactions in coordination with State's Directional Principles, Policy and Responsibility Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation committee, Nira Jairu, Chair of the committee committed to conduct a committee meeting within 7 to 10 days to discuss on bonded labour issues.

Since the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation is in the process of developing its action plans, which was verbally shared by Janak Raj Joshim Joint Secretary, Land Ministry, the bonded labour leaders, and their supporters have found its necessity to

discuss on their demands, bring clarity on the suggestions and recommendations to the government, visit government agencies to share their issues for the further rehabilitation process. Hence a joint meeting between struggle committee, EABL project lead organizations and other likeminded organizations will be organized during 2nd week of August.

Objectives/Expected Outcome

These meeting will be organized with the following objectives:

- Developing a joint demands and action points including the time frame and required budget by the bonded labour struggle committee, which will be shared with the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Finance, different parliamentarian committees and thematic commissions.

Meeting Venue: TBD

Participants (Approx. 20 people):

- Members of National Agricultural Bonded Labour Struggle Committee (9 people will be participating in the meeting)
- Representatives of Freedom Fund, ActionAid Nepal, Rastriya Dalit Network.
- Representatives of ILO, FLEaG, CSRC, Purple Foundation, and other like-minded organizations.
- Freed Kamaiya, Kamlahari, Haliya and Harwa-Charwa Status Study Committee Members formed by Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation

Duration: August 2nd week.

Logistical Management (Need to discuss and finalize minutely):

- ActionAid Nepal will cover the expenses of Haliya and Kamaiya representatives (under activity code 1.2.1- Meeting with Haliya, Kamaiya and Harwa-Charwa Leaders for consultation on Strategy and finalize)
- RDN/Freedom Fund will cover the expenses of Harwa-Charwa representatives.

(Coordination with State's Directional Principles, Policy and Responsibility Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation committee for joint meeting. Refreshment costs during the meeting could be arranged by EABL Project.)

Possible Schedule (Detail Schedule needs to be developed):

Day 1	Discussion and finalization of the bonded labour agendas to be shared with Nepal government
Day 2 &	Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Finance,

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different parliamentarian committees and thematic commissions.

Facilitation and Support: By FF, AAN, RDN and others