

Trail Bridge Sub Sector Programme (TBSSP) Phase IV



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
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WALKING WILL STILL REMAIN AS A MAJOR MODE OF MOBILITY IN REMOTE RURAL PLACES, AT LEAST FOR ANOTHER DECADE.

Goal	To contribute towards poverty alleviation through improved access of the local people, particularly of the disadvantaged groups (DAGs), to basic social services, economic resources and opportunities.
Target groups	The main target groups are the rural people of Nepal, especially DAGs living within zone of influence (Zol) of the trail bridges. In addition, Government of Nepal (GoN) and the local governments will benefit from enhanced capacities to implement and enforce the trail bridge strategy.
Budget	CHF 9'998'000; GoN - USD 60 million
Geographic focus	Country-wide
Implementing agency	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
Time Frame	01.08.2014 - 31.07.2019

Summary

Poor accessibility is strongly correlated with the incidence of poverty. Walking remains a major mode of mobility in remote places of Nepal. Moreover, in the areas connected by new roads, there is a growing demand for river crossings by the populations across the river to access roads. Swiss supported technical assistance for trail bridges construction will help enhance access to basic public services and economic opportunities by providing safe river crossings.

Outcomes expected

- Local communities, especially the DAGs, construct and maintain the trail bridges to improve safe access to basic services (Health, Education, Markets, Farms and Employment Opportunities) at local level.
- GoN, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) / Department of Local Infrastructures Development and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR) further design and fosters implementation of the Trail Bridge Strategy - Local Infrastructure Development Policy (TBS/LIDP) by the local bodies and communities in construction and maintenance of trail bridges.



Background

Poverty is especially concentrated in rural areas where there are no roads, resulting in high illiteracy rates and poor health. About 22% of the population in Nepal still has to walk more than 4 hours in the hills and 2 hours in the plains of Terai to reach to an all-weather road. It is not unusual for children to walk for 2 to 3 hours to get to their schools, for a family to walk half a day to the nearest weekly market, and for a pregnant woman to walk for 2 days to reach to a health post. Walking will still remain as a major mode of mobility in those remote rural places at least for another decade. Thus, the provision of trail bridges and hence improving access is one of the most effective ways to improve the livelihood of poor people in remote areas. The bridges help people to cross rivers safely saving their time by allowing children to go to school, providing entire village's access to medical centres and farmer's access to their fields and to the markets.

Since more than 40 years, SDC has helped build more than 6000 trail bridges and improved access in Nepal. About 4 million people cross river via these 6000+ trail bridges daily. The changes it has brought about for rural people include - reduced isolation, better access to information, services (health, education), technology and markets, resulting in improved literacy, reduced child and maternal mortality as well as access to economic opportunities.

Outputs

- Local communities construct 2500 trail bridges and annually maintain 6000+ Trail bridges with the support from District Development Committees, providing river crossing to at least 3.75 million people (including 1.8 million from DAGs) within 1 hour of walking distance.
- Local bodies and local communities strengthen their capacity to implement trail bridges programmes at local levels.
- DoLIDAR is restructured to enhance its capacity to enforce trail bridge policy and actively lead the Sector Wide Approach SWAp.
- Stakeholders at national level strengthen their capacity to select and use right technologies for trail bridge construction.



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