# Annual Progress Report - 2010

Project Title: Enhancing Access to Financial Services Project Enhancing Access to Financial Services Project Annual Progress Report - 2010

Award ID: 49650

Award Title: Enhancing Access to Financial Services

Project ID: 00060717

Source of Funds: UNDP/UNCDF

Implementation Modality: NEX

Project Beginning Year: July 2008

Project Ending Year: 2012

Signature<sub>.</sub>

Name: Janak Bahadur Adhikari

National Project Manager

Signature

Name: Pradip Raj Panday

National Project Director / Executive - Project Board

#### 1. Overview of the Project

Access to Microfinance by the absolute poor is critical from the perspective of poverty alleviation. Despite of efforts put for decades, financial services are yet to reach remote villages as well as many bankable clients. Currently, only 14% of the absolute poor 8.7 million people have so far been covered by microfinance. Weak coordination between retail and industry level financial services as well as their weak capacity are major problems in the microfinance industries in Nepal. This project "Enhancing Access to Financial Services" aims to provide technical assistance to both service providers and bankable clientsby linking the demand for financial services with efficient and low cost.

The project assistance is expected to provide additional 330,000 clients with microfinance services in remote districts of Nepal. It is a subset of Access to Finance Project designed jointly by UNDP and UNCDF in collaboration with World Bank and will support the implementation of:

- i. A Fund for Inclusive Finance (FIF) to strengthen the capacity of financial institutions to expand access to underserved market segments and to carry out a financial literacy campaign.
- ii. Technical assistance to fund a public information campaign, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

iii.

### The main outcomes envisaged by the project are:

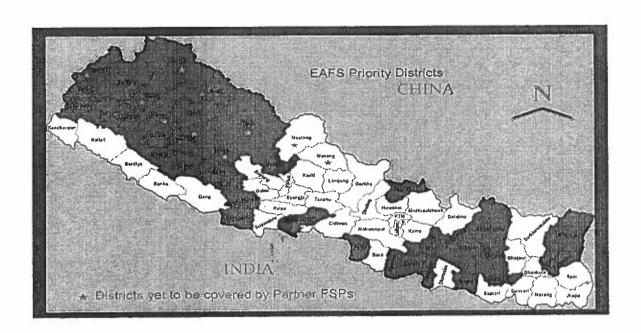
- i. Access to financial services provided to additional 330,000 clients through financial service providers (FSPs).
- ii. Financial linkages established between 10,000 Savings and Credit Groups (SCGs) and Financial Service Providers (FSPs).

#### 2. Key results in 2010

Summarize three major results achieved in 2010, emphasizing changes in development conditions and/or people's lives. Explain how these interim results are leading towards the overall intended results of the project. (You may wish to report on some cumulative results)

Based on i) CBS poverty ranking of districts; (ii) Availability of microfinance services in the district; and (iii) Number of SCGs in the district; 38 districts (see Map below) were selected as the project priority districts (Far Western -7; Mid Western -12; Western -4; Central -7; and Eastern Development Region -8).





Forging partnership with 18 Financial Service Providers (FSPs) by signing Performance Based Agreements (PBAs) for outreach expansion to 258,770 new clients by Mid-July 2012 (see Table -1) is the major breakthrough in the year 2010.

This report has been prepared based on the quarterly report till Mid-October, 2010 received from partner FSPs. Among the partner FSPs, 10 FSPs are strategic partners and eight

Based on the information provided by 18 partner FSPs, as of Mid-December, 2010; they have been able to increase outreach of 81,991 additional new clients against the target of the PBA 80,394 new clients by Mid-Jan., 2011.

partners are innovative. Strategic partners intend to increase financial services outreach through their existing working modality basically Grameen banking model. Out of the 10 strategic partners two have signed PBA with EAFS in the later part of 2010. And other 8 FSPs innovative partners came forward to pilot innovations for 1) cost effectiveness; 2) increased efficiency; and 3) use of new technology.

Table -1: Outreach Targets VS achievements as per PBAs (As of Mid-October, 2010):

S. No.	Partner Type			to Mid- Jan,2011	Target up to Mid. Jan. 2012	Target up to Mid. July 2012
ļ	Total Active client of strategic partners( cumulative)	564,837	596,584			857,775
1	Strategic Partner active New clients (Cumulative)	26,394	58,140	73,455	173,442	217,605
3	Total active client of Innovative Partners	-	157,826*	145,384	165,389	179,610

Or

	(Cumulative)					
4	Innovative Partner active New clients (Cumulative	-	2,293**	6,939	26,944	41,165
	Total	26,394	60,433	80,394	200,386	258,770
5	New service delivery units( new branches) Cumulative	40	57	63	87	95
6	% of female clients	80 %	99.91 %	80 %	80 %	80 %

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Note: \*= innovative partners progress as a whole organization; \*\*=new additional client through innovation only.

- The second achievement is the expansion of financial services outreaches of 58,140 active new clients by mid October 2010 (Table -1) by 8 strategic partners.
- These 8 FSPs have opened 57 new branches to provide financial services. The new branches were able to contribute 22,269 outreach expansion under project support of which 11,865 clients are in project priority districts.

Capacity building initiatives were made during the year 2010. Table below summarizes the different types of technical inputs provided to the partner FSPs on their capacity enhancements activities.

S. No	Capacity building initiatives completed in 2010	Participants	Remarks
1.	Business plan streamlining training workshop to potential strategic FSPs along with institutional capacity assessment	20 participants of 10 FSPs	Business plan refinement
2.	Business plan streamlining training workshop to potential innovative FSPs along with institutional capacity assessment	20 participants from 10 FSPs	Business plan refinement
3	Training on Mix market	25 participants from 18 partner FSPs	It has helped partner FSPs to be familiar with MIX market and information required for MIX
4.	Interactive workshop on SCG linkages( 2 events) between FSPs and development partners	18 partner FSPs and 9 development agencies	It has helped in identifying common working areas and explore linkages possibilities.
6.	Workshop on Microfinance Innovation	18 partner FSPs	Explore and shared innovation on microfinance
7.	Orientation to partners on quarterly reporting system	18 partner FSPs	Oriented and institutionalized QPR forms and formats



8.	On site mentoring	18 partner FSPs	Clarification on PBAs signed and its targets and Capacity enhanced on reporting
9.	Quarterly progress review workshop with partner	Two quarterly progress review workshops held	Progress reviewed, shared lessons, identified issues and developed coping strategies
10	SCG Rating Tool Orientation and Pilot Testing	8 FSPs (two events; one in east and one in west)	FSPs gained knowledge on the SCG rating tool that can be instrumental in linking SCGs for financial services

Partner FSPs were provided training on MIX market reporting system and arrange to send information to MIX market through Central of Micro-finance. Also developed SCGs rating/assessment tools and provided orientation on it. Rating work of 10 strategic partner FSPs are on progress. Market research and product development training was from 14-18 Dec. 2010.

Partners FSPs are currently working in 56 districts out of 75 districts in the country. Similarly, they are working in 24 project priorities districts out of 38. Moreover, they have planned to reach 65 districts out of 75, covering additional 6 priority districts and three non priority districts by July, 2012 (see Fig. 1).

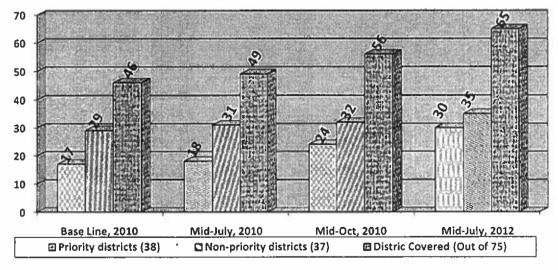


Fig. 1: District Coverage by Partner FSPs

However, there is a big challenge for the project to expand microfinance services outreach to Bajura and Darchula in the Far Western Development Region and similarly to Dolpa, Jajarkot, Jumla, Kalikot, Mugu and Rukum in the Mid Western Development Region. These districts are are not planned to covered by 18 partner FSPs within PBAs period (i.e. Mid-July, 2012).

Recommendation for Working District Approval from NRB:

Based on the business plan submitted by the partner FSPs, project has recommended to NRB helped partner FSPs for securing permission to work in additional 41 districts (see Table -2). that would obviously help for microfinance service expansion in Nepal.

Table 2: Recommended Districts for Working Permission

S.N.	Partner MFIs	No. of districts recommended for approval
1	FORWARD	13
2	JBS	4
3	CSD	5
4	NESDO	3
5	UNYC	1
6	WDCN	3
7	NWCSC	3
8	RWDC	4
9	MCDC	4
Total		41

# Project key Interventions:

The key interventions of the project are as follows:

Activities	Achievements
Hiring of project staff	9 staffs (5 technical & 4 administraion/finance) hired
Orientation Program on EAFS	Introductory orientation about EAFS Project provided
Project	to potential partner FSPs
Detailed Proposal/Business Plan	Orientation to 10 shortlisted FSPs on Detailed
Mainstreaming Workshop	Proposal/Business Plan Mainstreaming on to make them
	able to develop detail proposal on an expected course and
	information
Performance based Agreement	PBA signed with 18 FSPs (10 strategic and 8 Innovative)
(PBA)	
Training on Innovations in	training provided on Innovations in Microfinance to 16
Microfinance	FSPs on 23rd, April, 2010
Rating of strategic partner FSPs by	Rating of 10 partner FSPs is on going by M-CRIL
international rating agency	200000000000000000000000000000000000000
Mix Market Training .	Two days MIX Market Training were provided to 18
	partner FSPs with technical support of Centre for
	micro-finance (CMF) Nepal in Sept, 2010
Training on Market Research and	Market Research and Product Development training
Product Design for partner	provided to 30 participants from partner FSPs, NRB and
FSPs/EAFS project Staffs	EAFS Staffs from 14-18th of December 2010 by
	MicroSave
Quarterly Progress Review	Progress review meetings were held with Strategic
Workshop with Partner FSPs	Partners on 6th Sept.2010 and on 27/28 Dec of 2010.
Interactive Workshop on SCG	Two interactive workshops on SCG Linkage were held
Linkage with Partner FSPs	with stakeholders (18 FSPs, development agencies, SCG



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	promoters) to create an environment for SCGs linkages on 25th May, 2010 and 7th Sept, 2010 respectively.
Capacity Building of FSPs on SCG Linkage	SCG Rating tool developed and pilot tested in eastern Nepal and mid western region together with partner FSPs. Also provided an orientation on SCG rating tool to 8 partners.
In-service training to project team	Interim CTA and a team from UNCDF had provided in- house training to EAFS Project staffs
Exposure visit/training on different models of microfinance	NPM and 3 EAFS Project Staff visited BASIX India
Microfinance related training	NPD and NPM have participated in BOULDER training in Turin, Italy.
	Two Project Officers have participated in Financial Mainstreaming of Micro-insurance & Saving training in Iloilo Philippines
In-service training	Two admin staff participated in negotiation in procurement training in Bankok, Thiland
Monitoring of partner FSPs	Regularly monitored/ facilitated and provide onsite and offsite TA to 18 partner MFPs

# Project Budget and situation of fund utilization:

The project was designed with a total budget US \$ 9,966,065. In the initial phase, UNDP and UNCDF have committed 1.5 M \$ each. Hence, there is a funding gap of about US \$ 7 M. The expenditure of this year is US\$ 839,248 out of planned annual budget US\$ 900,000.

Fund situation of the first phase of the project with US\$ 3 M is as follows:

**EAFS Project Budget Status** 

Description	US\$
Expenditure till 2009	121,199
• Expenditure 2010	839,248
Planned budget for 2011	1,100,000
Fixed cost for 2012 ( SMART subsidies + Program Support)	785,734
Remaining budget for other Program activities in 1012	153,819
TOTAL (US\$)	3,000,000



	Expenditure (pl take this info from Sunil's budget vs expenditure data)	81					4,423.51	3,517.13	103.24		86.79	
la l	Budget						4,522	2,769	153			
Financial	Budget Code			71625 DSA	74525 Sundry	71610 Travel (local)	71615 DSA (intl.)	71605 Travel (Intl.)	72440 Connectivity	charges	71635 Feisal	exp
	Fund			UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF		UNCDF	
Annual Achievement Planned Achievements  Targets (against Activities Activities Annual & actions)  Targets)		EAFS project office established and started	operation	Draft operational	manual of EAFS Project prepared						-	
Planned Activities		Activity Result 1: Funds for	Inclusive Finance (FIF) Operational	Action a:	Prepare FIF   Operational	Manual						
Achievement (against Annual Targets)												
Annual Targets		A FIF established and	operational.									



a	7,563.19
	7,563
	71205 Int. Consultants
	UNCDF
Expression of Interest (EOI) assessment for granting technical assistance to FSPs/MFIs is on progress	EOIs submitted by FSPs for strategic and innovative partnership assessed. Detailed project proposal evaluated and 18 FSPs selected for partnership.
Activity Result 2: Technical assistance provided to at least 9 FSPs/MFIs and their operational and financial performance	Action a: Assess potential MFIs and select for partnership for increasing outreach
Provide technical assistance to selected FSPs/MFIs from FIF and monitor their operational and financial performance	

270,013	270,012		1					1,166.55		_											
259,264	259,263	,	90005		٥			1,150												·	
72605 Grants	72605 Grants	72605 Grants	72125 Svc. Co-	Studies and Research	services			72145 - Svc	Co- Training	and Education	Services										
UNDP	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF					UNCDF													
Performance Based Agreement (PBA) signed with 10 strategic partner FSPs and 8 innovative partner FSPs. SMART subsidy provided to them based on the PBA			M-CRIL selected	as Rating Agency to conduct rating	of 10 partner	mission by the	rating agency will commence soon.	MIX Market	related training	provided to	partner FSPs with	technical support	of Centre for	micro-finance	(CMF) Nepal	Ř					
Action b: Provide SMART Subsidy (Performance Based limited time support)to support	new microfinance	clients	Action c:	Rating of selected	FSPs/MFIs by	rating agency		Action d:	Develop	standard	modules,	provide	training on	reporting	system of MIX	Market and	reporting	requirements	to partner	FSPs/MFIs	and EAFS Staff
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2,100	4,500	200		200		<del>.</del>		200		300			2,000	-	5,000		6,034	1,000	-		1,500		2,000		
74525 Sundry	71205 Int Consultant	71605 Travel	ticket-Int.	71625	DSA/Meeting	Participants		71610 Travel ticket locai		74525 Sundry			71605 Travel	Ticket Int.	71205 Int.	Consultant	74525 Sundry	71625	DSA/Participan	ts	71610 Travel	ticket local	72145 Svc. Co	Training and	Education Service
UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF		UNCDF				UNCDF		UNCDF			UNCDF		UNCDF		UNCDF	UNCDF			UNCDF		UNCDF		
Micro Save has been selected to conduct Market Research and Product	Development	of December 2010		Progress Review	meeting held with	Strategic Partners in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter.	Next review	meeting with Strategic as well	as Innovative	Partners has been	planned for last	week of Dec. 2010	Technical	Assistance	required by the	partner FSPs	collected.			133					
Action e: Provide training on Market Research and	Product Design for	partner	FSPs/EAFS Staff	Action f:	Quarterly	Progress Review	Workshop	with Partner FSPs					Action g:	Provide need	based	technical	assistance to	FSPS					i		

	*		1,364.27	6.08	1,201.75	1
	1,000		969		1,100	400
	72125 Svc. Co Studies and Research Services	71625 DSA- Participants 71610 Travel ticket local	74525 Sundry	74525 Sundry	74525 Sundry	71610 Travel- local
	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNDP	UNCDF	UNCDF
93	Inventory and mapping of SCGs in the 9 priority districts planned for 2011 (those districts where current partner FSPs will not be providing services till the project period)	Two interactive workshops held with stakeholders (FSPs.	development	agencies, SCG promoters) to create an environment for SCGs linkages	SCG Rating tool developed and pilot tested	Exposure visit for selected FSPs to India postponed for January 2011.
Activity Result 3: SCGs linked with FSPs/MFIs for financial services	Action a: Update Inventory and mapping of SCGs	Action b: Review Workshop	FSPs		Action c: Capacity Building of	FSPs for SCG Linkage
2000 savings and credit groups (SCGs) promoted by UNDP and/or GOs/NGOs supported programmes linked to FSPs/MFIs.						



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48.45	-25.48	314.66	1		1	3			•	-							•		ŧ	346.34	4,169.84	8,339.31	306.10	400	
200	742	200	000'9	5,795	1,000	-											2,000		200	1,000	6,000	9,000	1,000	1,000	
71620 DSA- Participants	74525 Sundry	71610 Travel	71605 Travel Intl.	71615 DSA Intl.	72145 Svc Co	Training and Education Service											71205 Intl	Consultant	71605 Travel – Intl.	74525 Sundry	71605 Travel –	71615 DSA -	74525 – Sundry	72145 - Svc Co	- Training and Education
UNCDF	dQNO	UNDP	UNDP	UNDP	UNDP												UNCDF		UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF	
			533														Interim CTA and	a team from	UNCDF provided the training	è	NPM and 3 EAFS	visited BASIX	IIIUIA		
		l					Activity	Result 4:	Enhanced	Capacity to	implement	project; M &	E system; and	public	information	Activity	Action a:	Provide in-	service training to	project team	Action b:	exposure	on different	models of	IIICIOIIII
							Operationalis	e project	implementati	ou,	monitoring	and	evaluation	system and	public	campaign									

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-11.49		-101.32	-3.91	6,329.90	14,287.53	9,050.50					_					1				1	301.59		
				7,000	17,000	000,6			24							4,500			000	0000	1,118		
71605 Travel Ticket	international	71615 DSA International	74525 Sundry	71605 Travel – Intl.	71615 DSA Intl.	72145 Svc Co -	Training and	Service								72125 Svc. Co	Studies and	Research	71710 7	/1610 trave! Local	72135 Svc Co -	Communication Service	71625 DSA Participants
UNDP		UNDP	UNDP	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF										UNDCF			10101	ONCO	UNCDF		
				NPD and NPM participated in BOULDER Training in Turin	Italy	Two Project	Officers	participated in Financial	Mainstreaming of	Micro-insurance	& Saving training	in Hollo Philippines	Two admin staff	participated	procurement in Banokok, Thiland	Activities for this	action planned for	2011			Activities for this	action planned for	
				Action c: Microfinance Training		•										Action d:	Information	Campaign			Action e:	Communicatio	*

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1	1,255.58	312.80	-5.86			KI	628.12		3,224.15	1,051.14				7.11	-2.56		-13.53	81.16				
1,200	305						1,507		2,569	1,076				4,751								
	74525 Sundry	71610 Travel - Local	72145 Svc Co. Training	71610 Travel – Local	71625 DSA Participants	74525 Sundry	71610 Travel -	Local	71620 DSA Local	73410	Maintenance,	Operations of	Transportation Equipment	74525 Sundry	71610 Travel	Ticket - Local	71620 DSA Local	71635 Travel	Other			
UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNDP	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNCDF		UNCDF	UNCDF				UNDP	UNDP		UND	UNCDF				
				Quarterly Review meetings.	Mid Term Evaluation of the	project planned for 2011	On-going as a	regular activity										200				
			,	Action f: Program			Action g: M	& E System				_								Activity	Result 5:	Support
																				Operation and	Management	

	84,745.49	24,388.33	75,448.25	1	133.13	1,338.8	1.82	2,180.81	860.75	8,830.26	8,108.30
	52,040	23,936	72,195	770	792			1,585		5,182	6,465
	71205 International consultant ST Tech	71405 Service Cont. Ind.	71405 Service Cont. Ind.	71405 Service Cont. Ind.	71405 Custodian and Cleaning Service	73110 Custodial and Cleaning Service	71405 Service Cont. Ind.	74505 Insurance	71405 Service Cont. Ind.	73125 Common Service Premise	73105 Rent
	UNCDF	UNCDF	UNDP	AGNO	UNDP	UNDP	UNDP	UNDP	UNDP	UNDP	
All staff except for messenger on board. Office equipped with facilities							24				
Action: Project Office Equipped with Staff and Facility	СТА	DTA	UNDP Service Contract	Messenger	Cleaner	Cleaner	Staff Insurance	Insurance	Security Guard	Security Guard	House Rent
	T.				,,,,						

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10,982.33	2,503.34	7,348.26	1,827.38				1,512.37			403.23			-6,216.07		38.12				•		2,550			240.94		<del></del>	839,248.20	
11,755	1,680	7,086	1,049				1,000			1,212			3,094		240				7,843		ı			1			900,006	
72205 Office Equipment	72505 Stationery & Other Supplies	74525 Sundry	73410	Maintenance,	Ops of	Transportation Equip.	72420 Land	Tel. Charge		72425 Mobile	Tel. Charge		72435 Email	Subscription	72405	Acquisition of	Communication	Equip	71635 Travel -	Other	63405 UN	Procurement	support exp	73505 Reim. to	UNDP for Supp.	Ser.	Total:	
UNDP	UNDP	UNDP	UNDP				UNDP			UNDP			UNDP		UNDP				UNDP		UNCDF			UNCDF				
Office Equipment	Stationery and other office Supplies	Sundry	Maintenance,	Ops of	Transport	Equip.	Land-line	Telephone	Charge	Mobile	Telephone	Charge	Email	Subscription	Acquisition of	Communicatio	n Equip.		Travel -	other*	PO support	exb	•	Reim. to	UNDP for	Supp. Ser.		
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#### 4. Results in Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, and Social Inclusion

A. In 2010, the project has recommended to NRB for working permission to the project partners to work in additional districts and NRB has positively considered it than the normal practice.

The project has forged partnership with 18 Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) which has greatly contributed to the outreach expansion in terms of clientele numbers and outreach in new geographical areas, thereby contributing to geographical inclusion.

Secondly, the partner MFIs who had followed Grameen model generally targets only female clients. The introduction of the innovative partnership has helped to open up the avenue for prospective male clients as well, thereby contributing to gender inclusion of male within female pre-dominated model of the MFIs.

B. In 2010, the partner FSPs were also encouraged to maintain a monitoring and information system (MIS) that allowed them to report on the inclusiveness of the number of clients. Quarterly reporting format was developed by the project team and institutionalized in the partner FSPs' reporting system accordingly.

During the project period, the project also supported to change the knowledge, perceptions, attitudes and behavior patterns of the concerned in the partner organization(s) to some extent. Basically, EAFS Project had organized two events of interactive meeting among FSPs and other development agencies with an objective to look at potential to develop linkages between the community groups/SCGs and the MFIs. These kinds of events had helped the stakeholders mainly the development partner agencies to reflect and realize the importance and possibility of linkages between the saving and credit groups (SCGs) with the MFIs.

- C. In 2010, the project had encouraged the partner FSPs to expand their microfinance outreach to the unreached areas and community by providing grant support to supplement their operational cost. Hence, partner FSPs have opened 57 new branches under EAFS project support and increased 60,433 outreach of which 13164 New client are in project priority districts by Mid- October, 2010. And furthermore, these partner FSPs are heading towards to achieve 80,394 outreach target of Mid-Janawary 2011. Moreover, these FSPs were basically trained and practicing Grameen model of microfinance. Due to project support, some of them came forward with business proposal to practice some modifications in the existing Grameen model such as individual lending, linkage, use group member as agents, and monthly loan repayment schedule etc.
- **D.** In 2010, did the project have started to <u>incorporate socio-gender analysis</u> at the key milestones of project cycle to track changes in gender equality and social inclusion?

Quarterly progress report formats are designed for partner FSPs that captures the financial services inclusive data. The data reporting shows that out of total active new client 60,433 of wich 9,927 Dalits, 22,549 Janjaties and 27,957 are remaining Others cast. Most of the partner FSP's client are women but Madhya Paschimanchal Grameen Bikas Bank (MPGBB) and Mahuli Community Development Center (MCDC) have initiated to take male client too. So far, 55 male clients are reported till date.

E. In 2010, the project support also incorporated gender equality and social inclusion specific components to consciously increase the human rights of women and socially marginalized groups. The project has been advocating and promoting inclusive financial services outreach in 38 project priority districts.



**F.** The key achievements below show that the project has initiated to address gender equality and social inclusion in providing financial services through its partner FSPs.

• Total outreach achievement: 60,433 additional new client

Women client: 99.91 %Dalit client: 16.43 %Janiaties: 37.31 %

New client in project priority district: 21.78 % (i.e. 13164)
Opened 57 new branches with the support of the project.

#### 5. Implementation Challenges:

The major issue for the project is deepening microfinance services in the rural areas of hills and mountains. To address this issue, a suitable microfinance model for hills and mountain yet to be identified. The main challenge lies to motivate and encourage partner FSPs to expand their services in such areas and innovations. Similarly, another challenge is to built confidence and create conducive environment for FSPs to extend their services in remaining eight project priority districts. These districts are the poorest districts, in terms of HDI, very poor access to financial services and so far untouched by the partner FSPs. It is even not planned to reach these districts by Mid-July, 2012 by the present 18 partner FSPs.

Basically, the FSPs are reluctant to extend their services in such rural areas, because of comparatively higher operational cost incurred in the existing or present practiced Grameen model of microfinance. It is constrained particularly due to scattered settlements coupled with poor infrastructure and limited economic and business opportunities. Due to the limited resources of FSPs, they are unable to innovate appropriate models to reach out in those areas.

In this context, EAFS project has to look at different options and share with project partner FSPs for increasing outreach to these areas. It is important from the perspective of both accesses to finance and inclusive finance as well.

#### Some other challenges:

- a) Outreach and expansion
  - To streamline project policy with NRB/GoN and develop common understanding of Fund for inclusive Finance (FIF);
  - Partner FSPs are familiar and trained on Grameen model of microfinance. However, Grameen
    model has not been able to expand outreach in hills and mountains especially in the remote areas.
    The MFIs need to have innovative models/ products for reaching out to the unreached (
    geographical area, marginalized and very poor section of the society, youths and vulnerable
    groups of the society)
- b) Limitations of the working model
  - Partner FSPs are working with Grameen Model, and also reluctant to adopt new model like SCG linkage mode because of lack of information/exposure;
- c) Need to enhance financial literacy conducting financial literacy campaign
  - Lack of strategy for financial literacy/information campaign and communication;
- d) More Technical Assistance needed



• CTA could not be on board on time as envisaged in the project document - gap in CTA's inputs.

#### e) Funding Gaps

 Project is designed with US\$ 9.99 M and present funding is US\$ 3 M. There is a funding gap of US\$ 6.99 M.

### 6. Project Target and PBA:

Project intends to expand microfinance services to additional 330,000 new clients. So far, PBAs has been signed with 18 partners FSPs to expand total outreach of 258,771 clients with grant support of US\$ 1,373,939 (see Table -3). There is a net gap of 71,229 outreach targets between the project document and PBAs targets signed with partner FSPs.

Table -3: Status of Grant Support and Outreach Target

PBAs signed	Client Target	Grant Support	Average (US\$)
Strategic (10 FSPs)	217,606	1,110,016	5.1
Innovative (8 FSPs)	41,165	263,923	6.4
Sub-total	258,771	1,373,939	5.3

## 7. Lessons learned and next steps:

Although, PBAs were signed between partner FSPs and project, a constant interaction/discussion with board/management of partner FSPs is deemed necessary to realize the PBA targets. Partner FSPs are comparatively in better position to achieve total new client target, but under stress to achieve total active new client in priority districts and in new branches supported by EAFS project. Similarly, innovative partners are facing difficulties to initiate proposed innovations as they laggs in clarity on it.

For projects continuing in 2011, describe priority actions for the following year to overcome any constraints, build on achievements and partnerships, and use the lessons learnt during the previous year. In particular, make clear recommendations for any required corrective action, for review by the project board.

- EAFS Project being implemented by Microfinance Promotion and Supervision Department of NRB/GON, it is deemed to streamline project policy with overall policy of NRB;
- Due to scattered settlements in rural areas particularly in hills and mountains, it is difficult to replicate/ expand due to high operational cost in rural areas. Therefore, it is necessary to harness innovations in financial services delivery, pilot and develop suitable model to hills and mountain to address this issue;
- On time facilitation and technical assistance is important for partner FSPs to achieve PBA targets;
- Regular monitoring of each partner FSPs is also equally important to realize PBA targets;
- Exposure on SCG model to partner FSPs is important to expose partner FSPs on different model other than Grameen model and facilitate / encourage them to pilot the SCG linkage model;
- Financial literacy campaign is important to promote access and inclusive finance in rural areas;
- Ensure TA required by partner FSPs by hiring individual consultants or TA services providing agencies (national and international).
- 8. Implementation Status of DEX or NEX Audit Action Plan (if applicable):

Audit sport check has been done by UNDP.

