Nepal Bar Association (NBA)

PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING – LEGAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (Batch II)
(For the Lawyers Representing Vulnerable & Marginalized Communities)

On collaboration between RoLHR/UNDP and Nepal Bar Association (NBA)

Periodic Progress Report

Submitted by: Nepal Bar Association (NBA)
Reporting Period: April- June, 2015

Guidelines: Please follow these guidelines:

- Remember the timeline of reporting and date for finalizing it in line with LoA/MoU.
- Write in simple and short sentences and the medium should be English.
- Avoid repetition of the same ideas.
- Provide evidence against narrative wherever possible. Such evidences include data, facts, convincing quotes of the beneficiaries/stakeholders, action pictures with captions etc.
- Always think of impact/result while reporting. Substantiate the statements linking them with the (expected) result and sustainability issue.
- Consider the gender and social inclusion (GESI) aspect in reporting. Reflect the data from GESI Perspectives wherever possible.
- Remember to link the monitoring and evaluation steps/initiatives taken to ensure the good governance of the project.

Basic Information:

| Report prepared by | Nepal Bar Association  
| Ramshah Path, Kathmandu, Nepal |
| Submission date | 3 August, 2015 |
| Programme focal person (at RoLHR) | Mr. Mohan Kumar Ingnam  
| Treasurer, Nepal Bar Association |
BACKGROUND:
The legal profession in Nepal is represented by the Nepal Bar Association (NBA), which has approximately more than 14,000 members. Established in 1968 by national directive, its mission is to promote the legal profession, principally in the areas of legal reform, judicial reform, and the rule of law. It is the sole professional organization that unites the entire legal community of Nepal. NBA represents the interests of citizens of Nepal in maintaining independent legal practices and professional standards amongst the legal community. NBA is working for the benefit of the public at large. Encouraging democratic practices, development of the culture of rule of law, the maintenance of an independent and impartial judiciary, access to justice and the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM:
- Finalization and revision of previously developed legal internship guidelines and course modules.
- Strengthening Professional Capacity of the Intern Lawyers (through foundation courses, internship placement, refresher’s course and other capacity strengthening program such as basic English) representing Women, Vulnerable, Marginalized Communities.
- To contribute in increasing access of vulnerable and marginalized communities in to justice mechanism by capacitated lawyers of their own communities and their support.
- Preparation of Guidelines of Training Module for the Capacity Development of Civil and Criminal legal aid lawyers.

INTERVENTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENT/OUTPUT/OUTCOME:

Overall Summary:
Professional Capacity Building–Legal Internship Program Batch II(two) for 20 pre-professional lawyers (representation from Vulnerable and Marginalized Communities) was initiated by signing of grant MoU with RoLHR/UNDP on October 15, 2014.

The internship program initially designed in 3 phases as:
- 1 month foundation course
- 4.5 months internship placement and
- 2 weeks refresher course

On need base analysis, after the successfully completion of first batch some other additional program was introduced & supported as:
Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal

- Basic English (Covering Legal Terminology)
- Field visit (Courts, Other Judicial Bodies, and Reputed Law Firms etc.)

The twenty (20) interns were placed in various Law Firms, Attorney General Office, Ministry of Law and Justice, ILF Nepal, FWLD, LACC and etc. The internship guideline and course module has been revised as per the grant agreement with the objectives to incorporated lessons from the first batch of internship program. The regular session of the foundation course has been started from 2071/09/06 (December 21, 2014).

**ACTIVITY REPORTING:**

**Introduction**

Legal internship program was started by the initiation of Nepal Bar Association (NBA) and UNDP/RoLHR for the first time in NBA so for the effective implementation of the plan, various mechanisms have been developed under different activities.

The common goal of the implementation action is to ensure quality of legal service from legal professional particularly from marginalized and vulnerable groups as follows: women, madhesi, adivashi, janajati, dalit, people with disability, other Backward Communities and Backward Area of Nepal with maximum possible number of representation from these vulnerable and marginalized groups of new coming/practicing lawyers.

**Specific objectives**

- To enhance capacity of twenty (20) lawyers from vulnerable and marginalized communities who are new comer in the profession.
- To contribute in increasing access of vulnerable and marginalized groups of lawyers in to justice system.

**Rationale/significance**

The ongoing activities would be beneficial for the development of institution through the designed tools and trained lawyers/human resources. The developed tools would be a guideline for further trainings and the trained new-comer lawyers would be useful for the socio-responsive legal services in future. The civil and criminal legal aid lawyers will be competent to provide legal aid to the community they represent after this training program.
Progress/Accomplishment/achievement

**Activity 1:** Continuation of internship in the allocated Law Firms, NGOs and different Government offices: The two and half month’s long internship was continued by the 20 interns from April till June. The devastating earthquake of 25th April caused hindrances during this period of internship. Because of the frequent aftershocks, the internship was interrupted for some time. On the completion of this duration of the internship, the professional legal capacity of the interns has been developed, their confidence level has been raised and they were competent to deal with the legal problems of the needy persons. (In terms of both drafting and pleading of cases)

**Activity 2:** English Language Training: Capacity Enhancement Program (Basic Legal English Language) for intern was continued till the 5th of June 2015 and the class has been scheduled on Tuesday and Friday every week in Nepal Bar Association Secretariat. The class was facilitated by Nepal English Language Teacher Association (NELTA). This course was basically focused on practical skill of legal English. After the completion of this classes, the interns (See Annex-A for the course module of English Language)

**Activity 3:** Feedback Collection Meeting: For collecting feedback from the interns in course of internship on the placement in various firms and offices, feedback collection meetings between interns, NBA and RoLHR representatives were held on 6th March, 20th April and 14th May respectively. The interns shared their experience about the ongoing internship in their respective placed offices, law firms and organizations.

**Activity 4:** Refresher Training: As the concluding phase of the Internship Program, 9 days Refresher Training was conducted at Union House starting from 10th June to 19th June, 2015. Altogether there were 36 sessions covering lesson learnt, experience sharing, drafting of F.I.R., complaint, moot court practical of civil and criminal cases. New courses like writ drafting practical session, preparation of case related to women’s rights were also incorporated. (See Annex-B for the course module of Refresher Training)

**Activity 5:** Closing Ceremony of Legal Internship Batch II: On 19 June, 2015, the closing ceremony of legal Internship Batch II was held. Representatives from UNDP and RoLHR, NBA Executives, Media
persons and Chiefs of the Interns placed offices were present in the ceremony. On behalf of the interns, Advocate Kumar Magar and Advocate Kalpana B.K. highlighted on the achievement they made from this 6 months internship program. All the interns were highly benefitted by this internship program as their professional legal capacity has been developed. Lastly, Ms Sophie Kemkhadze, Deputy Country Director UNDP, Nepal awarded certificates to the interns and wished them a bright future in their legal career.

**Activity 6: Meeting between NBA Consultants, RoLHR and representatives of NBA:** On 10 April, 2015, a discussion meeting was held between NBA Consultants of Civil Legal Aid Lawyers (Advocate Megharaj Pokherel and Advocate Bimal Dhakal) Criminal Legal Aid lawyers (Advocate Hari Phuyal and Advocate Shree Krishna Subedi) and RoLHR on the zero draft submission of the Guidelines of Training Module developed by the Consultants.

**Activity 7: Meeting between NBA Consultants and representatives of NBA:** A meeting between the NBA consultants Civil Legal Aid Lawyers (Advocate Megharaj Pokherel and Advocate Bimal Dhakal) Criminal Legal Aid lawyers (Advocate Hari Phuyal and Advocate Shree Krishna Subedi) and NBA representatives was conducted on 9 June, 2015. During this meeting, the respective consultants submitted their draft of the Guidelines of Training Module. (See Annex-C for the draft of the Guideline of Training Module of the Civil and Criminal Legal Aid lawyers).

**Activity 8: Consultation Meeting between NBA Consultants, representatives of NBA and Stakeholders:** On 6 July, 2015 a consultation meeting has been conducted between NBA Consultants, representatives of NBA and stakeholders which was conducted at Hotel Himalaya. Around 70 participants participated in the consultation meeting which covered expert lawyers on Civil and Criminal legal aid. The participants presented their comments and feedbacks on the guideline of Training Module. The meeting proved to be very interactive as most of the stakeholders recommended on different aspects of the guideline. The stakeholders recommended revising the subject matters included in the Guideline and arranging 7 days training program for the efficiency of this Training. The feedbacks collected during this meeting will be incorporated by the consultants during the submission of the final draft of the Guideline of Training Module.
Key Challenges and Lesson Learned

Key Challenges/Findings

- How the interns benefited (maximum-level) from their respective placement firms.
- Monitoring on intern activities (indicators) and their reporting procedure.
- How the Guideline of training module on Civil and Criminal legal aid lawyers will be made effective.

Sustainability Issue:

The overall intention of the program is Access to Justice of marginalization and vulnerable section of the society of Nepal. Basically the program has targeted in two objectives; First, Access to Justice Mechanism and second; providing them quality of legal support where all diversely selected lawyers is trained along with rights/ need based approach. The trained lawyers will be the assets of the legal fraternity of Nepal, after the entire six (6) months of internship, they will able to work and provide support in their community and there in kind contribution to legal aid desk of Nepal Bar Association and Districts Bar, mobile legal aid clinics to the prison and detention center, orientation and counseling to the beneficiaries and assisting them in legal procedure will be a great support for the Legal Aid system of Nepal. Finally, the training to civil and criminal legal aid lawyers will develop competent legal aid lawyers to provide legal aid to the weaker sections of the society. In this scenario, the project will add value for Access to justice of the marginalized section of the society as well institutional support for Nepal Bar Association and Legal Aid System of Nepal.

Photos of Various Activities

A. Photos of English language class to Interns in NBA
B. Photos of Feedback Collection Meeting from Interns in NBA meeting hall
C. Photos of refresher training.
D. Photos of closing ceremony of Legal Internship program.
E. Photos of consultation meeting.

Photos of English language
Class to Interns in NBA

Photos of refresher training to the interns

Feedback Collection Meeting

Photos of closing ceremony of
Legal Internship program
Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal
Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal

 kami shashan tatho manavadhikar saralsharan pranali sabalekaran karyakram-nepal
Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal

कानुनी शासन तथा मानवाधिकार संरक्षण प्रणाली स्वतंत्रकरण कार्यक्रम-नेपाल
Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal

Photos of consultation meeting
Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection System in Nepal

कानुनी शासन तथा मानवाधिकार सरक्षण प्रणाली संबंधित कार्यक्रम–नेपाल

Meeting on Draft Guideline
Kathmandu

Organized by
Nepal Bar Association Kathmandu

6 July, 2015