

Strategic Management Team Monthly Review Report – August 2018

Progress against Implementation Year 5 Targets = 21.26%

Result	This month		Year five (Jul 18 - June 19) Cumulative progress	% IY5 Target	IY5 Target (July 2018 - June 2019)
	Target	Progress			
LRN (km)	2,089 [989] [1,100]	1,887 [787] [1,100]	4,149 km DRCN maintained (Total) 3,049 km DRCN of core districts maintained [1,100 km DRCN of pilot districts maintained with RAP3 Help Desk support]	31.71%	13,086km DRCN maintained
	1.00km 1.00km	0.19km 0.00km	3.91km 3.5m track opened On-going	52.34%	+7.47km at 3.5m track opened
	1.0km 0.00km	1.94km 5.82km	3.83km 4.5m full widening On-going	37.26%	+10.28km at 4.5m track opened
	0.00km	0.00km	0.00km road works completed	0.00%	+37.5km road completed
Employment days	25,000 [4,300] [20,700]	54,524 [47,952] [6,572]	144,928 employment days (Total) [Claimed from DFID in Aug-18] [Created from GON budget on RMG maintenance in Aug-18]	36.23%	+400,000 employment days
	50	54	63 training days	25.20%	+250 training days
Capacity Building	0	0	0 Policies and guideline developed and delivered.	0.00%	+4 policies/guidelines developed for and delivered to GoN
CONNECT	19%	19%	41% work plan delivered	N/A	100% work plan delivered
Safeguards	8.33%	8.33%	All activities ongoing as planned	N/A	100% work planned delivered
PMV	1	1	2 internal audits conducted	22.22%	+9 internal audits completed
	1	1	1 trimester progress report	25.00%	4 trimester reports completed

Time elapsed in Year 5 = 16.67%

Remarks: As part of efforts to speed up construction in HUM, and the GSDR Gulphagad road in particular, SBGs have been used throughout the rainy season because unlike RBGs they take no breaks for agricultural activities. Currently 85% of SBGs are working on GSDR and are succeeding in accelerating construction substantially. Desk verification of trends now required to recast forecasts for a possible Dec 2018 finish rather than March 2019.

Financial Progress Against Year 5 Budget = 24.93%

Component	Amount (UK£)		
	INVOICED this month (August 2018)	IY5 Cumulative Total	FORECAST for next month (September 2018)
Output 1 (LRN):	70,243.00	183,192.00	49,020.00
Output 2 (Employment days):	239,760.00	616,030.00	250,000.00
Output 3 (CBID):	2,592.00	3,024.00	1,200.00
Output 4 (CONNECT):	28,997.80	48,926.20	25,000.00
Safeguard:	5,804.71	9,078.24	5,000.00
PMV (Audit and Reports):	29,200.00	38,400.00	9,200.00
Other – TA:	130,567.00	209,134.00	78,567.00
Flexible Fund- (MHLR-CDEL):	16,234.05	35,071.04	0.00
Flexible Fund - (GIS training - RDEL):	13,344.07	16,438.12	15,000.00
OVERALL	536,742.63	1,159,293.60	432,987.00

Key issues and remarks:

Output 4 (CONNECT) and Safeguard invoiced on actual costs and others based on results. Total invoice exceeded by £227,175.63 as employment days created remained significantly higher than the forecasted figures at double the dry season intensity. This variance reflects concerted efforts by the MUG and HUM teams to use SBGs to speed up completion of works and should not affect the eventual total cost of works, only the timing of completion.

Quality Management

Field Verification Works in IY5	Number	Actions taken
Field verifications conducted this month	13	Reporting on feedback of accomplished works has helped improved monitoring and quality of works
Total field verifications conducted in IY5	22	
Audit	Number	Key issues / Actions required
Audits conducted this month	1	Audit approach targeted key issues/risks. One scheduled audit on governance for sustainability of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of RAP3 CONNECT conducted in DAI during the reporting month.
Total Audits Conducted to Date in IY5	2	

Key issues: Total issues raised by audit up till Aug-18 since the beginning of the programme has reached at 244. Continual improvement actions on 241 issues completed and improvement actions determined for the 3 remaining issues ongoing.

Narrative

Core New Construction – New construction of 97.5km road in HUM, MUG, KAL and BAJ ongoing. Out of 7 road corridors, SDDR KAL completed and handed over to Raskot Municipality in Jan-18, construction works of MTC and MKB roads in BAJ substantially completed and scheduled to handover to Tribeni Municipality in Nov-18, construction works of GDD in MUG, JR road in KAL, SD and GK roads in HUM on going. Remaining works looking likely to be completed ahead of schedule, especially GSDR.

Bioengineering works in all new construction roads complete. RBGs and SBGs monthly attendance remained at 80% in JR KAL, 65% in GDD MUG, 85% in GSDR (reaching 99% last week!) and 40% in SD in HUM and continued working during the reporting month.

Road Maintenance – RMG road maintenance of DRCN ongoing. RMG contracts with DCCs expired in July 2018. Annual budget allocated for RMG road maintenance works in 13 districts has not come into effect due to lack of legal provisions to handover budget from province to local levels. Hence, limited number of RMGs in some core maintenance districts have continued road maintenance works on verbal commitments to pay daily wages from concerned local levels. RAP3 and PC LID (former DOLIDAR) held meetings with all provincial authorities and requested to speed up release of RMG road maintenance budget and continue funding to cover RMG road maintenance works in all districts. It is learnt that the LID has forwarded a proposal to the ministry to reallocate the maintenance budget under district headings. Despite these efforts it is likely that there will be a delay on release of RMG road maintenance budget to pay RMG wages at the field level.

Technical support to pilot maintenance districts continued from the ‘Help Desk’ from TMO on demand led basis. Communication linkage established with local levels of pilot districts through Help Desk and some have requested to guide them on GPS machine operation procedures and map preparation works.

Draft on Specific Maintenance Group Implementation Guideline prepared. The guideline prepared based on lessons learnt from two cycles of SMG pilot implementation in core maintenance districts will be finalised soon.

Procurement – Procurement process of tools and materials for IY5 implementation and EBRW ongoing. Out of 6 procurement packages, contracts with preferred bidders of i) supply of construction tools and safety equipment and ii) traffic signs are signed and bid evaluation process for the 4 remaining packages is ongoing.

RAP3 CONNECT – Connect programme in 6 core districts (ACH, BAJ, DAD, DAI, DOT and JUM) is ongoing.

MSME #2 – 474 Hamri Didis appointed, 391 trading with NPR 8,038,992 (7,936,039 UNL + 102,953 BNL) invested to date.

MSME #3 – Buffalo supplier identified for BDC to scale-up.

MSME #5 – VCF and Insurance process ongoing; 110 OMF DSSs submitted VCF renewal applications and 75 OMF DSSs have submitted new VCF applications.

MSME #9 – Potential areas for supply chain expansion identified; 16 farmers have submitted applications to Shikar Insurance to insure 2.14 ha land for hybrid maize and 2 farmers have submitted applications for potato and pea insurance for combined 0.2 ha.

EE #1 – 84 individuals have submitted business ideas, via RAP3 district offices, for Idea Studio Nepal Season three.

EE #4 – MOU signed with DCCI Doti to support Chambers of Commerce and Industry of 3 rural municipalities, specifically participation of women members.

EE #5 – 31 bank a/c opened for BDC dairy farmers (MSME #3)

EE #7 – Agreed to facilitate 8 KUSOM students to complete rural enterprise placement with CONNECT in September; 2 teams of FEC members reached final stage of YUNUS Social Business Challenge. At the final, FEC Narayan Campus were awarded NPR 50,000 under thematic area Food and Women to invest in their business.

Safeguards – Social mobilisation, workers’ and work site safety, rehabilitation and reinstatement of damaged structures and public utilities in new construction districts ongoing. Support for post construction engagement plans of ex-RBGs and use of group saving monies of RBGs in substantially construction completed road corridors ongoing.

MHLR Design – Reports on forest clearing from MUG and HUM completed and submitted to Department of Forest. It is learnt from DOF that the proposal is forwarded to Ministry of Forest and Environment for cabinet approval.

Preparatory works to launch 35 days basic level operators training scheduled for 2 Sept – 5 Oct 2018 ongoing. Improvement of existing sub-standard bulldozed and track opening works of MHLR ongoing. In addition 20 RBGs continued working building structures in improved sections of the road as well.

Capacity Building – Radio programme “Bikashko Baato” through local FM stations ongoing and the contract with Antenna Foundation to continue the radio programme renewed.

GIS based digitised maps of 135 Rural/Municipalities of RAP3 districts in 5 provinces prepared. Two batches of GIS training to IT staff and technicians of 40 R/M from outside RAP3 districts of Karnali province scheduled in Sept and Oct 2018. GPS machines handed over to 53 R/M offices out of 62 total R/M pilot districts, participated in the GIS training.

PMV – Continual improvement actions on 241 issues completed and actions on 3 remaining issues raised by audit up till August 2018 ongoing. Actions on 1 issue related to RMG management handover process in DOT and 2 issues related MSME sustainability (seed production and dairy cooperatives in DAI) ongoing.

Trimester Progress (Commercial) Report finalised and submitted to DFID. The RAP3 VfM analysis report prepared finalised and submitted to DFID.

Risks and Mitigations – Mitigation measures on risks taken by the programme include the following:

GoN budget for RMG road maintenance works in RAP3 districts – As of the last GoN FY, RMG payments in maintenance districts are delayed due to appropriation of budget at provinces by the federal government and lack of spending mechanisms to finance RMG maintenance works at local levels. Efforts are being made through Local Infrastructure Department (formerly DoLIDAR). Options including use of RAP3 budget to continue RMGs working in core maintenance districts are possible mitigation measures for RAP3.

Others – RAP3 TA provided comments on DFID’s Annual Review Report for the programme. RAP3 Regional Team Leader from DAI participated 3 day workshop on NCCSP implementation at 14 local levels on behalf of the programme jointly organised by GON, DFID and UNDP on 22-24 August 2018 in Surkhet. RAP3 comments on the draft TOR on type and modality of technical assistance of RAP3 to NCCSP sub-projects implementation shared with DFID.

RAP3 CONNECT review on the role of market systems development in contexts of thin markets by MEL ongoing. The six month review is scheduled to complete in Dec-18.