

# THE CIVIL SOCIETY FUND

## DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS

### Application text

#### List of Abbreviations:

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre
CBO	Community based Organization
CDP	Community Development Plan
CN	CHILDREN-Nepal
CRT/N	Centre for Rural Technology/Nepal
CSHG	Child Self Help Groups
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office
DCC	District Coordination Committee
DIB	Danish International Human Settlement Service
ECCA	Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness
EFLG	Environmental Friendly Local Governance
EFLGP	Environmental Friendly Local Governance Programme
EVD	Eco-Village Development
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICS	Improved Cook Stove
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
GO	Government Organization
LGCDP	Local Governance and Community Development Program
MDO	Machhapuchhre Development Organization
MoAD	Ministry of Agricultural Development
MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RM	Rural Municipality
SWC	Social Welfare Council

## 1. Relevance of the intervention

The overall goal of the project is *to reduce poverty among poor and marginalised families in rural areas in Nepal by enhancing their capacity and capability to create more sustainable livelihood and local sustainable development.*

The objectives of the project intervention are as follows:

1. By the end of 2020, sustainable organic agriculture has increased household income with at least 30% from sale of vegetables and increased self-sufficiency among the target group in the three local communities of Phallapani and Lewade in Kaski and Gunjara in Tanahun.
2. By the end of 2020, the enhanced advocacy capacity of CN and the local agents of change have resulted in increasing influence on local, district and national level regarding implementation of the EFLG framework and release of funds for local sustainable development.
3. By the end of 2020 the organizational capacity of CN in the sector of sustainable development has increased.

## The context of the intervention

The project intervention is to take place in the Western Development Region of Nepal in three communities Dhikurpokhari Phallapani and Lewade of Annapurna Rural Municipality (RM) in Kaski district and Jamune Gunjara of Myagde Rural Municipality in Tanahun district. The two communities of Dhikurpokhari are situated about 30 km west of Pokhara while Gunjara is situated about 50 km east of Pokhara. The communities were selected to take part in the Partnership Intervention between CN and DIB, which was finalized in mid-April 2017.

In the three communities there are in total 173 households (135 belonging to the primary target group and 38 to the secondary target group). 57 of these are low caste Dalits, 27 households belong to the ethnic minority of Magar and 89 are Brahmin/Chhetries. In spite of belonging to high castes some of the Brahmin/Chhetries are as poor and disadvantaged as the Dalits due to the general level of poverty in the country. This is the case in all three communities.

The three communities were selected as project sites for the partnership intervention between DIB and CN. CN visited the communities several times to carry out a baseline survey, do observations at household level and to conduct community dialogue meetings with the purpose of identifying the problems and needs of the local people. Together with CN, the people in the local communities created a problem analysis and a priority matrix of the identified problems in the communities, a poverty ranking, resource maps, dream villages and local stakeholder mapping (See Annex 5). The problems identified by the local community people are described below.

## Poverty and inequalities

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking as number 144 out of 188 countries on the latest Human Development Index. 15% of the population is living below the income poverty line of 1.90 USD a day (ADB 2016) and 25.2% below the national poverty line (UNDP 2016). The multidimensional poverty headcount is 41.4%, which is 16.2 percentage points higher than the income level. This implies that individuals living above the income poverty line may still suffer deprivations in education, health and other living conditions and are more vulnerable to fall back into poverty, if setbacks occur. In the three communities of Lewade, Phallapani and Gunjara the baseline study and poverty assessment showed that 77.4% of people in the communities live below the poverty line, earning less than 1.90 USD per day. For obvious reasons, this group of people find it difficult to meet their basic needs. The derived problems of poverty are many. The community people cannot afford to visit the doctor and according to the baseline study 37% of young children have dropped out school without completing their basic education because of the poor economic situation of their parents.

While governments, development agencies and NGOs over the years have implemented numerous interventions to address poverty, many challenges still remain. One of the challenges is the deeply rooted inequalities between social groups in the Nepalese society, including caste and gender based discrimination. According to the 2011 Census, 126 castes and ethnic groups with 123 native languages are recognised. The Dalits are at the bottom of the caste system and also known as lower castes. The percentage of poor among Dalits is 42% compared to 23% for the non-Dalits. In general there are many challenges related to being a Dalit, such as their lower educational level, landlessness and that they are less inclined to be involved in local activities.

Various ethnic groups and women at large are treated as second-class human beings as well. In spite of that the average literacy rate has increased over the years, there is a gap between the literacy rate of women and men. The rate for men is 75.1% and for women is 57.4%. The mean years of schooling are 2.4 for women and 4.2 for men. For many girls education is not prioritized due to a lack of understanding of the benefits and willingness to invest in girls' future. There are several reasons, however a dominant one is the need for the extra income, which is brought in by the children. It is estimated that approximately 40% of children below 16 years have to work to support their families. Women also have a much higher work burden than men. A gender assessment in Rangeland conducted by ICIMOD in 2008 revealed that Rangeland women work an average of 17 hours per day while most Rangeland men work about 8 hours per day<sup>1</sup>. In addition to gender-based division of labour, the workload of women is increased by infrastructure factors, such as the difficult terrain, poor access to basic services, roads, markets and water supply. Furthermore, low earnings have resulted in fathers and sons from some of the households in the communities have left Nepal to find a job to earn more money. The number of jobs in the rural areas is low, and people seek new opportunities in distant places even though it is difficult for them to pay for the travels. Migration influences the household in a negative way, socially, but also leaving more agricultural chores to women and other family members.

The high poverty level in Nepal makes it difficult for many people to meet their basic needs. This is the case in the three communities of Lewade, Phallapani and Gunjara. Poverty affects people across different castes and gender. Being a high caste Brahmin does not ensure a life out of poverty. The poverty level and daily struggles in the communities overshadows everything and especially the families living in the rural areas are affected.

### **Climate change in a diverse geography**

The diverse geographic altitude of Nepal (from 72 m to 8848 m from the sea level) makes the country one of the richest in the world in terms of biodiversity, but it also makes it vulnerable to various climatic impacts. The annual mean temperature is expected to increase by an average of 1.2 degrees Celsius by 2030 due to human induced climate changes. However the effects of the global climate changes are already visible. Nepal experiences periodically natural disasters such as snow avalanches, melting snow, heavy rain, hailstorms, thunderstorms, drought, and earthquakes. A returning problem is the high intensity rainfall events during the summer monsoon season causing floods and landslides. Every year human lives, houses, infrastructure and livestock are lost due to floods and landslides with great impact on the local communities and families. This year is no exceptions and Nepal, India and Bangladesh have experienced severe floods. Prolonged breaks in the summer monsoon also cause serious drought, which affect agricultural production (IFAD 2013) and increase poverty and hunger. Most of the people that are affected by and endure severe hardships from climate change effects are the poorest groups living in rural

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<sup>1</sup> International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (2009) Gender Mainstreaming in Rangeland Resources Management, p. 1

areas where advances within development are the least. They are the least able to cope with disasters and they live in the areas most at risk. Furthermore, they have limited information, knowledge and resources to help reduce their level of risk. The predicted impacts of climate change will intensify existing vulnerabilities, inequalities and exposure to hazards (IFAD 2013).

Climate Asia (2013) describes the perception of climate change of the Nepalese people over the last 10 years. In the western region 67% had experienced decreased rainfall and 90% increased temperatures. Furthermore, 33% expressed reduced water availability and 63% had felt a decrease in the agricultural production. Decrease in the agricultural production is a high concern for people and one of the biggest issues in Nepal. Because of the lack of irrigation facilities and reduced rainfall community people are losing their motivation to cultivate and engage in farming.

### **Low environmental consciousness leading to low resilience and self-sufficiency**

The access to water, gas for cooking, electricity and proper waste management is a problem all over Nepal and especially in the rural areas. In the communities of Lewade, Phallapani and Gunjara access to sufficient and clean water for consumption, for livestock and for agricultural purposes is a huge problem. Especially in the dry season, people from the local communities experience high scarcity of water for drinking and for agricultural uses. The lack of water resources means that the local people have to spend a lot of time collecting drinking water from the sources available. Although there are limited resources of water available in the communities, it is not effectively utilized due to the low awareness of getting the full benefits of it. On the other hand, the summer monsoon period often results in heavy rainfalls where floods and landslides destroy the crops. In Gunjara, the government has initiated a water project in the community, however it has not eliminated the problems of getting access to sufficient water resources. Each household can maximum use 50 litres per day regardless of the size of the family and they have to spend a large amount of money for electricity charge for pumping the water to the village.

Nepal is no longer self-sustaining for food, since the volume of cultivated land has not increased as quickly as the population. The yield from the land is low and often barely enough to sustain the families. In the three communities food sufficiency is very low. 21% of all households produce food to feed themselves for less than 3 months and 57% household cannot cover for more than 6 months. Thus, people spend their few hard-earned money to buy extra food. If the farmers are selling their produce at the market they often get a low price due to the chain of production and the market for seasonal products. Furthermore, Nepal relies heavily on imported goods from India and other countries. However, unsustainable use of local resources is prevailing due to limited knowledge of sustainable resource management and lack of means and resources to change practices. Furthermore, the growing population is creating an increased demand for firewood, timber, fodder and more land to grow food. All households in the three communities are very dependent on firewood as an energy resource, and 93% of the households are not aware of alternative energy resources e.g. biogas or solar energy. The firewood is mainly used in the kitchen for cooking food, boiling water for their livestock and getting heat as energy source. The baseline survey showed that on a yearly basis a household use about 8.000 - 10.000 kg wood. The people in the communities get firewood from the forests, which they spend a lot of time collecting. Deforestation has severe effects on the climate, the diversity of species, access to water, pollution and quality of soil. Furthermore, as a result of the deforestation, the area is affected by landslides and soil erosion. Besides the environmental and climate effects, the usage of firewood for cooking creates lots of smoke in the kitchen, which affects the health of women and children.

### **Low awareness on sustainable agricultural practises**

In Nepal 81% of the population lives in rural areas (World Bank 2016), where the majority is dependent on subsistence agriculture. The awareness on modern agricultural technologies and

eco-friendly solutions is very low among people in the three communities. Agricultural practices such as crop rotation, soil management, composting and organic manure are not known or used by the local people. They use traditional methods of manure by using animal dung, but they are not aware of how to get the full benefits of it by using a compost or small sized biogas plant for example. The baseline study showed that 60.5% of the households in the communities use chemical pesticides for their crops, which is both expensive, harmful to the soil and also causes health issues for both humans and animals. Furthermore 81.4% of people are not aware of the importance and benefits of organic agricultural production, and there is no awareness on the practise of processing crops for storage purposes. Despite the limited yield, some of the community people have tried to store food and seeds, but they have been unsuccessful and mostly the food has been damaged and could not be used.

### **Political context**

After many years of political turmoil, the Nepalese government presented the Constitution of Nepal 2072 (year 2072 according to Nepali calendar, which corresponds to year 2015); however, the political situation of Nepal is still very complex and unstable. The new constitution has restructured the country in seven different federal states and 744 different local units compared to the former five development regions, 14 zones and 75 districts. Although there is still disputes existing within different political parties, the process of reconstructing different political election regions for the central government are at the final stage. The Nepalese government and different constitutional committees and commissions are working on developing this new administrative structure and also new local government units. The Local Government Unit Reconstruction Commission submitted their report to the government of Nepal announcing the new structure of the local unit. This led to the government of Nepal announcing 3 phases of local elections - the first local elections in 20 years. Two of the phases have already been completed and the last election phase (in federal state no. 2) is to take place on the 18th September 2017. Now 6 out of 7 federal states have elected their local government.

Yet some of the political parties are not fully convinced on parts of the provisions in The New Constitution 2072. This means that there is still high tension between the political parties and as a result demonstrations are frequently being organized, disrupting the daily lives of the Nepalese people. Externally Nepal is experiencing political problems as well because of the tense relationship to its neighbour India. Almost two years ago, political instability between the two countries caused a long-term blockade at the borders affecting the Nepalese people badly. The blockage resulted in very limited availability of fuel for motors, electricity and gas for cooking. India is a big supplier of food and other products and maintaining good relations are therefore important.

### **Environmental protection and policies in Nepal**

The government of Nepal has over the last decades developed policies and guidelines in order to address environmental and climate-related issues in Nepal. The Constitution 2072 sets out to *“to protect, promote, and make environmental friendly and sustainable use of, natural resources available in the country”* and *“to conserve, promote, and make sustainable use of, forests, wildlife, birds, vegetation and biodiversity, by mitigating possible risks to environment from industrial and physical development, while raising awareness of general public about environmental cleanliness”*. Also the development of water resources, reliable irrigation, renewable energy and maintaining the forest areas are in focus in the Constitution.

Until now there has been several initiatives from the government focusing on a sustainable and environmental-friendly development in Nepal. The latest is the Environmental Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) Framework from 2013. The Framework was issued to add value to the environmental-friendly local development concepts encouraging environmental protection through local bodies. The framework addresses the need to integrate climate change, disaster risk

management and environment conservation in local level development planning. Furthermore, it is emphasized that people's participation is inevitable for the effective implementation of the policy framework at household, village, municipality and district levels. Based on the EFLG Framework, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) developed the Environment Friendly Local Governance Programme (EFLGP) with the intention of implementing it through the grass root level and protect the deteriorated environment and safeguard the poor and vulnerable people from climate change and related risks. The program is launched in four cross cutting areas including environment safeguard, waste management, climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk management. The program is implemented in 14 Districts, 54 Municipalities and 60 Village Development Committees under broader Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP) Framework since December 2014. The EFLG Framework has also been implemented in the districts of Kaski and Tanahun where the project sites are located. It has been implemented in 5 municipalities in Tanahun and 2 in Kaski.

Even though the framework has been implemented several places, it is still unknown to many people in the rural communities including the local government authorities. One issue related to the implementation of the framework is the lack of information among community people, government officials and Rural Municipalities. Furthermore, the Rural Municipalities, who are responsible for the EFLG implementation, are not prioritizing it. The implementation of the framework is an important step towards creating environmental-friendly communities and sustainable livelihoods that in the long run can reduce poverty. In order to support the implementation of the EFLG framework, this project seeks to address poverty in rural areas by creating environmental-friendly communities focusing on organic agriculture and deal with issues such as deforestation. It will raise awareness on the need for the framework's implementation in order to build resilient and sustainable communities. The national level has to be informed and held responsible for a proper implementation through local government bodies.

Furthermore, Nepal is at the moment preparing the Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project to start in September 2017. This 130-billion-rupees project is set out to boost agriculture productivity through adoption of modern farm techniques. The main objective of the project is to make the country self-reliant in food. The government has under the project created different pocket areas, blocks, zones and super zones to promote various crops and bolster agricultural productivity. The government will offer seeds and distribute modern farm equipment. There will be grants available for buying chemical fertilizer and only in the super zones there are more focus on organic agriculture in form of the establishment of organic fertilizer factories and bio-pesticide production. These practices are contradictory and the use of chemical fertilizer is not supporting the New Constitution 2072 and the EFLG Framework's agenda on creating environmental-friendly communities. Organic agriculture is not included as a term in the EFLG Framework, however promotion and creation of environmental-friendly communities cannot include farming with chemical fertilizers that are damaging to the environment. Therefore, our advocacy will also request the Government to recognize organic farming as a viable part of the agriculture sector in Nepal and include it in the EFLG Framework.

### **Contribution towards strengthening organisational expressions in civil society**

This project prioritizes to ensure high involvement of the local people; especially the poorest, promote collaboration and ensure equal participation in activities among men and women when possible. Due to the migration issues, most households are led by women, so the intervention will naturally reach more women than men.

Agriculture steering groups will be established in each community to promote collaboration and create an agricultural forum with democratic decision-making power during the project. The groups will have a coordinating role in the project i.e. gathering people for community meetings, trainings,

etc. People in the local communities will select the group members and it will be ensured that people of different gender, caste and socio-economic background are included in the groups. The establishment of agriculture steering groups and a forum for agricultural discussions will promote collaboration between people in the communities. This can strengthen the unity in the communities since people can share issues, help each other and enjoy the benefits from working together.

The focus of the project on collaboration and active involvement of the local community people will be shared with authorities and relevant stakeholders. Through advocacy activities CN and the local agents of change will work on closing the gap between the centre and the periphery by bringing the local voices and demands to the centre. CN will increase the access to information and knowledge on opportunities to help improve the livelihood of the people in the local communities and advocate for implementation of the EFLG Framework. The involvement of relevant stakeholders and the expansion of a network of organisations working in the same field will further promote equal access to resources and participation in civil society for the target group.

### **The contribution towards bringing lasting improvements for the target group**

The project is inspired by the Eco-Village Development (EVD) concept, which DIB is currently implementing with partners in South Asia including in Nepal. The EVD concept combines several solutions for poverty reduction within sustainable energy, water management, agriculture and housing. The EVD solutions are generally simple, easy to implement, low cost and with low carbon emissions and proven to improve the livelihood of the beneficiaries. Examples of the solutions are biogas for clean cooking, light and organic slurry, rainwater harvesting, solar home systems, solar dryers, improved cook stoves, organic farming and seasonal vegetable gardening. The solutions have all proven successful individually, but also as combined solutions as demonstrated and promoted in the EVD project. Combined, they can provide the energy and resources needed for a development out of poverty and increased income generation for rural villages with minimal greenhouse emissions, and providing a prosperous vision for the future of rural villages.

The target group has been involved in the project from the beginning, and they have reflected over and identified the problems in their communities. Some of the issues of highest priority in all communities are access to water and food security. The project will address these issues with simple solutions such as organic farming techniques including use of organic fertilizer and compost, climate-adapted crops and rainwater harvesting methods. Furthermore, it will address environmental issues in the project area such as landslides and deforestation, and in that way make the communities more environmental-friendly and resilient.

Through capacity building activities, it will be possible for people to increase food sufficiency and their income level. Furthermore, the established groups and forums will give the community people a place where they can discuss agricultural-related topics and issues, and work together for improving their livelihood. The project has a strong focus on ownership. By letting the target group invest a small amount of money in the needed solution(s), they will feel a higher sense of ownership and motivation that will contribute to the sustainability of the project and bring lasting improvements for the target group.

Furthermore, the advocacy plan of this project will focus on influencing local, district and national authorities and decision makers, other organisations and networks. The aim is to have greater focus on issues in local communities in Nepal and increase funds for local sustainable development, which will create more possibilities and lasting improvements for the target group. Moreover, the advocacy efforts will seek to raise awareness on the EFLG framework in order to support and secure its practical implementation.

## 2. Partnership

### Danish partner organisation:

DIB, Danish International Human Settlement Service, is a non-governmental organization, founded in 1988. DIB is a member based non-profit organization, independent of religious, political and financial interests. DIB relies to a large extent on voluntary work and external funding. Presently, DIB has around 60 members.

DIB's mission is to support the development of a strong civil society in South with the aim of supporting poor and marginalised people in achieving sustainable livelihoods and resilience. Focus is especially on those who are affected by climate change and environmental degradation.

DIB's approach is, through partnerships with local civil society organisations, to provide necessary tools, knowledge and knowhow to the local population so they can improve their living conditions while respecting social, economic and environmental aspects of life.

Sustainable development and local planning are among DIB's core competences together with appropriate technology transfer adapted to local conditions. DIB focuses on local capacity building and civil society's involvement in the creation of structures and forums for participatory involvement. Furthermore, DIB has experience with evidence-based advocacy involving local community experiences and concerns, which are important areas within climate, environment and poverty issues and in long-term planning strategies.

DIB's core activity is capacity building of the local partner (both technical, organizational and administratively), project implementation and monitoring. DIB consists of a secretariat with 2-3 full time staff. Adding to this, DIB has approximately 15 volunteers and board members that contribute to our activities, mainly in project groups related to our different projects. The workload of the projects is thus dispersed onto several people with different capacities and not necessarily complied with the staff in the secretariat. The staff however ensures that synergy effects are sought and that lessons learned, knowledge and capacity from other projects are linked - especially when developing new partnerships and projects.

The DIB Nepal project group is a diversified group of people with different backgrounds having extensive knowledge and experience from Nepal, experience within project implementation and monitoring as well as within sustainable development and livelihood. During the last year four different members of the project group visited Children-Nepal and the project areas. The members of the group are: Christine Laustsen, Susanne Jacobsen, Sonja Salminen, Stinne Otte, Didde Ketley, Jesper Saxgreen, Lykke Valentin and Camilla Sternberg.

### **Advocacy experience**

From the Eco-Village Development (EVD) project in South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) DIB has gained advocacy experiences and knowledge on national, regional and international level. Working with the different partners in the regional project has increased the organisational capacity and knowledge of DIB to provide technical, strategic and advocacy support to other partners. The EVD project addresses poverty and the livelihood needs of poor families in selected rural communities with appropriate low-cost and low-carbon technologies through focus on advocacy activities. Thus, there is plenty of scope to learn from this project. In Nepal, the national partner for this project is Centre for Rural Technology (CRT/N). An organization DIB and now also CN are in close collaboration with and has visited several times in the last year and have developed mutual understanding and shared learnings.



#### Local partner organisation:

CHILDREN-Nepal (CN) is a non-profit social organization. CN is independent of religious, political and financial interests and works to promote the rights, welfare and development of marginalized children and their families. Since the organization was founded in 1995 it has been the overall objective of CN to help children and their families through a holistic approach by improving their situation and livelihood as well as their school and community. CN has been working to empower children and parents living under difficult circumstances through organizing regular interactions, dialogues, training, counselling and self-help group initiatives. CN has been practicing a right-based working approach in their social work, and that transparent and neutral role has proven to be beneficial and successful in their social work initiatives in the local communities, even during political conflicts in the country during the last decade.

CN has developed its organisation throughout the partnership intervention with DIB and has gained knowledge and experience on global and local environmental issues and has increased awareness on the possible solutions. The entire organization has developed a common understanding on environmental and climate issues, the global agenda for sustainable development (the SDGs), sustainable livelihood and possible solutions for sustainable local community development. CN also visited CRT/N's EVD project site in Kavre District. This gave CN knowledge of possible local low carbon eco-friendly solutions, organic farming practices, how to involve the community and how to organize the work locally. Furthermore, CN staff and board have given the priority to work on increasing the environmental awareness and capacity of the most vulnerable families to address community challenges. Internally, CN has started to carry out more environmental practises; e.g. by using renewable energies, set up waste management system at its resource centre and the office as well, set up a rainwater harvesting systems and they have developed action points to keep improving on these issues.

#### **Advocacy experience**

CN has a strong network among civil society organizations at local, district and national level, and they have during the years been successful in conducting various advocacy-related activities on the rights of children at local, district and national level. In 2001, CN initiated the setup of Child Protection Committees in 18 wards of Pokhara Municipality with the aim of providing a local forum where civil society organisations and local authorities can openly discuss the situation of children. Since 2008, CN has been working directly with government schools to create a child friendly environment at schools in coordination with the District Education system of the Nepalese government. In Parbat, Kaski and Tanahun districts of Nepal CN has been working for the promotion of child rights in partnership with the local authorities and District Development Committees (DDC) with great success. Furthermore, CN has taken the initiative to form Child Self Help Groups (CSHG) in schools and local communities, which have now been adopted by the education system as a school policy all over Nepal.

#### **The partnership's experiences and track record**

As the partnership between CN and DIB is relatively new, joint experiences of creating measurable outputs and outcomes relevant to civil society are as well. However the Partnership Intervention has initiated an enabling environment for change. During the Partnership Intervention, CN and DIB have increased their knowledge substantially about the local context and interest of the poor and marginalized community people from the selected project sites. CN conducted a baseline survey and facilitated people in the communities to identify their needs and priorities. During the PRA exercises following outputs were completed: social and resource maps of the three villages, poverty mapping, mapping of local stakeholders, vision villages, mapping and prioritizing of the community issues and needs and seasonal calendars. These sessions have created awareness

among the villagers about their situation and needs, and have increased their eagerness to be engaged in sustainable development initiatives for improving their livelihood. During the Partnership Intervention CN staff and the people of the local communities have built relations of trust. The local people have expressed high motivation and interest in a possible project with CN.

As mentioned above, an important outcome of the Partnership Intervention is that Children-Nepal has developed their network and connections to other Nepalese organisations and institutions within the sustainable development sector. These new connections will play a vital role in the new proposed project, as they will ensure further development of CN's capacity and connections to support and promote sustainable development and livelihood in the rural communities. Specifically, CN will for sure involve resource persons from CRT/N to conduct capacity building trainings to project staff and local community people. Moreover CRT/N will also be used for consulting services if needed. Also, CN have received recommendation letters from Myagde Rural Municipality and Annapurna Rural Municipality expressing their interest in cooperating around the project and a possibility of providing funds for local development (Please see Annex 4).

The project will further develop the relations between the two organisations through continuing the good working relationship that has been established through the partnership intervention. CN and DIB have developed a strong collaboration, a better understanding of each other and a common scope of work, which is crucial to continue to be able to meet the objectives and scope of the project. There is still space for improving the cross-cultural understanding and mutual learnings and both organisations are open to further develop. CN and DIB have different areas of expertise, strengths and weaknesses and both organisations will seek to reduce those gaps by complementing each other by ensuring regular sharing, feedback and inputs.

### **Cooperation with other actors**

In the proposed intervention, there is strong focus on building network and relations to both local government authorities and interested stakeholders and to other national organisations working within the same field and thematic focus. To ensure this, CN has already gathered information and developed contact while developing this project. CN has visited the Rural Municipalities several times, latest in September 2017 to present changes in the objectives and a higher focus on activities focusing on organic agriculture. CN has also established contact to the District Agriculture Office and Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project Office as well who acknowledged the project and the establishment of agriculture steering groups.

Some of the relevant organisations with further knowledge and resources in this field, with whom CN has built positive relations to during the last six-nine months, are Centre for Rural Technology (CRT/N), Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA), Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) Nepal and contacts at the District and National level government authorities, e.g. Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), Department of Agriculture. Furthermore CN will also expand its network to include organisations in the same geographical area. These organisations include Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Machhapuchhre Development Organization (MDO), CARITAS and CARE.

When this project will start, the activities have been designed to further develop these contacts and networks, and the partners in Nepal and Denmark will work on possible co-funding opportunities for the service deliveries as well. Both partners recognize the importance of being a catalyst of change for the local community people. In the beginning of the implementation phase of the project, CN will seek to develop a MoU with clearly defined roles and responsibilities with the Rural Municipalities and DCC, with whom CN will collaborate for this intervention.

With this project DIB is increasing its existing network in South Asia. DIB has access to and

knowledge about networks, funding opportunities at international level, which can help bring more contacts and focus to the local development agenda this project seeks to influence. Currently DIB is participating in a CSR project, which creates links between the private sector and the environmental development agenda. This intervention might benefit from this project as well.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

Children-Nepal is responsible for the local implementation of this project. Besides implementing the activities, CN will appoint the staff members, external resource persons and consultants according to the project plan and necessity. For the practical implementation of the project, there will be five project staff members. A programme coordinator, an assistant programme coordinator, a finance and administrative staff member and two field staff members will be appointed and will be provided clear roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the project. The field staff members will be based in the project area, and it will therefore be easy for them to access the communities and stay in close contact with them during the project. One field staff member will be responsible for Kaski District and the other one for Tanahun District. The programme coordinator and assistant programme coordinator employed during the Partnership Intervention and the development of this project showed that they are very confident in working with the target groups and have great knowledge about the local context and issues. Adding two field staff members with the required qualifications to the project team makes the team even stronger. For the selection criteria and the detailed job description of each position please see attached Annex 2.

DIB is confident that CN have the ability to implement the project. During the partnership intervention DIB has been impressed with CN in regard to taking on the new scope of work with great enthusiasm, ownership, and eagerness to learn. Furthermore CN has been very effective in collecting the baseline and community data, using new tools and techniques. It is apparent that CN has had good interactions with people in the three communities as well as relevant local stakeholders. To ensure further integration of the new scope of work in the organisation the board of CN and especially the Executive Director of CN will closely monitor the project, follow the progress and discuss possible adjustments during the quarterly board meetings.

Throughout the project, DIB will be responsible for the overall monitoring of the project and for reporting to CISU. DIB will provide technical, professional and financial inputs, conduct monitoring activities and do status of the project progress and act as a sparring partner to CN. Adding to this, DIB will share the lessons learned from the project in Denmark and assist CN in strengthening their South-South network. DIB will be responsible for trying to link the project to different alternative funding opportunities and do advocacy work for the project scope in relevant national and international fora as well. DIB will continue the organisational capacity building of CN in different environmental and climate related topics during the planned visits to Nepal. This will be done with help from DIB environmental consultant Jesper Saxgren and CRT/N, who both are experts in sustainable development. Furthermore, another external resource persons will train CN in advocacy, communication and co-host a workshop on organisational development with DIB.

### Project advisory committee and local stakeholder collaboration

As provisioned by the Social Welfare Council, a district level Program Advisory and Coordination Committee will be established. They will have a bi-annual meeting with CN and share the progress and challenges of the project and provide feedback and suggestions. The committee will strengthen and coordinate among the stakeholders, and this will help the internalization of the experiences and learning from the project.

### 3. Target groups

#### Primary target group

The primary target group of the project consists of poor and extreme poor people in the communities. The primary target group include 135 households and 756 people in total. Out of the 135 households, there are 57 Dalit households and 27 households are from different ethnic groups. The primary target group include poor Brahmin/Chhetri households as well. According to the baseline 98 households have been identified as poor and 37 households as extremely poor.

To do a holistic poverty ranking in the villages, CN has established four different categories with inputs from the governmental statistics office and the DCC office. The distinction between a poor household and an extreme poor household is based on the type of house, daily income, sufficiency of food and land owned by the household.

A household is considered poor if it has a mud house with thatched roof, own food production to cover their needs for up to 6 months, the area of land owned by the household is 5-10 ropani<sup>2</sup> land and the income rate is less than US\$1.90 per day. Additionally a poor household is serving skilled or semi-skilled labour.

An extreme poor household is identified by a thatched hut house and food sufficiency below 3 months. The area of land owned by the household is below 5 ropani or it has no land at all. The daily income is less than US\$1 and the household only serves unskilled labour.

In brief the primary target group earn less than US\$1.90 per day and do not own much land. They are only able to produce food to cover their own needs for 6 months or less. See the specifications below.

Primary target group							
Village	Number of HH	Number of people	Poor HH	Extreme poor HH	Dalit HH	Ethnic HH	High caste HH
Phallapani	54	302	23	31	25 (185) <sup>3</sup>	-	-
Lewade	28	157	27	1	1 (6)	-	-
Gunjara, Siple, Dumri	53	297	48	5	31 (189)	27 (176)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>57 (380)</b>	<b>27 (176)</b>	<b>51(200)</b>

#### Agriculture Steering Groups

The agriculture steering groups will be established in the three communities and consist of 11-15 people representing the primary target group. The groups will have a coordinating role in the project and will together with the rest of the people in the communities be able to exert influence on the implementation of the new project by working together with CN and making decisions related to activities and installation of community solutions (for example rainwater harvesting ponds).

#### Local agents of change

In each community there will be selected a group of 6 local agents of change. 2 from each community have already been selected and have participated in a workshop with CN and CRT/N.

<sup>2</sup>Ropani is a measure used in Nepal. 1 hectare is 19,65 ropani.

<sup>3</sup> Numbers in brackets are the number of people

The local agents of change will be selected by their own communities, and they will play a vital role in local advocacy activities in this project. They will be trained in public speaking, presenting community issues and demands, and project benefits. With support from CN they will develop Community Development Plans and project proposals and present their demands for the Rural Municipalities.

#### Secondary target group

The secondary target group is the rest of the people in the communities i.e. 38 households and 221 people in total. This group of people has to some extent better living conditions than the primary target group.

In the community of Lewade there are 5 households identified as rich and these belong to the Brahmin caste. A rich household has a concrete house and food sufficiency for more than one year including a surplus they can sell from. They own more than 15 ropani of land and have a daily income above US\$1.90. Moreover, they have a fixed deposit in the bank, are able to invest in productive fields and may be employed in a private or government job.

There are 33 households identified as medium rich. A medium rich household has a house with stone and zinc sheet and food sufficiency for 9-12 months. They own 10-15 ropani of land and earn more than US\$1.90 per day. People from these households are jobholders with skills and may also be employed in a private or government job. Some of these households have savings in the bank while other medium rich people need support to improve their livelihood.

All households from the communities can participate in trainings and capacity building. The project may be able to include some of the poorest from the secondary target group, but they have to invest a higher amount of money in the solutions that the project seeks to promote.

**Primary stakeholder analysis:** (For a more thorough overview of the most important stakeholders and their area of involvement please see Annex 1.)

#### Local level institutions:

Annapurna and Myagde Rural Municipality; Newly established local government unit with budget for local implementation. CN has received a recommendation letter on the project from the two offices and they are expected to play an active role on co-funding, monitoring project activities and progress, and in coordination between local communities, CN, and other government authorities and NGOs. They will be involved from the beginning of the project.

CN will furthermore develop formal partnerships with registered local community based organization i.e. mothers' group, local consumer groups, etc. within the community.

#### District level institutions:

District Coordination Committee (DCC); is monitoring the implementation of policies and are linking the local and federal government. The DDC will together with the RM be involved in joint monitoring events organized by the project, and they will provide feedback to the project team. Furthermore, CN expects them to play an active role in disseminating the lessons learned and in replicating the learnings in the wider community.

Other government agencies such as the District Agriculture Office, District Forest Office, District Veterinary and livestock service office, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) and its district section can play a vital role in sharing resources, provide technical input and resource persons for training sessions and in monitoring and supervising local initiatives.

#### Government institutions:

The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development has a role of coordination, cooperation,

facilitation, monitoring and evaluation of activities undertaken by local bodies (Rural Municipalities and DCCs). It is the focal organization for local development and therefore has to coordinate, cooperate, facilitate and synergize the initiatives taken by different development partners. MoFALD has many development programmes related to local development, and is also the ministry behind the EFLG Framework.

The Ministry of Agricultural Development bears the overall responsibility for the growth and development of the agriculture sector. It is a policy formulation body and is therefore in the position to determine the priority sector in agriculture and design various programs.

#### **4. Strategy and expected results of the intervention**

The overall and long-term objective of the partnership between DIB and CN is to *reduce poverty among poor and marginalized families in rural areas by enhancing their capacity and capability to create more sustainable livelihood and local sustainable development.*

The first objective of the intervention is:

1. By the end of 2020, sustainable organic agriculture has increased household income with at least 30% from sale of vegetables and increased self-sufficiency among the target group in the three local communities of Phallapani and Lewade in Kaski and Gunjara in Tanahun.

The expected results for objective 1 are:

1.1 By July 2018 one organic agriculture steering group is established in each of the three communities of Phallapani, Lewade and Kaski.

1.2 By 2020 the three communities of Phallapani, Lewade and Kaski have increased organic agricultural production.

1.3 By 2020 deforestation in the project area has been reduced and community people have increased efforts of planting fruit trees in the communities.

The indicators of success are:

1) 50% of households from the target group have increased their organic agricultural production by 30%.

2) 50% of the households from the target group have increased their income with 20%.

3) The amount of firewood consumption in 50% of the target groups' households is in average reduced by 30%.

These indicators will be verified through the baseline survey.

The second objective is:

2. By the end of 2020, the enhanced advocacy capacity of CN and the local agents of change have resulted in increasing influence on local, district and national level regarding implementation of the EFLG framework and release of funds for local sustainable development.

The expected results for objective 2 are:

2.1 CN has increased its advocacy capacity for sustainable development focusing on sustainable agricultural practises in Nepal.

2.2 The advocacy capacity of the local agents of change has improved and they can arrange advocacy activities on their own behalf.

2.3 Rural Municipality and local government authorities have increased programmes and funds for local sustainable development and the practical implementation of the EFLG framework.

The indicators of success are:

1) By 2020 CN has established a network of likeminded NGOs and is actively lobbying in issues concerning access to water, food security and environmental-friendly communities. This will be verified through short written reports from meetings and activities.

2) By 2020 the three local communities have through advocacy achieved support from their local level government/ Rural Municipality to improve their access to water. This will be verified through official statements from the local level authorities, the baseline survey and observations.

3) By 2020 Rural Municipality and local government authorities have initiated initiatives for local sustainable development and increased funds by 20%. This will be verified through local budgets and official statements.

The third and last objective is:

3. By the end of 2020 the organizational capacity of CN in the sector of sustainable development has increased.

The expected results for objective 3 are:

3.1 CN has increased its knowledge in topics related to sustainable development focusing on organic farming, climate change adaption and environmental issues.

3.2 CN has developed a strategic plan including goals for its organisation to work in the sector of sustainable development.

The indicators of success are:

1) After participating in internal trainings CN project staff will conduct/facilitate trainings to the people of the local communities concerning organic farming and local sustainable development. This will be verified through short written reports.

2) The strategic plan and policies are approved and implemented by the CN board. CN staff has implemented policies and is carrying out new strategies. The strategic plan and policies are printed and published on the CN website.

**List of project objectives, expected outputs and activities.** For the project implementation plan, please see Annex 3.

Outputs	Activities
<b>Objective 1: Sustainable organic agriculture has increased household income with at least 30% from sale of vegetables and increased self-sufficiency among the target group in the three local communities of Phallapani, Lewade and Gunjara.</b>	
1.1 One organic agriculture steering group is established in each community.	1.1.1 Project preparations and set-up. Formalize partnerships with the local, district and national level authorities institutions.
	1.1.2 Review and update baseline study in relation to the project objectives and indicators.
	1.1.3 Formation of agriculture steering groups and formalizing the partnership and roles and responsibilities of the group.
	1.1.4 Support organic agriculture steering groups to conduct community dialogue meetings.

	1.1.5 Introduce organic farming methods for the steering groups and organize exchange visits for them to other communities who successfully have implemented organic farming practices.
1.2 The three communities of Phallapani, Lewade and Gunjara have increased organic production.	<p>1.2.1 Workshops and training in crop calendar, crop rotation, soil management, organic farming including organic fertilizer and composting, nursery management, vegetable farming in plastic tunnels, preparation of organic pesticides for the crops and vegetables.</p> <p>1.2.2 Installation and training in water harvesting systems at HH/community level.</p> <p>1.2.3 Construction of solar dryer including training in use, food processing and preservation.</p>
1.3 Deforestation in the project area has been reduced and the people of the community have increased efforts of planting trees in the communities.	<p>1.3.1 Installation and training in Improved Cook Stoves.</p> <p>1.3.2 Environmental awareness training two times a year.</p> <p>1.3.3 Support people of the local community to organize tree plantation event (1 per year) and ensure its protection mechanism.</p>
<b>Objective 2: The enhanced advocacy capacity of CN and the local agents of change have resulted in increasing influence on local, district and national level regarding implementation of the EFLG framework and release of funds for local sustainable development.</b>	
2.1 CN has increased its advocacy capacity for sustainable development focusing on sustainable agricultural practises in Nepal.	<p>2.1.1 Training in advocacy and communication for CN staff.</p> <p>2.1.2 Engage in network with like-minded NGOs and establish a platform to advocate for the advancement of environmental friendly communities.</p> <p>2.1.3 Arrange meetings with stakeholders on local, district and national level.</p> <p>2.1.4 Develop advocacy material: Collect and compile case studies and stories of change and other relevant material.</p>
2.2 The advocacy capacity of the local agents of change has improved and they can arrange advocacy activities on their own behalf.	2.2.1 Selection and training of local agents of change (6 from each community) in topics: Public speaking, benefits/changes and challenges the project has brought them and their communities, defining their asks for local decision makers and give them knowledge about where they can seek assistance.



	2.2.2. Support local agents of change in developing Community Development Plans (CDP) and identifying needs, relevant programs and stakeholders.
	2.2.3 Support local agents of change in organizing local advocacy activities (incl. sharing issues, interaction, dialogue meetings with RM, local political leaders and decision makers, arrange organic food fair, competitions, school plays).
	2.2.4 Support local agents of change to present CDP and demands to Rural Municipality. Advocate for access to water.
2.3 Village Municipality and local government authorities have increased programs and funds for local sustainable development and the practical implementation of the EFLG framework.	2.3.1 Arrange visits for stakeholders and media to project sites.
	2.3.2 Participate in relevant events to showcase progress and links to EFLG Framework.
	2.3.3 Support local agents of change in developing project proposals for local sustainable development initiatives for local government authorities and relevant stakeholders.
	2.3.4 Organize two national seminars on environmental conservation and organic initiatives and opportunities. (Sharing best practices, issues and challenges and submit it to the national concerned authorities).
<b>Objective 3: The organizational capacity of CN in the sector of sustainable development has increased.</b>	
3.1 CN has increased their knowledge in topics related to sustainable development focusing on organic farming, climate change adaption and environmental issues.	3.1.1 Workshops and training of CN staff and board members by Jesper Saxgren, CRT/N and other external resource persons.
	3.1.2 Field visits to other NGOs/projects in the area working with organic agriculture and sustainable development.
3.2 CN has developed a strategic plan including goals for their organisation to work in the sector of sustainable development.	3.2.1 Training in organizational development, democracy and transparency.
	3.2.2 Workshop and training in developing goals for CNs future work in the sustainable development sector and in developing a strategic plan.
	3.2.3 Develop CN policies on 1) gender, 2) caste, 3) democracy and transparency and 4) environmental protection.

### Strategy

Based on the data collection, problem analysis and village dialogues carried out in the Partnership Intervention the project will facilitate initiatives to improve the local livelihood in the three communities by combining training and local capacity building, funds for installing eco-friendly

solutions and sustainable agriculture initiatives and advocacy efforts at local, district and national level. The strategic considerations and methodology applied in this project intervention are as follows:

### **A collaborative approach**

After consultations with the local CSOs it has been decided that the project will establish agriculture steering groups in the communities to ensure active participation of the target group. Collaboration will be promoted during project activities and the people of the local community will through meetings with the steering groups create a forum for sharing experiences and knowledge on their newly acquired farming techniques, to ensure that food sufficiency is given priority in the village, to create a resource pool, to pass on their knowledge to others later, and to provide a group that can further explore the possibilities for selling any surplus products on markets in collaboration. In addition, the CN project team will assist the steering groups and the local agents of change to explore the possibility to get governmental help and funding for their activities to enhance the rural livelihood. By developing their own Community Development Plans, having received information about the scope of the project and possible co-funding opportunities through the project and via other channels the people of the three communities will be in a better position to take action as individuals and community.

Furthermore, the project gives priority to the people of the communities identifying their own contribution and priorities according to their needs and wants. In order to ensure that the project reach the whole target group and that the poorest people are supported most by the project, CN and the people of the community will decide on the level of the villagers' own contribution. This will differentiate depending on the resources available in the households. This will be done through several dialogue meetings. If the communities are interested in installing community solutions (for example a community water pond), this will be discussed among the steering group and people of the community and will be decided on in unison in a democratic manner to avoid later conflicts. Important for this project is that the target group is actively involved and encouraged to participate in the activities and meetings.

Furthermore, the promotion of collaboration around the project activities creates opportunity to work together across gender and caste. It is shown that meetings, trainings, and increased interaction between members in a group of different castes and ethnic groups help members to learn from each other. For instance, Dalits and men and women from ethnic minorities have gained confidence to speak in meetings and have acquired a 'voice'. Such interactions have helped to reduce prejudice and social discrimination to some extent, especially in the public sphere, and provide the context for eliminating discrimination and exclusionary practices<sup>4</sup>.

The project also support community practises like *Paicho*, *Parma* and *Kachahari*. *Parma* is a social practice in Nepali society of giving and taking help in labour or services turn by turn while carrying out major social, cultural and agricultural activities. For example at the time of planting or harvesting crops people in the community lend labour to each other as *parma* to complete the work at hand. Such a *Parma* is returned next time when the parma lender has to perform similar activities. *Parma* simply refers to interchanging of help.

*Paincho* is like *Parma*. They both mean giving (lending) and taking (borrowing) of something. The main difference between them is that *paincho* is related with goods whereas *parma* is related to labour or services. In this practice, people in need of goods or services take from somebody without any cost or interest as *paincho* and return it in due time. Such a practice is generally found in rural areas among close friends and relatives. This practice helps to fulfil the immediate needs of people and also helps to strengthen their relationship, unity, and cooperation.

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<sup>4</sup> Asian Development Bank 2005, Ethnic and Caste Diversity: Implications for Development  
CIVILSOCIETY FUND, Development Intervention, revised February 2017

Finally, *Kachahari* is the gathering of the community people where they can talk and share their issues and problems. It is an open forum for community dialogue, which will also be promoted during the project through the agriculture steering groups.

Moreover, the project also promotes collaboration between CN and other NGOs. The aim is for CN to establish a platform with like-minded NGOs and together advocate for sustainable development and the implementation of the EFLG Framework.

### **Capacity building of local communities and CN**

The project seeks to increase and enhance the knowledge, skills and capacity of the target group to ensure their ownership, participation and their ability to act upon fulfilling their basic needs and improving their livelihoods. This will be done through trainings, participatory workshops and dialogue meetings with the purpose of raising awareness and knowledge and improve their skill set about different local eco-friendly solutions like improved cook stoves, organic farming, garden practices, rainwater harvesting, solar dryer, etc. There will be provided funds for construction of eco-friendly local solutions to improve the lives of the target group. Furthermore, there will be provided technical support and regular supervision by the experienced field staff. The capacity building activities will be available for the whole community, and since the majority are farmers, the activities will be easy and relevant for them to relate to.

In order to reach the objectives the capacity building of CN will continue. Experienced resource persons such as DIB environmental consultant Jesper Saxgren and staff from CRT/N will train CN staff in sustainable development focusing on organic farming, climate adaption and environmental issues. CN will also participate in more technical trainings of people in the local communities by other resource persons. This will make CN staff members capable of replicating parts of the trainings and assist people if they need help and do follow-up sessions.

CN will expand its network and deepen the collaboration with other NGOs (including Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development, LI-BIRD) in the area working in the sector of sustainable development. Furthermore, CN will work on developing its organisation to include goals for sustainable development and policies on gender, caste, environmental protection, democracy and transparency.

### **Advocacy for local sustainable development and EFLG implementation**

The advocacy strategy for the project is to work at three agendas:

- 1) To get the Rural Municipalities of our project areas and the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) to implement the EFLG Framework, and increase their focus on funds for local sustainable development.
- 2) To have the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) who are responsible for the EFLG framework, the Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project and the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) to recognize organic farming practises as a viable part of the agriculture sector in Nepal.
- 3) To equip local agents of change to advocate for local improvements on access to water and for improved rural livelihood opportunities.

The project's focus on sustainable development and environmental-friendly communities is linking very well up with the existing EFLG Framework. The local government agencies are responsible for the practical implementation of this framework and while it has been implemented in some areas there is a general lack of knowledge of the framework, both at the general public and the practical implementers. Therefore the advocacy efforts will partly focus on raising awareness on this. The planned advocacy elements of this project will take place at three levels: local, district and national level. The strategy is to build up recognition and support at local and district level before targeting national level.

In the first year of the project, the main focus will be on the local and district level and in strengthening the NGO network. CN will establish an advocacy platform with other NGOs (including LI-BIRD, MDO, CRT/N, ECCA, ENPHO) working in the sector of sustainable development and use these contacts actively in order to create greater synergy and cooperation between the NGOs and thereby get a stronger voice.

At local and district level CN will arrange stakeholder meetings targeting especially the two Rural Municipalities, the District Agriculture Development Office, the District Forest Office, the District Coordination Committee and others to share local issues, objectives of the project and how local sustainable development and the implementation of EFLG can overcome some of these issues.

The local agents of change will play an important role in the local advocacy activities and in working on our advocacy agenda 1. To ensure they are properly equipped to do so, they will receive training and support in conducting advocacy activities, in public speaking and in presenting their asks to the local decision makers. To support their asks CN will assist the communities in developing their Community Development Plans which will be presented to the Rural Municipalities in time for their yearly budgeting of activities. With support from CN the local agents of change will also during the first phase of the project arrange local advocacy activities such as school plays, local competitions and dialogue meetings with the identified contact persons at the two Rural Municipalities (see Annex 1 for specifications). It is important that they, from the beginning of the project, are involved as much as possible in presenting their needs and demands to important stakeholders.

The second year CN will be focusing on activities at local, district and national level. CN have already established a network with like-minded NGOs and will continue this work in the second phase of the project. CN will organize and participate in network and dialogue meetings with other organizations and networks working in the sector of sustainable development. Furthermore, CN will arrange stakeholder meetings and dialogues at district and national level to share information about the project and advocate for EFLG implementation and organic farming to be included in it. These meetings will target District Agriculture Development Office, District Coordination Committee, MoFALD, MoAD and the Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project Office. During this phase, CN will arrange a national seminar on environmental protection and invite district and national level stakeholders and NGOs. The local agents of change will visit the Rural Municipalities and present their Community Development Plans (CDP) and demands. Furthermore, they will arrange local activities with the participation of relevant stakeholders.

The third year of the project will include another national seminar focusing on the project progress and findings and link it to the national framework for development. CN and the local agents of change will continue the advocacy activities on local and district level. CN will arrange stakeholder meetings to show the progress of the project and links to the EFLG Framework. The media will be invited together with relevant stakeholders to visit the communities and see the solutions and changes the project and community involvement has brought.

The local agents of change will (with support from CN) develop project proposals for local sustainable development initiatives and share it with local government authorities and other relevant stakeholders. In continuation of this, the local agents of change and CN will advocate for more funds to be released for sustainable development.

The advocacy plan, the impact of the conducted advocacy initiatives and the political context will be monitored during the project and if needed the strategy will be adjusted accordingly.

### **Project intervention strategies**

The project combines a data collection strategy with a process strategy and an activity strategy that are all feeding into reaching the objectives. The data collection strategy includes the baseline survey, mid-term review, monitoring and final evaluation. This will inform the decisions made for the process and activity strategies. The data collection strategy aims at providing baseline information linked to the ongoing monitoring, midterm review and evaluation, and provide CN and DIB with data that is required to assess progress and drawbacks during the project implementation.

The process strategy is an on-going process facilitating the organisational development of CN, community steering groups and groups of agents of change. The process facilitation activities are ongoing and primary conducted by CN and DIB.

The activity strategy includes training, workshops, exchange visits, dialogue meetings, developing the NGO advocacy platform and advocacy materials. A number of these activities are instrumental in achieving the objectives of the project. In order to enhance the learning of the target group the activity strategy includes different methods, for example group work and collaboration, plenum discussions, practical cases, role-plays, presentations etc. The different methods are used to support the different learning styles among the participants and enhance the ownership of the topics presented.

### **The Development Triangle**

The intervention is built upon all three elements from the Development Triangle; capacity building, strategic deliveries and advocacy, and for the intervention to meet its objectives all three elements are needed and will be carefully balanced.

#### Capacity building

The capacity building activities of the project address both the capacity of the people from the local communities and CN. As our primary target group is consisting of the poorest people in the three communities they have few means of meeting their basic needs and improving their livelihoods. Therefore, this intervention has a strong emphasis on capacity building of the target group, including providing needed training, skills and knowledge about how to enhance their situation, both economically, socially and environmentally. The baseline survey and community dialogues showed a gap between awareness of local problems and how to address and reduce these. Furthermore, CN will during the project increase their capacity to work within the scope of sustainable development both through the partnership with DIB and through increasing their focus and interactions with district and national networks, other organisations and institutions working within the sustainable development sector in Nepal.

#### Strategic deliveries

In the intervention, there is allocated funds for helping the target group in installing eco-friendly solutions at household and community level. These solutions are chosen based on the needs and priorities of the target groups and includes improved cook stoves, simple water harvesting structures attached to the roof or as plastic ponds, plastic tunnels for seasonal vegetable gardening, solar dryer, tree planting event, organic farming materials (seed, organic fertilizer etc.). The project will provide training in construction, usage and maintenance to ensure that the solutions will work after completion of the project. These investments performed by the intervention are considered highly necessary and needed to improve the local situation and livelihood of the target group. With few means and simple decentralized technologies, the target group can see and experience the positive change even after a short time. Evidence from other similar interventions shows that this further motivates and inspires the beneficiaries to increase their engagement and involvement. These installations serve as testing models for the target group to practise their newly

acquired tools and knowledge, which they have learnt at the training and capacity building sessions. The investments in local community development will further increase the legitimacy of the project and CN, both with the local target group but also the local stakeholders and government bodies which is crucial for the planned advocacy activities. The local RM and DCC have high interest in but give less priority to funds allocated for rural community development, so the partners of the project assume that this will catalyse increased priority for the project areas.

### Advocacy

The capacity building and strategic deliveries will be accompanied by advocacy efforts to promote better conditions for the target group in the long term. The advocacy will be evidence based and targeted local, district and national government authorities and other relevant stakeholders. Success stories and progress will be presented during the project and CN will together with their network of NGOs and local agents of change advocate for more funds for local initiatives enhancing the local livelihoods and implementation of the EFLG framework. For the capacity building activities and strategic deliveries to have wider and lasting impact on the livelihood of poor people, advocating for higher focus on local sustainable development and EFLG implementation in rural communities is crucial.

### **Possible risks and how to mitigate them**

Nepal is in a phase of political reconstruction, which can create political instability, strikes and conflicts at local and district level. The new government has created a new structural division of governmental responsibilities from central level to local level, which allocates more responsibility and decision power at local level. This can both be a risk and an advantage for the project. There will be new funds available but also a possibility for new priorities and uncertainty on how the reaction to these changes will be. CN will seek to mitigate this potential risk by taking on a neutral role, ensure transparency at all levels and engage networking, in frequent dialogue meetings visits and lobbying. The project partners are conducting a right-based approach, and the rural community development agenda, we are promoting, is in the interest of the elected duty bearers. Another possible risk is that we assume that there are possible external governmental funds and funding schemes for local sustainable development available. And while that might be the case, there is a possibility, that the funds are difficult to access. To reduce that risk both CN and DIB will explore other co-funding opportunities.

Other NGOs might have different focus than this project applied which may create some confusion to the people in the communities. To minimise this, CN will plan frequently networking and sharing meetings with different NGOs and GOs at local and district level. This will also open up for the opportunity of co-funding activities or merging of initiatives with other projects in the project areas.

At local level, there is a risk of the target group not having extra resources, or they might hesitate to participate in the activities being carried out at local level. As described, the target group is representing the poorest people in the communities, thus they are struggling to cover their basic needs. In addition, they may not be used to think in possibilities to create a better life. In order to ensure that the poorest people benefit and participate, CN will pay special attention to appreciate and motivate these people, and the funds for the eco-friendly solutions will be prioritized here.

CN and DIB are aware on internal conflicts that can occur between different social groups in the communities and will mitigate these by monitoring closely pay attention to marginalised groups.

Furthermore, time may also be a factor against participating in the project activities. By installing improved cook stoves in many of the houses of the target groups, time for collecting firewood will be significantly reduced and they will have more time to spend on organic farming activities etc.

### **Systematising the experiences and learnings during the project**

To ensure our experiences and learnings are being shared and systematized both during and at

the end of the project DIB and CN will have monthly Skype calls to discuss the progress of the implementation of the project, problems, issues and opportunities encountered, budgets and so on. CN will write up quarterly narrative and financial reports and share them with the DIB Nepal project group. For relevant events, local trainings and activities in the project, CN will write up a separate report on the purpose of the activity, output and learnings. This will be done after meetings and events with government authorities, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders. CN will collect information for the reports about participants, the topics discussed and results. During activities, trainings and meetings in the three communities, field staff will collect information about the participants, issues encountered, and outputs (for instance the number of eco-friendly solutions installed). According to these notes, it will also be possible to check the level of participation of the people from the target group in the activities. Project field staff can therefore visit the families who are not participating and encourage them to take part in the next planned activities.

Furthermore, significant stories will be collected among the people of the community by CN and the local agents of change and used as advocacy material and for evaluation purpose. In addition to the internal monitoring activities, a mid-term review will be conducted to evaluate the project and effectiveness and review the strategies to fulfil project objectives and indicators within the project period as planned. At the end of the project, there will be an external final evaluation and a part of the information collected will be through a final baseline survey to measure on the impacts of the project intervention. The final baseline survey will be compared with the survey conducted at the beginning of the project, which is a revised version of the baseline study conducted during the Partnership Intervention.

CN and DIB have planned several monitoring and capacity building visits from DIB to Nepal during the project implementation phase. There will be a start up meeting in the beginning of the project, a mid-way meeting and a final project meeting, and in between those, two more visits are planned. Both DIB and CN prioritize these frequent visits to ensure mutual sharing of learnings, knowledge and experiences between the CN project team and the DIB project group. To the extent it's possible and beneficial the visits will be planned in connection to the planned workshops and trainings for CN as outlined in the activity plan. This will also allow for increased involvement and capacity building of both CN and the DIB project group, and ensure close collaboration and communication on the project progress and possible adjustments.

## **5. Phase-out and sustainability of the intervention**

To ensure the sustainability of the project, capacity building of the target group is carried out. Trainings, dialogue meetings and needed follow-up activities will be provided in order to build and strengthen skills and knowledge among the target group. This will ensure that when the project is done, they can independently use, maintain and replicate the organic farming techniques and eco-friendly technologies and pass on their knowledge to others. The establishment of agriculture steering group give the target group a forum where they can discuss and solve issues related to agriculture and seek funding through government agriculture agencies. The people of the local communities are actively involved from the beginning of the project, and they will gain knowledge and tools to better understand the underlying causes to their problems, and how to act upon them.

Moreover, when the project intervention phases out, the people of the local community have increased their capacity for carrying out local advocacy activities on their own. During the project local agents of change will be trained and by the end of the project they will increasingly be able to advocate for local sustainable development, present their needs, project proposals, CDPs, the benefits of the low carbon eco-friendly solutions and the effects on their livelihood to relevant stakeholders and local government authorities. This will presumably help to increase the responsibility of local government authorities and institutions to increasingly provide the necessary

support to the target communities; also after the project is terminated.

The capacity building of CN will continue during the project, and they will increase their knowledge about sustainable development and organic farming and develop a strategic plan for their organisation to work within this area. Through wider networks and by building a platform with like-minded organizations, the project will seek to collect as well as spread information about the project activities and results in a form which can guide relevant institutions and authorities in undertaking similar processes and encouraging and inspiring other organisations. The establishment of a network or a forum with relevant stakeholders will continuously strengthen the capacity of partners and other actors. Therefore, CN will seek to involve other NGO's and stakeholders in advocacy activities at local, district as well as national level. The facilitative role of CN is particularly crucial during the project period.

CN will during the project advocate for access to funds for sustainable development and through stakeholder meetings, visits and dialogue create focus on improving the livelihood of the poor. CN will improve its advocacy capacity by participating in trainings and by ongoing advocacy activity during the project. Hopefully by the end of the project, these efforts will lead to greater focus on EFLG implementation and funds for local sustainable development. Importantly, CN's expanded network will be able to advocate together as a group of organisations, it will make a greater impact on decision-makers and government authorities.

The project has the potential to become sustainable in several ways.

Organisationally, CN will increase its capacity in sustainable development by trainings and workshops arranged by experts such as Jesper Saxgren and CRT/N. The development of a strategic plan and new policies will further develop CN to become more sustainable in its scope of work. The project will establish good partnership between CN and the Rural Municipalities, government authorities, as well as with other NGOs working in the sustainable development sector. Organisationally, it is a strength for CN and other NGOs to work and advocate together for a stronger impact. Furthermore, CN will hire new staff members that can contribute to the organisation with experience from the sector of sustainable development.

Together with people from the local communities and CBOs, CN will establish agricultural steering groups, which can be legally registered under the government policy and law. Furthermore, the promotion of collaboration will contribute to the organisational development and unity in the village. By the end of the project, CN will have expanded its network to include other NGOs, institutions, government authorities and resource persons who they can work with for future event and projects.

Financially, the advocacy activities have the potential to influence local and district government authorities to release more funds for local sustainable development and for the implementation of the EFLG Framework. Due to the new political structure there might be an opening for this project to receive support. With evidence-based advocacy, the project will draw attention to simple local eco-friendly solutions that can improve the livelihood of the poor people. As a result of more funds from government authorities, people of the local communities will be able to install additional solutions and create environmental-friendly communities, and in that way follow the EFLG Framework. The registration of agricultural steering groups will open up possibilities for more funding opportunities.

The project will make people in the communities able to produce more food, which they can sell in the market and thereby increase their income. Similarly, people from the target areas will learn how to make compost, organic fertilizer, using herbicide etc. so that they will have reduced their expenses and save money instead of purchasing chemical fertilizer, wood and other expenses. By investing in improved cook stoves, the target group will save time they can spend elsewhere.



Technically, the people from the local communities will have increased their technical knowledge and skills so that they will be able to maintain the low carbon eco-friendly solutions. The agricultural steering groups will be able to assist and train other community members in the different components needed for organic agriculture and gardening, installations and maintenance and other practical issues related to the agricultural production.

Socially, the project will promote collaboration between community members and the forum established through the agricultural steering group and the meetings will provide people with a space for discussing agriculture related topics. The collaborative approach will create strong unity in the communities. The community members will learn from each other and hopefully realize that more can be done by a group than one person single handedly can do. Moreover, the project builds on already existing structures, the community practices of *Paicho*, *Parma* and *Kachahari*, which will play a vital role in reaching the objectives and ensure the sustainability of the project.

Environmentally, the communities will become much more sustainable. The project will promote low carbon and eco-friendly solutions and organic agricultural practises. The communities will increase their awareness on their role and responsibility towards the environmental protection. The people in the target areas will reduce their dependency on using firewood and they will increase tree plantation. They will give priority to use improved cook stoves instead of using traditional ways to get energy to cook their food. CN will increase their focus on environmental protection, promote and advocate for proper implementation of the EFLG Framework.

## **6. Planned intervention-related information work in Denmark**

DIB is planning to carry out lectures on development work in the Nepalese context. DIB aspires to focus on participatory development, as well as the importance of local ownership and the capacity building of civil society. Lectures will include focus on how this project is linked to the SDGs and also a certain element of the strategic focus for Danish development funds and experiences of working within the development sector both in Denmark and in the South.

The lectures will take place at relevant academic institutions and forums, establishing both a base for attracting young professionals to join DIB as members/volunteers, while also enhancing their knowledge on development work in the South. DIB's Nepal project group of volunteers will be involved in the information work as much as possible.

Beside lectures, DIB will distribute information regarding the process, experiences and learnings of the project among DIB's members and followers via the quarterly DIB newsletter and Facebook. The DIB website will also be updated with relevant information including photos and stories with the idea of depicting developmental issues in a positive and constructive perspective. Here, DIB wishes to enhance and promote our project-related experiences and stories, told by the people who are experiencing shortcomings and hardships. These stories will reflect the resilience and positivity of the South, illustrating adaptation and mitigation in terms of battling climate change challenges and poverty. DIB is planning to use small videos and interviews as a new way for us to share stories of people in the local communities. These small videos will depict the Nepalese village life, its people and the issues they deal with on a daily basis. Furthermore DIB will try to establish a link from the project area to relevant sites and institutions in Denmark. This could be to the Andelssamfundet in Hjortshøj or other eco-villages in Denmark, or between schools in Denmark and the project villages.