

## **Final programmatic report**

### **Gorkha Food Security and Livelihood Enhancement Program**

#### **Project Brief**

- I. Project Number: US1T9
- II. Project Name : Gorkha Food Security and Livelihoods Enhancement Programme
- III. Project Area: Gorkha District, Nepal
- IV. Location: Chhoprak, Gankhu, Harmi, Khoplang, Muchchok and Barpak
- V. Implementation Period: December 2016 – November 2017
- VI. Executing Agency: CARE Nepal in partnership with local NGO, SSICDC, Nepal
- VII. Project Amount: 500,000 USD

#### **Description**

TaiwanICDF funded second phase "Gorkha Food Security and Livelihood Enhancement Program" was designed with an objective to enhance food security and livelihoods of the earthquake affected people particularly- women, poor, marginalized and socially excluded, after success on the first phase. Livestock as well as vegetable production support were major components of the first phase project. Rooting on the output of the same, second phase project aimed to scale up those activities in semi commercial level- focusing on poor vulnerable and socially excluded (PVSE) through their capacity development, increasing their engagement in value chain and better access to markets. During first phase, activities were mainly farm based which required beneficiaries to have at least a small piece of land. This set the earthquake affected landless, small holder's beneficiaries out of scope of project support. Thus, second phase project added off farm support as an outcome area targeting those extreme poor households.

The key interventions of this second phase project were:

1. Home gardening concept and diversity kit support to remote community targeting to improve their family nutrition
2. Organic manuring and animal shed improvement support
3. Irrigation facility improvement support linking with cash for work
4. Water efficient irrigation structure re/construction with cash for work link
5. Semi commercial vegetable and livestock production support through livelihood improvement plan
6. Off farm business support through business plan
7. Market linkage with collection center construction and functionalization support and
8. Labor saving agriculture machineries support

### **Evaluation of Design and Implementation**

#### **A. Relevance of Design and Formulation**

Before the earthquake, rural economy of project area was dominantly subsistence agrarian followed by remittance. In the village, off farm employment opportunity was very limited. Earthquake hit predominantly on physical as well as natural resources. Poor, marginalized and vulnerable households depend their livelihoods on these resources. Earthquake severely destroyed agricultural livelihood and food security needs. Additionally, earthquake caused large damage on public and private infrastructures, which reduced many farmlands to a pile of debris, adversely affecting farm owners. Farmers working on other people's land on inadequate wage were affected as their livelihood depended on farm work. Moreover, earthquake also caused death of livestock and destruction of livestock shed, reducing the already narrow asset base of vulnerable families. Besides this, earthquake destroyed productive agricultural structure like irrigation canal. Previously low productive agriculture base livelihoods of extreme poor became critically vulnerable.

Before the earthquake, Gorkha, was one of the leading districts in cereal production, it supplied food grains to other districts after meeting needs of resident population. However, post-earthquake, the scenario changed drastically. Statistical record shows, 22 among 60 VDCs were highlighted as food insecure VDCs- where 47,300 individuals among 53,320 individuals are facing high levels of food insecurity. Joint Assessment Report<sup>1</sup> shows that Gorkha is the poorest in food consumption score (FCS) out of the 11 most earthquake affected districts - 10.9% population are in poor FCS range whereas 17.5% population are borderline FCS. 55% HHs have lost their grain and seed storage facility with their houses

demolished. Grain and seed storage falls under the top three priority needs of the 28% of farmers involved in the survey.

Moreover, another factor to be considered while designing this project was to abide by the NRA guide and mandate. Government of Nepal established National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) to guide reconstruction work envisioned to develop and restore economic opportunities and livelihoods and re-establish productive sectors. One of its strategic objectives is to create new opportunities by revitalizing the productive sector for economic opportunities and livelihoods. This was also the reason for TaiwanICDF to fund its first phase project which complemented the recovery vision and strategic objective of the Nepal Reconstruction Authority (NRA). The first phase provided the households with opportunities to restore and diversify their economic opportunities through agriculture and livestock base intervention. This was done by improving their knowledge on resilient production methods, creating temporary employment through cash-for-work activities, rehabilitating irrigation structures, and enhancing linkages with markets.

On this ground, first phase project namely; Gorkha Food Security and Livelihood Support Program, was designed and implemented in 4 VDCs of Gorkha. It focused on recovery of household level agricultural livelihood lost through earthquake. The project was designed to mitigate the impact on three specific problems; loss of agricultural livelihoods, decrease in productivity and lack of access to market and market actors. After completion of agricultural early livelihood recovery project, different level of assessment and evaluation were conducted to:

- Evaluate performance of first phase,
- Assess earthquake affected vulnerable household's need in changing context and
- Find a way to upscale the best practices and sustain them.

An independent consultant was hired for conducting end line evaluation of first phase, based on which, the outcome of project was found good but for this result to sustain, further work on institutionalization needs to be done, were his findings. In addition, TaiwanICDF supervision mission along with CARE experts visited the field and consulted with communities/stakeholders, both at local and district level. Our main targeted beneficiary, belonging to extreme poor category, were either landless or had very small land holding size. For them agriculture intensive livelihood intervention were inappropriate. After field visit and detail consultation, the visit team suggested CARE to add two more VDCs namely: Muchchok and Barpak and re-define outcome areas of TaiwanICDF phase II more specifically so that needs of PVSE can be accommodated

Considering the recommendation from first phase evaluation and donor visit, one and half year after the mega disastrous earthquake, second phase of Gorkha food security and

livelihood project was designed. Though the earthquake affected all people living in earthquake prone areas, poor and vulnerable suffered disproportionately from the disaster. Thus, off farm based business development was added as an outcome area out of three. Remaining true to our mission and goal, in contrast to blanket approach done during the first phase, CARE conducted Underlying Causes of Poverty and Vulnerability Analysis (UCPVA) in IInd phase, for beneficiary identification. CARE emphasized in identifying underlying causes of poverty.

Additionally, CARE's focus remained on working with PVSE people, in order to improve their livelihood. PVSE households by nature have less resources, less human capability and risk bearing capacity. Centrally designed activities with limited options might not fit equally for all households owing to diverse in capability, assets holding and market possibility. Thus, CARE designed Livelihood Improvement Plan (LIP) which assess capability, assets and interest of household as a first step. It provided further support in identifying appropriate option to suit their condition. This was the reason incomparably diversified livelihood options identified and implemented in field. More importantly, LIP helped in business realization among beneficiaries as first steps of livelihood improvement action initiation. LIP was the best relevant approach considered in project design which CARE is building on in other livelihood related project too.

Furthermore, women in remote areas, involved in agricultural livelihoods, are always overloaded with work. They had to do their routine household chores along with farm work. Earthquake, added additional burden on women. To tackle this issue, project designed and introduced agro machinery which were women friendly. From our previous learning, project designed activities to mobilize cooperative as service provider for agriculture producers in terms of local input supply and market link up. Our aim was to capacitate local institutions in service delivery so the progress achieved by the beneficiary during program period will sustain even after the project phase out.

## B. Project Schedule and Implementation Arrangement

The project schedule and implementation arrangement of the TaiwanICDF project is as follows

Activity Description	Period by month											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DIP preparation	√											
District level stakeholder inception	√	√										
Village level stakeholder inception		√										

Training to field staff on home garden concept, business plan preparation , semi-commercial production concept		√	√									
Beneficiaries selection	√	√										
Validation of selected Beneficiaries		√	√									
Group formation		√	√									
Home gardening concept training to selected HHs		√	√	√	√							
Home garden diversity kit preparation (including micro irrigation package) and distribution			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Organic fertilizer promotion: shed improvement for better composting/ urine use and vermin composting				√	√	√	√	√	√			
Water efficient irrigation structure re/construction with cash for work link			√	√	√	√	√	√				√
LIP orientation and preparation to semi commercial farmer		√	√									
Technical training to semi-commercial farmer ( in the field mentioned in LIP)			√	√			√			√		
Startup/input support for semi-commercial farmer				√	√			√			√	
Distribution of livestock and forage/fodder promotion				√	√			√			√	
Labor saving small machine support to group			√	√					√	√		
Farmers' exposure visit					√							
Capacity building of cooperatives : training, workshop, business plan preparation and agro input supply licensing, grouping, mass production and networking of similar commodity producers			√	√	√	√	√	√	√			
Collection center establish and upgrading support (cooperative building cum collection center)			√	√	√	√	√				√	√
Networking and communication channeling workshop with market actors and market information mechanism established			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Business awareness training to entrepreneur and business plan preparation				√	√	√	√					
Start up support to entrepreneurs						√	√	√	√	√	√	
Quarterly progress review meeting with partner and cooperative and reporting				√				√				√
Documentation and publication: good practices, visibility and branding case study, documentary and training book on semi-commercial production											√	√
Coordination meeting and day celebration		√		√			√				√	
End line survey												√

CARE Nepal took the lead role for field assessment, stakeholder consultation and project design by involving its local implementing partner. CARE's role also included higher level linkage, partner's capacity enhancement and ensuring quality of work and strategic support to implementing partner. Furthermore, CARE was intensively engaged in monitoring and ensuring all the compliance requirement were followed along with periodic donor reporting.

Shree Swanra Integrated Community Development Center (SSICDC), CARE's local implementing partner, who has a strong local presence, networking up to community level and longtime experience in Gorkha, took an initiative on activity implementation. SSICDC were highly involved in: beneficiary selection, household level need assessment, activity planning, procurement, activity implementation and field level monitoring and reporting through CARE's support and by working in close coordination with the local government and other stakeholders.

Moreover, in order to ensure smooth implementation of the project activities, CARE Nepal and SSICDC conducted meetings with local government at various levels like; district agriculture development office, district livestock service office, district development committee and value chain actors.

The community members and the above mentioned stakeholders were mainly involved in beneficiary selection process, process of selecting irrigation schemes, selection of training participants, and in determination of training modules.

### C. Disbursement

CARE Nepal committed to the empowerment of the most vulnerable groups. In order to



build their resilience, CARE took adequate measures to ensure that the most poor, vulnerable, and socially excluded households were targeted through the TaiwanICDF project. CARE focused its attention in selecting right PVSE beneficiaries, identifying appropriate livelihood options, supporting in implementing profitable livelihood improvement plan and linking it to markets for product marketing. Project beneficiaries were from rural areas. Thus, they have less access to quality input and services. Considering this fact, inputs in kind and related service were provided by CARE's implementing partner instead providing cash as startup support. Distribution of support materials were done at the center point of every site, in close coordination with beneficiary and local bodies by CARE and implementing partners. The beneficiaries were constantly updated on procurement processes, in order to ensure quality of goods purchased met their requirement. Furthermore, some locally available support materials were procured on site, in presence of beneficiary and program staffs.

Community productive structure like irrigation as well as market structure like collection center were constructed with the project support engaging user committees. Agro machineries were provided to group through cooperative to improve labor productivity and reduce work load. Communities were engaged in entire process from schemes identification to end evaluation. Materials were procured from partner organization with community involvement and under CARE's supervision. Those goods were transported up to construction site and handed over to concern users committee. Users committee completed construction work under strict supervision of project technician. Users committee took responsibility to functionalize and sustain developed physical structure after the construction completion. Cash amount for cash for work beneficiaries was provided in cash directly by project staffs after ensuring final amount from public auditing.

As described before, goods and services both for household and community support was delivered from the vender selected though competitive bidding process. Payment was made by implementing partner from bank account after completion of task and ensuring quality of delivery.

Event base consultants also were paid through bank on installment basis. A final payment would go after completion of task evaluating performance.

Local partner was responsible to execute planned activities in field. A bulk amount as advance from CARE Nepal would go to partner's account as per logical official fund request

with proposed activities to be completed. Next advance would go after settlement of previous advance. CARE roles in entire process was monitor, control and support implementing partner. On top of this, CARE worked with partner throughout the process to ensure following of compliance requirement, maintain quality and establish transparency.

#### **D. Consultant Recruitment and Procurement**

Different local, national, and international level stakeholders were consulted while implementing the TaiwanICDF project.

1. TaiwanICDF sent one horticulture expert and a volunteer. Horticulture expert was chosen and sent directly by ICDF as per project agreement between CARE and ICDF whereas volunteer was as per volunteer exchange agreement done by CARE CI and TaiwanICDF. CARE Nepal involved in interview process as a part of volunteer selection. Finally, volunteer was selected with joint decision of Taiwan ICDF and CARE Nepal.
2. The same local implementing partner of first phase was continued for second phase too. CARE Nepal has its standard and comprehensive procedure to select sub grantee. SSICDC was selected as local implementing partner for TaiwanICDF funded project following the same sub grantee selection process.
3. Technical expertise from government line agencies like District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) and District Livestock Service Office (DLSO) was used particularly for technical training. Expert were hired by local implementing partner following their standard practice with CARE coordination.
4. Home garden experts were invited from Local Initiatives for Biodiversity Research and Development (LIBIRD), an NGO working in field of biodiversity and agricultural research and development, based in Pokhara and having working site over country, by local implementing partner with CARE collaboration. Travel, accommodation and food allowance was provided as per LIBIRD norms. No other expert cost was paid to LIBIRD. Expert from LIBIRD provided training and reference material.
5. Different local vendors were hired for program related construction material and agricultural input supply using competitive bidding process. The same process was applied for hiring local transportation vendor to deliver procured materials at the site. Local implementing partner, being responsible for ground level activities, did all the procurement process following its own procurement norms. CARE closely monitored process as well as quality and provided back support to complete entire process.



6. Some part of procurement, namely visibility materials, end evaluation consultant hiring etc were done by CARE Nepal following CARE Nepal's standard procurement procedure through competitive bidding.

#### **E. Performance of Consultants, Contractors, and Suppliers**

1. TaiwanICDF volunteer Ms Lin worked with CARE and SSICDC staying at Gorkha for three months. She visited different project sites and provided technical support. Her support was instrumental for targeted communities in improving soil health, semi commercial vegetable as well as livestock promotion and market awareness.
  - 1.1. TaiwanICDF horticulture expert Mr Richard technically supported to CARE and SSICDC staffs working for project. His one month work staying in Gorkha was useful in applying soil testing techniques practically in field. Both CARE and partner technical staffs learned soil testing technique and applied in field. Later in his absence, many soil samples from different farmer's field were collected, tested and suggested farmer pertaining defect in their soil along with correction measures. Besides this, Richard's support was crucial in commercial vegetable promotion. One month tenure was too short to take advantage from such expert. It would require at least three months.
  - 1.2 Volunteer and expert's support was very imperative to enhance understanding and promote cooperation between TaiwanICDF and CARE Nepal. In addition to core objective, it was very useful for cultural exchange. CARE appreciate both for their sincere support.
2. The officials from District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), District Livestock Service Office (DLSO) were mobilized for technical support on sustainability of technology used and marketing of agriculture and livestock product. Their support was very useful in terms of technical knowhow. Beyond this, they provided good strategic and coordination support from district level. Some sensitive agricultural inputs like breed and new variety introduction has to be through the endorsement of respective line agencies. Both DLSO and DADO provided excellent support in this regards. Besides this, both agencies involved in monitoring and provided constructive feedback time to time. Project would not be success without constructive support form concerned line agencies.
3. LIBIRD is renowned as resource organization for home garden, with its long research and development base experience. Experts from LIIBIRD were used for home garden training to field staff. Expert came in project site, provided theoretical as well as in situ practical knowledge. They also provided standard home garden manual without charging any cost.

All of their support was almost free of cost except travel accommodation and food cost of the expert. Overall performance was excellent.

4. Distributed goods were procured through vendors, all procurement process was managed by partner. CARE was there side by side to ensure quality of goods and service as well as timeliness of delivery. As per agreement, vendor not only supplied goods but also provided related skill and knowledge. For example: agri machinery suppliers sent technician and trained machinery operator in their own field. Overall performance of suppliers was good. End evaluation consultant did an assessment to check community satisfaction of supplied goods and service. According to report overall satisfaction level was more than expected.
5. Local level contractors, transporters, and technicians were hired for the effective delivery of goods and services. Their performance was good.
6. An external consultant was hired to conduct an end line evaluation. Mobilizing local team, he completed field level study successfully in spite of an election environment. Despite his comprehensive nature of work he completed end line evaluation within stipulated time. His performance was excellent.

In conclusion, overall performance of consultants, contractors, and suppliers was found satisfactory.

### **Performance of the Borrower and Executing Agency**

CARE Nepal was supported by the local implementing partner, Shree Swanra Integrated Community Development Center (SSICDC) in its successful implementation of the project. The implementing partner played a crucial role in identifying most vulnerable households and smoothly delivering goods and services to the targeted population. Similarly, they played a very important role in coordinating with local level stakeholders and engaging the community members and local leaders in discussions around benchmarking and implementation. In addition to delivering capacity building trainings, they also provided technical support to targeted farmers and assisted CARE Nepal in regular monitoring of the project sites.

CARE Nepal also encouraged to provide regular feedback from partner organization. The partners, with their long term presence in the field and knowledge of local socio-cultural scenario, provided useful information regarding any change in the local scenario or needs of the targeted population.

Overall performance of project would depend on local partner's performance. Local partner implemented all activities under close supervision of CARE Nepal. From very beginning of project design to end line evaluation, partner engaged actively during entire process.

Some challenges like short duration of project in comparison to target, local, province and parliament level elections held during same period, election code of conduct restricted to full mobilization of community were faced. However, despite the challenges, project activities completed as planned, achieving more than target. All the deliverables allocated for local partner have been completed within short project period which was possible through the mobilization of smart project team. Detail of indicator based achievements has presented in target vs achievement section below. Here, numerical achievement is present in table to show major outputs against set target.

SN	Component	Unit	Target	Achievement	Remarks
1	Cash for work	HHs	180	570	A level of beneficiary duplication with other activities
2	Home garden	HHs	900	908	
3	Semi commercial support ( agri and livestock )	HHs	600	602	
4	Off-farm support	HHs	120	123	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1800</b>	<b>2203</b>	

Note: Target is from proposal whereas achievement has drawn from ICDF universe maintained in CARE M&E system.

In conclusion, local partner was effective and efficient to complete overall activities.

## Evaluation of Performance

### A. Relevance

The first phase of this project was started from December 2015 after April earthquake. The Gorkha community has perceived this support as CARE/ICDF commitment towards

humanitarian support in a difficult situation. The second phase of the project was a continuation of the first phase with enlarged activities and area coverage. End evaluator writes, therefore, 100% respondents of this evaluation said that the project was very appropriate and a right time support from relevancy point of view. In addition to lost lives, over 80% households of this project area lost their house, several household assets and their domesticated animals. It was an uncountable loss of individual households. All of survivals were depressed and not knowing about ways and means of recovery. In this situation this project was able to deliver goods and services for meeting some of the immediate needs and slowly the project delivered longer term perspectives for recovery and regaining the livelihoods. Therefore, the project got the highest score from relevancy point of view.

#### **B. Effectiveness in Achieving Outcome**

End evaluator was assigned to measure our effectiveness in achieving outcome. He explains:-

The respondents of this study comment that effectiveness is a relative term. It needs comparison with some others for the similar works. Effectiveness in terms of project support was appreciable. When community people lost their hopes because of disaster, this project was able to give some aspirations for recovery and stabilization of livelihoods. Community people particularly in FGD remarked that the project was able to organize communities to start something which were quick impact actions like vegetable production and marketing. Such 'low hanging fruits' motivated people to rethink about improving their traditional occupations for more income in a long run. Another beauty of this project perceived by beneficiaries was that the project did not bring its readymade support packages. Rather the project did consultation with communities about what they need and how they want those to be achieved. This is the main reason that most of the project supported activities became more effective in the communities. For example, cash for work program. When communities were not able to manage minimum food items for family members, the project provided cash for work of their interest. They constructed irrigation schemes for their vegetable production but got the cash as labor cost. This was a double benefit for them. Similarly, start up support for entrepreneurs was also very effective because potential entrepreneurs wanted to some improvement in their traditional occupations but they did not have capital. In such conditions, a small capital worked well and such entrepreneurs were able to generate more income for their livelihood regaining. All of these discussions and support deliveries were carried out very efficiently without day and hassles.

A total of 100% of FGD (32 in 3 FGDs in different locations) said that the project was effective. The respondents in KII are also with the same opinion. The project was effective in the sense that project interventions were able to give some way out for the communities in the context of earthquake shock. It was the first project that convinced communities to think not only short term recovery but also a longer term ways and means of earthquake recovery.

### **C. Efficiency in Achieving Outcome and Outputs**

Someone evaluating our efficiency in achieving outcome was third party through his/her independence lens. End evaluator was assigned to evaluate efficiency. He, from his field study writes:

After earthquake in this district, several organizations announced several support packages. The prime institution was the government itself. When the government of Nepal announced support packages and possibilities from media, it created a great hope to communities. However, the process was so slow that the hopes soon converted into frustration. This situation is still there in the communities. Only about 20% households of the study area are able to collect the second installment of government support for relief. In comparison of this situation, the support packages brought by this project in the communities were very effective and timely.

Over 90% respondents in this study said that the project was fairly efficient for implementation of activities and delivery of inputs in the context of earthquake recovery. Nobody said about delays, hassles, lingering, and hierarchy in activity delivery. This is the witness of the beneficiaries that efficiency of the project was good and above the level of satisfaction.

### **D. Preliminary Assessment of Resilience**

Resilience assuming as community capacity to deal cope with social as well as natural risk factors resiliency improved through the TaiwanICDF funded project has been summarized different heading.

#### **1. Income and capacity:**

Beneficiaries are oriented, from very beginning of project, on different livelihood opportunities possible base on their existing capabilities and assets. Project applied approach to support though livelihood implement plan (LIP) for on farm beneficiaries and business plan (BP) for off farm beneficiaries. While preparing plan they were oriented from a day orientation and prepared their own plan next day. Similarly, beneficiaries trained from

technical training on the field they planned as livelihood options from LIP and BP. Not limiting to this, project staffs provided follow up support through household, group and cooperative visit. Besides, people are trained from different capacity enhancement training from project support.

Subsistence farmer now have been producing vegetables, livestock and off farm products for market purpose, have sold their product in market thereby have increased income. Income tracking done in different period shows that income has increased after support. But it is worthy to site evident from end evaluation report. According to end evaluation report household income has been increased by 22.4 % as compared to baseline.

Increased income and enhanced capacity has developed household as well as community's resiliency.

## **2. Stabilized income and food consumption score:**

Household income previous to earthquake was more remittance dependent which is less stable than income from local opportunities. Earthquake hit on people's livelihood and income source thereby income became more unstable for a year at least after earthquake. According to end evaluation report income share from remittance as compared to baseline has drastically reduced whereas income has increased from local income source like business, agriculture, wages etc. This is signal of income stability. End evaluator further writes: "A total of 43% respondents said that their income is stable. Many respondents said that the income coming from on-farm activities are stable because it is under their own control. The respondents have said that income coming from remittance is not stable because they may not be able to send their youth always abroad for earning from unskilled works".

Regarding food diversity, there was very less diversity on food consumption particularly for poor household. Based on joint livelihood assessment done six month after earthquake 10.9% HH of Gorkha were under poor FCS and 17.5% are under borderline. Food consumption was not stable that time because of earthquake lost, unstable income and decreased production. End evaluation reports that no household in evaluation area is under either of poor or borderline FCS. Among the surveyed, 37.5% households are in acceptable range where as 62.5% households are above acceptable level. Looking at the source of food, a total of 55.8% of these food items are managed from their own production, 44.1% food items are purchased part and partial from market and 0.1% food items are managed from bartering with their neighbors. This indicate that food consumption pattern is stable than baseline.



Food items added in daily meal of households after this intervention though increased income, productivity and product diversification on their farm.

Both income and food consumption stability help to increase household resiliency

### **3. Functioning community organization**

Community organizations like group and cooperatives are functioning now. Well-functioning self-help community organization organized people and provide a sense of social as well as financial security to an extent. Six cooperatives working with project and all total 71 farmers groups have been organizing households in their own frame. Functioning community organization helps to minimize social and financial risk of their members thereby support to develop resiliency.

### **4. Linked with service provider**

The linkages between farmers, agro-vets, government service providers, and other market actors initiated by the project has helped farmers begin relationships with concerned stakeholders. This is likely to assist the farmers in expanding the market of their cultivated products. Moreover, collection center<sup>2</sup> initiated under co-operative management has ensured proper marketing of products and has created a vertical link among input suppliers, producers, and people and institutions involved in product marketing (collection centers). Now, weekly haat bazaar is in operation and CARE is working to channelize more product from CC. This relationship is likely to longevity of the action initiated. Besides this, from different training farmers are aware about service available from government agencies. Cooperatives and associated groups help member to increase access with service provider and extension service.

### **5. Productive structure and productivity**

In total 17 new irrigation schemes were constructed and 2 were rehabilitated from second phase project support. These are in function under water user committee's management. Crop productivity from a crop as well as increased crop number in a year has been increased after improved irrigation facility available. Farmers are switched towards more marketable crop from previously grown less profitable cereal crop. In order to increase household income semi commercial vegetable and livestock as well as profitable off farm business support with relevant training has been provided to 715 households. Home garden support

and agri machinery support also has increased product as well as labor productivity. As result of different project activity productivity and thereby profitability of beneficiary household has increased which obviously increased resiliency.

## **6. Insurance**

Farmers particularly livestock beneficiaries are linked with insurance agencies and have initiated to take insurance service. Insurance reduce risk and helps to develop resiliency.

## **Overall Assessment and Recommendations**

### **A. Overall Assessment**

Gorkha Food Security and Livelihood Enhancement Project's activities were designed in context of disastrous earthquake and its negative impact on poor people's livelihood . The activities of the project were divided into different components. End evaluator was called to assess overall project performance. Concluding the overall performance assessment he writes:

While listening to several respondents, some of the components are more impressive than others. All of the project outputs (activities) planned in the project document are successfully delivered. The majority of outputs are being converted into the outcomes. Some of the outcomes are observed nearly at expected level of achievement but it may take time to note the real impacts of such outcomes.

In overall, this project has achieved all expected results. Some of the beneficiaries are able to make their income at least double after the project intervention. Making income double in one year time is more than expected result. Based on this result, an assumption can be made that the same beneficiary can make their income triple and more in coming years. Similarly, there is also possibility of gaining its multiple effects to other similar potential members and nearby communities.

As a summary of collected information from sample villages by different tools, this evaluation mission is pleased to conclude that the project is successful in terms of achievements against set outputs and outcomes regarding the impact, there are some indications noted but not the real impact. It is difficult to measure the real impact of a project's support within a year time. Some of the activities are just completed and some of the productions are in starting stage.

The evaluation mission can assume that the started productions and completed activities will yield good impacts in future. The biggest achievement is that the project was able to show benefits to the vulnerable people. For example, the project initiated vegetable cultivation and selling in local market. Some of the progressive farmers have sold at least

some vegetables and got additional income last year. Now, they are motivated to enlarge their farms in coming season. Therefore, an assumption can be made that the farmers who have seen and experienced the additional income will continue his/her production in future and will be able to harvest increased income. There are several such examples in all components of this project. When there is increased income, his/her livelihood will automatically be better-off.

## **B. Lessons**

Some of important lessons available from community consultation during end evaluation are:

### **1. Impact from a short project:**

If the modality and approach is selected in a right way, a short project can also yield some indications of impacts in the communities. Some of the examples of off-farm support can be taken from this project. One vulnerable Dalit is able increase his/her income by 100% in one year. Not only increment but also there are good basis for continuation of such increased income. The number of such farmers is not big in this project but this an exemplary evidence collected by this evaluation.

### **2. Organizational image:**

The organizational image in district and at community level is very important to make any of the project successful. One of the major reasons of achieving good results of ICDF project in Gorkha is the image of CARE Nepal and SSICDC in the district. Therefore, the organizational commitment and quality standard in all projects are very important for INGO and local implementing partner. This leaning is also connected with the process and principles of partner selection.

Since from very beginning of first phase inception in district and VDC level, TaiwanICDF was introduced as a funding partner for the project. Project staff in different discussion, training and meeting presented TaiwanICDF as fund provider. Moreover, TaiwanICDF logo was placed in different visibility material ie sticker in distributed goods, hording board. Besides this, intensive presence of TaiwanICDF personal (volunteer, expert and visitors in supervision mission visit) in field also helped to establish among community TaiwanICDF as important donor working in humanitarian field.

### **3. Dependency syndrome:**

Outside supported projects are creating more dependency in the communities. It is a general trend in Nepal which is being increased indirectly by this project as well. Particularly in Gorkha after the earthquake, various organizations and individuals distributed relief support in cash and in kind. This project also came as a follow up project of so many relief supports. Some of the communities are over supported. This situation has created more dependency at present than before the earthquake. This syndrome is more visible among Dalits and so called vulnerable groups.

### **C. Recommendations**

Recommendations are about beneficiary communities and stakeholders suggestion during the consultation. Recommendations available at end assessment consultation are presented hereunder.

#### **1. Cluster approach:**

The project activities are scatted all over six VDCs. There are good productions and examples in different corners. However, market does not go there until there is a sizeable volume of production. Several of beneficiaries and informants expressed their views that the project could be even more effective if cluster approach could have been applied. When there is a production culture in a whole area, sustainability aspect remains high. District government agencies are also with a view point that a cluster level visibility is needed for out and upscaling the successes. From this point of view, this mission would like to recommend CARE and donor to think about it for similar projects in future.

#### **2. Cash for work:**

Cash for work component of this project was very relevant in the context of earthquake recovery. The selected beneficiaries of this component are happy to note that they got double benefits as they completed their priority works and also got some cash as their wage. However, most of this support was utilized in irrigation cannel improvement. The irrigation is important for those who are having land resources. The poorest of the poor often do not have land they benefit only from cash earned from wages. Need to seek the further approach to benefit extreme-poor from developed structure too.

#### **3. PVA tools:**

CARE Nepal tried to identify priority beneficiaries by using Underlying Causes of Poverty and Vulnerability Assessment (UCPVA) tool. The local representatives of the sampled VDCs comment that UCPVA tool looks impressive for identification of vulnerable households but it does not recognize surrounding factors of the communities. They strongly said that until and

unless neighbors do not support, an ultra-poor household cannot come out of poverty. The vulnerable household supported by the project must be able to win a good wishes of his/her neighbors. The project related to livelihood must consider this reality of the communities in future.

#### **4. Single crop:**

As this was a short duration project, it is natural that selected beneficiaries have started one or two vegetables in their farm. In the contest of this project area, the popular ones noted are tomato and cauliflower. For a quick benefit, this is a good approach. But in a long run, single cropping has high risk. If some disaster takes place in one or two crops, famers get a big loss and come back to the same situation. The respondents appreciated technical training but did not admit enough knowledge on associated risks and risk bearing capacity. The similar projects in future should consider the longer term importance of crop diversification.

#### **5. Cooperatives:**

This project has supported some of the existing cooperatives. Some cooperatives has been formed during the project life. Except one or two, the most of the cooperatives in the project area are still young and in the process of functioning. In this situation, it will be worth to manage a post project support provision for some time particularly for strengthening the capacity of such cooperatives.

#### **6. Package of practices:**

This project has achieved several impressive results in different communities. Some of the achievements are looking more innovative and profitable. It is good that the project has started documenting successful stories. Accordingly, this evaluation mission has also documented four successful stories. However, these collections may not be going back to the same communities. Therefore, not only success stories, it would be worth to document a 'package of good practices' as a learning document for the use of communities. This kind of document or manual could be useful for the project

### **Long term and short term solution for sustainability**

(Title addition as suggested by Dr Lee during supervision mission)

Semi commercial farmer and off farm beneficiaries sustain their business from business income. However they still need more incubation and follow up support for business graduation. Home garden is concept of advancing available kitchen garden into nutritional diversity garden. TaiwanICDF funded second phase project supported to introduce concept with some plant and small livestock introduction. This concept still has to advance. Productive agricultural structure developed from project run by users committee because of

its utility. Agri machineries supported have been running by operator under cooperative supervision. Income from machinery use helps to continue those machinery. However, spares parts are not available in access area in case repair and maintenance need. Service provider has to be developed.

From the experience CARE as well as implementing partner have been realizing need of post project support. Here is relevant to cite a para from end evaluation report. He writes: "Over 60% respondents of this study are confident that over 50% activities initiated by this project will be sustainable. However, expect that other factors around them will remain favorable. Of course, the respondents want someone or some agencies for follow up support in future"

For the sustainability reason CARE is planning a post project support from own fund. This support plan focus on developing capacity of group, cooperatives and service providers to discharge function in sustain way. Using the improved level of mobilization support and paid input service from service providers beneficiaries continue their action. In addition, post project support schemes plan to provide incubation support to the semi commercial as well as off farm business beneficiaries with business awareness training. Further, we work on demand (pull) side for channelize product in local and out market. Local institution, cooperative, lead the process so that action will be continue in future too.

In concern to technical support, which was highlighted in supervision mission, farmers' access to governmental as well as private service provider will be strengthened through collective approach like group and cooperative approach.

#### **Target vs achievement**

Target in each indicator is from DMF of the proposal and achievements are drawn from end evaluation report



Result	Design Summary	Indicators	Target	Achievement	Comment/Justification
Impact	To Enhance Food Security and Livelihoods of the earthquake affected people particularly women, poor, marginalized and socially excluded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working VDCs have improved at least one indicator on Integrated Phase Food Security Classification (IPFC) (1)</li> <li>.....% of targeted household increased FCS by 7 points thereby % of HHs under poor and borderline FCS were reduced by .... % ( 50% and 3%)</li> </ul>	1  50%  3%	1  60%  17.5%	FCS was counted taking no of food group consumed per weed by surveyed HHs and multiplying by standard weightage ( done by consultant
	1800 Earthquake affected households' have enhanced food security and livelihoods by the end of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Product of ...% targeted household marketed and annual income increased by 20% (40%)</li> <li>.... % of targeted HHs report increased food security from the initiatives. (60%)</li> </ul>	40%  60%	60%  79.2%	% income and food security was calculated taking last year end evaluation as baseline ( by consultant) Surveyed HHs were 216
Outputs	<b>Output 1:</b> 1080 ( 900 from first phase and 180 new) vulnerable HHs have increased food security from sustainable agro-based livelihoods through capacity building of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded (PVSE) farmers and relevant local institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.....% of targeted small holder HHs particularly PVSE HHs have adopted diversified home garden (60%)</li> <li>At least 5 irrigation schemes were re/constructed and increased cropping intensity of 100 households and 80 HHs earn from cash for work that is enough to meet family food basket for 2 month</li> </ul>	60%  5 schemes  100 HHs  80 HHs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>98%  19  200HHs  100HHs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of HHs having HG among surveyed were change in %</li> <li>No. of constructed schemes counted</li> <li>No. of HHs using irrigation and adding crop after irrigation counted</li> <li>No. of HHs earning more then 14000 NRs from CfW counted</li> </ul> ( by end evaluator)
	<b>Output 2:</b> Enhanced Commercialization in Agriculture in the earthquake affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...% targeted HHs have increased production using climate smart and gender friendly agricultural technologies ( like water efficient technology etc) (60%)</li> <li>..... % of targeted households produce at least one commodity</li> </ul>	60%  50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>68.3 %  80%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of HHs using Climate smart technology among surveyed changed into %</li> <li>No. of HH among surveyed HHs</li> </ul>

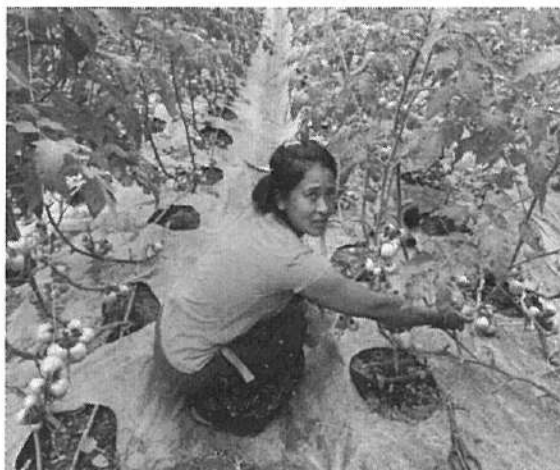
communities, particularly PVSE, through capacity development, increased engagement in value chain, and better access to markets of 600 HHs ( 150 new and 450 from first phase beneficiaries)	<p>for market propose (50%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ..# of cooperatives functional for agri-input supply and product marketing through ..# collection centres channelize product outside village market ( 6 and 4)</li> <li>▪ ...% of targeted farmers have experience improved market access (60%)</li> </ul>	6coop  4 CC	6  (3+1)	<p>producing for market changed in to %</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number counted</li> </ul> <p>No. of HHs saying market access among surveyed changed in to % ( by evaluator)</p> <p>Gankhu, Harmi and Chhoprak were constructed from TaiwanICDF budget. Now CARE is working with those CC for channelizing product. Next one is in Barpak building was constructed with another project of CARE but functionalization cost ( ie mobilization, marketing support, tools required for marketing) was incurred from TaiwanICDF project.</p>
<b>Output 3:</b> Enhanced entrepreneurship in the earthquake affected communities, particularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ...% trained individuals received support to implement BP. ( 80%)</li> <li>▪ ...% of targeted individuals upgrade traditional occupation into business model (50%)</li> </ul>	▪ 80%  50%	▪ 100 %  100%	No of HHs in each indicator found benefited among surveyed changed in to %

	PVSE through capacity development and access to finance and market of 120 (new) HHs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ...% of trained and start up supported individual assume upgraded business as main source of employment and thereby as main source of income. (40%)</li> </ul>	40%	50%	( was identified by end evaluator, reference is end evaluation)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ .....% of trained individuals have financial access (through cooperative) to run business. (30%)</li> </ul>	30%	50%	

## CASE STORIES

### Dreams turned to reality

Sarita Gurung is from Ranglung, 2 Rural Municipality. She has been engaged in agriculture for last 5-6 years and wanted to do tomato farming for her livelihood. Therefore, she tried different methods for tomato farming but results were not on her side. She was more interested in the tunnel farming but results were still the same. She had a faith on herself and kept on trying new methods that she learn from various sources including television shows related to agriculture. Despite of her hard-work and interest, she couldn't get the best result. Gradually, she was losing her interest in tomato farming.



Things were not going on her side but she knew that after every storm, there's a rainbow. So, she didn't lose hope and was trying her best to get the best result from her farming. It was the time when organizations started helping earthquake affected communities to uplift their lifestyle through different programs. A three day program was organized to teach people about different techniques of agriculture. Tunnel Farming was one of the techniques that was taught in the program. Having heard about the program, they were very excited to attend it and learn the techniques that were going to them.

They were very happy after the program as they were provided with a tunnel, required seeds, pesticides and other necessary farming equipments. They were also taught to use proper methods for effective farming. Applying the learned techniques, the tomato farm started getting better day after day which made them very joyful.

They have leased a land in Ranglung for their livelihood. Besides tomato farming, they also own a guest house with a hotel. So, usually they have a good flow of people. Since she has her own tomato and vegetables farm, these days she serves guests with organic food that she produces with good hospitality.

Sarita says, “After three days program of agriculture training, our livelihood has changed and tomato farming and its business have started making a lot of profit”. These days, they have been able to grow vegetables and tomatoes even in the off season from the techniques they learned in the training. According to Sarita’s husband Kumar, they want to continue growing vegetables and tomatoes mostly in off season because the vegetables cost comparatively higher at those times and good profit can be made.

Sarita and her husband Kumar are very thankful to the training which helped them uplift their economical status. Sarita always hoped to have a good tomato farm and her hopes have finally become reality. With the help of training, her dream came into reality and she is very hopeful that they could secure a good future for themselves and their eight years old son.

### **My Wife, My Guide**

Somraj Shrestha is from Siranchowk, Rural Municipality 4 who has a wife and a child. His wife owns a tailoring shop. Coming from economically backward family with most responsibilities on him, it was getting harder for him to meet the necessity of the family. With



the hope of securing his family's future, he went to Kuwait. Although he worked hard to fulfill his dreams, his luck was not on his favor. He had to return back home after two years empty handed without any savings. He was only able to pay the money that he borrowed while going to Kuwait.

Everyone's hopes were shattered as Somraj couldn't fulfill the expectation of the family. Seeing everyone disappointed, he thought of going to another foreign country for employment and bring the best result out to make them happy. His wife, Santoshi felt the pain and suffering of her husband and didn't want him to go. She suggested him to work with her in tailoring shop.

Coming from patriarchal society, Somraj laughed over the idea at first and thought it would be waste of time. There were many questions going on in his mind like what will people think of him, will he be able to do it or not and so on. But somehow Santoshi was able to convince him to work together. As the time passes by, he learnt to sew clothes like his wife and it gradually became his interest and new profession.



Back in the time, Santoshi was the only one who was sewing and looking after the shop. So, they had limited equipment for tailoring but as soon as Somraj learned, it was getting difficult for them to work together and efficiently. Buying other extra equipments wasn't even possible because of the economical condition of the family. So, only one of them could work in the shop and someone would look after the baby.

While they were seeking for other alternatives, CARE Nepal had come up with its food security and livelihood program to work with the communities of Siranchowk and help them uplift their livelihood. So, they shared their need with the representatives of the program and after looking at their condition, organization decided to help and supported necessary equipment which was needed for two people to work in the shop.

Now, Somraj and Santoshi are working together and it has become easier and their economic condition has become stable and secure. The interesting part of their story is that their tailoring shop only sews the clothes of women and Somraj also learned the same.

Most of the women in the community go to their tailoring shop and their business is going well, however men have no option but to go to other tailoring shop. Looking at this scenario, Santoshi wants her husband to learn and sew the clothes of men. Soon Somraj will be going to Kathmandu or Gorkha to learn to sew the clothes of men. They want their shop to be a first choice in the town which sews clothes for both men and women.

According to Somraj, their monthly earning apart from the rent of the shop is about twenty-five thousand to thirty thousand. The economic condition of their family has become much more stable and he doesn't think about going abroad now. He thanks his wife for supporting and guiding him. He truly feels that his wife is a guide, a mentor who showed him the right path.



Fund Received	Budget Amount	Fund Received	Expenditure	Balance
	USD	USD	USD	USD
2017/2/17	500,000.00	\$ (250,000.00)	1st Transfer	
2017/8/9		\$ (200,000.00)	2nd Transfer	\$ 45,442.07
	\$ 500,000.00	\$ (450,000.00)	495,442.07	\$ 45,442.07

Summary

Budget Headings	Budget	Total Expenses as of Nov 2017	Balance	% burn rate
Result 1	84,868	108,689	-	128%
Result 2	114,450	107,782	6,667.60	94%
Result 3	39,750	32,658	7,091.79	82%
Other Activities	21,949	13,932	8,016.57	63%
<b>Sub-Total R1,R2,R3</b>	<b>261,017</b>	<b>263,062</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101%</b>
Sub-grantee	47,165	45,911	1,254.19	97%
Staff Subsistence/Housing- Monitoring	5,984	5,722	261.52	96%
Personnel	98,357	94,327	4,029.83	96%
Operations	19,177	18,789	388.40	98%
Equipments	1,700	1,638	61.54	96%
<b>Sub Total Others</b>	<b>172,383</b>	<b>166,388</b>	<b>5,995.48</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Direct Cost</b>	<b>433,400</b>	<b>429,449</b>	<b>3,950.81</b>	<b>99%</b>
ICR (13%)	66,600	65,993	607.12	99%
<b>Total Grant Amount</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>495,442</b>	<b>4,557.93</b>	<b>99%</b>

20/11/16

No.	Item Description	Particulars	Unit	Quantity	Mths / Days / Freq/Kgs	Total Cost in USD	Expenses as of Nov'17	Total Expenses as of Nov 2017	Balance	Burn rate
A1	Result 1	Result 1				84,868	108,689	108,689	23,821	128%
1		Home garden concept training to selected household	event	30	1	4,500	4,752	4,752	252	105%
2		Diversity Kit Support (vegetable, fruit and fodder) including tool and micro irrigation support	HH	900	1	21,600	22,131	22,131	531	102%
3		Organic fertilizer promotion, shed improvement for better composting and urine use and vermin composting	HH	52	1	2,600	2,766	2,766	166	105%
4		Small water efficient irrigation support (water harvest tank, canal repairing, pipe irrigation, drip etc) and rehabilitation	Scheme	5	1	54,668	77,792	77,792	23,124	142%
5		Home garden concept training to staff (3 days training)	event	1	1	1,500	1,247	1,247	253	83%
A2	Result 2	Result 2				114,450	107,782	107,782	6,668	94%
6		LP orientation and preparation	event	20	1	3,000	3,084	3,084	84	103%
7		Technical training (2 days)	event	20	1	5,000	4,137	4,137	863	83%
8		Exposure visit for model farmer	event	1	1	4,000	3,775	3,775	225	94%
9		Start up input support for semi commercial farmer	HH	600	1	60,000	65,943	65,943	5,943	110%
10		Labor saving small machine support (Hand thresher, power tiller, reaper, planter, corn sheller, rice reaper etc)	Cooperative	4	1	10,400	12,398	12,398	1,998	119%
11		Capacity enhancement of cooperative (training, workshop, business plan preparation, agro input supply training and licensing)	event	1	1	1,350	923	923	427	68%
12		Collection center construction, upgrading and establishment support (cooperative building cum collection center)	num	3	1	27,000	13,682	13,682	13,318	51%
13		Networking and communication channeling workshop with market actors and market information mechanism established	event	2	1	1,500	1,937	1,937	437	129%
14		Training to field staff on semi-commercial production concept (including 18 LSP)	event	1	1	2,200	1,904	1,904	296	87%
A3	Result 3	Result 3				39,750	32,658	32,658	7,092	82%
15		Orientation on business plan and business plan preparation	event	5	1	1,250	741	741	509	59%
16		Traditional occupation upgrading support and agro base enterprise initiation support	individual	120	1	36,000	30,321	30,321	5,679	84%
17		Training to field staff on business plan and LP preparation	event	1	1	2,500	1,596	1,596	904	64%
A4	Other Activities	Other Activities				21,949	13,932	13,932	8,017	63%
18		Short term consultancy: experts and volunteers	Lump sum	1	1	11,199	3,355	3,355	7,844	30%
19		District level stakeholder inception	event	1	1	450	323	323	127	72%
20		Village level stakeholder inception	event	6	1	600	617	617	17	103%
21		Quarterly progress review meeting with partner and cooperative and reporting	event	1	3	300	400	400	100	133%
22		Documentation and publication: good practices, visibility and branding case study, documentary and training book on semi commercial production	Lump sum	1	1	4,600	3,792	3,792	808	82%
23		End line survey	times	1	1	4,000	4,593	4,593	593	115%
24		Coordination meeting and day celebration	times	4	1	800	852	852	52	107%
		<b>Total Activity Cost</b>				<b>261,017</b>	<b>263,062</b>	<b>263,062</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>101%</b>
25		Sub-grantee	Ref			47,165	45,911	45,911	1,254	97%
26		Staff Subsidence/Housing- Monitoring	Ref			5,984	5,722	5,722	262	96%
27		Personnel	Ref			98,357	94,327	94,327	4,030	96%
28		Operations	Ref			19,177	18,789	18,789	388	98%
29		Equipments	Ref			1,700	1,638	1,638	62	96%
		<b>Total Direct Cost</b>				<b>433,400</b>	<b>429,449</b>	<b>429,449</b>	<b>3,951</b>	<b>99%</b>
30		ICR 13%				66,600.00	65,992.88	65,992.88	607.12	99%
		<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>500,000.00</b>	<b>495,442.07</b>	<b>495,442.07</b>	<b>4,557.93</b>	<b>99%</b>



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CARE Nepal  
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1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 2018  
IL # 5049

TO : Timothy T. Y. Hsiang  
Secretary General  
International Cooperation and Development Fund,  
12F, NO.9, Lane 62, Tien Mou West Rd.  
Taipei 11157, Taiwan.

FROM : Birbhadra Lamichhane  
Finance Controller  
CARE Nepal

SUBJECT : Phase II ICDF- Final Installment Transfer Request

In connection with the implementation of the program activities, we kindly request you to transfer the final installment of USD 50,000.00 (US \$ Fifty thousand only) as per our signed MOU to cover the ongoing project expenditure.

Our Bank details are as follows:

Account Name	: CARE INC
Bank	: Sun Trust Bank
Bank Address	: 25 Park Place, NE Atlanta, GA 30303
Account No.	: 8801492946
Swift / BIC Code	: SNTRUS3A
BANK Transit/ABA	: 061000104
Currency of Account	: USD
Beneficiary Name	: CARE Nepal

Thank you very much for your continued support

With regards,

SB: BL  
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805.1

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