

# **Progress Report**

## **(September 2011 to December 2012)**

**Project Title: “Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights for the key population”**

**Submitted By:**

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*“An effort to voice the voiceless”*

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**Submitted To:**

Youth Vision

Extending the Continuum

Naya Bato, Lalitpur

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### **1. THE CONTRACT:**

**Naya Goreto** is a national non-profit, non-government organization of Nepal. It was established in June 2003 and is working in the field of Drug and HIV. Naya Goreto worked with Youth Vision in implementing the project “**Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights for the key population**”. At the current moment Naya Goreto has accomplished its activities of the project of 16 months period.

### **2. BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT:**

Drug use in Nepal is still considered as antagonistic to the society. There are no specific laws and policies in Nepal where the drug use issues are addressed and fundamental human rights are secured. Since Nepal was re-drafting its constitution, it provided a unique opportunity for the civil societies and human rights based organizations to raise issues and voices of the drug users. Further human rights of the drug users are violated at the grassroots level where they are considered as the secondary citizens, and viewed negatively. Thus, through the implementation of this project it is anticipated that the policy makers, political party members are aware on the rights of the people who use drugs and help to advocate other policy makers for developing policy. This project is also expected to provide drug users platform to help them raise the issues for securing their rights. Likewise through this project it is anticipated that human rights violation of the drug users are reduced at the community level and their representation at the different spheres of the society will be increased like the involvement in the ward level health committee, DACC etc.

### **3. TARGETS:**

The projected target of this project is to advocate and sensitize the political parties’ members, key population and governance body for raising voice to implement the health and human rights of the PUDs. Further this project intends to reduce the discrimination against the people who use drug at the community level and increase their reach and participation in the society. As a result of this vigorous peer education NG was able to orient more than 150 political party members and key stakeholders including key populations, government bodies and related stakeholders.

#### **4. OBJECTIVES**

Some of the specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- To bridge the gaps that has existed in hindering the fundamental rights through continuous advocacy for implementing policies, need based plans and programs for the PUDs;
- To ensure the human rights of PUDs from local to national level;
- To integrate specific services for drug users within the general health care system;
- To advocate the civil society organisations working on HIV and drug users for securing the rights of the drug users;
- To empower and create platform for the drug users for making them able to raise their suppressed voice:

#### **5. RATIONALE OF THE PROGRAM**

The Project “Bridging the Gaps” has been designed to cover wide range of services to the people who use drugs through involvement and representation of the drug users in various sectors. The project has a vision to integrate the specific service to the government health care facilities, promote national plan and policies to incorporate support for the people who use drugs. The health care system of Nepal is conservative and the patients that are related to drug use, HIV and chronically ill along with hepatitis B and C are maltreated. The awareness level among the health care professional is not well established till date and the patients are not adequately treated. The direct victim of this scenario is the people who use drugs and the people infected with HIV. Further, the specific service targeted for these communities also have malpractices and are working against the principle of human right. The practice of forced treatment (abducting PUDs to treatment facilities), use of physical torture as therapy, use of non-scientific methods and therapies place the people who use drugs in risk of acquiring psychosocial and emotional trauma along with severe health condition that are at times fatal. Unnecessarily prolonging the treatment duration and attracting huge money from family of the PUDs are some of the example that picturize the nature and the extent of the abuse.

In Nepal people who use drugs are viewed as an antagonistic to the society. Although Drug use

has been defined as a dependency by the (WHO), it is still treated as a social evil in our country. Hence, people who use drugs are physically abused/violated and mentally tortured to get rid of drug using behavior by the society and the so called rehabilitation centers that are working as the profit driven organizations without even fulfilling the criteria set for it's establishment. Thus the extent of the abuse towards the people who use drugs are very high and it is violating their legal/human rights, which are fueled by the mushrooming of new rehabilitation centers.

The Department of health service (DoHS) under ministry of health and population (MoHP) has absolutely no clue about the situation as the general services under DoHS are not designed in any way to provide the services to this specific population. Therefore mainly, the health care facilities at local level treat the patients from these communities inadequately. The health care professional engaged in direct service are not aware about health need of these communities and are at times discouraging the community of people who use drug and people living with HIV to enjoy their right to health and well being.

The local government agencies have been promoting anti-drug campaign in the society by the means of pamphlets, posters and through national television programs and through the influence of some organizations. On the one hand the clients (drug users) are threatened and beaten to take services from the rehabilitation centers who are garnering income from their pockets. On the other hand social campaigning from the society against drug use is prohibiting the drug dependent people from entering the society.

The government has signed and rectified numerous declarations and has committed to implement as stated. The policy, strategies and plans presents that the violation should be addressed accordingly. Unfortunately, the response to violation is limited to the books and publication and is yet to be noticed in the implementation stage. Thus considering these above scenarios Naya Goreto implemented the project "bridging the gaps" to address the real problems of the drug users by continuously advocating and lobbying for devising favorable laws and policies that secures the rights of the People who use drugs. Further this project has envisioned integrating and collaborating all the activities of the concerned stakeholders so that the gap that is existing in providing legal rights and fundamental human rights of the drug users are narrowed down.

## **6. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN:**

Naya Goreto in support of The Mainline Foundation and in partnership with Youth Vision implemented following activities:

### **6.1 Planning and Preparation**

Planning and Preparation is one of the most important aspects of the project. Similarly, Naya Goreto started planning and preparation activities. The plans developed were result based following what needs to be done, how should we do, why it needs to be done? All the answers of these queries were tried to explore out during the planning and the preparation phase. Likewise the structure of the human resources needed was also planned.

### **6.2 Recruitment of Staffs**

Human Resources are inevitable resources of any activities and without proper human resources the works cannot be anticipated. At the first phase of the project for 12 months period Ms. Manisha Maharjan was recruited as a Finance officer but her study limited to provide time for the project and eventually Naya Goreto hired another person on her place as Mr. Laxmi Prashad Devkota was appointed as finance officer from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 for the project. The human resources currently employed by the project:

- Program Director, Mr. Dipu Joshi
- Advocacy Officer, Mr. Annal Tandukar
- Finance Officer, Mr. Laxmi Prashad Devkota
- Messenger, Mr. Deep Shrestha

### 6.3 Activity Details

Beside the recruitment of staffs and planning and preparation activities, NG conducted various programs for advocating different stakeholders including political party members on Human rights of the key population. The programs thus conducted are as follows:

<b>Naya Goreto (activities from September 2011 to August 2012) 1<sup>st</sup> contract phase</b>		
<b>S.N</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Numbers Achieved</b>
1	Planning of advocacy activities- Naya Goreto	2 events, 35 participants
2	Meeting with Key stakeholders to finalize the advocacy activities	2 events, 57 participants
3	Consultancy meeting with key stakeholders for finalizing plan – Naya Goreto	1 event, 20 participant
4	Focus Group Discussion with Parliamentarians	1 event
5	Sensitization and train on HR issues to the key political leaders	6 events, 97 participants
6	Formation of committee (key leaders/MPs)	1 event, 10 member committee
7	Parliamentarian committee meetings (Discussion and keep track on the issues)/Field Visits	6 meeting/ 5 field visits
9	Interaction programs with key people and local governance body, health care service providers (raising advocacy issues)	1 event, 57 participants
10	Interaction Program with key population, local and national government	3 events, 47 participants
11	Workshop on Bridging the Gaps: Health and Rights for key population	1 event, 70 political party members, 55 key stakeholders and media

<b>Naya Goreto (Activities from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> phase)</b>		
<b>S.N</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Numbers Achieved</b>
1	Interaction program with key people and local governance, health care service providers	2 events with 45 participants
2	Orientation to political parties to resolve the HR issues as their party agenda	1 event with
3	Committee Follow up meetings	4 follow up meetings
4	Interaction programs with key people and local governance body, health care service providers (raising advocacy issues)	2 events with 57 participants

During the process of implementation of the program, Naya Goreto conducted several meetings with different counterparts of the community, key stakeholders and key political party members for discussing the situation of the people who use drugs at the community and national level as a benchmark for the study. Naya Goreto also planned the advocacy meetings with key consortiums to address the issues of the drug dependent people and provide them platform for their involvement at the community level as well.

During the project implementation period it was found that there were pamphlets stucked in each community and wall paintings as warning signs for prohibition of the drug users in the community. The pamphlets signify the signs of negative perceptions of the society towards the drug users. The community people wanted to kick off all the drug users from their communities at any costs; without even knowing that one of their family members could be depended to it. Since these signs and activities were demoralizing the drug dependence persons Naya Goreto documented, recorded and captured the issues. Thus through the collected issues NG developed concrete strategies to advocate against the dismal activities of the community people by conducting extensive meetings with the representatives of each community members, local clubs, CBO's, stakeholders, local governance bodies for creating an ideal condition. Thus it was envisioned as an outcome of the program that the drug dependence people are behaved like humans and secure an environment where they can live a dignified life.

Naya Goreto in it's own initiation also conducted intensive meetings with the stakeholders, media and service providers to develop themes for the securing the rights of the drug users through series of programs. As a result of that Naya Goreto went for delegation to the Chief District Officer of Lalitpur and Honorable Home Minister of the country to stop prevailing

violence against the people who use drugs and provide them platform for participating in the communal activities and represent in different committees.

Regarding these cases: Human rights violation of drug users from Rehabilitation centers and anti drug campaign against drug users through community members; Naya Goreto developed a newsletter as an expedition of the national advocacy campaign for securing the rights of the health and rights of the key population through bridging the gaps in between as well as continuously documenting the human rights violation case of the drug users from different organizations.

## **7. MAJOR OUTPUTS OF THE ACTIVITIES:**

Some of the major outputs of the project are:

- The programs delivered authentic message and clear picture of the PUDs to the political leaders, key stakeholders for advocating on the human rights of the drug users;
- Committee follow up meetings were fruitful through discussions and field visits to plan way forwards and motivated to raise the PUD issues within their parties;
- Rehabilitation centers have realized the human rights violation against PUDs in their rehabilitation centers;
- Political party leaders have pressurized the governance body for addressing the issues of PUDs;
- The project activities and initiation of Naya Goreto has created platform for PUDs for raising the suppressed voice against the stigma, discrimination and violence against them;
- The massive advocacy of Naya Goreto has resulted in ending the Narconan Nepal's door to door PUD sweeping expedition from 22 wards of Lalitpur district;

## **8. OUTCOMES:**

The major outcomes of the project are:

- The political party members were empowered on the issues of drug use, human rights of key population and they have started to raise the issues as their party agenda's;
- The political party members initiation's in suggesting several future strategies and pressurizing the local governance bodies to secure the rights of the drug users was also a major outcome of the project:

- Rehabilitation centers have formed a network to regularly monitor the violation against the PUDs and the network has organized counseling training for effective operation of the rehabilitation centers;
- Naya Goreto's advocacy has made the local governance body of the 22 wards of Lalitpur district realize the false promotion of Narconan Nepal to promote forced rehabilitation from Lalitpur district and eventually stopped their efforts by the governance body of Lalitpur;
- Naya Goreto empowered to raise the suppressed voice of the PUDs for effectively address their issues through delegation to Chief District officer and Home minister against the health and human rights violation of the entire PUDs;

## **9. CONCLUSION:**

**Naya Goreto in technical and financial support of Youth Vision/ The Mainline Foundation** has conducted several activities in sensitizing/training the parliamentary members for scaling up the issues of human rights violation of the drug users and it's urgent need for solving the problems of the drug users. In addition Naya Goreto conducted programs with the key stakeholders of the society, government officials at the ward level, representatives of the health institutions for addressing the issues of the people who use drugs from the community level. These programs have helped to garner the stakeholder's support and helped in solving the issues at the community level. The programs have helped to impart positive insights on the thinking and perceptions of the parliamentarians, politicians and related key stakeholders. This program has helped them to know about health and human rights of the drug users and their right to live with dignity. Thus the programs conducted by Naya Goreto have helped them to be aware of the existing gaps in the plans and policies of the Nepal government, gaps in service provision at the local level and the need of collective efforts to reintegrate the key population in the society and contribute towards the betterment of the society and nation.

## **10. DIFFICULTIES FACED AND CHALLENGES DURING THE PERIOD:**

The difficulties faced during the project implementation are as follows:

- The dissolution of the Constituent Assembly created an unfavorable situation for continuing of the advocacy efforts;
- The limited fund had restricted the continuous follow up to the governance body, political parties, stakeholders for advocating on the issues of the PUDs;

#### **11. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE:**

- There is need of more programs that are focused on sensitizing the policy makers and other local level key stakeholders of different political parties and other institutions.
- The representation of PUDs rights must be secured at the government bodies, health committees and institutions for securing the human rights violation of PUDs.
- There is need of continuous follow up activities for raising the issues of the drug users to the political parties and pressurize them to represent the issues of PUDs at the governance level.