



Government of Nepal



Safeguards

Rural Access Programme (RAP) Phase 3

June 2019

SAFEGUARDS

Safeguard Management on RAP3 focuses on measures relating to workers' and worksite safety, social inclusion to ensure a minimum representation of women, Dalits and disadvantaged groups and safeguards for ensuring wage payments are being managed properly. In fact a considerable number of activities are conducted under the Safeguards heading which directly benefit RBG, SMG, RMG and SMG workers.

1. Safeguards Management Operation Manual

The new Safeguards Management Operation Manual was prepared and adopted for implementing programme activities and raise safeguards awareness among workers under the programme. The new manual captures all aspects of safeguards in a single document and provide guidance for the smoother operation of the RAP3 programme.

The document has three main components: (i) Social mobilization which includes rural/municipalities and cluster level orientation on RAP, working modality, formation of road building groups, capacity building, creating social awareness among workers and organizing monthly meetings. (ii) Social safeguards management is concerned with workers welfare and worksite safety, first aid kits, accident insurance, restriction of child workers, pregnant women and lactating mothers at worksites, group saving and credit and public audit. (iii) Environmental safeguards management comprises environment screening, environment assessment, implementation of Environmental Management Plan (EMPs), bio engineering, integration of environmental safeguards into the LRN training programme, disaster and climate resilience.

In addition to this it has coordination and linkage programmes as well as exit strategies for RBGs. Nine appendices are incorporated with this document. In these appendices the detailed methodologies, techniques and guidelines of different programs are incorporated. This is a live document which is periodically updated based on lessons learning during implementation.

1.1 Social Mobilisation

Regular updates through group meetings, construction supervision and personal interaction with RBG and SBG members on construction methods, group work, quantity measurement, payment modality, work site safety, use of safety equipment and first aid kits were captured and improvement actions taken during the reporting period in new construction programme districts. These measures have helped RBGs and SBGs to better understand the RAP working modality and motivate them at works with improved efficiencies.

1.2 Social Safeguards

Health, Safety and Welfare – Guidelines on First Aid Kits have been enforced continually in RAP3 districts covering roles and responsibilities of staff and labour groups, procurement procedures and timely replenishment of medicines. Use of basic protective gear such as steel toe gumboots, goggles, hard hats, gloves, dust masks and Hi-Viz vests by RBGs and RMGs is mandatory and each individual member of groups engaged in RAP construction activities is required to use them.

Raising community awareness about Health & Safety through a weekly FM radio programme called Bikashko Baato (Road to Development) is a priority for RAP3 to help reduce both on-site and off-site accidents.

Road Safety Awareness Raising Campaigns in Schools - As a part of road safety measures, RAP3 continued awareness raising on road safety to students of schools located within road zones of influence in substantially completed road corridors of Mugu, Kalikot, Bajura and Humla.

Work Accident Insurance - RAP3 has used a self-insurance system for dealing with workers' on-site accidents in new construction districts. RAP provides medical treatment facilities and tries to deal with claims and compensation within 3 weeks from the date of an accident. The self-insurance policy has been prepared with reference to the provisions and arrangements of commercial insurance companies. However RAP3 mechanisms and procedures are designed to avoid the formalities and administrative delays associated with commercial insurance companies. The scheme benchmarks market prices and the compensation packages of similar projects. Currently the value of compensation to the bereaved family for loss of life is NPR 500,000 which matches the rates used by the army on its Karnali River road works. Total accidents incurred from the beginning of RAP3 implementation shows that the total number of fatalities on construction work sites is one third that of off-site fatalities with the number of fatalities towards the end of implementation phase decreasing. It matches the deaths per 100,000 equivalent workers of the USA's construction sector for 2016.

2. Environmental Management and Monitoring

Environmental Management Plan (EMP) - Implementation of site specific Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) for new construction road corridors were continued during the project implementation. EMPs are implemented and supervised by district supervision field staff. Implementation of mitigation measures were ensured through regular follow up visits and field verification by technical and environmental specialists from RAP3 head office