

THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE NOT THOSE WHO HAVE NO PROBLEMS, BUT THOSE WHO LEARN TO LIVE WITH THINGS THAT ARE LESS THAN PERFECT

### Community Not Left Behind To Use Helicopter

An example of strong commitment of rural people for the electrification by themselves has been demonstrated in the Chau Khola II Micro Hydro System (24kW) at Dandagaun of Kavre district. The community people of this remote settlement have not only participated in the REDP implementation modality through community mobilization with six basic principles but have also engaged themselves in the tireless manner in undertaking hard and unprecedented works in the village that came along the process. Among others, the notable one was the use of helicopter services for the transportation of electro mechanical (E/M) equipment to the site situated at the difficult location. Because of the narrow and dangerous walkway in most of the places, villagers were looking for the alternatives. Finally after long exercise, they choose the helicopter. For this, they managed the additional fund by collecting Rs. 600 from each house.



DDC: DEES Kavre believed that the inspiration for the achievement was resulted from the strong mobilization process. None had believed in the beginning that they could transport E/M equipment easily to the site. Now the scheme has been completed with the generation of 24 kW benefiting 194 households. The settlement is located in the most remote VDC of the district and far away from the district headquarter Dhulikhel. *(Based on the conversation with EDO Ram Prasad Tiwari, DEES, Kavre)*

### REDP's Paradigm for Sustainable Micro Hydro Development

The Rural Energy Development Programme Third Phase (REDP-III) aims to contribute to the peace process by building local capacity for sustainable community managed rural energy systems for livelihood promotion, environmental management. Presently, the programme has been working with the rural communities of 194 VDCs of 25 districts and works are underway in additional 15 districts of Nepal for the promotion of rural energy systems, primarily micro hydro as an entry point. The programme is implemented through a decentralized section within DDC, namely District Energy and Environment Section (DEES), which provides technical, financial and managerial supports. Other key stakeholders are the local NGO for the implementation of community mobilization and the private sector for the provision of technical support services.

Nepal does have a long term experience in the sector initiated in early 60s. But the sustainability of the micro hydro system is always an issue. The sustainability issue is associated mostly with technical aspects and social implications. The REDP since its initiation has tried to ensure sustainability of micro hydro projects. The sustainability of community managed projects begins with the involvement of community people in different aspects of the project implementation. What is needed is the technical support and mobilization process to help them to feel their ownership with decision making authority in planning, implementation and management. Experiences have shown that reliable micro hydro system helps open up opportunities for different kind of end uses depending upon the resources, skill and market availability.

In the recent years, REDP has been proving support to the AEPC for registering the micro hydro system as a CDM activity to earn revenues against Certified Emission Reductions (CER). Once a plant is registered as a CDM activity, then the reliability of power supply is essential.

Micro hydro technology in Nepal has already created national and international recognitions in this background, all development institutions and organizations should focus their efforts for promoting sustainable systems with community empowerment. *(Contributed by REDA Manoj Khadka, REDP)*

### Completion of Hewa Khola Micro Hydro System

Recently the REDP supported Hewa Khola Micro Hydro System has been completed in Sankhuwasabha district. The plant produces 12 kW benefiting 113 households of a remote village.