
Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE)
Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM)
Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project (CFGORRP)
Field Visit Report

Team Members:

Ms. Anita Adhikari, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (MEO)

Overall objective of the field visit/ mission:

The overall objective of this visit was to join the field monitoring team from UNDP Regional Office, Biratnagar to conduct monitoring of the project activities in Mahottari and Siraha districts; and to monitor the street drama events planned in Mahottari.

The visit was made from 25th- 30th May, 2016.

1. Key Activities Carried Out During the Field Visit/ Mission:

The details of the key activities carried out during the field visit is described in the table below.

Date/ Day	Districts/VDCs visited	Persons/ Groups interacted with	Description of Field visit Program/Activities
Day 1: May 25, 2016	Kathmandu-Biratnagar-Lahan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to Biratnagar from Kathmandu – by air and arrived Biratnagar at 8:30 am • Travel to Field Coordination Office (FCO), Lahan, Siraha by Office Vehicle and reached office at 11:45 am.
	FCO, Lahan	Mr. Rup Narayan Yadav, District Project Coordinator (DPC) and Mr. Suresh Chaudhary, District Project Officer (DPO)	<p>Monitoring team from Biratnagar, briefed about the detail visit plan from 25 to 26 May 2016. Team of two field monitoring officers from Biratnagar Regional Office, MEO from Project and District Project Officers from respective districts teamed up in two groups for parallel monitoring of the two VDCs, on the same day.</p> <p>After the brief meeting, one team comprising of Mr. Suresh Chaudhary- DPO, and Mr. Ram Narayan Jha, Field Monitoring Officer, visited Pipra Pra. Pi, Siraha and other team consisted of MEO and Ms. Sapana Pariyar, Field Monitoring Officer visited Tulsipur, Siraha. Two vehicles from Project and Regional office have been used for the monitoring purpose.</p>
	Tulsipur VDC, Siraha	Meeting with CDMC, Taskforces members and beneficiaries in VDC Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observed the Radhakrishna embankment site along Gagan River – Under construction • Observed ETW installed in VDC office premises • Observed Safe Evacuation center- under construction • Observed LSAR equipment • Observed rain gauge and hoarding boards <p>Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team has been briefed by the CDMC and users committee members that due to the heavy rainfall on May 23, 2016 some gabion revetment works in the Radha Krishna Embankment site have been displaced and submerged in the river. Construction of embankment was at the final stage. The pre monsoon is active this year, which caused damage in the embankment. <p>However, committee members ensured that the gabion boxes will be taken out and the embankment will be renovated after the river gets back to its normal depth. They also ensured</p>

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			<p>that the construction will be kept in high priority and will complete it before the monsoon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elevated tube well (ETW) installed in the VDC office premises is found functional. Hoarding board with messages on safe evacuation center has been installed in the VDC office premises is found to be at the strategic location. The quality of work is found to be at satisfactory level. • Observation of the safe evacuation center which is under construction has been made. Foundation works and roofing of the evacuation center has been completed. The finishing works in the floor and painting will be completed soon after the fund release, according to the committee. • The LSAR and FA equipment handed to the Taskforces in Bauniya-2 are found to be kept in a safe place and equipment are found in a good condition. • There is a significant growth of grass on the embankment site in Tulsipur-2. Hence, the greenery in the embankment site has been improved.
	Night Stay in Lahan		
Day 2: May 26, 2016	Travel to Mahottari from Lahan, Siraha		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reached Bardibas at 9 am. Then after, two groups have been formed. One group comprising of Ms. Sapana Pariyar and Mr. Dinesh Kumar Shah, DPO travelled to Nainhi, Mahottari and other team of MEO and Mr. Ram Narayan Jha travelled to Sarpallo VDC, Mahottari.
	Sarpallo, Mahottari	Meeting with CDMC members, taskforce members and beneficiaries at the safe evacuation center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observed the embankment site along the Akushi river- a tributary of Ratu. • Observed Evacuation Center –under construction • Observed the Elevated Tube Well (ETW) and LSAR equipment handed to the Taskforces in the area <p>Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of embankment is much appreciated by the vulnerable communities as their risk to flood has been decreased and they feel safe than before. They also shared that households along the river side used to leave their land barren during monsoon as almost every year the farm lands have been flooded and production used to be washed away. After the embankment, the households started vegetable farming during the monsoon as well. The locals estimate that

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			<p>around 10 Bigha of farm lands are now cultivated in Sarpallo during monsoon, as an impact of embankment.</p> <p>Locals also informed that the embankment site is also used as trail by the vulnerable communities. It facilitates mostly the school students to commute schools everyday due to long route via village roads. In addition, the existing village roads are muddy and are not convenient for walking especially during monsoon.</p> <p>Urmila Mahato and Anita Devi Mahato shared how it was uncomfortable to shelter at other's home located at safest place in village during monsoon. They informed that they used to leave their houses for weeks and months and shelter at other's home around the safest locations at village, in the fear of flood. They also shared during 2069 BS, a young boy aged 16 years old has lost his life due to the flood. Construction of safe evacuation center is at final stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of safe evacuation center is at final stage. It is reported that community people have mobilized additional financial resource of around NRP 3,00,000 from the Temple Fund, and invested the amount to elevate the evacuation center site by about 7-8 ft. It will facilitate the easy access of vulnerable people to the evacuation center from the road head. However, half of the concrete structure of ETW has been submerged into the soil, as community people elevated the site by filling soil in the area. Committee has informed that additional structure/pathway will be built to have direct and easy access to tube well from the road. • Beneficiaries also requested to build toilet nearby the center and additional centers at VDC as only one center won't cater shelter for all vulnerable living in other wards of the VDC. • LSAR and FA equipment are found kept in a safe place with high community ownership. Vulnerable people are aware on the taskforces and their role during the flood.
	Mahottari, Jaleswor	VDC Secretary, Nainhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief meeting with the VDC secretary, Mr. Rajesh Sharma was held in Jaleswor, at office. He briefed the ongoing activities at Nainhi VDC. Team found the Secretary is supportive towards project and its sustainability in long run.

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	Night Stay in Janakpur		
Day 3: May 27, 2016	Travel from Janakpur to Lahan, Siraha		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel by Office vehicle and arrived FCO at around 10:30 am.
	Preparation for the presentation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Field Monitoring Officers
	De-briefing of field findings	DPC, DPO and Mr. Prem Shahi, Admin Finance Associate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debriefing presentation was made by Ms. Sapana Pariyar on the findings of the two days monitoring visit. She briefed that the monitoring was done based on the checklist and questionnaire. • FCO team has also briefed the team about project modality and approaches. FCO team clarified on the field issues raised by the monitoring team such as not well functioning VDRMC at Pipra Pra Pi due to political disturbance, vacant position of DPO for long duration and frequent change of VDC secretary. Bioengineering made during last year could not be sustained due to drought and open grazing in the embankment sites. Project also realized that there should be toilet facilities nearby the Safe Evacuation Center but could not implement as it has not been planned in project document. However, this will be tried to address during formulation and implementation of Village Disaster Management Plans. <p>The team concluded the monitoring visit with the debriefing presentation.</p>
	FCO Lahan		<p>Briefly discussed about the plan for 28-29 May, 2016 with FCO team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project team will coordinate with Dr. Mingma Sherpa and observe the rehearsal of street drama at Janakpur on 28 May, 2016 and will visit the project areas in Mahottari district on May 29 2016, to monitor four events of street drama as per plan.
	Night Stay in Lahan, Siraha		

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Day 4: May 28, 2016	Travel from Lahan, Siraha to Janakpur		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrived in Janakpur, Dhanusha at 1 pm by office vehicle.
	Janakpur	Dr. Mingma Sherpa, Service Provider and Mithila Natya Samuha	<p>Observed the street drama rehearsal on the theme of Flood Risk Management at theatre of Mithila Natya Samuha.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the rehearsal, feedbacks were provided to the Mithila Natya Samuha on following topics: Missing the First Aid concept – then after, added a first aid scene after rescue of flood victims Linking the flash flood in churia originating river systems due to climate change impacts Linking the FRM with institutional mechanisms built by project
	Night Stay in Janakpur		
Day 5: May 29, 2016	Janakpur- Nainhi, Mahottari		Travel to field, Nainhi, Mahottari around 8:30 am in the morning by office vehicle.
	Nainhi, Mahottari	Community people	<p>Observed two ETWs in Tharuwahi, Nainhi</p> <p>Observed two events of street drama at Tharuwahi tole and Suryahi tole</p> <p>Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People in all sites appreciated the ETWs and reported that the drinking water from ETWs are best to drink and cook. They reported that lentils cooked in the water don't turn out to black color. Cloths washed in water from ETWs are reported to be clean and bright than in normal tube wells. Due to the heavy rainfall from early morning till around 11 am in the morning, the street drama team could not move to the field as planned at 7 am. Due to the rainfall, the road sections were hard to drive on the muddy road. Artists' team arrived on a tractor with their equipment and the show began later around 1 pm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite the heat, community people were enthusiastic to see the drama events and participation of the community people was high. Approximately 500 people have

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			<p>observed the two events, especially women, elderly and children. While talking with the people after the event, they are found to have clear understanding of messages.</p>
	Night Stay in Janakpur		
Day 6: May 30, 2016	Travel back to Kathmandu from Janakpur by air		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The flight was scheduled for 11:55 am. It was delayed by 45 minutes and arrived Kathmandu around 1:20 pm.

2. Recommendations and conclusions:

- With the lesson learnt from past, the bioengineering works should be prioritized early this monsoon season, to have high survival rate of the plantation.
- It would be great if project could allocate funds on establishing the maintenance fund to ensure the sustainability of the structures for long run.
- Though at the micro level, conflict has been seen between the community people and users committee at Tulsipur, Siraha in regard of fund mobilization by the users committee. Project needs to facilitate conflict in coordination with the community people themselves, to avoid any hurdles in future. The public audit in presence of political leaders, VDC secretary, social activists and conflicting groups should be made to ensure them that the funds are being mobilized in efficient manner.
- The monitoring team from Regional Office, Biratnagar should revise the monitoring tools i.e. checklists and questionnaires to avoid irrelevant questions and duplications. The regional team should contribute the project by exploring success stories from the field to improve project's visibility.

3. Outputs from the Field Visit/ Mission:

- Additional information for the case stories have been gathered which will be used to finalize the draft case story from Sarpallo.
- A joint monitoring of the project activities has been conducted in coordination with Regional monitoring team. Immediate inputs and feedbacks on the checklists and questionnaire have been provided to the regional team to revise the checklist and questionnaire.

4. Likely Follow-ups that might be necessary after the visit (What Next?):

- Monitoring of the structures after the completion of construction works.

5. Major changes, if any, since the last Field Visit:

- ETWs have been repaired/maintained.
- Due to pre-onset of monsoon, the grasses have colonized in the embankment sites both in Sarpallo and Tulsipur VDCs, enhancing the greenery.