Nepal Bar Association (NBA)

ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (Batch IV )
(For the Lawyers Representing Vulnerable & Marginalized Communities)

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

Project Completion Report

Submitted by: Nepal Bar Association (NBA)
Report period: September –June 2016/2017

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:

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<tr>
<th>Report prepared by</th>
<th>Nepal Bar Association Ramshah Path, Kathmandu, Nepal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submission date</td>
<td>July 3, 2017</td>
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<td>Programme focal person (at RoLHR)</td>
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**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 are its major goals to be achieved.

**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.
- Contribute in increasing access of vulnerable and marginalized communities to justice mechanism by capacitated lawyers of their own communities and their support.
- Conduction of 3 days Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers on civil and criminal cases in ten different districts.

**INTERVENTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENT/OUTPUT/OUTCOME:**

**Overall Summary:**
Enhancing Access to Justice & Professional Capacity Enhancement Program was initiated by signing of LoA with RoLHR/UNDP on 1 September, 2016.

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

**Introduction**
Legal internship program was started by the initiation of Nepal Bar Association (NBA) and RoLHR/UNDP for the first time in NBA in the year 2014. Similarly, the continued collaboration with RoLHR/UNDP and NBA has resulted to Enhancing Access to Justice & Professional Capacity Enhancement Program in the year 2016. So for the effective implementation of the pre-determined plan, various mechanisms have been developed under different activities.

The common goal of the implementation of the action is to ensure quality of legal service from legal professional particularly from marginalized and vulnerable groups i.e. 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. Further, enhancing professional capacity development program for civil and criminal legal aid lawyers will enhance the professional capacity of the legal aid lawyers in the civil and criminal legal aid lawyers.

**Specific objectives**
- To enhance capacity of thirty (30) 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.
- To enhance the professional capacity of civil and criminal legal aid lawyers to contribute in their community.
- To enhance the professional capacity of women lawyers.

**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: Review of the Internship Guideline:**

An Internship Guideline has been developed for the conduction of Legal Internship Program Batch I. Later, the Guideline has been reviewed for the Legal Internship Program Batch II. Under the Legal Internship Program Batch IV, the Internship Guideline has been reviewed for the second time. The Guideline has covered new and relevant issues accordingly.

**Activity 2: Review of the Foundation Course Module and Refresher Course:**

As the first phase of legal internship program, one month foundation course module and 2 weeks of refresher course has been designed. For Legal Internship Batch IV, the Foundation Course Module has been reviewed and Refresher Course is under review. This revised one month foundation course module has covered the new and relevant issues of legal system, legal profession, corporate issues, pro bono and social inclusion.

**Activity 3: Notice published for application call for Legal Internship Batch IV:**

After the successful completion of Legal Internship Batch I, Batch II and Batch III, application was called for legal Internship Batch IV from the new comer lawyers representing from marginalized and vulnerable groups particularly from women, madhesi, adivashi, janajati, dalit, people with disability, other backward communities and backward area of Nepal.

**Activity 4: National Women Lawyer conference, 2016:**

On September 9 and 10, NBA has organized National Women Lawyer conference in Kathmandu. The theme of the conference was "Economic Participation of Women: Guarantee of Constitutional Rights." More than 400 women lawyers participated in this conference throughout the nation. Altogether 16 working papers were presented in different thematic areas of Challenges and Implementation of New Constitution, Proposed Civil and Criminal Code, Banking and WTO. After two days of discussion and interaction among the women lawyers, 25 points Kathmandu Declaration was passed.

**Activity 5: Criminal Legal Aid Lawyers Training Program, Butwal:**

From 22 to 26 of October, 2016, Criminal Legal Aid Lawyers Training has been conducted in Butwal, district of western region. In this training, altogether 30 legal aid lawyers had participated from different six bar units along with SLAC representative from Rupendehi.
Activity 6: Criminal Legal Aid lawyers Training, Rajbiraj:

As the concluding training of civil and criminal legal aid lawyers training, the final training for criminal legal aid lawyers has been conducted in Rajbiraj from 26 to 30 of November, 2016. Altogether 30 legal aid lawyers representing 8 bar units and Saptari SLAC has participated in this program. (See Annex B for the details)

Activity 7: Assignment of the Senior Mentors for the Legal Internship Batch IV

For the effective conduction of the Six Months Legal Internship Program Batch IV, three senior mentors have been assigned. The major responsibilities of the mentors are monitoring and supervision of the overall internship program for the period of six months.

Activity 8: Finalization of 30 legal inters for Batch IV through Interview:

Altogether 82 applications have been received for legal internship Batch IV representing lawyers from women, marginalized and vulnerable communities. On 13 December, 2017, interview for all the applicants has been conducted. The interview panelist comprised of NBA secretariat, representative from Ministry of Law, Justice and Federal Affairs and RoLHR/UNDP. The 30 successful candidates were finalized through the interview process. Among the 30 successful interns, 6 represented the women category, 10 from indigenous group, 3 from dalit, 6 from madhesi, 2 from PWD and 3 from backward area.

Activity 9: 1st Meeting between NBA, RoLHR and NBA legal Interns:

On 21 December, 2017, 1st meeting was held between NBA, representatives from RoLHR and the successful legal interns for batch IV. All the 30 interns were present in the meeting. The meeting discussed about the modality of the Internship Program and code of conduct to be followed by the interns.

Activity 10: One Month Foundation Course Accomplished for Legal Interns Batch IV:

As the 1st phase of Six Month Legal Internship Programme, one month legal internship program has been conducted for the 30 legal interns batch IV. The one month foundation course was based on the revised One Month Foundation Course Module. New issues like WTO, Transitional Justice, Private International Law and other contemporary issues has been incorporated in
the revised course module. The foundation course was started from 23 December, 2016 and completed on 23 January, 2017.

(See Annex C for the Detailed Accomplished One Month Foundation Course Module)

**Activity 11: English Language Class conducted:**

Under legal internship batch IV, 40 English language classes have been scheduled. CETRA (Cosmic Education Training and Research Academy) has been assigned as the instructor for the English Language Class. Altogether, 20 English classes have been completed during the one month foundation course and the remaining 20 classes have been conducted at Nepal bar Association Hall.

**Activity 12: Finalization of Course Module of Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers:**

Under Professional Capacity Enhancement Program, Batch III, a 5 Days training for Civil Legal Aid lawyers and Criminal Legal Aid lawyers in ten different districts of the nation was scheduled on our activity. The training was based on the Civil and Criminal Legal Aid Guideline developed by NBA. In this regard, 8 trainings were completed under Batch III and remaining two was completed under Batch IV. Similarly, under Batch IV, the refresher course module was developed by NBA to conduct refresher training of the accomplished ten civil and criminal legal aid lawyers training.

(See Annex D for the Refresher Training Course Module)

**Activity13: First Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers, Mahendranagar**

The first 3 Days refresher training for legal aid lawyers has been conducted in Mahendranagar from 17 to 19 February, 2017. Altogether 30 legal aid lawyers representing nine district bars of far west region and two SLAC representatives (Kailali and Dadeldhura) participated in the training program. The training sessions were based on the Refresher Training Course Module developed by the NBA consultants.

(See Annex E for the details of the Mahendranagar Training Program).

**Activity 14: Placement of 30 legal interns in different law firms and Rule of Law institutions:**
All the 30 interns of legal internship batch IV were placed in different law firms and Rule of Law institutions. The selection of the law firm and institutions was made on the basis of the specialization area and the interests of the interns.

(See Annex F for the details of the Firm Placement of the interns)

**Activity 15: Preparatory Meeting for National Conference on Interns Alumni:**

On 2nd March, 2017, a preparatory meeting for national conference of interns’ alumni was conducted at Trade Tower. Legal Interns from batch I to batch IV along with representatives from NBA and RoLHR participated in the meeting. The main purpose of this meeting was to make necessary arrangements for the National Conference on Interns Alumni.

**Activity 16: National Conference on Interns Alumni:**

On 3rd March, 2017, National Conference on Interns Alumni was conducted at Trade Tower, Kathmandu. The major purpose of the Alumni was to form a loose network among the NBA interns from Batch I to IV participated in the conference and to form a steering committee of the NBA Legal Interns alumni. The conference was chaired by NBA President and chief guest was Senior Most Justice of Supreme Court Hon’ble Gopal Parajuli. Distinguished guests from Ministry of Law, Justice and Federal Affairs, Norwegian Embassy, UNDP, RoLHR and NBA executive committee were present in the opening ceremony of the conference. The conference ended up with the formation of the interns’ steering committee and the loose network of the interns from Batch I to Batch IV.

**Activity 17: Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers, Biratnagar**

The second 3 days refresher training of legal aid lawyers on civil and criminal cases was held from 18 to 20 March, 2017 at Biratnagar district. Altogether 30 participants representing 8 bar units participated in the training program.

(See Annex G for the details of the Biratnagar Training)

**Activity 18: Women Lawyers’ Professional Capacity Enhancement Training**

A Six Days international training for professional capacity enhancement training for women lawyers has been conducted from 26 to 31 of March, 2017 at Kathmandu. The training has been conducted in partnership with Women Lawyers Joining Hands (WLJH), DLA Pipers, Shymes, Steet and Milliard and UNDP. Altogether 10 international Trainers and 18 national trainers facilitated the training sessions. The training was conducted in two
groups i.e. Basic and Advance where there were 30 women lawyers in each group. The training focused the major areas of corporate commercial issues, women and equality, intellectual property and arbitration.

**Activity 19: Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers, Nepalgunj**

The third 3 Days refresher training for legal aid lawyers on civil and criminal cases was held from 5 to 7 May, 2017 at Nepalgunj district. Altogether, 32 participants representing nine bar units and representatives from SLAC Bardiya and Dailekh participated in the training program.

(See Annex H for the details of the Nepalgunj Training)

**Activity 20: Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers, Dang**

The fourth 3 Days refresher training for legal aid lawyers on civil and criminal cases was held from 6 to 8 May, 2017 at Dang district. Altogether 30 participants representing 5 bar units and representative from SLAC Rukum participated in the training.

(See Annex I for the details of the Dang Training)

**Activity 21: Regular meeting between NBA, NBA interns and RoLHR**:

On 23rd May 2017, regular meeting between NBA, NBA interns and representatives from RoLHR has been seated at Nepal Bar Association. All the interns shared their experience about lesson learnt during their placement in the respective law firms and institutions. They shared about their professional capacity enhancement through the internship program.

**Activity 22: Meeting between NBA, NBA Legal Interns’ Steering Committee and RoLHR**:

On 24th May, 2017, meeting between NBA, NBA legal interns’ steering committee and RoLHR has been seated at Nepal Bar Association. The meeting discussed about the sustainability of the NBA Legal Interns Alumni.

**Activity 23: Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers, Lalitpur.**

The fifth refresher training for legal aid lawyers has been held from 21 to 23 May at Lalitpur. Altogether 30 participants representing 13 bar units and representative from SLAC Khotang participated in the training program.
Activity 24: Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers, Chitwan

The sixth refresher training for legal aid lawyers has been held from 27 to 29 May at Chitwan. Altogether 30 participants representing 7 bar units participated in the training program.

(See Annex K for the details of Chitwan Training)

Activity 25: Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers, Pokhara

The seventh refresher training for legal aid lawyers has been held from 28 to 30 May at Pokhara. Altogether 30 participants from 9 bar units participated in this training program.

(See Annex L for the details of Pokhara Training)

Activity 26: Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers, Janakpur

The eighth refresher training for legal aid lawyers has been held from 18 to 20 June at Dhanusha, Janakpur. Altogether 29 participants from 9 bar units and SLAC Saptari participated in the training.

(See Annex M for the details of Janakpur Training)

Activity 27: Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers, Jhapa

The ninth refresher training for legal aid lawyers has been held from 18 to 20 June at Bhadrapur, Jhapa. Altogether 29 participants from 5 bar units participated in the training.

(See Annex N for the details of Jhapa Training)

Activity 28: Refresher Training for Legal Aid Lawyers, Bhairahawa

The tenth refresher training for legal aid lawyers has been held for 19 to 21 June at Siddarthnagar, Bhairahawa. Altogether 30 participants from 6 bar units and representative from Rupandehi SLAC has participated in this training.

(See Annex O for the details of Bhairahawa Training)

Activity 29: Refresher Training for 30 legal interns under Legal Internship Batch IV

(See Annex J for the details of the Lalitpur Training)
As the concluding phase of legal internship Batch IV, refresher training for legal interns Batch IV has been conducted from 18 to 23 June 2017. The refresher training was mostly focused on the drafting practice and moot court sessions of Criminal and Civil cases.

(See Annex P for the details of Refresher Training)

Activity 30: Closing ceremony of Legal Internship Program Batch IV

Legal Internship program batch IV was formally concluded with the closing ceremony program. Rt. Hon‘ble Chief Justice of Supreme Court Mr Gopal Parajuli was the chief guest of the ceremony. NBA President, vice-president, Secretary General, central members of NBA executive committee, UNDP Country Director Mr Renaud Meyer, representatives from Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, representatives from Office of the Attorney General, respected mentors from the law firm and institutions of the interns placement, representative from RoLHR/UNDP and legal interns from Batch IV were present in the ceremony. The completion certificates have been jointly awarded by NBA president, secretary general and UNDP country director to the NBA legal interns.

Photos of Different Activities
ONE MONTH FOUNDATION COURSE BATCH IV
ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASS
REFRESHER TRAINING, BIRATNAGAR
CLOSING CEREMONY OF WOMEN LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT TRAINING
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LEGAL INTERNS ALUMNI
REFRESHER TRAINING CHITWAN