



MCC Progress Report

## PROJECT AND PARTNER INFORMATION

Date Submitted: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

Time Period Covered by the Report: 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Project Title: Reaching Across Border for HIV prevention

Project #:

Partner Organization: Youths in Empowerment Sector Nepal (YES Nepal), Achham, Interdependent Society Surkhet (ISS) and Welfare Association for Children Tikapur (WACT), Education Training and Service Centre Nepal (ETSCN), Makwanpur

Project Location: Achham, Kailali, Surkhet and Makwanpur

## PROGRESS ON PROJECT OUTCOMES

Use 2<sup>nd</sup> page table to record progress.

## UPDATE ON PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

RAB program is being implemented in 4 districts where 14 PLHA groups were formed with total 286 members. During this reporting period, 2 members of PLHA support group passed away in Surkhet district. PLHA are suffering from economic crisis along with infection. So, some of them are psychologically disturbed. Due to psychological problem, one member attempted suicide while the reason is still unknown for another case. In present situation, total 59 PLHAs are affiliated to the groups in 4 VDCs of Surkhet district.

## REPORTING ON MCC RESOURCES

Financial:

Received from MCC: 20, 30,446/-

Total Expenses: 18, 96, 321/-

Material/Food Assistance: X

Personnel: X

## STORIES



## **Context**

### **Social and Economic:**

PLHA are unified in groups in each VDC of the four districts. Members of the groups have a strong bond and they are close as family members. Before joining the groups, PLHA were afraid to disclose their status in their communities. They used to suffer from infections as well as discrimination. At that time, they did not have access to medical facilities. This increased the prevalence, rate of infection and death from HIV/AIDS. To address this grim situation, Sanjal started the RAB project implemented it through its member organisations. The project has been able to form groups and worked to enlighten community about HIV infection and method of prevention.

At present, group members have become more aware about their issues and are themselves capable of spreading awareness in the community. Community people have also become aware and have started supporting the PLHA groups. Group members were encouraged after receiving financial and moral support from their communities as well as from VDC level stakeholders. PLHA are now participating in each and every social event without any fear or hesitation.

As economic problem was another challenge faced by the PLHA, this project supported them with the revolving fund to improve their economic status. The members of the support groups have developed their strategy of saving and borrowing money on a monthly basis. The members of those groups started borrowing money for income generation activities. With the credit support, some have started retail shops, livestock rearing and farming. Such activities have helped them earn money and run their daily life making it a lot easier for them than it was earlier. Now, they are economically empowered and spending their life in dignified manner.

### **Health :**

The project staff have been providing education on health and sanitation, nutrition and ART adherence to promote healthier life in the monthly meetings of PLHA support groups. 95% members of PLHA groups have been enrolled and adhered to ART. They also regularly visit the health centres. Unfortunately, they have not been able to receive regular service due to frequent malfunctioning of the testing equipment. As the repair and maintenance of these equipments takes time, only 75% have benefited from regular testing.

PLHA can get access to ART and other health services. Along with ART, they also need nutritious diet. To promote healthy diet for PLHA, the project has provided vegetable seeds. They have started a kitchen garden where they grow vegetables. Project staff oriented them on preparation method of super flour. Nowadays, PLHA regularly eat super flour as their breakfast.



**Long-Term Impact:** Improved quality of life of PLHIV and migrant workers, strengthened capacity of support group members and sustainability of networks to advocate their rights and access resources.

Outcome	Measuring Change		Outputs	Completed Activities
	Indicator	Progress toward Indicator		
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Improved health of PLHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#of people having regular (twice a year) CD4 count</li> <li># of PLHIV growing vegetables in their kitchen garden</li> </ul>	<p>The project has helped to improve health of PLHIVs by ensuring ART adherence, promoting healthy life style and behaviors. Health education on ART adherence, nutrition, management of opportunistic infections, staying healthy, hygiene and sanitation is given during monthly group meetings and home visits. Vegetable seeds were distributed to PLHIVs in the previous year has been helpful in promoting nutrition and changing eating habits of PLHIVs. They have regularly grown and consumed vegetables on their home garden. The</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1525 students have participated in HIV and AIDS prevention orientation.</li> <li>184 migrants and their spouses and PLHA have been referred to ART and HTC Centre for testing and accessing other health services. Among them, 6 persons have been identified with STI and they are under medication.</li> <li>2309 community members have been oriented on HIV issues.</li> <li>2775 migrants and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High school teaching</li> <li>Community group visit</li> <li>Household visit of Migrants and spouses</li> <li>Orientation and follow up on ART adherence, hygiene sanitation and nutrition</li> <li>Effective mobilization of Information centre</li> <li>Refer to HTC and ART centre</li> <li>Support at ART centre</li> </ul>



		<p>PLHIV avail regular treatment services from the health centers such as TB screening, CD4 count and viral load count. ART adherence among PLHIVs in the support groups is more than 95%.</p> <p>Similarly, more than 95% of PLHIVs in the support groups have managed vegetable gardens and regularly consume produce grown in the vegetable garden.</p>	<p>spouses have been sensitized on HIV issues through home visit by field staff.</p>	
<p><b>Key Changes and Project Adjustments:</b></p>				
<p><b>Outcome 2:</b></p> <p>Increased capacity of support groups and networks to conduct public awareness, outreach and advocacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amount of annual income of PLHIV</li> </ul>	<p>Annual income before receiving support from revolving fund provided by the project used to be nil, especially for single women while male members were forced to go to India to earn their livelihoods. They started different businesses, like, goat raising, vegetable farming, livestock (made money by selling milk) and retail shops. After revolving fund support they have been able to earn an annual income of a minimum of NRS 10,000 to 15,000 (retail</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 PLHA support group have received revolving fund support.</li> <li>Quarterly meeting of PLHA support group has conducted.</li> <li>Half Yearly meeting of PLHA network with stakeholders has been conducted.</li> <li>Regular follow up and monitoring of project activities and financial status by Sanjal's finance and program staff along with Executive Chief. As per the plan and need ED</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly meeting of support group</li> <li>Quarterly meeting of PLHIV network</li> <li>Half Yearly meeting of support group with VDC,HP and stakeholders</li> <li>Revolving fund support</li> <li>Follow up and monitoring</li> <li>Staff Meeting</li> <li>DPAC meeting</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amount of financial support received from VDC, DDC for the betterment of their living and income generation</li></ul>	<p>shops) and a maximum of NRS 50,000 to 60,000 (vegetable farming, by selling milk, running snack shops).</p> <p>The PLHIV support groups and network is growing in capacity to conduct public awareness, outreach and advocacy events. The PLHIV in the support groups facilitated HIV orientation classes in local schools and educated community members on HIV. They also helped PLHIVs in their groups to access treatment services and adopt healthy behaviors. The support groups were able to avail funds from the VDC/Municipality. The PLHIV network conducted advocacy to improve service facilities for PLHIVs in ART centre, better treatment facilities in hospital and blood bank and access to schemes such as scholarship and IG from local schools and organizations. The network has managed to conduct fund raising campaign to support the education of children infected and affected by HIV through donation boxes kept in</p>	<p>of member organization also monitor the program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joint staff meeting has been conducted in each 4 program implementing organization.</li><li>• DPAC meeting has been organized by YES Nepal in Achham. While representative from Sanjal also participated in meeting.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-management of documentation</li></ul>	<p>local hotels. The members of support group have availed scholarship from the local schools for their children. The network also availed funding from the District Development Committee to distribute education materials to 28 infected children. Two support groups received fund from the VDC for income generation. The PLHIV network of Tikapur has also helped to form a support group in Pathariya VDC and Dododhara VDC. The support group in Pathariya was also able to receive funding from the VDC for income generation. The network has been advocating for the rights of PLHIVs.</p> <p>PLHA groups in 11 VDCs have received funds from VDC and DDC ranging from NRS 10,000 to 40,000. Besides this, the women's group in Makwanpur received funding not from a government agency but from an NGO – Setu Nepal the amount for which was an additional NRS 200,000 to the 200,000 they had received the previous year.</p> <p>All the chairpersons, treasurers and secretaries of 14 groups have</p>		
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	<p>(Account keeping of support groups, meeting minutes)</p>	<p>received financial management training. The training was basic to enable the board members to understand the basics of account keeping. They are able to do simple account keeping and write the minutes of the meetings. Where the treasurers (women with very low literacy level) are not able to keep accounts the general secretaries help them by working along with them and explaining to them about the status of the revolving fund, thereby helping them to keep track of saving and credit.</p>		
<p><b>Key Changes and Project Adjustments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the project plan, revolving fund support had been allocated for 14 PLHA support groups from the four districts. 13 groups submitted request letters and plan for revolving fund and were able to get Rs.10, 000 each in this reporting period. While support group of Ghugurkot VDC of Achham district was not able to submit the necessary documents within the given deadline, so revolving fund will be transferred to that group in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the project period.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Outcome 3:</b></p> <p>Improved knowledge and documentation of what strategies are most effective for reducing vulnerability and improving health status of PLHIV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning integrated in the new plan of MCC</li> </ul>			

**Monitoring:**

- Project staff and executive director of member organizations have been regularly monitoring the project activities on a monthly basis. They have conducted workshop (staff meeting) and shared their findings, learning and made a plan for the following month. Similarly, monthly reports and field updates were provided to Sanjal. Sanjal staff members also monitor the project activities on a quarterly basis as well as required by the project. Additionally, member organizations submit mid-term and project completion report to Sanjal before submitting it to MCC.

**Learning:**

- Small support and initiatives from the project can lead to changes in practice such as eating habits. In the previous two years, the project provided vegetable seeds to promote nutrition of PLHIVs to influence their eating habits. The PLHIVs have continued to grow vegetables in their garden and consume it even though the project now does not provide vegetable seeds. So, providing vegetable seeds in the previous year helped to change eating practices of PLHIVs.
- Most of the PLHA children are orphans. They are staying with their relatives who take care of them. However, some guardians are too old to look after these children. So, they are on their own. During hot summer days in the terai region (the plains), schools run classes in the morning. PLHA children need to take medicine twice a day at 8am and 8pm. Students often miss their morning dose of the medicine. This leads to increased risk of severity of their condition. To minimize the risk and death, this project has been creating an awareness but only awareness programmes are not enough to minimize the risk of HIV infection. There is a need of a holistic (Education, Health and Nutrition) program for infected children to bring a change in their lives.
- Need to provide vocational training to PLHA so that it will support them to start their own small enterprises. It will help them uplift their economic, social status and live a better life.

