

Monthly PMR – September 2019

1. PROGRESS THIS MONTH

1.1. NARRATIVE

- 3.5m track opening has halted at Janche Khola (Ch58) due to one rocky outcrop and one very hazardous section where extra protection measures (structures between works and houses) need to be installed before works can continue.
- Fuel stock is approximately 41,600 litres. Transportation of fuel will continue after Tihar to replenish stocks before the anticipated winter road closure.
- Draft Technical Notes on key Road Alignment Design features, Excavator Management, and Construction of Road Structures have been shared with DFID. Final checks and revisions are being made before sharing with DoLI.
- Field verification and internal audit of physical works (alignment and structures) and environmental management plans has been conducted. Some minor alignment issues were identified in Darke to Chankheli section which will be corrected after Tihar.
- Internal audits of site management and safeguards practices (opportunities for improvement identified), and financial management (no significant issues identified) also conducted. Reports yet to be finalised.
- Crisis Management training was given to senior central and field staff 3-4 September 2019. A number of actions have been entered into CIAP¹ as a result.
- Gamgadhi tailors trained and contracted to produce re-usable sanitary pads have to provide each woman S/RBG member with as a start up menstrual hygiene pack containing 4 pads, bag and 4 pairs pants. 123 women RBG members in Neta, Bama and Boharabada also trained to make pads to provide additional / replacement pads to women along MHLR in future (as a micro-enterprise).
- Four Public Audit events conducted along the route – all confirmed transparent and equal payments have been made and that there are no significant issues with the project.
- By month end all staff and workers have demobilised for the festivals. Work will resume only in November, after Tihar. Security arrangements have been put in place for all offices and stores (including parked excavators).
- All maintenance Engagement Workshops completed and summary report prepared (still to be finalised).
- 29 RMGs formed on 27/78 PRN roads. 53/79 Palikas have received GON budget for maintenance. 15 of these have formed RMGs for MRCN roads (23 RMGs).
- Recruitment of new engineering Interns in progress – 149 applications received for 12 places. Anticipated start is December. New CTEVT intern recruitment also in progress in liaison with technical colleges in Jumla and Surkhet.
- MOFAGA and DOLI hosted stakeholder consultation workshops on PTMP and MTMP guidelines and revised Road Standards. Comments to be received within 7 days then documents finalised and submitted for approval.

1.2. RESULTS

Planned results in the tables below are as per those presented in the Trimester Report of March to June 2019. Further changes in planned financial results have been made in agreement with DFID Nepal, but this report compares with the June forecast for consistency. It has now been agreed with DFID Nepal that results forecasts and unit rates will be reviewed every two months to better manage the variance between invoice and expenditure amounts.

¹ Continual Improvement Action Plan

1.2.1. Physical Results Summary

Physical progress has fallen behind plan this month due to earlier than expected demobilisation of excavator operators and S/RBGs, and the difficult and risky section at Janche.

In September only 60% of the planned weighted progress was achieved, with the cumulative progress at 97% of planned. We have now reached 60% completion of all physical road construction works.

Ref	Milestone	This Month			Cumulative			Contract Value	Weighting	% Completion
		Planned	Actual	Variance	Planned	Actual	Variance			
a)	Improvements substantial completion	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	5%	100.00%
b)	3m track opening	4.0	2.0	-2.0	49.0	44.0	-5.0	49.0	15%	89.80%
c)	4.5m track opening	4.0	4.0	0.0	46.0	49.0	3.0	63.0	30%	77.78%
d)	Substantial completion (new)	3.0	1.0	-2.0	25.0	23.0	-2.0	63.0	50%	36.51%
Totals		11.0	7.0	-4.0	124.0	120.0	-4.0			
Weighted Progress		5.51%	3.31%	-2.20%	61.75%	60.06%	-1.69%	Weighted Progress		60.06%
% actual / planned		60%			97%					

1.2.2. Financial Results Summary

The works milestone unit rates for September have been reduced to 0% to minimise the variance at trimester end, in agreement with DFID Nepal. The financial progress in September is therefore reduced to 66% of the planned monthly amount, and 97% cumulative. The financial results to date are 26% of the total budget. The management milestones include for the Annual Report.

Ref	Milestone Payments	This Month			Cumulative			Contract Value	% Completion
		Planned	Actual	Variance	Planned	Actual	Variance		
W1	Progress Milestones	123,620	-	- 123,620	3,337,591	3,225,417	- 112,174	11,217,403	28.75%
W2	Completion Milestones	-	-	-	140,218	140,218	-	2,804,351	5.00%
M	Management Milestones	241,018	241,018	-	640,788	640,788	-	1,478,246	43.35%
Total		364,639	241,018	- 123,620	4,118,596	4,006,422	- 112,174	15,500,000	25.85%
% actual / planned		66%			97%				

The unit rates for milestone payments for September and October are adjusted at 0% of the unit rate.

MF1: Output & deliverables (paid monthly as achieved)		Contract Unit Rate	Aadjusted unit rate (July-August 19)	Aadjusted unit rate (September-October 19)
			20%	0%
a	Improvements substantial completion	£140,217.54	£28,043.51	£0.00
b	3m Track opening, per km	£34,338.99	£6,867.80	£0.00
c	4.5m Track opening, per km	£53,416.21	£10,683.24	£0.00
d	Substantial completion, per km	£89,027.01	£17,805.40	£0.00

1.3. EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER RESULTS

The table below on the left summarises the employment data during this reporting month, below on the right shows the cumulative employment days to date.

Indicator	RBG	SBG	Total
No. Groups	64	48	112
No. Members	1,271	796	2,067
Women	607	133	740
Men	664	663	1,327
% Women	48%	17%	36%
Employment Days	23,502	16,176	39,678
Women	11,829	2,927	14,756
Men	11,673	13,249	24,922
%Women	50%	18%	37%

Indicator	RBG	SBG	Total
Employment Days	193,821	40,657	234,478
Women	94,331	8,211	102,542
Men	99,490	32,446	131,936
%Women	49%	20%	44%

2. PLAN FOR NEXT MONTH

2.1. NARRATIVE

- No physical works this month, MHLR site is closed until after Tihar.
- Internal workshop to review lesson learning, key issues and future plans from technical and management perspectives.
- Preparation of materials for practical technical training to field staff, to be delivered in November.
- Revised MTMP incorporating latest National Highway list to be submitted to Karnali MOPID for approval.
- Start work on Damage Assessments of PRN to identify and package works for SMG contracting.

2.2. FORECAST RESULTS

Site is closed for October, so no works results planned.

Planned results are as per the forecast in the Trimester report, they have not been adjusted to take into account variation in actual values within the trimester.

2.2.1. Physical Results Estimate

Ref	Milestone	This Month	Cumulative	Contract Value	Weighting	% Completion
a)	Improvements substantial completion	0	4.00	4	5%	100.00%
b)	3m track opening	0	49.00	49	15%	100.00%
c)	4.5m track opening	0	46.00	63	30%	73.02%
d)	Substantial completion (new)	0	25.00	63	50%	39.68%
Totals		0	124.00			
Weighted Progress		0.00%	61.75%	Weighted Progress		61.75%

Financial Results Estimate

Ref	Milestone Payments	This Month	Cumulative	Contract Value	% Completion
W1	Progress Milestones	-	3,337,591	11,217,403	29.75%
W2	Completion Milestones	-	140,218	2,804,351	5.00%
M	Management Milestones	19,281	660,069	1,478,246	44.65%
Total		19,281	4,137,877	15,500,000	26.70%

The unit rates for milestone payments for October will continue to be at 0%.

2.3. EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER RESULTS

All workers demobilised from 3rd week of September and will not return until November.

2.4. SAFEGUARDING AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Vandalism/theft : Local field staff have been deployed to guard site offices and stores during the festival season to mitigate the risk of vandalism or theft during site and office closures. We have also discussed with LRUCs the need for the local community to also remain vigilant and warn of any actual or potential threat to project property.

Accidents: One significant accident this month in which an RBG member's thumb was crushed by a stone dislodged from a pile while he was removing another stone. The top of his thumb has been amputated and he has now returned home. He plans to return to work after the festivals.

Forest Clearance: Tree felling and log storing work continues in accordance with DFO requirements. Compensatory planting has started in Rugha, Luma and Bama using 1476 saplings provided by Mugu DFO. Almost 6,000 wild saplings have been collected and replanted by CFUGs to expand forest coverage, but these cannot be counted as compensatory planting. DFO have confirmed that whilst Cabinet have decided to change the compensatory planting ratio from 1:25 to 1:10, we will need to follow 1:25 as that was the rule at the time of agreement signing.

Access: The highway to Gamgadhi has been open only intermittently. One truck carrying gabions had to return to Nepalgunj at the end of September as it was unable to reach Gamgadhi before the team demobilised for Dasain (original delivery date had been end June). All materials needed for winter will be transported in November and early December.

Social Security Fund: No further instruction from GON on this. All necessary measures are in place for all employees ready for when the scheme comes into effect. No further clarity yet on S/RBG liabilities.

Fire: A new integrated fire alarm system has been installed at Kathmandu office. This was tested and a fire drill held on 26th September.

3. INNOVATIONS, LESSONS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Practical Training: The recent field visit findings identified some common mistakes and misunderstandings which highlighted a gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. In response, a practical technical training programme is being design and will be delivered in November. This will be built around the Works Method Statements, Technical Notes prepared for local government, and the findings from the recent field verification and internal audits.

Internal Workshop: We plan to use the quiet time during festivals to bring the full professional team to Kathmandu for an internal workshop to promote information sharing, lesson learning and team building. This will be held on 23-25 October.