



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Community Rural Development Society Nepal (CRDS-Nepal)

Transboundary Rivers of South Asia –
Funded by SIDA

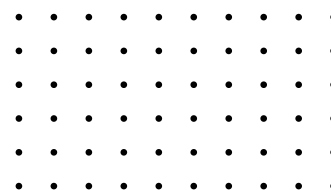


TABLE OF CONTENTS



Report Overview

Project Information 3

Executive Summary 4

Beneficiary Summary 5

Outcome Performance 6

Implementation & Support

MEL 7

Partnership 8

Sustainability 9

Innovation Case Study 10

Communication & Knowledge 11

Policy Influencing 12

Challenges & Risks 13

Lessons Learned 14

Financial Acquittal 15

Annex 1: Events & Activities 16

Annex 2: Reports & Products 17

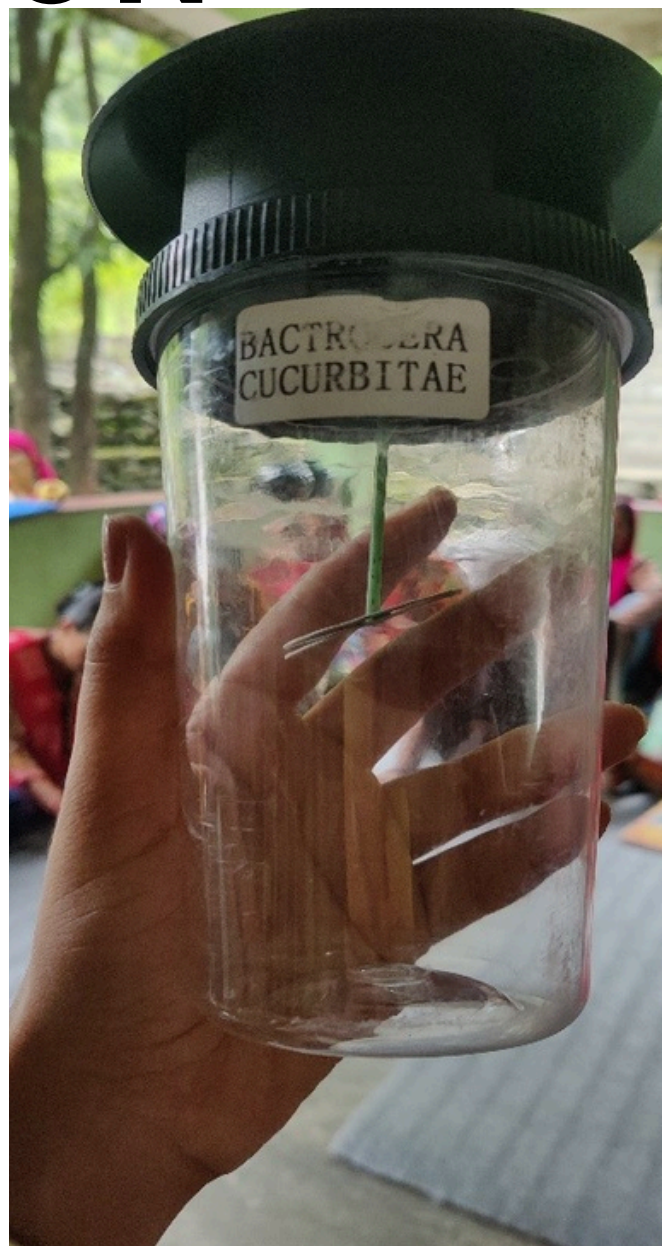
Annex 3: Case Story ... 18

Annex 4: Success Story 19



PROJECT INFORMATION

TROSA Phase II: Rivers, Rights and Resilience



Project Overview

Project Title: Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) Phase II
Implementing Organisation: Community Rural Development Society (CRDS) Nepal
Funding Agency: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Reporting Period: April 2025 – March 2026
Geographic Focus: Mahakali River Basin, Far-West Nepal Darchula District, 5 Local Governments (Byans, Duhun, Malikarjun, Lekam Rural Municipality & Mahakali Municipality.)
10 Women Economic Empowerment Centers
Total 273 Women are in the group.

2025–2026 ACHIEVEMENT SUMMARY

TROSA Phase II: Rivers, Rights and Resilience



Key Outcomes at a Glance

Outcome 1: Climate-resilient livelihoods strengthened across 5 WEECs

Outcome 2: Transboundary ecosystem management & biodiversity protected

Outcome 3: Civil-society leadership built — women, IPs & youth centred

Outcome 4: Nepal–India cooperation & accountability advanced

Total Reach: 4,600 beneficiaries (2,003 direct female)

BENEFICIARY SUMMARY

PWWW Beneficiary Data – April 2025 to March 2026



Key Figures at a Glance

4,600 Total Beneficiaries reached across all outcomes

3,009 Direct Beneficiaries (of whom 2,003 are female)

1,591 Indirect Beneficiaries (of whom 1,188 are female)

163 WEEC Members supported through programme activities

Community People: 2,552 direct | 1,730 direct female | 1,192 indirect | 951 indirect female | 3,744 total

Community Leaders: 158 direct | 142 direct female | 94 indirect | 65 indirect female | 248 total

Youth Activists: 143 direct | 109 direct female | 154 indirect | 111 indirect female | 297 total

Government Officials: 119 direct | 11 direct female | 98 indirect | 33 indirect female | 217 total

Private Sector: 16 direct | 4 direct female | 7 indirect | 1 indirect female | 23 total

CSO Members: 21 direct | 7 direct female | 46 indirect | 27 indirect female | 67 total

Overall Total: 3,009 direct | 2,003 direct female | 1,591 indirect | 1,188 indirect female | 4,600



OUTCOME 1

CLIMATE-RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS

Strengthening Food Security & Agricultural Resilience

Key Activities

Ratauda Irrigation Tank (NPR 700,000 TROSA + NPR 150,000 local govt)
Climate-resilient agriculture training with AKC
Seed support to 5 WEECs (two rounds)
8 Polyhouses across Shreebagad, Pragatishil, Mahakali & Sagarmatha
Exposure visits: NaActorwalpur, Karnali–Chisapani & Rampur Agriculture Campus. Joint Monitoring visit with Stakeholders.



What followed was nothing short of inspiring. With the knowledge gained from regular WEEC sessions and their own relentless effort, these women cultivated the vegetables and began selling them across both Nepali and Indian markets. Over time, their collective earnings reached an impressive NPR 9,50,850. This income became more than just profit – it became power. Many of the women used the money to pay for their children's education, manage household expenses, and reduce the financial burden on their husbands. For the first time, they were able to contribute meaningfully to family decisions and community life. By transforming seeds into security, and farming into freedom, these 32 women proved that with the right support, women in even the most remote regions can lead the way in economic transformation. Their journey reflects not only financial success, but also personal empowerment, increased self-worth, and a shift in gender dynamics at home and in society.

"Before the irrigation tank, I had to walk long distances every day to collect water. It was exhausting and limited my time for farming and other work. Sometimes my children also missed school to help. Now water is easily available. I have more time for farming, and we have started growing vegetables that improve our income. This has truly changed our lives."- Mrs.

Bishna Tamata, WEEC member

Actors	Intervention	Ultimate Outcomes
Women's Empowerment Centers (WEECs)	Execute climate-smart farming & cross-border sales.	Increased income & gender empowerment.
Agriculture Knowledge Centre	Provide technical science and agronomic training.	Higher-quality organic yields & climate adaptation.
Local Government	Project monitoring & institutional alignment.	Civic accountability & long-term municipal scale.
Nepal/Indian Market Vendors (Darchula/Dharchula)	Commit to pre-orders and premium pricing.	Stable, risk-mitigated transboundary demand.

OUTCOME 2: ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Inclusive Transboundary River Ecosystem Management & Biodiversity Protection



Key Activities & Results

Monthly water testing (5th of each month, Apr 2025–Mar 2026) at Jauljibi, Tigram, Khalanga & Dattu

Citizen Water Observatories established with ENPHO kits & reagents

16 Mahakali Cleaning Campaign events conducted along the river corridor

9 citizen scientists certified through advanced training programme

Nepal–India transboundary interaction & knowledge-sharing meeting held

“I previously did not know about water quality testing, but I am truly inspired by the work of our Nepali friends, who have been regularly conducting the Mahakali Cleaning Campaign every month. I sincerely thank them for their efforts. I am committed to implementing similar initiatives on the India side and will coordinate with my colleagues to start both water quality testing and river cleaning campaigns in my area. Today, I feel proud to have been invited and to learn from their experiences.” — Mrs. Kabita Awasthi, Gram Pradhan

OUTCOME 3 CIVIL-SOCIETY LEADERSHIP

Women, Indigenous Peoples & Youth at the Forefront



Key Highlights

- 163 WEEC members actively supported
- 120 monthly learning sessions across 10 WEECs
- 16 Days of Activism against GBV observed
- 4 Youth Basin Ambassadors & 1 Youth Fellow engaged
- WEEC renewal meetings held; women & IP leadership strengthened

“From the regular classes of WEC, I got to know about the subsidy scheme of AKC and Municipality and the process for applying. I learned about the benefits of coordination and collaboration with different organizations. I want to thank you and will be grateful for TROSA project of CRDS”. – **Mrs. Mamata Kunwar, WEEC Member, From Bhumiraj WEEC**

दार्चुलामा तीन वटा महिला आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण केन्द्रद्वारा क्यान्सर पीडितको उपचारका लागि सहयोग

मालिकार्जुन खबर

— प्रकाशित: २०८२ मंसिर १३, शनिबार १७:५९



130
Shares



दार्चुला । दार्चुलामा तीन वटा महिला आर्थिक

OUTCOME 4 COOPERATION, COLLABORATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Nepal-India Transboundary Cooperation | Early
Warning | Advocacy

महाकाली की स्वच्छता के लिए भारत और नेपाल के लोगों ने मिलाए हाथ

संवाद ७ जागरण, झुलाघाट : भारत और नेपाल के बीच रेडो-बेटी के रिश्ते के साथ अब दोनों देशों की सीमा रेखा महाकाली नदी को प्रदूषण मुक्त बनाने के लिए भी दोनों देशों ने मजबूती से हाथ मिलाया है। नदी की अविच्छेद्य धारा को स्वच्छ रखने के उद्देश्य से नेपाल के जौलजीबी स्थित मल्लिकार्जुन गांव पालिका में एक ऐतिहासिक समन्वय बैठक संपन्न हुई। बैठक में मौजूद दोनों देशों के लोगों ने महाकाली स्वच्छता अभियान को संयुक्त रूप से और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने का संकल्प लिया।

यह पहल दक्षिण एशिया की सीमा पार नदियां चरण दो परियोजना के अंतर्गत की गई है। स्वीडिश अंतरराष्ट्रीय विकास सहयोग एजेंसी और आक्सफैम नेपाल के सहयोग से आयोजित इस बैठक में महाकाली नदी के जल परीक्षण के परिणाम भी पटल पर रखे गए। उपस्थित

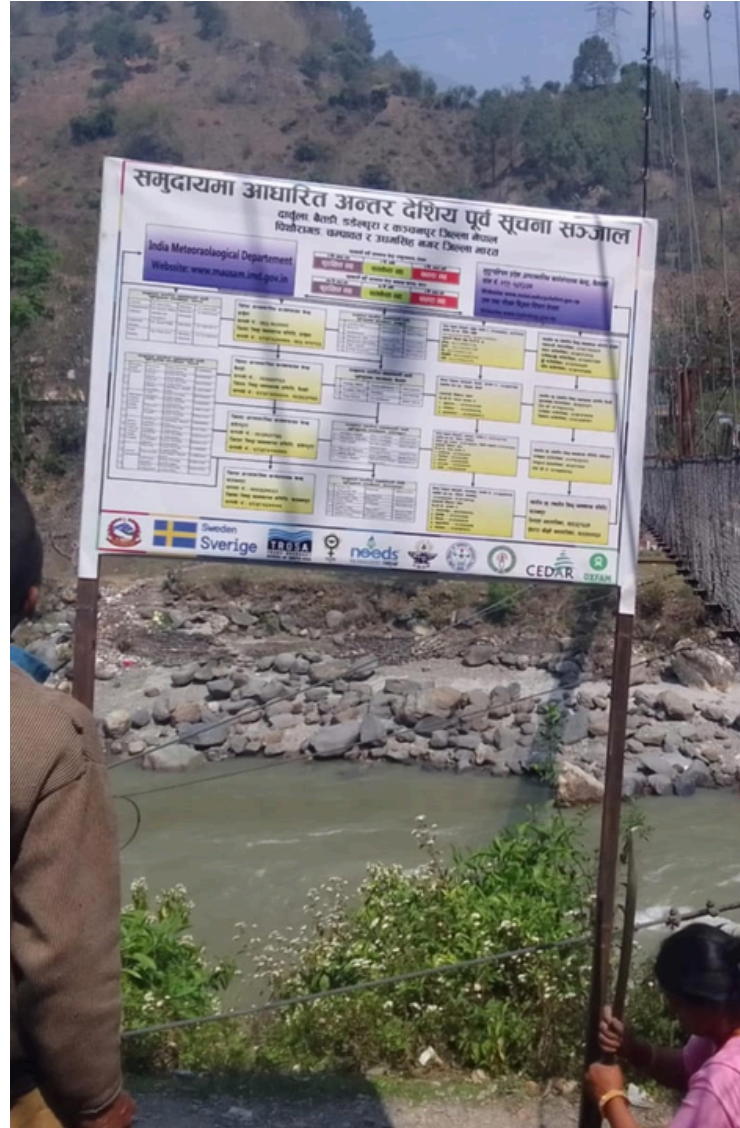
• नेपाल के जौलजीबी में आयोजित उच्च स्तरीय बैठक में बनी सहमति, नदी संरक्षण को साझा जिम्मेदारी मानकर करेंगे काम, अभियान को बनाएंगे प्रभावी



नेपाल में महाकाली स्वच्छता अभियान की समन्वय बैठक में उपस्थित प्रतिनिधि • जागरण

सदस्यों ने नदी की स्वच्छता को साझा जिम्मेदारी स्वीकार करते हुए इसे सांस्कृतिक और पर्यावरणीय दृष्टि से संरक्षित करने की शपथ ली। परियोजना पर्यवेक्षक जगत सिंह ऐरी ने स्पष्ट किया कि भविष्य में भी ऐसे समन्वय कार्यक्रम निरंतर जारी रहेंगे। बैठक में भारत की

जौलजीबी के व्यापार संघ अध्यक्ष धीरेंद्र धर्मशक्त और महिला आर्थिक सशक्तीकरण केंद्र की महिलाओं सहित नेपाल सरकार पुलिस बल के 'पुलिस उपाधीक्षक पूर्ण चंद आक्सफैम के सुमन गुप्ता ग्रीष्मा राज आर्याल और जिला संयोजक माम सिंह कार्की आदि ने विचार रखे।



- Key Activities & Results**
- Updated Nepal-India early-warning communication channels
 - FM radio monsoon jingles broadcast to riverside communities
 - Emergency information board installed at Pulghat, Dattu
 - Mahakali Sambad dialogue and joint lobbying/field visits
 - NPR 32,000 collective support mobilized for Lalita Dharmi's medical treatment

तैयारी

नदी में चलाए जाने वाले स्वच्छता अभियान के लिए की गई समन्वय बैठक

महाकाली को निर्मल बनाएंगे भारत और नेपाल

संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी झुलाघाट (पिथौरागढ़)। अब भारत और नेपाल मिलकर महाकाली नदी को स्वच्छ और निर्मल बनाएंगे। महाकाली नदी की स्वच्छता को संयुक्त रूप से आगे बढ़ाने एवं भारत-नेपाल के बीच आपसी समन्वय को सुदृढ़ करने के उद्देश्य से बैठक आयोजित की गई।

नेपाल के जौलजीबी

महाकाली स्वच्छता अभियान को संयुक्त रूप से आगे बढ़ाने पर सहमति बनी मल्लिकार्जुन गांव पालिका, वार्ड नंबर सात में दक्षिण एशिया की सीमा पार नदियां चरण-2 परियोजना के तहत स्वीडिश अंतरराष्ट्रीय विकास सहयोग एजेंसी और ऑक्सफोर्ड कमेटी फॉर फेमाइन रिलीफ के प्राविधिक सहयोग से सामुदायिक

ग्रामीण विकास समाज नेपाल ने बैठक का आयोजन किया। इसमें महाकाली नदी के पानी के परीक्षण परिणाम पेश किए गए। इस दौरान महाकाली स्वच्छता अभियान को संयुक्त रूप से आगे बढ़ाने पर सहमति बनी।

दक्षिण एशिया की सीमा पार नदियां चरण-2 परियोजना के सुपरवाइजर जगत सिंह ऐरी ने बताया कि दोनों देशों के बीच इस प्रकार के समन्वय कार्यक्रम भविष्य में भी निरंतर जारी रहेंगे।

इससे महाकाली नदी संरक्षण अभियान को मजबूती मिलेगी। बैठक में मौजूद दोनों देशों के प्रतिनिधियों ने महाकाली नदी की स्वच्छता को साझा जिम्मेदारी मानते हुए इसे निरंतर एवं प्रभावी तरीके से आगे बढ़ाने पर सहमति जताई।

साथ ही नदी को स्वच्छ, सुरक्षित एवं सांस्कृतिक दृष्टि से संरक्षित रखने के लिए नियमित समन्वय एवं संयुक्त अभियान चलाने का निर्णय लिया गया।

वहां भारत के जौलजीबी व्यापार संघ अध्यक्ष, धीरेंद्र धर्मशक्त, नेपाल से सुमन गुप्ता, ग्रीष्मा राज आर्याल, एपीएफ कंपनी के डीएसपी पूर्ण चंद, मान सिंह कार्की आदि लोग मौजूद रहे।

GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION

GESI Across All Four Outcomes — TROSA Phase II



Key GESI Highlights

- 2,003 direct female beneficiaries (67% of direct total)
- 1,188 indirect female beneficiaries
- 163 WEEC members supported — majority women
- Indigenous Peoples & youth meaningfully engaged
- Women lead WEECs, campaigns & citizen science

MONITORING, EVALUATION & LEARNING

MEL Framework — TROSA Phase II, April 2025–March 2026



Key MEL Activities

Joint monitoring visit conducted across all four WEECs & Exposure Visit
Monthly water-quality data collected at 4 sites (5th of each month)
9 citizen scientists certified through advanced training
120 monthly learning sessions tracked across 10 WEECs
Indicator achievement reviewed against TROSA Phase II log-frame

“After returning from Pantnagar, we learned how to select good breeds of cows, improve vegetable production, and apply new sustainable farming ideas. The Overall exposure was so good”

AMRITA BAM, SHRREBAGAD WEEC

PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborative Relationships & Key Stakeholders



Key Partners

Lekam Rural Municipality / Ward Office

Local Governments (Byans, Malikarjun, Duhun, Lekam Rural Municipality & Mahakali Municipality)

Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC)

RUWDUC (NGO Partner)

NEEDS Nepal (NGO Partner)

CEDAR (Indian NGO Partner)

OXFAM Nepal (INGO Partner)

DDMC & DEOC (Partnership on Early Warning System)

Nepal Police & Armed Police Force (APF) (Partnership on Mahakali Cleaning Campaign & EWS)

Local FM Stations & Media Outlets

Nepal-India Transboundary Stakeholders & Civil Society

Page 12 | TROSA Phase II Annual Progress Report | Partnership

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

Long-Term Impact Across All Four Outcomes



Key Sustainability Pillars

- Local Ownership & Community Leadership
- Institutional Strengthening via WEECs
- Capacity Building & Citizen Science
- 9 trained citizen scientists & 10 legally registered WEECs.
- Community-level flood early warning task force.
- Resource Mobilisation & Local Gov. Partnerships
- Cross-Border Knowledge & Advocacy Networks



INNOVATION CASE STUDY

Community-Led Solutions for Climate Resilience & Water Security



By transforming seeds into security, and farming into freedom, these 32 women proved that with the right support, women in even the most remote regions can lead the way in economic transformation. Their journey reflects not only financial success, but also personal empowerment, increased self-worth, and a shift in gender dynamics at home and in society.

The story of these lead farmers is a testament to the power of opportunity, when combined with determination and the right support. The Women Economic Empowerment Centres are not just places of training— they are spaces of transformation, planting seeds of change that are already beginning to flourish.

Key Innovations

NPR 816,250 total livelihood investment mobilised across WEECs
8 polyhouses built in Shreebagad, Pragatishil, Mahakali & Sagarmatha
9 community members certified as Citizen Water Scientists
Monthly water monitoring at 4 sites: Jauljibi, Tigram, Khalanga & Dattu
Community-led irrigation tank at Ratauda (NPR 700,000 TROSA + NPR 150,000 local govt)

COMMUNICATION & KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Sharing Learning, Amplifying Voices — April 2025 to March 2026



Key Communication Outputs

FM Radio Monsoon Jingles — Early Warning Broadcasts
Mahakali Sambad — Nepal-India Dialogue Publications
Citizen Science Learning Sharing Meeting Reports
WEEC Monthly Session Documentation (120 sessions)
Mahakali Cleaning Campaign Event Reports (16 events)

POLICY INFLUENCING

Transboundary Advocacy & District-Level Engagement



Key Policy Actions

Mahakali Sambad dialogue convened with Nepal-India stakeholders
Joint lobbying and field visits with CSO partners across basin
FM radio monsoon jingles broadcast for community early warning
Emergency information board installed at Pulghat and Dattu
District-level policy engagement ongoing [Like Sand mining Guideline]

CHALLENGES & RISKS

*Implementation Barriers — TROSA Phase II, April
2025–March 2026*



Key Challenges Identified

- Difficult site access — remote communities reachable only by foot or donkey transport
- Stakeholder coordination delays — multi-agency scheduling and alignment across Nepal–India border
- Inconsistent participation — irregular attendance at WEEC sessions and community meetings
- Possible funding gaps — risk of budget shortfalls affecting sustained activity delivery
- Limited district-level policy influencing — restricted access to formal policy processes

LESSONS LEARNED

TROSA Phase II – Year 1 Implementation Insights



Key Lessons from Year II

Community ownership accelerates results: WEECs with strong local leadership and regular monthly sessions showed higher participation rates and more sustained livelihood outcomes than groups with irregular facilitation.

Partnerships must be formalised early: Delays in stakeholder coordination—particularly with district-level government bodies—underscore the need for signed MoUs and clear role definitions at project inception.

Adaptive management is essential in remote contexts: Difficult site access and reliance on donkey transport in Shreebagad and Pragatishil required flexible scheduling and decentralised decision-making to maintain activity timelines.

Gender-responsive design improves inclusion: Dedicating specific sessions to women's leadership, the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, and targeting female beneficiaries in seed support increased women's confidence and participation across all four outcomes.

Cross-border learning strengthens resilience: The Nepal-India interaction and joint citizen-science training demonstrated that transboundary river management benefits significantly from shared data, mutual trust, and structured bilateral dialogue platforms.

FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL

TROSA Phase II – Reporting Period: April 2025 – March 2026

Chistnotari Clinicilor

Denumirea unit.	2019	2018	
Suma	Suma	Suma	
Spitalul 001	12.345	1.234	11.111
Spitalul 002	18.123	2.345	15.778
Spitalul 003	14.567	2.100	12.467
Spitalul 004	10.987	1.500	9.487
Spitalul 005	11.234	1.800	9.434
Spitalul 006	16.543	2.100	14.443
Spitalul 007	19.876	2.500	17.376
Spitalul 008	13.456	1.700	11.756
Spitalul 009	17.654	2.200	15.454
Spitalul 010	15.432	1.900	13.532
Spitalul 011	12.109	1.600	10.509
Spitalul 012	18.765	2.300	16.465
Spitalul 013	14.321	1.800	12.521
Spitalul 014	16.789	2.000	14.789
Spitalul 015	11.567	1.700	9.867
Spitalul 016	19.234	2.400	16.834
Spitalul 017	13.876	1.900	11.976
Spitalul 018	17.432	2.100	15.332
Spitalul 019	15.109	1.800	13.309
Spitalul 020	18.543	2.200	16.343

Budget Summary [Requires Verification]

Approved Budget (NPR): 8542334.20/- [To be confirmed]

Actual Expenditure (NPR): 8541250/- [To be confirmed]

Variance (NPR): 1084/- [To be confirmed]

Absorption Rate (%): 99.39 [To be confirmed]

Balance Remaining (NPR): 0 [To be confirmed]

ANNEX 1 RECORDS OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Reporting Period: April 2025 – March 2026



Key Activities Conducted

- Irrigation tank construction & joint monitoring visit, Ratauda
- Climate-resilient agriculture training with Agriculture Knowledge Centre
- Two rounds of seed support distributed to five WEECs
- Eight polyhouses constructed (Shreebagad, Pragatishil, Mahakali, Sagarmatha)
- Exposure visit to Nawalpur, Karnali-Chisapani & Rampur Agriculture Campus
- 16 Mahakali Cleaning Campaign events conducted
- 120 monthly WEEC learning sessions across 10 WEECs
- Monthly water quality testing (5th of each month) at Jauljibi, Tigram, Khalanga & Dattu
- 9 citizen scientists certified through advanced training
- Nepal-India transboundary interaction and early-warning channel update
- FM radio monsoon jingles broadcast via local FM stations
- Emergency information board installed at Pulghat, Dattu
- 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign
- Four Youth Basin Ambassadors and one Youth Fellow engaged
- WEEC renewal meetings and governance strengthening sessions
- Mahakali Sambad and joint lobbying/field visits conducted

ANNEX 2 EVENT REPORTS & KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Minutes, Learning Documents & Communication Products



Documents Included

- Event Reports: Mahakali Cleaning Campaign (16 events)
- Meeting Minutes: Nepal–India Cooperation & WEEC Renewal Meetings
- Learning Documents: Citizen Scientist Certification Records & Training Reports
- Process Document Of Climate Resilient Livelihood
- Knowledge Products: Water Quality Monitoring Data & Basin Ambassador Reports
- Communication Products: FM Radio Monsoon Jingles & Mahakali Sambad Publications

Summary of Changes

- Irrigation tank activity at Ratauda advanced ahead of schedule due to strong local government co-investment (NPR 150,000 contribution secured)
- Polyhouse construction expanded from five to eight units across Shreebagad, Pragatishil, Mahakali and Sagarmatha WEECs following increased demand
- Citizen-science water-quality testing schedule revised to fixed monthly dates (5th of each month) at four sites: Jauljibi, Tigram, Khalanga and Dattu
- Nepal–India early-warning communication channel update deferred by one quarter due to cross-border stakeholder coordination delays; completed within reporting period
- Youth Basin Ambassador and Youth Fellow recruitment timeline shifted by six weeks owing to school examination schedules; four Ambassadors and one Fellow confirmed by Q3

ANNEX 3 CASE STORY

TROSA Phase II – Reporting Period: April 2025–March 2026

Seeds Of Change: A Story of Growth, Grit & Women's Empowerment

For generations, women in the Mahakali region relied heavily on subsistence farming, producing just enough to survive, with little opportunity to earn or contribute financially to their households. Limited access to resources, markets, and support systems left them with minimal options to break free from economic dependence.

This began to change when 32 women lead farmers from four Women Economic Empowerment Centres (WEECs) i.e. Shreebagad, Sagarmatha, Mahakali and Devinagar were selected for a seed distribution initiative under the TROSA project, implemented by the Community Rural Development Society (CRDS) with financial support from Oxfam in Nepal.

These women were provided with seeds of cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, and potato – crops suited to the climate and market demand of the region.



This income became more than just profit – it became power. Many of the women used the money to pay for their children's education, manage household expenses, and reduce the financial burden on their husbands. For the first time, they were able to contribute meaningfully to family decisions and community life.



The story of these lead farmers is a testament to the power of opportunity, when combined with determination and the right support. The Women Economic Empowerment Centres are not just places of training – they are spaces of transformation, planting seeds of change that are already beginning to flourish.



What followed was nothing short of inspiring. With the knowledge gained from regular WEEC sessions and their own relentless effort, these women cultivated the vegetables and began selling them across both Nepali and Indian markets. Over time, their collective earnings reached an impressive NPR 9,50,850.



By transforming seeds into security, and farming into freedom, these 32 women proved that with the right support, women in even the most remote regions can lead the way in economic transformation. Their journey reflects not only financial success, but also personal empowerment, increased self-worth, and a shift in gender dynamics at home and in society.



ANNEX 4 SUCESS STORY

From River Users to River Protectors: Empowering Communities Through Water Quality Testing



The communities along the Mahakali River utilized the river water without understanding the inherent risks, prior to the introduction of water quality testing. The river served as a water source, for drinking, washing clothes, disposing of garbage, and even releasing sewage. This lack of awareness meant they were harming their own health and damaging the river's ecosystem and aquatic life, as they viewed the river as merely an ordinary resource, not something requiring protection.

The Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) Project challenged this assumption within four of its Women Empowerment Centres (WECs), community institutions focused on water governance and climate resilience, by introducing water quality testing. The community members were initially surprised, believing only professionals could perform such tests. This perception quickly shifted to curiosity and excitement once they realized they could conduct the testing themselves using simple kits.

In the beginning the women faced resistance within their households. As one citizen scientist recalled, her husband questioned her, "Why do you go out every day? What's this work?" Despite challenges, they persevered. They established regular water quality testing in their communities and successfully advocated to local governments for initiatives promoting clean water and improved waste management.

Over time, the initiative gained momentum. The initiative's growing success led to widespread community acceptance with local residents, including men, asking the women to perform water quality testing in their areas. This acceptance extended to their homes, transforming previously resistant husbands into supportive and proud advocates for their wives' work. The influence even crossed borders, inspiring the Mahakali Cleaning Campaign which successfully mobilized Indian communities across the river to cooperate on cleaning the Mahakali River.

Today, the initiative boasts of 16 certified citizen scientists, while WEC members are actively advocating for the establishment of a local water quality laboratory. These women now vocally intervene whenever they observe improper disposal of garbage into the river or along roadsides. Consequently, there is increased public awareness regarding essential practices such as water source hygiene, boiling water, and using filters.

This transformation demonstrates the lasting behavioral change that occurs when communities are empowered with knowledge and the right tools. The Mahakali River is no longer perceived as "just a river" but as a shared responsibility. Thanks to the unwavering leadership and commitment of the WEC members, the Mahakali is now cleaner, safer, and held in higher respect.