



By-annual Report on Miteri Birthing Center, Jumla January-June 2013

Supported by

NRN, UK Chapter and Sidhartha Nepali Samaj

Prepared by

Action Works Nepal (AWON)

Thapathali, Kabil Marga, House N0.37

Telephone: 977- 1-41102103, 14227730

Fax: 977-41102103

GPO.Box No 23336

Email: actionworksnepal.awon10@gmail.com

[URL:www.actionworksnepal.org](http://www.actionworksnepal.org)

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Introduction

Action Works Nepal (AWON) has been working in an integrated approach to address the extreme poverty and human rights through '*Miteri Gau-Let's Live Together Campaign*'. It has four thematic areas as guided by the strategic plan 2012-2016; women empowerment, education support, livelihood improvement, and humanitarian assistance. In this connection, AWON launched a pilot project entitled *Miteri Birthing Center* (MBC). For MBC, in November 2012, District Public Health Office (DPHO) Jumla suggested Tamti village to construct the MBC. Because, it has have the high maternal mortality and morbidity than other villages, where two maternal deaths occurred in 2011/2012 as reported by the Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs). This project is funded by NRN (Non-Residence Nepalese), UK Chapter and *Sidhartha Nepali Samaj*, UK. The report provides an update of MBC from January to June 2013.

Objectives

The overall objective of MBC is to improve maternal and child health condition in the Karnali region of Nepal. The specific objectives are:

- To address the demand of maternal and child health situation in Karnali,
- To provide quality basic emergency obstetric service, and
- To create the enabling environment to make compatibility of demand and supply.

Key approaches and strategies

The following approaches and strategies are followed during this reporting period.

- ***Partnership with District Public Health Office:***
AWON has series of meeting in AWON's office Kathmandu (N-2), and DPHO Jumla (N-2). In between, AWON has had many phone calls with DPHO and its team. As a result, AHW is assigned to mobilized the community and proceed the birthing centre. Thus, AHW is become secretary of User's Committee.
- ***Miteri Gau-Let's Live Together Campaign:***
As guided by this strategy, AWON launched activities such as: women empowerment, education support, livelihood improvement and humanitarian assistance to complement the objectives of MBC. The social awareness program lunched as part of *Miteri Gau Let's Live Together Campaign* has created awareness and sensitization among local communities including on maternal and child health.

Major activities

Conduct situational analysis

As part of situation analysis, AWON team had series of discussion with DPHO, Jumla and other stakeholders such as District Development Committee. The DPHO, proposed Tamti Village Development Committee (VDC) to construct MBC, as maternal mortality in this VDC was high and there were no activities of similar nature in this VDC. Following the meeting and discussions with DPHO and other stakeholders, a team of AWON visited Tamti for situation analysis. The team had consultation with local communities and service providers such as VDC staff, health post staff available in the VDC.

The following section provides project activities and progresses according to project objectives.

1. To address the demand of maternal and child health in Karnali

1.1 Mobilize the Miteri Popular Education Groups/REFLECT groups on MCH (Maternal and Child Health)

AWON organized a VDC level interaction and meeting in the Tamti VDC in 27 December, 2012. The meeting decided to construct MBC in the Tamti VDC. A users' committee was formed by the meeting and roles and responsibilities of the users' committee were shared, discussed and agreed by all participants of the meeting. Following this decision, seven Miteri Popular Education Groups (M-PEG), including five women groups, one man group and a group of traditional healers, were formed. These groups meet twice a month and discuss various issues related to women's health, maternity and other social issues of their concern.

1.2 Orient teachers, political leaders, traditional healers, CBOs and stakeholders on gender, human rights and inclusion

Twenty events of day long orientations were organized in December 2012 and May-April 2013. The orientations were about gender, human rights, maternity and governance and importance of birthing centre. Altogether 600 participants, including local school teachers, political leaders, members of community based organizations (CBOs), and local community members, were benefitted by these orientations.

1.3 Support communities in organizing various events, local festivals and community actions

Each month, women and men, boys and girls are organizing the community activities such as dual song competition and street drama to aware local communities on gender equity and equality, demerits of *Chhaupadi* and importance of birthing centre and safe delivery.

1.4 Engage with and mobilize media to advocate about the value and use of birthing center

AWON is working with Radio Nari Awaj in Jumla and OUTLINE Media in Kathmandu as media partners. Regards to birthing center, Radio Nari Awaj covers message about the process of

MBC and various maternity related issues through its local radio. In addition to this, Outline media brings local issues through FM Radios, news papers, television and facebook.



Figure 1 Community following traditional process to inaugurate MBC in Tamti



Figure 2 ANM discussing about MBC in Tamti

2 To provide quality basic emergency obstetric services

2.1 Recruitment ANMs (local) in consultation with community and SBA training

MBC user's committee identified Ms. Nandakala Koirala as ANM for MBC. Ms. Koirala has trained as an ANM but lacks not having SBA training. Following her selection, Nandakala initiated community level awareness and community mobilization on maternity, women's health and other social issues. AWON also made connection with National Health Training Center, Teku about SBA training.

2.2 Construct building /additional rooms for birthing center

The construction work initiated. Community people managed to provide land in very accessible area called Lamabagar, in Tamti. Community people also so excited and everything went well. The VDC agreed to provide additional land for an apple farm and committed to provide NRs. 100,000 to complement MBC construction and to establish an apple farm. The decisions and negotiations were signed and documented (Figure 3).

As the construction process initiated, the chair person of the users' committee asked AWON to provide total money allocated to the MBC to him. As per the

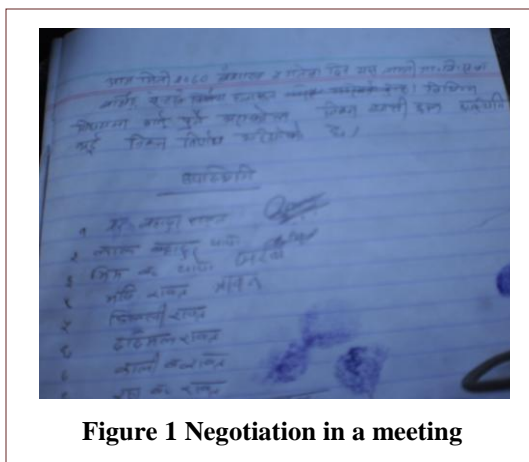


Figure 1 Negotiation in a meeting

agreement, the users' committee was responsible to manage local resources (such as wood, sand, stone etc) and labors, while AWON was responsible to manage external materials (such as cement, roofing materials etc) and costs of skilled labors. However, the chairperson tried to misuse the code of conduct and threaten community people and AWON staff for not providing money to him. AWON denied providing money to him and organized 17 events of meeting to convince the chairperson and community. Meetings were also conducted together with VDC secretary, Red Cross staff and local political leaders (please refer Annex for details). In addition, telephonic conversations were done several times. Rests of the communities were very positive and committed in providing their labor contribution and to spend the funds in a transparent way. However, the chairperson denied continuing construction work unless he gets money. Rather, he did threaten community people so the community felt threat to change the leadership. Finally, a joint meeting of DPHO and AWON decided to withdraw the all ongoing activities from Tamti from June 2013. As per this decision, AWON withdrew all project activities from Tamti VDC and informed the decision to local communities accordingly.

Following the decision, a meeting of DPHO and AWON decided to initiate construction of MBC in Sannigaun VDC of Jumla. The DPHO takes more proactive role in this regards. Following the estimation, mapping and agreement, the construction work has already been initiated. An ANM has already hired and mobilized in the field. AWON has also initiated other project activities such as scholarship program in the schools and a campaign against Chhaupadi free community in the Sannigaun VDC.

2.3 Provide essential equipments and supplies

Due to disputes in construction process in Tamti VDC, AWON postponed the purchasing process. The purchasing of all equipments and supplies will be made in Sannigaun VDC in August and September 2013.

3 To create the enabling environment to make demand and supply compatible

AWON engaged with Health Post Management Committee, Schools and groups; women, men and traditional healers. AWON had organized a monthly meeting with health post team, schools, and popular education groups. AWON has also initiated the saving credit activities, distribution of clothes and distribution of glycerin to schools. The enabling environment to construct MBC in Sannigaun is positive to date. AWON is applying its experience and learning from Tamti to construct MBC in Sannigaun.

4 Monitoring Visit

AWON team from Kathmandu had visited the project five times to facilitate the construction work and to make enabling environment transparent and effective (please refer Annex for details).

5. Challenges

Communication: The communication facility in Jumla, especially in the remote VDCs is very poor. Thus it is not easy to communicate staff and local communities when required.

Fund: As an emerging organization, AWON has very limited funds to hire and mobilize senior staff in the field. AWON requested NRN to provide funds to cover the salaries and benefits for a senior level district coordinator in Jumla, although, it can't be materialized during the agreement process. As a result, AWON has to rely on junior field staff and mobilizing staff allocated for other projects those do not have enough competency and negotiation skills to run such a complex project in a remote and isolated area.

Conclusion

In close consultation of DPHO Jumla and community people, AWON initiated MBC in Tamti which is the most remote in Jumla and having high maternal mortality. The community people, politicians and other persons in the community are very excited and agreed to construct a birthing centre in Sannigaun. The construction work has already initiated and expected to complete within three months period. AWON is committed in wise use of resources and a transparent, participatory and accountable process in all its activities. AWON highly respects the contribution of NRN and Siddhartha Nepali Samaj for such an important cause.

Recommendation

Due to geographical harness and complex socio-cultural context, AWON require a senior and experienced staff in Jumla for better communication and negotiation of upcoming program. AWON would also like to request NRN for additional supports to expand its social mobilization, livelihoods, education support and climate change adaptation related activities in the Karnali region.

Annex 1 Meetings conducted for the construction of BC

S. N.	When	Where	With Whom	AWON's Representative	Decisions made so far
1	Margshir, 2069	AWON office , Kathmandu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Roshan Lal Chaudhari DPHO ,Jumla • Laxman Chaulagain, DPHO, Jumla 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bharat, Samjhana, Saroj, Ramesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized for Birthing Center in Tamti
2	24 th Mangsir, 2069	DPHO Office,Jumla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Roshan Lal Chaudhari DPHO ,Jumla • Laxman Chaulagain, DPHO, Jumla • AHW, Tamti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jagu, Radha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-affirmed about BC in Tamti • Informed about field visit and process of community mobilization
2	25 th Margshir, 2069	VDC's New Office, Tamti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of all wards includes women, dalit, political leaders • VDC stakeholders: Secretary, AHW, FCHV etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab, Radha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization for location for BC • Formation of inclusive User's committee • Shared about roles of the User's committee regards of BC • Shared process and areas of contribution from AWON's side
3	15 th Magh , 2069	VDC's New Office, Tamti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch the BC center • Works division for construction before Phalgun • VDC allocated NRs1 Lakh for User's committee for complementary support
4	1 st Falgun,2069	VDC, Tamti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispute started, the chairperson asked whole money at once to use as his decision (monopoly)
5	7 th Chaitra,2069	VDC, Tamti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the dispute
6	25 th Chaitra, 2069	Lamabagar, Tamti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VDC Secretary • User's Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the dispute
7	4 th Baisakh, 2070	Kayarkot , Tamti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VDC Secretary • User's Committee • Villagers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab, Radha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss about the modality, remind about first meeting • Agreed to do at nay cost said by

					Chairperson of User's committee and others
8	5 th Baisakh, 2070	Lamabagar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VDC Secretary • User's Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshav, Radha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to continue to construction
9	6 th Baisakh, 2070	Ward no. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users, ward no. 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to continue to construction • Dispute also continue in shadow/bargained by chairperson, he disseminated message negatively
10	7 th Baisakh, 2070	Ward no. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users, ward no. 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to continue to construction • Dispute also continue in shadow/bargained by chairperson, he disseminated message negatively
11	8 th Baisakh, 2070	Ward no. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User's ward no. 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to continue to construction • Dispute also continue in shadow/bargained by chairperson, he disseminated message negatively
12	9 th Baisakh, 2070	Ward no. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User's ward no. 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to continue to construction • Dispute also continue in shadow/bargained by chairperson, he disseminated message negatively
13	28 th Baisakh, 2070	Kayarkot, Tamti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VDC Secretary • User's Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to continue to construction • Dispute also continue in shadow/bargained by chairperson, he disseminated message negatively
	5 th Jestha		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At AWON's office Jumla 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samjhna, Keshab, Shanta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to continue to construction • Dispute also continue in shadow/bargained by chairperson, he disseminated message negatively
14	15 th Jestha, 2070	Kayarkot, Tamti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User's Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to continue to construction • Dispute also continue in shadow/bargained by chairperson, he disseminated message negatively
15	28 th Jestha, 2070	Building of Village Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User's Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to continue to construction • Dispute also continue in shadow/bargained by chairperson, he

		Committee, Tamti			disseminated message negatively
16	29 th , Jestha	Kayarkot, Tamti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User's Committee • Political leaders • Villagers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab, Bharat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to continue to construction • Dispute also continue in shadow/bargained by chairperson, he disseminated message negatively • Asked for a week to take final decision
17	12 th , Asar	Kayarkot, Tamti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User Committee • Political leaders • Youth leaders • Women groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keshab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chairperson of the user committee left the meeting and other people hesitated to take leadership • AWON declared to stop all activities in Tamti