



Final Progress Report

On collaboration between RoLHR/UNDP and Nepal Bar Association (NBA)

Submitted by: Nepal Bar Association (NBA)

Reporting Period: February - August, 2014

Guidelines: Please follow these guidelines:

- Remember the timeline of reporting and date for finalizing it in line with LOA/MOU.
- Write in simple and short sentences and the medium should be English.
- Avoid repetition of the same ideas.
- Provide evidence against narrative wherever possible. Such evidences include data, facts, convincing quotes of the beneficiaries/stakeholders, action pictures with captions etc.)
- Always think of impact/result while reporting. Substantiate the statements linking them with the (expected) **result** and **sustainability** issue.
- Consider the gender and social inclusion (GESI) aspect in reporting. Reflect the data from GESI Perspectives wherever possible.
- Remember to link the monitoring and evaluation steps/ initiatives taken to ensure the good governance of the project.

Basic Information:

Report prepared by	Mr. Biswo Jit Khadka Program Coordinator Nepal Bar Association Ramshah Path, Kathmandu
Submission date	October 31, 2014
Programme focal person (at RoLHR)	Advocate Sunil Kumar Pokharel Secretary General Nepal Bar Association



Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal कानुनी शासन तथा मानव अधिकार संरक्षण प्रणाली सबलीकरण कार्यक्रम-नेपाल



a. Background:

Nepal Bar Association (NBA) was formally registered in 1963 and with updated membership of over 10,000 legal professionals. It is the sole professional organization that unites the entire legal community of Nepal. NBA represents the interests of citizens of Nepal in maintaining independent legal practices and professional standards amongst the legal community. NBA is working for the benefit of the public at large, encouraging democratic practices, the development of a culture of rule of law, the maintenance of an independent and impartial judiciary, access to justice and the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Access to Justice, Legal Aid is still a major challenge in Nepalese society due to various factors such as geographical situation of the country, administration System (based on district HQ), no proper platform to practice, lack of affording for legal education and also most important lack of qualified manpower (lawyers) especially representing their own community. In this scenario, Institutional efforts to support for legal strengthen of a law practitioners representing from weaker section of the society is very crucial to mainstream the justice in reach of people.

There are very less representation of legal professionals from vulnerable and marginalized communities as others.

Table 1: Law Practicing License Issued by Nepal Bar Council

SN	Gender	Number
1	Male	24,587
2	Female	2137
Total		26,724

Table 2: Breakdown of Women Law Practitioners

SN	Types of License	Number	Member in NBA
1	Senior Advocate	8	Approx. 800 (More than 55% in KTM Valley)
2	Advocate	1410	
3	Pleader	714	
4	Agent	5	
Total		2137	

Source: Nepal Bar Council, Kupondole (2071/1/28), The data is included all category of law practitioner's Senior Advocate, Advocate, Pleader)

b. Objectives

- Development of legal internship guidelines and training modules
- Strengthening Professional Capacity of the Intern Lawyers (through foundation courses, internship placements and refresher's course) representing Women, Vulnerable, Marginalized Communities.
- Contribute in increasing access of vulnerable and marginalized communities in to justice mechanism by capacitated lawyers of their own communities.



c. Interventions and achievement/output/outcome

Overall Summary:

Professional Capacity Building–Legal Internship Program (specially focused to 15 Lawyers representation from Vulnerable and Marginalized Communities) was started by signing of MoU on September 22, 2013 with UNDP/RoLHR. The internship program has designed in 3 phases as 1 month foundation course, 4.5 months internship placement and final 2 weeks refresher course. Placements of the interns were selected as Kathmandu District Court, Attorney General Office, Ministry of Law and Justice, I/NGO's, Law Firms etc. besides that internship guidelines, course module development and other tools were developed for smooth operation of the program. This phase of program was implemented lately only from February 2014 only due to some technical problem which was concluded with the graduation ceremony held in August 2014.

Activity Reporting:

1. Introduction

Legal internship program was started by the initiation of Nepal Bar Association (NBA) and UNDP/RoLHR for the first time in NBA so for the effective implement of the plan, there are various mechanism has been developed under different activities. Primary activities were to develop a framework for implementation so structure was pipelined to develop internship guidelines and course modules.

2. Objectives

The common goal of the implementing action is to ensure quality of legal services from legal professional particularly representing from Women, Dalit, Madheshi and from other deprived communities as service providers in accessing justice.

Specific objectives

- Enhancement capacity of 15 lawyers from vulnerable and marginalized communities who are in beginning stages of their profession.
- Contribute in increasing access of vulnerable and marginalized communities to justice mechanism by capacitated lawyers of their own communities.

3. Rationale/significance

The conducted activities would be beneficial for the development of institution through the designed tools and trained human resources. The developed tools would be a guideline for further trainings and the trained fresh lawyers can mobile for the socio-responsive legal services through legal aid system.

4. Progress/Accomplishment/achievement

Activity 1: Drafted TOR of consultant for development of legal internship



Activity 2: Hired consultant to develop legal internship guidelines, organize consultation, finalize and printed.

S.N.	Consultant - Internship Guidelines	S.N.	Consultant - Course Module
1.	Mr. Rabindra Bhattraï	1.	Mr. Rup Narayan Shrestha
2.	Mr. Om Prakash Aryal	2.	Mr. Roshan Kumar Pokharel

Activity 3: Selection of Intern as per the objectives of program

Nepal Bar Association believes in equality and fairness so following activities was conducted to select the participants.

- a. Application Call (National news papers, Notice board, website etc.)
- b. Registration of Application
- c. Formation of Selection Committee (3 member expert committee) to select the probable candidates including candidate for alternative.
- d. Publication of final name of the candidates
- e. Informing candidate about selection and their interest
- f. Substitution of the alternative candidate based on list (if any)
- g. Finalization of participants
- h. Inauguration of the Legal Internship Program (held in Hotel Himalayan, Kupondole)
- i. Developing the Terms and Reference of Candidates
- j. Orientation, overview and formality with the candidates (e.g. overview of program modality, contract signing etc.)
- k. Created a list of expert, facilitator based on their expertise field and profession and invited them to contribute/facilitate the sessions.

Activity 4: Developments of Tools

There is various tools has been developed for the effectiveness and quality of the program.

- i. **Action Plan:** This tool is basically used for the overall program planning as well planning of shifts of training.
- ii. **Time Sheet:** It is used to check the performance and activities of the intern. The interns need to insert each day's activities and that need to be verified by the focal person of the organization for final approval by Program Coordinator or NBA Secretariat.



- iii. **Facilitator Feedback Form:** This is developed to know the participants understanding regarding to facilitator and his presentation which allows management to manage in a better way.
- iv. **Reporting Format:** It is used for writing a report by the intern. Each months they need to submit a monthly report and at the end over all final report.
- v. **Monitoring Mechanism:** There will be two level of monitoring. First regular monitoring on schedule date and time. Second will be immediate monitoring.

Activity 5: One month's foundation course

One month foundation course on various legal issues were facilitated by the various experts from 5th February – 5th March, 2014 at Lalitpur District Bar association's Hall. There were all total 60 sessions covering to theories, practical sessions, court procedures and current issues were concluded during the periods.

Activity 6: Placement of participants/ intern lawyers in various Law firms, Kathmandu District Courts, Attorney General's offices, I/NGO's etc. for 4.5 months.¹

Activity 7: Two weeks refresher course: At the end of 4.5 months of the program all 15 participants were taken part in this refresher's course. This was the crucial for evaluating, receiving problems, challenges and achievement of the participant from the field or grounds. It could be supportive for participant for their profession as well from organizer to analyze the situation and future strategy formulation.

Activity 8: Monitoring and evaluation: There was a regular monitoring and evaluation of the participants and their performance as stated above. For participant evaluation, there were basically conducted two tests.

- a. Pre-Test (During Foundation Course period - First Day)
- b. Post Test (During Refresher Course period – Last Week)

Activity 9: Technical/ financial reporting is submitted by the finance coordinator of NBA-UNDP/RoLHR program.

Activity 10: Printing, Publication & Dissemination: Handout and other course materials were distributed to the participants and course module printing work is still in progress.

5. What next or follow up

Kathmandu district court, Attorney General's Office, Ministry of law and Justice (returned back), International Legal Foundation (ILF), Forum for Women Law & Development (FWLD), Law Firms



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The first phase of the program was completed with some of the lesson learned examples, to continue of the project, there need to be consideration and follow up some of the key elements.

- *Policy level intervention in coordination, support to the program implementing partner of RoLHR project.*
- *Call for second phase of participants and their selection as project objectives basis*
- *Observation and monitoring of the first batch participants activities and their engagement in legal sector after their graduation.*

d. Key Challenges and Lesson Learned

Key Challenges/Findings

- **Lack of Institutional cooperation and support:** *There is no clear communication between the placement providers to support and guide the interns during their placement for example Interns placed in Kathmandu District Court and Ministry of Law and Justice were returned back due to lack of support and guidance by the institution.*
- **Developing the Roster of the facilitator/experts** *and assigning them as accordance.*
- **Effective implementation of monitoring and evaluation system**

Mention in brief any significant lessons learnt that could be inform the future interventions

- **Selection of the Participant:** *Selection of the Intern should be based on project objectives, need based and commitment of Interns for full time and contribution to support in legal aid system. Some Interns found not so serious in Internship after the foundation course.*
- **Motivation and interest** *of the interns for the project, advantages to them and their contribution.*
- **Time management and effective coordination** *between the program management.*

d. Sustainability Issue:

The overall intention of the program is Access to Justice of weaker section of the society such as vulnerable, marginalized, indigenous communities of Nepal for that basically the program has targeted in two things. First, Access to Justice Mechanism and secondly, providing them quality of legal support where all diversely selected lawyers is trained with practical and need based approach. The trained lawyers will be the assets of the legal fraternity of Nepal, after the entire 6 months of internship, they will able to work and provide support in their community and their volunteer contribution to legal aid desk of Nepal Bar Association and districts Bar, mobile legal aid clinics to the prison and detention center, orientation and counseling to the beneficiaries and assisting them in legal procedure will be a great support for the Legal Aid system of Nepal. In this scenario, the project will be added value for Access to justice of weaker section of the society as well institutional support for Nepal Bar Association and Legal Aid System of Nepal.

e. Annex (As applicable):



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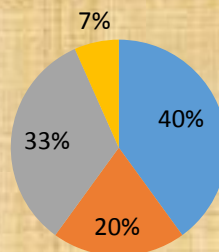


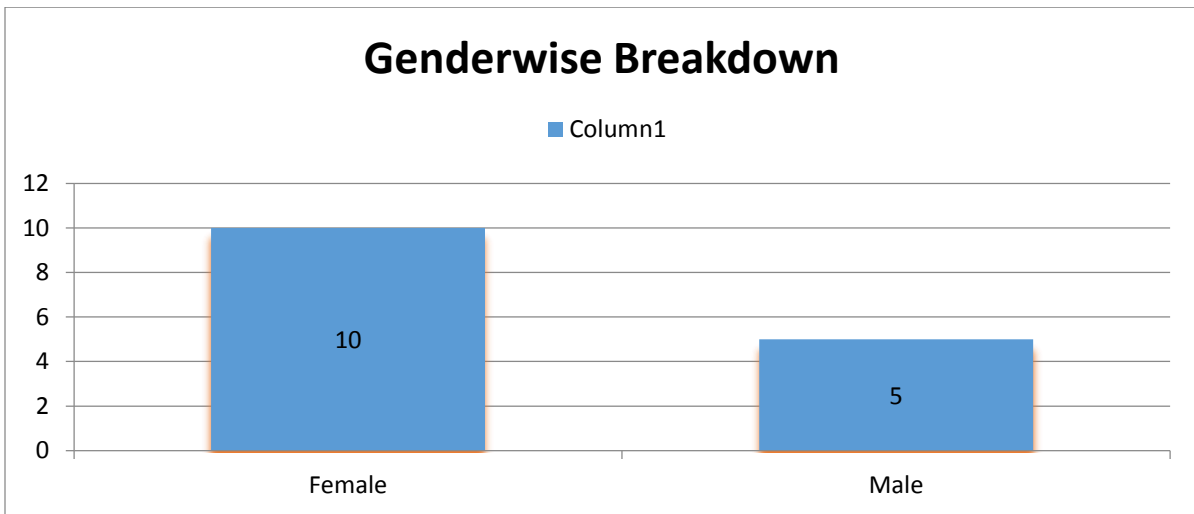
List of Beneficiaries/ Intern Lawyers

S.N.	Name	Sex	Lic.Category	Address	Associated Bar
1	Advocate Pramila Ranjit	F	0-4 Yrs.	Bhaktapur	Bhaktapur District Bar
2	Advocate Arati Shrestha	F	0-4 Yrs.	Kathmandu	Patan Appellate Bar
3	Advocate Anju Sharma Verma	F	0-4 Yrs.	Kathmandu	Patan Appellate Bar
4	Advocate Jyotsna Khanal	F	5-8 Yrs.	Kathmandu	Kathmandu District Bar
5	Advocate Rupa Thapa	F	5-8 Yrs.	Kathmandu	Kathmandu District Bar
6	Advocate Kiran Kumari Gupta	F	5-8 Yrs.	Kathmandu	Kathmandu District Bar
7	Advocate Shraban Kumar Chaudhary	M	8-10 Yrs.	Udaypur	Patan Appellate Bar
8	Advocate Sunil Kumar Yadav	M	8-10 Yrs.	Parsa	Parsa District Bar
9	Advocate Sunil Kumar Shrestha	M	8-10 Yrs.	Bhaktapur	Lalitpur District Bar
10	Advocate Lekhnath Swornarkar	M	0-4 Yrs.	Arghakhachi	Kathmandu District Bar
11	Advocate Shukra Raj Thing	M	0-4 Yrs.	Makawanpur	Hetaunda Appellate Bar
12	Advocate Ramita Manandhar	F	0-4 Yrs.	Bhaktapur	Patan Appellate Bar
13	Advocate Sarita Poudel	F	5-8 Yrs.	Kaski	Kathmandu District Bar
14	Advocate Rajani Dahal Parajuli	F	5-8 Yrs.	Kathmandu	Kathmandu District Bar
15	Advocate Sudha Dhital	F	8-10 Yrs.	Dang	Patan Appellate Bar

Ethnicitywise Breakdown - Intern Lawyers

■ Bra./Chettri ■ Madhesi ■ Indeginious ■ Dalit





Photos of Various Activities



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Discussion between NBA executives during Internship guideline & Course module development Program



Adv. Sunil Kumar Pokharel (Secretary General, NBA) facilitating the session



Graduation Ceremony of the Interns