

FOLLOW UP REPORT

Meeting with representatives from the local government and a visit to the site

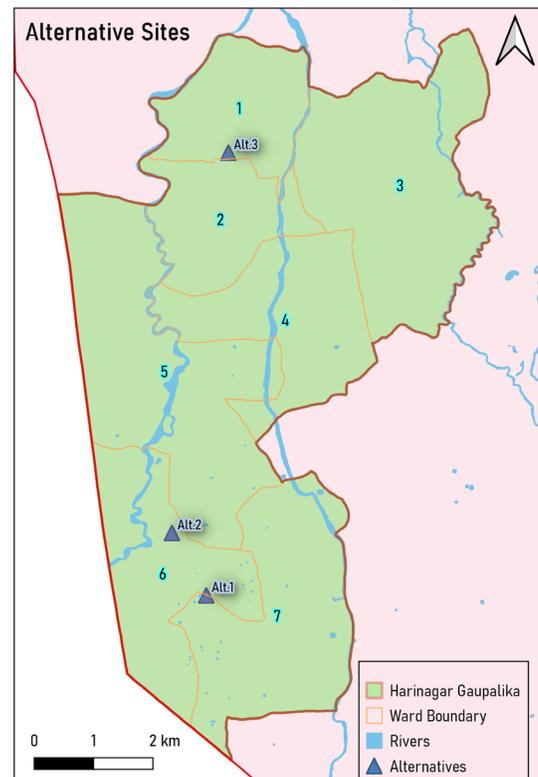
Date: 23rd February, 2021

Location: Harinagar Rural Municipality, Sunsari, Nepal

HRI Representative : Suman Chapagain

Background

Himalayan Risk Research Institute (HRI) had identified Harinagar Gaupalika, a rural municipality in Sunsari district as an area in need of an emergency water supply project. The area is located in a flood plain of two perennial rivers (also intermittent rivers of Koshi) located in east and west direction of the area and flowing north to south. A representative from the HRI had a follow-up meeting with representatives of a local government. In the context that a very few social organizations had reached the area with such projects, representatives of a local government were curious about progress on a project development.



Thus, the following agendas were set for a field visit:

1. Updating a progress with a local government on project development, and
2. Visit to sites recommended by the local government.

Major updates

1. From the representatives

They repeated that the area is prone to flooding. Flash floods had also occurred in the past due to rainfall in the northern part of the area. They are in need of a water storage tank not only for emergency use but also to fight with the fire in the dry season. The walls of most houses are made up of bamboo and straw while the roofs are made up of galvanized sheets. As most of the people practice agriculture as their livelihood, they collect paddy from the field and keep the straw around their houses. During the winter and dry seasons, straws were caught by fire creating a hazardous situation in the area. The local government has decided to provide full support to making a project successful. Representatives of a local government recommended 3 sites as an urgent need for an emergency water supply project. The scoping of a project was conducted in such sites by the representative of HRI. The local government is interested to implement a project in any site selected by the HRI.

2. From the representative of HRI

A representative of HRI has informed representatives that the project concept is being prepared. HRI is in talks with some organizations to develop a project in the area as a pilot project. Further, HRI has a plan to expand the project to develop a larger scale flood resiliency project if a development partner comes forward with financial support. A representative of HRI also had a consultation with stakeholders to examine the suitability of recommended project sites as per the scope, objectives and sustainability.

3. Scoping study of suggested sites

Representatives from the local government had identified three sites (Ghuski, Basantapur, and Ramnagar Bhutaha) where the project can be implemented and the beneficiaries are in need of such projects.

Alternative 1: Madrasa at Ghuski

Situation of needs: The site is a religious and academic institution. The institution is the largest in the area where there are nearly 200 students who are dependent on a 2000 litres water tank while the daily need is around 10,000 litres. As there are more than 50 such institutions in an area, the local government is able to provide only a small amount of budget to such institutions. Thus, they are in need of support to construct water tanks to accommodate sufficient supply of water.

Sustainability: As the institution is supported by the local government, the project will have sustainable impact. The tank will be located within the boundary of the institution, and hence the tank will be safe from damage by other people.

Suitability: As the site is a religious and academic institution, the site is not as per the scope of the project.

Alternative 2: Community at Basantapur

Situation of needs: The community at Basantapur is a large community of low-income families who are dependent on shallow tube wells and are in need of clean water. There are more than 200 households in the area who have been affected by floods every year. Thus, the people are in a need of clear water during floods. Also, the dense settlement in the area makes the community prone to fire hazards as well.

Sustainability: The site recommended by the local government is the land owned by the local government. However, the area is in an open area and no houses are nearby the area. This makes the water tank insecure in some circumstances.

Suitability: Being a farther distance from the community, the site is not suitable as per the objective of the project.

Alternative 3: Community at Ramnagar Bhutaha

Situation of needs: The community at Ramnagar Bhutaha is a community of Sukumbasi (Landless people residing on other's land) people. The land was provided by the local government. There are around 100 households in the area. The area is first to get inundated by flood due to high water flow in the Sunsari river in the west and Babiya river in the east.

Sustainability: The site recommended by the local government is the land owned by the local government. There is a ward office, police station, hospital, a base of armed police force within the same land owned by the local government. This makes the water tank secure to any type of insecurity.

Suitability: The area was identified as the best alternative for the project implementation.

Photos

