



ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

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Helvetas Nepal has been operating in Nepal under an agreement with the Government of Nepal since 1956. It is the largest country programme of the organization, which is active in some 30 countries around the world. Helvetas Nepal is currently implementing programmes and projects throughout the country, cooperating with many technical and social organizations. Through its work at both local and national levels, Helvetas Nepal supports activities leading to sustainable development and poverty reduction. It aims to create environments in which people have new choices and become equipped with new skills and abilities to improve their livelihoods.

Helvetas Nepal partners with local and national non-governmental organizations, private sector entities, and local and national government bodies. It promotes the principles of decentralization and subsidiarity in decision making, implementation and accountability for development.

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List of abbreviations

ASDP	Agricultural Sector Development Programme
BRI	Belt & Road Initiatives
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CFUG	Community Forest Users Groups
CHF	Swiss Franc
CPA	Citizen Participation Performance Audits
CSRC	Community Self Reliance Centre
DFID	Department for International Development
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EF-SR	Employment Fund – Skills for Reconstruction
ENSSURE	Enhanced Skills for Sustainable and Rewarding Employment
EVENT	Enhanced Vocational Education and Training
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GMALI	Grant Management & Local Infrastructure
GOP	Governance and Peace
ICSFP	Interim Capacity Support for Federalism Project
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JLO	Joint Land Ownership
LDCRP	Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MRE	Migration & Remittances
MUS	Multiple Use Systems
NASDP	Nepal Agricultural Services Development Programme
NEA	Nepal Electricity Authority
NMA	Nutrition Sensitive Mountain Agriculture
NRA	National Reconstruction Authority
NSTB	National Skills Testing Board
OJT	On-the Job Training
PSA	Public Service Announcement
REAP	Rehabilitation Project for Earthquake Affected Population
RTI	Right to Information
RVWRM	Rural Village Water Resource Management Project
SaMi	Safer Migration Project
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation
SDE	Skills Development and Education
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SED	Socio Economic Development Project
SIE	Sustainable & Inclusive Economy
SSCU	South-south Cooperation Unit
TA	Technical Assistance
TBSU	Trail Bridge Support Unit
TVET	Technical & Vocational Education and Training
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WIN	Water and Infrastructure
WUMP	Water Use Master Plans

Message from the Country Director



The year 2019 has been remarkable as the year of starting the country strategy 2019-2022. It was also a very successful one in terms of accomplishing our commitment to support earthquake victims. Having begun relief and recovery work immediately after the earthquake, we have now completed a dozen projects related to reconstruction, working in close coordination with the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) with funding from donations raised through Helvetas and Swiss Solidarity, as well as one project of the Swiss Agency for Development (SDC) and one of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) – both the latter being in skills for reconstruction. Our collaboration with our international partners Caritas Switzerland and Solidar Suisse in the municipalities of Melamchi and Helambu proved to be very efficient and effective. In partnering with municipalities and working closely with local communities, we were able to

demonstrate how the nexus between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation can be put into practice. Our collaboration with highly committed national and local partners - Scott Wilson, CDECF, CSRC and others was also very effective. We learned a lot jointly, and exchanged our knowledge, which we have now started integrating into our working policies and guidelines.

We are happy to have successfully helped lessen the pain of about 15,000 families who suffered from the earthquake but have now been able to rebuild their houses and have access to better schools, drinking water and sanitation facilities, irrigation, and agriculture extension services than they had before the earthquake. In this way they have been able to build their human, physical, financial and natural assets.

In addition, the year was successful in terms of achieving expected outputs and outcomes as indicated in this report. Special thanks to the team who worked almost everyday round the clock.

Our relationship with existing donors especially SDC is something to cherish, learning together on a basis of mutual trust and support. As a technical assistance agency, our continuous engagement with federal, provincial and municipal governments has significantly contributed to laying a strong foundation for federal state building. We not only supported them in their system building process but also ventured together to institutionalise the federalisation process, advocating for a cooperative working relationship among the three spheres of government based on the spirit of the constitution. We continued our efforts to be a climate and environment sensitive organisation and tried our best reduce our carbon footprint, which we monitor regularly. Our continuous engagement with the private sector, linking them with municipalities for a conducive business environment, has been instrumental in expanding enterprise opportunities.

Every day I see the continuity of the commitment of our team to effectively implement our plan, policies and processes. Given the good beginning of the year's accomplishment and the current level of interest and energy amongst our partners, collaborators and colleagues, I am confident that we will be able to accomplish much of our objectives and targets by the end of the strategy period.

Finally, I wish to profusely thank our donors, collaborators, partners, my Helvetas Nepal family, and our head-office for the unceasing support extended to me. I am truly blessed.

Country Context

The overarching theme of 2019 in Nepal was to set the foundations of federalization as foreseen in the 2015 constitution - requiring cooperation, coordination and collaboration between the three spheres of federal, provincial and local government. Although Nepal is broadly moving in the right direction, there are inconsistencies in the legal framework of many aspects of federal, provincial and local level government which require harmonization. Furthermore, neither the relocation of administrative staff nor fiscal federalization are yet fully effectuated.

Internationally, the Nepal government was active over the year in fostering good relations with neighboring countries. In this respect, the influence of China as a partner in the country's development continues to grow; towards the end of 2019, Nepal and China signed almost 25 agreements, among which Nepal extended its support to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Bilateral negotiations were also held with the governments of several important destination countries for Nepalese labor migrants, paving the way for their improved rights and working conditions.

Nepal's new International Development Cooperation Policy and National Integrity Policy, both approved in 2019, indicate a move to tighten regulatory mechanisms on external development assistance. Since development funds are channeled through governments and not directly to I/NGOs for implementing activities, the role of I/NGOs as providers of advisory services requires a changed mindset and competences. This has been a challenging process for some of Helvetas' long-standing NGO partners - but is an important step towards ownership and coherence of local development activities.

The country context is an evolving and challenging one. Nevertheless, we are confident that Helvetas interventions remain highly pertinent to the needs of Nepalese people – especially those who are most disadvantaged.

Helvetas Nepal Country Strategy

The overall development goal of the Helvetas Nepal country strategy 2019 – 2022 is that **all women and men in Nepal, especially those who are economically poor and socially marginalized, have dignified lives**. Although this goal is little changed from past country strategies, the foreseen path to reach it is significantly different, in that it emphasizes the development of accountable political governance systems so that the latter reach out to the primary stakeholders and address their needs. This was considered essential in the context of Nepal's federalization process. The theory of change is summarized as follows.

If the appropriate governance systems under Nepal's federal system are strengthened and operate in a transparent, accountable, socially inclusive, efficient and effective manner, then Nepalese women and men, especially those who are economically poor and socially marginalized, will be able to claim and exercise their rights to access resources and services, and lead dignified lives.

Nevertheless, the strategy recognizes that good local governance should provide a space for civil society to have an effective voice, and for the private sector to operate in a transparent and market-responsive manner.

The process federalization is a long one, and measuring its effectiveness is both complex and beyond the scope of Helvetas. Nevertheless, by early 2019 we had reorganized our project working approaches and staffing structure to respond to the federal structure. As the reporting on the following pages shows, our approach is clearly focused on working with and through local governments, whilst ensuring strong relationships with provincial and federal governments as appropriate.

Governance and Peace (GOP)

Outcome 1: Local governments are effective, transparent and accountable to women and men citizens, who are empowered to demand better services



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Projects under this Outcome

Project name	Client	Phase until	Helvetas role
Interim Capacity Support for Federalism Project (ICSFP)	SDC	Jul. 2018- Jan. 2020	Advisory
SAJAG: Active Citizens for Accountable Local Governments	European Union	Jan. 2018- Dec 2020	Project Management
Good Governance	Public donations	Jan. 2017- Dec 2020	Project Management
Socio Economic Development (SED) Project	Public donations & Fastenopfer	Jan. 2016- Dec 2019	Project Management
Citizen Participation Performance Audits (CPA)	World Bank	Mar. 2019 - May 2019	Project Management

As noted above, Helvetas' country strategy aims to make a significant contribution to Nepal's federalization through supporting selected local governments to strengthen their whole system of governance. Not only is Governance and Peace the focus of the first outcome of the strategy; it is also taken as a cross-cutting theme. All our projects have either been designed in the context of federalization or have adjusted their working approach to engage formally with local governments (urban and rural municipalities; henceforward simply municipalities) in project implementation. Those projects specifically dedicated to governance issues are listed above.

Helvetas Nepal's support for good governance has focused in 2019 on supporting municipalities to establish their systems and processes. Over the course of the year, and through a variety of projects, we provided technical assistance to a total of 107 local governments (out of 753 in the country) – supporting them to formulate at least some of their plans, and to improve their public service delivery system. We also provided a variety of training courses and facilitated workshops for elected representatives, administrative officials and citizens.

As an example of our governance work in 2019, the EU project SAJAG worked with eight municipalities in Karnali province, supporting them to establish their policies, procedures, structure, and budget. We held orientation meetings at municipality and ward level, through which 1,238 citizens as well as elected representatives gained a greater understanding of the federalization process, the Government Operation Act (2017), their civic rights and responsibilities, and the provisions of the Right To Information (RTI) Act. The ward level meetings were facilitated by sixteen RTI activists, to whom we gave refresher training (after their main training in 2018), and who represent a first point of contact and consultation within the community. We have also focused on supporting elected women's representatives, most of whom have had no previous experience of government. Out of the 166 elected women representatives in the SAJAG municipalities, we provided additional training to 123 - covering human rights and women's rights specifically, as well as their entitlements, roles and responsibilities as elected leaders. We have introduced to these municipalities the use of citizens' satisfaction surveys for measuring perceptions of municipal services. Against an initial average satisfaction score of 65 (out of 100) at project commencement, the score has risen to 73.

Our work in the 9 municipalities supported under the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) project Interim Capacity Support for Federalism Project (ICSFP) has been similar, although focused more exclusively on building municipal capacities rather than working with citizens (see the story on Siddhicharan municipality). Currently the budget of most municipalities is derived from federal/provincial fiscal transfers. In response to municipal demand, we supported four municipalities in Province One to explore means for local revenue generation and prepare their own Revenue

Improvement Plan. This is an important step towards being able to allocate funds for specific local needs and services.

Helvetas also works with civil society organizations on governance issues. Ten such organizations and networks were supported through SAJAG, SED and the Good Governance project in their advocacy activities in 2019. In this way grassroots level governance experience was fed into policy discussion and dialogue at provincial and federal spheres.

The year 2019 witnessed the closure of several dedicated GOP projects (notably SED, ICSFP and CPA) at the same time as an integration of approaches supporting federalism and good local governance in other projects. In 2020, we aim to continue documenting some of the rich experiences gained in this topic for sharing and mutual learning between local governments, and with a wider professional audience.



In 2019, 683 men and 555 women (amongst whom 744 belong to disadvantaged groups) attended a course on their civic rights and duties or on governance through the SAJAG project.



Becoming a “gender-friendly municipality: Siddhicharan municipality’s use of time diaries

The SDC Interim Capacity Support for Federalism Project ICSFP (July 2018 – January 2020) focused on building the institutional and strategic capacities of selected local governments (rural and urban municipalities) – building their capacities to respond to citizens' demands through effective planning and budgeting, well-functioning thematic committees, and appropriately formulated legal frameworks. With technical assistance from Helvetas, the project sought inclusive and equitable representation and participation in all these processes. However, it was soon observed that the engagement of women was neither equal in numbers (the percentage of women attending activities was on average 22%) nor meaningful in terms of active participation. Those women present tended to listen, and rarely expressed an opinion. There are many possible reasons for this, rooted in socio-cultural “ideals” of passive, domestically oriented behaviour. One problem commonly expressed by women themselves was time scarcity. To explore and raise awareness on this issue, a time diary exercise was carried out in one of the working municipalities of ICSFP, namely, Siddhicharan. One of the long-term commitments made by this municipality in its visioning exercise is to become a “gender-friendly municipality”.

The time diary exercise was conducted by members of the executive committee of Siddhicharan municipality as well as a few administrative staff. They numbered 19 in total, of whom six were women, and the age group ranged from 30 to 67 years old. The data collected showed that on average within a 24-hour period, the women spent 10 hours and 39 minutes working, whilst the men spent 7 hours and 37 minutes. In other words, the working day of women was some 3 hours longer than that of men. Although the women concerned are at the frontline of local government, they have far more hurdles to overcome than men to be able to participate actively - one of them being the burden of unpaid work, and specifically unpaid care work. Putting a figure on women’s work burden – and one that could not be disputed, as it had been collected by the municipal representatives themselves – was an important step in planning how to be a “gender-friendly municipality”.

“Whenever I have to attend a meeting, I have to wake up at 3 am, finish all my household chores and only then attend it.” Sharmila Katwal, Siddhicharan municipality executive member

“I realized that nowadays I spend a lot of time in supervising the cultural events taking place through our Guthi [kinship clan]. I spend very less time at home due to my meetings and travel... Any work done by any individual has to be respected. The municipality is committed to and is already working on fair wages for women and men. Everybody needs to support one another in their work.” Mohan Kumar Shrestha, Mayor, Siddhicharan municipality.

Sustainable and Inclusive Economy (SIE)

Outcome 2: Women and men farmers implement sustainable and resilient food production and benefit from advisory services and marketing systems that foster increased productivity and production



End hunger achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Projects under this Outcome

Project name	Client	Duration	Helvetas role
Nepal Agricultural Services Development Project (NASDP – Prayas)	SDC and Government of Nepal	Jan. 2016 – June 2020	Advisory
Riverbed Farming	Public donations	Jan. 2019 – Dec 2022	Project management
Mito	Public donations, Happel Foundation	Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2020	Project management
Nutrition Sensitive Mountain Agriculture (NMA)	SDC (global)	2018 – May/Dec? 2021 (phase II)	Consortium partner with IFOAM for local project management
Trade & Private Sector Development Program (TPSD)	EU	Oct. 2014 - June 2019	Advisory

Our work in promoting a sustainable and inclusive economy focuses on the agricultural sector - promoting a comprehensive local agricultural advisory services system, market systems development, and innovations in specific value chains. Our projects support collaboration between different actors in both the public and private sectors to promote inclusive growth.

Under the new federal system, agricultural extension services are devolved to local governments. This represents a significant change from the pre-federalization situation, under which agriculture extension services were provided through 75 (eventually 77) District Agriculture Offices. Allocating responsibilities to 753 municipalities brings services closer to farmers, but there are inevitably challenges in establishing the new system, especially with the limited number of technical staff posted at the local level. The Nepal Agricultural Services Development Project (NASDP or Prayas) is a joint program of the Government of Nepal and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, implemented with technical support from Helvetas. Over 2019, it supported 31 municipalities in provinces 3 and 1 in developing the seven elements of local governance in their agricultural sector: legal and policy processes; institutional mechanisms; resource mobilization; planning; effective service delivery; fiscal system governance; and monitoring and reporting. The aim is not only to ensure that agricultural advice is available through the municipality, but also that there is a conducive environment for the private sector to operate - from input suppliers and business service providers to wholesaler buyers and other market actors. Furthermore, this should be designed in a socially inclusive manner, so that disadvantaged individuals, including women, have a chance to make a livelihood from agriculture. Returnee migrants are also encouraged to invest in agriculture; many of the municipalities have allocated a specific budget to this effect. Prayas also supplies technical assistance to the IFAD Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP) in Karnali Province 6.

“From the Local Government Operation Act we had the overview of what committees and procedures should be established, but Prayas helped us put this into practice; it facilitated our whole strategic planning and management/ legal processes....” Mohan Ghimire, Ward 9 Chair and Agriculture Development Committee Member, Belaka Nagarpalika

One of our most long-standing projects contributing to sustainable and inclusive economies is riverbed farming, which is supported through a variety of public donations. In 2019 we produced a Learning Series (2019/1) documenting the project’s experience, from early piloting in 2006 to the present day.

The project concept is to facilitate access to riverbed land for landless or land poor households, who cultivate a crop of vegetables (usually cucumbers or melons, but also other crops) during the dry season, before the monsoon floods. The households lease a plot of land from the local authorities (now municipalities) usually for four years and use the savings that they accrue to buy their own land or establish some sort of small enterprise from which they can gain a sustainable income. One of the women farmers supported in this way is quoted in the Learning Series as follows.

“When I saw riverbed farming for the first time, I told my husband we should start farming cucumbers ourselves. He said nothing was going to grow on sand, but when I started riverbed farming and earned money, he was really surprised.” Sukkandevi Chaudhary, Dekhatbhuli, Kanchanpur

As the concept of riverbed farming has spread, new models of leasing the land and new crops are being tested. For example, in 2019 we supported the planting of drumstick, *Moringa oleifera*, along riverbanks. With edible and nutritious leaves and pods, this is in high demand; the tree roots also help to bind the sandy, easily eroded riverbanks.

Under the riverbed farming project, 5,971 farming households were supported in the sustainable cultivation of 708 hectares of riverbed land.

A more recently started innovative project is Mito, which works with different actors in the walnut value chain. Two types of walnut grow in Nepal: local, hard-shelled walnut, and grafted, soft-shelled walnut. Having commenced with the development of a locally adapted walnut-cracking machine, the project now works with women and men farmers, collectors and processors of both types of walnut in Jumla. Over 2019, the project supported the training of farmers in techniques for grafting soft-shelled walnut onto hard-shelled rootstock, the further development of the cracking machine for the extraction of export quality oil, and the exploration of markets for both walnut oil and walnut kernels.

The SDC project Nutrition Sensitive Mountain Agriculture (NMA) is a multi-country project in which Helvetas is a consortium partner with IFOAM – Organics International and FiBL, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture. Now in a second phase, project activities in Nepal are focused in Karnali, Province 6. In 2019, a variety of local initiatives in nutrition-sensitive agriculture were supported through a competitive selection process.



Inclusive agricultural development in Marin rural municipality

Marin Rural Municipality (Sindhuli) is one of those municipalities supported by the Nepal Agricultural Services Development Project (NASDP or Prayas) - a joint program of the Government of Nepal and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, implemented with technical support from Helvetas. The rural municipality places strong emphasis on socially inclusive development and has developed a comprehensive policy to this effect.

In agriculture, Marin rural municipality has targeted various disadvantaged groups, including landless women farmers. With support through Prayas, it has encouraged such individuals to undertake intensive cultivation of small plots taken on lease. The municipality provides subsidies for polytunnels, in which off-season vegetables can be cultivated, and has established links to markets. It has also distributed power tillers at a subsidised price to individual members of farmer groups, who then lease out the tillers to other members at a favorable rate. A specific budget is also allocated to supporting returnee migrants to invest in agriculture when they return from their work abroad – not only making a sustainable livelihood for themselves, but also creating local jobs, especially for women laborers.

Janimaya Ghising is one woman who has benefitted from rural municipality's program. Aged 37, she is unmarried and uneducated – a particularly difficult situation for a woman. She comments as follows about the support she has received to cultivate vegetables in polytunnels, especially tomatoes.

"I live with my brother's family as I am unmarried, and I always felt a little awkward about this. However, now that I've become financially independent due to vegetable cultivation, I'm not viewed by my family as a burden. Rather, I've earned their respect – and that of society. I was unable to have an education because of my parent's lack of money and have only ever had farming as a means of livelihood. With the guidance and support of Marin rural municipality, I've been able to make vegetable cultivation a source of earning." Janimaya Ghising.

Skill Development and Education (SDE)

**Outcome 3: Adequately skilled women and men are in decent waged or self-employment
Private sector entities of varied sizes provide opportunities for decent wage and self-employment to adequately skilled women and men**



Promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Projects under this Outcome

Project name	Client	Duration	Helvetas role
Enhanced Skills for Sustainable and Rewarding Employment (ENSSURE)	SDC and Government of Nepal (Ministry of Education)	June 2017 – July 2021	Advisory
Samriddhi	IFAD	June 2018-June 2022	Advisory
Employment Fund – Skills for Reconstruction (EF-SR)	SDC (Humanitarian)	Jan 2015-June 2020	Project Management
Enhanced Vocational Education and Training (EVENT)	SDC contribution to World Bank project	Mid-June 2018 - mid July 2021	Advisory (M&E)

Under this working area, we build on our long-standing experience in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) through various SDC and other projects, supporting young people to acquire technical skills demanded in domestic and overseas labor markets as well as in areas for self-employment such as agriculture, construction and tourism - thus enhancing their ability to gain decent work.

A key project in Skill Development and Education is the SDC and Government of Nepal project ENSSURE, Enhanced Skills for Sustainable and Rewarding Employment, to which Helvetas provides technical assistance. This promotes vocational education and technical training in a variety of ways, from career guidance in schools, dual VET (vocational education and training) to support for both further training and health and safety in the workplace. An external review of the project in June was broadly positive and recommended an extension of the first phase, prior to planning a second phase (to commence in late 2020). The career guidance project component is widely appreciated and was expanded in 2019 - now entailing collaboration with 123 schools in 33 municipalities. A positive sign for the institutionalization of the practice is that 22 of these municipalities have allocated their own funds to cover more schools within their territory. The short term training component of ENSSURE, OJT (On-the-Job-Training) was considered by the external review to be the project's most successful program, providing a very valuable basis to find employment or to go into self-employment in seven trades (cook, motorcycle, automobile, mason, plumber, electrician, welder). Nevertheless, it is the 24-months' Dual VET Apprenticeship program that represents a more rigorous introduction to the world of work combined with appropriate class-based training. The year 2019 was a crucial one in scaling up this program, which began with a trial of 200 trainees in electrical installation and mechanics, implemented through four technical schools in collaboration with 60 different companies. Using the lessons learned from this pilot phase, in the latter part of the year the program was expanded to a further 897 apprentices in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, automobile engineering, hotel management and information technology, in collaboration with 22 technical schools. The year was also characterized by regular engagement with provincial and local governments and the municipality association Nepal (MuAN) regarding the evolution of TVET under federalization. In addition, we strengthened collaboration with business/industry associations and the association of training providers (for job fairs).

Through the SDC project ENSSURE, Helvetas also provides technical assistance to the World Bank project Enhanced Vocational Education and Training (EVENT II). Specifically, Helvetas provides project monitoring and evaluation services to the Project Secretariat of the Ministry of Education, Science and

Technology. This entailed checking the quality of vocational training received by more than 20,000 young people this year.

Meanwhile, the IFAD project Samriddhi, to which Helvetas provides technical assistance for one component, was also subject to external review in 2019. The review singled out the Helvetas technical assistance as the most successful part of the project.

Our technical support for skills training in post-earthquake reconstruction through the SDC project Employment Fund Skills for Reconstruction continued through 2019. As a result, 82% of all eligible households in the project areas (64,249 out of 78,773 households) have now been rebuilt according to earthquake resilient norms¹. In 2019, a total of 493 houses (19% women-headed, 81% belonging to disadvantaged groups) were constructed with the participation of training graduates. Out of the total beneficiaries, 747 vulnerable households (out of 981) completed their reconstruction through the support of project in the working municipalities. A story detailing one example of a vulnerable household is given on page 21.



Under the SDC and Government of Nepal project ENSSURE, 3,346 men and 761 women, of whom 2,408 belong to disadvantaged groups, had the opportunity of vocational education or training including practical placements for on-the-job training or apprenticeships.

¹ 86% out of 21,368 in Okhaldhunga, 81% out of 48,939 in Ramechhap and 74% out of 8,466 in Khotang as per the data from Grant Management & Local Infrastructure (GMALI)

Training as an electrician provides new life opportunities



“One day during Tihar (the Hindu festival of lights), there was a problem in power supply in my house. I had to call an electrician from Inaruwa. He resolved the issue within 15 minutes, for which I had to pay him 1,100 rupees. I was impressed with the earning an electrician could make. I wished I could also work and earn like that”, recalls Laxmi Dhakal, of Inaruwa municipality- ward 6.

At the age of 20, Laxmi had joined higher secondary school after passing her SLC exams in 2001. Then her family arranged her marriage and she was forced to drop out of school. Not long afterwards, her son was born, and she had to shelve her hopes of resuming studies or learning a skill through which to gain employment.

Once her son was in his teens, Laxmi began exploring opportunities for greater financial independence. Soon after that Tihar power failure, she happened to hear a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on the local radio, calling for applications for trainees in electrical house wiring. The training was being conducted by Manmohan Memorial Polytechnic, Morang, and was supported by the ENSSURE Project. ENSSURE is a project of SDC and the Government of Nepal, to which Helvetas provides technical assistance.

According to Laxmi, *“I was looking for some opportunities nearby my home. The exemption of a training fee was also a big attraction for me”*. Her husband and son were supportive, and she successfully completed the first part of her training, including on the job training (OJT) at Pashupati Sinkpack Factory. Unfortunately, she failed the final written test on first attempt, but succeeded on the second. With her National Skills Testing Board (NSTB) level 2 certificate, Laxmi applied to the Nepal Electricity Authority, Dharan for the post of Electrician level 1. She now has a two-year contract, undertaking a job that includes recording the customers’ complaints and assigning field-level technicians to resolve the problems. Aged 35, Laxmi is now earning a regular salary and has plans to go further. She is preparing for the NEA exam which, if passed, will give her a permanent position, and is also hoping to upgrade her academic qualification.

Laxmi is typical of many women who married early and had to give up their studies. For this reason, ENSSURE welcomes women trainees who are already in their thirties and who are searching for skills that give them a chance of rewarding work.

Water and Infrastructure (WIN)

Outcome 4: Women and men in rural and urban settlements have access to markets and services through trail bridges, and sustained access to adequate drinking water, sanitation and hygiene



Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Projects under this Outcome

Project name	Client	Duration	Helvetas role
Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)	Public donations, Charity: water	June 2017-June 2020 (charity: water to continue)	Project Management
Rural Village Water Resource Management Project (RVWRMP) Dailekh	Finnish Aid	Jan. 2016 – Feb. 2021	Advisory
Trail Bridge Support Unit (TBSU); Trail Bridge Sub-Sector Programme	SDC and Government of Nepal (*)	July 2019 – Dec. 2023	Advisory
Road stabilization research	DFID (UK Aid) through ReCAP	July 2017 - July 2020	Project Management
South-South Cooperation Unit	Various	Jan 2016 - Dec 2021	Project Management

Water: The **Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)** program encompasses our activities in supporting the people of Nepal to enjoy the human right to water and sanitation. The program focuses on province 6 (Karnali), with contributions from various agencies including Swiss Climate, Solaqua foundation, the SDC global water initiative and, most recently, charity: water. The latter is a new and very promising collaboration, offering potential for up-scaling.

Helvetas continued in 2019 to promote innovation in the water sector, collaborating with municipalities to contribute to their vision of “one house, one tap” for safe water. The construction of drinking water supply schemes has brought tangible positive impact to the lives of many people, especially women and members of disadvantaged groups who in the past had to fetch drinking water from distant water sources. A total of 9,103 people, about 48 % women and 41 % belonging to disadvantaged groups (including those supported by RVWRMP Dailekh) gained direct access to improved drinking water through the construction of 23 drinking water supply schemes. In addition, 850 students in six schools benefitted from access to a water supply. Special focus this year was placed on improving drinking water quality. Seven small laboratories were installed in rural areas, one in each of seven municipalities; these have started community-led water quality monitoring in selected water supply schemes. The total sanitation campaign also led 2,577 households to buy and use candle filters, and motivated 2,785 households to construct a hand-washing area outside their home.

As in the past, Water Use Master Plans (WUMP) continue to be an effective water governance tool. Previously based at the level of Village Development Committees (VDC), such territories have become wards under federalized Nepal. The new challenge is to support entire municipalities (a cluster of usually 6 – 8 wards) to develop a WUMP. Facilitating this work was undertaken in four municipalities; two were completed in 2019, and two are on-going. Knowledge sharing of Helvetas approaches and good practices also obtained good international recognition, with learning on the rural water quality testing laboratories being shared at the UNC Water and Health Conference, 7 – 11 October 2019.

Infrastructure: We continue to contribute to Nepal’s infrastructure primarily through the SDC project providing technical assistance to the Government of Nepal, the Trail Bridge Support Unit (TBSU). The year 2019 was expected to mark the end of Helvetas engagement in providing technical assistance to

this long bilateral collaboration between the Nepal and Swiss governments. However, in the light of changed responsibilities for trail bridge construction and maintenance under federalized Nepal, SDC decided to continue its support for a further four years.

Under the federal system, trail bridges are primarily the responsibility of local governments; the TBSU therefore refocused its work to prioritize collaboration at this level. Implemented across all seven provinces, the project was successful in orienting and enhancing the capacities of 522 local governments (those with on-going bridge activities) on bridge construction and maintenance. By the end of the year, over 659,800 people (57% belonging to disadvantaged groups) had benefited from safer and enhanced access provided by 438 newly constructed trail bridges and four trail bridges that had undergone major maintenance/rehabilitation. On average, 2.8 hours of time was saved for a two-way journey by the bridges, leading users to report increased access to schools (27%), markets (20%) health facilities (9%) and for performing household chores (32%).

TBSU also supported provincial governments to conduct trainings on public procurement and trail bridge building to technical focal persons in 13 Infrastructure Development Offices (IDO) and 71 local governments in provinces 3, 4 and 5. These trainings along with additional support led to 126 local governments successfully procuring steel parts by themselves for 207 trail bridges. Meanwhile, at the local level, Demonstrative Model Bridge Trainings were provided to 216 persons (52 being women). Tripartite MoUs between the Department of Local Infrastructure (DoLI), Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development (MoPID)/ Transport Infrastructure Directorate (TID) and TBSU for the provision of technical assistance to the sub-sector were also renewed at the request of the provincial governments. These agreements, which institutionalize roles and responsibilities, proved integral to facilitating better coordination and continuing the momentum of trail bridge building.

The **South-South Cooperation Unit (SSCU)** initiated by Helvetas Nepal promotes cooperation between nations of the South for technology transfer and capacity development. Its focus until now has been trail bridges. In 2019, SSCU initiated the construction of five trail bridges in Burundi, also working to enhance the capacity of the Burundian roads authority in piloting a road maintenance model. In Ethiopia, SSCU engineers contributed to developing the technological innovation of a three-wheeler pliable bridge. A Learning Series on taking trail bridges outside Nepal was also published².

Helvetas also implements a small pilot study to investigate a participatory approach to the protection of rural roadsides in Nepal. This seeks to combine income generation for roadside residents with improved protection of the Right of Way either side of the road. The project was reoriented to align with federalism and will produce a manual covering technical and governance aspects of roadside management.



Under IWRM, 1,612 men and 1, 471 women, of whom of whom 1,994 belong to disadvantaged groups, obtained direct access to water from rehabilitated or newly built water schemes

² <https://www.helvetas.org/Publications-PDFs/Asia/Nepal/Nepal-SSCU/Taking%20Trail%20Bridges%20Outside%20Nepal.pdf>

Water quality testing laboratories are necessary and feasible in rural areas



About 12% of households in Nepal have no access to basic drinking water supply systems. The country is striving hard to reach to these unreached people and its focus remains on so doing; it has not yet initiated proactive interventions towards ensuring drinking water quality. Laboratories for testing water quality are insufficient across the country, and almost nonexistent in rural areas. Nepal has endorsed SDG 6 and is committed to achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030. This means that water should have 0 CFU *E. coli* / 100 ml. However, providing safe water is challenging as the current *E. coli* risk level is extremely high. The overwhelming majority of households, about 82% in the country, use water contaminated with *E. coli* at a risk level of equal or more than 1 CFU / 100 ml¹. It was in this context that in 2017 the IWRM program started supporting the installation and operation of simple solar powered water quality testing laboratories in its working areas. This initiative was carried out under its REACH project in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute for Aquatic Research and Technology, eawag. Through the project, six laboratories were established, one each in two (urban) municipalities and four rural municipalities of Sudur Pachim and Karnali provinces. The laboratories have been established in rural areas under the management of local health posts or schools or Drinking Water Sanitation Users Committee Offices. They are run by locally based individuals, mainly the staff of these institutions, who have been trained as laboratory technicians by Helvetas. The laboratories mainly carry out tests on water microbial content (*E. coli*, *T. coli*), turbidity, FRC, and pH in reservoir tanks, selected tap stands and households in the scheme areas. They also promote effective water safety measures such as the use of water filters at household level and safe handling and storage to ensure the water is safe and not harmful to human health.

One of these six water quality testing labs is in Satakhani Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Committee Office in Lekhbesi municipality in Surkhet. This has the largest coverage area and operates very efficient services. It is regularly monitoring water quality and providing testing services at both the scheme level and the household level in the municipality. Staff and representatives from various organizations such as the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management under the federal government of Nepal, WHO and UNICEF have visited the laboratory and appreciated its concept and modality.

"Our water quality testing lab is fully functional. We have been testing water quality in four schemes in our municipality every month. We can now detect contamination points, if any, in our water supply system in a timely manner and take corrective actions. The users have become quality conscious, and they have adopted appropriate safety measures such as the use of water filters and safe handling and storage. We are proud that we are drinking safe water. We received financial and technical support from Helvetas to install and run the lab. We are confident that we can sustain this lab on our own. We can bear the operating cost from our own internal sources. All the testing materials except the EC plates are available in nearby Birendranagar. We may need external support to acquire these plates but we can manage the rest on our own".

Hari Prasad Chalise, Chairperson, Drinking Water Safety Taskforce, Satakhani Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Committee

The total cost of installing one such laboratory is on average about NRs.115,000 (approx. CHF 950) while the operation cost is about NRs. 300 (CHF 2.5) per sample. In rural areas, the testing of about five water samples (reservoir, tap and households) per scheme costs about NRs. 1,500 (less than CHF 12.5). Given the high importance of drinking water quality for human health, neither the cost nor the technical capability is beyond the affordability of the local institutions. The local levels can easily incorporate this initiative in their annual budget and programs. Small water quality testing laboratories are, thus, fully feasible in rural areas.

Migration and Remittances (MRE)

Outcome 5: Women and men migrants and their families have increased benefits from remittances and have mitigated the negative social consequences of migration



Aligned with SDG Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Projects under this Outcome

Project name	Client	Duration	Helvetas role
Safer Migration Project (SaMi)	SDC and Government of Nepal	Sept. 2018 – Jul. 2022	Technical Assistance
Elam	Public donations Happel Foundation	Jan 2017 – Dec 2020	Project management

Protecting the rights of labor migrants and promoting the development potential of migration is an important part of both the Helvetas and SDC Nepal country strategy. Our activities in this regard support migrants and their families throughout the migration cycle. All interventions are aligned with and support Nepal's federalization process, supporting the different spheres of government in exercising their responsibilities and collaborating effectively to deliver quality services for safer and more beneficial labor migration. The SDC project SaMi currently supports the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security as well as 156 local governments in the institutionalization of safe labor migration policies and services. Under the federal system, key responsibilities for foreign employment lie with local governments. They are therefore the focus of support for the establishment of Migrant Resources Centers (MRCs) – generally shared between several (usually four) municipalities. MRCs are envisaged as a hub for information and awareness raising on migration and the provision of key services related to reducing the social costs of migration. As a complementary activity in 2019, the SDC project Interim Capacity Support for Federalism Project, ICSFP, collaborated with SaMi in helping eight local governments better understand the implications of foreign employment for local economic development as well as addressing labor migration in their strategic planning.

Concerning the productive use of migrant remittances, the work of SaMi is usefully complemented by the SDC and Government of Nepal project Prayas, and by the Helvetas project Elam, funded by a variety of donations. Prayas facilitates the establishment of municipal programs encouraging returnee migrants to invest in agricultural enterprises. Elam, as a project working on market systems development, supports entrepreneurship and business creation in a variety of value chains based on local resources. Returnee migrants are major clients. The project works through a program of incubation, training, advice and linkages to business services. Trained Enterprise Service Providers (ESPs) play an important role in the project approach.

Last year, Helvetas Nepal supported a total of 164 local governments in developing their knowledge and services on safe labor migration. In this way, 117,457 individuals received direct support of whom 34,280 were women and over 56% from disadvantaged groups. Altogether, 103,510 individuals (27.7% women and 55% disadvantaged) were counselled through the MRCs last year. More than 70% of the persons leaving for foreign employment confirmed that they had followed the safe migration messages. 1,457 would-be migrants (36% women and 86% from disadvantaged groups) enrolled in pre-departure skills trainings and 717 (99% women) in financial literacy, out of whom 645 gained access to formal financial services. A total 3,180 migrant households (5% women and 46% disadvantaged groups) were provided legal aid. In parallel, the program supported 563 migrants' families (185 being women and 57% belonging to disadvantaged groups) in business creation, including the development of an individual business plan, access to loan and the acquiring of technical skills to develop their enterprise.

The number of beneficiaries is a slight decrease compared to the previous year. The year 2019 constituted a transition phase for the SaMi project, which is now implemented through the government system and on a larger scale, as shown by the higher number of local governments participating in the project. For Elam, 2020 will be the last year of the current project, but a follow-on is envisaged that will continue to work with returnee migrants in building local enterprises and creating local jobs.



Financial literacy making the most out of migration

Twenty five-year old Meena Tamang from Bhalukhop, Ramechhap municipality started dreaming of a different life when her husband Lal Kumar Ghising left to work in Malaysia in 2014. *“I was very excited when I started receiving money from my husband,”* Meena says, *“but that money made me extravagant.”*

She started buying new clothes every now and then, and luxury items for her children. At first, she saved none of the money her husband sent home. Although she soon realized that she was overspending, it was difficult to stop and to manage the situation properly.

In 2016, Meena learned about the financial literacy classes run under the Safer Migration Project (SaMi), a joint initiative of the Governments of Nepal and Switzerland, with Helvetas technical assistance. She joined the class. According to her, *“After participating in the financial literacy class, I started maintaining details of income and expenditures and also opened an account in a local cooperative nearby.”* In addition to her regular saving in the cooperative, she also inspired other four women in her neighborhood to open an account in the cooperative.

Although Meena had started a small grocery shop after her husband left for Malaysia, she initially saw it more as a means of social interaction than a way to increase her savings. Following the class, she gained the confidence to expand her shop, and is now proud to show visitors what she sells. She comments, *“I started actively organizing a better future through this shop.”*

Following the return of Lal Kumar in 2017, the couple decided to further expand the grocery shop. They took a loan of about USD 1,700 from the same cooperative in which Meena has an account. The expansion of the shop proved successful and allowed a rapid repayment of the loan and the further development of the family business activities. With a second loan and their savings, they purchased a three-wheeled motorized auto-rikshaw worth USD 5,000. Lal Kumar runs it, earning more than USD 400 USD per month.

Meena is happy that her husband decided against leaving again on foreign employment, choosing instead to stay and play his part in the family businesses. In the meantime, she is looking for further ways of earning money beyond the shop. Her latest venture is in farming – *“I’m doing well in business, and so now I’ve bought some piglets for my farming enterprise”*.

Under the Safer Migration Project SaMi, 81,878 men and 65,073 women, of whom 65,073 belong to disadvantaged groups, received advice and support on migration issues. SaMi is a bilateral project of SDC and the Government of Nepal (MoLESS) to which Helvetas provides technical assistance.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Outcome 6: Women, Dalits and minorities access equal and just opportunities in political, economic and public life

The prevailing inequalities in Nepalese society are structural, and the product of entrenched social, cultural and religious discrimination. Recognizing this, the Helvetas Nepal country strategy not only places GESI as a cross-cutting theme in all interventions but identifies the achievement of equal and just opportunities for women and Dalits as a specific strategic outcome.

In 2019, we continued to work towards creating an enabling environment for women and disadvantaged groups to be represented, and their voices heard, in local level decision-making positions. This year women and disadvantaged groups made up overall 45% and 62% of the composition of WASH users' committees. Similarly, under the SDC and Government of Nepal Trail Bridge Support Unit (TBSU), through which Helvetas provides technical support, the inclusiveness of user committees for short span trail bridges (under 120m in span) was ensured. Women representatives comprised 47% of the user committee membership, whilst 56% belonged to disadvantaged groups. During trail bridge construction, over 1.1 million person-days of employment was generated within local communities, of which 64% was taken by disadvantaged groups.

The system of quotas adopted in the 2017 elections has resulted in women (including Dalit women) forming just over 40% of the elected representatives at local level. Nevertheless, many challenges lie on the road to their substantive participation in leadership and decision-making roles. This year, focus was placed on supporting elected women representatives to play an effective role in local governance, as mentioned under outcome 1. Helvetas also conducted a study to assess whether there was a correlation between women's engagement as committee members in community-based organizations (CBOs), particularly Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs) and Water Users Associations (WUAs), and their election as women representatives in the local elections. In the 72 municipalities covered under the study, 279 out of 1,342 elected women representatives (almost 21%) had prior experience in the governance of forest and water resources as executive committee members. Their narratives provide an important link between their increased capacity and interest in governance and politics because of their involvement in the user committees.

Initiatives to address unpaid care work continued through the provision of household drinking water systems, reducing women's drudgery and saving time (see outcome 4). How the saved time is otherwise utilized is yet to be assessed systematically. Women are also better informed and supported on hygiene and sanitation. Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) remains an important component of WASH initiatives, reaching girls and boys in schools through education, awareness and access to products and services. Campaigning against women's ostracization during menstruation (*chhaupadi*) continued in 2019 through various forums. Although the campaign for joint land registration in the earthquake affected households of Sindhupalchowk terminated this year with the termination of the project, it resulted in 393 households registering their land documents jointly in the names of the husband and wife. Women's economic empowerment activities are reported under outcomes 2 and 5, covering various education and training initiatives.

We foresee the piloting of further GESI initiatives in 2020, extending our expertise in WASH to Province 2 with an explicit GESI focus, and further supporting the capacity building of elected women representatives.



“Now I have equal rights with my husband”: Joint Land Ownership

In 2011, the government of Nepal introduced a policy of Joint land Ownership (JLO). This provides an easy mechanism for husbands and wives to register their land in both their names, paying a mere Rs 100 (less than CHF 1) as a registration fee to the land revenue office. However, the policy was not widely adopted – in part because of limited public awareness of its provisions, and in part because men did not see it as being in their interest.

Helvetas and its local partner Community Self Reliance Center (CSRC) have been supporting couples to register their house and land jointly, under the JLO scheme. There are now 523 households in Melamchi municipality and Helambu rural municipality that have registered JLO – of which 393 registered in 2019.

It takes good arguments to persuade a man that everyone would be better off if his wife's name was on the family land deeds as well as his own. Helvetas and CSRC have sought to portray households with JLO as being strengthened. Husbands can feel proud that, whatever happens to them, they have ensured the future of their wives and children to the best of their ability. Meanwhile, wives clearly have a legal security over the household assets that they never enjoyed in the past - despite generally undertaking the bulk of the farm and domestic labor. Thala Pasad Dangal, who has a JLO certificate with his wife Goma Dangal, commented as follows,

“At the beginning I had no idea about this joint registration. Then when the team came and explained it to me, I thought it seemed a good idea. I don't drink, but for those who do and who risk gambling away their land when drunk, this is a very good thing to protect the wife and family. The wife can simply refuse to agree to any drunken promises.”

Goma Dangal (quoted in the title) stressed the issue of equal rights; for her this is an important principle to have established.

To promote the uptake of JLO, Helvetas and CSRC first ensured a common understanding with elected representatives, who committed their support and subsequently participated actively in raising community awareness. Other government units were also involved, especially the land district coordination committees and the Sindhupalchowk land revenue office. Officers from these units were assigned to attend JLO events organized by Helvetas and CSRC at which households could submit their JLO applications. This further lowered the cost of registration, as rather than each household having to visit the land revenue office, the opportunity for registration was brought close to them.

Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

Helvetas Nepal has a long and rich history of promoting climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM). Building back better after the 2015 earthquake brought many DRM aspects to the fore, key being the promotion of social/community resilience – as well as the physical resilience of structures. Houses were reconstructed in keeping with earthquake resilient norms; small irrigation channels were rebuilt with reinforced walls, protective covering in landslip areas, and with bioengineering along the banks; water schemes were designed with reinforced tanks and collection chambers. Community resilience was promoted by building livelihood skills within the population - whether in the maintenance of water supply schemes, new agricultural techniques, masonry or carpentry – as well as supporting the most vulnerable who would never have managed to rebuild their homes alone. Within the reporting period, the reconstruction of 40 houses was completed with technical and financial support; a further 546 were completed with socio-technical support only. In addition, 17 drinking water schemes were completed, reaching a total of 5,345 individuals (2,658 women and 3,211 belonging to disadvantaged groups). As in our work elsewhere, we sought to build collective responsibility for communally used resources through inclusive user groups, and to liaise closely with the local municipalities. In both Melamchi municipality and Helambu rural municipality, we supported the drafting of their Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans (LDCRP).

Although Helvetas Nepal had no projects in 2019 specifically dedicated to climate change adaptation, as a cross-cutting theme, it was incorporated into many aspects of our work. This was highlighted in a visit towards the end of the year by Dr Arjumand Nizami, Helvetas Country Director Pakistan; with her, climate change elements of present and past Helvetas Nepal projects were systematically mapped. Some of the key climate change adaptation activities in 2019 were as follows.

- Promoting the “3Rs” in watersheds – that is, the recharge, retention and reuse of scarce water resources in our WASH activities, as well as Multiple Use Systems (MUS) and rainwater harvesting;
- Training teachers and introducing climate change related aspects into school curricula as part of our “blue schools” WASH program and in some of our activities under the NMA (Nutrition Sensitive Mountain Agriculture) project;
- Promoting the use of climate-sensitive technologies in our agricultural interventions under Elam, the Riverbed Farming project, and the SDC and Government of Nepal project NASDP - Prayas. These interventions include polytunnels, plastic and other forms of mulching to retain soil moisture; plastic-lined ponds; the introduction of new crops or crop varieties more suited to or resilient to changing weather patterns; Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the face of new pest outbreaks; intercropping; and better management of farmyard manure;
- Informing farmers about climate change aspects as part of our Farmer Business Schools training package used by Elam;
- Bioengineering of riverbanks to avoid erosion around bridges, as promoted through the SDC and Government of Nepal Trail Bridge Support Unit, TBSU.

In 2019 we also documented Helvetas Nepal experiences in promoting the carbon-efficient bio-charcoal value chain. The resulting Learning Series will be published in early 2020.

As an environmentally responsible organization, we keep a track of the Helvetas Nepal carbon footprint, attempting to reduce it as far as possible. We also aim to recycle waste and to be as plastic free as possible.

Humanitarian - Development response to the earthquake

The year 2019 saw the termination of all but one of the post-earthquake reconstruction projects implemented by Helvetas – the one still running being the SDC Employment Fund Skills for Reconstruction, EFSR (see the story in the text box). The lessons learned from combining the humanitarian response with our development experience are many; we took time with our main consortium partner, Solidar Suisse, to reflect on them in a final workshop. A Learning Series bringing together the lessons learned was published towards the end of the year³³. A few of the key findings were as follows.

The importance of being present prior to a disaster: The fact that Helvetas has a long and strong presence in Nepal undoubtedly facilitated the speed and efficiency with which we could respond to the earthquake, building on familiarity with the context as well as relationships of trust that already existed with authorities, partners and institutions at many levels. In addition, we could adapt existing project activities to the post-earthquake situation. These include the training of skilled masons and carpenters in earthquake resilient techniques (see box); the tailoring of WASH activities and improved small irrigation schemes; the support to the coffee cooperatives to return to their activities, and the use of staff knowledge, expertise and existing training modules for agricultural extension.

Leaving no-one behind: Those who are most disadvantaged and vulnerable before a disaster are generally those least able to cope afterwards. Recognizing who they are, and targeting them in an appropriate manner, is challenging - although prior knowledge of communities is of help. In situations in which everyone in the community has suffered, any preferential treatment of certain groups or individuals needs to be done according to clear criteria that are carefully communicated. It is also important that donors are aware that reaching the most disadvantaged is likely to cost more per head than reaching others, given that they tend to live in more remote areas, may be unable to provide their own labor, and may also need considerable help (especially if illiterate) in dealing with bureaucratic demands.

Adaptive project management: Over the four years or so of the reconstruction period, many things changed - including the political and administrative set-up, the extent of the local road network, and the availability of goods in the market. Projects designed for one set of circumstances thus had to adapt to the new ones; flexibility was important. A good example in this respect was the original earthquake-resilient house design used under the Swiss Solidarity project REAP, Relief for the Earthquake Affected Population. The design was intended to be as affordable but resilient as possible, using locally available materials – including timber (treated against insect attack). The design was highly appropriate, but as timber stocks from local forests dwindled and road access improved, and materials for making concrete became more readily available and competitive in price. It thus made sense, if people requested it, to allow concrete rather than wooden bands in the house design.

Accountability to the affected people: Clear communication of procedures following a disaster is essential. Grievance handling – including explaining many local misunderstandings about the government process - was an important part of both REAP and REAP II activities. Although project staff initially willingly gave their mobile phone numbers to affected people, receiving calls of complaint became very onerous. Instead, a dedicated telephone line for grievances was established and answered during office hours; outside office hours it allowed recorded messages. Under REAP II, all grievances were recorded in ComCare software; this allowed ready tracking of when they were followed up, resolved, or referred to other authorities as/if necessary.

³³ https://www.helvetas.org/Publications-PDFs/Asia/Nepal/Nepal-REAP/Humanitarian%20Development%20Nexus%20Learning%20Series_Nepal.pdf



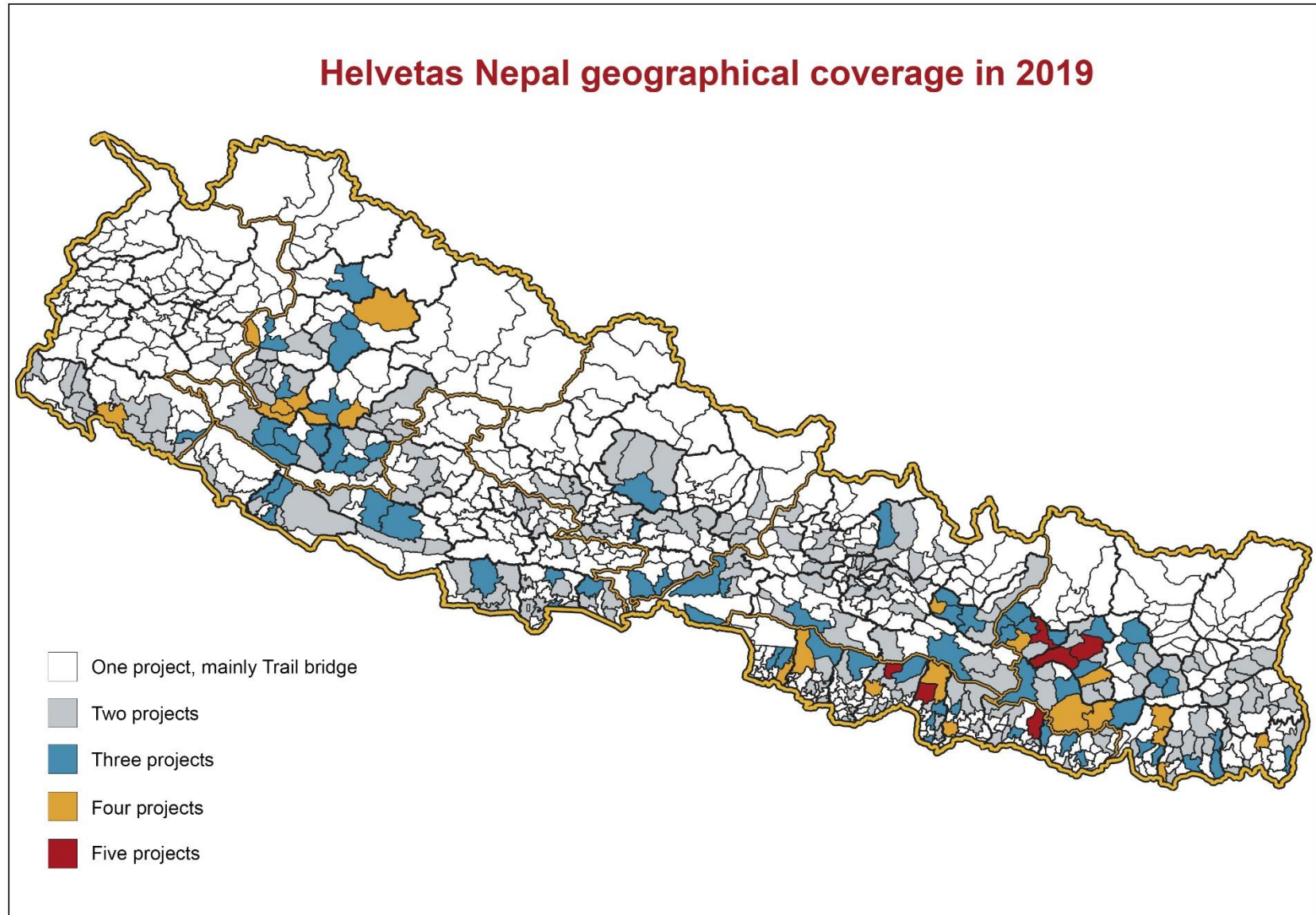
Survivors of the 2015 earthquake, an elderly couple have a new roof over their heads

In the 2015 earthquake, elderly couple Pahalman Tamang and Dhansari Tamang lost their home in Dharakhola Ward 5, Sunkoshi Rural Municipality, Okhaldhunga. Following assessment by the technical team of the National Reconstruction Authority, NRA, their house was listed as destroyed – meaning that they were entitled to receive the government grant for reconstruction. However, as time passed, they received no help and continued living in the ruins of their house. In the course of visiting households to advise them on reconstruction, Community Resource Person (CRP) Dirgha Bahadur Tamang learned that the couple had lost the red card that they needed to claim NRA support.

Dirgha Bahadur Tamang was trained as a mason through the EF-SR. Following this training, he was employed by Helvetas as a community supervisor, and then later as a CRP, also under the EF-SR project. He found the couple hesitant to embark on house construction due to their physical frailty, but he persuaded them with the help of their 69-year-old daughter, Nepi Maya Tamang. She assisted in the collection of the documents required, as a result of which the couple received the first tranche of NRA (government) funding. Dirgha Bahadur provided regular socio-technical assistance during the house construction to ensure that it met earthquake resilient standards; the NRA Ward engineer also visited the construction site.

Today, the couple has received the third tranche of the NRA grant and their house completion certificate. They have moved into their new earthquake-resilient home with their daughter as caregiver. Many other vulnerable groups such as single women and people with disability have received similar support through the EF-SR project.

Geographical Coverage



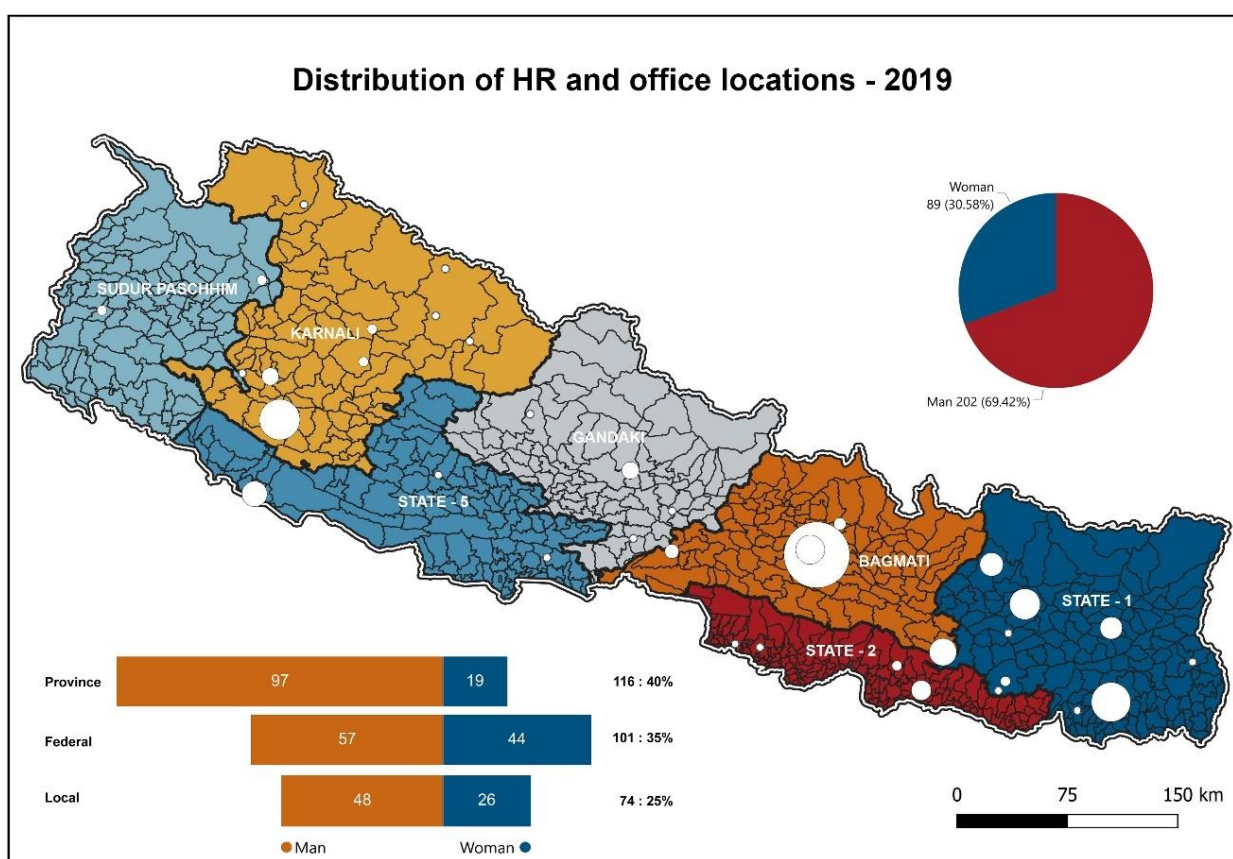
Human Resources

By the end of December 2019, Helvetas Nepal had a total 291 employees, 31% of them women. This represents a 4% increase in women compared to 2018. Helvetas recruited in total 48 new employees in 2019, of whom 44% were women. These staff were mainly to provide TA to the bilateral projects between SDC and the Government of Nepal, SaMi and Prayas (notably TA provided to the IFAD project ASDP through Prayas).

The most significant human resources challenge in 2019 was the closure of the earthquake reconstruction activities in Melamchi and Helambu – a process already started in December 2018 with the finalization of the ReAL project. June 2019 saw the finalization of REAP, REAP II and REAS, and the consequent departure of staff. There was also a major restructuring of TBSU staffing for the last phase which entailed the phasing out of certain positions.

In total 89 employees separated from Helvetas on completion of their contract period during 2019, mostly due to project completion. In addition, 29 employees resigned, having found other opportunities. Some of the latter group represent a loss due to our decentralization efforts; staff posted outside Kathmandu sought alternative employment back in the capital city.

Overall, there has been good staff acceptance of all the changes necessary over the year in different projects, with staff demonstrating commitment to their work and the organization. This was also apparent in the successful, timely and professional completion of projects.



Personal Story

Looking Back at My Years with HELVETAS : Netra Khanal

As a young boy who grew up in the then remote district Tehrathum, I was shocked when I first entered Kathmandu Valley 36 years ago. Coming from a sparsely populated village, I was stunned to see houses crammed together and crowds of people moving like armies of ants. But soon, like a stream which merges with the river as it flows into the sea, I found myself fully absorbed into the crowd. I had followed my friends into engineering studies and was soon fully engrossed.



On completing my studies, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work for SATA (Swiss Association for Technical Assistance) on the "Sindhupalchok Dolakha Landslide Project", providing relief to flood/landslide victims. It was 1987/88 and for an eager young man without any working experience, it was the perfect learning opportunity. I had to overcome many issues/challenges, but also gained invaluable skills and knowledge - one of which was on suspension bridges. It was during this time that technical knowledge on suspension bridges was being promoted and developed successfully. Paying flood/landslides victims to participate in the construction work helped the finances of the affected households, thus blending technical and socio-economic needs. To this day, I will never forget the gratitude shown by the villagers. It boosted my morale.

Altogether, nine suspension bridges were constructed through that project, using new and simple techniques. Jim Rutherford, the project Planning Coordinator, envisioned a technique that would use local construction materials and local resource person and skills; this is popular as Short Span Trail Bridge (SSTB) technology today. Helvetas, in coordination with Jim, developed and implemented the "Community Suspension Bridge Programme" in Nepal. This project merged the innovative techniques used in bridge construction with a community management approach.

Those were the heydays for innovation, and I consider myself extremely lucky to have been a part of them. Over the course of professional life there were many memorable occasions. At Safitar in Dhankuta district, I learnt how bridges can be a catalyst for development. The community held some 50 hectares of barren land on the right bank. Following bridge construction, they brought water from the Tamor river across the bridge to irrigate these lands. Soon, there was greenery everywhere. It was the right support at the right time and the rewards were great.

Ensuring the participation of local people while formulating plans and constructing bridges is a must. I first realized this now obvious pre-requisite during my early days, when working at Harpara Ghat. At a community gathering, an elderly man spoke emotionally about the need of a bridge across the Tamor river, drawing everyone's attention to the fact that while they on the left bank could shout to the others on the right bank, until then no social relations (such as weddings) had taken place. The man was very persuasive, and you could tell that the community was responsive, as when the construction works began, their involvement was high, and the bridge was built without any delays.

Replacing old tuins (wire rope pulleys) by trail bridges also has brought me much joy over the years. The first one was across the Bagmati river, between Gimdi of Lalitpur and Betini of Makwanpur district. Prior to the construction of a suspension bridge, many students had severed their fingers while using the tuin pulley. Once the trail bridge was constructed, not only were the students safer, but their studies also improved with regular attendance. I have also witnessed how women can successfully build bridges. Whenever people tell me that it is not possible, I tell them about the many cases in which women have played key roles.

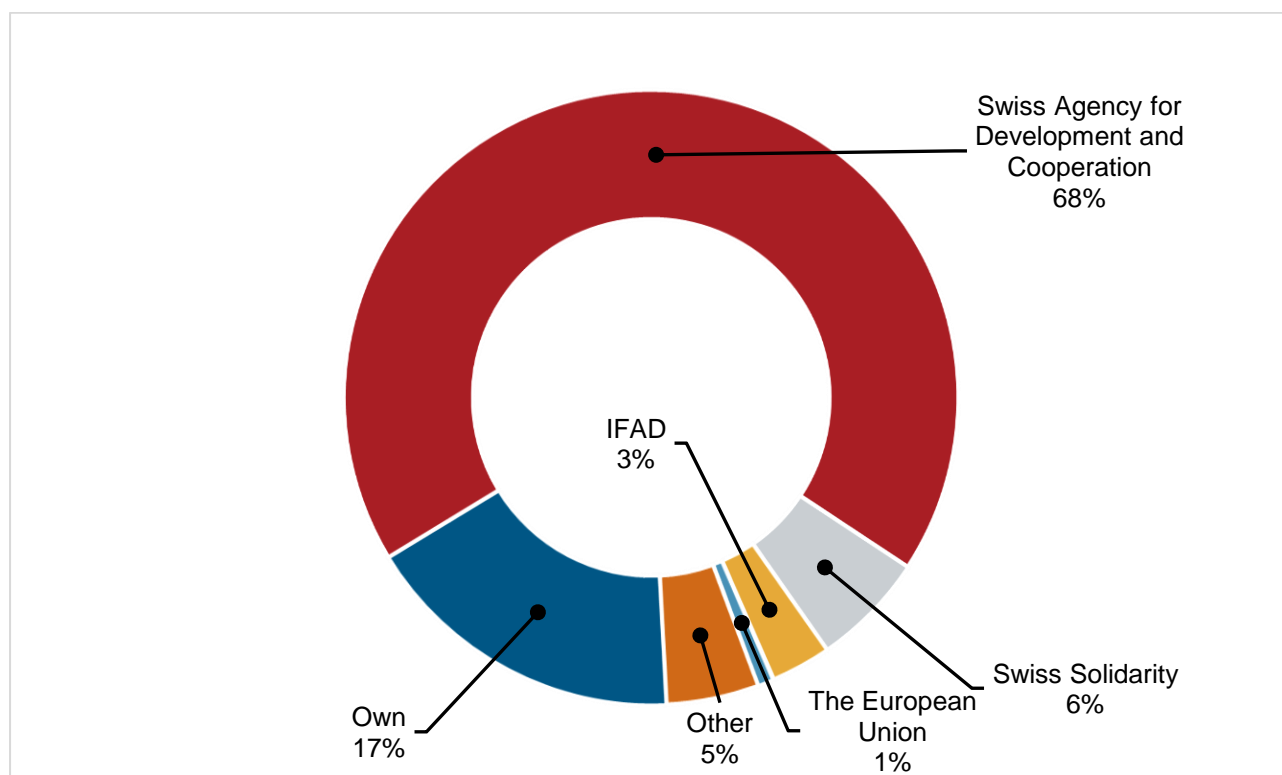
I have so many stories to recall – all made possible by the opportunities provided me through my continuous 33 years of employment with Helvetas. I entered as a young man and now I leave with grey hair, but rich in experience.

Budget and Investment

The approved budget for 2019 was at CHF 17.19 million, almost at par with the previous year's budget of CHF 15.97 million. The utilization of the budget was at lower side, with just over 75% of the total budget being utilized. The change in the working modality with the focus on systems at local level government (rural and urban municipalities), the spending of individual projects was not the primary focus this year.

Of the total expenses of CHF 12.9 million, as in the previous years, The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation continued to be the biggest source of funds spent with a share of 67.99% of total funding. 17.5% of funds were from the organization's own fund raising and program contribution. Swiss Solidarity contributed 6% for the year as the last of the remaining earthquake rehabilitation and recovery initiatives from Swiss Solidarity came to an end during the year. International Fund for Agriculture Development contributed around 3.14% and the European Contribution this year was down to less than 1% of total funds. 4.8% of funds were contributed through various other donors, mostly for innovative/piloting initiatives.

Sources of Funds (%)

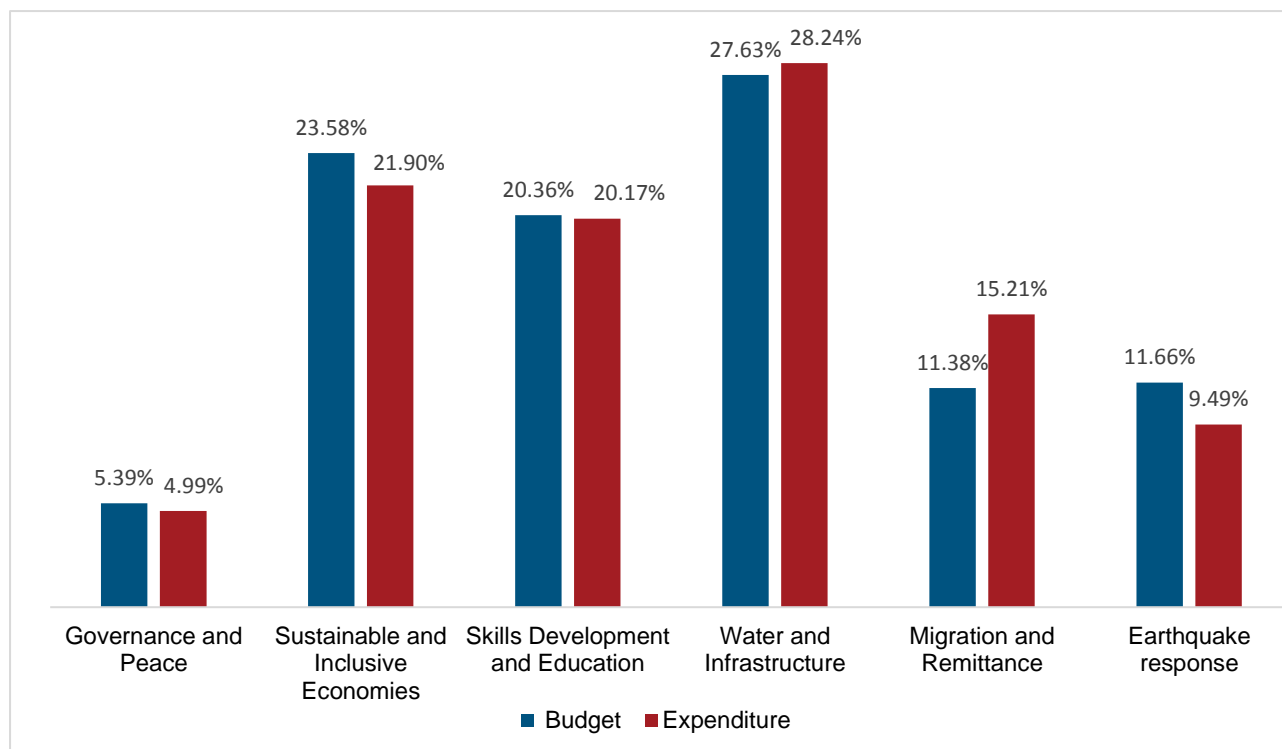


Investment by Working Areas

The budget and investment for year 2019 is reported by the Helvetas working areas. The five working areas are the those of global organizational expertise and experience; gender equality and social inclusion is considered as a cross-cutting theme throughout.

- Governance and Peace includes decentralisation, governance and human rights, conflict prevention and transformation.
- Sustainable and Inclusive Economy includes sustainable agriculture and food security, income, markets and fair trade.
- Skills Development and education includes vocational training.
- Water and Infrastructure includes drinking water, sanitation and water for food and trail bridges.
- Migration and Remittances includes safe, regular and responsible migration, productive use of remittance and market systems development, support for entrepreneurship and business creation.
- Earthquake response includes post-earthquake reconstruction, this is a special intervention after 2015 mega earthquake in Nepal.

Budget vs. Actual Expenditure



Audit Report

CSC & Co

Chartered Accountants

Mahamati Bhawan
175, Gairidhara Marg, Gairidhara
PO Box : 4861, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: +977-1-4004580, 4004581, 4004582
Fax: +977-1-4004578
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Web: www.cscnepal.com

Independent Auditor's Report

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation,
Maulbeerstrasse 10, 3001 Berne, Switzerland

Opinion

On the FDFA Standard Terms of Reference, we have audited the financial information of the Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Nepal which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2019 and the income statement for the year ended 31 December 2019, and the notes to the financial information including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial information on Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Nepal for the year ended 31 December 2019 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies described in the notes and comply with the requirements of the FDFA Standard Terms of reference – Version 2018.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial information" section of our report.

We are independent of the entity in accordance with the requirements of the IESBA Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 3 to the financial information, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statement is prepared to provide information in connection with the audit of consolidated financial statements of the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Switzerland. As a result, the statement may not be suitable for another purpose. Our audit opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Information

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial information. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

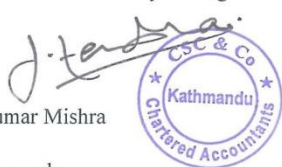
Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial information

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial information as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial information.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Management.


Jitendra Kumar Mishra
Partner
Place: Kathmandu
Date: March 30, 2020



HELKETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal				
BALANCE SHEET				
As At December 31, 2019				
				Currency (NPR)
Account Group	Description	Reference/ Schedule Numbers	2019	2018
	ASSETS			
1000	Cash in hand	1	266,378	251,558
1100	Cash at Bank	2	143,786,408	229,177,988
1150	Uncashed Cheques		-	-
1200	Debtors		-	35,030
1300	Internal Current Account		-	-
1400	Advances	3	152,087,856	141,818,639
1500	Deposits	4	20,825,582	20,887,531
	Total Assets		316,966,224	392,170,746
	CAPITAL & LIABILITIES			
2000	Current Liabilities	5	30,532,505	43,342,711
2010	Statutory Liabilities		1,019,004	979,649
2020	Staff Liabilities		26,429,693	38,714,200
2030	Other Current Liabilities		2,755,488	3,648,862
2040	Programme Creditors		328,320	-
	Fund Balance			
2100	CAPITAL HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation		286,433,719	348,828,035
	Head Office, Switzerland			
			316,966,224	392,170,746

The annexed notes form an integral part of this Balance Sheet

Pragya Adhikari
Pragya Adhikari
 Head of Finance and Administration



HELKETAS
 NEPAL

Dr. Bharat K. Pokharel
Dr. Bharat K. Pokharel
 Country Director

This Balance Sheet referred to in our separate report of even date.

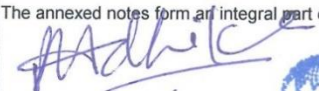
Place: Dhobighat, Lalitpur
 Date: 30 March 2020

Jitendra Kumar Mishra
Jitendra Kumar Mishra
 Partner
 CSC & Co.
 Chartered Accountants




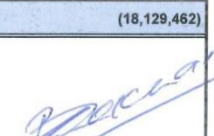
HELNETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal				
Statement of Income and Expenditure				
For the year 2019 : 1st January to 31st December 2019				
Currency (NPR)				
Account Group	Description	Reference/ Schedule Numbers	2019	2018
	INCOME			
9000	Remittances / Grant receipts			
	Remittances from Head Office	6	1,262,997,672	1,413,441,737
	Remittances from local donors	7	38,596,062	34,375,408
	Total Receipts		1,301,593,734	1,447,817,144
	EXPENDITURE			
51	Personnel costs Expatriates		1,158,908	889,447
5130	Expatriates Recruitment costs		-	-
5140	Expatriates HRD costs		-	-
5150	Expatriate Travelling and Representation costs		1,139,197	841,422
5151	Expatriate Homeleave & Transfer Costs		-	-
5160	Expatriate Foreign residence costs		-	-
5169	Other Expatriation costs		19,711	48,025
52	Personnel costs Nationals		584,116,907	559,974,115
5200	Personnel Cost Nationals		530,778,624	510,312,350
5250	Travel & Representation costs National Staff		53,338,283	49,661,765
54	Local Consultants		21,299,958	23,004,266
5400	National Consultants fees		20,641,982	22,813,334
5450	National Consultants Travel & Repr. Costs		657,976	190,932
71	Operating Cost		93,994,922	81,923,792
7110	Vehicles		25,546,607	20,191,807
7120	Office costs		60,521,257	54,064,926
7150	Other Operating costs		7,927,058	7,667,059
72	Project Costs International		646,411,780	800,154,987
7210	Education and Training costs		62,416,875	48,639,421
7220	Investment and Equipment costs		27,772,467	48,236,474
7231	Contribution to NGO		145,049,213	177,996,612
7232	Contribution to Govt Authorities		155,982,081	126,338,630
7233	Contribution to Private Sector		126,927,473	126,366,947
7234	Contribution to Beneficiaries		107,786,070	271,489,170
7239	Various contribution to Partners		20,477,601	1,087,733
	Total Expenditure		1,346,982,475	1,465,946,607
	OTHER RECEIPTS			
8200	Bank Interest		-	-
	NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		(45,388,741)	(18,129,462)

The annexed notes form an integral part of this Income & Expenditure Statement.




Pragya Adhikari
Head of Finance and Administration





Dr. Bharat K. Pokharel
Country Director



Jitendra Mishra
Partner
CSC & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Place: Dhobighat, Lalitpur
Date: 30 March 2020

Way Forward

This year had been one in which the realities of supporting Nepal's process of federalization have become more apparent. At the same time, many positive relationships have been established with local governments, and synergies built between different Helvetas projects operating in the same municipality. One important challenge for next year is to build on these synergies in a very deliberate manner, supporting selected municipalities in provinces 1, 2 and 6 to become positive examples of what can be achieved by local governments – and through inter-municipal collaboration. For example, we will build links between our work on migration and on agriculture and value chains, encouraging municipalities to support returnee migrants in investing their remittances in promising local enterprises. Similarly, we will link our work with municipalities on water supplies with awareness raising on hygiene, food security and nutrition. Building such synergies requires strong awareness amongst staff of the activities of colleagues working on other projects – which will be fostered through appropriate face to face meetings as well as virtual communication.

Next year will see the termination of the SDC and Government of Nepal project NASDP, Nepal Agricultural Services Development Project – Prayas. Closing the project in a timely and constructive manner will be a challenge. Meanwhile, planning of the next phase of the SDC and Government of Nepal project ENSSURE, Enhanced Skills for Sustainable and Rewarding Employment, will be required. We will continue to seek new mandates in our areas of expertise where our services are recognized and demanded, especially in governance. An important milestone towards the end of next year will be to conduct an internal review of the country strategy to identify specific achievements in supporting federalization and/or challenges that require adjustment to the strategy. Flexibility is an important part of Constitution Sensitive Program Management.

Portfolio

Working area	Working Rural / Municipalities
- Governance and Peace (GOP)	Bheri, Chisankhugadhi, Diprung, Halesi Tuwachung, Kankai, Khadadevi, Khandachakra, Molung, Naraharinath, Siddhicharan, Sunapati and Sunkoshi
- Sustainable and Inclusive Economy (SIE)	Aathbiskot, Ainselukhark, Bagchaur, Baijanath, Balwa, Bangad Kupinde, Barahapokhari, Barahathawa, Barahtal, Belaka, Bhadrapur, Bhagawatimai, Bhajani, Bhangaha, Bheri, Bheriganga, Birendranagar, Birgunj, Buddhabhumi, Champadevi, Chamunda Bindrasaini, Chandannath, Chaudandigadhi, Chaurjahari, Chhayanath Rara, Chhedagad, Chhireswornath, Chisankhugadhi, Dhangadhi, Diktel Rupakot Majhuwagadhi, Diprung, Duduwa, Dungeshwor, Gaushala, Godaita, Gramthan, Gulariya, Gurans, Gurbhakot, Halesi Tuwachung, Hariwan, Jahada, Jantedhunga, Kailari, Kankai, Katari, Kaudena, Kepilasagadhi, Khandachakra, Khijidemba, Khotehang, Kotahimai, Krishnapur, Kumakhmalika, Lahan, Laljhadi, Lekbeshi, Likhu, Lumbini Sanskritik, Madhyabindu, Madi, Maharajgunj, Mayadevi, Molung, Musikot, Naraharinath, Narayan, Nijgadh, Patrasi, Punarbas, Rajdevi, Rangeli, Rapti Sonari, Raskot, Ratuwamai, Rautamai, Rohini, Sakela, Sani Bheri, Sharada, Shiwalaya, Siddhicharan, Simta, Sunkoshi, Surunga, Tapli, Tatopani, Tila, Tilagufa, Tribeni, Tribeni Nalagad, Triyuga, Udayapurgadhi and Yashodhara
- Skill Development and Education (SDE)	Arun, Aurahi, Bagmati, Balwa, Banepa, Barahathawa, Bardibas, Belaka, Belbari, Bhangaha, Bharatpur, Bheriganga, Bhimdatta, Bhojpur, Biratnagar, Birendranagar, Birgunj, Buddhabhumi, Budhanilakantha, Butwal, Champadevi, Chandrapur, Chaudandigadhi, Chhathar Jorpati, Chhireswornath, Dhangadhi, Dhankuta, Dhanusadham, Dharan, Diktel Rupakot Majhuwagadhi, Doramba, Duhabi, Gauriganga, Gaushala, Ghorahi, Godawari, Gokarneshwor, Golbazar, Gujara, Halesi Tuwachung, Haripur, Hariwan, Hetauda, Inaruwa, Ishworpur, Itahari, Jaleswor, Janaki, Janakpur, Jitpur Simara, Kageshwori Manahora, Kalaiya, Kalika, Kamalamai, Kankai, Karjanha, Kathmandu, Kawasoti, Khadadevi, Khairahani, Khijidemba, Khotehang, Kirtipur, Kohalpur, Kolhabi, Lahan, Lalbandi, Laligurans, Lalitpur, Letang, Likhu, Loharpatti, Madhuwan, Mahagadhimai, Mahalaxmi, Manebhanjyang, Manthali, Mirchaiya, Mithila, Myanglung, Nepalgunj, Nijgadh, Pakhribas, Panauti, Patahrishanishchare, Pauwadungma, Pokhara Lekhnath, Rajbiraj, Ramechhap, Rapti, Ratnanagar, Ratuwamai, Rawabesi Haramtar, Sakhuwanankarkatti, Saptakoshi, Shadananda, Shambhunath, Shankharapur, Shuklaphanta, Siddharthanagar, Siddhicharan, Sukhipur, Sunapati, Sundarharaicha, Sunkoshi, Sunwal, Surunga, Tansen, Tokha, Triyuga, Tulsipur and Uralabari
- Water and Infrastructure (WIN)*	Bhagawatimai, Bhairabi, Chhedagad, Dhankuta, Dullu, Dungeshwor, Gurans, Kalika, Kamalbazar, Khalsa Chhintang Shahidbhumi, Lekbeshi, Naraharinath, Naumule, Pakhribas, Shiwalaya, Simta and Thantikandh

<p>- Migration and remittance (M&R)</p>	<p>Annapurna, Arnama, Babai, Bagchaur, Baglung, Baijanath, Bakaiya, Bangad Kupinde, Banganga, Baragadhi, Barahathawa, Bardaghat, Bardibas, Barhabise, Barpak Sulikot, Belhi Chapena, Belkotgadhi, Bhadrapur, Bhanu, Bharatpur, Bhojpur, Bhokraha, Bhumlu, Bidur, Binayee, Biratnagar, Birgunj, Butwal, Byas, Chandranagar, Chandrapur, Chatrakot, Chaudandigadhi, Chautara SangachokGadhi, Chhatreshwori, Damak, Deumai, Dhanauji, Dhangadhi, Dharan, Dhulikhel, Dhunibesi, Diktel Rupakot Majhuwadhi, Doramba, Dudhouli, Durga Bhagwati, Falelung, Falgunanda, Gaidakot, Galkot, Galyang, Ganeshman Charnath, Gangajamuna, Garuda, Gaur, Gauriganj, Gaushala, Ghodaghodi, Ghorahi, Godaita, Gorkha, Gurans, Halesi Tuwachung, Hariharpurgadhi, Harinas, Hariwan, Hatuwagadhi, Helambu, Hetauda, Ichchhyakamana, Illam, Inaruwa, Isma, Itahari, Jaimuni, Jaleswor, Janaki, Janakpur, Jitpur Simara, Kalaiya, Kamalamai, Kanchan, Kanchanrup, Kanepokhari, Kanthekhol, Kapilbastu, Katari, Kaudena, Kawasoti, Kepilasagadhi, Khajura, Khotehang, Kohalpur, Lahan, Lamahi, Likhu, Machhapuchchhre, Madhyabindu, Madi, Madi, Malangawa, Manahari, Mandandeupur, Mangsebung, Manthali, Mayadevi, Mechinagar, Miklajung, Musikot, Myagde, Nepalgunj, Nijgadh, Nilakantha, Palungtar, Panchpokhari Thangpal, Pariwartan, Parsagadhi, Phidim, Pipra, Pokhara Lekhnath, Pratappur, Putalibazar, Rajbiraj, Ramgram, Rangeli, Ratnanagar, Rautamai, Resunga, Rolpa, Roshi, Runtigadi, Sahid Laxan, Sahidnagar, SakhuwaPrasauni, Shadananda, Shambhunath, Sharada, Shivapuri, Shivaraj, Shuklagandaki, Siddharthanagar, Simraungadh, Siraha, Sukhipur, Sunapati, Sunil Smriti, Sunwal, Suryodaya, Thaha, Thakre, Tikapur, Tillotama, Tinpatan, Tulsipur, Umakunda, Uralabari and Waling</p>
<p>- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)</p>	<p>All programme area</p>
<p>- Humanitarian response to the earthquake</p>	<p>Helambu and Melamchi</p>

*Trail Bridge Programme under WIN is a Nationwide programme

Thanks

Helvetas Nepal would like to sincerely thank all its partners who continue to support in achieving the desired outcomes and outputs:

Government Agencies and Projects

Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT)

Department of Agriculture

Department of Local Infrastructure

Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management

Foreign Employment Board

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security

Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport

National Planning Commission

Nepal Agriculture Research Council

Poverty Alleviation Fund

Training Institute for Technical Instruction (TITI)

Donor and International Implementation Partners:

CARITAS Switzerland

Department for International Development (UKAid)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

Eawag

Fastenopfer

GFA Consulting Group

ICCO Cooperation

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Lutheran World Relief

NIRAS

RAIN Foundation

Rights and Resources Group

Solaqua

Solidar Suisse

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Swiss Solidarity

The European Union

The Glacier Trust

The International Development Research Centre

The Water Integrity Network

VivaConAgua

Non-Governmental National and Local Implementation Partners

Action for Development Pvt. Ltd. (AFD)

Alliance For Social Mobilization Pvt. Ltd. (AN)

ANTARANG

Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio resources (ANSAB)

Associates' Nepal Synergy (ANS)

Bahuudashaya Capital Trainig Center

Balaju School of Engineering and Technology

Byabasaya Talim Bikas Tatha Paramarsha Kendra Pvt. Ltd. (BDCC)

Centre for Mental Health and Counseling Nepal (CMC-Nepal)

Chamber of Commerce and Industries Birgunj, Parsa

Civil Society Alliance for Nutrition, Nepal (CSANN)

Community Human Resource Development Programme

Community Development and Environment Conservation Forum, Sindhupalchok

Cooperation For Development (CFD)-Jajarkot

Creative Skills Private Limited (CMES)

Development Project Service Center (DEPROSC-Nepal)

Dhorpatan Technical Training Center Pvt. Ltd.

Everest club

Fine Smart International Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.-Banke

FORWARD Nepal

Franchising Skill Pvt. Ltd. (F-SKILL)

Genius Multi Technical Institute Pvt. Ltd. (GMTI)

Good Governance Club, Jajarkot

Growth Sellers Pvt. Ltd

Himalaya Social Development Centre (HSDC)-Jajarkot

Himalayan Community Development Forum

Hotel Association of Nepal

Human Rights, and Environmental Development Centre (HuREnDeC)

Jayan Technical College of Technology Pvt. Ltd. (JAYAN)

Junar Coperative Association Of Nepal, Sindhuli

Kantipur Bahu Prabidhik Shikshalaya (KBPS)

Kathmandu University (KU)
Kohalpur Institute of Technical Education Pvt Ltd (KITE)
Mahila Aatmanirbhar Kendra (MANK), Sindhupalchok
Mitra Dhanusha
Multi Skill & Environment Development (MSED)
National Association of VDCs in Nepal (NAVIN)
National Network for Safe Migration (NNSM)
National Reconstruction Authority
Nawa Kiran Sewa Samaj Nepal
Nepal Biotech Private Ltd , Bhaisepati Kathmandu
Nepal Engineering and Technical Science Academy (NETSA)
Nepal Federation of Saving and Credit Cooperative Unions Ltd. (NEFSCUN)
Nepal Herbs and Herbal Association of Nepal
Nikhil Multiservice
North Star and Miteri
Panchakanya Training Institute (PTI)
Pathibhara Himalayan Polytechnic Institute (PHPI)
People Forum for Human Rights (PF)
Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee (PNCC)
Rastriya Rojgar PrabardhanKendra
Reconstruction Development Centre (RRDC)
REMREC and SITARA
Rural Development Centre
Rural Development Nepal
Rural Infrastructure & management Consultant Pvt. Ltd. (RIMC)
Sana Byabasaya Pramasha tatha Talim Kendra Pvt. Ltd. (BCC)
Saptari Samudahik Bikash Kendra
Scott Wilson Nepal Pvt. Ltd
SEBAC-Nepal
Shangri-La Association
Shreeram Niketan Biotech Pvt. Ltd
Social Awareness Development Academy (SADA)
Social Development Centre (SODEC) Pvt. Ltd.
Subarna Multiple Training Center
Surya Samajik Sewa Sangh (4S)-Jumla
Sustainable Agriculture and Environment and Water Conservation Centre (SAEWCC)
Sustainable Technology Adaptive Research and Implementation Center, Nepal (STARIC/N),
Trade Link

Training and Consultancy Centre for Employment (TRACE)

Training Center Nepal (TCN)

Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs Nepal (UCEP Nepal)

Ujyaalo Multimedia Pvt. Ltd

Women Development Forum (WDF)

Women Empowerment Action Forum

Women Upliftment and Awareness Centre (WUAC)

We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude and thanks to all individual local resource persons, cooperatives, users' committees, experienced leader farmers and consultants for their valuable support and services extended by them.