

## Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPA): Enhancing Resiliency of Poor and Vulnerable

### Background

Unprecedented Climate Change is a global issue creating problems at the local level too. Nepal is ranked 13th in vulnerability to climate change despite being a negligible contributor of green-house gas emission (0.027%) (The climate change risk atlas, 2012). Shifting climate pattern and its impact on biodiversity, natural resources and agriculture will negatively impact vulnerable

**Project in Brief:**  
**Name:** Good Governance and Livelihood  
**Location:** Rolpa, Pyuthan and Dhading  
**Duration:** 2014-2019  
**Funding Partners:** Australian Government through Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and ADRA Australia  
**Implementing Partners:** Rupantaran, FIRDO Nepal, RUDAS Nepal

people and communities with limited livelihood options who are least able to adapt to climate stresses. It is estimated that the direct cost of current climate variability and extreme events in key economic sectors is equivalent to 1.5 to 2% of current GDP (NDC, 2016). The stress in the ecosystem and biodiversity ultimately delimit the sustained flow and level of production of ecosystem services thereby challenging the climate change resiliency of dependent communities and people. The Government of Nepal has been taking initiation to address the detrimental effects of climate change through adaptation interventions. Recognizing adaptation as emerging priority, Government of Nepal has prepared and endorsed National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), 2010 and a National Framework of Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA), 2011 as strategic tools and mechanism for developing appropriate adaptation measures to enhance the resiliency of the poor and vulnerable. According to NAPA 2010 vulnerability assessment report, Rolpa and Pyuthan district falls into high and medium vulnerable district respectively. The awareness level on climate change and climate change adaptation were inadequate among the local people and elected representatives. The GOAL project considered Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPA) as a key mechanism to enhance climate resiliency at local level. The project has supported to 12 former village development committees (VDCs) in formulation and implementation of the LAPA.

### Methodology

The project adopted and followed principles, steps and tools of National Framework of LAPA. The figure-1 demonstrate overall LAPA formulation and implementation process.

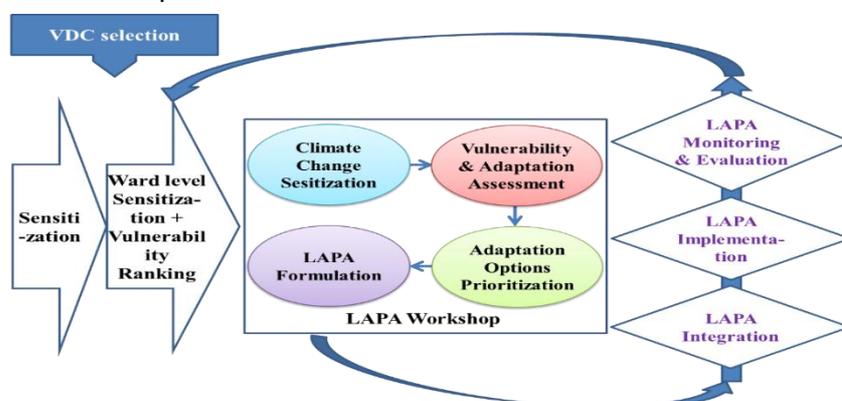


Fig 1:- LAPA formulation and implementation Process and steps

### **Sensitization on climate Change and vulnerability assessment:**

Prior to start field consultation and sensitization, an orientation to all project staffs was organized on climate change, climate change adaptation and vulnerability and adaptation assessment tools, techniques to collect data, analyze and reporting. In order to boost their confidence and build common understanding, practical exercises were done with reflection on process and outcomes.

### **Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment:**

Trained staffs carried out the vulnerability and adaptation assessment at each ward of the former VDC using both participatory tools recommended by LAPA and secondary data sources on climate exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity. The findings were then consolidated and validated through participatory process. The assessment categorized all wards of the former VDC into 4 different categories- V1, V2, V3 and V4<sup>1</sup>. Likewise, all household within ward were categorized in to different level of vulnerability by using climate adaptive wellbeing raking tools.

### **LAPA Formulation and Integration:**

A 3 day workshop was organized to formulate the LAPA in the leadership and ownership of the former VDCs ensuring the engagement of multiple stakeholders including ward citizen forum, political leaders, line agencies representative, teachers and private sectors-agrovets and cooperatives. At the beginning, climate change sensitization was done by using different information, communication and education materials (poster, video) which was followed by participatory exercise on LAPA tools and techniques such as seasonal calendar, timeline, hazards map, livelihoods assessment and multi-criteria index etc. The process identified, prioritized and selected various climate risks and adaptation measures, leading to the development of 3-5 years LAPA in 12 former VDCs in Rolpa and Pyuthan. The plan was then presented to wider stakeholders and approved by the Agriculture, Forestry and Environment Committee (AFEC) before further endorsement by VDC council.

### **LAPA implementation Support:**

AFEC at the VDC level selected the urgent and immediate action priorities from the list of actions identified in LAPA. A total of 77 such adaptation priorities were implemented in collaboration of VDCs, GOAL project, Rupantaran Nepal-MSFP and District Forest Office through basket fund approach under the AFEC.

### **Progress monitoring and evaluation:**

AFEC annually reviewed and updated LAPA priorities to respond to the changing context. The review also took stock of the implementation status and also recommended for integration of LAPA actions in local development plans and the activities of line agencies and other projects.

## **Outcomes and Impacts**

### **Greater awareness on climate change issues and investment on adaptation measures:**

The participatory and consultative process applied for LAPA formulation, implementation and review enhanced community awareness on climate change issues and adaptation measures. End line survey revealed that 53% people increased their knowledge on climate change issues and adaptation measure against the baseline value of only 4%. Due to increased awareness and confidence, end line survey revealed that 68% HHs have invested in climate change adaptation intervention and technologies such as micro irrigation technologies (MITs), plastic house, integrated pest management, improve cooking stove, plastic and conservation pond.

---

<sup>1</sup> V4-very high vulnerable, V3- high vulnerable, V2- Medium vulnerable and V1 less vulnerable

### Local capacity building:

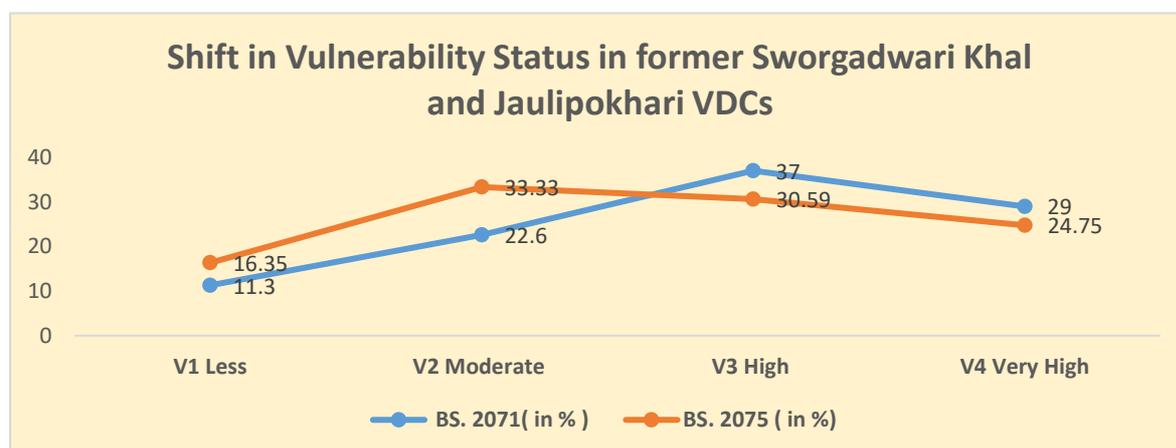
336 former VDC level stakeholders are trained LAPA process which enhanced their capacity to review and update LAPA without needing external facilitation. The project facilitated the implementation of 77 LAPA priorities in collaboration with government and non-government actors. 36 Communities-based adaptation plan (CBAP) were developed on the basis of the LAPA in highly vulnerable wards.

### Basis for development plan:

LAPA is taken as a base document by local governments and other development agencies for the annual planning process. To date, about 57% (724 out of 1275) adaptation priorities were integrated in annual plan and implemented in collaboration with multiple agencies. Swargadwari Municipality has taken initiative to consolidate previous VDC level LAPA with technical support from GOAL project. This initiative has enabled the Municipality has been able to access 1.2 Million Rupees from provincial government to implement **climate-smart village** programme in two villages (Belbas and Sari).

### Contribution to enhanced Resiliency:

A sample study showed vulnerability level of household is shifting due to increased awareness, confidence and investment in LAPA priorities.



Source: vulnerability assessment 2071 and 2075

Likewise, same study showed the vulnerability status of the formal ward of the VDC also shifted

Former ward	Former Swargadwari Khal VDC		Former Jaulipokhari VDC	
	2071 BS	2075 BS	2071 BS	2075 BS
1	High	Medium	Very high	High
2	High	Medium	Very high	High
3	Very high	High	Very high	High
4	High	High	High	High
5	High	Medium	Very high	High
6	High	High	Very high	Medium
7	High	Medium	Very high	High
8	High	High	Very high	Medium
9	High	High	High	High

### Key Learning

- Bottom-up and inclusive approach has helped to create local ownership towards LAPAs preparation and implementation. The approaches helped to make need based and realistic adaptation plans resulting into direct benefits to the poor and vulnerable communities and people.

- Systematic vulnerability and adaptation assessment is found to be an effective approach to identify targeted communities and people. The process creates community enabling environment and reduces the potential conflicts in location and beneficiary selection.
- The multi-stakeholder mechanism like AFEC was very instrumental in planning, implementation and coordination of the LAPA. Similar institutional mechanism is essential in the current changed context and it has very crucial roles in integration of LAPA priority into local planning process.
- Periodic reviewing and updating of LAPA is essential in active engagement of the multiple stakeholders to ensure effective implementation. It provides a powerful mechanism to integrate the LAPA priorities in local development plan and also helps to make the LAPA a live document.
- Maintaining transparency of available resources and accountability toward the poor and vulnerable people are the important parts of LAPA formulation and implementation which creates an trusting environment and attract resources from multiple stakeholders.
- The scale of LAPA investment from the project seemed low to implement priority actions. Increase in the scale of project investment can also boost the leverages from the local government. Future projects may need to consider increasing the LAPA implementation fund.
- LAPA formulated under the project was more based on perception and experiences of the local communities and people. Integration of scientific climate data (Precipitation and Temperature) and climate risk profile helps to make LAPA backed up with scientific evidence.



**For further information contact:**

ADRA Nepal Country Office, Sanepa, Lalitpur,  
Nepal  
Phone: (+977)-1-5555913/14  
Email: [info@adranepal.org](mailto:info@adranepal.org);  
Website: [www.adranepal.org](http://www.adranepal.org)  
For Feedback/Complaint:  
[complaint.register@adranepal.org](mailto:complaint.register@adranepal.org)

Rupantaran, Central Office, Koteshwer,  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Phone: (+977)-1-4154949/40;  
Email: [ngo@rupantaran.org.np](mailto:ngo@rupantaran.org.np)  
Website: [www.ngo.rupantaran.org.np](http://www.ngo.rupantaran.org.np)

