

SCN Climate Initiative - Pilot Project Narrative Report

1. General Information

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| Country | Nepal |
| Project period | 1 December 2022- 30 April 2023 |
| Area of implementation and target group | Ward number 2 and 3 of Gurans Rural Municipality of Dailekh District of Karnali Province, Nepal 16-24 years youths and adolescent and Community Forestry Users Groups (CFUGs)/ Water Users Groups (WUGs) members from the community. |
| Partners | Social Service Center (SOSEC) Nepal, a local NGO in Dailekh, is the leading partner of SCI in close coordination and collaboration with local Government and other project stakeholders like private sectors, Market Management Committee (MMC), Monetary and Financial Institutions (MFIs), wholesalers and other services providers. |
| SCI CO Focal Point for the project | Mr. Durga Acharaya, CPoV, Advisor Mr. Bishnu Kumar Bamma, Project Manager |

1. Project progress and results achievement

1.1 Results - project status

Palika Level Kick-up Meeting

On 7 January 2023, the project conducted a palika level kick-off meeting in the presence of 29 participants (Female: 19, Male: 10), which included, Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Chief Administrative Officer of Gurans Rural Municipality/Palika including other ward representatives and department heads from all the departments of the Municipality. The objective, goals, and implementation modality of the project activities were discussed in detail during the meeting. Participants discussed about the expected role of the palika in the project and how all different agencies can work collaboratively to ensure the successful implementation of the project. The palika members and elected bodies were excited to collaborate with Save the Children during the project intervention, and the palika chairperson committed to provide full support to ensure the success of the project.

Outcome 1: Improved capacity of youth (adolescent girls, boys, women, and men) to establish green enterprises and engage in green jobs in selected wards of Gurans rural municipality.

Output-1.1: Capacity of youths enhanced to implement green job initiative

1.1.1. Conduct technical and market feasibility assessment of different green enterprises/jobs opportunities in proposed municipality and adjoining markets

Market Feasibility Assessments

In March, the project conducted a market feasibility assessment covering a total of 48 people (Female: 23, Male: 25) to identify potential green enterprises/businesses in the local

community and adjoining markets. The project carried out a market feasibility study at few vegetable markets, collection center in Dailekh, Gurans Rural Municipality, Dungewor bazar (Small market at Ward no. 2 of Gurans Rural Municipality), and Surkhet, to understand the demand at the local level, including production and potential for marketing of the products produced by the green entrepreneurs. The assessment was aimed at gathering crucial information on market size, demand, and competition for green products and services. These assessments involved analyzing various aspects of the market, including customer needs and preferences, competition, market trends, and potential demand. By conducting this assessment, the project was able to identify gaps and opportunities in the local market that could be leveraged by the green entrepreneurs. Ultimately, the market feasibility assessment helped to identify the most promising green enterprises and provide the necessary support to help the selected green entrepreneurs to succeed in their selected businesses. A well-executed market feasibility assessment provided information and valuable insights to guide the decision-making process. It helped the project to determine if the idea is viable, understand the competitive landscape, identify target market segments, and develop effective marketing strategies.

1.1.2. *Develop green jobs/enterprises protocol that entails the detailed process of beneficiary selection, policy provisions and evidence generation in coordination with municipal authorities.*

Develop Beneficiaries Selection Criteria, Disaster related Awareness jingle

In order to ensure a fair and objective selection process for green entrepreneurs, the project followed a collaborative approach in developing the selection criteria. The project team discussed and finalized the criteria, taking into consideration the project objectives and goals. The project team consulted with members of the municipality to ensure their input was incorporated into the criteria finalized, and selection criteria developed in a transparent way to ensure accessibility to all potential applicants by sharing the information through the municipality's information board, as well as broadcasting it through the local radio FM. By taking this approach, the project was able to ensure that the selection process was fair and transparent. The potential applicants had access to the selection criteria and were able to understand what was required to become a green entrepreneur. This helped to generate interest and ensure that the most qualified candidates were selected for the program. Through this process, the project was able to build trust with the community and ensure that the program was implemented successfully.

Coordination with Rural Municipalities for Beneficiaries Selection Process

The palika level monthly coordination meeting was a crucial platform for coordinating and linking with concerned government counterparts and district-based stakeholders. These meetings have been encouraging and supportive, but there is still a need to strengthen partnership coordination to implement the project intervention smoothly. It is important to ensure that all stakeholders work together in a coordinated manner to achieve the project's goals and objectives. During the monthly meetings, the agenda discussed were progress, challenges, and opportunities related to the project. The meetings provide an opportunity to

review the project's activities, identify areas that require improvement, and share best practices among the stakeholders.

Assessments of Potential Beneficiaries needs and capacity, Conduct Parenting Session, Orientation on Green Job Business and Green Mind-set

The project used different tools and techniques to identify potential green enterprises. The decision was based on the expressed choices of the selected youth for the green job-based entrepreneurship and the categorization and analysis of potential green job enterprises as per the local context. The project team categorized the green enterprises using the attractiveness matrix which is a tool used to compare and evaluate multiple options based on multiple criteria, and then used the weighted scoring matrix to assess and compare options based on various criteria. It enabled the decision makers to give weightage to the potential green enterprises based on various criteria to reflect their relative importance and then rate each option according to how well it satisfies each criterion.

After grouping and assessment of potential green job enterprises, capacity building plans for potential beneficiaries were identified and planned accordingly. The project also conducted face to face meetings with the potential participants to understand about their interest in becoming green entrepreneurs and their expected outcomes. This was followed by parenting session where discussions were held with the parents of the youths selected to orient them about the different aspects of green jobs and to understand their level of commitment in supporting their child in this journey.

Orientated to the Selected Beneficiaries and Visit their household by Physically for Verification

In order to identify suitable candidates for the green entrepreneurship program, the project conducted door-to-door visit to the households of potential beneficiaries during the end of January 2023. During these visits, the project team engaged in discussions with the parents of the beneficiaries as well to better understand the aspirations and motivations of the youth who had shown interest to become entrepreneurs. By doing so, the project was able to gain a better understanding of the applicants' genuine interest in green entrepreneurship and the level of support they had from their families. This process helped to select the most suitable candidates who were committed to becoming green entrepreneurs and had the necessary support from their families.

Following the household verification process, the project conducted an orientation session on 29 January 2023 for 32 selected beneficiaries (Male: 10, Female: 22). During the session, the project provided a comprehensive overview of the program's aim, goals, and expectations, as well as an introduction to the green jobs/businesses selected as potential enterprises with climate change adaptation at its core. This orientation session played a crucial role in setting expectations and building a solid foundation for the program. It provided the beneficiaries with a clear understanding of the program's objectives and the steps they needed to take to become successful green entrepreneurs.

1.1.3 Conduct a five-day's comprehensive entrepreneurship development training to the selected youths on three major components (TOPE, TOSE and TOE) of Start and Improve

Your Business (SIYB) with a focus on enhancing trainee's skills on the selection and implementation of appropriate business/enterprises that are green and remunerative.

Conduct 3 days Life skill For Success Training to the Selected beneficiaries for build-up communicate skill, problem solving, personal goal settings, developing good listening skills, confidence and well-being

27 selected youths (Male: 10, Female: 17) participated in the Life Skill for Success (LS4S) training on 2-4 February 2023. The training motivated them to start and expand their business. The training also helped them in their personal development which ultimately contributes in business development. The training helped generate awareness in youths regarding the importance of small businesses and how it would contribute towards income generation.

One Day Learning exposure visit

The project conducted one day exposure visit on 5 February 2023 for 29 selected beneficiaries (Male: 17, Female: 12) to the local nursery farm, agro vets, vegetable market, and bio fertilizer industry to expose them to some existing and successful green job enterprises including production and marketing systems and build their confidence to establish and operate one on their own. The visit was very useful to the beneficiaries as they could observe the green enterprises closely and obtain first-hand information on how these enterprises were operated and prepared them to start their own business.

Start and improve your business (SIYB) training

A total of 28 beneficiaries (Male: 11, Female: 17) from ward number 2 and 3 of Gurans Rural Municipality received Start and Improve your business (SIYB) training on 6-10 February 2023. The training was organized with the objective to provide the participants with business planning and marketing skills to successfully engage in income generation activities/businesses and increase their income to improve their livelihood conditions and that of their families. By the end of the training, the beneficiaries developed their own business plan based on their area of interest and priority. The business plan developed by each individual participants will serve as a guiding document and will assist them in establishing their business and steering their business in the correct direction. However, out of the 28 participants, 3 participants (Male) dropped out after receiving the SIYB training.

Among them, 25 youths who participated in the training have started their own business such as vegetable farm, nursery farm, citrus farming etc. Among them, 5 beneficiaries have taken loan from different formal and informal institutions such as cooperatives, banks and have even borrowed money from their close relatives to start their business.

1.1.4 Provide a five-day technical training (focused on enterprise-based coaching) in 2 phases on green enterprises

Conduct 5 days Technical (Based on their Business plan)

The project conducted a five-day technical training program on 17-21 February 2023 on vocational skills in ward number 3 of Gurans rural municipality, with participation of 25 selected beneficiaries (Male: 8, Female: 17). The training covered topics such Nursery management, Farm management, and bio-pesticide preparation etc. The training program was successful in supporting selected youths for business start up. After receiving this training, all 25 beneficiaries have started their own businesses based on their business plans like: Vegetable farm, Nursery Farm, Citrus Farming, etc. The success of the training program is

reflected in the fact that five of the beneficiaries have taken out loans from different formal and informal institutions, such as cooperatives, banks, and borrowed money from their close relatives, to start and improve their businesses. This demonstrates the positive impact of the training program on the beneficiaries' ability to generate income and contribute to their local economy.

1.1.5 Start-up support for the trained youths to establish green enterprise demonstrations sites

Beneficiaries Farm registration, bank account opening and Pan card registration

Based on the business plan prepared by the green entrepreneurs, individual beneficiaries' firm has been registered at the District Small Industries Office and at the respective wards with the aim of registration the business in their own name and to ensure accountability and responsibility on the beneficiaries' part towards their business. In coordination with the bank, the project also completed the task of opening individual bank accounts for 11 beneficiaries (Male: 7, Female: 4) in the name of the beneficiary's business/firm. The rest of the beneficiaries already had a bank account. Moreover, the project also facilitated the process of registering the beneficiary's business at the Inland Revenue Office and obtaining Permanent Account Number (PAN) and taxation certificate to ensure that the business has a legal status.

Start-up Support to the selected beneficiaries

As part of project intervention, the project provided a start up support fund of Nepali Rupees (NRs) 40,000 (NOK 3,336) to 24 selected and trained beneficiaries (Male: 7, Female: 17, Dalits: 4, Ethnic: 5, Brahmin/Chhatri: 15) through their bank account. Out of the total 25 beneficiaries who received the SIYB training, 1 beneficiary dropped out as he migrated after starting the business. The support enabled them to establish and scale up their green enterprises. With the funds received, the beneficiaries purchased various types of vegetable seeds, farm equipment, plastic tunnels, and other necessary materials. This has enabled them to set up their enterprises and start production. To ensure the success of the green enterprises, the project provided regular follow-up and technical backstopping support too which included training on nursery bed preparation, plastic house preparation, compost manure preparation, bio-fertilizer preparation, and other technical aspects of green enterprise management. This support has been instrumental in helping the beneficiaries to overcome any challenges they faced in setting up their enterprises and has enabled them to scale up their businesses. As a result, the beneficiaries have been able to generate income and contribute to the local economy, while also promoting environmental sustainability.

Organized Palika level Job fair

The project facilitated with the organization of a job fair in April 2023 to support green entrepreneurs in their quest for establishment and operation of their businesses. The event was attended by local officials and entrepreneurs, and it provided opportunities for networking, career exploration, and learning about the latest trends and technologies. During the event, two executive members of a cooperative committed to properly manage their cooperative and link project beneficiaries with their cooperatives. Additionally, the Chairperson of Gurans Rural Municipality/Palika pledged to provide financial and technical support to project beneficiaries according to their business plans. In overall, the job fair was successful in providing a platform for green entrepreneurs to build connections and gain knowledge and gain access to potential resources to make their business more sustainable.

The job fair also provided a good opportunity for individual beneficiaries to network and explore career options in green economy. The 34 participants (Male: 18, Female: 16, Dalits: 3, Ethnic Minority/Janajati: 4, Brahmin/Chhetri: 27) learned about the latest trends and technologies in the field of green agriculture, market trends, and received the opportunity to establish functional relationship with the various actors/stakeholders in the market and exchange information and interact on the sustainability aspect of the business, role of potential employers in promoting green business, skills and experience required for various green jobs. Furthermore, the job fair aimed to support green entrepreneurs in getting easy access to stakeholders and local governments and to empower them. The job fair attracted a wide range of participants, including local officials, innovators, and stakeholders committed to promoting green initiatives. Their active engagement created an environment conducive to networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration. Hence, while the program greatly supported the green entrepreneurs to gain up to date information on the latest trends and technologies, it also helped them immensely in networking, career exploration, and sustainability of their businesses.

1.1.6 Organize the Digital Hangouts

Digital Hangout

The project organized two events of digital hangouts in the presence of palika chairperson, Health post incharge, ward chairperson, representatives from media, market management committee, youth clubs, mothers' groups, CFUG member, selected beneficiaries, and more than 20 local communities' members. The palika level digital hangout program was organized on 20 March 2023 amongst 36 participants (Male: 18, Female: 18) and ward level digital hangout program was conducted on 19 March 2023 amongst 39 participants (Male: 20, Female: 19).

The digital hangout event covered the agenda of climate change impact, opportunities and issues related to green jobs, water conservation practices and leveraging resources. The event was a significant step towards addressing climate change and preparing for potential disasters caused by infrastructure development and unplanned developmental activities. By bringing together local governments and concerned bodies, the event facilitated dialogue and collaboration, ensure accountability and develop effective strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change. Through this event, attendees were able to identify potential risks of climate change and develop solutions to adapt to the changing conditions. Hence, by prioritizing climate change and disaster preparedness, the local communities can take a proactive approach towards building a more resilient future

Output-1.2: Knowledge and capacities of CFUG enhanced to implement water management practices

1.2.1 Organize a three-day orientation cum workshop with existing CFUG members on climate friendly practices and technologies linking them with green jobs

Interaction/ Introduction meeting with community forest users' group, collection of CFUGs needs and verification of CFUG existing policies, action plans and document.

In the initial round of discussions with the community forest users' group committees from ward no. 2 (on 20 March 2023) and ward no. 3 (on 21 March 2023) of Gurans rural municipality, a series of discussions and interaction were made to explore various aspects, including their previous endeavors in addressing climate change, the localized impact of climate change, potential solutions, forest committee policies and regulations, as well as their specific requirements. The valuable insights gathered from these engagements, coupled with their enthusiastic involvement, facilitated a smooth collaboration moving forward.

During this period, the documents of CFUG were reviewed, their registration were verified, and their renewal and action plans were also reviewed. The participatory assessment were made on the basis of physical observation, trend analysis, incident timeline as well as focused group discussion and experience sharing.

Conduct 3 days CFUGs Capacity building Workshop and Prepare their Action Plan on the base of local scenario, environment, resource

The project successfully conducted a comprehensive three-day workshop on 20-22 February 2023 on climate change, water resource conservation, water conservation, effective water use practices and technology, and green employment. The workshop brought together 22 members (Male: 11, Female: 11) from different Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) as well as two ward chairman and two elected ward members from two wards. The primary objective of the workshop was to equip participants with valuable knowledge and resources that would enable them to take practical steps towards achieving environmental sustainability and local economic development.

At the end of the workshop, the participants developed their own CFUG appropriate action plan incorporating climate change mitigation plans and action plans, which was a reflection of the knowledge and skills they gained during the workshop. To support the implementation of their action plan, each CFUG received Nrs. 300,000 (NOK 25,000) through their respective CFUG bank accounts. The funds provided were utilized by the CFUG members for various works such as construction of water recharge ponds, tree plantation, and water resource conservation, based on their specific action plans. The outcomes of the workshop were very positive, and the participants were highly appreciative of the knowledge and resources being provided. The workshop succeeded in building the capacity of the participants to implement environmentally sustainable practices while also promoting local economic development. The workshop is expected to have a positive impact on the environment and local communities in the long term.

1.2.2 *Support the selected CFUG to implement CFUG action plan that includes promotion of climate-and environmental friendly practices, and water conservation /efficient water use technologies.*

Identification and Mapping of natural water sources in CFUG

In order to solve the problems of irrigation and drinking water in the community as the natural water sources are dried up and depleted due to climate change, the project supported with identification and mapping of the water sources as well as other resources within the forest committee area such as 'unused land suitable for plantation of medicinal plants, herbs' etc. in the presence of the members of the CFUGs members and representatives of the respective wards.

In collaboration with the local government representatives and CFUGs members, the project prepared a list of natural water resources identified and classified them on the basis of use (household chores, irrigation, etc) and water source. Further, the project supported the CFUGs for the building of water recharge pond, including conservation, and promotion of existing water sources identified and mapped in the community forest. In this way, the conservation of existing water sources carried out in coordination with local government representatives and forest committee officials will ensure conservation and protection of water sources in a sustainable way.

Organized one day's workshop on climate change impact assessment and develop Climate smart village Indicator with CFUF, YOUTH and Palika

The project organized a one-day discussion program during the third week of April 2023 in the presence of members of Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and green entrepreneurs to discuss about the impact of climate change and the importance of development of a climate friendly village indicator. There were a total of 28 participants (Male: 20, Female: 8, Dalits: 3, Janajati/Ethnic Minority: 2, Brahmin/Chhetri: 25) in the program. By the end of the program, the participants had developed 14 indicators of climate smart village. The program provided an excellent foundation for the development of a climate smart village. The members of the CFUGs and green entrepreneurs who participated in the program expressed their satisfaction and happiness on being able to contribute and be part of the development process in preparation of indicators of a climate smart village.

1.2.3 Documentation of key learning and good practices and sharing of lessons at local and national level (1 document and 1 sharing event)

Capturing and Development of baseline and endline video documentary

The project hired a consultant to create a baseline video documentary which captured the initial condition of the project area prior to the implementation of the project. The purpose of developing the baseline video was to provide a clear understanding of the condition of the area and the challenges faced by the community before the project was implemented. The video also included some of the key issues faced by the community with regards to impact of climate change along with voices of community members and youth, giving a better insight into the community's needs and expectations. By understanding the baseline situation, we will be in a better position to accurately evaluate the impact of the project. This documentary will serve as a reference for us to see the difference between the condition of the project 'before' and 'after' the project intervention. The 'after' situation of the project interventions has been reflected in the endline video to provide viewers with a clear picture of the changes brought about by the project.

Project Review reflection and learning Sharing workshop

The project organized a two-day project review and learning workshop at the end of the project period (24-25 April 2023) to reflect and discuss about the project achievements, challenges and lessons learned. There were a total of 21 participants (Male: 16, Female: 5, Dalit: 1, Ethnic minority/Janajati: 5, Brahmin/Chhetri: 15) in the workshop. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for project staff to reflect on the successes and challenges encountered during the project implementation phase and helped to identify and address issues which have or may arise during project implementation, which ultimately led to improved project outcomes. The discussions held during the workshop was helpful and it provided vital insights to SCI in terms of preparing future climate initiative projects including the 'Phase 2' of this project.

Reflection on Project Successes and Challenges:

Participants engaged in open and constructive discussions, reflecting on the successes and challenges encountered during the project implementation phase. They shared valuable insights and experiences, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the project's strengths and weaknesses.

Identification of Lessons Learned

Through collaborative sessions, participants identified key lessons learned from the project. These lessons encompassed various aspects, including project management, resource allocation, stakeholder engagement, risk mitigation, partnership, coordination and social mobilization aspect.

Exchange of Learning Experiences

The workshop fostered a culture of knowledge sharing, allowing project staff to share their experiences, and strategies for addressing challenges encountered during the project intervention. This exchange of learning and experiences enriched the collective knowledge of the team and provided valuable insights for future project endeavors.

Recommendations for Improvement

Based on the project review and learning sharing sessions, participants generated actionable recommendations for enhancing future project implementation. These recommendations encompassed areas such as process optimization, short and sweet procedural in piloting process, development of communication strategies, project risk management, and capacity building of project team.

The learnings/experiences gained from the project and the challenges faced are mentioned in the 'Process Document' annexed to this report along with the details of the process and its outcomes and supporting documents.

Reflections and Analysis

Provide a summary with analysis and reflections on the output and outcome results during the last project period, with reference to the logframe. What have been the most important findings and experiences in this period? What collaboration or approach has been particularly successful? What activities have worked well and can be scaled up? Are there any activities that did not produce the

desired outputs or outcomes? Are there other activities that might be more appropriate in producing the desired results? Are there any unexpected effects/results (either positive or negative)?

The project's output and outcomes were well defined and aligned with its activities which were supportive to achieve the desired result. The project activities were relevant, appropriate, and contextual to address the issues focused by the project.

One of the major findings of this project was that despite climate change and green entrepreneurship being a new concept, the community people were very supportive of the project objectives and were highly motivated to understand climate change and its impact, address issues related to climate change in their community including issues of depleting natural water sources and lastly, showed great interest in engaging in promotion of green jobs.

The culture and approach of working together with different stakeholders (Municipality, financial institution, service providers, private sectors, and market actors) during joint planning, assessment, analysing the market, exploring opportunity, technology transfer was quite impressive and efficient. Likewise, through collaboration and coordination with local government and related stakeholders, the project was able to carry out project interventions more effectively and gain government interest and ownership. The project has been identified as one of the development counterparts on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and green job promotion by the local government.

Moreover, the job fair event was successful on building connection between the new green job entrepreneurs and relevant stakeholders and hence, opening doors for partnerships, collaborations, and market expansion. The job fair became a platform for the new green job entrepreneurs to gain access to crucial resources such as financial support, technical expertise, and market insights, enabling them to sustain and scale up their businesses. Interactive sessions and presentations provided entrepreneurs with valuable insights into sustainable practices, innovative technologies, and market trends and finally, the commitment of the municipal chairperson to provide financial and technical assistance to entrepreneurs based on their business plans further boosted the confidence and prospects of the project beneficiaries.

Likewise, the interaction program with participation of beneficiaries, project employees, representatives from respective ward offices, cooperatives, banks, insurance, and other local micro finance programs of other development partners helped to bring together relevant stakeholders in a common platform to foster coordination and collaboration between them to support entrepreneurs in scaling up their business and addressing their demand for financial resources at the local level. The project facilitated this process to create a conducive environment for the entrepreneurs to explore and obtain necessary funding resources to propel their ventures in the future.

Furthermore, the capacity building events of CFUG members and revision of their existing CFUG action plan incorporating climate and environment friendly practices helped the community members be more accountable towards climate change impacts by adopting appropriate mitigation measures and implement the plan mobilizing internal resources and leveraging resources from local government.

The digital hangout sessions brought together diverse stakeholders, enabling dialogues and collaboration among local governments, CFUG members, beneficiaries, and community representatives. This collaboration is crucial for effective climate change mitigation and disaster preparedness efforts. Through discussions during the sessions, participants identified potential risks associated with climate change and developed innovative solutions to adapt and mitigate these risks. This proactive approach will contribute towards building resilience of local communities against climate change and prepare them for necessary adaptation. The sessions raised awareness about climate change impacts, opportunities in green jobs, and water conservation practices. Attendees gained knowledge and insights, empowering them to make informed decisions and take action towards a sustainable future.

These activities helped the project to meet its desired outputs and outcomes and given that the concept of climate change and its impact is new to the local community, it is strongly recommended that all of these activities are continued and scaled up to ensure its sustainability in the long run.

We have observed good results from the activities carried out so far and there were not any activities which did not produce or contributed to reach the desired outputs and outcomes. However, besides the planned activities, the project also came to the realization how there are an array of other potential activities such as linking CFUG and its members to forest lease land for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) production and generating high employment opportunity, use of forest products for production of bio briquette, solar irrigation system, plantation of broom grass in landslide prone areas and high value crops in barren land of community forest, which can be carried out as well to meet the project objectives given the availability of adequate time and resources. Likewise, the approach of climate smart village and promotion of compost manure could be some examples of activities that could contribute to tackle climate change issues in the community.

One significant achievement of the project was the increased interest and ownership of the local government in project initiatives. The government reached out to the project to seek technical and financial support for the development and formulation of Municipal level employment policy incorporating the promotion of organic and green businesses that could support community youths to explore employment opportunity at the community level and contribute to minimize seasonal migration for employment.

Way forward

Based on the analysis above what are your next steps? Would you like to scale this project up, if so, how? Please elaborate on replicability, scalability, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness. Or are there necessary changes/amendments to the project approach? Or is this not an effective approach for SC to continue? Do you have any other suggested next steps?

The second phase of the project has been designed based on the experience and learnings from this phase. Understanding the need in the community for income generation support, the project will provide business startup and growth trainings to the relevant youth (startup training to the newly selected youth for Phase II, and business growth training to the phase 1

entrepreneurs). While selecting the green jobs for the second phase, the learning from the performance of already implemented jobs will be taken into consideration, but the pre-identified long lists will be referred if the youth want to start new business.

Being more deliberate in its approach, the project will refine its approach to inform the design of green job interventions in the second phase. The project will update green jobs/enterprises protocol that entails the detailed process of beneficiary selection, policy provisions and evidence generation in coordination with municipal authorities and update the labour market assessment to explore other green jobs that could be 'greened' with the project's support. The project will attempt to analyse the effects of green jobs on child wellbeing, and impact of green jobs initiatives on climate change. This is crucial since it will allow to check if it is worth to promote green jobs (over other income generating activities) to have climate-positive effects. The outcomes of this can then be used to inform the design of green job interventions in the next NORAD framework including other potential SC Nepal projects with climate change element.

To sustain and scale up the green job interventions in the community, the project will also create platforms for interactions between the green entrepreneurs/youths with relevant financial institutions. This is crucial in the long run as collaboration with financial institutions is vital for youths to access financial resources to establish and sustain their businesses. To foster a conducive environment for green entrepreneurs, the project will also organize digital hangouts among the entrepreneurs, traders, and local governments to exchange information about the business product, market, learnings, and challenges faced. In addition to this, the project will also provide business counselling support to the green entrepreneurs with focus on overall enterprise development, management, and growth. This is crucial since green job is a relatively new concept at the local level and the youths require as much support as possible, at least in the initial stage if not forever. Moreover, the second phase of the project will also attempt to be more inclusive in terms of creating a conducive environment for participation of youths with disability as well. As required, the project will also provide assistive devices to youths. The project will strengthen disability inclusion not just in targeting of youth entrepreneurs but also in breaking taboos with SCI staff and supporting mindset shifts. This will also be helpful in preparation for an inclusive NORAD framework programme as well as other potential future SCI projects.

Lastly, taking into consideration the disproportionate impact of natural disasters and climate change events and shocks (i.e., floods, landslides) on the poorer households and the most vulnerable communities, especially households in agriculture and other ecosystem-dependent livelihoods such as the project beneficiaries, due to their deficit in term of their capacity to prepare, cope and adapt, the project will add a small social protection component initiative in the second phase of the project. The project will carry an assessment of risk and vulnerability in the target areas to map households at risk of being affected by disasters and who are/are not on social protection programs (therefore looking at access), with particular emphasis on households with children including marginalized children, and children with disabilities. The project will also study how to potentially link climate change considerations into social protection programming at local level, as well as explore opportunities for shock-responsive funding for children, in close collaboration with the local government, to then inform national

level policy. The project will see how the social protection part of this project can be used as a form of pre-project that can be continued and expanded into the next Norad framework period.

1.2 Results example

Choose one or more representative example(s) of results or effects. Describe the chain of events leading to the result.

The mobilization and action of community forest users' groups toward revision of their existing plan and implementation of the plan with support from the project could be a good example to show the chain of events leading to the final results.

- Identification of community forest user's groups.
- Project introductory meeting organized to share about project and acquire their interest to work jointly with project.
- Existing community forest user's groups documents like CFUG constitutions, renewal, affiliations, and approval for recognition from respective government line agency, plan of action and other documents verified.
- Series of meeting and interaction in presence with local government conducted.
- TOR developed for CFUG members capacity building and conduct of workshop.
- Coordination with District Soil Conservation Office and District Forest Division Office for capacity building and acquiring support for trainings.
- Prepare for CFUG capacity building workshop and training.
- Organized 3 days' capacity building workshop and training to CFUG Members from 2 community forest.
- Identification of CFUG Challenges, Problems, Strengths, and climate change impact on community forest.
- Develop and update existing CFUG Action Plan based on identified CFUG Challenges, Problems and Strengths, incorporating mitigation and preparedness action for climate change impact, adoption, and environmentally friendly practices on community forest.
- Submit updated CFUG Action Plan to obtain approval from division forest office.
- Mapping of existing natural water sources in community forest.
- Development of Climate Smart Village concept with criteria and basic indicators.
- Identification of barren land for broom grass plantation of landslide prone areas and other plantation within barren land of community forest.
- Construction of recharge ponds around existing water sources identified for regular supply of water year-round for community need and irrigation purpose.
- A total of 190 Recharge Pond constructed (108 in Amara Community Forest and 82 in Saradha Community Forest).

2. Deviations from project plan

Has the project been implemented according to plan? Give a brief account of major deviations and challenges, what effect they might have on the project's results/effects and describe what has been done to mitigate consequences.

The project has been executed as per the plan and there was no major deviation on the project activities.

The project developed the risk and mitigation plan of the project after identifying the possible risks. One of the major challenges for the project was management of staff at the partner level. There was delay in staff recruitment due to the lengthy hiring process followed by the implementing partner as well as retention of staff at the partner office due to the short duration of the project as many potential candidates were hesitant to work in a project which would end soon i.e., 5 months. It was quite difficult to find qualified and experienced technical person having sound knowledge on the subject matter of livelihood, agriculture, forestry and project management for a short period of time. The project, however, adjusted the workplan to ensure completion of project activities despite the delay in kick off of project activities due to late staff recruitment.

Brief description of the management of risk factors - internal or external, identified previously or new.

During the initial phase of project design, some project risks were identified, and possible mitigation measures were developed. The major risk identified were related to compliance, audit, fraud risk: Financial losses and/or reputational damage due to failure in identification and mitigation of fraud and bribery risk. Some other risks identified were related to child safeguarding, COVID context, partner risk, political context considering Nepal's upcoming National Election and its impact on the timely execution of project activities due to the election code of conduct and change in government staffs at the local level, and others risks such as disaster which could halt project intervention and delay the completion of the project. The project did not face the mentioned anticipated risks and all the interventions were carried out smoothly.

Before implementing the project activities in the field, the project team also identified some risks, its influence level, and mitigation plan, which is presented below:

| S.N | ACTORS | INFLUENCED BY | INFLUENCE LEVEL |
|------------|---|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Youths (Social, Cultural and Economical) | Political Parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in political rallies and meetings. Influence during beneficiaries' selection | High |
| | | Cultural /Religious <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some cultural beliefs and religion show negligence towards benefitting enterprise (e.g.: Pig rearing) | High |
| | | Geographical condition (Road and Market access) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topography and Geography present some constraint for selection of enterprise | Medium |
| | | Family economic background and support | High |

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small startup support may be required for enterprise, but it might not be available, resulting in migration | |
| 2 | Community Forest User Group (CFUG) | Internal conflict among the members of CFUG | High |
| | | Political pressure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pressure from the different political parties for recruitment of the personal of their choice in the CFUG committee | High |
| | | Economic aspect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irregularity in vouching the income from sale of fallen trees to the community forest users' group | High |
| 3 | Water User Group (WUG) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal conflict among the members for the position of Chairperson due to expectation of fund from Government and I/NGOs | High |
| 4 | Microfinance and Banks | Policy level bureaucracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various forms and procedure discourage youths to apply for loan for enterprise development | High |
| | | High Interest rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High interest rate of microfinance is a hindrance for loan | High |
| | | Agriculture loan provided to unintended target. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture loan with lower interest rate is provided to elite group rather than those who are involved in on-farm or off-farm enterprise | Medium |

3. Children's participation and non-discrimination

Please describe children's and community's participation in the project, and how you have ensured non-discrimination (gender and disability inclusion)?

As per the nature of the project, there was no direct participation of children as the project focus group was youths and adolescents between the age of 16 to 24 years ensuring at least 40% girls/women participation among the participating youth.

In alignment with SCI policies, the project worked closely with youths identified in coordination with the rural municipality and the implementing partner - SOSEC based on the agreed criteria. **Some of the key criteria for selection were:** youths who were seeking employment opportunities in their own community, returnee migrants, school dropout, possible candidates to migrate from project location in search of work, due to high level of poverty or due to unavailability of appropriate employment opportunity in the community itself, with annual family income below NPR. 180,000 (NOK 15,000), highly vulnerable to risk, poor and socially excluded family or youths from those families who lost their employment

due to Covid-19, water-induced disasters, climate crisis, suffered from gender-based violence, social violence, and people with disabilities.

In addition to this, abiding by SCI polities, the project ensured that none of the project beneficiaries were discriminated in terms of caste, gender, religion, or any forms of social malpractice.

There were not any people with disability involved in the project. Despite the project having the provision and priority to engage people with disability as beneficiaries as much as possible, the project did not receive applications from people with disability.

3. Partnerships

Please describe the partners you have work with on this pilot project, what role they have had/how you have collaborated?

The project partnered with SOSEC, the local implementing partner, to carry out the project interventions in two wards of Gurans Rural Municipality. SOSEC is the partner in the existing NORAD project as well. The partner has an extensive experience of working in the community in the areas of execution of community development, social mobilization including Climate Change, Education, Economic Empowerment, Water and Sanitation related projects. In this project, SOSEC took on the role of the lead implementer at the field level under the guidance and supervision of Save the Children Mid and Far Western Field Office and mobilized its team well to execute project activities and meet the project objectives.

In addition to this, the project also coordinated and collaborated with a variety of developmental partners/ project (i.e., DCA Funded Green Karnali Project), government line agencies (Municipalities, Ward office, Area Forest Office, District Small Industries Office, Office for Soil Conservation), financial institutions like bank and cooperative, private sectors like Agrovets, wholesaler, Market Management Committee, MFIs, and other services providers during different stages of project interventions as mentioned at the activity level.

DCA Funded Green Karnali Project was being implemented in the same location as the project and was being executed by the same partner with most of the project activities uniform in nature, complementing each other's activities and filling in any gaps and addressing them jointly where possible.

From the initial phase of the project, the project team has coordinated and collaborated with these partner organizations to accomplish the project objective. The collaboration was in the form of holding different levels of coordination meetings, identification of their role and support to the project, sharing of information and supporting each other for smooth execution of project activities.

5. Learning and documentation

Please describe how you have documented and shared the process and learning during this pilot project.

One of the main priorities/focuses of the pilot project was to collect information on key learnings during project intervention and to document and communicate those learnings in relevant forms/templates and at appropriate platforms. To fulfil this objective, the project team conducted team meetings on a regular basis (bi-weekly) and reflected upon the project

progress as per the workplan and discussed about any issues or challenges they were currently facing. All of these are captured systematically in the process document which is annexed to the report. This document will provide readers with in-depth information on the thoughts and analysis that went into the carrying out of each project interventions and the key learnings and experiences during the process.

At the start of the project period, the project team prepared the baseline video to capture the situation of the project area prior to project interventions. During the end of the project, the project then developed an endline video to show the changes in the community and the beneficiaries after the project interventions. This will serve as a pictorial representation of the project outcomes/results by showing a comparison of the 'before' and 'after' situations.

Besides these, the project has also gathered other supporting documents such as Terms of Reference (ToR) for SIYB training, CFUG workshop, Digital Hangout sessions, and LS4S training, event reports of major project activities like trainings, job fair, Review and Reflection meeting, LS4S, manuals, and documented them well for future record/reference.

What kind of communication products have you developed/plan to develop to support fundraising and scale-up of the model?

The project developed the project brief and fact sheet featuring the key highlights of the project to provide the targeted audience with a quick snapshot of the project. Similarly, as mentioned above, the project also developed short baseline and endline videos as an effective way to disseminate information about the project to a wider audience in a couple of minutes. During the project interventions, some project activity related portrait and action photos have also been taken for wider dissemination as and when required. Lastly, the project has also developed some impact stories. All of these communication documents will be provided to SC Norway for fundraising purpose as initially agreed. Some of the communication materials like project facts sheet, baseline documentary video was shared during some meetings with the Local Government as well.

What are the major learning points from the project for this implementation period? (What worked/didn't work and what could have been improved?)

Major Project Learning can be illustrated as below:

- Household visits, counselling and parenting sessions were helpful mediums to encourage youths and get their parent's approval and commitment for green jobs.
- The way the project has been designed (Outcome, Output, activities) has pushed the project team to the right direction in meeting the project objectives as the project interventions were highly relevant to the local context and thus helped in getting ownership and buy in from the local government and community people.
- It is vital to bring awareness among the community people and the local government to promote and sustain green job initiatives at the local level.
- Coordination and collaboration with relevant government agencies and transparency in the project process is vital to get community and government buy-in for the project interventions and helps to sustain the project results in the long run.

- Evidence based documentation, process and procedure helped in ensuring accountability within the project team and commitment towards fulfilling the project objectives.
- Co-design of the project with key stakeholders and beneficiaries builds ownership towards the project interventions.
- Climate change initiatives is a new area of intervention for Save the Children Nepal and hence it was anticipated that necessary technical backstopping would be required for the project team for successful project intervention. Keeping this into consideration, the SCI technical advisors provided necessary guidance and support to the project team during project intervention and especially, during the initial period for the successful kick start of the project.

Are there other additional components or ideas that could be included to this project that could strengthen its impact and sustainability?

Local Government:

- Partnership with Local Government for the ownership and continuity of the intervention.
- Technical Support for Policy formulation and support from Government to beneficiaries.
- Formulation and handover of project adaptation and sustainability plan to the local government.

Capacity Building:

- Focus on more capacity building trainings and events for Green Entrepreneur
- Promote for scaling up of business
- Facilitate and support with new technology for higher production

Coordination and Linkage:

- MOU with Local Government MFIs and private sector service providers for technical support, required input and investment in green enterprises.
- Technical support for policy formulation and support from Government
- Linkage and connection of beneficiaries to private sectors, cooperatives, MFIs, and others service providers.

What is your feedback to SCN regarding the process and follow-up? Please reflect in terms of flexibility, guidance, communication, and requirements.

The support the project has received from Save the Children Norway was very beneficial to guide the project team on the right direction and to achieve the intended goal:

- Since the design phase of the project, SCN team was highly involved in the process. SCN clearly communicated with the Nepal proposal design team on what was the expected outcome of the project and provided guidance in ensuring that the project was developed accordingly. After the project kick off meeting as well, SCN timely reminded the project team (via email and calls) the importance of the learning questions and how all project interventions need to be aligned with them. This

constant reminder helped the project team to be on the right track and to not lose focus in the process and miss the essence of the pilot project i.e., 'Learning and documentation' contributing to fund raising for SCN Climate Initiative efforts.

- Regular (bi-weekly) meetings with the SCN team were not just a platform to share updates on the project progress but was also a good opportunity for the project team to share information on the issues/challenges the project was currently facing and get some expert advice on the way forward. The hour-long meeting provided the much-needed motivation and encouragement to the project team as we were continuously reminded of this project being a pilot project, which means that our efforts count and most importantly than final results, what is more vital is our experience and learning during the whole process.
- The 'Community of Practice' platform set up by SCN was very helpful in cross-learning amongst pilot project countries and provided the opportunity to learn from each other's experiences and apply them to our own project.

1. Pilot Specific Learning Questions

What have been the key enablers and challenges in the Green Jobs initiative?

The major Key enablers of the project are:

Enabling Factors

- **Coordination:** Government (Center, Provincial and Local) policies and regulations play a crucial role in creating a conducive environment for the growth of green jobs. Strong policy support can provide incentives for businesses to invest in environmentally sustainable practices and create jobs in the process.
- **Innovation and Technology:** Green jobs often require innovative technologies and practices that are energy-efficient, reduce waste and emissions. This requires investment in research and development, which can spur innovation and create new job opportunities.
- **Education and Training:** As the green economy continues to grow, the demand for skilled workers in palika such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable agriculture will increase. Education (Climate Smart Farmer Field School) and training programs can help equip entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in these jobs.
- **Public Awareness and Engagement:** Public awareness and engagement are crucial for creating demand for green products and services as well as market actors, which can drive the growth of the green economy and create more job opportunities.
- **Collaborative and Joint Effort:** Partnership, collaborative and joint effort approach with stakeholders including local government, financial institutions, private sectors, service provider as well as market actors play a vital role in project sustainability.
- **Resource mobilization:** Mobilization of local resources in terms of technology, inputs, technical backstopping and others ensure the continuous supply of the required

resources. Additionally, using the one door system led by the local government for resource mobilization help in the reduction of duplication of resources and support by the project.

- **Technical support and regular follow up:** A full team of dedicated technical human resources has been deployed for the required technical support at execution level. Likewise, different capacity building events were organized and delivered to ensure technical backstopping. Technical skills to beneficiaries through available experts have been ensured and regularly followed up as well.
- **Community engagement and leadership:** The project executed its activities at field level through active engagement and leadership of community. For meaningful community participation and engagement, this project acted as a facilitator and supported with required facilitation skills through various meetings, interactions, workshop, trainings. All the project related activities were implemented in the leadership of community youth and CFUG. Identifying community issue on impact of climate change on livelihood, community forest, discussion on its impact along with formulation and development of mitigation and action plans, execution of plans has been accomplished through leadership, active participation and community engagement.

Key Challenges

- **Lack of Political Will:** The success of the Green Jobs initiative depends largely on the political will of the government and policymakers to prioritize environmental sustainability and job creation. Without strong political support, the initiative may not receive the necessary funding and support to succeed.
- **Resistance to Change:** Transitioning to a green economy may require significant changes in business practices and consumer behavior, which can be met with resistance from stakeholders who are unwilling or unable to adapt.
- **Financing and Investment:** The green economy requires significant investments in infrastructure, research and development, and education and training. Securing funding for these initiatives can be challenging, particularly in the face of economic uncertainty and competing priorities. Most of the priorities of the Local Government are infrastructure development of the area. It is also a challenge to obtain goal in establishing green job related business.
- **Geographic and Sectoral Variations:** The growth of the green economy may be uneven across different regions and sectors, with some areas and industries experiencing more rapid growth than others. This can create challenges in ensuring that the benefits of the initiative are distributed equitably.

Others Programmatic Challenges

- Limited resource and expertise on climate change adaptation at community level
- Local government does not have clear policies in place with regards to Climate Change adaptation and mitigation, DRR and Green Job.
- Limited timeframe of the project.
- Low level of knowledge on Green Mind set and Skills.

- More challenging to work with the age group of 16-24 years as youths of these age are more indecisive and change their minds regarding their career plans when they are not able to get the results they envisioned soon enough.
- Focus on more production, profit in short period rather than quality.

Programmatic Gaps, Limitation and Constraints

- Frequent turnover of project staff at partner level in the initial phase due to the short duration of the project, and thus shorter contract period.
- As the project was pilot in nature, it was quite difficult to bring awareness amongst community people, stakeholders, beneficiaries, and project team on green mind set which was a new concept.
- The timing of the project duration didn't cover some activities like plantation in barren land at community forest. The outcome/result of the project cannot be seen due to the short project duration. For example, the result (i.e., production and sales of produce) following green job beneficiary's investment in farmland.
- The project could not cover all community forest and beneficiaries due to resources and time constraints (only 2 Community Forest and 25 direct beneficiaries for Green Job).
- Due to the short duration of the project, it was sometimes difficult to carry out activities following all the standard and complete process and procedure. For example, the project faced the problem of not being able to follow all the standard processes and procedures in place for the selection of beneficiaries and the standard manual of 5 days 'Life skill for Success' training was revised to 3 days.
- The project was not able to support the local government and CFUG request for formulation and development of green job policies, mitigation plan for CFUG , Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) focusing on existing disaster and hazards at Palika level in coordination with CFUG and local government due to inadequate fund and time.

How are the synergies of working with Green Jobs implementation and capacity building/advocacy of youth (Community Forest Users Group) manifesting themselves?

Creating Employment Opportunities at the local level:

Green Jobs initiatives has supported in creating new employment opportunities in sectors such as energy efficiency, and sustainable agriculture. This can be particularly beneficial for youth who may face challenges in accessing formal employment opportunities and could support for creating employment oppourtunity which could be examplanary for others youths and could be replicated by local government in others areas of Municipality as well.

Skill Building

Capacity building initiatives help equip youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in green jobs. For example, training in agroecological farming, organic farming can prepare youth for employment in agriculture and off farm based enterprise/ sector. This could slowly lead to the availibility of technical human resources at the community level itself and promote employment opportunities to the community people and ultimely, result in their economic empowerment in the long run.

Community Engagement

Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs) are often comprised of local youth who are passionate about protecting the environment and promoting sustainable forest management practices. Green Jobs initiatives provide a platform for youth to engage with their communities and advocate for environmental sustainability as well as plantation, forest based enterprises etc. Furthermore, this could be an example for other community forest users groups and be replicated by the local government in other areas of the municipality as well. This could also support with exploring the possibility of using community forests for livelihood options and hence, contribute towards generating employment opportunities at the community level.

Economic Empowerment

By creating new employment opportunities and promoting sustainable economic practices, Green Jobs initiatives help to empower youth by providing them with income generation opportunities and reduce poverty in their communities. This can lead to their improved health, education, and social outcomes.

Environmental Sustainability

Youth-led CFUGs are often at the forefront of efforts to promote environmental sustainability and conservation. Green Jobs initiatives can provide a means for these groups to continue their work while also creating new economic opportunities. Likewise, the effort of the community to conserve water sources, forest resources, identify employment opportunities linking green job to community forest and utilization of forest resources in a scientific and systematic manner all lead towards environmental sustainability.