

# PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT (PCR)

(05 August, 2020 to 20 December, 2020)



**Figure 1:** Mr. Tari Ram Tamata, Social Mobilization/Field Officer, facilitating the ward level dialogue on legal and constitutional provisions of women and other vulnerable groups at Ajaymeru rural municipality of Dadeldhura

***Title of the Project:***

## **Ensuring Access to Justice for Women and Vulnerable Groups through Legal Awareness**

**Submitted to:**



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

**Submitted By:**

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**Date of Submission: 15 December, 2020**

**CSO Partner Profile**

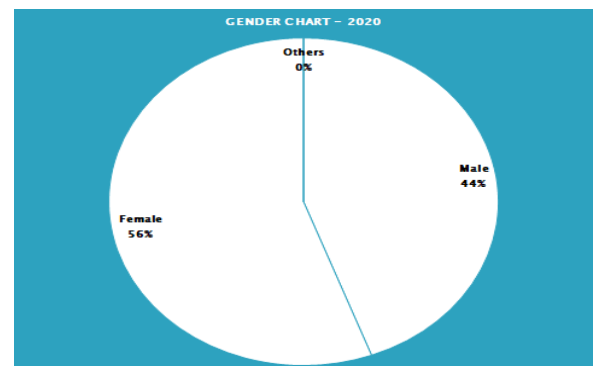
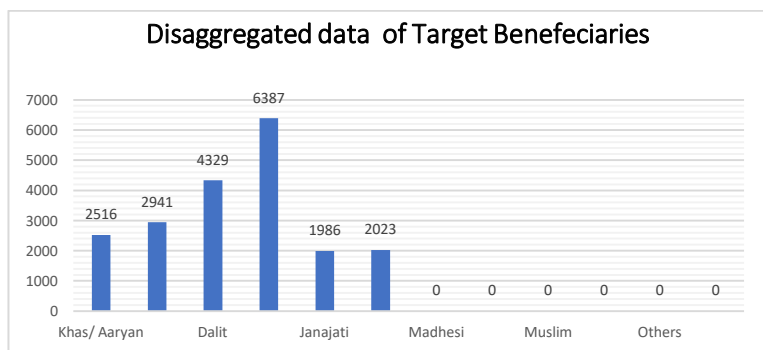
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Project period	05 August, 2020 to 20 December, 2020

**Executive Summary**

**Project Completion Report-PCR** of ‘Ensuring Access to Justice for Women and Vulnerable Groups through Legal Awareness’ has been produced in order to view the project progress for the period of 5<sup>th</sup> August to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Key results and successes have been reflected in this report.

Staff members of RDN and its collaborative partner-SF have collectively contributed in producing this project completion report. The report was rigorously Project Management Team (PMT). The respective team members reviewed and synchronized the report against the Project Document and Work Plan and Budget and finalized it, which is endorsed by executive committee board of RDN Nepal. The analysis and information contained in this report represent the work completed by RDN Nepal and its collaborative partner.

Throughout the project interventions, a total of **19,826** individuals’ including **11,035** females from right holders and relevant stakeholders have been mobilized. Out of them, **2,557** Khas/Aryan (Male- 1016 and Femal-1541), **5,516** Dalits (Male- 2429 and Female-3087 as well as **2,108** Janajati (Male- 1086 and Female-1023) directly benefitted and **2900** Khas/Aryan (Male- 1500 and Female-1400), **5200** Dalits (Male- 1900 and Female-3300) as well as **1900** Janajati (Male- 900 and Female-1000) indirectly benefitted from project intervention. The project provided three different types of supports that include legal awareness, capacity building and sensitization of policy makers. The disaggregated information of the beneficiaries reached during project period is presented in the table below:



Based upon the result based participatory planning, implementation and monitoring of the project intervention, the project results have been achieved so far with quantitative and qualitative changes.

The overall, the project is on the right track to meet the year-end targets.. The efforts have been given to align with Government and Non-governmental projects/programs for sustainability aspects of the project. The overall activity performance during project implementation period was satisfactory.

Out of the total activity planned, **100%** of project activities has been successfully implemented. The working budget for project period (August-December, 2020) was **US\$ 26,810**. Out of the total budget planned, a total expenditure for the period is sum of **US\$ 26,520.60** which is **98.92%** against the agreed budget.

#### Five key results achieved in 2020

1. Produced, Printed the IEC materials i.e. 4000 booklets regarding the constitutional and legal provisions.
2. Developed and printed the 120 pieces of Flip charts on constitutional rights of Dalit women and children; and provision of Anti-discrimination Act 2011.
3. Produced three radio PSAs on Dalit, women and marginalized rights include legal provisions; with role of local judicial committee. 3 PSAs are airing from 4 local FMs from project coverage districts.
4. Increased knowledge and awareness on constitutional, legal including new laws (fundamental rights related and new codes) and institutional framework among the women and vulnerable groups by organizing one event
5. Ward chairs, members of judicial committee and CSOs aware directly on the role and responsibilities of the committees and the members including related normative framework on women, Dalit and vulnerable groups
6. Increased responsiveness and sensitization among duty bearers on the rights of women and vulnerable groups.
7. Increased learning sharing among the relevant stakeholders to follow-up the action plan (road map) of the local government bodies.
8. A total of 15 Media fellowship feature news published in the topic of women and other vulnerable groups of Sudurpaschim Province in various local and national newspapers.
9. Identified the existing gaps on policies of provincial government targeting women, Dalits and children to be adjusted
10. Sudurpaschim provincial government is in the process of indorsing Dalit Empowerment Act for the overall socio-economic empowerment of Dalits

## 1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE OF THE PROJECT

The Constitution of Nepal has adopted the principle of federal democratic governance structure, republicanism, secularism, inclusiveness and social justice as progressive provisions. The Constitution has safeguarded several fundamental rights including women's right, Dalit's rights and right to equality and non-discrimination extensively and also, enacted comprehensive and integrated Muluki Civil and Criminal Codes which are considered to be radical departure from Nepal's traditional criminal justice system. These new codes have adopted various standard principles of judicial trial and justice system and included provisions in compliance with Nepal's international human rights obligations and principles of GESI, equality and non-discrimination. Moreover, a few special laws have enacted for women, Dalit and vulnerable groups respectively. The Local Governance Operation Act has provisioned for Judicial Committee headed by Deputy Mayor/Vice-Chair of Municipality/Rural municipality as an alternative dispute settlement mechanism that are seen as an innovation to ensure effective, easy and speedy justice system to the people specially for women and other vulnerable groups. However, it is evident that women and vulnerable groups particularly living in remote areas/in the province still lack knowledgeable about how their rights have been enshrined in the constitution and laws and how those can be enjoyed through which arrangement of government. The local governments are bestowed with 22 exclusive rights including judicial rights to be exercised through Judicial Committee. Unfortunately, local people particularly women, Dalit and marginalized groups living in remote areas are not aware enough of all these provisions. This problem not only prevails among grass-root people, it also prevails among leaders and activists at local level and even the local government representatives. Due to lack of awareness on their constitutional and legal rights, judicial procedures and institutional mechanism, particularly Dalit and marginalized women are unable to seek justice when their rights are violated. Additionally, even the laws enforcement agencies/agents and duty barriers in local level are also not aware enough about the existing normative framework about women and vulnerable groups and the same situation prevails among the local leaders, activist and youths.

Regarding the human rights protection and promotion, the demand side governance issues are: prevalent discrimination in the society and poor participation of the discriminated groups in governance. The discriminated people are poorly aware of their rights and claiming procedure and mechanisms. They do not have equal access to resources, opportunities and justice. At supply side, the public officials and law enforcement agencies are not fully aware of human rights obligation of the state and sensitive ensuring the protection of the rights of all in public service delivery. Public resource allocation is not efficient and decision for such is often influenced by elites, where voices of excluded groups' are not heard.

The Constitution of Nepal has safeguarded various rights of women (Article 38), Dalits (Article 40) and other marginalized as well as vulnerable groups (Article 42) under the chapter of Fundamental Rights and Duties including right to equality, rights relating to justice, right against untouchability and discrimination, right to freedom to religion, right against exploitation, right to social security and right to constitutional remedies etc. Furthermore, Muluki Criminal Code 2074 also safeguarded the rights against discrimination and untouchability (Section, 160 & 166), slavery, bounded and forced labor (Section 161, 162, 163), inhuman behavior and witchcraft, discrimination during menstruation (*Chhaupadi*), socially boycotting (Section 168) respectively. Similarly, Local Government Operation Act, 2074 has provisioned local mediation (Section 11/2/L), social security (Section 11/4/F) and Judicial Committee (Section 46-53) respectively. Moreover, there are several special laws regarding to women, Dalit and other vulnerable groups such as Kamaiya-Labour Elimination Act, 2058, Caste-Based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2068, Women-Dalit-Janajati-Tharu-Muslim-Madhesi Commission Act, 2074, Children Act, 2075, Witchcraft Accusation (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2072 respectively. However, these normative interventions are not

adequately translated into implementation due to lack of commitment of duty bearers and lack of awareness among the women and vulnerable groups, particularly living in the province. For the effective implementation of these legislative provisions, it is very important that right holders are adequately informed and empowered, and it is very important to aware and sensitizes duty bearers about the rights of vulnerable groups too. Against this backdrop, the proposed program aimed at increasing awareness of targeted groups about the normative frameworks and its implementation processes/mechanisms ahead.

The action is relevant and fitting in changing context in such a way that the newly promulgated constitution-2015 of Nepal has significant provisions for the socio-economic rights of women, Dalits and vulnerable groups in the community.

## 2. PROJECT SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVE

**The main aim** of this project is creating conducive environment by enhancing knowledge of constitutional and legal rights provisions where access to justice for women and vulnerable groups are protected and guaranteed. **The main target groups are:** Community People including Women, Dalits and marginalized groups and Local Level Government, Local Judicial Committee, Legal aid centers, Local Mediators in synergy with, Federation of Nepali Journalists, Nepal Bar Associations, human rights organizations, government, Legal Aid Center, District Attorney's office, Local Mediation Center, and other Justice Sector Actors etc. **The main activities for legal awareness include:** Development and dissemination of IEC materials; PSA, Media fellowship on necessary constitutional, legal and operational instruments for empowering people.

**The project has three objectives:**

- **Objective-1:** Create awareness of targeted women and vulnerable groups of people to enable them to understand and exercise rights and entitlements guaranteed by national normative framework and seeking justice.
- **Objective-2:** Enhance conceptual understanding and knowledge of women and vulnerable groups on existing normative framework, institutional mechanism to ensure equal and speedy access to justice.
- **Objective-3:** To enhance the role and responsibility of judicial committee through empowering judicial committee's members and widening collaboration with CSOs, local mediation and other government agencies.

## 3. PROGRAMMATIC REVISIONS (IF ANY)

The project document was revised considering the corona-virus (COVID-19) pandemic situation and required budget was adjusted accordingly. The number of participants was reduced in most of the planned activities. The implementation modality of some activities was modified to be conducted though online zoom/webinar etc.

## 4. PROGRESS TOWARDS THE UNDAF/CPD OUTCOMES

Narrative of Progress towards SDG Outcome:

**SDG Outcome 2:** By 2022, inclusive, democratic, accountable and transparent institutions are further strengthened towards ensuring rule of law, social justice and human rights for all particularly for vulnerable people

- Number of vulnerable people accessing formal justice system
- Number of people having benefitted from integrated legal aid service, as per integrated legal aid policy (SDG 16.3)

## 5.2 Progress on Project Outputs(*provide narratives, relevant photos, data and quotes*)

Progress on Output 2: Capacity of Judicial Committees at the local level to deliver justice developed

### 2.1 Necessary rules/regulations, SOPs, code of conduct and knowledge products for the JC are in place



- The capacity of ward chairs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and members of judicial committees was enhanced for exchanging experiences to increase its effectiveness in the future. Throughout the intervention, the knowledge was produced for judiciary committee on the necessary rules/regulations, Standards Operation Procedures (SOPs) as well as code of conduct.

- 793** elected local level representatives from women and Dalits and **91** representatives of District

and local level duty/stakeholders are **directly** in increasing knowledge on normative framework, institutional mechanism and their role and responsibilities for effective implementation on the ground.

### 2.2. System for vertical linkage between district court and JC is in place

- The multi-stakeholder meetings among district administrative office, district police office, district legal aid Committee, District Bar Association, District Attorney's office, District office of the Federation of Nepalese Journalists, District level representatives of NGOs/CSOs and District level women and Dalit rights leaders/activists were organized targeting the rights of women and other vulnerable groups in the project coverage area.



- These interventions contributed to create the system for vertical linkage between district court and JC is in place.
- 222** ward chairs, members of judicial committee and CSOs will be aware **directly** on the role and responsibilities of the committees and the members including related normative framework on women, Dalit and vulnerable groups

### 2.3 Women, poor and vulnerable are aware about the roles and responsibilities of JC and feel confident towards it



- Women, poor and vulnerable groups were trained on the role and responsibilities of the judiciary committees and the members including related normative framework on women, Dalit and vulnerable groups. They were confident towards it.

- Similarly, they were aware through conducting on the constitutional and legal

framework such as fundamental rights related laws, special laws, Muluki civil and criminal codes and alternative access to justice mechanism such as Judicial Committee.

- More than **4000** local people aware **directly** and more than **10,000** people aware **indirectly** in target Districts in increasing knowledge on constitutional rights, legislative frameworks on Muluki criminal and civil codes, fundamental rights related laws, special laws and Judicial Committee, GESI and non-discriminatory laws and alternative justice mechanism etc via radio broadcasting and article publishing in various news papers.

## 5. BUDGET and EXPENDITURE

The following table shows the output wise indicative budget and expenditure for 2020 and the sources of funds budgeted and utilization.

**Table 1: Output wise annual budget and corresponding expenditure**

Budget Heading	Total Budget	Total Expenditure	Budget Utilization%
Program Cost	NPR 3,237,581	NPR 3,202,627	<b>98.91%</b>
Overhead Cost	NPR 154,186	NPR 152,506	<b>98.92%</b>
Total Cost			

*Amount in US\$*

**Table 3: M&E Expenditure: In 2020, Project spend on M&E activities**

<b>Total spent on Monitoring (Major activities conducted for Monitoring)</b>	[total spent in US\$ 248.42.]
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### Narrative on Progress related to Budget and Expenditure

## 6. CROSS CUTTING THEMES

### 6.1. Targeting and voice/Participation of Target groups

The target populations of the project; women and other vulnerable groups such as freed Haliyas, ex-Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris, Badi, person with disabilities (PwDs) were regularly involved in the whole project cycle starting from the development of project plans, implementation of the activities, regular monitoring providing feedbacks and reporting of the project results. They were engaged in outlining their presence during coordination and partnership with duty bearers.

Similarly, voice of target groups also been ensured during the implementation of project activities. The plan was discussed with elected representatives and local government bodies targeted areas; municipalities and rural municipalities of Kailali, Dadeldhura, Baitadi and Bajhang district.

### 6.2. Gender and Social inclusion (GESI) mainstreaming

Following measures were taken to ensure that the diversified groups (men and women) from target community benefitted from project intervention as mentioned below:

- RDN Nepal and its collaborative partner; Samabeshi Foundation followed its Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) mainstreaming guideline to ensure gender and age balance in project cycle management and facilitate IPs accordingly.
- At least 50% women's participation and the proportionate participation of all other excluded groups (ethnic minorities and Dalits, PwDs.) was emphasized in regards to the implementation of project activities.

- The code of conduct (CoC) was duly followed to avoid the negative impact in order to promote women empowerment and gender equality.
- The disaggregated data including male, female under caste/ethnicity was properly maintained during tracking the results of the project implementation. Throughout the project interventions, a total of **19,826** individuals' including **11,035** females from right holders and relevant stakeholders have been mobilized. Out of them, **2,557** Khas/Aryan (Male- 1016 and Female-1541), **5,516** Dalits (Male- 2429 and Female-3087 as well as **2,108** Janajati (Male- 1086 and Female-1023) directly benefitted and **2900** Khas/Aryan (Male- 1500 and Female-1400), **5200** Dalits (Male- 1900 and Female-3300) as well as **1900** Janajati (Male- 900 and Female-1000) indirectly benefitted.

### 6.3. National Capacity Development

N/A

### 6.4. Anti – Corruption

During the implementation of the project, the anti-corruption policy of RDN Nepal was seriously undertaken as fraud and corruption were taken as zero-tolerance.

The anti-fraud policy was established to facilitate the development of controls that supported in the detection and prevention of fraud against interventions carried-out by Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal. It was the intent of RDN Nepal to promote consistent organizational behaviour by providing guidelines and assigning responsibility for the development of controls and conduct of investigations.

Similarly, both down-ward and up-ward accountability was carried-out to maintain the transparent and accountable working approach. RDN also adopted '**Value for Money-VfM**' to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, economy and equity for smooth financial management system of the organization.

### 6.5. Human Rights Based Approach

Project adopted human rights based approach to development for empowering and strengthening women and other vulnerable groups such freed Haliyas, ex-Kamaiyas and Kamhlaris as well as Badi and person with disabilities to systematically claim their rights and entitlements. The target groups were given opportunity to exercise for their rights through adopting local methodologies and local resource mobilization.

### 6.6. Environment

During the course of implementing the project, environmental consideration was properly in placed. The project activities were focused for minimizing the negative impact for the environment. The environment friendly venues were selected to conduct training, workshops and orientations under the implementation of project activities and also were taken into consideration.

### 6.7. Sustainability

As Sustainability concern addresses considering several key sustainability factors such as ownership, resource creation and mobilization, coordination, linkages and networking, inclusive participation in decision making process, the following approaches were under taken as;



- Strategic linkage of women and vulnerable groups with local government bodies and other ward level organizations and build capacities of women and vulnerable groups
- Priority was given to use locally available material and resources and promote local productions. Phase out strategy will be shared among the stakeholders to build their ownership and supports.
- Establish working relationship with local legal service providers and stakeholders as well as human rights organizations
- Create ownership and engagement of local government as well as community-based stakeholders is always key element for the sustainability of the interventions.

### 6.8. Partnerships

(Narrative on how the partnership has enabled for strong performance and better impact and challenges)

Partnership Statement has been made between Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal hereinafter and SAMABESHI Foundation (SF) to implement the project on "Ensuring Access to Justice for Women and Vulnerable Groups through Legal Awareness" in four Districts of Sudurpaschim Province.

S. No	Name of organization	Activity for partnership	Budget in US\$
1	SAMABESHI Foundation (SF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of IEC material and dissemination</li> <li>• Production and airing of radio PSA to educate constitutional rights of special groups</li> <li>• Media Fellowship initiative</li> </ul>	<b>US\$ 8,889.26</b>

### 6.9. Promotion of civic engagement

The project enhanced its collaborative effort to transform the issues of women and other vulnerable groups into common social agenda by empowering target groups through constitutional and legal awareness. Similarly, the constructive engagement of citizen was made with duty bearers such as Local Governments as well as representatives from women and vulnerable groups, Judicial Committee, Legal aid service providers/Centers, District Bar Association, government implementing/duty bearer agencies, District Legal Aid Committees and Socio-Legal Aid Center, District Attorney's offices and other Justice Sector Actors, civil society organizations, human rights organization and media etc.

The micro-macro issues of women and other vulnerable groups were linked with policy frame-work through collective advocacy campaign with the engagement of civil society organizations. Civil society Organizations (CSOs) were consulted during planning and implementation of the project activities. The stakeholder analysis was carried-out to find out the gaps and opportunity for this action. The major achievements, learning and faced challenges of the project were periodically shared with civil societies at respective project area and districts.

### 6.10. Providing opportunities for youth

The project ensured the equitable participation of youth in the project activities as cross-cutting intervention. The youth were provided the opportunities to their voice and concern. The participation youth among male and female as well as different caste and ethnicity was also ensured during the planning and implementation of project.

## 6.11. Innovation

*The following are the innovation to achieve the anticipate results of the project;*

- Locally led and locally owned
- Mainstreaming GESI and PwDs in project cycle management
- Development and implementation of Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP)
- Mobilization of Dalit Activists and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)

## 6.12. Knowledge Management and Products

Title of Knowledge Product	Month of Publication	Target group	Number published/ Disseminated	Brief description of knowledge product
Produce, print and dissemination of IEC material regarding constitutional and legal provision	October, 2020	Community People including Women, Dalits and other vulnerable/margin alized groups as well as stakeholders beneficiaries	4000 pieces of booklets	<b>4000</b> copies ( <b>1000</b> for each District) of a booklet on constitutional, legal and institutional provisions relating to women, Dalit and Children and vulnerable groups, criminal and civil codes, special laws, fundamental rights related laws, local judicial committees and other normative framework were produced, printed and disseminated
Develop Flip Chart on constitutional rights of Dalit, women and children; and provisions of Anti-discrimination Act 2011	October, 2020	Community People including Women, Dalits and other vulnerable/margin alized groups as well as stakeholders beneficiaries	120 Pieces of flipchart	120 copies of Flip Charts on constitutional and legislative rights of women, Dalit and Children were produced to be used for orientation sessions and interactions.
<b>Dissemination of IEC materials regarding constitutional rights and legislative framework through social media and social structures (facebook page, viber etc):</b>	November-December, 2020	Community People including Women, Dalits and other vulnerable/margin alized groups as well as stakeholders beneficiaries	4000 pieces of booklets and 120 Pieces of flipchart	Altogether 4000 households were reached out through this initiative to amplify the awareness campaign through dissemination of IEC materials across the targeted districts
Production of radio PSA on constitutional rights of Dalit, women and children; and provisions of Anti-discrimination Act 2011	September, 2020	Community People including Women, Dalits and other vulnerable/margin alized groups as well as stakeholders beneficiaries	3 PSAs	In order to educate the target audience (women, Dalit and vulnerable groups) as well as stakeholder audience, three radio PSAs on:-(i) constitutional rights of women and Dalit;(ii) Legal framework relating to fundamental rights including special laws for women and dalit; and (iii) provisions of Muluki civil and criminal code, and provisions of Judicial

				Committee has been developed.
Airing of radio PSA through local FMs (30 times in each District)	October-Dec, 2020	Community People including Women, Dalits and other vulnerable/marginalized groups as well as stakeholders beneficiaries	40 Episode	PSAs were aired through the local community radios of the selected four project districts. The PSAs were aired one time an alternative day in peak hours (Morning and Evening) up to two months around the awareness campaigns at school and community.

## 7. Lessons Learned (Please list 3 – 5 major lessons learnt during the implementation of the project)

During the implementation of the project, the following lesson learned are in place to be replicated in future days to come through possible area of collaboration;

- Participatory discussion created common understanding among team members to ensure the effectiveness for final product.
- Project targeted one PSA producing but SF proceeded 3 separate PSAs related to women, Dalit & vulnerable groups. However SF negotiated with lowest bidder to agree near project budget for 3 PSAs not compromising to the quality. As of this SF learnt, from separate PSAs has to be planed as per project targeted
- Selection of right holders/project beneficiaries ensuring GESI further generates the effectiveness and ownership on the project activities
- In-depth analysis and study is required in regards to policy review and feedback on existing legal frame-work of provincial government
- Wider level of feedback collection is required and needed to create ownership and effective implementation of act

## 8. Implementation Issues and Challenges

During the implementation of the project, the following issues and challenges were observed as;

- 2nd installment has not been still released from UNDP although it was requested on **05 October, 2020**
- Due to Isolation of Finance Officer of our collaborative partner (SF) due to the Covid 19 impact, dissemination of booklets could not be completed in October
- The planned activities could not be implemented in time due to the scarcity of budget
- Budget Transformation process...request to transfer from management cost to program cost

## 9. Progress against the Work Plan

Activities	Targets	Achievement	Remarks
<i>A1. Production of IEC material and dissemination</i>			
A1.1 Produce, print and dissemination of IEC material regarding constitutional and legal provision	4000 Pieces	4000 Pieces	
A1.2 Develop Flip Chart on constitutional rights of Dalit, women and children; and provisions of Anti-discrimination Act 2011	120 Pieces	120 Pieces	

<i>A2 Production and airing of radio PSA to educate constitutional rights of special groups</i>			
A2.1 Production of radio PSA on constitutional rights of Dalit, women and children; and provisions of Anti-discrimination Act 2011	1 PSA	1 PSA	
A2.1 Airing of radio PSA through local FMs (30 times in each District)	40 Episode	40 Episode	
<i>A.3 Media Fellowship initiative</i>			
A3.1 Concept Note development and Notice publication for Media Fellowship	1	1	
A 3.2 Support for Media Fellowship	15 Article	15 rticle	
<i>A4 District and Local level Initiatives</i>			
A 4.1 Ward-level dialogue/interactions on the constitutional and legal framework and alternative access to justice mechanism	16 events	16 events	
A4.2 Dissemination of IEC materials regarding constitutional rights and legislative framework through social media and social structures (facebook page, viber etc)	4000 HHs	4000 HHs	
A4.3 Webinar meeting/online zoom-meeting ith multi-stakeholders focusing the rights of women, Dalits and vulnerable groups	4 Events	4 Events	
A4.4 Municipality level interaction/orientation among the chair and members of judicial committees for exchanging experiences to increase its effectiveness in the future.	8 Events	8 Events	
A4.5 Support local government to formulate/revise GESI policy	4 Policy	4 Policy	
A4. 6 Policy review and feedback on existing legal framework of provincial government	1 Time	1 Time	
A4.7 Advocacy and lobbying with Provincial Government	4 Events	4 meetings	