



Inclusive Resource Management Initiative (IRMI) QUARTERLY REPORT

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	Mercy Corps Nepal
PROJECT TITLE AND REFERENCE NUMBER	Inclusive Resource Management Initiative (IRMI)
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADR	Alternative Disputes Resolution
AFO	Area Forest Office
BASE	Backward Society Education
CA	Constituent Assembly
CDO	Chief District Officer
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
DDA	District Development Assembly
DDC	District Development Committee
DEO	District Education Officer
CFCC	Community Forest Coordination Committee
DFO	District Forest Officer
DPAC	District Project Advisory Committee
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FNRM	Forum for Natural Resource Management
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IRMI	Inclusive Resource Management Initiative
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGCDP	Local Governance and Community Development Program
MC	Mercy Corps
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRMF	Natural Resource Management Forum (NRMF)
SS	Sahakarmi Samaj
SWC	Social Welfare Council
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee

WCO

Women and Children's Office

I. Program Overview

Since June 2013, Mercy Corps and two local partners – Backward Society Education (BASE) and Saharkarmi Samaj (SS) – are implementing the three-year USAID-funded “Inclusive Resource Management Initiative (IRMI)” to support Nepal’s transition to a more peaceful, equitable society. The overarching goal remains to enhance stability through natural resource-based conflict resolution and inclusive natural resource management to implement program activities targeting 20 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in four districts of the western Terai, including Kailali, Bardiya, Banke and Dang Districts. The program has thus far reached 8,282 households and 46,592 family members (23,490 male and 22,102 female) have been reached.

Throughout this program in all implementation activities, Mercy Corps and partners maintain a holistic and people-to-people approach, which:

- Facilitates the resolution of resource-based conflicts;
- Promotes inclusive decision-making related to natural resource use and management; and
- Reduces natural resource competition through joint environmental and economic initiatives.

Theories of change:

- If local decision-making related to natural resource use and management is more inclusive, then resource-related conflicts will decrease; and
- If Nepalis work together to reduce pressure on natural resources, then conflict over these resources will decline and dispute resolution agreements will be more sustainable.

Program Major Activities:

The program facilitates natural resource-based conflict resolution, promotes inclusive management and strengthens governance practices of Community Forest User Groups (CFUG), and reduces dependency on natural resources through joint environmental and economic initiatives through the following activities:

- Facilitate the development of conflict resolution agreements around NRM issues
- Strengthen community user groups’ internal governance

- Raise awareness of natural resources rights and responsibilities
- Support community participation in local government decision-making
- Facilitate the Natural Resource Management Forums (NRMFs) to identify and resolve local conflicts
- Hold advocacy workshops with the relevant government bodies in the four districts
- Create 20 additional joint natural resource management initiatives
- Support 20 additional environmentally sustainable economic initiatives
- Produce handbook for IRMI key-stakeholders/Training of Trainers (ToT) on interest-based negotiation, mediation and multi-stakeholders' dialogue
- Develop IRMI video documentary capturing relevant success stories, case studies and best practices.
- Develop a solid system to ensure sustainability of the project activities, including natural resource management (NRM) and economic initiatives.
- End of project transition activities

II. Highlights of this Quarter's Achievements:

- 421 IRMI stakeholders (185 female and 236 male) are identifying local NRM conflicts and resolving those within their limits.
- IRMI conducted a three-day intensive workshop among Mercy Corps and partners to review the progress of NRM conflict management tools used so far and develop a base for Natural Resource Management Conflict Management Manual for practitioners.
- A three-day training on 'Multi-stakeholder Dialogue and Interest Based Negotiation conducted for 41 participants (male 25, female 16) in four CFUGs of Bardiya and Kailali districts.
- Key stakeholders settled two longstanding boundary conflicts in Kailali and Bardiya districts.
- 16 CFUGs of four target districts conducted mid-term Group Self-Capacity Assessment exercises among a total of 320 (male196, female124) participants and developed capacity development plans accordingly.

- SS and BASE organized CFUG Governance and Management Workshops with six CFUGs of four districts, with a total of 265 (male150, female115) participants.
- A three-day training on good governance and advocacy was conducted in Kailali for 22 (male11, female11) selected key leaders from the target CFUGs.
- 1,261 community participants, including 487 male and 774 female participants took part in the sixteen education sessions from the target CFUGs to raise awareness on rights and responsibilities.
- IRMI developed six awareness-raising radio programs which were aired seven times through three FM stations in Kailali and Banke districts.
- A total of 111 (male75, female 36) selected members from 20 target CFUGs participated in three joint exposure visits.
- IRMI conducted a range of community awareness activities to empower target CFUGs to participate in the official government planning processes.
- Four VDC-level progress sharing meetings were organized in Kailali and Bardiya districts among 140 (male87, female53) VDC-level stakeholders to share the progress and challenges of the project.
- 131(male72, female59) key stakeholders participated in nine experience-sharing meetings in Bardiya and Dang districts.
- 10 NRM initiatives werefinalised and are ready for active field level impelentation. These initiatvtes will directly benefit29,633 (male14,790,female14,843) individualsfrom 5,259 households.
- 10 target CFUGs have finalized environmentally sustainable economic initiatives. These initiatives will directly support 1,141 (male555, female586) individuals from 214 households.
- IRMI organized a quarterly review meeting among all the team members. A farewell ceremony was also organized for the outgoing Program Manager, Mr. Samuel Koroma and Technical Officer, Mr. Dol Thanet.
- **As with all country programs and indeed most all organizations currently operating in Nepal, the continued series of crises, from earthquake to landslides to political instability to outbreaks of violence (particularly in the Terai and IRMI program areas) and the ongoing fuel/essential goods crisis, program implementation has been hindered with limited staff mobility and security concerns. With the current remaining program timeframe, Mercy Corps has concerns that**

there will be inadequate time to complete all planned program activities. This may result in a later official request for a no-cost extension of 2-3 months.

III. Program Update by Objectives

Objective 1: Strengthen the ability of key stakeholders to resolve community-level natural resource conflicts in an inclusive, sustainable manner.

Activity 1.1: Map natural resource conflicts.

Status: No new NRM conflicts identified in this period. However, as the program identifies new conflicts in the target communities, the process begins with mapping the context, dynamics and structure of those conflicts.

Activity 1.2: Conduct joint training for key stakeholders in conflict analysis and resolution.

Status: IRMI originally struggled for months to get appropriate contextualized training materials to train key stakeholders in the communities. Based on the community need, the team designed courses on community mediation, multi-stakeholder dialogue and negotiation at defined intervals of time to strengthen their capacities to facilitate the effective resolution of NRM conflicts in the target communities. Once the materials were established, IRMI conducted three rounds of trainings for key stakeholders in all the target communities. Thus far, IRMI has trained 421 (male236, female185) key stakeholders in the target communities, including traditional/indigenous leaders, youth leaders, community leaders, target CFUG leaders and government officials.

Update:

NRM Conflict Management Manual Development Workshop:

During the one-year cost proposed the development of an guide to strengthen the capacities

extension period, IRMI experience-based training of the key stakeholders toward

the more effective facilitation of NRM conflict resolution in the target communities. The process began with the IRMI program team conducting a three-day intensive workshop on 21-23 November 2015 to develop the foundations for a Natural Resource Management (NRM) Conflict Management Manual for practitioners. The workshop was facilitated by Dialogue and Negotiation Expert, Dr. Dines Prasai, and Mediation Expert, Mr. Hari Prasad Pandit, who have supported IRMI from the start of the program for staff capacity building on NRM conflict management tools. During the workshop, partners BASE and SS presented their success stories in detail including the processes involved. Those anecdotes and case studies were analyzed rigorously amongst the participants, including representation from the field. At the end of the workshop, participants drafted a framework for the manual based on IRMI experiences. In the next quarter, IRMI will also develop an experience-based training manual/handbook for facilitators to help them to better manage multi-stakeholder conflicts.

Multi-stakeholder Dialogue and Negotiation Training:

During this period, a three-day 'Multi-stakeholder' was conducted with two CFUGs in Kailali and Bardiya female 16) key stakeholders participated in the training knowledge on dialogue and negotiation. The theme of *Management, Dispute Resolution and Trust-Building.* The IRMI staff members and was designed on the basis of NRM conflict facilitations after two rounds of trainings objective of the trainings was to impart additional on dialogue and negotiation for more effective multi-stakeholder conflicts. The main content of the Negotiation Skills training were as follows:

- I. *Experience-sharing on the dialogue in communities*
- II. *Deep Dialogue: The Circles Framework*
- III. *Thinking through Dialogue Process Design*
- IV. *Safe Space for Self-Reflection/Developing Tools for*
- V. *Stereotypes and Empathy: Community NRM*
- VI. *Active/Deep/Empathetic Listening*



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 2: Dialogue & Negotiation Training in Suryodaya

Dialogue and Negotiation' training districts. A total of 41 (male 25, to enhance their skills and the training was *"Natural Resource* trainings were delivered by trained persistent challenges faced during on mediation. Therefore, the main higher-level skills and knowledge facilitation of persistent Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue and

trainings and review of sessions conducted

*Community Applications
Examples*

- VII. *Problem Analysis: Community NRM Experience*
- VIII. *Dialogue Facilitation: Community NRM Experience*
- IX. *Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Facilitation Skills*
- X. *Negotiation, Interest-Based Negotiation and Principled Negotiation*
- XI. *Seven Elements of Negotiation Framework*
- XII. *Dealing with Positions, Getting through to Interests: Dialogue and Analysis as Tools*
- XIII. *Options and Alternatives*
- XIV. *Legitimacy: Community NRM Experiences*
- XV. *Communication: Community NRM Experiences*
- XVI. *Relationship and Commitment: Community NRM Experiences*
- XVII. *Wrap-up, Follow-up Plans and Evaluation*

Activity 1.3 Facilitate the development of conflict resolution agreements by key stakeholders.

Status:

IRMI is continuously engaged in enhancing capacities of key stakeholders to facilitate the NRM conflicts that have been hindering the smooth operation of the CFUGs and led to deteriorated relationships amongst the communities involved, which have ultimately resulted in large-scale illegal resource exploitation and reduced actual and positive community engagement in natural resource management activities. Therefore, IRMI facilitates a safe space for communities to mitigate and resolve their conflicts by engaging all the concerned stakeholders to discuss their issues rigorously and craft an amicable solution themselves. At this point, they have resolved 36 NRM conflicts out of the 30 initially targeted. After effective conflict resolutions, the CFUGs are able to operate smoothly and are receiving regular support from the concerned stakeholders for more pro-active, positive and sustainable natural resource management.

Update:

In this quarter, key stakeholders settled two NRM conflicts in Bardiya and Kailali districts. They held many formal and informal sessions to resolve those conflicts, which was a rigorous process that lasted approximately one year with a great deal of stakeholder involvement before resolution. The details of both cases are as follows:

- Kamal Pokhari CFUG and Karam Dev CFUG were handed over to communities five years ago by the District Forest Officer (DFO), Kailali. A month and a half after the handover, the CFUGs realized that they had 16 hectares of forest land overlapping on their maps. To settle their conflict, both CFUGs individually approached the DFO, the Federation of Community Forestry Users (FECOFUN) and the Community Forest Coordination Community (CFCC) for many years, but without any resolution which increasingly deteriorated the relationship between the neighboring communities. This also delayed the Kamal Pokhari CFUG Operational Plan renewal process for ten months resulting in the loss of regular support from the DFO during that time. At that point, IRMI started its intervention in the conflict in April 2014 in consultation with both communities and key stakeholders. A team of key stakeholders trained by the program worked rigorously on the conflict after their first training in April 2014. The process commenced with the carrying out of a detailed conflict mappings exercise followed by detailed action plan preparation by the key stakeholders and the implementation of said action plan. Since then, several facilitation sessions were conducted which included formal/informal separate/joint meetings, and dialogue and negotiation sessions. With the direct involvement of IRMI-trained key stakeholders, the case was formally concluded with the signing of an agreement at a meeting held with the District Forest Officer, Assistance Forest Officer (AFO), representatives from the CFUGs, an advocate, and program partner BASE on 31 December 2015 in the District Forest Office. Both the CFUGs agreed on the division of the 16 hectares of overlapping land. According to the agreement reached, Kamal Pokhari CFUG will get 11.5 hectares and the remaining 5.5 hectares will go to the Karam Dev CFUG. In order to cement the agreement, both CFUGs agreed to jointly erect demarcation lines/pillars to mark the borders.
- The conflict over 0.25 hectares of forest land between Kopila CFUG and Badkaban CFUG in Bardiya district had continued unsolved for more than three years. Finally, a GPS survey was conducted and identified that the piece of land technically belonged to Kopila CFUG. However, the Badkaban CFUG was not ready to accept the survey results. The conflict escalated when the Badkaban CFUG dug a trench to include that piece of land within their boundaries. Though the area of the land is relatively small, it includes high value timber trees and was of great interest to both parties. Therefore, the Area Forest Office and program-trained key stakeholders approached the conflict with several formal and informal facilitation sessions jointly and separately. The final round of the joint dialogue session was conducted in the Area Forest Office complex on 24 December 2015. Representatives from both CFUGs, key stakeholders, AFO and program partner BASE were present at the session. At the event, both communities agreed to respect the results of the GPS survey and that the DFO would support them in the clear technical demarcation of the boundaries. Both communities also agreed to dig the trench marking the boundary line to cement the agreement reached.

Objective 2: Increase inclusive and participatory resource-related decision-making among community and government bodies.

Activity 2.1: Strengthen internal governance of community user group.

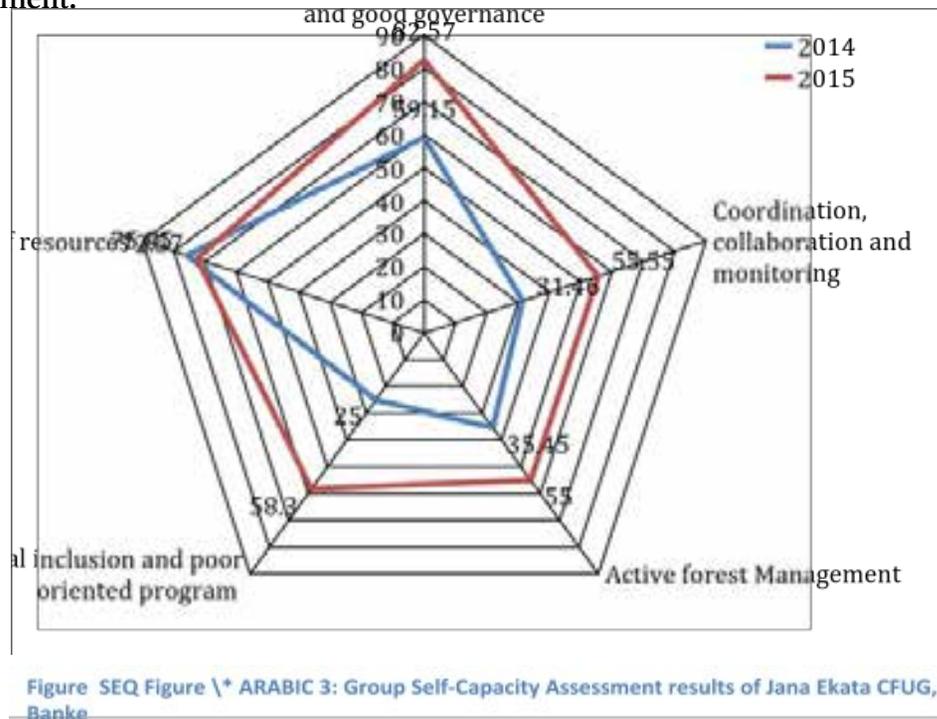
Update: The IRMI program team facilitated community user groups' self-capacity assessments at the program start. The assessment was built on five main indicators: 1. Resource availability, 2. Organizational capacity of CFUGs, 3. Inclusion of the poor and the excluded communities, 4. Forest management, and 5. Coordination and collaboration between groups/bodies. During these sessions, the user groups identified their gaps. Examples include: lack of transparency, low participation of group members in meetings, exclusion of marginalized groups, internal leadership and coordination issues with and between like-minded organization/bodies, no financial accountability system in place, and poor service delivery. Based on the gaps identified, IRMI and the CFUGs designed capacity building programs for each user groups with appropriate oversight. To address those issues, implementing partners facilitated the drafting of capacity development plans with the CFUGs. Based on their plans, IRMI conducted exposure visits, governance and advocacy training sessions, regulation coaching, and education sessions. Significant results were seen in the target CFUGs based on the recent self-capacity assessments exercises conducted in this reporting period. The CFUG members have identified a few remaining areas for improvement and have subsequently developed action plans to fill those gaps.

Group Capacity Self-assessment:

The target CFUGs assessments as a baseline IRMI activities. Based on their development plans to capacities in order to have well-developed system. To their capacity development, mid-term capacity target communities in this assessment exercises with Kailali and Dang districts, (male196, female124) Executive Committee (EC) The analysis was conducted five pillars:

- i. Organizational
- ii. Availability of
- iii. Social inclusion and
- iv. Active forest
- v. Coordination, collaboration and

Finally, the facilitators plotted the diagram to compare the progress against participants. The analysis results are very above (Figure 3) in the spider diagram. The able to improve significantly in all five



conducted their capacity before the implementation of the assessments, they drafted strengthen their own practices in place for a follow up on the progress of BASE and SS conducted assessment exercises in the period. They facilitated the 16 CFUGs of Banke, Bardiya, which were attended by 320 participants, including members, users and advisors. on the basis of the following

- capacity and good governance
- Resources
- poor-oriented programs
- management
- monitoring

assessment results in a spider the baseline among the optimistic and a sample is shown results show that they have been pillars. However, they have

identified additional areas for improvement and have subsequently developed detailed plans of action for the near future.

CFUG Governance and Management Workshop:

After the CFUG Self-Capacity Assessment rigorous three-day workshop with the CFUG to orient themselves on identified areas for prepare the detailed action plans. SS organized a CFUGs of Banke district separately with 166 in this period. The main area of focus for the and collaboration with stakeholders, i.e. DFO, and other I/NGOs in the districts, 2) Office documentation, 3) Good governance 4) 5) Roles and responsibilities of Executive Leadership skills, 7) Develop work plans to fill participation in the 14-step government workshops were found to be effective in present conditions and to improve in different managements and CFUG operations.



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 4: CFUG Governance and Management Workshop, Banke

exercises, the team organized a management, advisors and users improvement in detail and help three-day workshop in all five (male108, female58) participants workshops were:1) coordination AFO, SFO, FECOFUN, DDC management and Reporting and record keeping, Committees and users, 6) the identified gaps and 8) planning process. The helping participants realize their areas for the effective NRM

Additionally, BASE conducted similar workshops for two days and focused on CFUG's record keeping, documentation, filing system, public audit, social audit, general assembly, inclusive participatory decision making process and indicators on which there was low progress found during the capacity assessment exercises. These workshops were conducted with five CFUGs in this period involving 99 (male 42, female57) participants from the Executive Committees, users and advisors in the three districts.

Good Governance & Advocacy Training:

A three-day training was organized on Nov 8-10, 2015 at district level in Kailali. Five influential members from each of the five participants to learn advanced level skills and knowledge on Good Governance and Advocacy. Upon completion, they now work with their own CFUGs to improve governance practices and identify and initiate advocacy contents of the training were: power analysis, concept of its effects, accounting process and systems, policies and guidelines, and prevailing conflicts of community forests in local and national context. Altogether, 22 (female11, male11) participants took part in the entire training. The training was facilitated by the FECOFUN Secretary, Dandi Raj Subedi, and Assistant Forest Officer, Bharat Raj Shrestha.



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 5: Good Governance and Advocacy Training, Kailali

About the Good Governance and Advocacy Training:

Basnati Paneru, Treasurer of Sahidsanghaari Bhimdatta CFUG Geta, said, "The training has provided us energy to preserve community forest and overall management of the CFUG."

Sita Ram Chaudhary, Joint Secretary of Suryodaya CFUG, said, "This training has provided us knowledge on forest conservation and this has encouraged us to invest our efforts for CFUG developments"

2015 at district level in Kailali. Five influential members from each of the five participants to learn advanced level skills and knowledge on Good Governance and Advocacy. Upon completion, they now work with their own CFUGs to improve governance practices and identify and initiate advocacy contents of the training were: power analysis, concept of its effects, accounting process and systems, policies and guidelines, and prevailing conflicts of community forests in local and national context. Altogether, 22 (female11, male11) participants took part in the entire training. The training was facilitated by the FECOFUN Secretary, Dandi Raj Subedi, and Assistant Forest Officer, Bharat Raj Shrestha.

Activity 2.2: Raise awareness of rights and responsibilities related to natural resources

Status: Mercy Corps coordinated with District Forest Office (DFO) officials and user group networks, including

FECOFUN and CFCC, to plan and execute an extension education program on government policies related to natural resources and the rights of various categories of Nepalis. The program includes mass media, such as FM radio and community education sessions, street drama, posters, holding board installations; exposure visits, flex board developments and others, with an emphasis on reaching women and marginalized groups. These activities are continuing throughout the project period. IRMI has conducted a rapid assessment on key advocacy issues that are hindering the target CFUGs' operations and has also conducted advocacy workshops to draw stakeholders' attention to these in Kailali and Bardiya districts.

Update:

Natural Resource Education Sessions:

During this period, a series of education sessions were carried out by IRMI to raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities related to natural resource use and management. On average, and were conducted in the communities to technical support from the District/Sector/Area CFCC representatives. Altogether, 1,261 community (female) took part in the sixteen education sessions. The session contents were designed on the basis of the consolidated topics included in the sixteen sessions as follows:

- *General introduction, roles, responsibilities and rights management.*
- *Government special provisions for national parks and*
- *Do's and don'ts in the national parks and buffer zone areas*
- *Community Forestry Operational Plan and constitutions*
- *Special provision of revised CFUGs guidelines-2071, including provision of enterprise promotion within community forest areas, program in operation plan, etc.*
- *Documentation and good governance practices of CFUGs*
- *Coordination with line agency and CFUG planning process*
- *Consequences of forest area encroachments*



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 6: Education session in Ratanpur, Kailali

sessions were 2.5 to 3 hours long to disseminate messages with Forest Offices, FECOFUN and participants (487 male and 774 female) from the target CFUGs. The session contents were designed on the basis of the consolidated topics included in the sixteen sessions as follows:

of users for buffer zone forest buffer zone areas.

auditing authority, General Assembly, provision of climate change adaptation

- *CFUG handover and takeover process*
- *Process of participatory wellbeing ranking and provision for marginalized, women, poor and ultra-poor households in CFUGs (land allocation, 35% fund allocation for poor, etc.)*
- *Concept of sustainable and scientific forest management*
- *Roles and responsibilities of Executive Committee members and users.*

FM Radio Program:

To raise awareness on the rights and responsibilities related to natural resources, the FM radio programs have been found to be effective in reaching a wide range of people. These programs are being developed by the respective FM stations in close coordination with the program team and are designed according to the community needs. The majority of the programs include community member sound bites, expert opinions, program progress and discussions on emerging essential issues for peacebuilding, natural resource management, government policies and guidelines, etc. The programs are aired through the respective FM stations after undergoing quality assurance checks by the program team. In this period, IRMI has designed six FM programs which have been aired seven times through three FM stations in Kailali and Banke districts. In addition, these programs have reached outside IRMI target communities and are being heard by a much wider audience than originally foreseen.

District Level Community Cross Visit:

BASE and SS organized exposures visits for selected members from 20 target CFUGs to learn by direct observations and interactions with similar CFUGs on their best practices. The best CFUGs for sound forest management were identified together with the DFO in the district to share their experiences. A total of 111 (male75, female36) selected members from the target CFUGs were involved in three district level joint exposure visits. The target CFUGs from Bardiya and Banke organized a joint exposure visit to one of the model CFUGs in the region in Banke. Those visits enabled insights for the CFUG members so that they can replicate what they learned and saw in action during the visits. In addition, the participants noted that they were more optimistic regarding CFUGs as keys to community development following the visits, and said they felt more encouraged to engage more effectively in forest management. The areas covered in the observation and interaction during the exposures visits were as follows:

- *Internal governance practice of CFUG*
- *CFUG support to poor users' wellbeing*



- *CFUG efforts to control forest land encroachments*
- *Purpose of wellbeing ranking in CFUGs*
- *Open grazing control for forest regeneration*
- *Sustainable income generation*
- *Coordination mechanism with other organizations for resource generation*
- *Good governance as a key factor for CFUG development*
- *Effective Documentation*
- *The financial management system within CFUG*
- *Forest resource mobilization*
- *Social inclusion practices within CFUG*
- *Community solidarity/ efforts for being a model CFUG in the district*

Activity 2.3: Support community participation in government decision-making processes.

Status: Mercy Corps and partners have coordinated these activities with the VDC offices, Citizen Awareness Centers and Ward Citizen Forums when appropriate. This will build on the extension education program by ensuring that community members have the skills and opportunity to voice their concerns and propose solutions so that government plans are shaped by community priorities. BASE and Sahakarmi Samaj, with oversight by Mercy Corps, are working with user groups and community members, particularly women’s groups and marginalized communities, in the 20 target sites to identify opportunities for participation in the government planning processes, develop strategies for articulating their demands, and actual, meaningful participation in those government planning processes. Similarly, IRMI is working in close coordination with the DFO to ensure that the target CFUGs are getting opportunities to participate in the DFO planning process and are able to include their plans as well.

Participation in Government Planning Process:

The bottom-up 14-step government planning process every year to prepare participatory plans, which are community plans are discussed and taken forward DDC level. Therefore, IRMI conducted a range of to empower target CFUGs to participate in the endorse their projects related to natural resource include education sessions, sharing in the CFUG. These activities were carried out in all IRMI target have prioritized some issues from their operational planning process at the ward level. In addition, they participants from target CFUGs endorsed their plans meetings in Kailali. Similarly, the other target CFUGs planning meeting in their respective VDCs.



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 8: Ward Level Planning Meeting in Ratanpur VDC, Kailali

starts in November till March owned by the communities. The from the settlement levels to community awareness activities planning process so that they can management. The activities regular meetings and flex boards. CFUGs. The CFUGs in Kailali plans for inclusion in the have also endorsed the IRMI Twenty-four (male: 14, female: 9) at the inward level planning have also participated in the

VDC-level Meetings:

At the program start, IRMI work plans were shared with and endorsed by the executive body of the VDC councils as a way of mitigating duplication efforts and to improve coordination with like-minded organizations in the area. In this period, four VDC-level meetings were conducted in Kailali and Bardiya districts to share the progress of the project among all the stakeholders. In the meeting, IRMI progress was shared with the participants, including mitigated NRM conflicts facilitated by the trained key stakeholders. The key stakeholders and EC members requested participants to support them to mitigate conflicts and manage forests more effectively. In addition, they requested VDC-level stakeholders to give priority to the planning procedure. A total of 140 (male 87, stakeholders, including VDC secretaries from the in the meetings. The participants in the meeting

- *Based on the progress so far and project nature, the zone areas as well. There are many conflicts in those operations.*



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 9: VDC Level Meeting in Bagnaha, Bardiya

CFUG plans in the upcoming VDC-level respective VDCs, participated shared the following feedback: *project should be expanded to buffer areas that are hindering their*

- The DFO representative suggested that IRMI support them with provision of barbed wire fencing so as to clarify the boundaries in all the CFUGs.
- Endorse IRMI activities from the Ward Level Planning meetings.
- Durga Joshi, Ward Secretary Attariya Municipality, Beladevipur, Kailali, said, “The meeting has been organized at the right time as this is the time of the planning process. I would also like to request other organizations to share their program like BASE, too.”

Objective 3: Enhance the sustainability of negotiated agreements by engaging communities in joint environmental and economic development initiatives.

Activity 3.1: Community peace building forums.

Status: In each CFUG, the 421 trained key stakeholders have formed 20 community peace building forums known as ‘Natural Resource Management Forums (NRMFs)’ in their respective CFUGs to facilitate the NRM conflict mitigation process. As soon as key stakeholders are made aware of a conflict, trained key stakeholders arrange to meet the disputants separately and then map the conflict in detail. Once the disputants are ready for the mitigation process, the key stakeholders start intervening in the conflict. During this period, they completely resolved two NRM conflicts, while an additional 22 NRM conflicts are still in the process of being resolved. Most of the conflicts related to NRM require multi-stakeholder involvement and thus take more time to reach amicable resolutions. They employ formal and informal sessions separately and collectively, depending on the nature of the conflicts. They have received intensive trainings on mediation, dialogue and negation skills, including other facilitation and conflict mapping skills necessary to mitigate conflicts. They have in the past faced challenges in bringing the disputing parties together in a common forum in some of the severe conflicts, causing them to languish unresolved for years. Based on the skills acquired during their trainings, they have found mediation, dialogue and negation skills useful to facilitate NRM conflicts. Depending on the case requirements, they also take support from the DFO, VDC and other stakeholders during some of the sessions in the conflict resolution facilitations. Once the communities reach an acceptable solution for the conflicts, the stakeholders also look for the sustainability of the agreements, follow-up plans and the agreements monitored closely by the stakeholders jointly.



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 10: Key stakeholder’s meeting in Neulapur

Experience sharing meetings among key Stakeholders: Trained key stakeholders meet regularly to share their experiences in the conflict facilitations. This often requires that key stakeholders meet regularly and discuss the conflict resolution methodology for every conflict they identify. Typically, they share their successes and challenges faced during conflict facilitations. In addition, they discuss possible strategies/solutions for the challenges/problems faced among themselves together with the master trainer. Finally, key stakeholders prepare/revise the detailed conflict facilitation action plans during these sessions. In this period, meetings were conducted in

About the Experience Sharing Meeting:

Lalita Kadel, key stakeholder in Dang, said, "Sometimes people are aggressive while facilitating, but we have to be patient. It takes time for dispute resolution. The best thing is that we have got the opportunity to let others know about and participate in peace facilitation."

Shankar Tharu, advisor of Bhadobi Mabila CFUG Bardiya, said, "The meeting has created a forum for discussion and a way to find an alternative way out for conflict resolution."

nine CFUGs of Bardiya and Dang districts. Altogether, 131 (male 72, female 59) key stakeholders participated actively in the meetings. The IRMI team uses these sessions as an opportunity to design the forthcoming capacity building

initiatives on the basis of challenges they have faced during the conflict facilitations.

Activity 3.2: Joint natural resource management initiatives.

Status: To reduce resource demand, limit environmental degradation and promote cooperation, out of the 20 NRM initiatives identified and initiated by the communities in the first phase, nineteen initiatives have been completed, with the final initiative ready to commence active implementation. Looking at the progress to date, those implemented initiatives have supported the cementing of the conflict resolution agreements reached, prevented additional conflicts, and have significantly contributed towards sound natural resource protection. These joint initiatives have also promoted community participation, peaceful co-existence and community ownership of natural resource management.

Update:

Natural Resource Management (NRM) Initiative:

Based on the performance of the first phase an additional 20 NRM initiatives this year. conducted a series of consultation meetings, field observations with CFUGs and the identify second phase joint initiatives for to help reduce resource demand, limit and promote cooperation. In this period, finalised and CFUGs are preparing for field. Out of these, nine initiatives are for is for bio-engineering check dam preparation. benefit 5,259 households and 29,633 individuals. The remainder activities will be



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 11: Proposed NRM Site Visit, Ekata Samaj CFUG, Bardiya

IRMI typically work with the CFUGs to can initiate their project implementation. mitigate conflicts that have multi-stakeholder that the initiatives themselves can often have conflict mitigative potential, they are in some cases being used as part of the conflict resolution process itself. For all finalized NRM initiatives, participants have developed detailed proposals with the facilitation support from BASE and SS. Looking at the objectives of the purposed initiatives, those initiatives will support the mitigation of existing conflicts and prevent possible future conflicts in the target communities as well. The detailed status of the initiatives is attached in Annex (I).

initiatives, USAID approved Therefore, the IRMI team community gatherings and DFO/National Park Office to natural resource management environmental degradation ten NRM initiatives were their implementation in in the barbed-wire fencings and one These initiatives will directly (male 14,790, female 14,843) finalized in the coming month.

mitigate conflicts before they However, as it takes time to involvement and we have seen

Activity 3.3: Support environmentally sustainable economic initiatives.

Status: IRMI is creating economic opportunities that mitigate poor natural resource use and management issues driving local disputes. Out of the 20 first phases environmentally sustainable economic initiatives identified, all have completed effective implementation. Those initiatives were targeted at the poor users based on the updated participatory wellbeing rankings exercises. CFUGs implemented individual-based economic initiatives including goat rearing, pig rearing, vegetable farming, nursery management, poultry farming, bamboo crafting, and leaf plate makings. For these individual-based initiatives, CFUGs disbursed loans to their users who will pay back the loans over pre-determined periods of time. The CFUGs will then mobilize that repaid amount as loans to other users for their economic initiatives in a revolving fund managed by the CFUGs for the benefit of their members and will continue as such beyond the lifespan of the IRMI program.

Update:

Environmentally sustainable economic initiatives:

Out of the 20 second phase economic initiatives, 10 ensure viability, these initiatives were identified through community and stakeholder consultations and a market goat rearing, pig rearing, cow rearing, buffalo rearing, vegetable farming. For those initiatives, participants proposals with direct facilitation support from the remaining ten economic initiatives are under discussion. During the conflict mapping exercise, the illegal theft of users was identified as a major cause of conflict in the issue these economic projects seek to address. of these initiatives is to create alternative livelihood ultra-poor households so that their dependency on needs will decrease and conflict created by illegal extractions will also decrease. These initiatives will directly support 214 households including 1,141 individuals (male555, female586) in this year. CFUGs plan to mobilize these individual-based initiatives through the

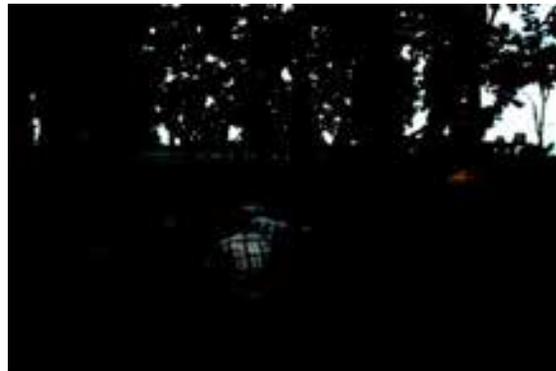


Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 12: Consultation Meeting for Economic Initiative Identification, Sita-Ram CFUG, Kailali

initiatives are finalized. To rigorous participatory analysis. These initiatives include poultry farming, retail shop, and have developed detailed BASE and SS teams. The and will be finalized soon. forest resources by the poor communities -- an important Therefore, one of the objectives opportunities for poor and forest resources for their daily

revolving fund policies, as they did last year. The detailed status of environmentally sustainable economic initiatives is attached in Annex (II)

Other Activities:

IRMI Quarterly Meeting:

The Inclusive Resource Management Initiative (IRMI) team organized a one-day quarterly meeting among the entire project team in Dhangadhi on 9 October 2015. The objectives of the progress so far ii) orient and plan M&E issues and iii) activities. The quarterly meeting was divided into the now-former Program Manager, welcomed the objectives of the meeting in the first session. The the status of both old and new Natural Resources Economic Initiatives (EI). During the session, achievements and lessons learned during the The third session was focused on planning the details entire team, including partners, developed a detailed entire period. Similarly, the Performance Monitoring quarterly reporting templates were also shared among given on writing success stories and taking program



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 13: IRMI Quarterly Meeting, Kailali

meeting were to; i) update on the develop strategies to gear up project three sessions. Mr. Samuel Koroma, participants and shared the overall second session focused on updating Management (NRM) Initiatives and participants shared the challenges, implementation of those initiatives. The activities plan with dates for the Plan (PMP) and monthly and participants. Some tips were also photographs. Finally, the meeting

closed with the farewell ceremony for the outgoing Program Manager, Mr. Samuel Koroma, and outgoing Technical Officer, Mr. Dol Thanet, on behalf of the IRMI team.

IV. Challenges

- In September 2015, a series of continuous strikes and demonstrations were declared across parts of the country, particularly in the Terai regions, in the lead up to the publishing of the new and long delayed Constitution of Nepal, which was on track to be approved by the Constituent Assembly. Terai-based political parties blocked the border at this time, thereby blocking the import of essential goods and items, including fuel and cooking/heating gas, from Nepal's main trading partner India, thus disrupting the country's economy and adding to an already struggling economy and negatively impacting nearly the entire population of Nepal, which was still reeling from the April-May 2015 earthquakes. The Tharuhat/Tharuwan Struggling Committee also announced strikes in the western Terai. These strikes unfortunately were marked by frequent violent incidents, demonstrations, riots, and even deaths. Understandably, these events and the related concerns for staff and program participant security greatly inhibited the ability of the IRMI team to conduct regular meetings, discussions, gatherings or ongoing activities in the target CFUGs. These ongoing strikes limited IRMI field movement and the carrying out of normal field activities. This has resulted in delays in IRMI implementation since September 2015. IRMI continues to invest in the settling of some conflicts within the target CFUGs that have proved especially challenging since the beginning of the program. These circumstances have combined to delay the implementation of some of the program activities according to the schedule. However, despite the ongoing fuel crisis and occasional instability, IRMI is rigorously intervening in those deeply rooted multi-stakeholder conflicts and progressing gradually. Mercy Corps is, however, concerned that the short time remaining to the program may, in light of the rather unique circumstances of the latter half of 2015, be insufficient to complete all activities. It is likely that Mercy Corps will therefore formally request a no-cost extension of two to three months in the next quarter.

V. Lessons Learned

- IRMI is working with those CFUGs embedded in conflicts that have blocked their overall development. To both mitigate conflicts and work for the overall development of the CFUGs is a time-consuming process. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly clear that this type of program should be considered for more than three years in duration.

- Based on the results of the recent mid-term self-assessment exercises conducted with CFUGs, the program team is very optimistic regarding their capacity improvements within a short duration of time. However, there remain some crucial areas for improvement as well which demand the program team's rigorous involvement. As mentioned above, it has become increasingly clear that these types of sustainable capacity enhancements need sufficient time to see sustainable change in communities.
- The present continuous strikes and de facto blockade for the last several months across the country have badly affected the program's ability to ensure smooth implementation in the field. The program, though having cautiously laid out potential risks and possible mitigating actions, did not take into account a nearly unbroken string of shocks and stresses that have plagued the country since April 2015. As in previous statements, we support the idea that such programs include more rigorous considerations of proper resilience building, measurement, longer implementation periods and flexibility in program design to better deal with such unexpected and continuous crises.

VI. Operating Environment:

On 20 September 2015, the long stalled Constitution of Nepal was passed with 90% approval from the representatives in Nepal's Constituent Assembly (CA). However, protests in the Terai began in the final weeks of the protracted constitution drafting process. The marginalized groups in the Terai—the lowland region that stretches across southern Nepal between the Indian border and the foothills of the Himalayas—objected to this so-called 'fast track' process and the constitution which emerged from it. Once again, the delineation of federal provinces was the most contentious issue. In particular, protests against the new constitution involved two relatively large ethnic or social groups: Madhesis, concentrated in the eastern and central Terai; and Tharus, concentrated in the far western Terai. They objected to the new federal boundaries and to other aspects of the new constitution which they claim abrogate previous commitments made to their communities and create "second-class" citizens. Objections include the unequal distribution of parliamentary constituencies and restrictions on the right of women to pass citizenship to their children. Therefore, on 23 September 2015, the Madhesi-based political parties' instituted a blockade along the long border with India, resulting in an economic and humanitarian crisis, which has severely negatively affected Nepal and its economy, which was still reeling in the aftermath of the April-May earthquakes. However, the ongoing struggle in the far and mid western Terai led by the Tharuhat/Tharuwan Struggle Committee (TSC) is relatively soft in nature in recent weeks. According to a recent TSC press release, their strike is ongoing until their demands are addressed exclusively, though actual

incidents of violence and strict enforcement of the blockade in the Far West is much reduced. Fuel availability in mid and far west Nepal is relatively better than in other parts of Nepal. This is a situation that we are continuously monitoring should the lack of fuel and essential items, along with dramatically increasing prices for even basic commodities, lead to a dramatically declining humanitarian situation or lead to further acts of violence.

The security issues and the current de facto blockade along the Indian border have delayed program activities and limited field movement by the program team since late September 2015.

VII. Coordination and Collaboration:

To maximize program effects and promote program sustainability, IRMI has been engaged in coordination and collaboration efforts with like-minded organizations at the central, district and VDC levels from the program start. These efforts are in collaboration with the DFO, FECOFUN, DDC, VDC, DiSCO, Hariyo Ban, Sajhedari Bikaas, Shikta Irrigation Project and other USAID-supported projects/programs. These collaborations have contributed positively to IRMI and IRMI to them.

- IRMI works in regular coordination with the DFO for each activity. In this period, the DFO has supported IRMI in its education sessions to raise awareness in the target communities. IRMI has finalized ten economic and ten NRM initiatives with direct coordination and approval from the DFO. IRMI's close coordination with the DFO and their regular support in the program has led to Jayasaraswati CFUG in Banke receiving Rs. 60,000 from the DFO for nursery management. In addition, the DFO is regularly providing technical support for the NRM and economic projects' implementation.
- Many of the IRMI target communities are embedded in boundary conflicts and, because of those conflicts, they have not been able to operate smoothly for years. The DFO is the only authorized government body empowered to demarcate or delineate the boundary lines of the CFUGs. Once the demarcation is clear, CFUGs need to get DFO approval for constitutions and their map amendments. Therefore, IRMI has engaged the DFO in each conflict mitigation associated with boundaries and in other technical matters. The DFOs and their branches have supported the program and the target CFUGs enormously, particularly in the mitigation of boundary conflicts.
- IRMI has been working in coordination and collaboration with the FECOFUN district chapters from the program start. IRMI has conducted advocacy workshops with their collaboration in the past and they regularly provide support to IRMI in the drafting of

follow-up plans prepared after each such workshop. In addition, IRMI is receiving their support to conduct some education sessions and facilitate some conflict resolution initiatives. In this period, FECOFUN provided facilitation support in the training of CFUGs on ‘Advocacy and CFUG Management’ in Kailali.

VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation

On the basis of a detailed and comprehensive Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMP), IRMI is monitoring progress regularly and providing feedback for improvements. IRMI has recently revised the PMP based on the program needs, though the indicators remain the same. To ensure program quality, Mercy Corps has invested significant resources in strengthening partner capacities in monitoring and evaluation system development. BASE has a full time M&E Officer and the SS Program Coordinator is partly engaged in regular field-level measuring of progress. MC’s IRMI M&E Officer is supporting the team by developing required formats and tools to track progress and is developing a solid database for the program. In this period, she visited the field and oriented partner staff in some of the tools developed and provided feedback for improvements in data quality. As outlined in the PMP, indicators include both output and impact indicators, measure specific results, and are disaggregated by a range of demographic characteristics. As per USAID policy, the indicators mentioned in the PMP are disaggregated by sex, age, and caste/ethnicity. The caste/ ethnicity disaggregation will follow the six main categories as follows: Dalit, Muslim, Brahmin/Chhetri, Newar and Janajati. These are reported on a quarterly and annual basis. Impact indicators are directly linked to the program’s two Theories of Change, providing the opportunity to test the validity of these theories through the program evaluation. Additionally, the impact indicators were developed with an eye toward capturing changes in factors that underpin peaceful coexistence and stability, in recognition of the fact that many community-level conflicts are latent, resulting in persistent exclusion without visible signs of violence. In this period, the IRMI Technical Officer (TO) is directly involved in the performance monitoring of the first phase NRM and economic initiatives in the target communities. In addition, the TO is extensively involved in the new initiatives identification procedures monitoring with all the CFUGs. Based on the first phase initiatives’ performance and additional community consultations, the TO has recommended IRMI to carry forward with the new initiatives with the CFUGs.

VII. Conclusion

Mercy Corps continues to accelerate IRMI activities through close collaboration and coordination with partners, DFO, VDC, FECOFUN and trained key stakeholders, who have taken over organizing community-led consultative/mitigation meetings around natural resource management. During this reporting period, the IRMI team completed identification and proposal finalization for ten environmentally sustainable economic initiatives and ten natural resource management initiatives. Those initiatives are identified and screened with the active participation of the target people and in regular consultation with the DFO/National Park Office to ensure sustainability. The initiatives are ready for implementation starting from early January 2016. The program team, in collaboration with the DFO, has conducted many education sessions to raise awareness on natural resource management and use. In addition, the team has continued to raise awareness of people through the FM radio programs, exposure visits and NRM management workshops. Similarly, the team has facilitated the mid-term self capacity assessments of the target CFUGs to compare their progress to date.

In this period, IRMI has continued to address some of the identified driving causes of resource-based conflicts which include increased resource competition, scant economic opportunities, and exclusionary resource-related decision-making practices between and amongst the Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs). The key stakeholders have been able to mitigate two boundary conflicts in this period and have bridged the relationships among the divided communities. The willingness of both the divided communities after the conflict resolution to put boundary demarcation lines between two CFUGs jointly is a good example of their bridged relationships.

However, IRMI was compelled to postpone some crucial activities during this period, because of the continued strikes and ongoing fuel/economic crisis in the target communities for several months. In this quarter, IRMI has postponed a Material Review Workshop for three months and this has also affected the development of the NRM Conflict Mitigation Manual. Ultimately, IRMI could not conduct the trainings on time for stakeholders based on the manual to be developed. Similarly, NRM and economic initiatives identification and implementation, video documentary development, and NRM conflict mitigation activities are delayed due to these ongoing strikes in the western Terai. This has created concerns about the program's ability to complete all activities within the remaining time period and may result in an official request to USAID for a no-cost extension.

VIII. Upcoming activities

Program activities for the next quarter will include:

- Facilitate resolution of NRM conflicts in the target CFUGs
- Continue to monitor economic and NRM initiatives implemented.

- Identify and implement an additional 20 economic and 21 NRM initiatives in the target 20 Community Forest User Groups.
- Conduct district-wide advocacy workshops with relevant government leadership on NRM issues in the four districts.
- Produce an IRMI video documentary on current IRMI best practices and lessons learned.
- Conduct education sessions on natural management issues and inclusivity.
- Support FM radio programs in target communities to reinforce awareness raising sessions.
- Facilitate the development of TOT handbook on NRM issues.

IX. Impact Stories:

Divided Communities Finally Became One:

A dispute between twenty-six households (Group A), who have encroached on approximately ten hectares of Sungava community forest land, and Sungava Community Forest User Group executive members of the Group (SCFUG) (Group B) Naubasta, Banke district, arose several years ago in becoming ever more distressing. The 26 households were people affected and had migrated from the settled illegally in the Sungava conflict, Group A was receiving organization called the Land

People feared to visit the forest history of attacks from one side or one user had to stay in jail for incident. The community grew to entered the forest to collect



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 14: Creating Environment for Dialogue, Naubasta, Banke

households (Group A), who ten hectares of Sungava executive members of the Group (SCFUG) (Group B) Naubasta, Banke district, over the years. The 26 by the armed conflict in Nepal western part of the country and community forest land. In the backup support from a political Rights Forum (LRF).

area alone because there was a the another. Seven years ago, fourteen days after a violent expect an attack if anyone fodder or firewood. They had

planted many seedlings in the forest, but not a single plant remained. No one was able to control anyone from entering and destroying the forest. This illegal extraction was the major problem in the forest. The DFO and other organizations tried to settle the conflict between the divided communities several times, but all efforts were in vain.

According to conflict mapping exercises conducted at the district, VDC and local levels, IRMI identified SCFUG as a target community based on the severity of the conflict in early 2014. The IRMI team then identified key stakeholders from the SCFUG and imparted mediation, dialogue and negotiation trainings at certain intervals of time to enhance their skills to intervene more effectively into the NRM conflicts. After the first round of training, they organized separate meetings with both the communities and tried to understand each point of view and their motivations. In addition, they organized a meeting with executive members of SCFUG, the District Forest Office and Area Forest Office, and discussed the encroachment issues. This helped the concerned parties to understand the issue more deeply and as a result developed a mitigation strategy and action plans jointly.

According to the plan, key stakeholders organized two mass meetings with the vast majority of the users, District Forest Office, Area Forest Office and executive members of SCFUG, but still could not get positive results. Then, key stakeholders, as a way of building working relationships with both the groups, organized a separate meeting with the groups. The trained key stakeholders applied their skills learned through the training sessions and organized formal/informal dialogue sessions. The key stakeholders applied a generous and collective way to facilitate and negotiate with both parties. They conducted facilitation sessions in a friendly manner in a friendly, safe environment where both parties felt comfortable to discuss their issues openly. This approach by the key stakeholders produced a calm environment where Group A felt comfortable enough to share their feelings and discuss the encroachment issue. Finally, Group-A put forward that they didn't have other places where they can move to live, but that they could leave the other encroached area of forest. During the dialogue process, Group-B (executive member of CFUG, District Forest Office and Area Forest Office) also agreed to leave the land where Group-A had constructed. This entire process took nearly 1.5 years to settle, but by that point, both the groups agreed to dig a boundary trench jointly as a demarcation of the community forest area and settlements to cement the agreement reached.

Ms. Shova Tharu, member of SCFUG said, we (seven hundred and twenty-two CFUG) gathered together and dug out a 3.5 Km of trench in one day and we planted twenty-six thousand plants in the forest land.



After the agreement between Groups A and B, 722 CFUG members gathered together and dug a 3.5 km long trench in a single day.

Now, both groups are actively and productively engaged in CFUG management and forest conservation initiatives. Looking at their repaired relationship, the Shikta Irrigation Project provided them a Forest Guard for five years and provided 26,000 seedlings for plantation. In addition, the DFO has committed to provide them with additional support through upcoming annual programs. While looking at their progress, IRMI will also provide them with additional support for NRM and economic initiatives, including other awareness raising and capacity building activities.

Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 15: Joint Trench digging in Naubasta, Banke

engaged in CFUG
Looking at their repaired

Annex – I: Natural Resource Management Initiatives:

District	Name of CFUG/ VDC	NRM Initiative		Budget		Beneficiaries			
		NRM	Qty (M)	MCN	CFUG	HHS	M	F	Total
Dang	Jarayo Takuri CFUG Halwar	Barbed wire fencing	2,200	300,000	152,498	186	512	520	1,032
Banke	Hajrat CFUG Hirminiya	Barbed wire fencing	1,000	300,000	87,125	649	1,501	1,586	3,087
	Janaekata Mahila CFUG, Rajhena	Barbed wire fencing	1,500	300,000	147,500	2,079	5,710	5,629	11,339
	Jaya Saraswoti CFUG Manikapur	Barbed wire fencing	1,100	300,000	97,925	282	1,187	1,113	2,300
	Miteri CFUG Kohalpur	Barbed wire fencing	1,250	300,000	100,100	266	796	838	1,634
	Sungava CFUG Naubasta	Barbed wire fencing	1,250	300,000	83,950	722	1,981	2,062	4,043
Bardiya	Bhadohi CFUG Mainapokhar	Barbed wire fencing	1,250	300,000	158,612	251	604	667	1,271

	Ekata Samaj CFUG Bansgadhi Na. Pa-9	Barbed wire fencing	1,100	300,000	99,550	490	1,509	1,496	3,005
	Jharsaluwa CFUG Babhai Na. Pa-7	Barbed wire fencing	1,500	300,000	251,075	303	910	848	1,758
	Kopila CFUG Babhai Na.Pa.-5	Bio-engineering check dam	350	300,000	197,600	31	80	84	164
Total						5,259	14,790	14,843	29,633

Annex II: IRMI's Economic activities being implemented by CFUGs

District	Community Forest User Group / VDC	Economic Initiative/ Project	Budget		Beneficiaries			
			MC-N	CFUG (Cash/In Kind)	HHs	Male	Female	Total
Dang	Jarayo Takuri CFUG Halwar	Goat Rearing	250,000	64,800	16	35	41	76
Banke	Hajrat CFUG Hirminiya	Buffalo Rearing	250,000	70,200	4	9	12	21
	Janaekata Mahila CFUG, Rajhena	Goat Rearing and Vegetable farming	250,000	70,500	30	72	68	140
	Jaya Saraswoti CFUG Manikapur	Cow and Poultry	250,000	76,000	9	22	25	47
	Miteri CFUG Kohalpur	Vegetable Farming	250,000	81,400	22	67	68	135
	Sungava CFUG Naubasta	Goat Rearing	250,000	62,000	21	56	71	127
Bardiya	Bhadohi CFUG Mainapokhar	Goat Rearing	250,000	98,500	30	71	77	148
	Ekatasamaj CFUG Bansgadhi	Goat Rearing	250,000	74,500	31	79	88	167

	Jharsaluwa CFUG Babhai Na. Pa-7	Pig, Goat Rearing and retail shop	250,000	85,000	30	85	80	165
	Kopila CFUG Babhai Na. Pa.-5	Goat Rearing	250,000	60,000	21	59	56	115
Total					214	555	586	1,141

Annex 1: PMP Achievements for this Period:

Result	Performance Indicator and Disaggregates	Type	Data Source	Frequency	Targets	Achievements; Oct - Dec 2015	Achievements (June 2013 - December 2015)
Goal: Enhance stability through natural resource conflict resolution and inclusive natural resource management.							
Reduced tensions over the use and management of natural resources	(G1) % change in the number of people who report conflict over natural resources in their community. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey, Key Informant Interviews	Program start/end	Baseline -20%		
More inclusive and equitable natural resource management	(G2) % change in # of people who report that natural resource use and management is equitable, transparent, and inclusive. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey, Key Informant Interviews	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		
Objective 1: Strengthen the ability of key stakeholders to resolve community-level natural resource conflicts in an inclusive, sustainable manner							

30 natural resource-based conflicts identified	(1.1) # of natural resource-based conflicts identified.	MC	Key Informant Interviews, Community Consultations	Program start	30	0	58
400 key stakeholders strengthen their conflict resolution skills	(1.2) # of people trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	USAID	Program records	Quarterly	400	421	421
	(1.3) % Change in program participants demonstrating increased confidence and willingness to use consensus-building/negotiation approaches to resolve conflicts. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Stakeholder Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +20%		
30 natural resource-based conflicts resolved	(1.4) # of natural resource-based conflicts resolved	MC	Dispute Resolution Agreement Form	Quarterly	30	2	36
							40

	(1.5) % change in ability of community members to access natural resources. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, religion, and type of resource.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +50%		
Collaborative relationships between key stakeholders enhanced	(1.6) % change in collaboration among key stakeholders around natural resource management and resource-based conflict resolution	MC	Stakeholder Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +20%		
Implementing local partners increase organizational capacity	(1.7) % change in organizational capacity scores	MC	Organizational Assessment	Program start/end	Baseline + 50%		
Objective 2: Increase inclusive and participatory resource-related decision among community and government bodies							
20 user groups exhibit more inclusive internal governance practices	(2.1) % of targeted user groups demonstrating more inclusive internal decision-making practices	MC	Organizational assessment	Program start/end	Baseline + 50%		

	(2.2) % change in perceptions of community members that they can influence local natural resource management decisions. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		
Increased community awareness of rights and responsibilities related to natural resource use and management	(2.3) # of outreach activities to raise awareness of government policies related to natural resource use and management.	MC	Program records	Quarterly	80	7	83
	(2.4) % change in awareness among community members about their rights and responsibilities related to natural resource use and management. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		

Increased community participation in government decision-making related to natural resource use and management	(2.5) # of community members attending government fora, meetings, or planning sessions. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Program records	Quarterly	600	23	*1,453
	(2.6) % Change in perceptions of community members that they can influence government planning and decision-making related to natural resource use and management. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		

Objective 3: Enhance the sustainability of negotiated agreements by engaging communities in joint environmental and economic development initiatives

<p>1440 women and girls and 960 young men develop strategies for expanding their participation in peace building and natural resource management</p>	<p>(3.1) # Of people attending USG-assisted facilitated events that are geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.</p>	USAID	Program records	Quarterly	2,400	1,951	**3,920
	<p>(3.2) % change in perceptions of women and youth that they can influence decision-making processes related to natural resource management and community relationship-building. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.</p>	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		

20 communities improve inclusive natural resource management and rebuild degraded resources	(3.3) # Of natural resource initiatives implemented. Disaggregate by type of project, # of people benefitted, and location.	MC	Program records	Quarterly	40	10	29
20 communities strengthen environmental y sustainable economic activities	(3.4) # Of sustainable economic initiatives implemented. Disaggregate by type of project, # of beneficiaries, and location.	MC	Program records	Quarterly	40	10	30
	(3.5) % Change in self-reported economic wellbeing among participating community members. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste and religion.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +20%		

Cooperative relationships between conflicting communities built	(3.6) % Change in number of people who believe that there is a tangible benefit to cooperation. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		
Note:	*In IRMI districts, it is found that community members are interested in supporting the peace process, so more than expected community members attended government forums and/or meetings and/or planning sessions						
	**IRMI has identified a number of conflicts more than targeted. To resolve those conflicts, the number of activities/sessions had to be increased, resulting in this indicator being exceeded.						

