

# **ANNUAL COMPLETION REPORT (ACR)**

1st April, 2021 to 31st December, 2021



# Project Title: Ending Agriculture Bonded Labours in Nepal

# **Submitted to:**



# **Submitted by**:

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Date of Submission: 12th January, 2022

# **Narrative Report Template**

ORGANIZATION NAME:	Rastriya Dalit Network
PROJECT LOCATION:	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
REPORTING PERIOD:	1 April, 2021 to 31st December, 2021
COMPLETED BY:	Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki Team Leader Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal Contact: +977-9848671361 (Cell) Email: hukumsarki@yahoo.com

#### 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?

During this reporting period from April-December, 2021, the significant farsightedness changes have been observed that can be regarded as key milestone for policy influence and further sustainability impact. The government of Nepal has newly formed the national land commission in the chairmanship of honorable Keshav Niraula. The commission is planning to distribute the land to landless Dalits as per constitutional provision soon. Recently the national land commission has carried-out the contractual agreement with 44 local government authorities to distribute the land to landless. Similarly, Ministry of land reform, cooperative and poverty alleviation formed study committee to solve the problem of agriculture bonded labours led by Shyam Shrestha where RDN founder Chairperson Mr. Ganesh BK and Hari Shreepaili are members having experience in this sector. It has been planned that the committee will visit the agriculture bonded labours: Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya focused district/area and would submit the report to government within upcoming 35 days. This initiative is itself positive that would support in the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa and just rehabilitation of remaining Kamaiya. In addition, the state's directive principle, implementation of policy and obligation, monitoring and evaluation committee organized special meeting focusing the issues of agriculture bonded labours where respective ministries and members of that committee delivered their commitment. It was concluded that the government of Nepal would initiate to formulate integrated bonded labours.

On the other hands, government of Nepal will conduct local election soon. Once the election code of conduct is continued, some of the development works will be prohibited for some times. It is observed that it will impact in living standards of agriculture bonded labours.

There are some drawbacks of government in regards to effectively implement the plan and policies to ensure the fundamental rights of citizen as provisioned in new constitution of Nepal. It has created the obstacles in the implementation of constitution. Nepal is under the practice of federalism and inclusive

development which is new for us. Therefore, the local and provincial government are not fully adopting the value of federalism. As a result of this, agriculture bonded labours issues cannot have become the common social agenda of the society. The provincial government cannot have worked effectively as we have expected. The provincial government of province-2 has already endorsed Dalit Empowerment and Inclusion Act and province-7 is in the process of endorsing but necessary contextual bylaws and procedures cannot have been formulated yet. But the local governments at project target areas are becoming positive towards the socio-economic issues of agriculture bonded labours.

It is observed that there is dramatic changes appeared in political situation/context of Nepal. The coalition government has been formed with the union of Nepali Congress, CMP (Moist-Center, CPN-Unified Socialist and Janata Socialist Party. Former Prime-minister KP Sharma Oli has been replaced by electing the newly prime-minister Sher Bdr. Deuba. There is still debate in the parliament for endorsing Millennium Challenge Corporation-MCC. The national assembly of major political parties CPN (UML), Nepali Congress and CMP (Maoist-Center) have been recently held so as to elect newly central committee in the leadership of Mr. KP Sharma Oli, Mr. Sher Bdr. Deuba and Mr. Puspa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda). The changes in the plan and policy government contributed to achieve the anticipated results of the project.

# 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 the reporting period, the corona-virus (covid-19) has also impacted Nepal. Due to impact of Covid-19, all the industries, educational institutions, transportation, tourism were fully closed and human life became more suffering. It impacted the income generation of whole people for their livelihood options. Particularly, agricultural bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya-HCHaK who are engaged in daily wage work are still facing the problem of joining their hands to mouth and also suffering from hunger.

Because of the poor health mechanism of the state, it became more difficult for the government to take the necessary action for the preventing, controlling and treatment of covid-19. The development initiatives; particularly, infrastructure of the nation are falling behind. The low level of economic activities and lack of labour marketing has directly impacted in long run to the daily lives of people in the country. Therefore, agricultural bonded labours are facing the problem of starvation who most marginalized and deprived groups in the community. The government initiatives such as relief, employment and health services from local to federal level are being carried-out which insufficient and limited.

Because of the impact of Covid-19, the contractual agreement between RDN and the Freedom Fund (FF) was carried delay so that the planned activities of the project could not be implemented as per the agreed time-frame of the project. Similarly, there was dilemma among the project team members whether the planned activities (series of consolation meeting and policy dialogues with land commission) would be feasible or not as the newly formed government of Nepal suddenly dissolved the land problem solving commission.

#### 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 organisation? Which activities led to this change?

The Annual Completion Report-ACR of **"Ending Agriculture Bonded Labours in Nepal Project"** has been produced in order to view the project progress for the period of 1st April, 2021 to 31st December, 2021. 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;

- i) The Harawa-Charawa networks formed, strengthened, and mobilized to contribute the united movement of the agriculture bonded labour
- *ii)* 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 regarads 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 RDN Nepal.

The overall activity performance during these nine 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. Key changes through the implementation of the project are outlined as below;

Strengthened the capacity of 25 national Harawa-Charawa network members on leadership development and movement building.
A total of 12 HC networks and 3 district level HC networks newly formed at 12 rural
municipalities/municipalities of Bara, Parsa and Rauthat
The 39 points declaration of 13th Human Rights Magna meet incorporated the 4 points
demands of agriculture bonded labours regarding rights, emancipation and rehabilitation
A total of 11 national media (online, print and electronic) highlighted issues of
agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliyas and Kamaiyas by publishing 134 news so that stakeholders have attention towards this issues.

- ☐ Ministry of labour, employment and social security committed to ensure the fair and equal wages to agriculture bonded labours
- □ Enhanced collaboration of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya organizations with policy makers, concerned ministries, civil society, human rights organizations and other concerned stakeholders for collective advocacy and joint movement at federal level

# 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;

- I. The provincial government in province-2 has already endorsed the Dalit Empowerment and Inclusion Act
- II. Similarly, the provincial government in province-7 is in the process of endorsing the Dalit Empowerment and Inclusion Act
- III. The local government of Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan city has also endorsed GESI and Dalit Rights and Inclusion Act
- IV. , the provincial government in province-7 has initiated to formulate integrated bonded labours Act for the rights of freed Haliyas and ex-Kamiya

# 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?

Outcome-1: The HarawaCharawa networks formed, strengthened, mobilized to contribute the united movement of the agriculture bonded labour.

# Activity-1.1.1: Training to national HC network members' on leadership and movement building:

RDN organized 3 days training to national HC network members on leadership and movement building to strengthen the capacity of participants on leadership movement building. The training was started on 1st November, 2021 and ended on 3rd November, 2021 which was condu cted in training center of Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital in Lalgadh of Dhanusha. The training was facilitated by Mr. Ganesh BK, Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki, Mr. Raju Paswan, and Mr. Surendra Rai. Similarly, freed Haliya and ex-



Kamaiya leader also shared their experience in the training.

At the beginning of the training, the participants were engaged to conduct SWOT analysis of national HC network where strengths, weakness, opportunity and threat were identified so that it became easier to facilitate planned sessions of the training. The summary of the SWOT analysis has been outlined as below:

S=Strengths	W=Weakness					
<ul> <li>HC networks are formed at local, district and national level to advocate on their issues</li> <li>Increased support and solidarity from national and international agencies</li> <li>H-C programs have been diverted towards human rights based approach (HRBA) to approach</li> </ul>	Harawa-Charawa cannot have been emancipated yet through structural transformation of the nation     There is not any formal agreement between Harawa-Charawa and government of Nepal     Lack of public/private resource mobilization					
O=Opportunity	T=Threat					
<ul> <li>Favourable political environment for the emancipation of Harawa-Charawa</li> <li>H-C networks/organizations are being more functional and active</li> <li>Newly promulgated constitution-2015 has significant provision for the rights ex-bonded labors such as freed Haliyas, ex-Kamaiyas, Kamlharis and Harawa-Charawa</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Although government of Nepal at local, provincial and federal level is sensitized on the issues H-C, it has lack of willingness for the emancipation of H-C</li> <li>Lack of operational capacity of Harawa-Charawa networks at local, provincial and federal level.</li> </ul>					

The main sessions of the training to national HC network members on leadership and movement building and name of the resource person are presented here as;

Session of the Training	Resource Person			
SWOT Analysis of HC network for movement building	Mr. Hukum Bahadur Sarki, Team Leader of RDN			
<ul> <li>Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to development in Leadership and Movement Building</li> </ul>	Mr. Brahmdev Ram, Program Advisor-The Freedom Fund			
<ul> <li>Leadership Development and HarawaCharawa Network</li> </ul>	Mr. Ganesh BK, RDN, chair			
<ul> <li>Importance of National HC network Registration for legal identity</li> </ul>	Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki, Team Leader of RDN			
Effective Communication and Coordination for Leadership Development and Movement Building	Mr. Raju Paswan, Provincial Chief of INSEC, province-2			
Movement Building of HC issue	Mr. Ganesh BK, RDN, chair			
<ul> <li>Experience sharing of Haliya Rights Movement in Nepal in the context of agriculture bonded labour movement</li> </ul>	Mr. Raju Ram Bhul-Haliya leader			
Experience sharing of Kamaiya Rights Movement in Nepal in the context of agriculture bonded labour movement	Mr. Binod Chaudhary, Secretary of Freed Kamaiya Society			

A total of 25 participants including 7 female actively took part in the training. At the end of the training, national HC network members were facilitated to develop 6 months advocacy plan to advocate on their rights, emancipation and rehabilitation.

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

Under the implementation of the project, RDN organized 3 events of one day orientation on government policy and program targeting ditrict HC network members at Saptari, Siraha and Dhanusha district. The program was held on 27th November, 2021 at Siraha, 28th November, 2021 at Dhanusha and 29th November, 2021 at Dhanusha. A total of 62 participants including 32 female (Siraha-Male-8 and Female-11=19, Dhanusha-Male-10 and Female -11=21 and Saptari-Male-10 and Female-12=22) actively took part in the orientation.



At the beginning of the orientation program, the 7 steps of local level planning process of the government were presented so as to discuss widely on the issues. Similarly, the participants will be facilitated to prepare budget advocacy plan to increase the access of Harawa-Charawa in government services and resources to address their instrumental needs by aligning it with other on-going activities of the project. It was also discussed that the HC network members of respective district HC network were also facilitated to develop plan/proposal to be submitted in local government bodies. For this, it was agreed that RDN would facilitate to use the template of the municipality for

plan/proposal submission in the municipality. Mr. Manilal BK, resource person and Mr. Sanjay Mahara, advocacy officer of RDN facilitated these 3 events of orientation program.

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

RDN facilitated to form a total of 12 local Harawa-Charawa network at 12 rural municipalities/municipalities of 3 new working district –Bara, Parsa and Rauthat in province-2. For the formation of these network, the following process were followed up systematically as;

- Coordination with DCC: Initially, RDN team members closely coor dinated with District Coordination Committees (DCCs) at Bara, Parsa and Rauthat. DDCs 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,
   RDN organized gatherings of 32\*4\*3=384 HC



Community members in the selected municipality to form a municipality network of HarawaCharawa.

A total of 12 rural municipality/municipality level HC network at 3 new working districts-Bara, Parsa and Rauthat were formed in the following way;



SN	Date of Program	Place	Leadership of network network			
1	8th October, 2021	Karaiyamai Rural Municipality of Bara	Mr. Mahabir Majhi			
2	23rd October, 2021	Birgunj sub-metropolitan city of Parsa	Mr. Jaya Prakash Majhi			
3	25th October, 2021	Madhav Narayan Municipality of Rauthat	Mr. Ram Sudhar Paswan			
4	25th October, 2021	Garuda Municipality of Rauthat	Ms. Sunita Devi Ram			
5	30th October, 2021	Kolvi Municipality of Bara	Ms. Tulasi Majhi			
6	31st Octber, 2021	Jitpur Simara Municipality of Bara	Mr. Dali Majhi			
7	6th November, 2021	Bahudarmai Municipality of Parsa	Mr. Subash Ram			
8	7th November, 2021	Parsagadhi Municipality of Parsa	Mr. Jadolal Ram			
9	13th November, 2021	Bindraban Municipality of Rauthat	Mr. Sekh Jubaidh			
10	13th November, 2021	Chandrapur Municipality of Rauthat	Ms. Shanti Devi Ram			
11	17th November, 2021	Pakahamainpur Rural Municipality of Parsa	Mr. Nandalal Ram			
12	20th November, 2021	Baragadhi Rural Municipality of Bara	Mr. Rakesh Ram			

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. Dasrath Ram-district HC activist at Bara, Mr. Brijlal Paswan-district HC activist of Parsa and Mr. Subbasaheb Paswan-district HC activist of Rauthat provided their significant support and contribution during the formation of local level HC network.

# Activity-1.2.2: Formation of HC district networks in 3 new districts of province 2:

RDN facilitated to form 3 district Harawa-Charawa network at Bara, Parsa and Rauthat once the local level HC networks are formed at 12 rural municipalitites/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 96 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 3rd December, 2021, the district network was formed in Bara district. The formation process was inaugurated by honorable Sundar Bishwokarma, member of provincial state assembly in province-2. He was chief guest of the program and highlighted that Harawa-Charawa issues is the necessary agenda to be addressed by government. He also delivered his commitment that the provincial government would be ready to address the issues of Harawa-Charawa. Similarly, Mr. Bala Ram Bhattari, Mr. Mohamad Kasim Miya, secretary of national Harawa-Charawa network, Mr. Shyam Sundar Sada, Chairperson of district HC network Siraha, Mr. Hukum Bahadur Sarki, Team Leader of RDN expressed their view. Mr. Rup Narayan Paswan, advocacy officer of RDN shared the objectives of the program and also welcomed to the participants of the program. The program was facilitated by Mr. Dasrath Ram-district HC activist of RDN.A total of 50 participants including 19 women took part in the program. The closing session of program elected newly district HC network committee in the leadership of Mr. Mahabir Majhi having 11 members.

On the dated 4th December, 2021, the district network was formed in Parsa district. The formation process was inaugurated by honorable Prahalad Giri, member of provincial state assembly in province-2. He was chief guest of the program and highlighted that the provincial government in province-2 would take initiation to address the issues of HC. Similarly, Mr. Bala Ram Bhattari, Mr. Dasan Mandal, chairperson of national Harawa-Charawa network, Mr. Shyam Sundar Sada, Chairperson of district HC network Siraha, Mr. Prabhu Hajara, Dalit leader, Mr. Rabi Bhusan Ram-Dalit Leaders, Mr. Manoj Pattel-media person and Mr. Hukum Bahadur Sarki, Team Leader of RDN expressed their view. Mr. Rup Narayan Paswan, advocacy officer of RDN shared the objectives of the program and also welcomed to the participants of the program. The program was facilitated by Mr. Sushil Hajara. A total of 39 participants including 25 women took part in the program. The closing session of program elected newly district HC network committee in the leadership of Mr. Amar Dev Paswan having 11 members.

On the dated 5th December, 2021, the district network was formed in Rauthat district. The formation process was inaugurated by Ms. Rangila Devi Jaisabal, deputy mayor of Gaguda municipality of Rauthat. He was chief guest of the program and told that the local government is serious on the issues of Harawa-Charawa and it would be addressed through incorporating in local planning process. Similarly, Mr. Bala Ram Bhattari, Mr. Dasan Mandal, chairperson of national Harawa-Charawa network, Mr. Shyam Sundar Sada, Chairperson of district HC network Siraha, and Mr. Hukum Bahadur Sarki, Team Leader of RDN expressed their view. Mr. Rup Narayan Paswan, advocacy officer of RDN shared the objectives of the program and also welcomed to the participants of the

program. The program was facilitated by Mr. Sushil Hajara.A total of 45 participants including 30 women took part in the program. The closing session of program elected newly district HC network committee in the leadership of Mr. Bignes Paswan having 11 members.

The name list of district HC network at Bara, Parsa and Rauthat is outlined as below;

SN	Position	Bara	Parsa	Rauthar
1	Chairperson	Mahabir Majhi	Amar Dev Paswan	Bijnesh Paswan
2	Vice-President	Laxmi BK	Umapati Majhi	Khusbu Devi Paswan
3	Secretary	Jhagadu Paswan	Khedan Majhi	Upendra Shah
4	Under-Secretary	Dali Majhi	Rita Devi Paswan	Sundar Kala Ram
5	Treasurer	Dhanmati Ram	Shova Devi Ram	Shanti Ram
6	Member	Rajesh Paswan	Prama Paswan	Dipendra Tiwari
7	Member	Hamis Ansari	Sanjay Paswan	Urmila Karki
8	Member	Hiramati Giri	Dhanraj Ram	Chhtolal Ram
9	Member	Karisma Majhi	Jadolal Ram	Karuna Paswan
10	Member	Bandhu Ram	Muyali Paswan	Ram Ishwar Paswan
11	Member	Rakesh Ram	Bijay Paswan	Runa Paswan
12	Member	Bhulani Majhi	Rina Devi Paswan	Mina Devi Majhi
13	Member	Santa Majhi	Akali Devi Paswan	Upendra Patak
14	Member	Lalita Paswan	Mugiya Devi Ram	Dasarath Mahara
15	Member	Damordar Paswan	Subesh Ram	Sunita Paswan

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

RDN Nepal facilitated to conduct 2 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 first qua meeting of the network was held on 3rd November, 2021 and the second quarterly meeting was held on 17th December, 2021. Both meetings were organized in Lahan 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:

First Quarterly Meeting held on 3rd Nov, 2021	Second Quarterly meeting held on 17th Dec, 2021
<ul> <li>Review of strategy plan of national HC network</li> <li>District wise reporting of national HC network members</li> <li>Endorse the recruitment of district HC activists at Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Bara, Parsa and Rauthat</li> <li>Registration of national HC network at Saptari district</li> <li>Hand-over the responsibility to register the national HC network</li> <li>Review the constitution of HC network</li> <li>Coordination and collaboration with relevant stakeholders for joint advocacy and movement</li> <li>Formation of local and district HC network at local and district level at Bara, Parsa and</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Overall Review</li> <li>Collect the required documents for the national HC network registration process at Saptari district</li> <li>Taking recommendation letter from local government authority</li> <li>Fund Request to RDN for the national HC network registration process</li> <li>Mobilization of local and district level HC network at all 6 districts-Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Bara, Parsa and Rauthat in province-2</li> </ul>

Rauthat

• Development of 6 months advocacy plan

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. Similarly, the existing strategic plan of HC network was reviewed in changing context to ensure the relevancy for the program considering expansion to new districts.

Outcome 2:

What is your progress towards Outcome 2 this reporting period?

Outcome 2: FLEAG platform mobilised to advocate for changes and implementation of legislative, policies and programs of provincial and federal government in favour of agricultural bonded labours

# **Activity-2.1.2: Advocacy and joint movement:**

During the reporting period, RDN in close coordination with Forced Labours elimination Advocacy Group (FLeAG) facilitate to conduct series of policy advocacy activities for raise the voice and concerns of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya at federal level.

For the effective implementation of the joint movement, the project activities were aligned with 13th National Human Rights Magna Meet-2021 which is common plate-forum of more than 200 human rights and civil society organizations in Nepal. RDN became a member of human rights magna meet committee so that it became easy or accessible to endorse the policy advocacy activities in the master plan of HR magna meet. Throughout this approach, the stakeholders and policy makers were widely collaborated. Along with this, agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya also participated in various activities organized by HR magna meet to raise their voice and concern. Similarly, the advocacy activities at federal level were linked with national media.

#### Submission of Memorandum to UN Special Rapporteur

Mr. Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights had an official visit to Nepal for the period from 29 November to 9 December 2021, at the invitation of the Nepali Government.During his visit, he had meetings with Government authorities, civil society organizations, international organizations, and people living in poverty, to assess the Government's efforts to alleviate poverty and to protect the human rights of people facing poverty. His visit led to a press conference on 9 December 2021, where he announced his preliminary findings and conclusions, and to a full report to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2022. As part of his visit, the Special Rapporteur organized a



meeting on 30 November 2021 from 10:30 to 12:00 at UN House to hear the views and analysis related to access to land, land reform and rural poverty from the society organization in Nepal.RDN was also invited in the meeting. During the course of meeting, We were given 10 minutes of time to share the situation analysis of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiyas as well as demands of concerns of those communities with the government of Nepal. Finally, an appeal regarding the rights of agriculture bonded labours singed by Mr. Ganesh sir on the behalf of Forced Labour elimination Advocacy Group (FLeAG) was handed-over to UN Special Rapporteur which was highly appreciated.

# Organize Synergy meetings with Land commission



RDN facilitated FLeAG team members to organized synergy meeting with national land commission at Kathmandu on 13th December, 2022. The meeting was held with an aim to discuss the land rights issues of agricultural bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya. On the behalf of national land commission, honorable Nehendra Khadka, vice-chairperson, honorable Data Ram Khanal, member and Mr. Mani Regmi, chief officer presented the meeting. Similarly, Mr. Ganesh BK, chairperson of RDN and coordinator of FLeAG, representatives of agriculture bonded labours organizations: Rastriya Mukta Haliya Federation Nepal, National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum and Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj-KMJS

took part in the meeting. Mr. Jiyam Shrestha, Nepal Program Advisor and Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai, consultant and legal advisor kept their quarries and concerns. Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai said that the volume of distributed land needs to be sufficient for sustainable livelihood of agriculture bonded labours and there should be valid data collection. Similarly, Mr. Dasan Mandal emphasized on the emancipation and rehabilitation of Harawa-Charawa and Mr. Raju Ram Bhul and Ms. Sangita Tharu, Haliya and Kamaiya representative highlighted to collect the missed Haliya and Kamaiya for the further rehabilitation.

Mr. Ganesh BK submitted the 8 pints memorandum to honorable Nehendra Khadka, vice-chairperson of national land commission. The main demands mentions in the demand are outlined as below;

- Debt alleviation of agriculture bonded labouts initiated by the government of Nepal
- Let the Harawa-Charawa be identified, verified and distributed the Identity Cards for their further rehabilitation through local initiation
- Let the agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya be prioritized first while distributing the land
- Ensure the meaningful participation of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya in decision making forum
- Ensure the participation of agriculture bonded labours in the land distribution structure/committee of the government considering the Article-40 (5 and 6) under the constitution-2015 of Nepal
- Let the Land Concern People Counselling Group be formed with the engagement of agriculture bonded labours, journalists, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other human rights activists
- Let the sufficient land be distributed to agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya
- Create the ownership of agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya in land distribution process analysing the existing gaps

Taking the memorandum by the team, honorable Nehendra Khadka, vice-chairperson of national land commission told that he is also come from land movement and understood the reality and dimensions of the demand. He highlighted that the government of Nepal should honestly implement the constitutional provision as mentioned that landless Dalit families would be distributed the land for one time. The former commission could not distribute the land but only increased the expectation of poor and oppressed groups in the society. Additionally, he said that the best practices of former commission would be replicated through possible area of collaboration. He emphasized that 1000 square meters fertile land would be distributed by land commission to landless people in Nepal. The

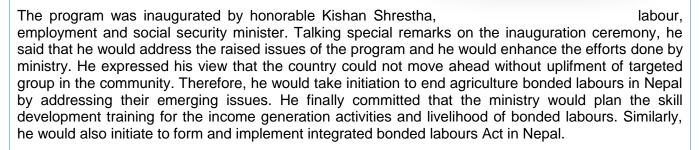
synergy meeting concluded the way-forward to fulfil the existing gaps in the land distribution process to agricultural bonded labous. A total of 20 participants actively took part in the meeting The submitted version of memorandum to national land commission is referred in <u>Annex-III</u>

# Joint Advocacy on Integrated bonded labours Act through bonded labours forum

RDN mobilized FLeAG to organize 2 days discussion program to advocate on Joint Advocacy on Integrated bonded labours Act through the mobilization of agriculture bonded labours organizations, policy makers and other concerned stakeholders at federal level. The program was started on 15th December, 2021 and ended on 16th December, 2021 at Unoin House Anamnagar Kathmandu.

It was organized as stakeholders including ILO realized the need of the integrated bonded labour Act. The ministry of labour is also not denied about the need of the Act. now it is

still pending. Therefore, RDN facilitated FLeAG to organize 1 event of advocacy intervention to advocate on integrated bonded labours act.



But

Honorable Shanta Chaudhary, Member of Parliament also special guest of the program said that she is herself well-acquainted with the problem of Kamhari and Kamaiya so that she would regularly raise voice to end this system. She focused that every citizen should get their rights as per the legal and constitutional provision.

Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai, consultant and legal advisor of the Freedom Fund emphasized that the poorest of the poor people representing from agriculture bonded labours cannot have got access of government resources and services. The constitutional provision does not allow to be bonded labours but there is still practice of Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamiya in Nepal it is because of lack sensitivity as well as willing power of policy makers. He said that the government of Nepal is not still listening the voice of voiceless. He argued that there should be proper monitoring mechanism of government to timely and effectively implement legal and constitutional provisions.

On the occasion of inauguration ceremony of the program, honorable Nira Jairu, member of parliament and also president of state's directive committee, implementation of policy and obligation, monitoring and evaluation committee, Hon. Tek Bahadur Raika, member of provincial state assembly, Hon. Shyam Shrestha, constituency member,Mr. Gaesh BK, chairperson of RDN, Mr. Raju Ram Bhul, former chairperson of Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal, Ms. Rajbati Mandal, treasurer of National HC netwok and Ms. Sangita Tharu, secretary of Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaja expressed their views.

The program was chaired by Mr. Dasan Mandal, chairperson of National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum and facilitated by Mr. Parbat Sunar, general secretary of Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal. A total of 63 participants including 20 female participated the program.

On the second day of the program, Mr. Bhoj Raj Ghimire, under-secretary of ministry of labour, employment and social security presented the current status of integrated bonded labour act initiated by ministry of labour and employment. Similarly, Mr. Raju Ram Bhul, former chairperson of Rastriya Mukta Haliya Samaj Federation Nepal, Ms. Sanjay Mahara, advocacy officer of RDN and Ms. Sangita Tharu, secretary of Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaja presented the position papers on the issues of Haliya, Harawa-Charawa and Kamaiya respectively.

In the closing session of the program Mr. Jiyam Shrestha, Nepal Program Advisor delivered his remarks and told that there is not integrated bonded labours act in Nepal therefore Harawa-Charawa of eastern Terai have not been emancipated yet. He focused that there should be integrated bonded labour act for the just rehabilitation of agriculture bonded labours in Nepal. Similarly, Mr. Narayan Bhattarai, representative of ILO said that the integrated bonded labour act needs to be formulated in close coordination of land expert. Similarly, Ms. Roshana Khadka, coordinator of 13th National Human Rights Magna meet-2021, Mr. Prem BK, Mr. Ishwari Bishwokarma, chairperson of DWO expressed their views. At the end of the program, 10 points declaration Kathmandu was promulgated focusing the rights, emancipation and rehabilitation of agriculture bonded labours in Nepal.

# **Activity-2.1.3: Media Mobilization:**

RDN will mobilized 5 Journalists to write the news, stories, features, and articles related to the socioeconomic 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 SahOnline Khabar: Mr. Suresh Bidari

• Ratopati: Mr. Kiran Karn

• Sajilo News: Mr. Shyam Paswan

• Kalika Times: Mr. Shambhu Kumar Suman

As a result of this, **79** news published in national online newspaper 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-2.3.1: Face to face meetings with bureaucracy and government officials:

During the reporting period, RDN facilitated FLeAG to organize 6 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, finance, labour, employment and social security, national human rights commission and national planning commission. 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.

# Activity-2.3.2: Federal level multi-stakeholders policy dialogues on agricultural bonded labours:

One event of one day federal level multi-stakeholders policy dialogue on the issues of agriculture bonded labours was organized by RDN in closed coordination with Force Labours elimination Advocacy Group (FLeAG). The program was held on 11th December, 2021 at Kathmandu. The main

objective of the program was ensure adequate funding for programmes and policies making the issue of bonded labourers the priority sector of the government and arrange adequate activity and allocate the fund in it.

The program was inaugurated by honorable Nira Jairu, Member of Parliament and also president of state's directive committee, implementation of policy and obligation, monitoring and evaluation committee. Delivering her special remarks, she said that Agriculture bonded labours: Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya status, faced challenges and upcoming strategy of government for emancipation and rehabilitation.Based on his paper presentation mentioned above Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai, consultant and legal advisor of the Freedom Fund as well as Mr. Dharma Raj Joshi, national coordinator of International Land Network and also a land expert provided their comments and feedback. The overall comments

as

aon the behalf of paper belong to ministry are outlined below:

# A. Mr. Dharma Raj Joshi

- It is observed that the first priority of the government needs to emancipate the Harawa-Charawa system
- The just rehabilitation of remaining freed Haliya and Kamaiyas needs to systematically and well manage.
- There should be appropriate classification of target groups; freed Haliya and Kamaiya as claimed by right-holders.

## B. Mr. Bala Ram Bhattarai

- It seems that there is double measurement. In the eye and glance of government there are not Kamaiya and Kamhlari in Surkhet so that Kamaiya in Surkhet were adjusted in Haliya
- The government of Nepal has formally declared the emancipation of Haliya and Kamaiya but Harawa-Charawa in the eastern Terai have not been emancipated yet although Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya lie in same category as it is same nature of labour
- The person who are not engaged in agricultural works are given the subsidy but the bonded labours who are fully engaged are not provided. It is genuine question for policy makers.
- The data collection process of Harawa-Charawa needs to be enhanced in scientific way. Along with that government needs to address the issue of missed Haliyas

On the basis of the paper presentation and overall comments, honorable Bimala Bishwakarma realized that agriculture bonded labours; Haliya and Kamaiya are to be compelled to go for masters/land-owners due to not addressing this issues by state. Similarly, Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya leaders; Ms. Rajwati Mandal, Mr. Raju Ram Bhul and Ms. Sangeeta Tharu raised their voice and concerns as their cotemporary demands to be respected, protected and fulfilled as per the fundamental rights under constitutional provisions.

Similarly, Mr. Charan Prasia, human rights activist, Mr. Bhakta Bishwakarma, acting chairperson of Dalit NGO Federation, Mr. Narendra Khatiwada, chairperson of youth advocacy forum, Mr. Dipendra Singh, chief of National Human Rights Commission protection section expressed their views. The program was chaired by Mr. Dasan Mandal, chairperson of National Harawa-Charawa Rights Forum. Mr. Ganesh BK, chairperson of RDN shared the objectives and importance of program. The program was facilitated by Mr. Hukum Bdr. Sarki, Team Leader of RDN. A total of 40 participants including 9 female, stakeholders and survival network members actively participated the program.

#### **Activity-2.3.3: Day Celebration:**

The Human Rights Day (10th December) was celebrated in close coordination with 13th National Human Rights Magna Meet-2021 at Kathmandu. Agriculture bonded labours; Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamaiya participated in human rights day organized by national human rights commission at its head office. The human rights day was inaugurated by honorable prime-minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. The overall human rights situation report was shared on the occasion of Human Rights (HR) day. Inaugurating the human rights day, prime-minister Sher Bdr. Deba said that the government of Nepal is ready to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of most marginalized and vulnerable group in the society.

#### Activity-2.3.4: TV Talk program:

During the reporting period, a total of 1 episode of TV talk program was broadcasted from Nepal Television (NTV). As per the schedule, the TV talk program was conducted with honorable Keshav Niraula, chairperson of National Land Commission. For this mission, the Four Pillar Media was selected. Throughout the intervention, most of the issues regarding agriculture bonded labours:

Harawa-Charawa, Haliya and Kamiya were captured. The guest speaker, honorable Keshav Niraula, chairperson of National Land Commission delivered his commitment that the government would distribute the land to landless people soon as per the constitutional provision.

The program broadcasting date was 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=PCXIQoFY0qq

# 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.

During this reporting period, there were some unintended/unexpected consequences observed as outlined below;

- ☐ The UN special rapporteur visit (30 Nov-9 Dec, 2021) in Nepal seriously undertook the demands of agriculture bonded labours after receiving the appeal as he discussed it with GoN, parliamentarian committees and line ministries through discussion and press conference.
- ☐ Ministry of land reform, cooperative and poverty alleviation formed study committee to solve the problem of agriculture bonded labours led by Shyam Shrestha where RDN founder Chairperson Mr. Ganesh BK and Hari Shreepaili are members having experience in this sector.
- ☐ The state's directive principle, implementation of policy and obligation, monitoring and evaluation committee organized special meeting focusing the issues of agriculture bonded labours where respective ministries delivered their commitment. It was concluded that the government of Nepal would initiate to formulate integrated bonded labours.

# 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 delay contractual agreement between the Freedom Fund (FF) and RDN, the following activities were delayed and could not be implemented within agreed time frame withing 31st December, 2021.

# **List of the Delayed Activities**:

- Activity-1.1.2: Harawa-Charawa youth activism training
- Activity-1.1.3: Training to district HC network members on advocacy skill and leadership
- Activity-1.2.4: Support to national HC network in registration process
- Activity-2.1.1: Conduct regular meetings of FLeAG
- Activity-2.1.2.3: Formation of multi-party parliamentarian forum at provincial level
- Activity-2.1.2.9: Consultation meeting with trade union organizations
- Activity-2.1.2.12: Formation and strengthening multi-party parliamentarian forum at federal level
- Activity-2.2.1: Pre-consultation meeting for joint strategy:
- Activity-2.3.1: Face to face meetings with bureaucracy and government officials:

The delayed activities mentioned above have been forecasted for the upcoming project year in 1 Qtr of project year 2022.

# 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?

The project team faced following challenged during the reporting period as

 Covid-19 (Due to the covid-19 pendamic situation, the project team could not fully move to project target area.

**Mitigation Measures**: RDN Nepal Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) and oriented its project staffs on safety measures. The project team fully adopted safety measures such mask, senitizar etc

**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 hotspot partners 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 quiet satisfactory during this last 9 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 example for the collaboration are outlined below;

- While organizing the 3 days training to HC network members on leadership development and movement building, implementing partners were requested to inform the participants of the program so that the training successfully organized
- During the submission of memorandum to 24 local government at 6 working districts by mobilizing local HC network, implementing partners; SCDC-Saptari, JDS-Saptari, DJKYC-Siraha and CIC-Dhanusha were widely collaborated
- While JDS-Saptari conducted provincial level interaction program on Janakpur on the issues of HC, RDN chairperson Mr. Ganesh BK was invited as chief guest. He delivered his remarks on the occasion.

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;

- Project Induction/Kick-off Meeting
- Advocacy workshop organized by the Freedom Fund (FF) at Sauraha Chitwan
- Training to national HC network members on leadership development and movement building
- Orientation to district HC network members on government policy and program
- Software Training to Admin and Finance Officer

# 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.

Altogether, 2 operational level complaints have been received so far within this period in relation to the project and its activities.

# 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 **ONE** case study that demonstrate the positive impact of the organisation'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 organisation'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 su	bject	(s)	to use i	nforma	tion	in case s	tudy	? ∨ □ Yes	$\square$ N
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Consent obtained from subject(s) to use photographs?

		· /	-					
Case Story-1:	Rajbati's	Journey	from	Agriculture	<b>Bonded</b>	Labour	to	Harawa-
Charawa Lead	er for Voic	e and Co	ncern	ns				

Ms. Rajbati Devi Mandal in her early forties (forty three years old) residents at Laxmipur Patari rural municipality ward-1 Pipara of Siraha district in province-2 works as agriculture bonded labour with the landlord Mr. Ram Narayan Yadav nearby. There are 6 members in her family including her husband, three daughters and one son.

In the past days, her family members were forced in labour work. They were not allowed to go out of the master for income generating



√ □ Yes

 $\square$  N

activities. Therefore her financial condition was weak. She said, 'Our master compelled us to work in his land as agriculture labour but we were not given the fair wage as per the value of our work. I had a fear to share something. I could not speak with other about my rights'

Once, Bhawani Integrated Development Center (BIDC) initiated to form a Harawa-Charawa group in her village. At the beginning, she was a treasurer of Laxmi Harawa-Charawa group. With the medium of group, she got opportunity to participate in various meetings, interaction programs and discussions. She was aware on the rights and emancipation of Harawa-Charawa. Then she also became a vice-chairperson of district Harawa-Charawa rights forum of Siraha. She also got opportunity to take part in the various network capacity development activities of HC organizations carried-out by RDN. Her leadership capacity was being increased due to holding the position. As a result of this, now she has been elected as treasurer of national Harawa-Charawa rights forum from its 2<sup>nd</sup> national conference which was organized by Rastriya Dalit Network (RDN) Nepal.

Now she is actively advocating on the rights, emancipation of Harawa-Charawa. Recently she has participated in various advocacy activities at federal level. She took in the 13th National Human Rights Magna Meet-2021 and raised the voice and concerns of Harawa-Charawa in the various plate-forums. Actually, she participated in the following programs as;

- Face to face meeting with ministry of land reform, cooperative and poverty alleviation, finance, agriculture, labour, employment and social security, national human rights commission and national planning commission
- Federal level multi-stakeholders policy dialogue on the issue of agriculture bonded labours
- Joint advocacy for integrated bonded labour Act
- Synergy meeting with land commission

Now, she is able to systematically claim for the rights of Harawa-Charawa. Similarly, by observing his collective bargaining and negotiation skill, Nepal Television offered her for TV talk program. In that program, she confidently raised the issues of HC demands with government of Nepal. The link of the TV talk program of Rajbati Mandal is referred as;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ar0g\_z6r8xM

She further says, 'Now I am able to express my views with full my confidence. My daughter has completed 10+2 and son is also going to complete it. I am fighting for freedom. Our economic condition has also improved.' She finally gives the special thanks to the Freedom Fund (FF), its implementing partners and RDN that contributed in her overall empowerment.