Nepal Bar Association (NBA)

PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING – LEGAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (Batch V)
(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: July-December 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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<th>Report prepared by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submission date</td>
<td>20 December 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 of the 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 in to justice mechanism by capacitated lawyers of their own communities and their support.
- Validation of draft code of conduct of lawyers and pro bono guideline through consultation meeting in 7 provinces of the nation.

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 July, 2017.

The internship program initially designed in 3 phases as:
- 1 month foundation course
- 3 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 2017. 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.

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 validate the draft code of conduct of lawyers and pro bono guideline through consultation process within the seven provinces of the nation.

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. Access to justice for the poor and marginalized communities will be enhanced.
Progress/Accomplishment/Achievement

**Activity 1: Notice published for application call for Legal Internship Program Batch V:**

After the successful completion of Legal Internship Batch I, Batch II, Batch III and Batch IV, application was called for legal Internship Batch V 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 2: Assignment of senior mentors for the legal internship Batch V:**

As per the provision of LOA, three senior mentors have been assigned for facilitating and monitoring the legal internship Batch V. They have been assigned for monitoring and supporting the internship program Batch V.

**Activity 3: Final selection of 30 interns for Legal Internship Program Batch V through interview process:**

On 7 and 8 July 2017, interview for all the 88 applicants of Legal Internship Batch V has been conducted. Interview panel comprising six members was formed for the interview process. Three members from NBA Executive Committee, two representatives from RoLHR/UNDP and a representative from Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MLJPA) were the interview panelists. Finally, 30 legal interns have been selected based on the Internship Guideline for the Legal Internship Program Batch V.

**Activity 4: One Month Foundation Course for legal interns Batch V:**

From 23 July, 2017, One Month Foundation Course for legal interns Batch V has been started based on the course module. Different new and current issues relating to legal areas have been incorporated in the course module. Resource persons were assigned as per the area of their specialization. Practical sessions on different document drafting, writ drafting, and moot court on civil and criminal cases have been conducted during the one month course.
Language Class has also been incorporated during this one month foundation course.

(See Annex A for the accomplished One month Foundation Course)

**Activity 5 : English Language Class for Legal Interns Batch V:**

As per the design of Legal Internship Program, English Language Class for Legal Interns Batch V was conducted in course of the One Month Foundation Course. The English Language Class has been conducted by CETRA (Cosmic Education Training and Research Academy). The English Language Class has been conducted as per the syllabus designed by CETRA.

(See Annex B for the details of syllabus designed by CETRA)

**Activity 6: Placement of Interns in different firms and organizations:**

As the second phase of Legal Internship Program Batch V, all the 30 legal interns were placed in different law firms and organizations. The placement was made on the basis of the area of specialization and interest of the interns and the reputation of the firms and organizations as well.

(See Annex C for the details of firm placement of interns)

**Activity 7: National Women Lawyers' Conference, 2017:**

On September 1 and 2, NBA has organized National Women Lawyer conference in Sindhuli. The theme of the conference was "Meaningful Implementation of Constitution: Women Participation in Every Sector" Altogether 265 women lawyers participated in this conference throughout the nation. Altogether 21 working papers were presented in different thematic areas of fundamental rights covering citizenship, legal aid and consumer protection, women in legal profession, women's reproductive rights and women representation in local level. Through the thematic discussion 26 points Sindhuli Declaration was drafted. (See Nyayadoot Journal special issue for the compilation of working papers)
Activity 8: Consultation Meeting on draft Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro bono Guideline, Mahendranagar:(Province no. 7)

On 8 and 9 September, one and half day’s consultation meeting on draft Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro Bono Guideline was conducted in Mahendranagar. Two separate papers on draft code of conduct and pro bono guideline were presented. Altogether 51 lawyers (4 female) participated in the consultation meeting. Lawyers representing 11 bar units, representative from Kailali SLAC and NBA central executive committee members participated in this meeting. Through this meeting, different inputs and feedbacks were collected over the presented drafts.

(See Annex D for program schedule)

Activity 9: Consultation Meeting on draft Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro bono Guideline, Nepalgunj:

On 10 and 11 September, one and half day’s consultation meeting on draft Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro Bono Guideline was conducted in Nepalgunj. Two separate papers on draft code of conduct and pro bono guideline were presented. Altogether 54 lawyers (4 female) participated in the consultation meeting. Lawyers from 18 bar units including senior advocates; former bar councilor, representatives from Bardiya, Dailekh and Rukum SLAC and members of NBA central executive committee participated in the meeting. Lawyers representing province no. 6 participated in Nepalgunj. Through the discussion, different suggestions and feedbacks were collected over the presented drafts.

(See Annex E for the program schedule)

Activity 10: Consultation Meeting on draft Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro bono Guideline, Palpa: (Province no. 5)

On 10 and 11 September, one and half day’s consultation meeting on draft Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro Bono Guideline was conducted in Palpa. Separate drafts on code of conduct and pro bono guideline were presented. Altogether 52 (5 female) lawyers participated in the consultation meeting. Lawyers representing 6 bar units, representative from Rupendehi SLAC and members of NBA central executive committee participated in the meeting. Through the discussion, different inputs and feedbacks were collected over the presented drafts.
Activity 11: Consultation Meeting on draft Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro Bono Guideline, Lalitpur: (Province no.3)

On 12 and 13 of September, one and half day's consultation meeting on Code of Conduct and Pro Bono Guideline was conducted in Lalitpur. Separate papers on draft Code of Conduct and Pro bono Guideline were presented. Altogether 55 lawyers (9 female) participated in the meeting. Lawyers representing 13 bar units and representative from Khotang SLAC including Senior Advocates and members of NBA central executive committee participated in the meeting. Through the discussion, invaluable inputs and feedbacks were collected over the presented drafts.

Activity 12: Consultation Meeting on draft Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro Bono Guideline, Dhankuta(Province no.1)

On 10 and 11 September, one and half days' consultation meeting on Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro Bono Guideline was conducted in Dhankuta. Altogether 55 (6 female) participants representing 8 bar units and Taplegunj SLAC participated in the meeting. Senior advocates, advocates, Bar Councilors, members of NBA Executive Committee participated in the meeting. Through the discussion, different inputs and feedback over the presented drafts were collected.

Activity 13: Consultation Meeting on draft Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro Bono Guideline, Birjung : (Province no. 2)

On 17 and 18 November, one and half days' consultation meeting on Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro Bono Guideline was conducted in Birjung. Altogether 56 lawyers (3 female) representing 16 bar units and Rajbiraj SLAC participated in the consultation meeting. Senior Advocates, advocates bar councilors and members of NBA Executive Committee participated in the meeting. Through the discussion, different inputs and feedback were collected over the presented drafts.
Activity 14: Consultation Meeting on draft Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro Bono Guideline, Tanahu:(Province no.4)

On 17 and 18 of November, one and half days’ consultation meeting on Code of Conduct of Lawyers and Pro Bono Guideline was conducted in Tanahu. Altogether 57 lawyers (4 female) participated in the meeting. The lawyers represented 9 bar units from province no. NBA Executive Committee participated in the consultation meeting.

Activity 15: Central Level Conference of NBA Interns Alumni:

On 3 November, One day central level conference has been held in Kathmandu. Interns representing Batch I to IV participated in the conference. Hon’ble senior most justice of Supreme Court Mr Deepak Raj Joshi was the chief guest of the conference. All the interns discussed about the sustainability of this internship program and their role to promote access to justice to the society. They further made work plans as well.

Activity 16: Refresher Training for Legal Internship batch V:

Six days refresher training was held from 17 to 23 of November. The refresher training included drafting sessions basically focusing on writ and moot court sessions on civil and criminal cases.

Activity 17: Closing Ceremony of Legal Internship Batch V:

On 24 November 2017, closing ceremony of legal internship Batch V was held. The ceremony was graced by Rt. Hon’ble Chief Justice Gopal Parajuli as the chief guest of the ceremony. Hon’ble Attorney General, Chief Registrar of Supreme Court, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Country Director UNDP Reueud Meyer motivated the women lawyers linking with the issues
of feminism. Mentors of the law firms and organizations were present in the ceremony. The chief guest awarded the completion certificates to the interns wishing them all the best in their further legal career.

Activity 18: National Human Rights Day, Nuwakot:

NBA celebrated Human Rights Day on 10 December 2017 with the theme of "Solidarity on Implementation of Constitution, Commitment of Human Rights and Transitional Justice" in Nuwakot. The chief guest of the conference was Hon'ble Deepak Raj Joshi, Senior Most Justice of Supreme Court. Similarly, Mr Yam Nath Sharma from UNDP and representatives from RoLHR/UNDP were the guests of the opening ceremony. Lawyers throughout the nation have participated in this conference. Through the mass discussion, 11 points Nuwakot Declaration was drafted. (See Nyaydoot for the compilation of the working papers.

Activity 19: Women Lawyers Professional Skill Development Training:
Nepal Bar Association in partnership with Women Lawyers Joining Hands conducted 5 Days women Lawyers Professional Skill Development Training for 60 women lawyers. The group was divided into basic and advance course for 30, 30 women lawyers. This time women lawyers from seven provinces of the nation participated in this esteemed international training. The areas covered were Federalism, Equality, Corporate and Commercial, Intellectual Property Rights and etc. International trainers from DLA Pipers, WLJHA and lawyers from France, Hongkong and Canada facilitated the sessions. Likewise, renowned national trainers also facilitated the sessions along with the international trainers. The closing ceremony of the event has been held in Hotel Annapurna where chief guest Justice Meera Khadka and NBA President Sher Bahadur K.C. awarded certificates to the basic and advance trainees along with the esteemed national and international trainers.

Activity 20: Mobile App to connect all the bar units:

The mobile app has already been launched connecting the entire bar units.
CONSULTATION MEETING, PALPA
CONSULTATION MEETING, LALITPUR
Consultation meeting Dhankuta
Refresher Training
Completion Ceremony of Internship Ceremony
women Lawyers Professional Capacity Enhancement Program