



**Bighnaharta  
Nepal**

# **Bio-engineering Social Enterprise for Disaster Risk Reduction and Livelihood Upliftment**

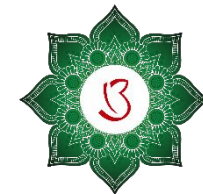






## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project "Bioengineering Social Enterprise for Disaster Risk Reduction and Livelihood Upliftment" is designed to holistically address the issues of disaster and livelihood among the marginalized Chepang communities living in landslide-prone areas. It engages the Chepang communities in the plantation of broom grass on degraded and landslide-prone areas, provides training on broom-making, and connects them with markets to build resilient and self-sustaining communities.



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# Project context



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## Phase 1



510 households



Ward 5 and 7, Raksirang Rural Municipality, Makwanpur

## Phase 2



1100 households



All nine wards, Raksirang Rural Municipality, Makwanpur

## About the community

- Chepangs are one of the most disadvantaged indigenous groups of Nepal classified under ‘highly marginalized’
- Lived semi-nomadic life mostly dependent on forage for food until past two-three generations where they have slowly shifted to a settled way of life
- Mostly landless and dependent on agriculture and animal husbandry
- Reside in rugged hills of Mahabharat range with limited access to motorable roads
- Survive on an average income of \$151 and face food scarcity more than six months every year
- Face deep-rooted issues of poverty, malnutrition, gender-based violence, child marriage, adolescent pregnancy, illiteracy, and discrimination among others





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## Objectives

- ✓ Mitigate the impacts of landslides and prevent fatalities by planting broom grass in landslide prone areas
- ✓ Address the immediate food needs of the beneficiaries involved in the plantation
- ✓ Provide training to the beneficiaries on broom-making
- ✓ Connecting the beneficiaries to the market to sell their brooms and generate income
- ✓ Uplift the economic conditions of the Chepang communities



# Project Model

## Engage

1610 Chepang households to plant broom grass on landslide prone areas

## Distribute

50 kgs Rice, 10kgs Pulse, 4 litres oil, 2 kgs salt, to the beneficiaries as labour compensation

## Train

The beneficiaries on making brooms

## Produce

Organic brooms and manage agro-waste through paper production

## Market

Connecting with the market, promoting local products and supporting income generation



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# Impact so far

- ✓ 1610 Chepang households engaged as direct beneficiaries
- ✓ User committees formed in all nine wards prioritizing female members
- ✓ 500-2000 saplings per household with total 900,000+ saplings planted
- ✓ Broom grass planted in 1174 landslide prone areas (Khoriya) and 423 barren lands
- ✓ Broom making training provided in all nine wards prioritizing female members of the households
- ✓ 800,000+ brooms produced
- ✓ On average NPR 20,000-40,000 income generated by households
- ✓ Landslide mitigated by 90% in the first phase
- ✓ Agro-waste management through paper production







**Sapling collection and plantation of broom grass on landslide prone areas**





Distribution of food supplies as a labor charge for planting broom grass





**Training the beneficiaries on broom making**





Connecting with the market





**Before the plantation**



**After the plantation**





**Agro waste management through paper production**



Paper Bags



ISPONRE Vietnam



British Ambassador to Nepal



Window made from paper



Stockholm Environment Institute



Chief Minister of Bagmati Province



Presenting the products (Khoriya Co. Kagaj) made from agro-waste



Project WE



Project Warm Smile



Operation Two Meals



Trek for Climate Action



Other projects





## About the organization

Bighnaharta Nepal is a not-for-profit company established by Nepali youths with the mission of creating self-sustainable communities among the marginalized and vulnerable population in Nepal with the help of cultural and environmental appropriate interventions. The organization applies the techniques of community-based adaptation, ecosystem-based adaptation, nature-based solutions, cooperative farming, and research and advocacy at the policy level. Bighnaharta Nepal has been working in the sectors of climate change, disaster risk reduction, poverty alleviation, gender equality, socio-economic development, and social entrepreneurship.



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# Bighnaharta Nepal

Empowering Communities



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