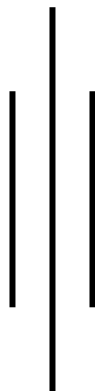
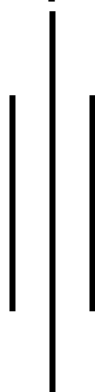


DNF Capacity Building Support Project (DCBSP)



PROGRESS REPORT OF NO COST EXTENSION PERIOD (January-April 2007)



Submitted to
DanidaHUGOU
Panipokhari, Kathmandu



Submitted by
Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)
PO Box No.9251
Kamalpokhari, Kathmandu
Phone 4413589, 4413517, 2003124
e-mail: dnf@dnfnepal.org

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Set of Activities for No Cost Extension Period	
3. Accomplishments/Achievements of Activities	4
<i>Publication of Membership Certificate, Flex Board and Annual report</i>	4
Internship on OD and management	4
Launching local level advocacy activities	4
National and regional level advocacy	4
Compilation and dissemination of the reports of international events	5
Finalisation of report on implementation status of HR instrument and CERD	5
Monitoring of law enforcement	5
Organisation of Alliance Meeting	6
Filing of general case including FIR	6
4. Financial Performance	6
5. Conclusion	6

1. Introduction

Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) is a nation common forum of all Dalit NGOs working across the country. It has five regional offices to reach out to the Member Organisations (MOs) and Dalit community. At present, DNF's outreach is in 59 districts by affiliating 288 Dalit NGOs with it as member organisation. Many other MOs' affiliation with DNF is in increasing trend.

DNF had been implementing DNF Capacity Building Support Project with support from DanidaHUGOU. This project was for three years from February 2004 to December 2006. The major components of this project comprise: (a) Organizational policies, systems, skills, cultures, core values, competencies and developed strategic plans and implemented them (b) DNF has identified national and local issues and launching advocacy initiatives and campaigns in a systematic way along with member organizations. (c) DNF is able to utilize national and international alliances/networks in advocating, campaigning nationally as well as internationally building. (d) Civil society and government agencies have been sensitized about international law/conventions and influenced on the need for a comprehensive policy for the affirmative action for the Dalit people, and (e) LAAD is able to give legal services to civil society organizations, victims of caste discrimination and government agencies in collaboration with pro-Dalit alliances/networks.

However, the country remained socio-politically unstable throughout the project period. Consequently, many hurdles and obstacles prevented the accomplishment of entire project activities as planned originally. Few activities remained unfinished. Henceforth, to cover up those due activities, the project had been extended as a "no cost extension" for a period of three months from January to March 2007.

2. Set of Activities for No Cost Extension Period

Following output wise activities were set for the above defined time period:

Under Output: 1

- 1.1 Publication of Membership Certificate, Flex Board and Annual report**
- 1.2 Internship on OD and management**

Under Output: 2

- 2.1 Launching local level advocacy activities**
- 2.2 National and regional level advocacy**

Under Output: 3

- 3.1 Compile and disseminate an information report about the international events**

Under Output: 4

- 4.1 Prepare a report on implementation status of HR instruments and CERT G.R. XXIX**

4.2 Monitoring of law enforcement

Under Output: 5

5.1 Organisation of Alliance Meeting

5.2 Filing of general case including FIR

Despite the above mentioned activities were planned for three months, it could not be possible to accomplish the above activities within the given time. To this regard, DNF made a request to DanidaHUGOU for the extension of another one month. DanidaHUGOU also agreed on this matter and the project period remained four months. Therefore, this report covers the period from January to April 2007. This progress report mainly focuses on the major activities carried out during the no cost extension period.

3. Accomplishments/Achievements of Activities

Under Output: 1

1.1 Publication of Membership Certificate, Flex Board and Annual report

DNF completed the printing of two flex board containing of its VMGOs (one in English and another in Nepali version). Likewise, DNF printed 500 copies of its membership certificate to be provided to its member organizations. Subsequently, DNF has completed its annual report and is in the process of dissemination. The published documents are widely disseminated to its members, partners and stakeholders.

1.2 Internship on OD and management

Mr. Suman Poudel, the Administrative and Finance Manager of DNF completed an intern from two organisations – one The Forum Asia for Human Rights, Bangkok, Thailand and Human Development Organisation of Sri Lanka – from April 4 to 15. During his internship, Mr. Poudel observed various notable pro-Dalit activities carried out in those organizations and received international exposure. In like manner, Mr. Tirtha Burma, the Executive Director, DNF is currently visiting the Voice of Dalit International, ActionAid UK, VSO UK, and other organizations based in London.

Under Output: 2

2.1 Launching local level advocacy activities

Fifteen member organisations, who received one-shot grant support from this project through DNF, have launched various local level advocacy activities in their respective districts. More specifically, advocacy activities remained concentrated on the celebration of 21st March, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In addition, several lobbying visits were also organized at national as well as district levels. Such visits were made, especially with political parties, human rights organizations and government bodies.

2.2 National and regional level advocacy

Celebration of 21st March

DNF along with its regional committees and member organisations celebrated 21st of March, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On the day, DNF organised a mass rally in Kathmandu Valley by inviting its member organizations and Dalit rights activists. The mass rally thus marched the main thoroughfares of Kathmandu city and converged into mass meeting at Basanapur Doukali . Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, the general secretary of CPN-UML was the chief guest of the meeting and Mr. Bom Bahadur Bishwakarma, the General Secretary of DNF Central

Executive chaired the programme. Around, 2000 people participated in the rally and mass meeting.

Formation of Taskforce on Preparing Recommendations for Making Pro-Dalit Constitution of Nepal

DNF formed a central level Taskforce on Preparing Recommendation for Making Pro-Dalit Constitution of Nepal on the convenorship of Mr. Min Bishwakarma, the member of Interim Constitution Drafting Committee on 20 April 2007. The taskforce thus formed is regularly organising a series of meetings. The taskforce has also different sub-committees regarding constituent assembly (CA), interim constitution, election bill etc. The sub committees are working according to their terms of reference (ToR).

A sub-committee formed by the taskforce has analysed the interim constitution of Nepal and Election Bill and prepared a list of recommendation. Likewise, another sub-committee is analysing the Election Bill and finding the gaps for lobbying and advocacy for the proportionate representation of Dalits in the forthcoming CA.

Under Output: 3

3.1 Compilation and dissemination of the reports of international events

DNF prepared and disseminated a four-paged information report regarding the Periodic Progress Report submitted to 70th session of UN by the government of India and Shadow Report by the civil society of India, by organising a workshop in Kathmandu on 20 April. The report also includes the activities and issues raised by DNF in international level.

Under Output: 4

4.1 Finalisation of report on implementation status of HR instrument and CERD

With the aim of collecting information on the violations of Dalits rights in the country and analysing the situation of the implementation and domestication of national and international instruments, a report entitled "Considering Information Report 2007" has been prepared. The report explores the national legal provisions for eliminating caste based discrimination and untouchability and their implementation mechanism and status as well.

4.2 Monitoring of law enforcement

DNF is monitoring the enforcement status of the existing laws for eliminating caste based discrimination in the country. During this four month period, DNF/LAAD monitored two cases of caste based discrimination. The first one was "expulsion of Ms Roma Devi Kisan, a student of Mahendra Campus, Baglung, from her rented in room". Unfortunately, Baglung District Police Office ruled out to register the application – first information registration (FIR) - against this case. Thereafter, a committee for monitoring the cases of untouchability and caste based discrimination was formed by involving human rights activists, Dalit rights activists and government authorities. The committee is currently engaged in monitoring the cases.

Likewise, a case was occurred in a hotel at Bhaktapur District in Kathmandu valley. The case was of Mr. Bhumi Bahadur Bogati (Sarki by caste), who refused to wash a tea cu/glass tea in a tea shop, where he drank a cup of tea. The teashop was patronized by Mr. Hakucha Maakaju Shrestha. Mr. Shrestha pressed him to wash the tea cup, whilst, Mr. Bhumi Bogati declined to do so, and the dispute ensued in such a manner. Eventually, the owner beat him mercilessly. Then he went to file an application to a police office, close to the tea shop, the office also denied registering this case.

Under Output: 5

5.1 Organisation of Alliance Meeting

An alliance meeting was held on the case of the students of class 6 & 7 who were denied from appearing an exam of "Cooking Education" of a governmental school in Parbat District. The meeting was held on 9 April 2007 with the purpose of making discussion for further actions to be taken against perpetrators through lobby and advocacy at central level.

5.2 Filing of general case including FIR

A total of 18 cases including first information registration (FIR) were filed in either court or District Administration Office and Police Office in different places. DNF LAAD, facilitated and helped to the victims of Dalit community across the country in doing so.

4. Financial performance

5. Conclusion

Activities set for no cost extension period have been successfully completed. Printing and publishing of remaining publications, local as well as national level advocacy activities through lobbying visits, filing of caste based discrimination cases, monitoring of existing law enforcement, formation of a taskforce on preparing recommendations for making pro-Dalit constitution of Nepal were the major activities accomplished during this period. Furthermore, the internship programme has helped enhance managerial capacity DNF staffs.