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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



MCA-Nepal Newsletter

Issue No. 6

January – March 2023

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MCA-Nepal briefs National Concern and Coordination Committee on Project Progress



Ms. Dil Kumari Rawal, the Chairperson of the National Concern and Coordination Committee under the National Assembly, presiding over the discussion program on the updates of MCA-Nepal conducted on 19 March 2023.

MCA-Nepal presented its progress on the implementation of MCC Nepal Compact projects to the National Concern and Coordination Committee under the National Assembly on 19 March 2023.

Stating that the projects under MCA-Nepal were a matter of national interest and national concern, Dr. Ram Prasad Ghimire, Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance, expressed determination that they would be completed on time.

Presenting on the progress and

plans of the project, Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director of MCA-Nepal, apprised the committee of the ongoing preparation works related to site access for the Electricity Transmission Project. The completion of land acquisition and the ongoing Livelihood Restoration Program in Nuwakot, the release of major tenders for transmission lines and substations, and the initiation of land acquisition work for transmission lines in six districts were among the major updates provided by MCA-Nepal in the meeting.

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Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director of MCA-Nepal, sharing the progress of MCA-Nepal in the discussion program conducted by the National Concern and Coordination Committee under the National Assembly on 19 March 2023 in presence of Dr. Ram Prasad Ghimire, Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance, and Mr. Ananda Kafle, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Bisht informed the Committee that the project will set up Compensation Fixation Committees in 10 districts, which would announce the rates, register the land in the name of the development board, determine the ownership area of the transmission line, and distribute compensation.

The Parliamentary Committee was also informed that the contractors would be selected through an international competition based on price, capacity, and quality before the MCC Nepal Compact would enter the implementation phase in August 2023.

Members of the committee noted the progress as satisfactory

and suggested working with determination to achieve the projected target within the stipulated period.

Ms. Dil Kumari Rawal, the Honorable Chairperson of the committee, shared in conclusion that the committee has instructed the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Forestry and Environment, and Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport to coordinate with concerned parties and monitor the implementation including problems faced in land acquisition, forest area use, and land occupancy rights.

The committee has decided

to instruct Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Forest and Environment, Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transportation, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation and MCA-Nepal to execute and monitor the project addressing problems related to land acquisition, utilization of forest land, compensation against the Right of Way coordinating with concerned authorities and stakeholders as the project had to be completed within fixed timeframe.

The meeting has also directed to make the MCA-Nepal Board of Directors inclusive.

Invitation to bid for the Construction of Three Substations

MCA-Nepal has launched an invitation for bids to construct three substations to be built under the Electricity Transmission Project, with a submission deadline of 30 June 2023.

A Specific Procurement Notice (SPN) inviting bids for the construction of three substations of 400 kV capacity at Ratmate, Nuwakot district; Damauli, Tanahun district; and Bhumahi, Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta

West) district under the MCC Nepal Compact was published on 24 March 2023.

The company selected from the bidding process will work on the design, supply, delivery, installation, testing, and commissioning of the substations.

The bidding, to be conducted through the Quality and Price Based Selection (QPBS)

procedures as specified in the MCC Program Procurement Guidelines (PPG), is open to all eligible bidders.

A complete set of bidding documents can be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to MCANepalPA@dt-global.com with a copy to MCANepalPA@mcanp.org.

EVENTS

Site Visit for Interested Transmission line Bidders

MCA-Nepal organized a site visit from 10-15 January 2023 for representatives of interested and potential bidders to construct up to 315 km of electricity transmission lines under the MCC Nepal Compact.

Around 20 representatives from 11 companies participated in the site visit, which covered eight districts.

The participants observed various locations where the project will be implemented, including the districts of Dhading, Nuwakot, Makawanpur, Chitwan, Palpa, Tanahun, Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West) and Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta East).

Specific questions related to the sites from the participating prospective bidders were clarified by the MCA-Nepal team.



MCA-Nepal team facilitating potential bidders observing TL alignment at Kharamtar in Dhading on 11 January 2023

A Specific Procurement Notice (SPN) was published on 28 November 2022 with an invitation for sealed bids from all interested eligible bidders for the design,

supply, delivery, installation, testing, and commissioning of the transmission line. The deadline to apply for the contract had been set for 27 March 2023.



MCA-Nepal team facilitating potential bidders observing TL alignment at Likhu in Nuwakot on 10 January 2023



MCA-Nepal team facilitating potential bidders observing TL alignment at Gajuri in Dhading on 11 January 2023.

Pre-bid Meeting for Potential Bidders for Transmission Lines

MCA-Nepal organized a pre-bid meeting for interested and potential bidders to construct up to 315 km of electricity transmission lines under the MCC Nepal Compact on 19 January 2023. The meeting focused on important provisions in bid submission for the design, supply, delivery, installation, testing, and commissioning of the transmission lines along with other core procurement requirements.

Mr. Luis Villalta, MCA-Nepal Consultant and Procurement Agent Manager for the DT-Global Nepal Team, welcomed participants and provided key information on the timeline and procurement procedures, principles and guidelines.

Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director of MCA-Nepal, oriented the participants on the difference between MCA-Nepal and MCC, the organizational structure of MCA-Nepal, and the current status of the project.

Mr. DP Sahu, Project Manager-Transmission Line at MCA-Nepal, shared technical information on transmission lines route alignment, project timeline, site access, and main project requirements.

The participants were also provided a brief description of other requirements during the implementation of the project, such as MCC Environmental Guidelines, International Finance Corporation Performance Standards, the Environment Impact Assessment/Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, the Environmental, Social, Health and Safety Management Plan, and the Social and Gender Inclusion Plan, among others.

Around 26 in-person participants and 45 online participants representing various companies took part in the meeting.



Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, ED, MCA-Nepal, addressing the pre-bid meeting for potential bidders on 19 January 2023.



Mr. Dhurjati Prasad Sahu, Project Manager - Transmission Lines at MCA-Nepal, briefing potential bidders on the technical requirements to construct electricity transmission lines on 19 January 2023.



Mr. Luis Villalta, MCA-Nepal Consultant, presenting on the procurement requirements on 19 January 2023.

Pre-proposal Meeting on Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision



Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director, MCA-Nepal, welcoming the participants at the Pre-Proposal Conference on Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of transmission lines and substation activities on 14 February 2023.

MCA-Nepal organized a Pre-Proposal Meeting related to the Procurement of Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of Transmission lines and Substations Activities under the Electricity Transmission Project on 14 February 2023 with interested Consultants.

Information on the scope of work and terms of reference were shared at the meeting with 33 in-person participants and 55 online participants representing various firms.

A public notice inviting proposals from eligible consultants to provide Consultancy Services

for Construction Supervision for Transmission Lines and Substations Activities for the Electricity Transmission Project (ETP) was published on 18 January 2023.

Information on MCA-Nepal and technical aspects of the Request for Proposal (RFP), Environmental, Social and Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) aspects were also shared in the program.

Mr. DP Sahu and Mr. Sanjay Kumar Sharma, the Project Managers for Transmission Line and Substations at MCA-Nepal respectively, delivered

the project descriptions for the transmission line and substations and scope of works, along with major highlights in the Terms of Reference (ToR).

Mr. Luis Villalta, MCA-Nepal Consultant and Procurement Agent Manager at the DT-Global Nepal Team, briefed on the procurement requirements and provided tips to avoid common mistakes in the submission of proposals.

The MCA-Nepal team, comprising technical, procurement, IT, legal, and finance specialists, addressed queries from participants in the meeting.



Mr. Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Project Manager – Substations, MCA-Nepal, briefing on the substations component in the Pre-Proposal Meeting on Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of transmission lines and substation activities, conducted on 14 February 2023.

ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PROJECT

District-Level Meetings to issue Notices on Land Acquisition

MCA-Nepal organized stakeholder meetings in various project-affected districts before issuing a notice on preliminary actions to acquire land as per Clause 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1977.

Meetings were conducted in Makwanpur district on 16 March 2023, in Dhading on 26 February, in Palpa on 24 February, and in Tanahun on 23 February. Similarly, meetings were conducted in Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West) on 19 January, in Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta East) on 18 January and in Chitwan on 17 January 2023.

All meetings were chaired by the Chief District Officer of the concerned districts.

The meetings took decisions to issue required notices as per the Land Acquisition Act, 1977.

As per Clause 6 of the Act, all notices on land acquisition will be placed at public locations, nearby the concerned land or concerned rural municipality/municipality office, or doors or compound walls of affected properties, as preliminary action.



The district-level meeting conducted to issue notices on land acquisition in Chitwan district on 17 January 2023.



The district-level meeting conducted to issue notices on land Acquisition in Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta East) district on 18 January 2023.



The district-level meeting conducted to issue notices on Land Acquisition in Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West) district on 19 January 2023.



The district-level meeting conducted to issue notices on Land Acquisition in Tanahun district on 23 February 2023.



The District-level meeting conducted to issue notices on Land Acquisition in Palpa district on 24 February 2023.



The district-level meeting conducted to issue notices on Land Acquisition in Dhading district on 26 February 2023.



The district-level meeting conducted to issue notices on Land Acquisition in Makwanpur district on 16 March 2023.

Engagement with Project Affected Communities

MCA-Nepal has organized stakeholder consultations with affected communities in Makwanpur district and Tanahun district to ensure the transmission lines do not adversely affect their cultural sites and settlements.

The meeting in Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City of Makwanpur District was organized on 13 March 2023 to discuss transmission line alignment near the substation site of New Hetauda. Ms. Juna Dahal, the Chairperson of Ward No. 11 of Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City and Mr. Kamal Chandra Suman, a community leader, highlighted on local concerns in the program. The program was participated by local community leaders, project-affected people and representatives of MCA-Nepal took part in the meeting.

The meeting was conducted at District Administration Office on 22 March 2023 to discuss TL alignment at Atrouli, Ghiring.

The meeting, chaired by Mr. Chhabi Lal Rijal, Chief District Officer (CDO) of Tanahun district, took place in the presence of Mr. Hom Bahadur Rana, the Chairperson of Ghiring Rural Municipality, Chiefs of District Survey Office and District Land Revenue Office, district security chiefs, Assistant CDO of Tanahun, political leaders, project affected people from Atrouli, and representatives from MCA-Nepal.



A Stakeholder consultation conducted in Makwanpur on 13 March 2023.



Mr. Hom Bahadur Rana, the Chairperson of Ghiring Rural Municipality, addressing the Stakeholder consultation conducted in Tanahun on 22 March 2023.

Cadastral Verification Surveys of Lands under Transmission Line Routes

MCA-Nepal conducted cadastral verification surveys of lands under the transmission line routes in seven districts from 31 January to 24 March 2023.

The locations for the survey were Dhading, Makawanpur, Tanahun, Palpa, Chitwan, Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta East) and Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West) districts. The surveys are a part of preliminary actions to acquire land to construct a 400 kV double circuit transmission line and are carried out after the issuance of notices as per Clause 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1977. The verification works in Palpa district, Dhading district and Makwanpur district are ongoing.

After the completion of cadastral field verification by Government of Nepal (GoN) surveyors, MCA-Nepal will prepare a preliminary report as per Clause 8 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1977. After submitting the reports to respective Chief District Officers and the identification of project-affected people, household surveys will be initiated as a part of the resettlement action plan.

As per the preliminary action of Clause 8 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1977, such surveys should be completed within 15 days after notices are issued to determine whether the land is suitable for acquisition before a report is submitted to the local office.



Cadastral survey at Ichhakamana Rural Municipality in Chitwan on 5 February 2023.



Cadastral survey at Rorang Benighat Rural Municipality in Dhading on 20 March 2023.



Cadastral survey of lands at Tolang, Ichhakamana Rural Municipality, Chitwan Thaha Municipality in Makwanpur district on 14 February 30 March 2023.

Kick-off Meeting on Forest Census and Field Verification

A kick-off meeting on the consulting services for forest census and field verification was organized on 27 March 2023.

The meeting was organized to discuss and build a common understanding of the objectives, scope and approaches of the work, and orient selected consultants on the delivery schedule, payment provision and other relevant requirements as per MCA-Nepal and MCC guidelines.

Welcoming the participants in the meeting, Mrs. Shalini Tripathi, Deputy Executive Director, MCA-Nepal, stated that forest census works would enable the project to get site access in forest areas for the construction of the transmission line.

MCA-Nepal officials presented on various topics, including guidelines for the Environment and Social Protection, Gender and Social Inclusion, Communication, among others.

The contract for the consulting services has been granted to NESS Pvt. Ltd. in a joint venture with Natural Resources and Environment Management Centre Pvt. Ltd. and ADMC Engineering Pvt. Ltd. on 27 February 2023 for a period of eight months.

The selected consultant



Mrs. Shalini Tripathi, Deputy Executive Director, MCA-Nepal, welcoming participants in the kick-off meeting conducted on 27 March 2023.

presented the methodology to implement the assignment in the meeting.

The consultant will identify and demarcate tower footprints, Right of Way (RoW) boundaries and vertical ground clearance zones for forest census teams to conduct tree enumeration,

arrange necessary logistical support of forest census teams led by District Forest Offices, conduct consultation meetings with the project-affected Forest User Group Committees (FUGs) and secure the consent letters for FUGs to enable the project to secure the forest clearance permit from concerned authorities.



Mr. Ramu Subedi, the Coordinator for Forest Census works presenting the methodology to implement the assignment in the kick-off meeting conducted on 27 March 2023.

Consultations with CFUGs and LFUGs



A CFUG consultation at Galchhi Rural Municipality-2 in Dhading district on 24 January 2023.



A CFUG consultation at Tarkeshwar Rural Municipality-2 in Nuwakot district on 26 January 2023.



A CFUG consultation at Siddhalek Rural Municipality-6 in Dhading district on 27 January 2023.

MCA-Nepal has organized a series of consultations with various Forest User Groups (FUGs), including Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and Leasehold Forest User Groups (LFUGs), in the project-affected districts of Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West), Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta East), Makwanpur, Palpa, Chitwan, Nuwakot, Tanahun, Sindhupalchowk and Dhading.

From January 2023 to March 2023, 76 consultations were organized with 119 CFUGs and nine LFUGs in these nine districts.

Sixteen events with 36 CFUGs were organized in Nuwakot district within the period of 23 January to 8 February 2023 and 15 consultations with 21 CFUGs were conducted in Tanahun district within the period of 23 January to 9 February 2023. Similarly, 13 events with 24 CFUGs and one LFUG in Dhading district within the period of 18 January to 7 February 2023 and two events with the participation of six LFUGs were organized in Chitwan district on 08 February and 09 February 2023. Fifteen events with the participation of 15 CFUGs and one LFUG were conducted in Makawanpur district within the period of 13 February to 24 February 2023.

Similarly, nine consultations were conducted with the participation of 14 CFUGs and one LFUG in Palpa district within the period of 22 February to 3 March 2023. Four events with the participation of six CFUGs were conducted in Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West) district within the period of 23 February to 28 February 2023 and one event with the participation of two CFUGs was conducted in Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West) district on 26 February 2023. Likewise, one event with the participation of one CFUG was organized in Sindhupalchowk district on 31 March 2023.

The purpose of the consultations was to share outcomes of the Environmental Impact Assessment with FUGs and provide the required information before the mobilization of the forest census and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) preparation teams.

The situation of each of the project-affected FUGs was discussed and recommendations for compensation and restoration alongside the legal requirements of the Government of Nepal were noted during the events. The MCA-Nepal team will further

evaluate and record the impact of the project on affected forest user groups based on the findings from the consultations. The construction of transmission lines and substations by the Electricity Transmission Project (ETP) under the MCC Nepal

Compact will unavoidably affect some national forests and result in the clearing of forests to some extent. The transmission line will cross 121 Community Forests (CFs) and eight Leasehold Forests (LHFs).



A CFUG consultation at Bandipur Rural Municipality-2, Tanahun district on 30 January 2023.



A CFUG consultation at Lamachaur in Belkotgadhi Municipality-5, Nuwakot district on 4 February 2023.



A CFUG consultation at Kailash Rural Municipality-5 in Makwanpur district on 21 February 2023.



A CFUG consultation at Kailash Rural Municipality-6 in Makwanpur district on 22 February 2023.



A CFUG consultation at Sunawal Municipality-2 in Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta West) district on 28 February 2023.



A CFUG consultation at Nisdi Rural Municipality-7 in Palpa on 1 March 2023.

RATMATE LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION PROGRAM

Conclusion of Doll and Cushion-making Training

A two-month-long doll and cushion-making training under the Livelihood Restoration Program at Ratmate, Nuwakot concluded on 5 March 2023.

Nine project-affected people took part in the training and acquired skills in doll and cushion making to diversify and enhance their sources of income.

The program is an integral component of MCA-Nepal's Resettlement Action Plan based on international standards to ensure improved means of livelihood for physically and economically displaced people.



Doll and Cushion-Making Training graduates at the closing ceremony conducted on 5 March 2023.

Training in Agriculture Enhancement and Animal Rearing

Commercial vegetable production training was conducted from 1 January to 3 January 2023 at Khalde, Belkotgadhi Municipality-7 with 16 project-affected people. Likewise, seven-project affected people from Mahadevphant, Belkotgadhi-7 were trained from 28 February to 3 March 2023. The training focused on establishing vegetable nurseries, tunnel farming, a drip irrigation system, cultivation methods for different vegetable crops and the preparation of organic fertilizers. The second module of the same training was provided to eight project-affected people from 26 - 28 March 2023.

The training imparted knowledge and skills on plant protection measures and farming options. Similarly, commercial vegetable farming training was provided to 12 project-affected people at Khalde, Belkotgadhi Municipality-7 from 30 January to 1 February 2023. Participants were trained on the proper harvest times of vegetables, the importance of post-harvest cleaning, separating, packaging, means of transportation, market supply requirement, and methods of dealing with vendors.

Training on commercial goat farming was provided to 22 project-affected people at Khalde, Belkotgadhi Municipality-7 from 11 -13 January 2023. Participants were trained on goat-rearing practices including forage and fodder management, disease control measures, shed management, and the importance of dipping tanks. A similar training was conducted for eight project-affected people from 23 - 25 January 2023.

Additionally, poultry farming training was conducted at Mahadevphant, Belkotgadhi-7 from 23-25 February 2023 for 16 project-affected people. The training provided knowledge on poultry breeds and their management, poultry shed and construction methods, poultry feed management, the control and prevention of major diseases and enterprise development

Vocational Training

Training on computer operation has begun for 19 project-affected people in Kathmandu and Nuwakot on 19 February 2023 and 20 February 2023, respectively.

Other vocational training organized as per the choices of project-affected people in the months of February and March included sweets and snacks production, electrical work, plumbing, tailoring, automobile mechanics, beautician skills, Dhaka weaving, barista skills, cooking, driving and heavy equipment (JCB) operation.



JCB Operation Training being conducted in Bhaktapur from 5 February 2023.

Additional Support to Trainees

MCA-Nepal is providing additional support to the trainees of the Vocational Farming Training under the Livelihood Restoration Program.

Seven trainees from Dhansar, Rai Tole, Mankedanda, Allkholchi and Mahadevphant have been provided plastic tunnels and six from Mahadevphant, Mankedanda and Neupanetar have been supported with goat sheds.

Similarly, four trainees from Dhodenipul and Nandutar have received water tank support for irrigation and 33 from Khalde, Nandutar, Ramtar, Dhansar and Mankedada, Mahadevphant, and Dhodenipul have received regular agriculture inputs (seed, sprayer, secateurs, bio-pesticides, vitamins, etc.) support.

Similarly, 39 project-affected people from Khalde, Nandutar, Ramtar, Dhansar Mankedada, Mahadevphant and Dhodenipul are receiving continuous technical support with regular field monitoring to maintain income and expenditure records.



Goat sheds being constructed as additional support to trainees.

Functional Literacy and Numeracy Classes for PAPs

Numeracy classes for 22 project-affected people in small groups are being organized at Dhansar, Mahadevphant, Chandretar and Hadikhola in Belkotgadhi Municipality of Nuwakot District from 18 February 2023.

The informal classes are equipping participants with basic-level education and skills for daily life.



Project-affected people undertaking functional literacy and numeracy classes.

ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECT

FDR and Superpave Lab Equipment Training



Mr. Mauricio Volken, a resource person for the training explaining the Electric Penetrometer to trainees on 21 February 2023.

MCA-Nepal and the Department of Roads (DoR) jointly organized a two-week-long training on Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) and Superior Performing Asphalt Pavements (Superpave) lab equipment installation, commissioning, and operation training from 20 February - 3 March 2023.

Six Engineers & Sub-Engineers from DoR, four Associate-

Professors in the Transportation Engineering faculty at the Institute of Engineering, and two staff from MCA-Nepal were familiarized with the set-up, use, operation and maintenance, procedures and requirements, initial and routine calibrations for usage during the pavement recycling project.

The equipment will be used for regular lab operations in the

DoR and during the construction phase of road maintenance.

The training, conducted in compliance with the relevant American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards, is a part of the Technical Assistance offered to the DoR under the Road Maintenance Project.



Mr. Mahesh Acharya, Deputy Executive Director, MCA-Nepal, addressing the inaugural session of FDR and Superpave lab equipment training on 20 February 2023.



Dr. Bijaya Jaishi, DDG, Development Cooperation and Implementation Division at DoR, addressing the inaugural session of FDR and Superpave lab training on 20 February 2023.

Data Collection mobilizing FWD Equipment

MCA-Nepal in partnership with the Department of Roads (DoR) completed a two-week-long deflection measurement of road pavement of four major road sections using a Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD) on 10 April 2023.

The data collection on the pavement deflection was started from Mugling - Narayangadh road section in Chitwan district on 25 March 2023.

The data acquired will be used to prioritize sections for road maintenance.

The data collection work was conducted on Narayangadh - Mugling, Kanchanpur - Nadaha, Dharan - Dhankuta Hile and Dhankhola - Lamahi road sections.

The Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD), a device used to evaluate pavement and pavement layer stiffness, is being introduced in Nepal for the first time under the Road Maintenance Project of the MCC Nepal Compact.



The deflection of road pavement at Kanchanpur in Saptari district being measured using FWD equipment on 29 March 2023.



The deflection of road pavement at Nadaha in Saptari district being measured using FWD equipment on 29 March 2023.

MCC NEPAL COMPACT FACTS

Transmission Line: EMF and its Impact on Health

Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are invisible lines of force emitted by and surrounding any electrical device (e.g. power lines and electrical equipment). Magnetic fields result from the flow of electric current and increase in strength as the current increases.

Although there is public concern over the potential health effects associated with exposure to EMF, research has not documented any adverse health impacts from

exposure to typical EMF levels from transmission lines. The effects of EMF on public health have been studied for over 30 years all over the world. These research findings, reviewed by several panels of experts around the world, including the World Health Organization (WHO), have indicated that exposure to EMF does not cause disease or other health effects. The experts have also recommended taking simple measures to reduce exposure.

MCA-Nepal has evaluated and found that the EMF from transmission lines will be less than half of the WHO-recommended exposure standard at the edge of the right of way (RoW). This means it will be safe to live immediately adjacent to the RoW and to work or farm along the RoW.

MCA-Nepal will obtain RoW that extends 23 meters from the centerline on both sides complying with the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIPR) guidelines. Use of land for residences, schools, health clinics, and other cultural significance will be avoided. The Electricity Transmission Project will also ensure no one will reside under the RoW and prohibit the construction of any new houses or other structures. Compensation will be provided to relocate individuals living under the RoW and international standards and practices will be followed.



COMMUNITY VOICES

Mamata, not only a Homemaker but an Entrepreneur too

Mrs. Mamata Lama, 23, is a homemaker and spends most of her time taking care of her family, including her 2-year-old daughter. Her family owned 1.7 Ropani of land at Ratmate, Belkotgadhi Municipality, Nuwakot which has been acquired by MCA-Nepal for the construction of the Ratmate Electricity Substation under its Electricity Transmission Project. Soon after, her family had to relocate with the compensation money provided by MCA-Nepal as per the Land Acquisition Act, 1977.

As a part of MCA-Nepal's resettlement action plan for affected people, a Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) was implemented to restore the livelihoods and income of socially and economically affected people. Household surveys were carried out under the program to determine the kinds of training project-affected people preferred to meet the objective of the program.

Mrs. Mamata also enrolled in the program and chose to participate in the doll and cushion-making training.

"I saw a window of opportunity to improve my skills and increase my income by taking up the doll and cushion-making training," Mrs. Mamata said. "It will help me start a small-scale business staying home with flexible working hours. So I went with the choice."

After successfully completing the training and receiving additional support, Mrs. Mamata bought some raw materials and started to make dolls and cushions on her own.

She has earned around 2000 Nepali Rupees selling her products in the local market. She is very happy with her progress and has decided to take her business to the next level. Mrs.



Mrs. Mamata Lama making a doll in her house.



Doll and cushions, made by Mrs. Mamata Lama, displayed at a local shop in Nuwakot.

Mamata shared, "I have also done some market study to be an entrepreneur with the products I can generate with the skills acquired."

Along with her two friends, she reached out to potential customers and collected orders for around 150 pieces of small-sized teddy bears. Her team is currently making dolls to meet the order.

Mrs. Lama is thrilled with her progress and wants to build her own business. She is planning to invest her earnings in the expansion of her business. She adds, "I would be happy to train

others in the future after gaining more experience."

Mrs. Mamata is very grateful to MCA-Nepal for the support, which gave her the opportunity to learn new skills and become an entrepreneur.

Along with Mrs. Mamata, eight women from project-affected households opted for the doll and cushion-making training. All of the trained women are now exploring the possibility of establishing a business like Mrs. Mamata. The LRP team has continued to support these trainees in developing and establishing their businesses.

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Fostering economic growth with better access to electricity and roads