

## Narrative Report Template

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>ORGANIZATION NAME:</b> | <b>Rastriya Dalit Network</b>  |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION:</b>  | 8 districts in Province-2: Harawa-Charawa, Province-5: Kamaiya (Bardiya), Province-7: Haliya (Bajura and Doti) as well as Kathmandu-Federal level policy advocacy on agricultural bonded labours |
| <b>REPORTING PERIOD:</b>  | <b>1st January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022</b>  |
| <b>COMPLETED BY:</b>      | Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki<br>Executive Director<br>Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal<br>Contact: +977-9848671361 (Cell)<br>Email: <a href="mailto:hukumsarki@yahoo.com">hukumsarki@yahoo.com</a>     |

### Instructions:

Please address each of the questions below regarding your Freedom Fund project. Please answer each question for the CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD.

#### 1. CONTEXTUAL CHANGES

##### 1.1 Government and Business

Have there been any significant policy/regulatory changes or business-led reforms relevant to your work during the reporting period? If yes, please use the following questions to guide your analysis:

- What was the change?
- How did the change affect your project activities?

Nepal is under the practice of federalism and inclusive development. There are 3 layers of government; local, provincial and federal. The Federal Government presented budget for the fiscal year 2022/23. The GoN has allocated NPR 1.793 trillion (USD 14.7 billion) for the fiscal year 2022-23 which is an increase of 5.5% as compared to the fiscal year 2021-22. The recurrent expenditure has received 42% of the total expenditure. The 2022 Nepalese local elections were held on 13 May, 2022 in 6 metropolitan cities, 11 sub-metropolitan cities, 276 municipalities and 460 rural municipalities. These were the second set of local-level elections to be held since the promulgation of the new constitution in 2015. From the local election result Nepali congress has become the single largest party of Nepal followed by CPN (UML) Maoist Center.

**On Sunday, Nov. 20, Nepali voters voted for elected seats in the House of Representatives (HoR) and Provincial Assemblies (PA). This will be the second HoR and PA elections since the promulgation of Nepal's constitution in 2015, which initiated the country's decentralization process. The 2022 HoR and PA elections, and the local elections held in May 2022, follow years of political instability that included the COVID-19 period and a vote of no confidence against former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli following his two failed attempts to dissolve the Parliament. The elections provide an opportunity for voters to elect their government leaders, particularly for over 2 million Nepali youth who were eligible to vote for the first time in 2022.**

It has been 22 years of time since the government has declared the emancipation of the Kamaiya system on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2000 AD and Haliyas have been emancipated on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 which are still a remnant of slavery in Nepal. So far, 32,509 Kamaiya families and 14,775 Haliya families have received identity cards after the announcement of declaration. Out of them, 25195 ex-Kamaiya families have so far acquired 2 to 5 katthas of land for rehabilitation. Similarly, 13,546 freed Haliyas families have received rehabilitation package. The majority of Haliya and Kamaiya families are still exempt from identification and verification. The freed Kamaiya and Haliya families who have received the rehabilitation package are at high risk of modern slavery due to lack of well-organized and integrated implementation of rehabilitation package such as education, health, employment and livelihood. Particularly, there are more than 100,000 families are still working as Harawa-Charawa with paying high interest rate in nine districts from Bara to Sunsari of South East Terai region. It is serious violation of human rights and fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution as the state is under the practice of federal democratic republic and inclusive development.

A study committee was formed in 2021 by the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation to study the situation of Harwa Charwa, freed Haloyias, ex-Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris as remnants of feudalism in line with the spirit and letter of the constitution. The committee, after conducting a field study of the stakeholders and the affected communities, has made recommendations to the local, provincial and federal governments regarding their current situation and actions, including debt waiver with the Government of Nepal for their release, identification and full rehabilitation.

About two years earlier in 2020, the provincial government of Madesh province had endorsed the Dalit Empowerment Act 2020. The regulations were necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Act. But the provincial government of Madesh province was not so serious more than that we had expected. The Freedom Fund continuously communicated and delegated with the policy makers for the formulation of the regulation. As a result of this, Madhesh Government has passed the Dalit Empowerment Act Regulation 2022 and published it in the gazette on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 for the further implementation. The provincial government has also developed the mechanism to implement the act. Similarly, the Sudurpaschim provincial government is in the process of endorsing the integrated bonded labour act as reported by hon. Binita Chaudhary, land management, agriculture and cooperative minister.

The current economic situation of Nepal does not look promising for a nation looking for foreign investments. Increasing trade deficit, rapidly declining foreign exchange reserve, and skyrocketing inflation have hit the life of ex-bonded labours. Similarly, the average temperature is increasing by 1.8 to 4 degree in global basis. As a result of this, it has affected the vegetable farming, poultry farming of ex-bonded labours.

**This year's Christmas brought a "surprise" in Nepal. Pushpa Kamal Dahal, the chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre (CPN-MC), which won only 32 seats in the 275-member lower house of parliament in the recent general election, was appointed prime minister after he secured the support of seven parties, including the party led by arch-rival Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli of the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML). Sher Bahadur Deuba, who believed that he was destined to be the prime minister of Nepal seven times and was expecting to be the premier for the sixth time, was left out to dry, although his party, the Nepali Congress (NC), won the largest number of seats. The timely election and selection of the prime minister is an achievement for Nepal's nascent democratic process. Yet, the formation of the government reeks of a democratic deficit. CPN-MC, which stood a distant third and won only 11 percent of the votes, will lead a government that excludes the largest party. Nepal's parties have ignored the "mandate of the people."**

### 1.2 Other Changes

Have there been any other contextual changes (positive or negative) that have affected the implementation of the project? Changes may be due to elections, natural disasters, conflicts etc. If yes, please use the following questions to guide your analysis:

- What was the change?
- How did the change affect your project activities?

During this reporting period, it is observed that the price increments every day-to-day useable goods/service is doubled in Nepal comparatively to the previous year due to COVID-19 pandemic situation and the Russia-Ukraine war impact. Last year, the price increased by 3.65%, but this year it increased by 7.87%. There has been a general increase in per capita income. Per capita income has reached 1372 US dollars. But Madhesh province has the lowest per capita income of 868 US dollars. As a result of this, the daily living standards of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, freed Haliyas, ex-Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris was directly impacted to sustain their life.

It is observed that Madhesh province does not seriously own towards the issues of Harawa-Charawa. It seems that the Sudurpachim provincial government has addressed the issues of agriculture bonded labours; freed Haliyas, ex-Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris. Finance Minister hon. Jarnadan Sharma has presented the budget for the fiscal year 2022/23. The budget does not seem to mention the amount of money. It is reported that the ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation will sketch-out the specific program and send it to ministry of finance for further processing.

The member of parliaments (MPs) raised various questions in the House regarding the policy, program and

budget. MPs expressed that even now Nepal is under the practice of federalism and inclusive development, every Harawa-Charawa has to work as bonded labours so the series question has been raised about democracy and the constitution. Responding to the questions in the house by MPs, hon. Sashi Shrestha, land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation said that the government cannot avoid the concept of scientific land reform as it has been implemented with high priority. Minister Shrestha said that she is working in a planned manner for the rehabilitation of the Harawa-Charawa, freed Haliyas, ex-Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris. On 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, Indian prime-minister Narendra Modi had visited Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautama Buddha in Nepal for 6 hours. This visit was made on the occasion of Gautam Buddha's birthday. Although it was planned in the past, this visit could not be successful due to **COVID-19**. This tour is said to be strictly religious tour.

**During the reporting period, the Ministry of labour, employment and social security has drafted the integrated bonded labours to address the issues of agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamhlaris. The respective ministry has nominated Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of RDN and also members of study committee as expert members in act drafting committee. He provided the technical inputs during development of policy. Similarly, Ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation has endorsed the freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamhlari rehabilitation guideline. The guideline has been forwarded to ministry of finance and law for further endorsement from ministry of council.**

## 2. PROJECT REPORT

### 2.1 Progress towards systems-level change

Please describe contributions your project has made towards systems changes.

- Some examples of systems changes are shifts in social norms, community practices, government/business policy or law enforcement.
- Contributions may take the form of advocacy activities, public awareness campaigns, program activities etc.

**Please use the following questions to guide your analysis:**

- What changed?
- Why does it matter?
- What was the contribution of your organization? Which activities led to this change?

The **Annual Performance Report-APR** of "Ending Agriculture Bonded Labours in Nepal Project" has been produced in order to view the project progress for the period of **1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022**. Key results and successes have been reflected in this report.

Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal has been implementing the project entitled as *for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 with the financial support of the Freedom Fund in close coordination with Forced Labours elimination Advocacy Group (FLeAG) and Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya (HCHaK) organization. The project has envisioned two outcomes as;*

- The Harawa-Charawa networks formed, strengthened, and mobilized to contribute the united movement of the agriculture bonded labour*
- FLEAG platform mobilized to advocate for changes and implementation of legislative, policies and programs of provincial and federal government in favor of agricultural bonded labours*

The project is being directly implemented 8 south east terai districts, namely: *Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rauthat, Bara and Parsa) of province 2 in Nepal*, which are below the national average in terms of per capita income, educational attainment and human development index. In addition, the project will coordinate and collaborate with local implementing partners SCDC and JDC at Saptari, DJKYC at Siraha, CIC at Dhanusha, KMJS at Bardiya, EDC at Doti and PeaceWin at Bajura also FLeAGto conduct policy advocacy at local, provincial and federal level in regards to rights, emancipation and rehabilitation of Haliyas, Harawa-Charawa and Kamaiyas-HCHaK communities.

Staff members of RDN Nepal have collectively contributed in producing this annual completion report. It was rigorously reviewed and verified by Project management Team (PMT) and submitted secretariat of the organization. Finally, the executive board of RDN Nepal reviewed and synchronized the report against the Project Document and Work Plan and Budget and brought it into final shape to share the final report with Freedom Fund. The analysis and information contained in this report represent the work completed by Rastria

Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal under the implementation of **Ending Agriculture Bonded Labours in Nepal Project**.

**Key changes through the implementation of the project are outlined as below;**

- A total of **30** Harawa-Charawa youths (Male-**17** and Female-**13**) strengthened capacity on leadership development and advocacy skill
- **A total of 10 Harawa-Charawa youth activists participated in provincial level youth parliament organized by provincial government in province-2.**
- A total of **24** (Male-**14** and Female-**10**) district HC network members from **6** working districts except Sarlahi and Mahottari (**4** HC network members from each one district) enhanced their capacity, ability and confidence of to systematically claim for their rights issues. Similarly, **3** months action/advocacy was developed through participatory approach with activities they are going to do, with whom, support by whom, when etc.
- **Enhanced capacity of ability and confidence of 32 district HC network members and Harawa-Charawa activists from all 8 working districts to systematically claim for their rights issues**
- **Enhanced capacity of ability and confidence of 32 district HC network members and Harawa-Charawa activists from all 8 working districts to systematically claim for their rights issues.**
- A total of **8** local Harawa-Charawa rights forums were formed at **8** rural municipalities/municipalities (**4** in each one district) of Sarlahi and Mohattari district with the direct engagement with a total of **357** (Male-**157** and Female-**200**)
- A total of **2** new district Harawa-Charawa rights forums were formed at **2** new working districts (Sarlahi and Mahottari) with the engagement of **101** Harawa-Charawa including other concerned stakeholders.
- National Harawa-Charawa rights forum is in the process of registration in district administration office-Saptari for its legal entity by providing the technical backstopping support and guidance
- **A total of 30 district HC network members capacitated on government policy and program.**
- **A total of 96 regular meetings of 32 local HC networks (3 in each one local HC network) organized to discuss on the emerging issues of recently freed Harawa-Charawa**
- **4 events of quarterly meetings of national HC network were organized to discuss on the advocacy plan to be implemented at provincial and federal level**
- **A total 54 regular meetings of 8 district HC networks (seven in each one district) were conducted for the organize, empower and mobilize 120 HC network members (Male-53 and Female-67) to systematically claim for their rights.**
- **A total of 32 participants (Male-18 and Female-14) belong to Harawa-Chara network at local, district and national level actively participated in the events to share their learning and sharing openly.**
- **3 events** of FLeAG meeting conducted focusing on the issues of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, freed Haliyas and ex-Kamaiyas.
- A total of **3** multi-party parliamentarian forums were functional through meetings and coordination on the issues of agriculture bonded labours
- **Central committee of 6 different political parties positively responded the demands of agriculture bonded labours and incorporated in their manifestos.**
- **Ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation shared its details plan regarding the data collection, verification and rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa, missed Haliyas and Kamaiyas.**
- The federal government of Nepal has addressed the issues of agriculture bonded labours in its policy and program due to the various policy advocacy activities at federal level
- **A total of 33 news published in national online newspapers targeting the issues of agriculture bonded labours**
- **5** key small expected changes at local and provincial level were identified and prioritized to enhance further advocacy interventions on agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, freed Haliyas and ex-Kamaiyas under joint strategy development process so far.
- **3** episodes of TV talk program were broadcasted from Nepal Television (NTV) concerning the issues of agriculture bonded labours
- **The government of Nepal formally declared the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 organizing special program by office of the prime-minister on the occasion of 22<sup>nd</sup> Kamaiya**

**liberation day.**

- **Different civil society movements, Human Rights (HR) organizations, constitutional commissions, media person and CSOs have been collaborative for joint movement in regards to ending agriculture bonded labours in Nepal.**

The overall activity performance during these **twelve months** reporting period was satisfactory. Overall, the project successfully implemented as it met its target over the agreed period of project. The efforts have also been made to align with Government and Non-governmental projects/programs for sustainability aspects from the starting of the project.

### **2.1.1 Quantitative Policy Changes (Global Indicator 12)**

In your impact data, have you reported any policy changes this reporting period?

If yes, please explain what they were in this section using bullet points. Describe the change that you observed and your contribution to the change.

Please note that '**policy change**' refers to changes in laws and policies by government or business, or improvements in procedure or implementation. Policy changes may take place at the level of local government, state government or national government.

The following are the 'policy changes' that to changes in laws and policies by government or business, or improvements in procedure or implementation. Policy changes may take place at the level of local government, state government or national government as outlined below;

- ❖ About two years earlier in 2020, the provincial government of Madesh province had endorsed the Dalit Empowerment Act 2020. The regulations were necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Act. But the provincial government of Madesh province was not so serious more than that we had expected. The Freedom Fund continuously communicated discussed and delegated with the policy makers for the formulation of the regulation. As a result of this, Madhesh Government has passed the Dalit Empowerment Act Regulation 2022 and published it in the gazette on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 for the further implementation. The provincial government has also developed the mechanism to implement the act.
- ❖ Similarly, the Sudurpaschim provincial government is in the process of endorsing the integrated bonded labour act as reported by hon. Binita Chaudhary, land management, agriculture and cooperative minister.
- ❖ **The ministry of labour, employment and social security has drafted integrated bonded labours act where Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN was nominated as expert-member of integrated bonded labour act drafting committee.**
- ❖ **Ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation has endorsed the freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamhlari rehabilitation guideline. The guideline has been forwarded to ministry of finance and law for further endorsement from ministry of council.**

### **2.2 Progress towards your project outcomes**

- Please comment on the progress towards each of your project's outcomes during the current reporting period. For each outcome, we are interested in an overview of your project activities and how they have led to change:

**Please use the following questions to guide your analysis.**

- What change did you see?
- What activities led to this change?
- Why is it significant?

#### **Outcome 1:**

What is your progress towards Outcome 1 this reporting period?

### Activity-1.1.2. Harawa-Charawa youth activism training

RDN organized one event of 3 days Harawa-Charawa youth activism training at Lahan Siraha from 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 to 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. The training was organized with an aim to strengthen the capacity of HC youth on activism and advocacy. The following the outputs achieved so far due to organizing the training as;

- Established linkage of youths with network members - sort of a mentoring scheme to encourage youths to get more involved.
- Developed youth mobilization plan to track the movement of youths in different project activities.
- Developed the linkage of youths with NGO partners as they were invited in some social mobiliser and field workers to join so they get to know each other and build a relationship.



A total **30** youths (Male-17 and Female-13) from 6 districts except Sarlahi and Mahottari (5 from each district) actively took part in the training. The training was facilitated by Mr. Jiyam Shrestha-Program Advisor, Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai-technical advisor and consultant of the Freedom Fund (FF). Similarly, Mr. Raju Paswan, provincial chief in Madesh province of Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) and Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director of RDN facilitated the various session of the training. The training also planned to organize follow-up meetings for the overall mobilization in regards to enhance the capacity of HC network at local, district and national level.



Similarly, a total of **10** Harawa-Charawa trained youths from all 8 districts in Madesh Province actively participated in 2 days youth festival to raise their voices and concern. The program was organized by ministry of women children and social welfare of Provincial government of Madesh province in the presence of **500** youths represent from all 8 district. The youth festival was organized for the period from 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022. As the ministry was seeking for certain token support, RDN managed to the cost for accommodation and travel to the 10 Harawa-Charawa youth activists. It was golden opportunity for them to manage HC youths' voice on the event and include the issue of HC youth. At the end of the youth festival, **20** points declaration was promulgated where point number 1 and 2 has clearly mentioned the issues of Harawa-Charawa such as technical education and employability. It has shown that the issue of Harawa-Charawa has been accepted by provincial government.

### Activity-1.1.3. Training to district HC network members on advocacy skill and leadership

RDN organized one event of 2 days training to district Harawa-Charawa network members on leadership development and advocacy skill to enhance the capacity of HC network members on leadership and advocacy skill. The training was organized for the period from 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 to 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 at Lahan Siraha. The following were results achieved so far by organizing the training as;

- Enhanced capacity of ability and confidence of district HC network members to systematically claim for their rights issues
- Increased the engagement of HC network members with government by focusing on one key issue per meeting rather than saying all the issues facing the HC in every meeting.
- Developed 3 months action/advocacy plan with activities they are going to do, with whom, support by whom, when etc.
- The district network members were facilitated to develop a mechanism for ongoing support required so as to share with RDN along with the Freedom Fund (FF).
- District HC network members got mentoring and support to implement activities as per the periodic plan

A total of **24** district HC network members (Male-14 and Female-10) from 6 districts except Sarlahi and Mahottari

actively took part in the training. The training was facilitated by Mr. Arjun Thapaliya-human rights activist and Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director of Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal.

Similarly, Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal organized one event of 2 days training to District Harawa-Charawa Network members on Leadership Development and Advocacy Skill for the period from 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 to 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at Janakpur. The main objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of district Harawa-Charawa network members on leadership development and advocacy skill. The training was inaugurated lightening 3 candles by hon. Satrugan Mahato, industry, tourism and forest minister of Madesh province government. He said that he would not hesitate to take the initiative to put forward a special proposal in the upcoming meeting of the Council of Ministers of the state government for the overall socio-economic development of Harawa-Charawa.



Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN as well as member of study committee facilitated the session on leadership development mentioning definition of Leadership also role of leadership in the context of agriculture bonded labours movement for the further rehabilitation of Harawa-Charawa. Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai-Advocacy Advisor and consultant of the Freedom Fund (FF) facilitated the session of Advocacy skill. Then, Mr. Jiyam Shrestha-Nepal Program Advisor of the Freedom Fund (FF) facilitated the training session on stakeholders' analysis, effective communication and also rehabilitation package of Harawa-Charawa as required. At the end of

the training, the 3 months advocacy plan for the period from August-October, 2022 was developed for the mobilization of Harawa-Charawa networks at local, district and national level. The advocacy plan was developed through participatory approach and jointly facilitated by Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of RDN and Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai-Advocacy Advisor of the Freedom Fund. A total of 32 district HC network members (Male-18 and Female-14) from 8 districts actively took part in the training.

#### **Activity-1.1.4: Orientation to HC network members on government policy and program:**

Under the implementation of the project, RDN organized one event of one day orientation on government policy and program targeting district HC network members Lahan. The program was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. A total of 30 participants including 18 females (actively took part in the orientation. Manilal BK, resource person and Mr. Sanjay Mahara, advocacy officer of RDN facilitated these 3 events of orientation program.

#### **Activity-1.1.7. Learning and sharing meeting among HC network members**



RDN facilitate to organize one event of cross-learning sharing meeting among HC network members from all 8 districts in province on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 at Janakpur. The main objective of the meeting was to share the need of the network, key achievements, lesson learned, issues/challenges as well as upcoming plan that contributed to enhance the capacity of network members on effective communication and group management skill. With the medium of the activity, the network members seeked the possible area of collaboration to replicate the best practice. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director of RDN. The best practices of one working were shared to other working district through intensive discussion among HC network members at district and national level. A total of 32 participants

(Male-18 and Female-14) actively participated in the events to share their learning and sharing openly.

### Activity-1.2.1. Formation and strengthening HC network at local level in new five districts

RDN facilitated to form a total of 8 local Harawa-Charawa networks at 8 rural municipalities/municipalities of 2 new working districts –Sarlahi and Mahottari in province-2. For the formation of these networks, the following processes were followed up systematically as;

- Coordination with DCC: Initially, RDN team members closely coordinated with District Coordination Committees (DCCs) at Bara, Parsa and Rauthat. DCCs recommended the Harawa-Charawa clusters to be observed. Based on the suggestion of DCCs, RDN team members visited the rural municipalities/municipalities having high population density.
- Consultation with Harawa-Charwa: After tracking the HC concentrated 4 municipalities in each district.
- Community members in the selected municipality to form a municipality network of HarawaCharawa.

A total of 8 rural municipality/municipality level HC network at 2 new working districts-Sarlahi and Mahottari were formed in the following way;

| SN | Date of Program              | Place                                 | Leadership              |
|----|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1  | 21 <sup>st</sup> March, 2022 | Chandrapur rural municipality Sarlahi | Mr. Upendra Ram         |
| 2  | 29 <sup>th</sup> March, 2022 | Ishwarpur municipality Sarlahi        | Mr. Bhagalu Sada        |
| 3  | 30 <sup>th</sup> March, 2022 | Brahmpuri rural municipality Sarlahi  | Mr. Rambabu Paswan      |
| 4  | 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2022 | Haripur municipality Sarlahi          | Ms. Soniya Majhi        |
| 5  | 11 <sup>st</sup> March, 2022 | Bardibas Municipality Mahottari       | Ms. Sabina Pariyar      |
| 6  | 26 <sup>th</sup> March, 2022 | Pipara rural municipality Mahottari   | Mr. Arun Das            |
| 7  | 27 <sup>th</sup> March, 2022 | Sonama rural municipality Mahottari   | Mr. Shyam Sundar Mandal |
| 8  | 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2022 | Matiyani municipality Mahottari       | Mr. Jatan Mandal        |

There are 11 members in local level HC network ensuring the equal participation of women. The newly elected committee members have planned to organize their regular meeting to discuss on the emerging issues of HC. The formation process was facilitated by Mr. Rup Narayan Paswan, advocacy officer of RDN. Similarly, Mr. Bisheshwor Safi-district HC activist at Mahottari, Ms. Nabina Majhi-district HC activist of Sarlahi provided their significant support and contribution during the formation of local level HC network. **A total of 357 (Male-157 and Female-200) engaged in the process.**

**Similarly, a total of 96 regular meetings of 32 local HC networks (3 in each one local HC network) organized to discuss on the emerging issues of recently freed Harawa-Charawa. The meeting discussed on the following agendas as;**

- **Meaningful participation of Harawa-Charawa in social structures/d ecision making process such as Community Forestry User Groups (CFUGs), School Management Committee (SMC), Health Management Committee (HMC), User Groups, Mother Groups, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Political Parties etc at local level**
- **Debt Alleviation**
- **4 points messages under the declaration of Harawa-Charawa by prime-minister on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2022**
- **Meaningful participation of Harawa-Charawa in local, provincial and federal level election-2022**
- **Access of freed Harawa-Charawa in public services and resources**
- **Advocacy on land rights issues**



### Activity-1.2.2. Formation of HC district networks in 5 new districts of province 2

RDN facilitated to form 2 districts Harawa-Charawa network at Mahottari and Sarlahi once the local level HC networks are formed at 8 rural municipalities/municipalities (4 in each districts). A total of 32 HC representatives (8 from each local network\*4=32) participated each in one district. A total of 64 HC network members (representatives) engaged in the district HC formation process. The following processes were adopted during the formation of district HC network as;

A. Inauguration Ceremony:



- Objective sharing and welcome to participants
- Inauguration of the program by chief guest
- Special Remarks from guest and chief guest of the program

**B. Closing Ceremony:**

- Registration of HC representatives
- Ground Rules Setting
- Norms of district HC network formation process
- Discussion among HC representatives
- Formation of HC network committee
- Congratulations to newly elected committee
- Taking oath by newly elected committee as per coated in constitution of HC network
- Commitment of newly elected chairperson of district HC network

On the dated 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2022, the district HC network was formed at Mahottari district. The program was inaugurated by hon. Rabindra Baitha, provincial state member of Madesh province. Inaugurating the program he mentioned that struggle is necessary to completely end the Harawa-Charawa system, which has been a remnant of the slave system for ages, and for that, the network of the rights holders should be mobilized in a combative manner. He recalled that he himself came here from a pastoralist background and expressed his commitment to vigorously raise issues in the provincial assembly to address the issues of pastoralists in the upcoming policies and programs. Special guest of the program Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of RDN and also expert member of study committee told that there is still practice of bonded labours system in Nepal although the has practiced the federalism and inclusive development. He emphasized that the government should be responsible to eradicate this system completely. He also pointed out that the political parties should take initiatives to solve the problem by making it a common agenda of the society.

Darshan Mandal-chairperson of national HC network warned that the main demand of the Harwacharwa is the declaration of emancipation. Mr. Kevin Groome, program manager of the Freedom Fund, Jiyam Shrestha, Nepal program advisor, Balaram Bhattarai-legal advisor expressed their views in the inauguration ceremony of the program.

Mr. Bisheshwar Safi –HC activist welcomed to participants in the program which was held under the chairmanship of Jatan Mandal. Mr. Hukum Sarki, executive director of RDN highlighted the objectives and importance of the program. The program was facilitated by Sanjay Kumar Mahara-advocacy officer of RDN Nepal. **A total of 49 Participants (Male-22 and Female-27) participated in the event.**

Similarly, on the dated 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2022, the district HC network was formed at Sarlahi district. Inaugurating the district HC network formation process, Dalit leader Ram Kewal Manjhi said that even in the present 21<sup>st</sup> century, the practice of pastoralist prevalent in 8 districts of Madhesh Province is a sad issue for the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.He emphasized that since federalism and inclusive development are being practiced i n the country, all the 3 layers of government in Nepal needs to formulate policies and laws for the effective implementation through monitoring mechanism for the overall liberation and rehabilitation of Harawa-Charawa.

Mr. Dashan Mandal- central president of national HC network demanded that the government of Nepal should form a powerful commission with the meaningful participation of the Harawa-Charawa for judicial rehabilitation along with debt alleviation.Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director of RDN, Dalit leader-Mr. Debendra Ram, Mr. Bignes Paswan-chairperson of district HC network, Ms. Mamata Bishwakarma-secretary of district HC network Mahottari expressed their views as special remarks. **A total of 52 Participants (Male-23 and Female-29) participated in the event.The name list of the district HC network committee formed at Mahottari and Sarlahi districts is outlined as below;**

| <i>Name Lists of district HC Network-Mahottari</i> | <i>Name Lists of district HC Network-Sarlahi</i> |
|--|--|
| 1. Chairperson: Mr. Jatan Mandal                   | 1. Chairperson: Mr. Ram Dayal Majhi              |
| 2. Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Shyam S.Mandal            | 2. Vice-Chairperson: Ms. Soniya Majhi            |
| 3. Secretary: Ms. Mamata Bishwokarma               | 3. Secretary: Mr. Ram Babu Paswan                |
| 4. Treasurer: Ms. Tetari Devi Yadav                | 4. Treasurer: Mr. Upendra Ram                    |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 5. Joint-Secretary: Ms. Gita Devi Mandal | 5. Joint-Secretary: Ms. Rajaniya Majhi |
| 6. Member: Ms. Sama Sada                 | 6. Member: Ms. Ranju Majhi             |
| 7. Member: Ms. Dulari Sada               | 7. Member: Mr. Mohichan Majhi          |
| 8. Member: Ms. Urmila Sada               | 8. Member: Mr. Bhagrith Majhi          |
| 9. Member: Ms. Sushma Pariyar            | 9. Member: Mr. Raj Kumar Majhi         |
| 10. Member: Ms. Sabina Pariyar           | 10. Member: Ms. Sabita Majhi           |
| 11. Member: Mr. Aruj Das                 | 11. Member: Ms. Sita Devi Ram          |
| 12. Member: Ms. Sumitra Kapad            | 12. Member: Ms. Kaushila Devi Majhi    |
| 13. Member: Ms. Lothi Khatun             | 13. Member: Mr. Kali Charan Majhi      |
| 14. Member: Mr. Bechan Das               | 14. Member: Ms. Nathuni Majhi          |
| 15. Member: Ms. Ranju Devi Mandal        | 15. Member: Mr. Debendra Ram           |

### 1.2.3. Mobilization of District Harawa-Charawa Activists

During the reporting period, RDN mobilized a total of 8 district Harawa-Charawa activists in 8 districts (one in each on district) of provive-2. They were given specific responsibilities in overall capacity building and advocacy activities. They were engaged in project planning, implementation, monitoring and periodic reporting update. They played forefront and significant role in organizing, awareness building and empowering Harawa/Charawa network members and also provided their support in district level activity implementation in close coordination with the FF partners. Similarly, RDN organized 4 events of (one in each one quarter) of review and reflection meetings. Those meetings ccritically reviewed the programs held throughout the year, their achievements, learning and challenges in a participatory manner and has also created a public advocacy plan for the next three months to advance the campaign for the rehabilitation of freed herdsmen recently released by the Nepal government.

#### Activity-1.2.4. Support to national HC network in registration process

During this reporting period, RDN provided its backstopping support to national Harawa-Charawa rights forum to register in district administration office Saptari. The constitution of the network has been drafted and consulted with the network on their last general assembly and the assembly has passed the constitution of the national network of Harawacharawa. For this, RDN explored the registration process and facilitated to prepare registration documents like; constitution and its copies, collecting citizenship of members, application letter, signature of all the members, photographs etc, that are required to fulfil the legal entity earlier. National HC network is being registered due to the following reasons;

- The network will get the legal identity and will be recognized by the government.
- Once it will get the legal identity, it will be legally recognized. It will be easy to work independently as an organization.
- Similarly, the network will be able to mobilize the resources itself in dealing with funding partners and local, provincial and federal government in future days to come.
- The network will have its own resources and network members can formally demand with government. They will be eligible to work with the local government and handle the financial resources independently.

For this, RDN enhanced the capacity of HC network members and provide the technical support. As reported, the registration process is at final process to get the approval from district administration office Saptari. Mr. Dasan Mandal-Chairperson and Mr. Lagindra Sada-general secretary are directly engaged in the process of registration by getting the necessary support from RDN and also local implementing partners of the Freedom Fund (FF).

#### Activity-1.2.5: Facilitate quarterly yearly meetings of national HC rights forum:

RDN Nepal facilitated to conduct 4 events of meetings for the mobilization of national HC network by organizing its quarterly meetings. The meetings were held on the chairmanship of Mr. Dasan Mandal, chairperson of national Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum. The third meeting of the network was held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 and the forth quarterly meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2022. **Similarly, the 5<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 and the 6<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 respectively.** The third meeting was held in Bardibas of Mahottari and 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of national HC network was held in Lahan Siraha.

**Likewise, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> quarterly meetings were organized in Lahan of Siraha.**

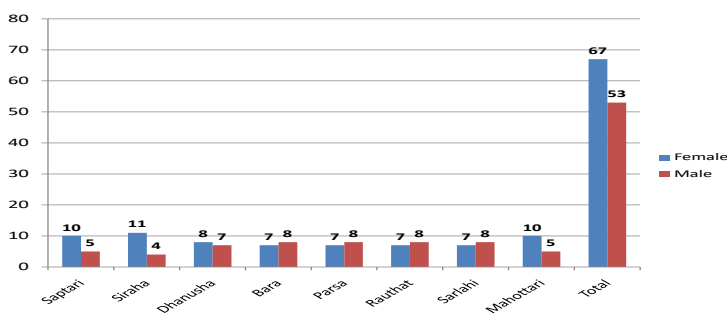
The meetings were organized in line with the strategic plan of national Harawa-Charawa rights forum-2018 to be mobilized for their rights. The main agendas discussed in the meetings were outlined as below:

| Agendas of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting   | Agendas of 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of participants for joint strategy development of agriculture bonded labours</li> <li>• Mobilization of district HC network</li> <li>• Advocacy campaign at provincial and national level</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination and collaboration with concerned stakeholders</li> <li>• Complete the remaining work for the registration of national HC network</li> </ul>   |
| Agendas of 5 <sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting   | Agendas of 6 <sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>About the declaration of the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa by government of Nepal</b></li> <li>• <b>Registration of Harawa-Charawa network</b></li> <li>• <b>Implementation of Advocacy plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Mobilization of HC networks at local and district level</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overall review and reflection of national HC network</b></li> <li>• <b>Debt Alleviation</b></li> <li>• <b>Advocate for the further rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa</b></li> <li>• <b>Development and implementation of advocacy plan for the further rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa</b></li> </ul> |

These meetings were facilitated to divide the roles and responsibilities of network leaders, develop the methods on establishing democratic and guidelines for conducting advocacy campaigns.

**Activity-1.2.6: Facilitate regular meetings of HC network at district level:**

RDN facilitated regular meetings of HC networks at all 8 working districts of Madesh province on quarterly basis. A total of 8 meetings of 8 district HC networks (1 in each at Bara, Parsa, Rauthat, Sarlahi, Rauthat, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Siraha and Saptari) were organized. The meetings supported to enhance the capacity of network members on advocacy. Mainly those meetings were focused to identify and priority advocacy agendas of Harawa-Charawa. RDN project management team including HC activists will fully engaged to facilitate these meetings to make these more productive. The agendas discussed in the meetings were systematically documented to review further. As a result of this, total of 120 HC network members (Male-53 and Female-67) were organized, empowered, and mobilized for systematically claim for their rights on regular basis. National HC network was closely be coordinated during the process. **The disaggregated data of the 120 participants with male and female is presented below:**



**During the reporting period, RDN facilitated to organize 48 meetings (6 in each one district) of district Harawa-Charawa rights forum in 8 working districts in province-2. The meetings discussed on the following agendas as:**

- **Mobilization of local Harawa-Charawa networks to advocate on**



## freed Harawa-Charawa friendly policy and programs

- Debt Alleviation
- 4 points messages under the declaration of emancipation of Harawa-Charawa by prime-minister of Nepal
- Personal security of freed Harawa-Charawa.

Outcome 2:

What is your progress towards Outcome 2 this reporting period?

### Activity-2.1.1. Conduct regular meeting of FLeAG

During the reporting period, a total of 3 events of FLeAG meetings were organized at Kathmandu focusing on the issues of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, freed Haliyas and ex-Kamaiyas. The first meeting of FLeAG was organized on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 in the chairmanship of FLeAG coordinator Mr. Ganesh BK. A total of 11 FLeAG members including 6 male and 5 female participated in the meeting. The meeting concluded the following key action points as;

- Finalization of FLeAG operation guideline by giving the responsibility to Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai
- Mobilize agriculture bonded labours to incorporate their issues in manifesto of different political parties including their meaningful participation targeting upcoming local level election
- Development of annual plan of FLeAG by secretariat in close coordination with its member organization
- Strengthen social media campaign to share the best practice of FLeAG against the slavery system in Nepal

Similarly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of FLeAG was conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 in the chairmanship of FLeAG coordinator Mr. Ganesh BK. The meeting was organized at SAN office (FLeAG secretariat). A total of 12 FLeAG members (Male-6 and Female-6) participated in the meeting to discuss on the issues of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, freed Haliyas and ex-Kamaiyas. The meeting concluded the following key action points as;

- Development of further action plan of FLeAG based on the joint strategy plan of Agriculture Bonded Labours
- Regular lobby and advocacy to implement the recommendations of study committed formed by ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation at federal level
- Initiate to formulate integrated bonded labours act with the intensive discussion of ministry of women, children as well as ministry of land management and labour
- Use of digital plat- forum by promoting right-holders organization
- Implementation of federal policy advocacy activities on agriculture bonded labours in close coordination with RDN

**Similarly, the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at Kathmandu to discuss on the issues of agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya chaired by Mr. Ganesh BK- central chairperson of RDN and also coordinator of FLeAG.**

### Activity-2.1.2.3. Formation of multi-party parliamentary forum



During the reporting period, RDN facilitated to organize 3 events of discussion meeting with multi-party parliamentary forms at province-2 (Janakpur), province-5 (Butwal) and Province-7 (Dhangadhi) considering that they would fulfil an effective role within the parliament regarding the rights of agricultural bonded labours. The members of parliament who were in the favours of agricultural bonded labours were involved in the meetings. The study committee report was presented to multi-party parliamentary forum. During the same course of time, the

provincial state assembly members delivered their commitment saying that they would take necessary action to address the issues of ex-Kamaiyas

### Activity-2.1.2.1: Submission of memorandum:

A memorandum was submitted to draw the attention of provincial government at Lumbini (province-5) focusing the issues of ex-Kamaiya. The program was held in Butwal on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 with ministry of agriculture and

internal-affairs. During the same course of time, positive responses were received from concerned ministries for the the allocation of budget to address the instrumental needs of ex-Kamaiyas. The program was facilitated by RDN closely coordinated with AAN partners; Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj (KMJS-Bardiya). On the behalf of the Freedom Fund (FF), Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai participated and provided his technical inputs to the implementing partners by facilitating the policy advocacy activities.

#### Activity-2.1.2.4. Organize sit in campaign in front of office of chief minister



During the reporting period, the agricultural bonded labours network members were mobilized to conduct 3 events one in each province of sit in campaigns in front of the office of chief minister at province-2, 5 and 7 led by Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya networks on their respective issues. The main objective of the events is to sensitize the provincial government on agricultural bonded labour issues. Agricultural bonded labours from the respected provinces. Harawa-Charawa network members at district and national level were facilitated by RDN to draw the attention of provincial government to address voice and concerns of Harawa-Charawa at Madesh province (Janakpur). The study committee report was presented to hon. Lal Babu Yadav, chief minister of Madesh provincial

government. HC network members systematically claimed with proper evidences that the provincial government needs to take necessary action for the identification, verification and distribution of ID cards for the rehabilitation process. Similarly, the study committee was submitted to chief minister to provincial government at province-5 and province-7.

#### Activity-2.1.2.7. Advocacy for agricultural bonded labours friendly policy, program & budget

During this reporting period, a total of 3 events of advocacy campaign conducted for agricultural bonded labours friendly policy, program & budget at province-2, 5 and 7 separately as outlined below;

- During this reporting period, freed Haliya and ex-Kamaiya network members met high level government policy makers and government officials and attracted their attention towards the issues of agriculture bonded labours at Sudurpaschim and Lumbini province. They also handed-over the study committee report to chief ministers. Similarly, the meetings were held with ministry of finance and internal affairs to be incorporated the issues of freed Haliyas and Kamaiyas in policy, program and budget of provincial government. The event organized at province-5 (Butwal) was lively broadcasted from Rajya Television. The link of the broadcasting news is outlined as below;

- <https://fb.watch/dnmEI-AH45/>

- Similarly, advocacy campaign at provincial level, the agricultural bond labours have discussed and brought the attention of the Minister of Land Reforms for the alleviation of debt on the name of Harawa-Charawa at 8 districts of Madesh Province in Nepal. During the time of discussion, the land minister said that the provincial government is sensitive towards the issue of Harawa-Charawa with high priority. Mr. Dasan Mandal, chairperson of national Harawa-Charawa rights forum said that the liberation of Harwacharwa is their first and mandatory demand. Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai, technical advisor of the Freedom F und drew the minister's attention to the fact that despite the liberation of Kamaiya, Haliya and Kamlari, Harawa-Charawa are yet to be freed as Kamaiya Labor Act has not addressed all the concerns. During the same course of time, the memorandum was also submitted to Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Law and Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources. These activities were carried-out on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.



- RDN facilitated to organize on event of round table discussion with Madesh provincial government with an aim to advocate on Harawa-Charawa friendly policy and program. The program was held on 26<sup>th</sup> Jestha, 2079 at Janakpurdham. The program was chaired by Mr. Shree Prasad Sada-vice chairperson of National Harawa-Charawa rights forum and Mr. Ram Prabesh Baitha-vice chairperson of provincial Dalit Development Committee. The round table discussion was held in the presence HC network

members of all 8 districts in Madesh province, journalists, civil society organizations and human rights organizations. Mr. Lagindra Sada-general secretary of national HC network. The program was facilitated by Mr. Sanjay Mahara-advocacy officer of RDN. On the occasion of this, Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of RDN and also expert member of study committee presented the summary report of study committee so as to enhance the further discussion. Based on the presentation, Mr. Dasan Mandal-chairperson of national HC network, Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai-technical advisor and consultant of the Freedom Fund (FF), Ms. Kaushila Yadav-member from civil society organization and human rights activist, Mr.Sanjay Shah-chairperson of CIC Dhanusha, HCnetwork members; Ms Rajbati Devi Mandal, Mr. Ram Dayal Sada, Ms. Rajdev Bin and Mr. Mohamad Kadim Miya kept their special quarries and concerns. As a part of the conclusion, all the participants of the round table discussion emphasized that declaration of the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa is essential. They also demanded that the provincial government needs to allocate the sufficient budget to address the instrumental needs of Harawa-Charawa. Finally, the study committee report was submitted to vice-chairperson of provincial level Dalit Development Committee (DDC).

#### **Activity-2.1.2.9: Consultation meeting with trade union organizations**

RDN facilitated to organize three events of one day consultation meeting with trade union organizations considering that they are active stakeholders. The program was organized at Kathmandu on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, **23<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 and 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2022** aiming that the trade union organizations would to contribute developing agricultural bonded labour issue as common trade union agenda. In that meeting, the trade union members were requested to *link local trade union branches into the discussions and connect with partners and Network. A total 23 participants (Male-19 and Female-4) engaged in discussion program.*

#### **Activity-2.1.2.11: Joint Advocacy on Integrated bonded labours Act in federal level through bonded labours forum**

**RDN facilitated agriculture bonded labours organizations to develop the integrated bonded labours act. As a result of this, the ministry of labour, employment and social security has drafted integrated bonded labours act where Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN was nominated as expert-member of integrated bonded labour act drafting committee.**

#### **Activity-2.1.2.13: Delegation to office of the central committee of political parties**

**On the dated 25 September, 2022, targeting the upcoming provincial and House of Representatives elections, taking it as a golden opportunity, the letter of attention was submitted to the central office of parties to address the issues of agriculture-based forced labourers: freed Harwacharwa, Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamalari in the election manifesto of various political parties. The letter signed by Ganesh Bishwakarma, the National Coordinator of Forced Labor elimination Advocacy Group (FLeAG), member Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai and Dashanlal Mandal, the Central Chairman of the National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum and also a Coordinator of the National Agricultural Bonded Labor struggle committee was submitted to different political parties as; Nepali Congress, CPN (UML), CPN (Maoist-Center), CPN (United Socialist) and Janata Samajbadi Party (JASAPA) respectively.**



**The following were the major concerns of subject matters submitted to central committee of political parties as outlined below:**

- 1. Within the next 5 years, the entire rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charaw a will be completed with a systematic action plan, with the slogan of respect for labor, dignity of labor. As the Constitution of**

Nepal has guided towards a socialist-oriented system with progressive socio-economic transformation, an integrated package will be developed and effectively implemented to solve the political, economic, social and cultural problems

2. An Integrated Forced Labor (Prohibition and Punishment) Act will be promulgated to end all forms of forced labor and powerful National Labor Commission will be formed to monitor and evaluate its effective implementation.
3. The provision that workers do not have to pay any fee for employment will be strictly enforced in the recruitment process of workers for jobs in the country and abroad for making foreign employment safe and dignified.
4. One working family: One employment slogan will be implemented in practice. A labor bank will be established for this. Also, a labor welfare fund will be established for the sustainability of agricultural laborers. Also, equal wages will be ensured for men and women for the same work and labor inspectors will be arranged at the local level for labor audit every year.
5. All types of unfair loans, including false tamsuk, maximum interest, and meter interest, which exist under various pretexts, will be abolished. An awareness campaign will be conducted for employers, workers, local government and people from concerned offices including labor standards, appropriate labor practices and binding laws to end forced labor.
6. All types of forced laborers will be organized into trade unions according to their nature and interest and their leadership development and inclusion as well as education, health, employment and social security will be ensured.
7. It will be developed as an industry by modernizing the traditional and professional skills of agricultural workers. In addition, by increasing the scope of direct taxes, social security programs will be developed and a social security scheme will be implemented for workers in the informal sector.
8. Informal workers (domestic workers, porters, agricultural workers, construction workers, etc.) who have skills and are involved in various professions will be registered at all local levels.
9. Nepal has ratified the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 29 for the end of forced labor, but since the convention does not have provisions for public awareness including compensation and compensation, the document of ILO Convention 29 will be approved to establish rights including legal action, protection and rehabilitation of the victims.

The letter of attention was handed-over to Mr. Jeewan Pariyar, leader of Nepali Congress and also spokesperson of manifesto Drafting Committee, Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha-senior vice chairperson of Nepal Communist Party (Maoist Center), Mr. Shankar Pokhrel-secretary general of CPN-UML, Mr. Jaganath Khatiwada- spokesperson of Nepal Communist Party (Unified Socialist) and Mr. Upendra Yadav, chairperson of Janata Samajbadi Party. Taking this letter, the leaders of various political parties said that they are committed to address the issues of forced laborers based on agriculture: freed Harwacharwa, Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamalari in their election manifestos.

#### Activity-2.1.2.14. Advocacy for agricultural bonded labour friendly policy and program



During the reporting time, a total of one event of budget advocacy campaign at federal level with an aim to advocate on agriculture bonded labours friendly policy, program budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2022/23. The campaign focused to pressurize the federal government on agricultural bonded labours friendly policy and program. The campaign was jointly conducted for the period from 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 to 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 with the constructive engagement of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, freed Haliyas and ex-Kamaiyas-HCHaK. They were facilitated to discuss with concerned ministries and relevant stakeholders. For this, memorandum with incorporating the recommendations of study committee was submitted to ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation, ministry of finance, ministry of labour, employment and social security as well as parliamentary committee (agriculture, cooperative and natural resources).

Mr. Ganesh BK-chairperson of RDN, Hon. Hari Shreepaili-CA member, Mr. Ishwar Sunar-chairperson of Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal (RMHSF-Nepal), Mr. Pashupati Chaudhary-chairperson of Freed Kamaiya Society (FKS), Mr. Dasan Mandal-chairperson of National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum, Mr. Lagindra Sada-general secretary of National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum, Mr. Raju Ram Bhul-former chairperson of Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal (RMHSF-Nepal), Mr. Harichandra Chaudhary-treasurer of Freed Kamaiya Society (FKS), Mr. Jiyam Shrestha-Program Advisor of the Freedom Fund (FF), Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai-legal advisor of the FF and also FLeAG member, Mr. Sujat Shramnera-project coordinator of the Action Aid Nepal (AAN), Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director of RDN and Ms. Sarala Maharjan-Program Manager of CAHURASDT directly engaged in the budget advocacy campaign. As result of this, the federal government of Nepal (GoN) addressed the issues of agriculture bonded labours in this policy and program.



#### **Activity-2.1.2.15: Press-Meet**

**Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal facilitated National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum to organize one event of press conference on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 with an aim to disseminate the message to the declaration of emancipation of Harawa-Charawa as the government of Nepal formally declared the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 through the special speech of honourable prime-minister Mr. Sher Bdr. Deupa. The press conference was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 in Reporters Club, Bhirkuti Mandap Kathmandu. The program was chaired by Dasan Mandal-chairperson of national HC network. A total of 43 participants representing agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas and Kamaiyas including CSOs, media persons actively engaged in the program.**

#### **Activity-2.1.3. Media Mobilization**

RDN mobilized 5 Journalists to write the news, stories, features, and articles related to the socio-economic issues of Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas and Kamaiyas, to sensitize the policy makers towards the issues of HCHaK. For this mission, RDN carried-out contractual agreement with Kalika Times PVT. LTD. to mobilize 5 journalists. During the reporting period, the following national media persons were mobilized as;

- Dristi News: Mr. Subash Sah
- Online Khabar: Mr. Suresh Bidari
- Ratopati: Mr. Kiran Karn
- Sajilo News: Mr. Shyam Paswan
- Kalika Times: Mr. Shambhu Kumar Suman

As a result of this, a total of **33** news published in national online newspapers which were shared to the Freedom Fund (FF) earlier. The journalists were connected with FLeAG activities mentioned above including engagement with different government stakeholders. They disseminated the news in national media covering the FLeAG led advocacy campaigns at federal level. The effective communication channel was used to communicate with journalist on regular basis. FLeAG secretariat and RDN project management team took overall responsibility to coordinate and communicate with journalists.

#### **Activity-2.1.5. FLeAG Secretariat Support**

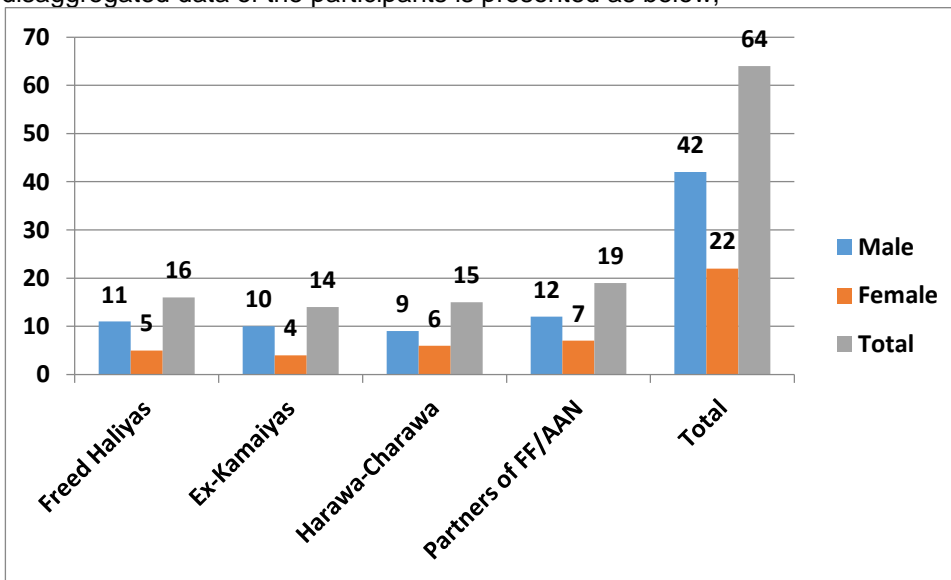
RDN conducted the contractual agreement with SAN for the period from 1st December, 2021 to 31st December, 2023 as currently, the secretariat is based on the office of SAN, one of the members of the alliance. RDN will discuss with the SAN and sign a contract for the expected support from the secretariat for the project activities for the effective mobilization of the FLeAG secretariat



The main objective of the contractual agreement is to provide support to FleAG secretariat for enhancing the collaborative role with FleAG members including concerned stakeholders. It was supported to deliver message to its network members through effective communication channel such as; email via telephone communication for their presence in various advocacy campaigns at federal level. It will share the periodic updates to RDN. The secretariat to take a lead to organize its regular meeting and support in joint movement building at federal level.



**Activity-2.2.1: Pre-consultation meeting for joint strategy:** With an aim to identify the advocacy priorities and analysis, key issues systematically documented and prepared as report to be presented in the FF's workshop, RDN facilitated to organize 3 events of pre-consultation workshops at province-2, province-5 and province-7 separately. The program was organized in Dahangadhi (province-7) on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 targeting freed Haliya issue. The consultation meeting was organized in Butwal (province-5) on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 focusing ex-Kamaiya issue. Similarly, the meeting was organized at Janakpur (province-2) on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 at Janakpur targeting Harawa-Charawa. A total of 64 participants in which 52 ex-bonded labours (Freed Haliyas-16, Ex-Kamaiya -14 and Harawa-Charawa-15) actively participated in these consultation meeting. The disaggregated data of the participants is presented as below;



The consultation meetings were facilitated by Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai, legal advisor and consultant of the Freedom Fund (FF). Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson and Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki, executive director of Rastriya Dalit Network. The province 2, 5 and 7 consultations were a base for the joint strategy formulation towards ending the agricultural bonded labour in Nepal. The details of consultation meetings process is mentioned below;

- Coordination with the FF, AAIN and their partners and Agriculture Bonded Labours networks
- Selection of participants
- Invitation to participants through the FF/AAIN partners
- Invitation to the FF/AAIN
- Select the venue for pre-consultation meetings (separate meetings)
- Facilitate the pre-consultation meetings as per schedule
- Note-down the issues raised in the meetings
- Prepare the brief report and submit it to the Freedom Fund

Throughout the meetings, 5 key small expected changes at local and provincial level were identified and prioritized to enhance further advocacy interventions on agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, freed

Haliyas and ex-Kamaiyas under joint strategy development process so far.

### Activity-2.2. 3: Learning and sharing workshop

**RDN facilitated the national HC network to organize one event of learning and sharing workshop among agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa network members to replicate the best practices through possible are of collaboration. The program was held on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at Lahan Siraha. A total of 32 participants (Male-19 and Female-13) representing Harawa-Charawa network at local, district and national level actively engaged in the event to discuss on key achievements, issues/challenges, lesson learned and way forward under the implementation of periodic advocacy plan. The program was chaired by Mr. Dasan Mandal-chairperson of national Harawa-Charawa rights forum and facilitated by Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki-Executive Director of RDN.**

#### Activity-2.3.1. Face to face meetings with bureaucracy and government officials

During the reporting period, a total of 3 events of face-to-face meetings were conducted at federal and provincial level as;

- Under the federal level policy advocacy activities, the memorandum focusing the issues of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, freed Haliyas and Kamaiyas was submitted to honorable Nira Jairu, president of State Directive Principles, Implementation of Policy and Obligation, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee. Once the memorandum was submitted, the discussion was also held during the same course of time regarding liberation and rehabilitation of agriculture bonded labours in Nepal. Taking the demands of bonded labours, Jairu had expressed her commitment to take initiatives for the implementation of the study committee's recommendations. She also said that she would raise the issues of agriculture bonded labours in the House of Representatives. As a result of this, she raised the issue expecting that the government would liberate Harawa-Charawa immediately.



Similarly, RDN facilitated FLeAG to organize 3 events of face-to-face meeting with bureaucracy and government officials at federal level through the mobilization of agriculture bonded labours organizations. The main objective of the meetings was to discuss on specific issues and to follow the implantation status of government plan and policies focusing the rights of agricultural bonded labours. The process of the meetings were presented below:

- Coordination with relevant ministries and concerned agencies before meeting
- Agenda setting
- Presentation of issues by Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya leader
- Overview of government policy and program presented by respective ministries and agencies
- Open Discussion
- Commitment of respective ministries and agencies to implement the government plan and policies



The meetings were organized with ministry of land reform, cooperative and poverty alleviation, agriculture, labor, employment and social security and national human rights. The meeting also discussed on the technical aspects of implementation methodology of government policies on periodic basic. The activity contributed to explore the possible of collaboration with agricultural bonded labours to support in the implementation of government plan and policies at federal level.





Similarly, a total of 2 events of face-to-face meetings were organized on 27 September, 2022. The meetings were organized with ministry of labour, employment and social security as well as ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation. The meeting with ministry of labour, employment and social security was concentrated on the integrated bonded labour Act. During the same course of time, the memorandum highlighting the demands of agriculture bonded labours was submitted to Hon. Sher Bdr. Kunwar- labour, employment and social security minister.

During the same course of time, the meeting with ministry of land management, cooperative and poverty alleviation was focused on rehabilitation plan of agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya. Mr. Chandra Sibakoti-undersecretary of the ministry of land management shared details plan regarding the data collection, verification and rehabilitation of freed Harawa-Charawa, missed Haliyas and Kamaiyas. Mr. Ganesh BK- central chairperson of Rastriya Dalit Network and also coordinator of Forced Labour elimination Advocacy Group (FLeAG) facilitated the meetings. The meeting concluded that the collective evidence-based advocacy would be fruitful to pressurize the local and provincial government for their freed Harawa-Charawa friendly policy, program and budget.

#### **Activity-2.3.2. Federal level multi-stakeholders' policy dialogues on agricultural bonded labours**

RDN organized one event of Federal level multi-stakeholders' policy dialogue targeting the issues of agricultural bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas and Kamaiyas on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2022 in Union House Kathmandu. The program was organized in close coordination with Forced Labours elimination Advocacy Group (FLeAG) and Agriculture Bonded Labours Joint Struggle Committee. The dialogue concluded that the multi-dimensional issues of agriculture bonded labours cannot have been strategically addressed although the government of Nepal has officially declared the emancipation of ex-Kamaiya in 2000 AD, freed Haliyas in 2008 AD, Kamharis in 2013 and recently freed Harawa-Charawa in 2022 AD. During the same course of time, Mr. Ganesh BK, central chairperson of RDN and also member of study committee said that it is shameful situation for federal democratic republic while agriculture bonded labours system is still existing in Nepal which is exploitative as it is under the practice of federalism and inclusive development. He also pointed out that the first responsibility of the state is to ensure their dignity through social and economic empowerment of freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas and Kamaiyas through structural transformation of nation.

Honorable Shyam Shrestha, member of the Constituent Assembly and Coordinator of Freed Haliya, Kamaiya, Kamharis and Harawa-Charawa Situation Study Committee emphasized that the government should take necessary action to address the issues of agriculture bonded labours through the approval of rehabilitation plan by the ministry of council. He pointed out that it is possible to say goodbye to nepotism and feudalism in Nepal forever by establishing effective institutions in accordance with the law. In the policy dialogue program, Mr. Janak Raj Joshi, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and poverty alleviation made a presentation on the current situation of agricultural bonded laborers: Harawa-Charawa, freed Haliya, ex-Kamaiya and Kamharis and the upcoming plan of the government for their rehabilitation.





Giving her opinion on the presentation, Hon. Nira Jairu, president of the state's directive principle, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee said that the state should enforce an effective mechanism for effective implementation in order to ensure the overall social justice and dignified life of the agricultural bonded labours. During the same course of time, Hon. Anjana Bisunke and Parbati Bisunke, member of house of representative emphasized that the government should arrange appropriate structure, corresponding program and budget as well as monitoring mechanism to address the issues of agriculture bonded labours for its effective implementation. In the program, Hon. Mehele Parki, member of the National Dalit Commission, Mr.

Hari Gyawali from National Human Rights Commission, Mr. Lokendra Gyawali from Madhesi Commission, Mr. Omkar Shah of National Women's Commission, Mr. Chakraman Bishwakarma, former president of DWO, Mr. Jiyam Shrestha-program Advisor of the Freedom Fund (FF) also expressed their views and opinion. The multi-stakeholder dialogue was chaired by Mr. Raju Ram Bhul, former chairperson of Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal and facilitated by Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki, Executive Director of RDN.

### Activity-2.3.3. Day Celebration 5 events

The International Labours Day (May-1<sup>st</sup>) was celebrated in close coordination at federal and provincial level. The agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiyas were encouraged to participate in the various programs organized on the occasion of international labours. The right-holders organizations raised their voice and concern. Similarly, the TV talk program was broadcasted from Nepal Television on international labour day. RDN also facilitated to national Harawa-charawa rights forum to release the press statement on the occasion of International Labour Day-May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Mr. Shayam Sundar Sada-chairperson of district Harawa-Charawa rights forum of Siraha was invited by NTV to capture his interview before the international Labour Day-May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. RDN provided its technical and financial support to facilitate the process accordingly.



Similarly, the Human Rights Day (10th December) was celebrated in close coordination with 14th National Human Rights Magna Meet-2022 at Kathmandu. Agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa participated in Human Rights Day organized by national human rights commission at its head office. Mr. Dasan Mandal-chairperson of national HC network, Mr. Lagindra Sada-general secretary of national HC network and Ms. Mamata Bishwokarma-secretary of district HC network Mahottari participated in the event.

### Activity-2.3.4.TV Talk program

During the reporting period, a total of **3 episodes of TV talk programs** were broadcasted from Nepal Television (NTV). As per the schedule, the TV talk programs were conducted with hon. Nira Jairu, president of state directive, implementation of policy and obligation, monitoring committee as well as Mr. Shyam Shrestha, coordinator of study committee and Mr. Shayam Sundar Sada, chairperson of district HC network Siraha. For this mission, the SAMATA MEDIA CENTRE was selected. Throughout the intervention, most of the issues regarding agriculture bonded labours: Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamiya were captured. **The third episode of TV talk program was related to rehabilitation of recently fred Harawa-Charawa where Hon, Hari Shreepaili-CA member and also member of study committee as well as Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai-advocacy officer of the Freedom Fund (FF) were engaged.**

The program broadcasting dates were shared in wider level by using social media platforms like i.e. face-book page, twitter and email to the FF partners so that they were informed to HCHAK network members. The visual recording of the program was also shared in social medias like; face-book. The link of the TV talk program is outlined as below:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzeqIJ5eaiQ>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLKF6eLXkp0>
- <https://www.facebook.com/chakraman.bishwakarma/posts/pfbid0ETVrccAZLHDeKvtCz6r54EbP4nAF8uF8VrdAYh5Uu7Tfd1ksoPCAwnuoYnegLSeul>

Similarly, Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal was invited as guest speaker in TV talk program which was also broadcasted from NTV without paying any amount of money. The TV talk program was related to the analysis of government budget for the rights of Dalit communities in Nepal. The link of the TV talk program is outlined as below;

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OTnspzRsdY>

### 2.3 Unexpected impact:

- **Did anything unexpected (positive or negative) happen during this reporting period? If yes, please describe. Also include a short description of the activity that led to the unexpected impact.**

There were not any unintended impacts/results observed in this reporting period.

### 2.4 Changes to project activities:

- Please include an explanation of any project activities that were changed or delayed.

**There were not changed in planned activities of the project but due to the local, provincial and federal election, the following activities were delayed and could not be implemented within agreed time frame for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022**

- **Organizational Website Update**
- **Harawa-Charawa Rights Cycle Caravan**
- **Sensitization Campaign to policy makers on HC issues**
- **Support to national HC network registration process**

## 3. CHALLENGES

- Have you faced any challenges in this reporting period?
- If yes, please describe the challenges and explain how you addressed them?
- Do you need any additional assistance from the Freedom Fund to address these challenges?

There were not any risks observed during the reporting period.

Expected Support from the Freedom Fund (FF): The continuous guidance and technical backstopping from Freedom Fund is required to address the above mentioned challenges.

## 4. COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

### 4.1 Collaboration with hotspot partners

- Please provide up to 3 examples of when your organisation has collaborated with one or several other hotspotpartners to achieve an improved result within your project or organisation during the reporting period.
- By collaboration, we mean times when you have either directly worked with another organisation or learned from their approach. Examples can also be about exposure visits to learn about another organisation's project.

The coordination, collaboration and relationship with Freedom Fund (FF) and its partners at hotspot area was quite satisfactory during this last 6 months. RDN established very good relationship in FF partners in 3 existing project coverage districts-Saptari, Siraha and Rauthat by sharing the knowledge and skill for the effective implementation of the project.

*Some of the good examples for the collaboration are outlined below;*

- *While organizing the 3 days training to youth activism implementing partners were requested to inform the participants of the program so that the training successfully organized*

- There was good collaboration among agriculture bonded labours networks, AAN and the FF partners during various policy advocacy campaign at provincial and federal level
- The local HC network members were mobilized during local level election-2022 in close coordination local partners of FF at Saptari, Siraha and Dhanusha

Similarly, the Freedom Fund (FF) organized 2 days community of practice (CoP) meeting for the period from 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022 to 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 at Simrik Hotel Lahan in the presence of FF partners-RDN, CIC-Dhanusha, DJKYC-Siraha, SCDC-Saptari and JDS-Saptari including Harawa-Charawa network members/leaders at districts and national level. The main objective of the meeting was to share the key achievements, issues/challenges, lesson learned and upcoming priority. Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai, technical advisor and consult of FF facilitated the session on local election that was taken as window of opportunity also on legal assistance.

On the other hands, the joint strategy planning meeting was organized by Purple Foundation at Kathmandu on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. The meeting was represented by the Freedom Fund, Action Aid Nepal and RDN to discuss about concrete plan with specific time-line. Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai mentioned the objectives and importance of joint strategy development of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, freed Haliyas and ex-Kamaiyas network. Based on that, Purple Foundation organized 4 days joint advocacy development workshop at Bardiya in close coordination with the FF, AAN, RDN, local partners and agriculture bonded labours networks.

The Freedom Fund (FF), Action Aid Nepal (AAN), RDN and Purple Foundation jointly organized joint validation workshop at Kathmandu. The workshop was held on 28-29 June, 2022 in close coordination with agriculture bonded labours network; national HC network, freed Kamaiya society and Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal including the FF partners; CIC-Dhanusha, DJKYC-Siraha, SCDC-Saptari, JDS-Saptari and AAN partners; Peacewin Bajura, EDC-Doti and KMJS-Bardiya. During the same course of time, the technical inputs were provided as facilitated in various session of the workshop as required. As a result of this, national level agriculture bonded labours struggle committee was formed to jointly advocacy of Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas and Kamaiyas-HCHaK issues through joint movement and collective effort.

Action Aid Nepal (AAN) organized one event of training on leadership and advocacy at Kathmandu in close coordination with the Freedom Fund (FF) and its implementing partners including agriculture bonded laborus networks. The training was conducted for the period from 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 to 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2022. On the behalf of the FF, I had participated in the training and provide my technical and facilitation support as needed.



**The Joint Community of Practice (CoP) meeting was organized by Action Aid Nepal (AAN) in close coordination with the Freedom Fund (FF). RDN facilitate to engage the participation of agriculture bonded labours network members in that meeting. The event was held in Nepalgunj for the period from 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 to 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. Similarly, the joint strategy validation workshop was held on 16-17 September, 2022 at Nepalgunj.**

**RDN and AAN facilitated to organize meeting of National Agriculture Bonded Labour Joint Struggle Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 at Nepalgunj. The meeting generally reflected that due to series of advocacy interventions on the issues of agriculture bonded labours at federal level, the government of Nepal was compelled to declare the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa. Finally, it was also concluded that the coordination and collaboration among freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas and Kamaiya network members needs to be increased for further effectiveness in quality based advocacy campaign through useful communication channel.**

**RDN and AAN jointly facilitated the third regular meeting of National Agriculture Bonded Labour Struggle Committee on 26 September, 2022 at Hotel Pokhara Palace Sundhara Kathmandu. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Dasan Mandal-chairperson of national Harawa-Charawa network and also a**

coordinator of that Struggle Committee in the special presence of Mr. Ganesh BK-central chairperson of Rastriya Dalit Network and also coordinator of Forced Labour elimination Advocacy Group (FLeAG). The meeting discussed the following agenda in details;

- i. The meeting reviewed the overall national level policy advocacy that was recently conducted at Kathmandu focusing the issues of agriculture bonded labours; freed Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas and Kamaiyas. The meeting concluded that the leaders of different political parties positively responded the voice and concerns of agriculture bonded labours which were mentioned in letter of attention. It was also suggested that there should be good planning and documentation during the advocacy interventions at local, provincial and federal level.
- ii. The meeting highly appreciated and acknowledged the commitment of central committee of different political parties; Nepali Congress, CPN (UML), CPN (Maoist-Center), CPN (United Socialist) and Janata Samajbadi Party (JASAPA) that they delivered during handing-over the letter of attention.
- iii. The meeting nominated 2 additional members in National Agriculture Bonded Labour Struggle Committee representing from Dalit land rights union and Kamhlari organization. Mr. Shyam Sunar-secretary general of Dalit land rights union and Ms. Bishnu Chaudhary-Executive Chairperson of Freed Kamhlari Development Forum (FKDF) have been nominated in that committee respectively
- iv. It was discussed that the activities related to upcoming provincial and federal level election would be planned such as election commitment program to the candidates of different political parties at Sudurpachim, Lumbini and Madesh province led by struggle committee as well as follow-up activities with the technical support of RDN and FF/AAN implementing partners.
- v. Finally, the meeting concluded that coordination and partnership among relevant stakeholders would be crucial for the further effectiveness, sustainability and synergic impact.

With an aim to share the target Vs Achievements, lesson learned, issues/challenges and upcoming plan under the implementation of Ending Agriculture Bonded Labours in Nepal in SE hotspot program, the Freedom Fund (FF) organized one event of Community of Practice (CoP) meeting for the period from 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 to 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 at hotel Simrik Lahan Siraha. A total Number of Participants: 24 including FF team. (SE Partners & RDN: 5X2 Chair and ED/Coordinator = 10, SE Network: 8-One from each district, National HC Network 3 Person and FF: 3) engaged in the meeting



The Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) approach was adopted to implement the project that contributed to ensure the ownership of rights holders for the sustainability of the project. In addition, Freedom Fund partners supported to build the relationship with local government bodies, political parties and civil society organizations (CSOs) that contributed to create the enabling environment for the effective implementation of the project.

#### 4.2 Other hotspot activities

- Have you made any adjustments to your project or intervention as a result of OCAT or any Freedom Fund capacity building, technical assistance or research involvement?

Not any

## 5. INTERNAL REPORT

### 5.1 Organisational changes

- Have there been organisational changes that have affected the implementation of the project?
- If yes, describe the changes, the impact of the changes, and anything the organisation did to address the changes. For example, changes in executive leadership, staff roles, location, programmatic capacity etc.

The project was well managed by providing specific responsibilities to the staffs in Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal. There were not any changes in staff level occurred in regards to the organizational management. During the project period, the capacity of executive committee members and project staffs of RDN Nepal was

strengthened by participating in various trainings, orientations and consultation meetings as outlined below;

- Financial management training
- Youth activism and advocacy training
- Training to district HC network members on leadership development and advocacy skill
- Orientation to district Harawa-Charawa network members on government plan and policy

**Similarly, Enhancing Access to Benefits while Lowering Emissions (EnABLE) funded by World Bank Group has selected RDN team members on different capacity building trainings which are going to be organized at Bangkok Thailand for the period from 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 to 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. It aims at building vital operational skills of Indigenous Peoples Organizations and civil society organizations to implement EnABLE county projects. The following participants have been selected for the following trainings as;**

| SN | Name of Participants | Position           | Training Course                        |
|----|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1  | Mr. Mohan Oad        | General Secretary  | Safeguards and Social Risks Management |
| 2  | Ms. Parbati Aagri    | Board Member       | Safeguards and Social Risks Management |
| 3  | Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki | Executive Director | M&E as well as Financial Management    |
| 4  | Mr. Bharat Aagri     | Finance Manage     | Financial Management and Procurement   |
| 5  | Mr. Rup N. Paswan    | Advocacy Officer   | Safeguards and Social Risks Management |

**5.2 Safeguarding:**

- Have any safeguarding concerns arisen in the current reporting period? If so, can you briefly describe them and have they been reported to the Freedom Fund?

Safeguarding means protecting the rights of target groups to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organizations working together to both prevent and responding to risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure the children, women and adult's well. Considering the situation mentioned above, RDN has safeguarding policy in place. RDN has formed safeguarding committee led by Ms. Parbati Aagri. Based on the policy there is safeguarding register has been maintained.

Similarly, RDN has Complain Response Mechanism (CRM) is in place. The complaints are further processed through opening the complaint box with necessary observation and nature of complain. Different complaint receiving methods have been established like; complain box, focal persons, phone no., e-mail, face to face talking. The rights holders are always encouraged to raise their dissatisfaction in the form of complaints, feedbacks and suggestion and treated positively as an opportunity for continuous learning and improvement. However, during this period no any serious complaints received.

During this reporting period, the Freedom fund hired a consultant to improve the safeguarding situation of all the partners. In this regards, the consult organized face to face meeting with RDN team members including safeguarding focal person to discuss on safeguarding practice of RDN so far. It was concluded that the training would be provided to RDN board and its staffs to improve the safeguarding situation in future days to come.

**5.3 Staffing:**

- Please note an X in the relevant category if the following leadership positions in your organisation are filled by either women or survivors of slavery.

| Leadership Position  | Filled by a woman | Filled by a survivor of slavery |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Head of Organization |                   |                                 |
| Head of Programs     |                   |                                 |

**6. CASE STUDY**

Please provide OneCare study that demonstrate the positive impact of the organization's Freedom Fund project. The case study can either be about:

- an individual, group or community.
- OR the impact of a policy or systems-level change that was the result of your organization's advocacy.

The case study should be approximately half a page in length, and no more than one page. Photographs may be included to illustrate the case study.

Your case study must relate to your Freedom Fund project's overall goals and provide evidence that it is



having an impact. For example, it is fine to include an individual case study about poverty alleviation, but the story must also show how your project has helped reduce systemic forms of exploitation in the community.

### Case Study Guidelines

#### **Introduction:**

Please provide a brief description of the profiled individual, group or community. If you are writing about policy or systems change, please give a description of the change that has happened.

#### **Case Presentation:**

The main part should tell the story of how a survivor has come out of exploitation, or of how a group/community has combatted forms of modern slavery. It is often useful to quote the individual or a group/community member and allow them to describe their experience in their own words.

Please use these guiding questions to write your case study:

- 1) What problem or type of exploitation did the individual/group/community experience?
- 2) What assistance did your organisation provide to end the exploitation?
- 3) How has the individual/group/community's situation improved due to your organisation's actions, and what impact has this had on the larger community?
- 4) How have the root causes of slavery been addressed?

For example, is the profiled individual now an anti-slavery advocate? Is the community more aware of or resilient to certain types of exploitation? Have harmful social norms been challenged? What lessons can be drawn from the profiled individual's or partner's experience?

#### Consent

For all information involving an individual or community within the case study, and accompanying photos, we require that consent is given by the subject(s) for use by the Freedom Fund.

Please indicate below whether consent has been obtained from the subject(s):

Consent obtained from subject(s) to use information in case study?  Yes  No

Consent obtained from subject(s) to use photographs?  Yes  No

#### **Mahabir Majhi from Harawa-Charawa to Leadership Position**

Mr. Mahabir Majhi in his early seventies (71 years old) resident at Karaiyamai rural municipalities of Bara district in Madesh province of Nepal has been elected as chairperson of District Haruwa Charuwa Rights Forum of Bara. Mahabir Majhi represents from poor family background. Now, he is able to make his identity as good leaders in Harawa-Charawa community. He has one daughter and two sons. Although, it was very difficult situation since his childhood, he was able to pass the 7<sup>th</sup> class. His father died while he was in the age of five. He was totally cared by his mother.



He had worked for Harawa-Charawa with landowner Shiv Shankar Chaudhary for 4 years as agriculture bonded labours. Then he ploughed the land of Sakha Chaudhary-landowner for 3 years. Then he was engaged in Doli pratha. There are many Mushar castes in his community. The Musahar community are given a very low status in the community due to the low human development index. Although there were many ups and down appeared in his life, he started to continue his efforts by struggling in his life. As result of this, he became a district vice-chairperson of Dalit liberation society so as to raise the voice against caste-based discrimination and untouchability which is still prevailed in Nepalese society.

Once he was given opportunity to be participated in Harawa-Charawa gathering under the implementation of Ending Agriculture Bonded Labours in Nepal Project by RDN with the financial support of the Freedom Fund (FF), he was also interested to take a leadership to emancipate Harawa-Charawa system. Then Mahabir Majhi fully started to participate in various rights based-oriented programs organized RDN. Finally, he was selected as chairperson of district Harawa-Charawa network at Bara district. He says, 'It is my great pleasure to get this position that has increased my confident itself.' He has also great desire to see the agriculture bonded labors free society in Nepal.