Good Governance and Livelihood (GOAL)

Project Description
The Good Governance and Livelihood (GOAL) project was funded by Australian Government through Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Australia and was implemented since last five years (2014-2019) in Pyuthan and Rolpa (Province 5) and Dhading (Province 3). The project worked with vulnerable groups and communities in 4 rural municipalities and 2 municipalities in Pyuthan and Rolpa districts (then 12 VDCs). The project was implemented by ADRA Nepal in partnership with Rupantaran, FIRDO Nepal and RUDAS Nepal. Additionally, the project worked in previous 22 VDCs in Dhading district from 2014-2015 through RIMS Nepal and conducted follow-up activities of previous Leadership and Good Governance (LeGGo II) Project.

Objectives
Overall objective of project was to enhance resiliency of vulnerable communities through improved livelihood, leadership and environmental management in Pyuthan, Rolpa and Dhading districts of Nepal.

Outcome 1: Increased income of vulnerable user groups through micro-enterprise and entrepreneurship development initiatives.

Outcome 2: Strengthening the capacity and competency of civil societies through leadership and management skills

Outcome 3: Enhanced resiliency through environmental planning and management systems

Project Approaches
The aim of the project was to improve the livelihoods of the vulnerable groups and communities of these districts through strengthened local governance, environmental management strategies and income generation options. The project has three major components:
i. **Micro-enterprise and entrepreneurship development**
The project provided vulnerable population with an opportunity to improve their income and livelihoods status by developing and providing participants with 6-month comprehensive micro-enterprise focused Entrepreneurial Education Literacy Classes (EEC). Participants business skills were further enhanced through practical trainings of ‘Start and Improve Your Business’ (SIYB) package. Skill-based short-term vocational skills training were provided to assist participants in developing the skills required to operate their selected business. Market management was conducted through strengthening collection center and creating linkages.

**Approaches**
1. Leadership development to identify needs, develop project and access resources through Result Oriented Leadership Development Program (ROLDP) approach
2. Development of local trained human resources to facilitate the ROLDP process;
3. Extensive coaching, mentoring and backstopping support;
4. Bottom-up approach in local planning processes through development of Challenge Projects
5. Public and social audit conduction to practice the good governance and accountability.

ii. **Capacity development of civil society organizations (CSOs)**
This project provided beneficiaries with a series of leadership and good governance trainings and regular coaching utilizing Results Orientated Leadership Development Program - ROLDP approach, so that participants and communities were well equipped with the necessary skills to design and implement their desired **Challenge Projects (CP)** by themselves by building on a small seed fund provided by project. Fund required to implement the Challenge Projects were mobilised and leveraged by community from local government, different agencies and their own contribution. Implementation of **Challenge Projects** increases community capacity to identify needs, develop projects in prioritized needs and assess resources from multiple sources, thereby increasing a sense of ownership and sustainability. It also contributes to planning process of Local Government (LG). These Challenges Projects provided opportunities to apply leadership and good governance skills learnt from the trainings into practice.

**Approaches**
1. Scientific approach in selection of beneficiaries through use of Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
2. Group organization and social mobilization
3. Entrepreneurship Education and Skill based training for promotion of business opportunities
4. Access to finance through group revolving fund mobilization and linkages with local financial institutions
5. Building business development capacity of the poor and vulnerable population.

iii. **Resilience enhancement through environmental planning and management systems**
A multi-sector education and sensitization program on climate change, disaster risk reduction, agriculture, and energy efficient technology were used to raise awareness and empower schools and communities to increase resilience towards disasters, as well as combating the negative effects of the changing climate. VDCs and communities were facilitated to develop and implement Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) and Community Based Adaptation Plan (CBAP). The project conducted a 9-month Climate Change School Education Classes to students in the schools. Vulnerable communities were facilitated on climate change adaptation and mitigation technologies. In addition to this, cooperatives were reinforced to function also as climate change resource centres for their surrounding communities. Vulnerable communities were provided with an opportunity to develop their own Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) plan along with skills and equipment’s to get prepared in case of disaster.
Key Results

Outcome 1: Increased income of vulnerable user groups through micro-enterprise and entrepreneurship development initiatives.

- 1,854 participants (98% women) organized in 90 groups attended 6-month long enterprise education classes
- 1,193 participants trained on on-farm and off-farm skills
- 1,110 project participants-initiated farm and non-farm microenterprises
- 90 groups practicing saving credit with total amount reaching of NPR 91,01,497
- 90 groups registered in DADO/Local Government and have already received resource of NPR 2,295,000 from local government and other agencies
- 1,066 business plan developed by entrepreneurs
- Successfully collaborated with local government in 39 enterprise development interventions with total budget NPR 5,585,172 and project contribution of 26%.
- 2 local governments facilitated in potential production pocket identification and Climate Smart Village promotion
- 21 peoples with disability (PWDs) were supported for their livelihood options
- 76 adolescent, 255 group members, 34 volunteers trained in GESI and mobilized
Outcome 2: Strengthening the capacity and competency of civil societies through leadership and management skills

- 526 participants trained on Result Oriented Leadership Development Project (ROLDP)
- 144 challenge projects developed and implemented by and for community
- Total resources of NPR. 9,168,430 leverage from government bodies, development agencies and other stakeholders by community in out of total budget of NRs. 11,319,190
- Facilitated 144 public audits with initiation of community and shared the income and expenses information
- Total 4,718 households were benefitted from Challenge Projects
- 39% (773 out of 1993) women were involved in user committee and sub-committee for implementation of Challenge project, LAPA and CBAP
- Joint Initiatives to capacitate 2 LG representatives on gender friendly planning and budgeting
- 11 municipal and ward level GBV control networks capacitated on GBV

### Types of Challenge Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Project</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income generation</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skill upgrade</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change and environment conservation</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking water schemes and sanitation</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Infrastructure Development and Renovation</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RESOURCE CONTRIBUTION FOR 144 CHALLENGE PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL Project</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO and Other organizations</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other government stakeholders</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcome 3: Enhanced resiliency through environmental planning and management systems

- 12 Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) developed and 724 action plans (out of total 1278) on climate change adaptation and mitigation were completed in collaboration with local governments
- 327 students from 12 schools increased knowledge on climate change and its adaptation/mitigation actions through 9-month long climate change school classes
- 36 communities prepared and implemented 36 Community Based Adaptation Plans (CBAPs)
- 64 climate change technologies demonstrated through cooperatives
- 8,517 households were benefitted through promotion of technologies on climate change adaptation and mitigation under LAPA, CBAPs and co-operatives
- 68.9% of the communities invested in climate change adaptation measures (Endline survey, 2019)
- 53 % beneficiaries reported the increased knowledge on climate change and adaptation interventions (Endline Survey, 2019)
- 265 members 12 Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs) and 36 Task Force Teams (TFTs) are trained and equipped in disaster risk reduction preparedness and emergency response

Sustainability Measures

- Registration and Enlistment of Enterprise Development Group at Local Government (LG). Group members are trained and capacitated with skill development, advanced vocational training, engaged in regular saving credit activities
- Development and Implementation of Challenge Project by communities through fund leverage from Local Government (LG)
- Close Collaboration with Local Government and line agencies in project interventions
- LAPA actions are being continuously implemented by local government
- System of emergency fund at CDMC
- Proper documentation of the project intervention was prepared and handover to local government through formal event. Local Government (LGs) have committed for ownership and continuation of good practices by project
With learnings and massive consultation with beneficiary, local government, leaders, staffs and other stakeholders, second phase of the project has been designed to replicate the good practice and fulfill the gaps.

**Good Practices and Lessons Learnt:**
- Entrepreneurship Education Class modules are appreciated by the group members but need to be redesigned to provide specific skills and knowledge on business aspects, specially the business and financial literacy. Production skills should be dealt separately.
- Regular visits of staffs to entrepreneurs and providing them guidance/mentoring on their enterprises motivated them.
- Members of the groups were left to choose the enterprises on their own which had positive effect on enthusiasm expressed by the members to start the enterprises; however, it would be fruitful to provide some guidance on most promising enterprises that suits their skills and have difficulty in providing services and market linkages.
- Project could have done better in the development of local service providers in business skills as well as inputs and technical advisory for the sustainability of services in post-project period.
- Systematic vulnerability and capacity assessment found to be effective approaches to identify targeted communities and location for project intervention.
- The multi-stakeholder mechanism like AFEC was very instrumental in planning, implementation and coordination of the Challenge Projects, LAPA and CBAP. Similar institutional mechanism is essential in the current changed context and it has very crucial roles in integration of LAPA priority, CBAP and Challenge Projects into local planning process.
- Bottom-up and inclusive approach has helped to create local ownership towards CP, LAPAs, CBAP preparation and implementation.
- In the context of new federal structure, joint initiatives with local governments in capacity building and developing strategies, plans and programs is found to be effective.
- Periodic reviewing and updating of LAPA is essential in active engagement of the multiple stakeholders to ensure effective implementation.