

THE BRIDGE PROJECT

Livelihood Intervention

Findings from the Nepal Midline Survey



Midline Survey Report

March 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bridge Project livelihood intervention in Nepal supported 600 former victims of forced labour in Bajura and Kanchanpur, with skills training. Based on a market and beneficiary needs assessment, livelihood participants were offered a training on one of 14 different trades according to their interests and the labour demand in the region. All of the participants received the basic level training on one trade, which followed the standard government curricula.

The midline survey results indicate that the project has been successful in improving the livelihoods of participants. Specifically, **38.5 per cent** of participants had increased their income after the training due to the income received from the trade on which they were trained. When considering the total income (both the income from the trade on which they were trained and any additional trade), **47.8 per cent** of livelihood participants reported an income increase. The trainings have been particularly useful for the livelihood participants, as **87.6 per cent** reported that they had used the trade skills that they had learnt, primarily at work and at home.

The project selection criteria for the livelihood intervention, sought to target the most vulnerable wherever possible. For instance, the selection of trades provided an opportunity for the illiterate to benefit from the livelihood intervention - as goat-keeping, off-season vegetable farming and poultry rearing did not require a minimum education level. In addition, the results indicate that, before the training **51.3 per cent** of the participants did not have an income, indicating their increased vulnerability. By the midline survey, more than half of the livelihood participants that had no income at baseline, reported that they had received an income after the training.

Nonetheless, the midline survey reveals that there are significant differences in the income received from the different trades and some trades seem to have fared better in comparison to others. For instance, 77.3 per cent of poultry farming participants, 56.0 per cent of tailoring and mobile repairing participants experienced an income increase. This is in comparison to the 13.6 per cent of house painting participants, 10.4 per cent of hand-embroidery participants and 0 per cent of bee-keeping participants that experienced an income increase. Consequently, further analysis will be done and additional semi-structured interviews held with selected participants, to understand some of the underlying factors and identify learnings.

Concerning debt, the midline survey indicates that from the participants that had personal debts before the training, fewer of these same participants had personal debts after the training. This was also the same scenario with the household debts. Nonetheless, when considering the total beneficiary population, there was a higher percentage of participants with personal debts and household debts after the training, as compared to before the training. In addition, the mean amount of the personal and household debts also increased after the training. The main reasons reported for the new debts was to meet basic household needs (65.5 per cent) and to start a new business (19.2 per cent). Consequently, the debt and income status of participants that incurred debts after the training in order to start their own businesses will need to be analysed in the follow-up interviews and the endline survey. The percentage of respondents that reported incurring new debts in order to meet basic household needs will also need to be investigated.

Overall, the midline survey results have provided key learnings from the livelihood intervention. These findings will inform the design and implementation of phase two of the livelihood intervention, which consists of providing further support to 200 of the 600 livelihood participants in Bajura and Kanchanpur, and livelihood support to 100 new beneficiaries in the district of Surkhet. The midline survey results have also supported the project in selecting the 200 livelihood participants for further training, based on their interest and level of vulnerability.

Midline Survey Results – Summary

Skills

87.6 per cent of participants reported that they had used the trade skills that they had learnt (primarily at work and at home).

Work

85.5 per cent of beneficiaries worked for a wage, salary, commission or a payment in kind within the last 6 months.

60.4 per cent of beneficiaries ran a business within the last 6 months.

Income

More than half of the livelihood beneficiaries that had no income at baseline reported that they had received an income the month preceding the midline survey (139 out of 248, 56 per cent). From these, 88 per cent received their income from the trade they received a training on and 12 per cent received their income from another trade.

47.8 per cent of beneficiaries experienced an income increase, when comparing participant's total income bracket at baseline to their total income bracket at midline (for both the trade on which they were trained and any second trade). When considering only the trade income, **38.5 per cent** had increased their income.

The **percentage of participants that had no income before the training, decreased from 51.3 per cent to 39.8 per cent** (11.5 percentage points), when considering the income received from the trade on which they were trained and any second trade.

Debt

During the baseline survey, 37.1 per cent of participants had a personal debt. **After the training, only 73.2 per cent of these initial participants reported that they had a personal debt**, representing a 26.8 percentage point decrease.

Nonetheless, the **percentage of beneficiaries that had a personal debt, increased from 37.1 per cent to 48.9 per cent after the training**. There was also an increase in the mean debt amount, which increased from 89,599.24 NPR to 122,035.88 NPR after the training.

Concerning household debts, after the training **only 59.4 per cent of the participants that had household debts before the training reported that they had household debts after the training** - representing a decrease of 40.6 percentage points. Debts were mainly incurred in order to start new businesses and meet basic household needs.

The **percentage of beneficiaries that had a personal debt, increased from 27.5 per cent to 41.1 per cent after the training**. There was also an *increase* in the household debt amounts owed after the training. The mean household debt at baseline was 109,090.23 NPR, which increased to 137,471.20 NPR after the training.

Forced Labour

42.4 per cent of the beneficiaries reported that they had been victims of forced labour in the past. 6.4 per cent reported that they had been forced to work within the last 6 months. 99 per cent of the victims explained that they ended up in this forced labour situation due to tradition.

Empowerment

87.8 per cent of participants strongly agree that women are capable to contribute to household income and the remaining 12.2 per cent partly agree that this is the case.

1. INTRODUCTION

The word Haliya is derived from the Nepali word “Halo”, which means plough and the term “Hali” or “Haliya” refers to a person who ploughs fields. In the context of the far western region of Nepal, the term Haliya is used to indicate a system of semi-bonded agricultural labour. Under the Haliya system, a person is forced into bonded labour due to:

- A debt (usually a small amount) incurred by themselves or their ancestors, which often has high interest rates and is passed on from generation to generation;
- Land (usually a small piece that it is not enough to feed Haliya families), leased by landlords to the Haliyas, which they then cultivate in return.
- A house (usually one-roomed hut) leased by landlords.

The vast majority of the Haliyas (approximately 96 per cent) are from the Dalit community, (KC, Subedi and Suwal, 2014). Socially, people from the Dalit community in Nepal are considered untouchables, and economically they have one of the lowest ranks. This impedes their participation in community decision-making, access to education, and certain trades - which in turn, limit their economic potential, bargaining-power and empowerment. In September 2008, the Government of Nepal declared that the Haliyas were free (and all debts declared null and void), however many Freed Haliyas were still dependent on their landlords.

The Forced Labour Protocol (2014) and Recommendation highlights the importance of ensuring forced labour victims' access to justice and effective remedies. Article 3 of the Protocol mentions: *“Each Member shall take effective measures for the identification, release, protection, recovery and rehabilitation of all victims of forced or compulsory labour, as well as the provision of other forms of assistance and support”*. To ensure the protection of forced labor victims, measures are needed to provide victims with immediate assistance and long-term recovery and rehabilitation, such as social and economic assistance.

In 2014, the Government of Nepal introduced a rehabilitation plan for the Freed Haliyas, which aimed to categorise Haliyas into four categories based on their vulnerability and provide support to buy land, build a house or repair an existing house. However, this package did not include the aspects of their livelihood through access to training/income-generating activities. The government identified 16,322 *Haliyas* and among them 12,231 were approved for rehabilitation and 4,745 are yet to be approved. Several Freed Haliyas did not receive livelihood support or trainings, which has kept them vulnerable. Skills trainings and livelihood interventions can improve the employability and income-earning capacity of victims of forced labour, in turn reducing their dependency on abusive labour practices and vulnerability to forced labour. In supporting the government's rehabilitation program, the Bridge project provided livelihood support to 600 Freed Haliyas, from households formerly in bonded labour in Nepal (300 in Kanchanpur and 300 in Bajura¹); to complement their rehabilitation so that they are not at the risk of exploitation and forced labour in other sectors.. This report outlines the main results derived from analysing the data from the midline survey.

1.1. BRIDGE PROJECT

From Protocol to Practice: A Bridge to Global Action on Forced Labor (The Bridge Project) supports global and national efforts aimed at combating forced labour under the 2014 ILO Protocol and Recommendation on Forced Labour. As part of the project's intermediate objective 5: “Increased awareness and access to livelihood programmes for victims of forced labour”, the Bridge project provided livelihood support to 600 freed-Haliyas (405 of whom were women) in the districts of Kanchanpur and Bajura in Nepal.

¹ Kanchanpur and Bajura districts were selected based on the recommendation from the (Ministry of Land Management. Bajura was chosen, as it is very remote and often not reached by development partners, while Kanchanpur is a Terai area where a significant number of Haliyas reside.

As illustrated by the map below, both Kanchanpur and Bajura are within Province 7 of Nepal.

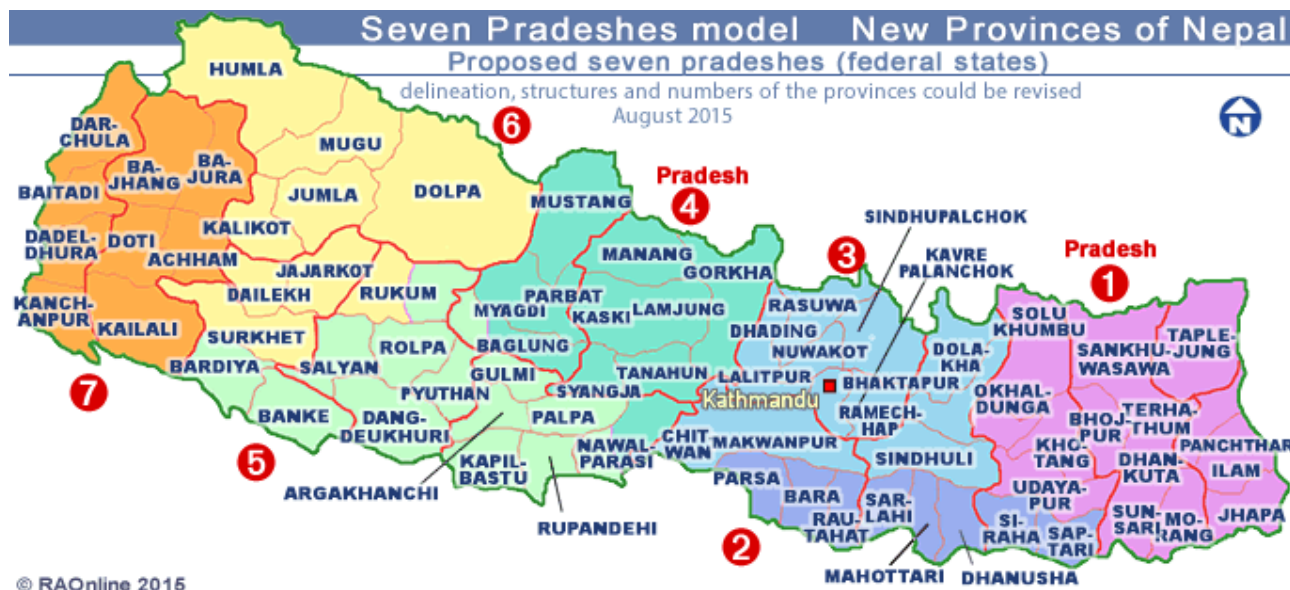


Figure 1 Map of Nepal

The first stage of the livelihood intervention consisted of a mapping exercise to assess existing livelihood partners and programmes for Freed Haliyas and to explore and recommend sustainable livelihood options that could be offered to participants based on the market conditions and beneficiary interests. Three implementing partners were selected to facilitate the trainings: Human Resources Centre – Bajura (HRC), Underprivileged Children’s Educational Programme (UCEP-Nepal) and Rastriya Haliya Mukti Samaj Foundation, Kanchanpur (RHMSF-K).

The project also worked closely with the Rastriya Haliya Mukti Samaj Foundation Nepal (RHMSF), which is one of the main organizations representing Haliyas in Nepal. This partnership was essential, especially for the identification and selection of livelihood participants. The selection was based on the following agreed eligibility criteria: i) they are Haliyas; ii) they have the government card for Freed Haliyas; iii) if they do not have the government card that they are members of the Freed Haliyas Association²; and, iv) that they are a short distance from the training site (up to 30 minutes’ walk).

Based on the market assessment and beneficiary needs assessment, livelihood participants were offered one of 14 different trades according to their interest and labour demand in their region. All of the participants received the basic level training on one trade, which followed the standard government curricula. The Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) certification was also provided for the trades that had a certification once participants completed the mandatory skills test. The duration of the training differed by trade in accordance with the CTEVT guidelines and was from 35 days to up to 52 days. For instance, the agricultural based trainings had 35 days of training whereas the tailoring, hand embroidery, construction and the majority of the trades had 52 days of training in total.

The tables below present the pass rates for the skills test of the 480 participants that sat the test for each of the 13 trades (there was no certification available/required for goat keeping).

² This is because some Haliya families are still trying to get their card, which allows them to access the government programmes. Thus excluding Haliya families that do not have a card would re-victimize the most vulnerable.

Pass Rate for CTEVT test by Trade	
Poultry	100%
Motorcycle Maintenance	94%
Bee Keeping	92%
Masonry	91%
Plumbing	88%
Beautician	83%
Mobile Repair	82%
Tailoring	81%
House-wiring	78%
Hand Embroidery	76%
Off-Season Vegetable Farming	73%
House Painting	72%
Carpentry	68%

Table 1 Pass Rate for CTEVT test by Trade

The table below breaks down the results by training partner, district, training and the percentage of participants that passed their respective skills test.

Partner	Training	District	Total Benefici- aries	N/A	Absent	Fail	Pass	Sat the Test	Passed (Percent)
RMHS-K	Beautician	Kanchanpur	25		1	4	20	24	83%
	Hand Embroidery		25			6	19	25	76%
	Mobile Repair	Kanchanpur	25		11	1	13	14	93%
		Bajura	25		1	6	18	24	75%
	Motorcycle Maintenance	Kanchanpur	25		8	1	16	17	94%
	Tailoring	Kanchanpur	50		4	5	41	46	89%
		Bajura	25			9	16	25	64%
Sub- Total			200		25	32	143	175	82%
HRC	Bee Keeping	Bajura	25			2	23	25	92%
	Goat keeping	Kanchanpur	25	25					
		Bajura	50	50					
	Off Season Veg Farming	Kanchanpur	25			1	24	25	96%
		Bajura	50		11	16	23	39	59%
	Poultry	Bajura	25				25	25	100%
Sub Total			200	75	11	19	95	114	87%
UCEP	Carpentry	Kanchanpur	25		2	10	13	23	57%
		Bajura	25		1	5	19	24	79%
	House Painting	Kanchanpur	25			7	18	25	72%
	House Wiring	Bajura	25		2	5	18	23	78%
	Masonry	Kanchanpur	25		1	4	20	24	83%
		Bajura	25		2		23	23	100%
	Plumbing	Kanchanpur	25		1	3	21	24	88%
	Tailoring	Bajura	25			4	21	25	84%
Sub Total			200		9	38	153	191	80%
Grand Total, Average			600	75	45	89	391	480	81%

Table 2 Test Results by Trade, Partner and District

In addition to the vocational training, participants were also trained on the Start and Improve Your Own Business (SIYB) course, which included trainings on soft skills and starting your own business plan. Furthermore, participants were provided with post-training start-up tools and materials relevant to their trade and also put in contact with potential employers for employment opportunities.



Figure 2: Off-Season Vegetable farming participants receiving their post-training materials



Figure 3: Mobile-Repairing participants receiving their post-training materials

1.2. DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

Data Collection Process

A baseline survey was conducted in Nepal for all 600 beneficiaries between August-October 2018. The midline survey was conducted from September 2019-January 2020. During the midline survey, 483³ of the 600 beneficiaries responded, as several participants were unavailable due to travel to India for work or other travel outside of their respective villages and districts. Efforts were made to contact livelihood participants at a later stage, and some were reachable and did respond to the questionnaire by phone.

The questionnaires were developed by the Bridge project team (please see Annex 1 for the baseline questionnaire and Annex 2 for the midline questionnaire), pilot tested in the intervention area and subsequently updated. Each livelihood participant had a unique beneficiary code, which was the same at baseline and at the midline. The data was collected by monitoring consultants, with the baseline data collected by one female enumerator while two enumerators collected the midline data: one male and the same female enumerator who collected the baseline data. The female enumerator was a member of the Freed Haliya Association, which the project hoped would encourage and promote openness and honesty from the respondents given the sensitive nature of some of the survey aspects (for example questions on income, debt and situations of forced labour or labour exploitation). The Monitoring Officer of the Bridge project based in Nepal trained the two enumerators. The data was collected using the paper questionnaires and then entered into a Microsoft Access database, stored and exported as a Microsoft Excel file. The data was cleaned, verified and reviewed by the project officers to ensure data quality, and subsequently analysed in Microsoft Excel and SPSS.

Objectives Midline Survey

The main objective of the baseline study was to collect relevant information on the target beneficiaries. This included their demographic information, educational background, livelihood activities, debt and forced labour vulnerabilities.

The aim of the midline survey was to monitor changes amongst the trainees after they had completed the training and received the post-training support for specific indicators, particularly concerning their work status, use of skills, forced labour vulnerabilities, debt and also to collect information on their income and social empowerment. The midline survey was conducted approximately six months after the post training support materials were provided. Since the project is ongoing, an endline survey will be conducted at the end of the project period to monitor changes since the start of the project (and comparing this to both the baseline and midline survey data).

The Bridge Project in Nepal will start phase 2 of the livelihood intervention in 2020. This involves training 100 beneficiaries in the new district of Surkhet and providing level two training to 200 of the existing 600 livelihood beneficiaries in Bajura and Kanchanpur. As the project seeks to target the most vulnerable for the level two training, the midline survey data will support the selection of the 200 beneficiaries that are both vulnerable and interested in receiving this additional support to improve their livelihoods. In addition to identifying lessons learnt to inform changes in the design of the second phase of the livelihood intervention strategy and implementation, the midline survey also enables the project to report on the CMEP project-level indicators, specifically: **OTC 9. Percentage of individuals that apply the skills they learn from project training during the year following the training** and **OTC 8. Percentage of livelihood participants with improved livelihoods**.

³ The remaining livelihood participants had travelled to India or were unavailable at the time of the midline survey.

2. PROFILE OF THE LIVELIHOOD PARTICIPANTS

This section presents the demographic profile of the livelihood participants, as captured during the baseline survey. To ensure that we are comparing the same beneficiary sample for the baseline and the midline survey, the analysis for the baseline survey sample is limited to the 483 participants that responded to the midline survey, instead of all 600-livelihood participants.

2.1 Gender, Marital Status and Age

The majority of the Bridge project livelihood participants are female (76 per cent). The breakdown is similar in Bajura and Kanchanpur - 72 per cent of livelihood participants in Bajura and 79 per cent of livelihood participants in Kanchanpur are female.

Concerning marital status, 76.8 per cent of the participants are married. 96.1 per cent of participants live in a male-headed household and the household head is principally the respondent's husband (50.8 per cent in Kachanpur and 51.4 per cent in Bajura) or father (33.8 per cent in Kanchanpur and 17.7 per cent in Bajura).

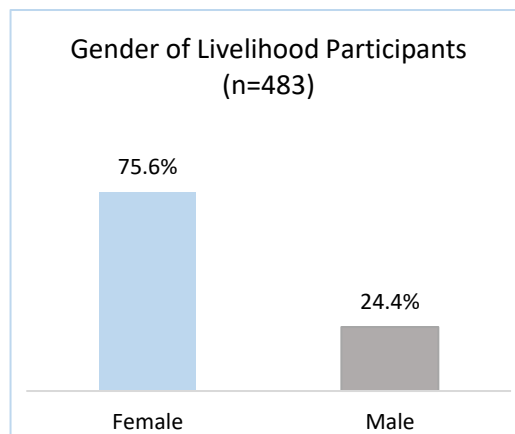


Figure 4 Gender of Livelihood Participants

As shown by figure 2 below, the majority of the livelihood participants were below 45 years of age when they started the training.

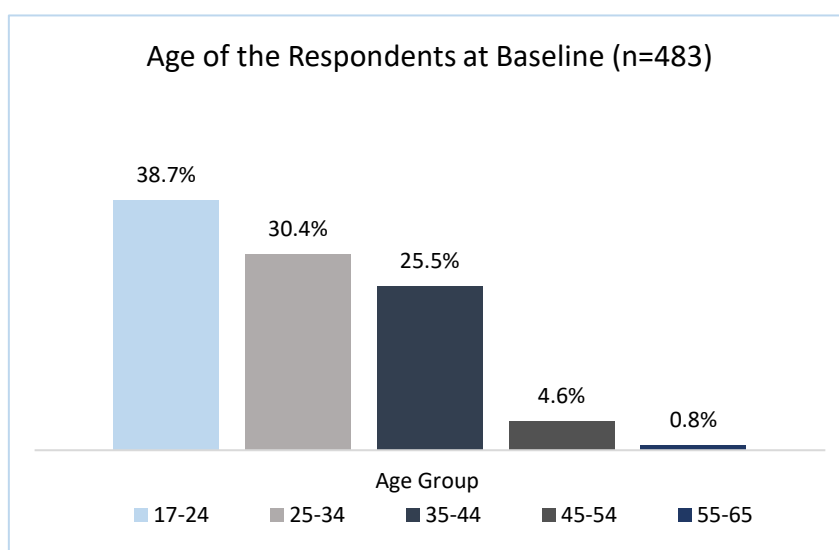


Figure 5 Age of the Respondents at Baseline

Concerning birth certificates, 57.8 per cent of the livelihood participants have a birth certificate. The results are very similar in Bajura (56.8 per cent) and Kanchanpur (58.7 per cent). Nonetheless, there are key gender differences: 45.7 per cent of women in Bajura have a birth certificate, compared to 85.3 per cent of men. Similarly, 51 per cent of women in Kanchanpur have a birth certificate, as compared to 88 per cent of men.

2.2. Education

Educational background and literacy skills are important factors when identifying suitable trades for livelihood participants, as the skills and knowledge required to participate in the trainings differ for each trade. For instance, goat farming and off-season vegetable farming do not require a certain level of education or literacy, which makes them suitable trades for individuals who are illiterate or have minimal education. On the other hand, plumbing and mobile repairing require a certain educational level. During the baseline survey, participants were asked about their schooling and literacy levels (which were reviewed during the beneficiary needs assessment to place participants in suitable trade options according to their skills, interest and market demand).

Overall, 70.2 per cent of participants had attended school and reported that they were literate, (as illustrated by figure 6). The second graph below presents the highest education level attained for the livelihood participants that had attended school.

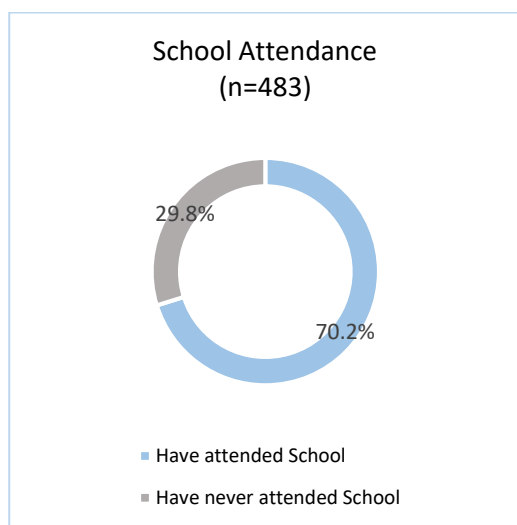


Figure 6 School Attendance

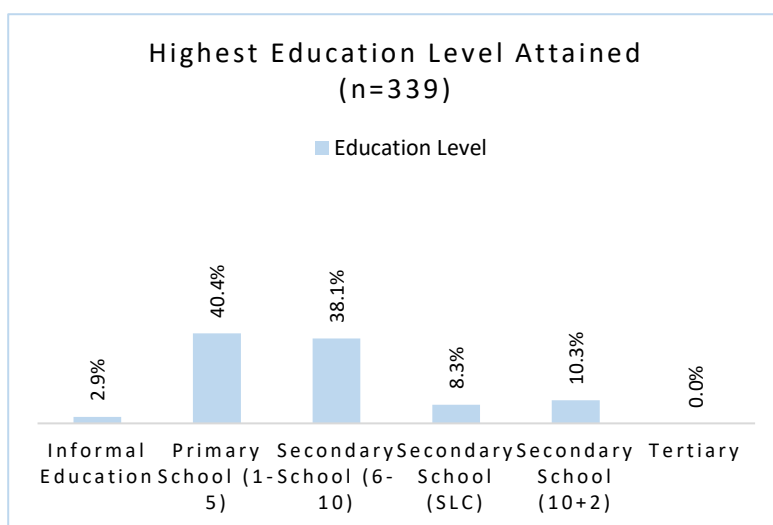


Figure 7 Higher Education Level Attained

The graph below presents school attendance by gender and district. As illustrated by the graph below, relatively few female beneficiaries have attended school in Bajura.

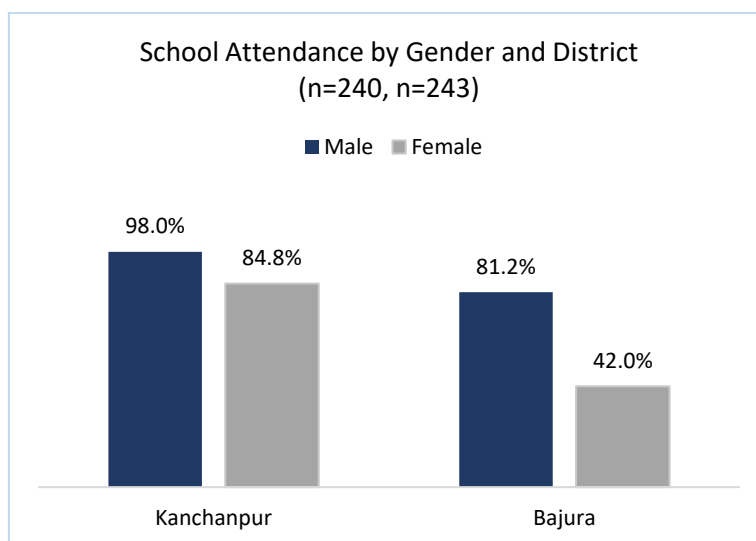


Figure 6 School Attendance by Gender and District

3. MIDLINE SURVEY RESULTS

3.1. LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS, GENDER AND USE OF SKILLS

This section presents the livelihood trainings, use of skills and the participation by livelihood participants in any skills training before the Bridge project intervention.

3.1.1. Livelihood Trainings

The graphs below present the number of livelihood participants by trade and gender for Bajura, followed by Kanchanpur for the livelihood participants supported by the Bridge project.

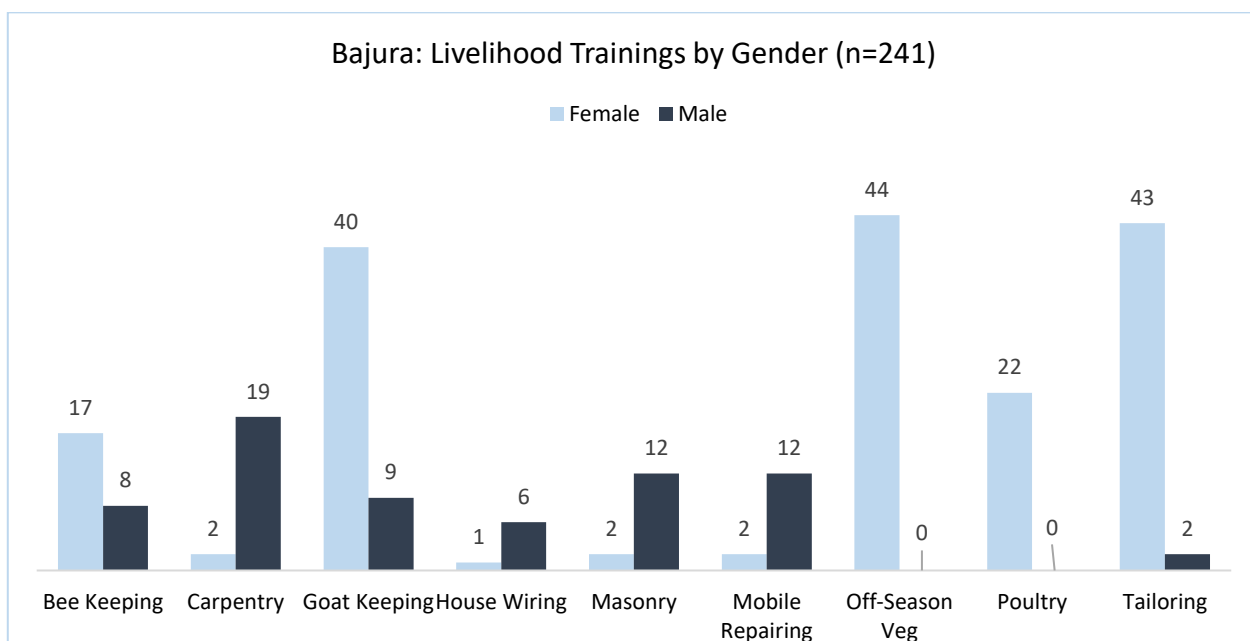


Figure 7 Bajura: Livelihood Trainings by Gender

As illustrated by the graph for Bajura, tailoring, off-season vegetables and goat keeping were the most popular trades. Relatively few women participated in the carpentry, house wiring, masonry and mobile repairing courses. Similarly, relatively few men participated in tailoring, off-season vegetables and poultry farming in Bajura.

One reason for this is that women in Bajura have a lower education level in comparison to the men. When analysing the educational data for Bajura, 58 per cent of female livelihood participants in Bajura did not attend school, in comparison to 18 per cent of men. Off-season vegetable farming, goat keeping and poultry farming – do not require a minimum education level, which helps to explain the reason as to why there are more women engaged in off-season vegetable farming and goat keeping in Bajura. These options have also permitted the Bridge project to target the most vulnerable populations, since some of these trades appear to be both appropriate and lucrative options for the illiterate.

A different picture emerges in Kanchanpur, where a substantial number of women were engaged in trades that have traditionally been “dominated” or reserved for men. Women in Kanchanpur have a higher education level in comparison to their female counterparts in Bajura (since the latter is more remote with fewer educational and training opportunities). In particular, only 15.2 per cent of the female beneficiaries in Kanchanpur have never been to school in comparison to the 58 per cent of beneficiaries that have never been to school in Bajura. The fact that Freed Haliya women are engaged in trades that have traditionally been

reserved for men, illustrates the transformative nature of this livelihood training to prevailing attitudes and practices surrounding gender and ethnic discrimination, which is one of the good practices of this project. One of the female carpentry beneficiaries said: *“At first my husband was reluctant for me to learn carpentry, he said that it might be tough for my physique – but now he sees how much money I earn and he is very proud and telling everyone in the village that his wife is earning money”*⁴.

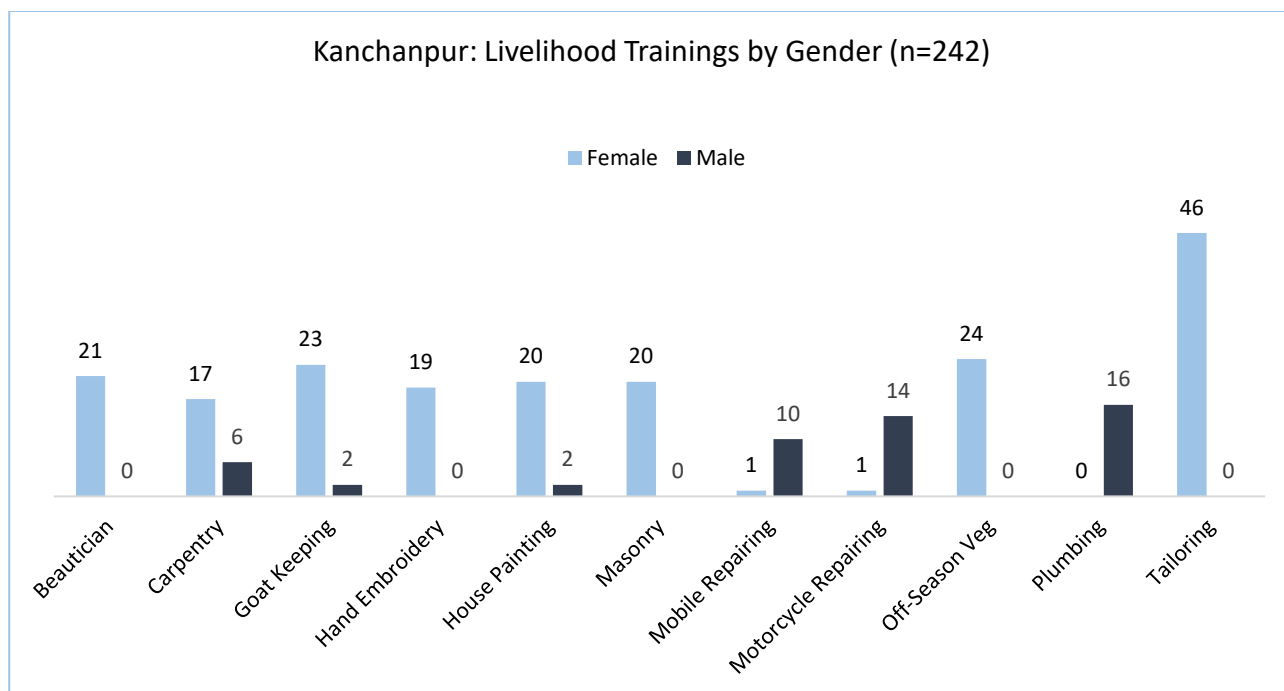


Figure 8 Kanchanpur: Livelihood Trainings by Gender

Furthermore, women were encouraged by the project partners to participate in any trade that they were interested in; eligible for and matched the participant needs assessment and market analysis. Trainers such as UCEP explained that they would have meetings with the families and husbands and show photos of women from previous trainings participating in trainings on traditionally male-dominated trades (and the average amount that they would receive). This usually helped to persuade them to allow a female household member/wife to join the training. Ensuring the support of family members, especially for women, was very important to ensure retention of participants. Family members were also invited to orientation meetings held at the training venues with the trainers, during which the advantages and disadvantages of the trainings (for example, the time commitment) were discussed. The trainings were held twice a week, usually in the afternoon, taking into account the household and family responsibilities of most female participants.

⁴ Beneficiary response during a field visit to Kanchanpur, March 2019

3.1.2. Use of Skills

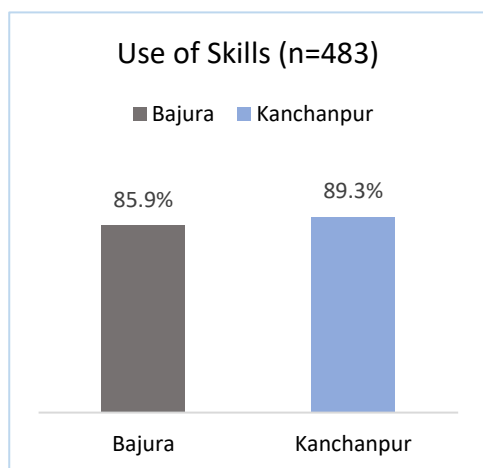


Figure 9 Use of Skills by District

During the midline survey, participants were asked whether they had used the skills from their training they had received within the last 6 months. **87.6 per cent of participants had used the skills** that they had learnt from the training within the last 6 months (85.9 per cent in Bajura and 89.3 per cent in Kanchanpur), which were mostly used at work and at home.

From the 87.6 per cent of participants that had used their skills from the training within the last 6 months, the proportion of livelihood participants that had used their skills for each of the respective trades, is presented in the table below in descending order.

Trade	No. of Participants that have used the trade skill	Total no. of Participants respondents	% Percentage of beneficiaries
Poultry	22	22	100.0
Off-Season Veg	67	68	98.5
Beautician	20	21	95.2
Tailoring	84	91	92.3
Masonry	31	34	91.2
House Painting	20	22	90.9
Hand Embroidery	17	19	89.5
Goat Keeping	65	74	87.8
Motorcycle Repairing	13	15	86.7
Carpentry	37	44	84.1
Mobile Repairing	18	25	72.0
House Wiring	5	7	71.4
Plumbing	10	16	62.5
Bee Keeping	14	25	56.0
Total	423	483	87.6

Table 3 Use of Skills by Trade

As illustrated by the table above, the majority of the participants have used their skills within the last 6 months, particularly those that were trained in poultry, off-season vegetables and beauty. Only 12.4 per cent (60 out of the 483 participants) had not used their trade skill within the last 6 months. The trades with the highest percentage of respondents that have not used their trade-related skills were bee keeping (44%) and plumbing (37.5%).

Respondents were asked why they had not used the skill and the pie chart below illustrates their responses.

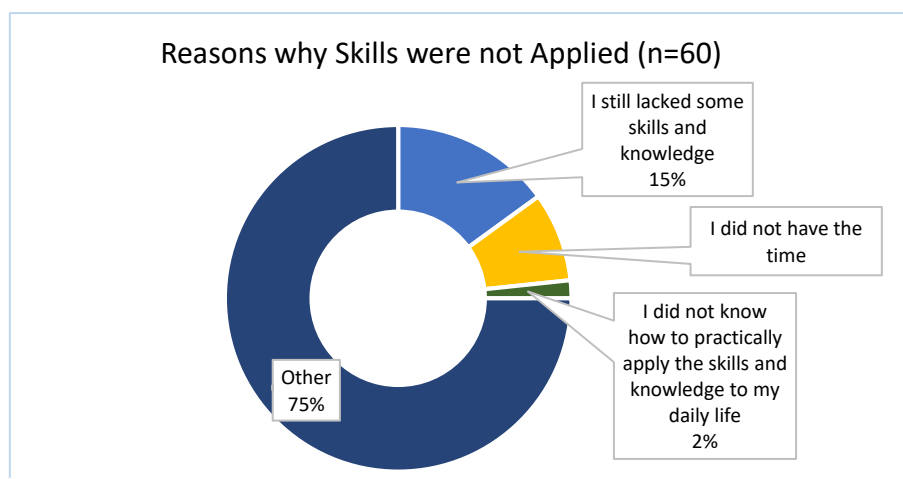


Figure 10 Reasons why skills were not applied

The majority of the participants that had not used the trade skill responded “other” as the reason as to why the skill was not used, and they specified why that was the case, which revealed the following:

- 10 of the 11 bee-keeping participants that had not used their skills, responded that the bees flew away, and the final 1, mentioned that the bees had died;
- 6 of the 9 goat keeping participants said that they had not received their own goat yet, 1 had sold their goat, and the remaining 2 had to travel to India so did not use their skills;
- The 1 off-season vegetable farming participant said that they did not have land; and,
- A few participants had not found work and so were unemployed and had not used their skills.

For the remaining responses: a selected number of participants had health related issues and personal family matters that prevented them from working and others were still studying at college or on a course.

Concerning the **use of life-skills**, **83.6 per cent of the participants that responded (422 out of 483), had used the skills** that they had learnt within the last 6 months. The skills were mainly used at home and work, and related to developing work plans, time management and savings.

The results indicate that 44 per cent of the bee-keeping participants had not used their skills in the past 6 months, due to the bees flying away or dying. Further investigation should be done to also improve the longevity of the bees, and this should be emphasised during the training – to avoid premature death. According to the income data, none of the 11 bee-keeping participants that had not used their skills received any income from the bee-keeping trade, during the 6 months preceding the survey.

There were at least five participants (4 from goat keeping and 1 from tailoring), that responded that they had not yet received all of the equipment. This was because the participants in goat keeping training in Bajura were supposed to receive goats from the municipal government⁵. At the time of the midline survey data collection, the municipality had not yet been able to meet this commitment. Nonetheless, this was resolved shortly after the data collection was completed. The participant from tailoring, who reported not having received the sewing machine, was not present during the time of distributing the sewing machines in Bajura. She received it however, shortly after the midline survey had been collected. Consequently, it is important to monitor closely the distribution of the post-training equipment, which should be done shortly after the training in phase 2 of the livelihood intervention, and to have a procedure in place for beneficiaries that might

⁵ The Badimalika Municipality had publicly announced that it would provide goats to the participants once they completed the training and would also provide the sheds for the goats. Considering this commitment, HRC Bajura suggested that the ILO Bridge Project provide support for building the goat-sheds and medicine and related equipment for the goats instead of the live goats themselves. HRC facilitated each beneficiary to get recommendation letters from the chairperson of respective chiefs of the wards of the municipality and drafted individual Memorandum of Understandings with Badimalika Municipality to expedite the process for the participants to receive the goats.

not be present at the time of material distribution. In addition, it will be important to link off-season vegetable farming participants to available land; otherwise, this might hinder them from utilizing their skills.

3.2. EMPLOYMENT

The livelihoods component of the Bridge project seeks to increase employability of livelihood participants and improve livelihoods. The supporting objective for this component is: “SO 5.1 Forced labor victims with increased livelihood opportunities and access to information on relevant services”. The results concerning the work status of the livelihood participants are presented below.

3.2.1. Work Status

During the midline survey, livelihood participants were asked about their work status within the last 7 days and if they had not done that work within the previous 7 days, whether they had done so at any point within the last 6 months.

- **85.5 per cent of beneficiaries worked for a wage, salary, commission or an in-kind payment within the last 6 months** (49.8 per cent had done so within the last 7 days and an additional 35.7 per cent had done so within the last 6 months).
- **60.4 per cent of beneficiaries ran a business within the last 6 months** (28.4 per cent had done so within the last 7 days and an additional 32.0 per cent within the last 6 months).
- **71.4 per cent of beneficiaries provided unpaid labour to a family business within the last 7 days.**

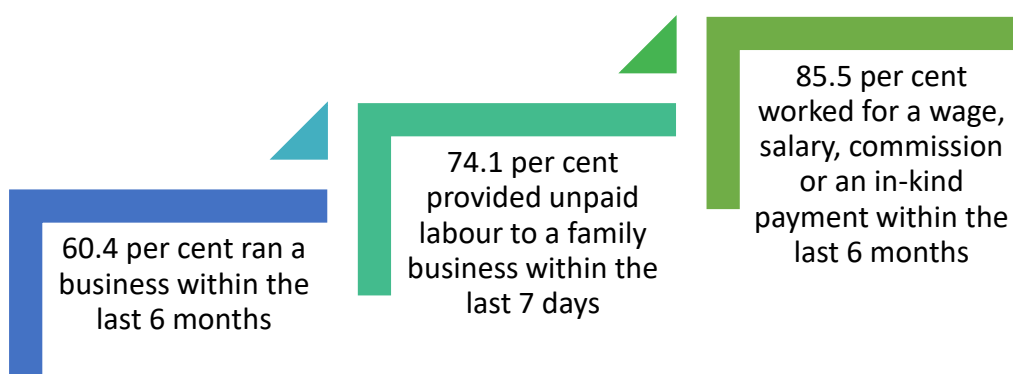


Figure 11 Work Status of Beneficiaries

Overall, **94.8 per cent of beneficiaries had either ran a business, undertook unpaid work or worked for a wage, salary, commission or a payment in kind within the last 6 months**. 5.2 per cent were inactive for the last 6 months and had not undertaken any form of paid or unpaid work. This was primarily due to studies, health issues (sickness, pregnancy, physical accident) and being unable to work. Relatively few responded that this was due to lack of equipment or that there was no work available.

Participants that had run a business, or worked for a wage, salary, commission or a payment in kind within the last 6 months were also asked how they obtained their job. It is interesting to note that before the training, the majority of the participants obtained their work through family/relatives (77.4 per cent), whereas during the midline survey, participants primarily having their own business (62.1 per cent⁶, 53.7 per

⁶ It is worth noting however, that this is slightly lower than the 60.6 per cent of beneficiaries reported to have run a business within the last 6 months, and is likely due to response rates. 482 participants responded to running a business within the last 7 days or 6 months, whereas only 417 responded to the question on how the job was obtained. In addition, different responses were given, for instance some beneficiaries that had their own business got their business through family/relatives and others through friends.

cent of total sample). This may suggest that the Start and Improve Your Own Business course and trainings provided to the livelihood participants might have positively influenced them to start their own business, since only 19.0 per cent of beneficiaries received their work from having their own business at baseline.

How was the job obtained		
Link	Baseline n=483	Midline n=417
Family/Relatives	77.4%	14.6%
Own Business	19.0%	62.1%
Friends	2.9%	18.0%
Neighbour	0.4%	n/a
Recruiter/Contractor	0.2%	4.1%
Through a training placement	0.0%	0.5%
Applied for vacancy	0.0%	0%
Other	0.0%	0.7%

Table 4 How the job was obtained



Figure 12: Hand-embroidery livelihood participant

3.3.INCOME

3.3.1. Income Background

At the start of the Bridge project, the project had the following outcome indicator under the livelihoods component:

OTC 9. *Percentage of individuals that apply the skills they learn from project training during the year following the training*

The use of skills is an important factor to consider with livelihood trainings, in order to understand whether participants are using the skills that they have learnt, and if so, in what capacity. While there are limitations in using it as a proxy indicator for improved livelihoods or increased income, it is still a very helpful in indicating a possible improvement to livelihoods. For instance, the data indicates that the livelihood participants that applied their skills within the 6 months preceding the survey, had income from the trade on which they were trained in 66.4 per cent of the cases. In comparison, the participants that did not apply their skills (60 out of 483 participants) remained without income from the trade on which they were trained in 95 per cent of the cases⁷ (57 out of the 60 participants). The table below shows the average monthly income from the livelihood training for those that applied the skills and those that did not apply the skills by income category.

Percentage of skill application across income categories

	Average monthly income NPR (from livelihood training trade) for the 6 months preceding the midline survey (March-August 2019)								
	no income	1-1000	1001-2000	2001-3000	3001-5000	5001-7000	7001-9000	9001-14000	more than 14000
Skills applied	33.6%	26.5%	18.9%	3.3%	5.7%	2.8%	2.1%	4.3%	2.8%
Skills not applied	95%	3.3%	0%	1.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 5 Skill Application by Income Categories

One of the recommendations from the mid-term evaluation was to include an indicator that “measures increase in the livelihoods as a result of the training, which is the ultimate goal/result”. While attribution of improved livelihoods because of the training is not possible due to the design of the livelihoods intervention (which was not an impact evaluation with a control group/counter-factual), the project attempted to measure improved livelihoods for the livelihood participants and included the following outcome indicator in the CMEP:

OTC 8. *Percentage of livelihood participants with improved livelihoods*

“Improved livelihoods” is defined by the project as either “an increase in income and/or an increase in assets”. For the Nepalese context, it was agreed to use income as the measure for improved livelihoods, as this was more appropriate to the context and target group. Subsequently, a section on income was integrated into the midline survey (which was not present in the baseline survey). Since this is one of two outcome indicators

⁷ Nonetheless, 15 out of the 57 participants that did not apply their skills and did not receive an income from the trade on which they were trained, did receive an income from a second trade.

for the Bridge project under the livelihoods component, before presenting the results it will be important to explain the income component as it pertains to the midline survey.

Firstly, several questions were asked retrospectively in order to supplement the baseline survey data. This included a question on the personal income amount before the livelihood participants started the training. In order to improve the reliability of the retrospective income amount, rather than asking for an exact figure (which is probably harder to remember in hindsight, particularly for those engaged in casual employment), income category options were also given to the respondents if they were unable to provide an estimated amount. For the participants able to provide an estimated amount, their responses were coded according to the respective income category response.

Secondly, as several livelihood participants have more than one income source, it was important for the project to capture income received for the trade on which they were trained and income received from a second trade to have a clearer idea of the participants' total personal income amount. For this reason, the midline survey requested the income amount for the month preceding the survey for the trade on which they were trained and also for any second trade (where relevant). This was also important to capture, as it is possible that the skills learnt during the training are also being used and applied to their second trades.

Furthermore, several of the livelihood trades have a seasonality aspect to consider, which influences the income flow and peaks. For instance, the harvest season for off-season vegetables is usually August-October; however, livelihood participants from off-season vegetable farming often receive their highest income during the off-season months (February-April). On the other hand, bee keeping when they sell the honey that is usually (October-November); beauticians might have a higher income before the festival periods, so the income amount will change depending on when you survey the participants. For this reason, the survey included a 6-month overview of the income received for each of the participants. Consequently, in addition to the last months income amount, participants were also asked about their income amount from the trade on which they were trained for each of the previous 6 months. This was particularly important to capture given the nature and the number of livelihood training options that were provided, which were 14 in total. The total estimated monthly income for any other trade for the last 6 months was also requested.

In addition, to supplement the baseline income and midline income data – a question was also asked on the perspective of the livelihood participant regarding whether they perceived a change in their income since the start of the training and also within the last 6 months. If the respondent responded positively to there being an increase in their income within the last 6 months – they were asked why they thought that was the case. Several of these aspects are analysed and reviewed in the subsequent sections.

3.3.2. Source of income

The survey results revealed that the majority of the livelihood participants were reliant on their dependents and relatives for their main source of income before the training. This had reduced to 12 per cent after the training.

Main Source of Income Before the Training (n=483)	Own farm	Own business	Salary/ Wages	Dependent/ Relatives	No income received
	9.3%	18.8%	21.7%	48.7%	1.4%

Table 6 Main Income Source

When we examine the sectoral activity in which participants were engaged at baseline, the top three were 1) Domestic work (42.9%), 2) Agriculture (23.4%) and Construction (19.7%). This includes both paid and unpaid work, and focuses on any activity related to the sectors below.

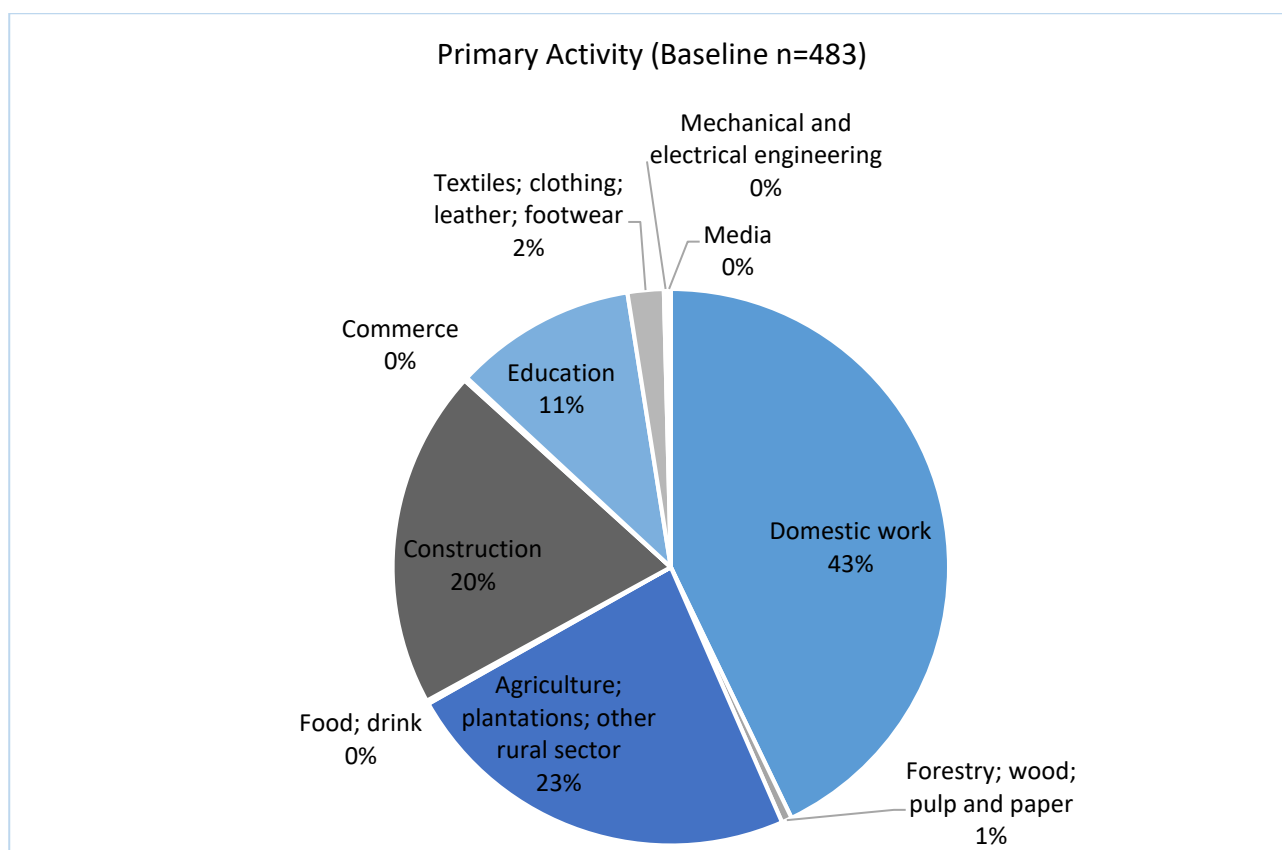


Figure 13 Primary Activity at Baseline

Before the training, respondents were also asked whether they had perceived any changes in their income over the 6 months. 97.7% of respondents reported that their income had remained the same.

3.3.3. Personal monthly income before the training

Before the training, 51.3 per cent of participants (248) had no income. By the midline survey, **more than half of the livelihood beneficiaries that had no income at baseline, reported that they had received an income** the previous month (56 per cent, 139). Overall, 49.6 per cent (123) received their income from the trade they received a training on and 6.5 per cent (16 participants) from another trade.

The graph below, presents the mean income that participants received from their respective trades, within the last month of the survey, by trade.

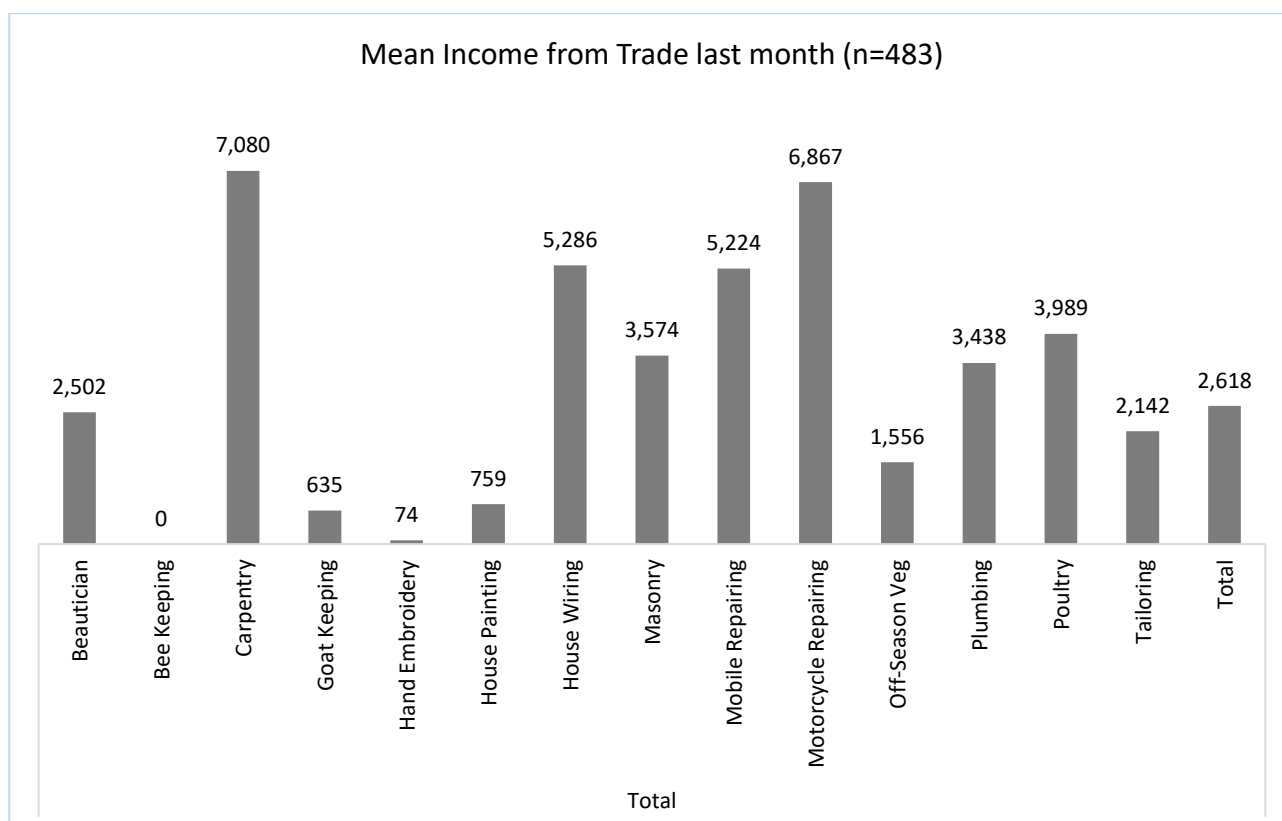


Figure 14 Mean Income from Trade last month

As illustrated by the graph, the income amount is highest for those engaged in carpentry (NPR 7,080 = USD 67.92), house wiring (NPR 5,286 = USD 50.71), mobile repairing (NPR 5,224 = USD 50.12) and motorcycle repairing (NPR 6,867 = USD 65.88). In 2018, Nepal increased its minimum wage to NPR 13,450 a month, representing a 39 per cent increase since last revision (NPR 8,455 in salaries and NPR 4,995 in allowances)⁸. The minimum wage for those working on tea estates was NPR 10,781 (which used to be NPR 6,375 in 2016). This indicates that the income received from the trades are still lower than the present minimum monthly wage (standard in both rural and urban areas), when considering only the income from the trade on which they were trained.

The graphs below present the income received last month by trade for both of the districts. While the mean income received by some trades differ quite significantly (for instance carpentry in Bajura had a higher income in comparison to their trade counterparts in Kanchanpur), the mean income amount for the districts (Bajura is 2,895.20 and 2,354.75 in Kanchanpur) is not drastically different.

⁸ <https://thehimalayantimes.com/business/minimum-monthly-wage-for-workers-set-at-rs-13450/> and <https://www.spotlightnepal.com/2019/05/22/application-minimum-wages-nepal-challenges-and-opportunities/>

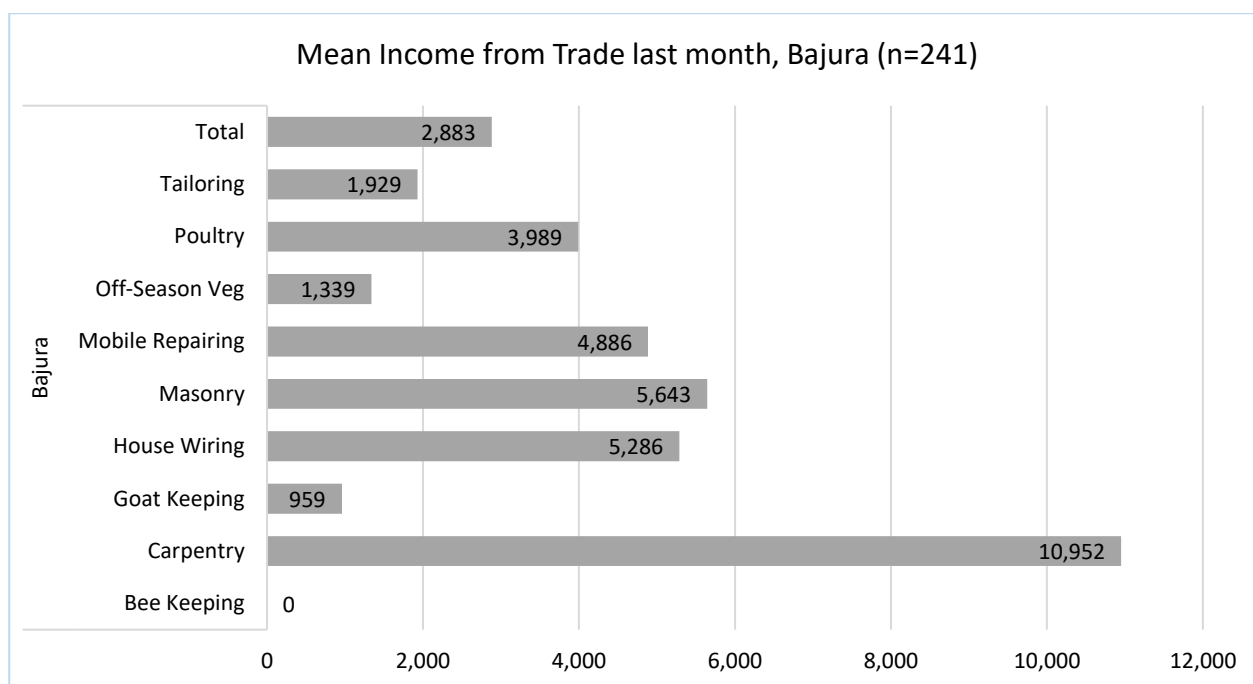


Figure 15 Mean Income from Trade last month, Bajura

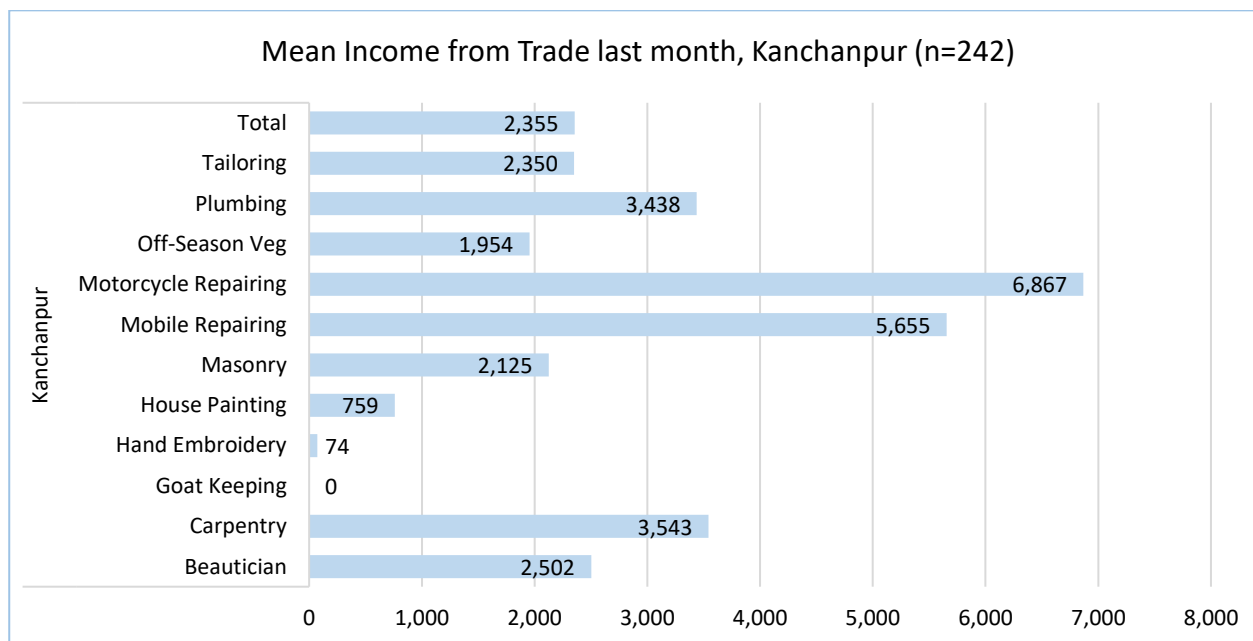


Figure 16 Mean Income from Trade last month, Kanchanpur

As mentioned in the introduction to this section, the livelihood participants were also asked about their second income. The total mean income that livelihood participants received last month from the trade on which they were trained and from an additional/secondary trade is presented below (with an indication of the amount received from the trade on which they were trained).

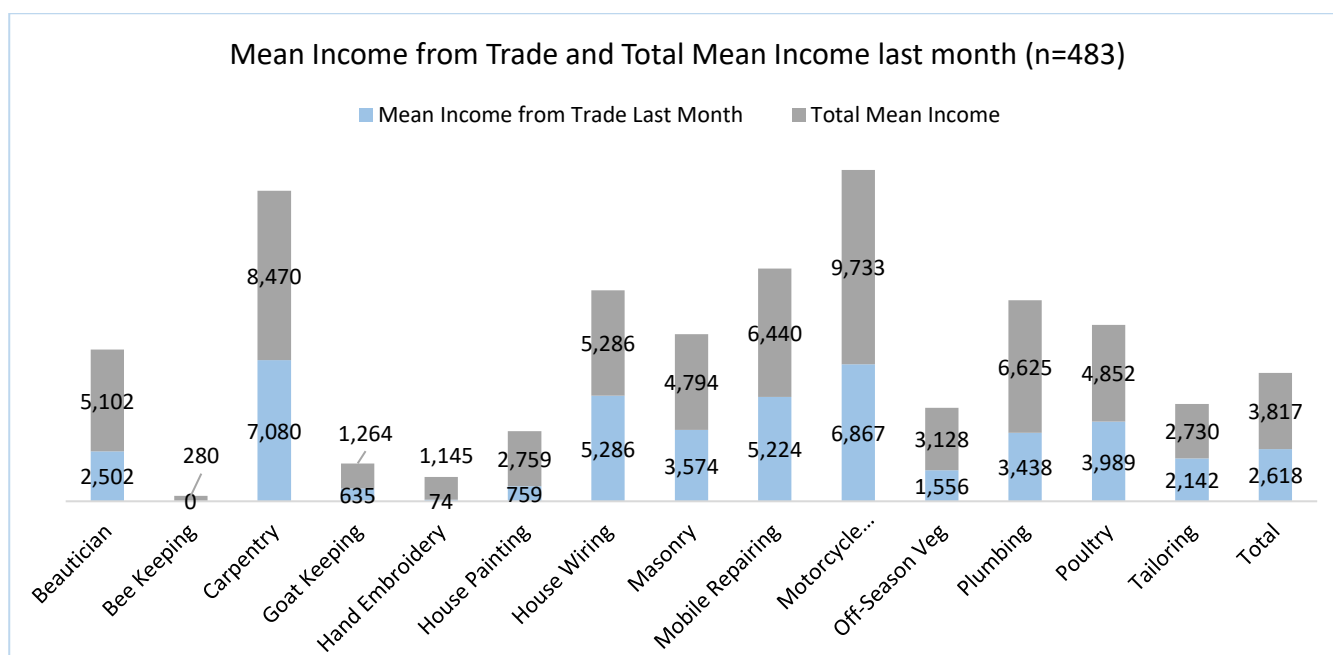


Figure 17 Mean Income from Trade and Total Mean Income

The results suggest that the majority of livelihood participants receive a significant portion of the income from the trade on which they were trained, except for the trades that produced a lower income. The latter is the case for the beautician, bee keeping, hand embroidery, house painting and off-season vegetable trades, which all have a second income that outweighs the income received from the trade that they were trained on by the project. This could indicate that the income received from these trades is not a living wage, and has to be supplemented by a secondary activity; or it might suggest that the time requirements for the second trade might have inhibited participants from reaching the full economic potential of the trades on which they were trained. It is also worth noting that the majority of participants for beautician, off-season vegetable and house painting are women. Since women often have other responsibilities within the household, this might also factor in as to why they might not have reached their full earning potential on the trade. As a result, further investigation will need to be done to understand the reasons for the low income for these trades.

Occupation	Total Mean Income (Both Trades)	N	Std. Deviation
Beautician	1,122.62	21	2312.785
Bee Keeping	0.00	25	0
Carpentry	5,659.09	44	9104.689
Goat Keeping	153.15	74	567.2149
Hand Embroidery	158.77	19	397.3822
House Painting	1,060.61	22	1609.738
House Wiring	3,085.71	7	4236.913
Masonry	3,389.22	34	4775.238
Mobile Repairing	3,813.33	25	5150.436
Motorcycle Repairing	5,388.89	15	5854.017
Off-Season Veg	1,247.09	68	1039.049
Plumbing	2,869.79	16	4494.215
Poultry	1,500.00	22	552.6511
Tailoring	1,314.49	91	2142.029
Total	1,877.01	483	4070.176

Table 7 Total Mean Income by Trade

3.3.4. Changes in Income

As mentioned in the introduction of this section, livelihood participants were asked *during the midline survey* for their income category before they started the training. This was on the assumption that livelihood participants would often find it easier to remember the income category (that their income was between amount x and amount y) rather than remember a specific income amount. During the midline survey, participants were also asked for their mean income from the previous month (from the trade on which they were trained) and then separately on any additional trade that they had (to produce an overall mean income). The midline income amounts were categorised into the same categories listed in the baseline survey, to allow for comparison. The graph below presents the results of the reported income changes, based only on the income received within the last month from the trade on which they were trained.

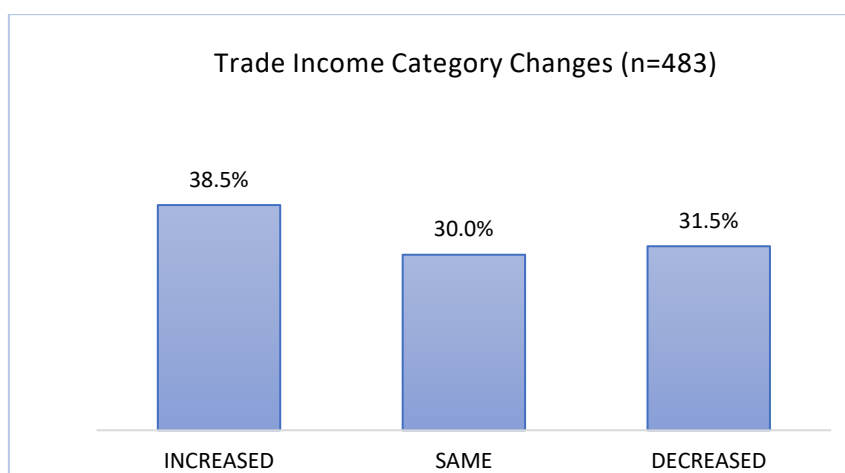


Figure 18 Trade Income Category Changes

As illustrated by the graph, based on the baseline and midline income (from trade) category, 38.5 per cent of participants experienced an income category increase, 30.0 per cent stayed in the same income category and 31.5 per cent moved to a lower income category. It is worth mentioning that this method of income categories does not allow us to monitor the change within the income category for those that stayed in the same income category. This means, that it is possible that some participants would have experienced an increase in the actual income but that this was not sufficient to move them/push them into the next income category. The graph below presents the findings by district.

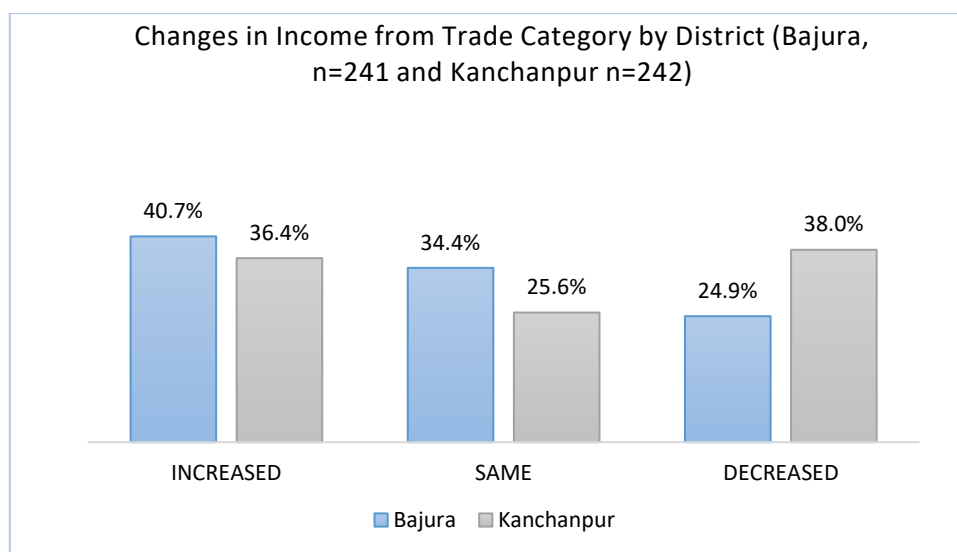


Figure 19 Changes in Income from Trade Category by District

It is worth delving into this further to understand income increases according to the specific trades. The graph below, presents the proportion of livelihood participants for each individual trade that experienced an increase in their income category (from the trade on which they were trained).

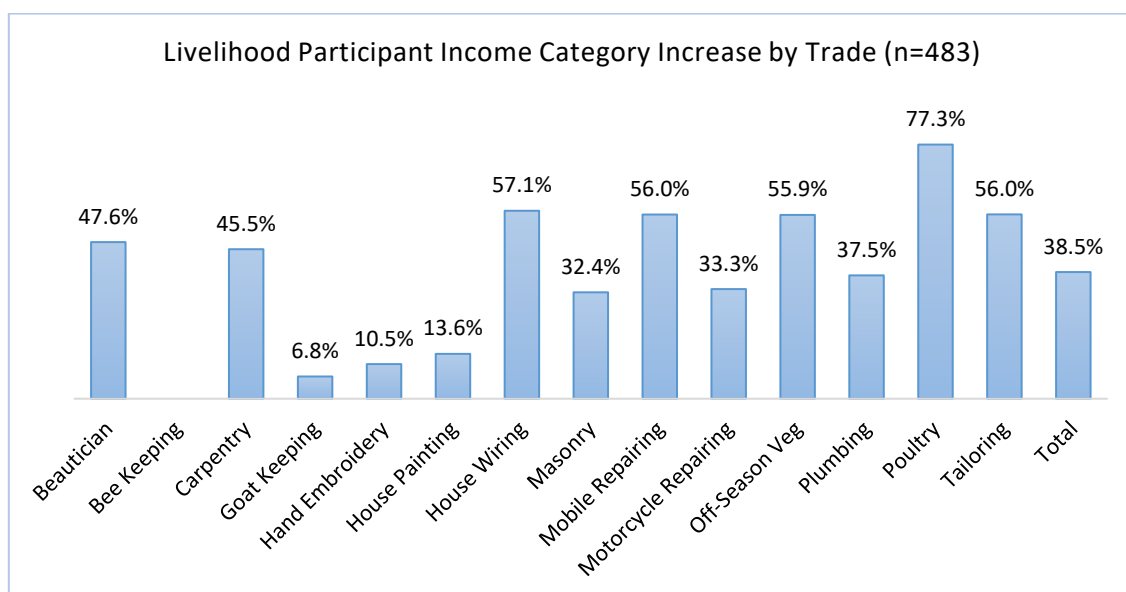


Figure 20 Livelihood Participant Income Category Increase by Trade

The majority of participants engaged in poultry farming experienced an income increase (77.3 per cent). From the 22 participants that attended the poultry-farming training, 7 (31.8 per cent) had no income at baseline and did receive an income from the trade after the training. Overall 17 of the 22 increased their income, while 1 stayed the same and the other 4 experienced a decrease. The graph also illustrates that very few participants engaged in goat-keeping, hand embroidery and house-painting experienced an income increase, while none of the bee-keeping participants experienced an increase (as none of the participants received an income from bee-keeping).

The graphs below present the trade income changes, by trade for Bajura, followed by Kanchanpur.

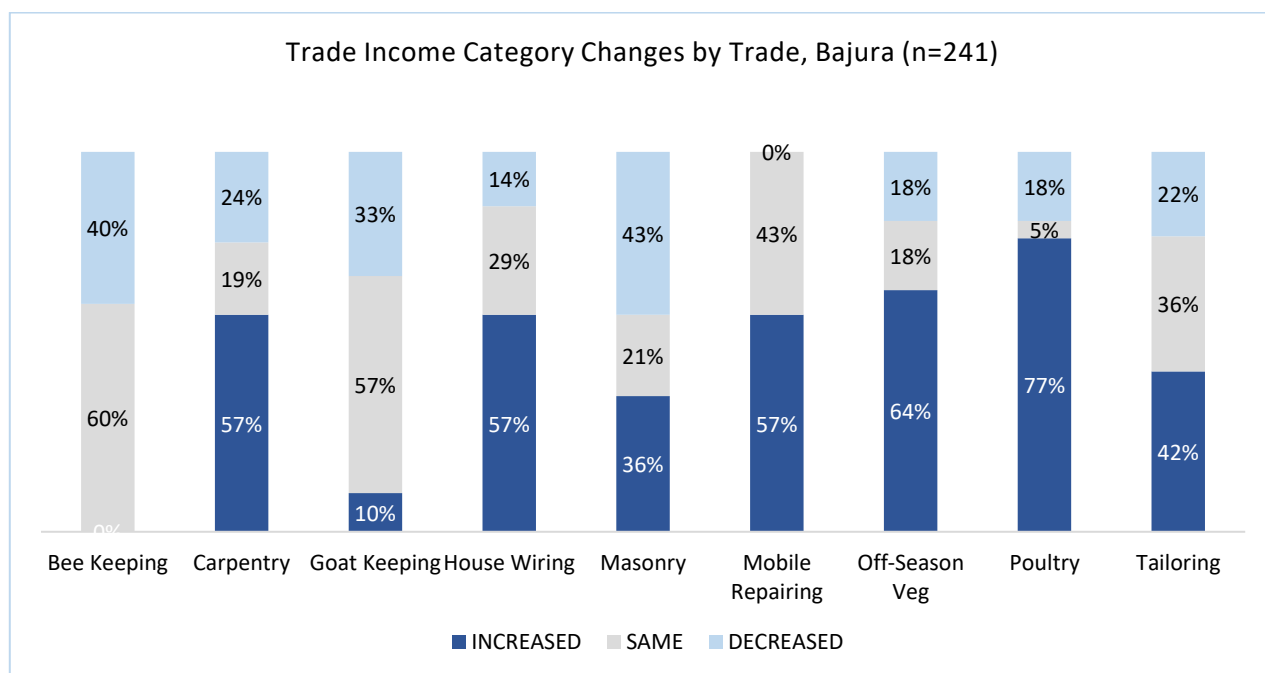


Figure 21 Trade Income Category Changes by Trade, Bajura

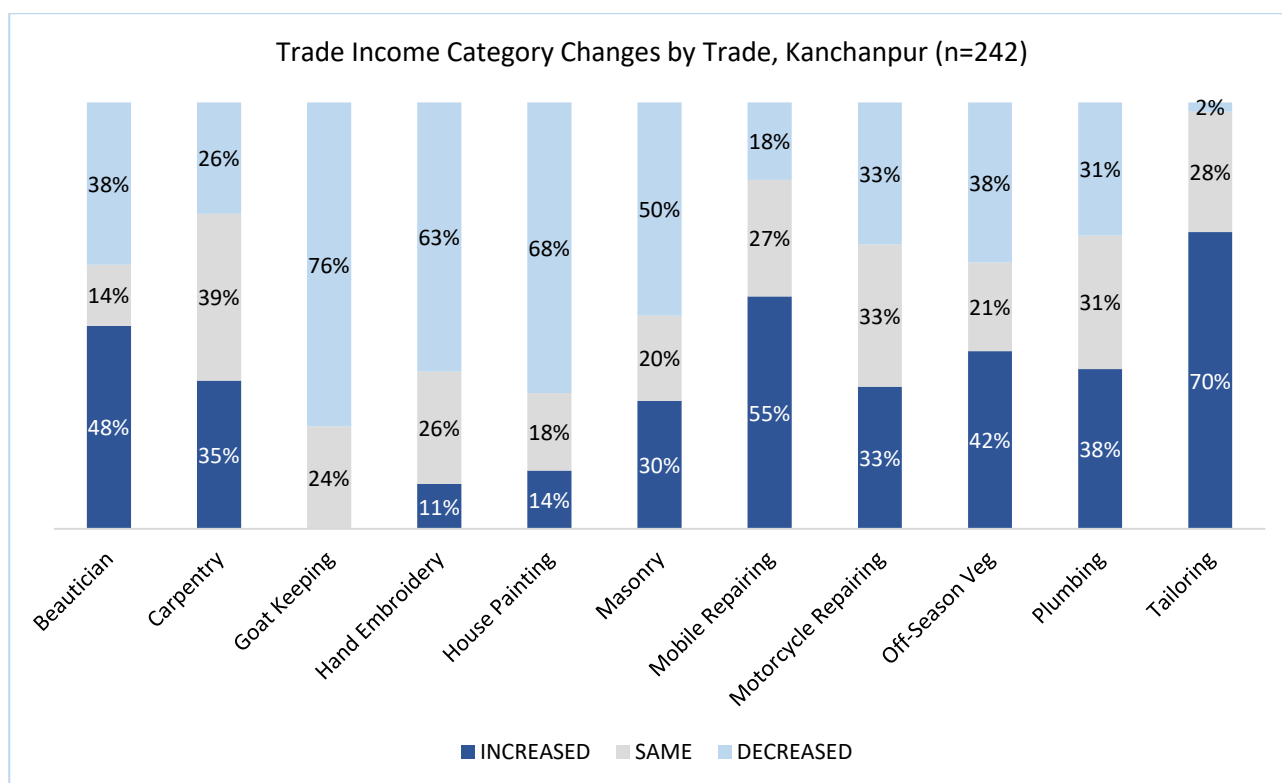


Figure 22 Trade Income Category Changes by Trade, Kanchanpur

It is interesting to note, that goat-keeping participants in Bajura have earned more from the trade in comparison to their goat-keeping counterparts in Kanchanpur. One explanation for this is the fact that the goat-farmers in Bajura had already been practicing goat rearing before they had to training, which was not the case for the participants in Kanchanpur. The training as a result, improved the knowledge of the participants in Bajura to enable them to increase their income from goat keeping. Furthermore, there are key differences in the type of land available; Bajura has more land and grass for pasturing, in comparison to Kanchanpur, which has less grass.

The cross-table below presents the percentage of beneficiaries for each income category at baseline and midline.

Income Category (n=483)		Midline								
		No Income	1-1000	1001-2000	2001-3000	3001-5000	5001-7000	7001-9000	9001-14000	>14000
Baseline	No Income	25.9%	8.1%	6.8%	2.7%	3.1%	0.6%	1.2%	0.8%	2.1%
	1-1000	1.9%	0.4%	0.8%		0.4%	0.2%		0.2%	
	1001-2000	7.0%	1.2%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.2%		0.2%	0.2%
	2001-3000	7.5%		1.4%	0.6%	1.9%	0.6%	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%
	3001-5000	5.0%	1.0%	0.6%	0.2%	1.2%	0.4%	0.6%	0.2%	1.4%
	5001-7000	1.7%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%			1.0%	0.2%	0.4%
	7001-9000	1.4%							0.4%	0.4%
	9001-14000	0.6%	0.4%		0.4%				0.2%	0.2%
	>14000								0.2%	0.6%
	Total	50.9%	11.4%	11.0%	5.2%	7.5%	2.1%	3.1%	2.9%	6.0%

Table 8 Percentage of Beneficiaries by Income Category (baseline and midline)

The table shows that before the training, 51.3 per cent of beneficiaries had no income. By the midline, only 25.9 per cent of beneficiaries that had no income at baseline also had no income at midline. The data shows that at the midline there were more beneficiaries in higher income categories compared to the baseline. For instance at baseline, 0.8 per cent of beneficiaries had an income of more than 14,000, which had increased to 6.0 per cent by the midline. Furthermore, 1.9 per cent of beneficiaries had an income of 9001-14000 at baseline which had increased to 2.9 per cent by the midline; and, 2.3 per cent had an income between 7001-9000 at baseline, which had slightly increased to 3.1 per cent by the midline survey).

While there were notable increases in the income categories, there is still quite a large percentage of beneficiaries within the lower spectrum of the income scale. Additionally, the data reveals that 50.9 per cent of the beneficiaries had no trade income after the training. This is likely to be driven by the beneficiaries engaged in bee keeping and other trades for which relatively few beneficiaries received an income. The table below sheds further light on this, presenting the percentage of livelihood participants in each category by trade.

Trade Income Category by Trade (n=483)									
	No Income	1-1000	1001- 2000	2001- 3000	3001- 5000	5001- 7000	7001- 9000	9001- 14000	>14000
Beautician	19.0%	47.6%	19.0%		9.5%				4.8%
Bee Keeping	100.0%								
Carpentry	43.2%	4.5%	4.5%	2.3%	6.8%	4.5%	2.3%	4.5%	27.3%
Goat Keeping	91.9%				4.1%	1.4%		1.4%	1.4%
Hand Embroidery	89.5%	10.5%							
House Painting	81.8%		9.1%		4.5%			4.5%	
House Wiring	42.9%		14.3%		14.3%				28.6%
Masonry	64.7%		2.9%		8.8%		5.9%	2.9%	14.7%
Mobile Repairing	44.0%	4.0%	8.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	16.0%	12.0%
Motorcycle Repairing	40.0%		6.7%	6.7%	6.7%		6.7%	13.3%	20.0%
Off-Season Veg	19.1%	30.9%	23.5%	14.7%	10.3%	1.5%			
Plumbing	43.8%		18.8%	12.5%			12.5%	6.3%	6.3%
Poultry		13.6%	18.2%	13.6%	31.8%	13.6%	4.5%	4.5%	
Tailoring	36.3%	17.6%	18.7%	7.7%	7.7%	2.2%	7.7%	1.1%	1.1%
Total	50.9%	11.4%	11.0%	5.2%	7.5%	2.1%	3.1%	2.9%	50.9%

Table 9 Trade Income Category by Trade

As illustrated by the table above, the trades with the highest proportion of livelihood participants with no income at midline were bee keeping (100 per cent), goat-keeping (91.9 per cent), hand embroidery (89.5 per cent) and house painting (81.8 per cent). The rest were all significantly lower in comparison, with poultry not having any participants without an income from the trade. As mentioned earlier, many of the bees died and flew away which led to the bee-keeping participants not having income. Further analysis revealed that there were several lessons to be learnt from the bee-keeping training. For example, the bees were provided just before the rainy season; this is not the ideal time to distribute bees. During the training, the theory and good practices on how to care for the bees during the rainy season and when there were no flowers were taught, however by the time the bees were distributed this had been forgotten by some due to the time gap between the training and the distribution.

While the bee-keeping reasons for the no-income was clear, the reason that few participants from goat-keeping, hand-embroidery and house-painting needs to be better understood. One response for the goat-farming, might be because not everyone had their own goat and were sharing goats due to the delays in goat provision for a few of the beneficiaries (at least 4), while at least one of the hand-embroidery participants had not received their sewing machine on time. During anecdotal discussions with house-painting participants, some mentioned that the level 1 CTJET training was not competitive and that they needed level 2 to improve their employment prospects and income-earning capacity.

It is also worth noting that the results of the income categories by trade are quite mixed, for instance, while 27.3 per cent of carpentry beneficiaries had an income of more than 14,000 - 43.2 per cent from the same trade had no income. Specifically, 28.6 per cent from house wiring also had an income of more than 14,000, whilst 42.9 per cent had no income from the same trade. For this reason, it is clear that further research needs to be done to understand why some livelihood beneficiaries seem to fare better in comparison to others. This will be done through the case studies exercise that is being undertaken and through semi-structured interviews. Furthermore, cross-knowledge sharing experiences will also be promoted during phase 2 of the livelihoods, which will provide an opportunity for those who have obtained higher incomes to share their knowledge and likewise, those who received less income, to share their challenges.

The table below presents the percentages of livelihood participants that had no income at baseline, midline and both baseline & midline by trade. **There has been an overall reduction in the percentage of livelihood beneficiaries with no income between baseline and midline for the following 7 of the 12 trades: beauty, house wiring, mobile repairing, motorcycle repairing, off-season vegetables, poultry, and, tailoring.**

Trade	Participants with No Trade Income (n=483)				Total No. of Participants
	Baseline %	Midline %	Percentage point change	Baseline and Midline %	
Beautician	52.4 (11)	19.0 (4)	-33.4	9.5 (2)	21
Bee keeping	60.0 (15)	100.0 (25)	+40	60.0 (15)	25
Carpentry	31.8 (14)	43.2 (19)	+11.4	22.7 (10)	44
Goat Keeping	48.6 (36)	91.9 (68)	+43.3	44.6 (33)	74
Hand Embroidery	36.8 (7)	89.5 (17)	+52.7	26.3 (5)	19
House Painting	27.3 (6)	81.8 (18)	+54.5	13.6 (3)	22
House Wiring	71.4 (5)	42.9 (3)	-28.5	28.6 (2)	7
Masonry	23.5 (8)	64.7 (22)	+41.2	17.6 (6)	34
Mobile repairing	72.0 (18)	44.0 (11)	-28.0	36.0 (9)	25
Motorcycle repairing	53.3 (8)	40.0 (6)	-13.3	26.7 (4)	15
Off-Season vegetable	52.9 (36)	19.1 (13)	-33.8	10.3 (7)	68
Plumbing	43.8 (7)	43.8 (7)	0	18.8 (3)	16
Poultry	31.8 (7)	0	-31.8	0	22
Tailoring	76.9 (70)	36.3 (33)	40.6	28.6 (26)	91
Total	51.3 (248)	50.9 (246)	-0.4	25.9 (125)	483

Table 10 Participants with No Trade Income by Trade

3.3.5. Total Income

As mentioned earlier, participants were also asked about income from a possible second trade. Due to the seasonality of the trades, secondary trades (such as any trade that they were not trained on by the project) should be encouraged. During anecdotal discussions, several participants explained that the skills that were learnt from the livelihoods training were also useful for their secondary trades, especially regarding business

planning. For this reason, it is worth also analysing the results of the livelihood training based on the total income received by the livelihood participants, which compliments the income received from the trade on which they were trained.

The section below presents the findings for the **total income** (income from the trade on which they were trained AND income from a second trade).

The table below presents the total income category at the midline compared to the baseline.

	Total income (trade and any other trade)								
	no income	1-1000	1001-2000	2001-3000	3001-5000	5001-7000	7001-9000	9001-14000	more than 14000
Baseline	51.3%	3.9%	11.6%	13.3%	10.8%	4.1%	2.3%	1.9%	0.8%
Midline	39.8%	8.7%	11.6%	6.0%	11.0%	4.8%	3.7%	6.6%	7.9%

Table 11 Total Income Category (baseline and midline)

As indicated above, the **percentage of participants that had no income before the training, decreased from 51.3 per cent to 39.8 per cent⁹ (11.5 percentage points decrease)** when we examine the total income. In addition to the percentage of participants with no income being significantly lower at midline, there is also a higher percentage of livelihood participants at the upper end of the income category scale, as compared to the baseline. For instance, 7.9 per cent of participants have an income of more than 14,000 as compared to only 0.8 per cent at baseline. Similarly, 6.6 per cent have an income of 9001-14,000, compared to only 1.9 per cent at baseline. While the income has improved, there is still a significant portion of the beneficiaries at the lower end of the income spectrum. The table below presents the full picture for the total income at midline as compared to baseline.

Total Income Category (n=483)		Midline								
		No Income	1-1000	1001-2000	2001-3000	3001-5000	5001-7000	7001-9000	9001-14000	>14000
Baseline	No Income	22.6%	6.8%	7.0%	3.3%	4.8%	1.4%	1.4%	1.9%	2.1%
	1-1000	1.4%	0.6%	0.8%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	3.9%
	1001-2000	5.0%	0.8%	1.9%	0.6%	1.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.8%	0.6%
	2001-3000	5.6%	0.0%	0.8%	1.0%	1.2%	2.1%	0.0%	1.7%	0.8%
	3001-5000	2.9%	0.2%	0.6%	0.6%	2.7%	0.4%	1.0%	0.6%	1.7%
	5001-7000	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.6%	0.2%	1.0%	0.6%	0.8%
	7001-9000	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%
	9001-14000	0.6%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%
	>14000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
	Total	39.8%	8.7%	11.6%	6.0%	11.0%	4.8%	3.7%	6.6%	7.9%

Table 12 Total Income Category (baseline and midline cross-table)

The graph below presents the changes in income category according the total income received, as compared to the income category before the training.

⁹ As previous mentioned, when we consider only the income from the trade on which participants were trained – 50.9 per cent of beneficiaries had no income from the trade

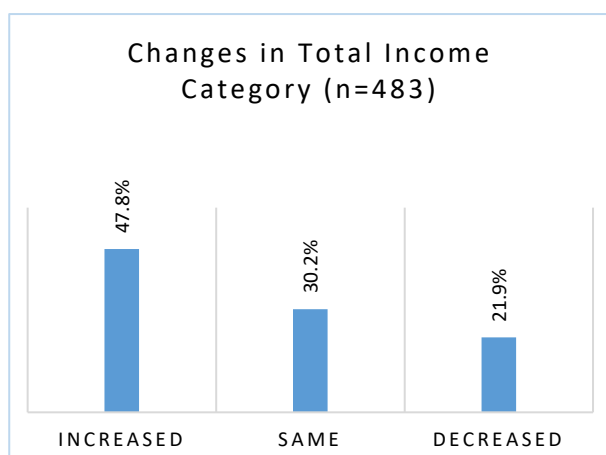


Figure 23 Changes in Total Income Category

When comparing participant's income bracket at baseline to their income bracket at midline (for trade training and any other trade), **47.8 per cent of beneficiaries experienced an income increase (231 participants)**. The income bracket remained the same for 30.2 per cent of participants (146) and 21.9 per cent (106) reported a decrease. As mentioned earlier, the participants whose income remained the same might have still increased, however the actual income amount after the training was not sufficient to reach the next income bracket. The graph below presents the change in total income category, by district.

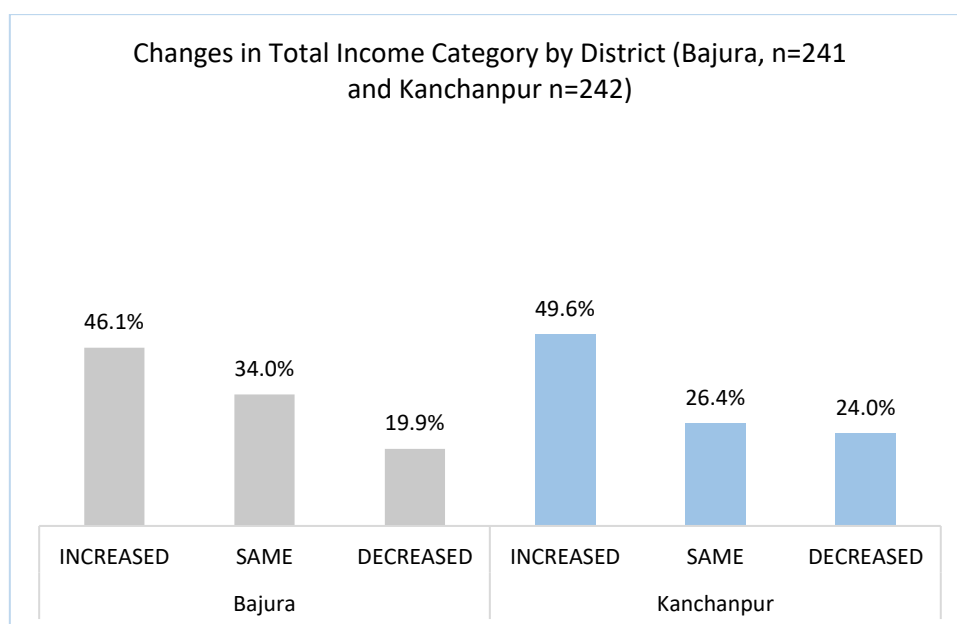


Figure 24 Changes in Total Income Category by District

Participants were also asked about whether they felt that their total income had changed since the training and within the last 6 months. It is important to note that the questions on income before training, income in last month and perception on changes in income were not sequenced one after the other. If these questions had in fact been sequenced, it is possible that their response would have been influenced by the responses, rather than enabling a triangulation of the information to understand income amounts and how this relates to their perception of their income.

The overall results based on the perceived income changes are presented below, including the baseline response.

Perceived Income Changes according to the Respondents	BASELINE (before the training (n=483))	MIDLINE Since the training (n=482)	MIDLINE Within the last 6 months (n=483)
Increased	1.7	55.0	59.4
Stayed the Same	97.7	44.6	40.6
Decreased	0.6	0.4	0.0

Table 13 Perceived Income Changes

Over 90 per cent of the participants (209 of the 231) that experienced an income increase reported that they felt that they perceived that their income had increased since the training. 78.1 per cent of the

participants, whose income had stayed the same, reported that they felt that their income had stayed the same since the training. Interestingly, only 1.9 per cent of the participants who according to the income brackets experienced a decrease in their income reported that they felt that their income had decreased. Instead, the majority of participants that had an income decrease (74.5 per cent) said they perceived their income had stayed the same.

The graph below presents the percentage of livelihood participants within each trade that experienced an increase in their total income category (by trade). The results for this by the trade income is presented on pages 25-26.

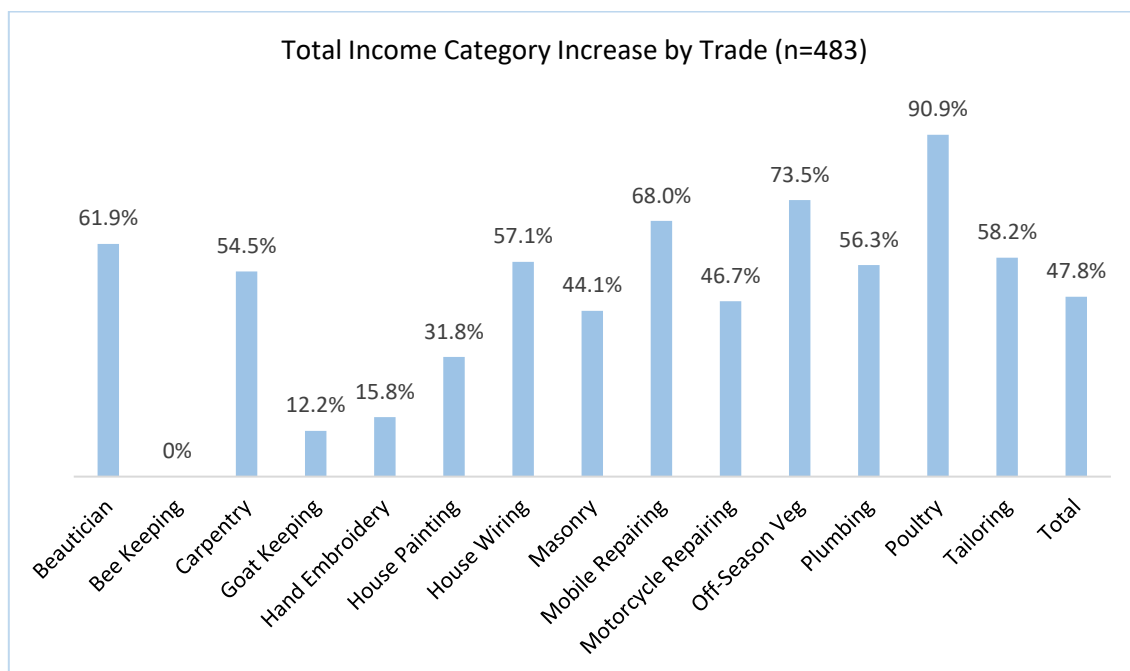


Figure 25 Total Income Category Increase by Trade

The graphs below present the change in the total income categories for Bajura followed by Kanchanpur.

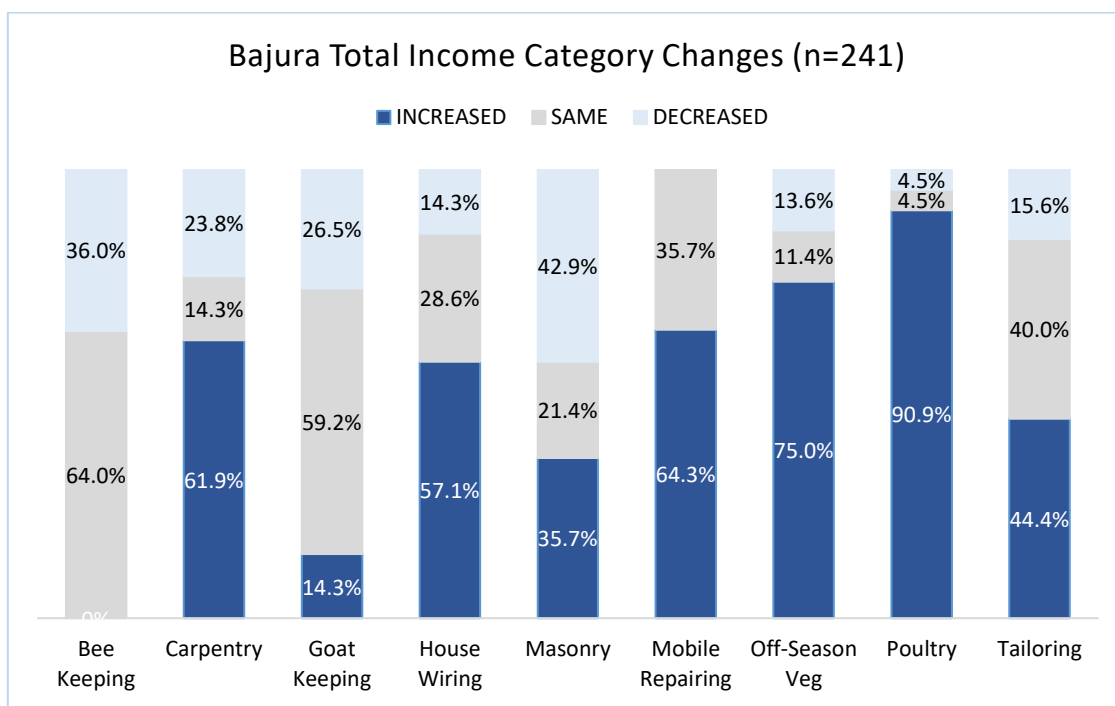


Figure 26 Bajura Total Income Category Changes

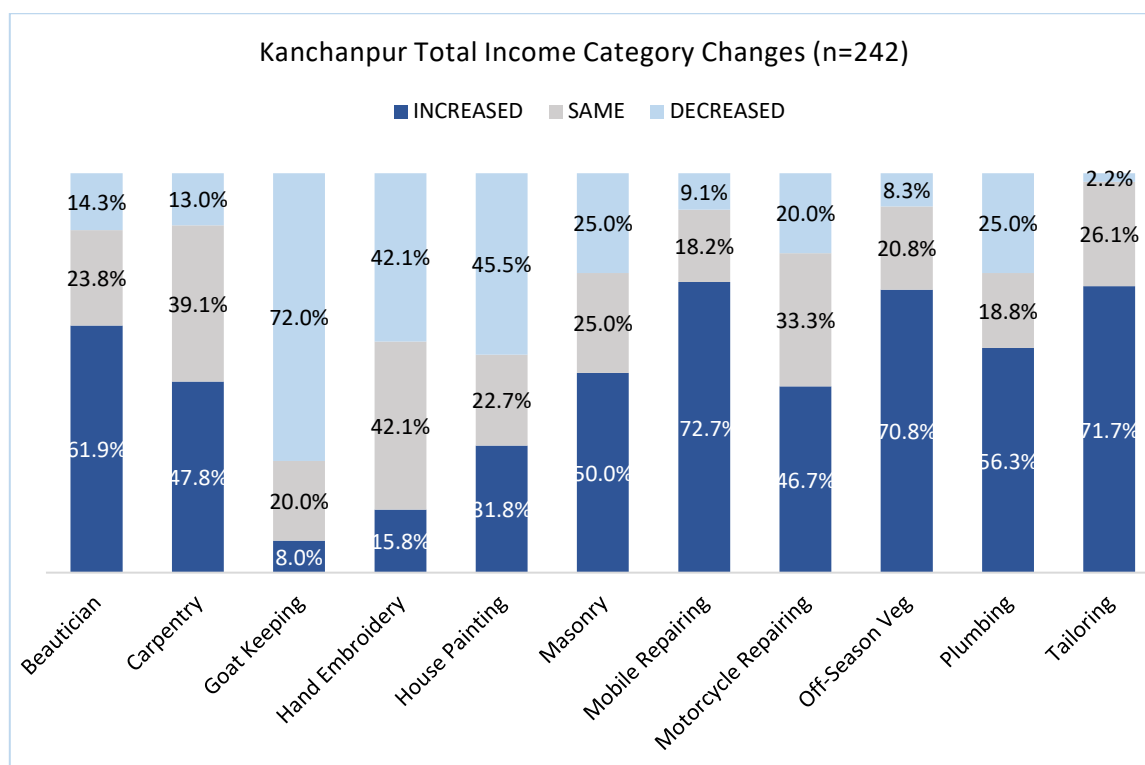


Figure 27 Kanchanpur Total Income Category Changes

Bajura and Kanchanpur have 6 trades that are the same, the table below presents the respective total income increases reported for the same trades by their respective participants for both districts. Both districts had a high proportion of participants from carpentry, mobile-repairing and off-season vegetables that increased their income.

	Increased (Bajura)	Increased (Kanchanpur)
Carpentry	61.9%	47.8%
Goat Keeping	14.3%	8.0%
Masonry	35.7%	50.0%
Mobile Repairing	64.3%	72.7%
Off-Season Veg	75.0%	70.8%
Tailoring	44.4%	71.7%

Table 14 Increased Income Comparison by District

3.3.6. Income Sufficiency

Finally, livelihood participants were asked about their income sufficiency. As illustrated by the table below, there are key differences in the proportion of beneficiaries in each trade with regard to whether their income is sufficient. The majority of beneficiaries who are occupied with bee-keeping, masonry, poultry and tailoring reported that they do not find their income sufficient, thus they need to use their savings or borrow money. However, there are of course, several other influencing factors for the different responses and results below that are not captured by the data - including the respondents' total household income (thus the income contributions of other household members), the number of people living in the household and the number of dependants and amount of debt for instance.

Trades by Perceived Income Sufficiency (n=483)	Sufficient and can save %	Sufficient, cannot save %	Insufficient, uses savings %	Insufficient, borrows %
Beautician	23.8	19	33.3	23.8
Bee Keeping	2	0	36	64
Carpentry	18.6	23.3	30.2	27.9
Goat Keeping	1.4	2.7	4.1	91.8
Hand Embroidery	5.6	22.2	16.7	55.6
House Painting	19	4.8	33.3	42.9
House Wiring	14.3	0	71.4	14.3
Masonry	9.1	6.1	57.6	27.3
Mobile Repairing	25	8.3	29.2	37.5
Motorcycle Repairing	26.7	6.7	33.3	33.3
Off-Season vegetables	21.5	7.7	49.2	21.5
Plumbing	25	6.2	18.8	50
Poultry	9.1	36.4	54.5	0
Tailoring	10.3	25.3	32.2	32.2

Table 15 Perceived Income Sufficiency by Trade

3.3.7. Food Insecurity

The livelihood participants were also asked about whether in the last month, there was a time when they or another member of their household was hungry but did not eat, or had to skip a meal because there was not enough money or resources for food. Only 1 participant in Kanchanpur and 1 participant in Bajura confirmed that this was the case for them (0.4 per cent).



Figure 28: Livelihood participant using their carpentry skills at work in Kanchanpur

3.4. DEBT

As outlined in the introduction, many Haliyas were traditionally subject to debt-bondage. Both the baseline and midline surveys asked respondents whether they had personal and/or household debt, the amount of the debts, to whom the debts were owed and for what purpose. The section below presents the findings.

3.4.1. Personal Debts

During the baseline survey, 37.1 per cent of participants (179) had a personal debt. **After the training, only 73.2 per cent of these participants (131 of the 179) reported that they had a personal debt**, representing a decrease of 26.8 percentage points.

Nonetheless, the **percentage of beneficiaries that had a personal debt, increased from 37.1 per cent to 48.9 per cent (236) after the training**, with 105 new participants incurring debts after the training.

There was also an *increase* in the amount of personal debts at the midline compared to baseline. The mean debt at baseline equals 89,599.24 NPR, while at midline point it rose to 122,035.88 NPR.

In terms of gender differences, *men owe larger amounts* ($M_{baseline} = 115,767.44$ NPR, $M_{midline} = 139,018.87$ NPR), as compared to females ($M_{baseline} = 76,772.06$ NPR, $M_{midline} = 92,498.36$ NPR).

3.4.2. Household Debts

Concerning household debts, 27.5 per cent of participants (133) had household debts before the training. **After the training, only 59.4 per cent of these participants (79 of the 133) reported that they had household debts, representing a decrease of 40.6 percentage points.**

Nonetheless, the **percentage of beneficiaries that had a household debt, increased from 27.5 per cent to 41.1 per cent (192) after the training**, with 113 new participants having household debts after the training.

There was also an *increase* in the amount of household debts owed after the training. The mean household debt at baseline was 109,090.23 NPR, which increased to 137,471.20 NPR after the training. Further information of why this is the case is provided in section 3.4.3 below.

Concerning the gender differences of household debt amounts, the households of *male livelihood participants also owe larger amounts* ($M_{baseline} = 116,820.51$ NPR, $M_{midline} = 162,142.86$ NPR) as compared to the households of female livelihood participants ($M_{baseline} = 105,882.98$ NPR, $M_{midline} = 128,957.75$ NPR)¹⁰.

3.4.3. When did Debts Occur and for What Purpose

Respondents were asked about when they incurred their debts. The results revealed that in 76.2 per cent of the cases, participants reported that the debt at midline occurred *after* the training.

¹⁰ It is worth mentioning that each livelihood participant came from separate households, thus there were no beneficiaries that were from the same household.

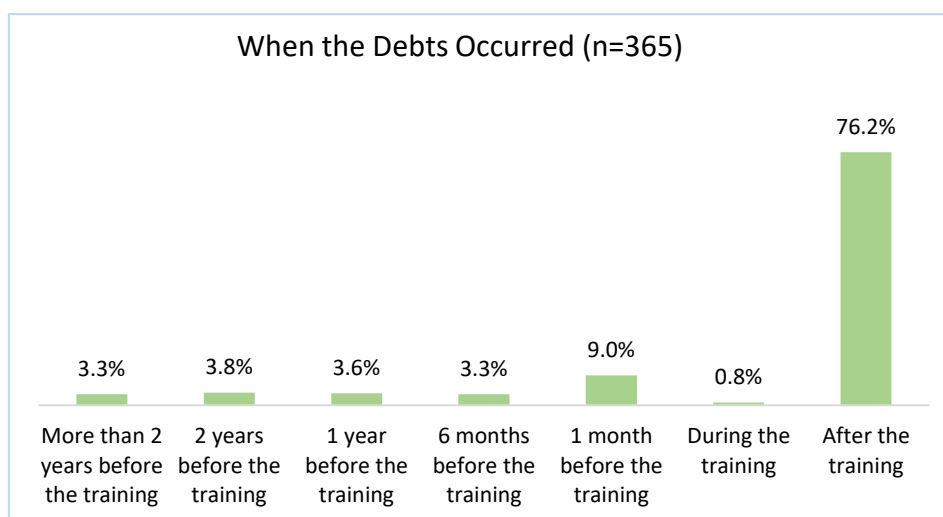


Figure 29 When the Debts Occurred

When respondents were asked for what purpose the debts were taken out, they explained that it was mostly due to basic household needs (65.5 per cent) followed by the start of new business (19.2 per cent) and other purposes (7.9 per cent). Only 4.9 per cent reported that it was for a payment of an old debt.

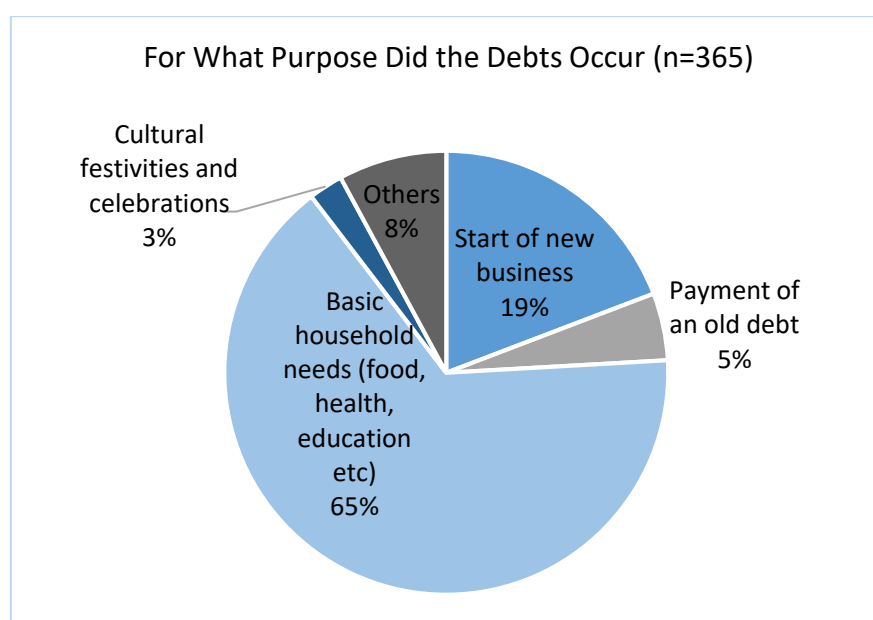


Figure 30 Purpose of Debts

As illustrated by the pie chart above, the majority of participants incurred debts after the training in order to meet their basic household needs (65%). This finding is quite surprising, and one should be slightly cautious in its interpretation. It is possible that this result is due to a response bias, on the basis that respondents may assume that certain responses will lead to additional livelihood support. This is because the Bridge Project seeks to target the most vulnerable (who in turn, are those less able to meet their basic household needs) and will also provide further training to 200 of the 600 trained beneficiaries. It is worth noting however, that at the time of the data collection, the criteria for the selection of the 200 beneficiaries that would receive additional livelihood support (as part of phase two of the livelihood intervention) had not yet been developed.

In addition, several livelihood participants incurred debts after the training, with the aim to start a new business. This might be due to the fact that the participants feel more confident in being able to pay back the loan, due to the new business and needed additional start-up capital to start. It will be important to

understand this further with follow-up interviews and to monitor the changes in debt and income status of participants in the endline survey.



Figure 31: A goat-farming livelihood participant outside her house

3.5. FORCED LABOUR

According to the midline survey results, **42.4 per cent** of the beneficiaries reported that they had been victims of forced labour. **6.4 per cent** reported that they had been forced to work within the last 6 months before the survey.

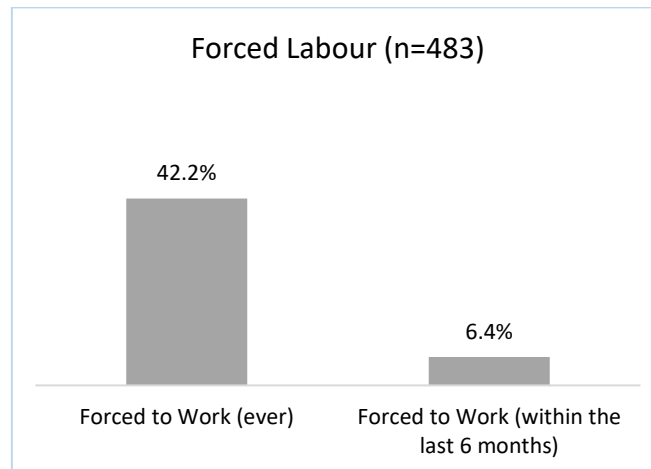


Figure 32 Forced Labour

The tasks that the former victims were forced to undertaken (not mutually exclusive), were to i) work excessive hours, with limited rest, ii) tasks beyond the terms of reference (or what was originally agreed), iii) work in isolation/not allowed to communicate with others iv) forced to carry out domestic work and v) forced to work without pay. None of the former victims reported that they were forced to work when sick or injured or were forced to provide sexual services. As illustrated below, 99 per cent of the former victims explained that they ended up in this forced labour situation due to tradition (which possibly overlaps with the need to work in exchange for a loan/advance or for non-financial benefits). The project will review this further and how this should be categorised based on the follow-up interviews to be held with the beneficiaries.

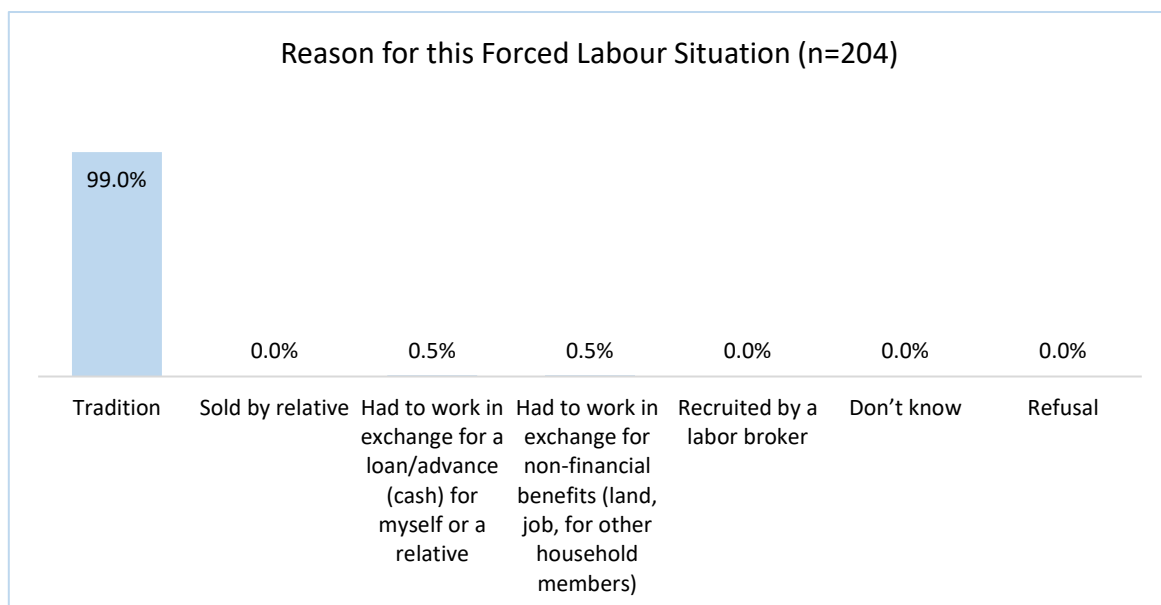


Figure 33 Reason for Forced Labour

The former victims were asked by whom they were forced, the pie chart below presents the results. The majority were forced to work by their masters/landlord that was translated as landlord and employer during the survey (75 per cent).

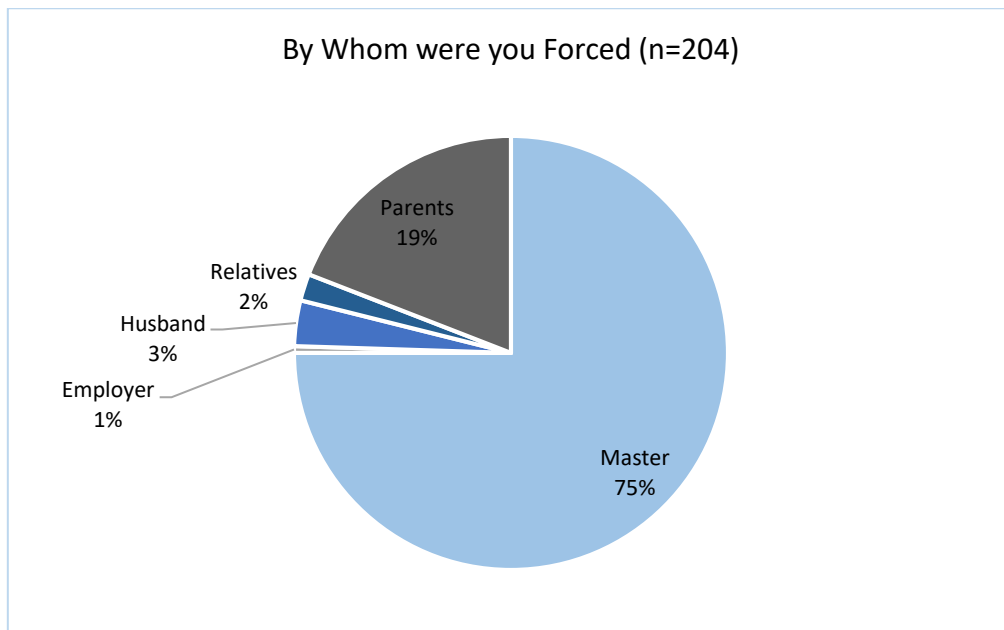


Figure 34 By whom were you forced

Participants that had experienced a situation of forced labour were also asked what happened if they were refused to work. The responses revealed that if they refused to work, they would (not mutually exclusive), i) loose land, shelter, other facilities, ii) deprivation of basic needs (food, sleep, water, health care), iii, sexual harassment on self or family members, iv) family or social pressure and v) verbal assault and humiliation. 93.6 per cent of the former victims explained that they were not allowed to communicate with friends and family and 93.1 per cent mentioned that they were not allowed to leave the premises.

None of the respondents said that they would experience the following if they refused to work: confinement, relatives lose their job, physical violence, financial penalty (fine, increase or interest rate), withholding of wages, retention of identity documents, social exclusion, another family member had to work or that they experienced blackmail.

3.6. EMPOWERMENT

During the midline survey, several questions on empowerment and decision-making were asked to the respondents.

3.6.1. Empowerment Responses

The table below presents the results for the respondents' level of agreement to each of the statements. According to the data, the majority of the participants strongly agree (and in some cases partly agree) with these empowerment statements.

Empowerment by Response (n=482)	Strongly disagree	Partly disagree	Partly agree	Strongly agree
I feel that I'm a person of worth and equal to others	0.0%	0.4%	15.9%	83.6%
I have hope for the future	0.0%	0.0%	14.6%	85.4%
I am confident to express my opinion in front of others	0.0%	0.2%	20.7%	79.0%
I am confident to express my opinion in community meetings	0.0%	0.0%	21.2%	78.8%
I am confident to make decisions concerning my household	0.0%	0.0%	15.2%	84.8%
Women are capable to contribute to household income	0.0%	0.0%	12.2%	87.8%

Table 16 Empowerment Responses

The graph below, presents the percentage of beneficiaries that strongly agreed with the statements by gender. It is interesting to note that there are slight differences with the responses between women and men, particularly concerning the perspective that women are capable to contribute to household income. 90.1 per cent of the women strongly agreed and 80.5 per cent of the men strongly agreed. Additionally, a lower percentage of women responded that they strongly agreed with the statement that they are confident to express their opinion in front of others and in community meetings, in comparison to men.

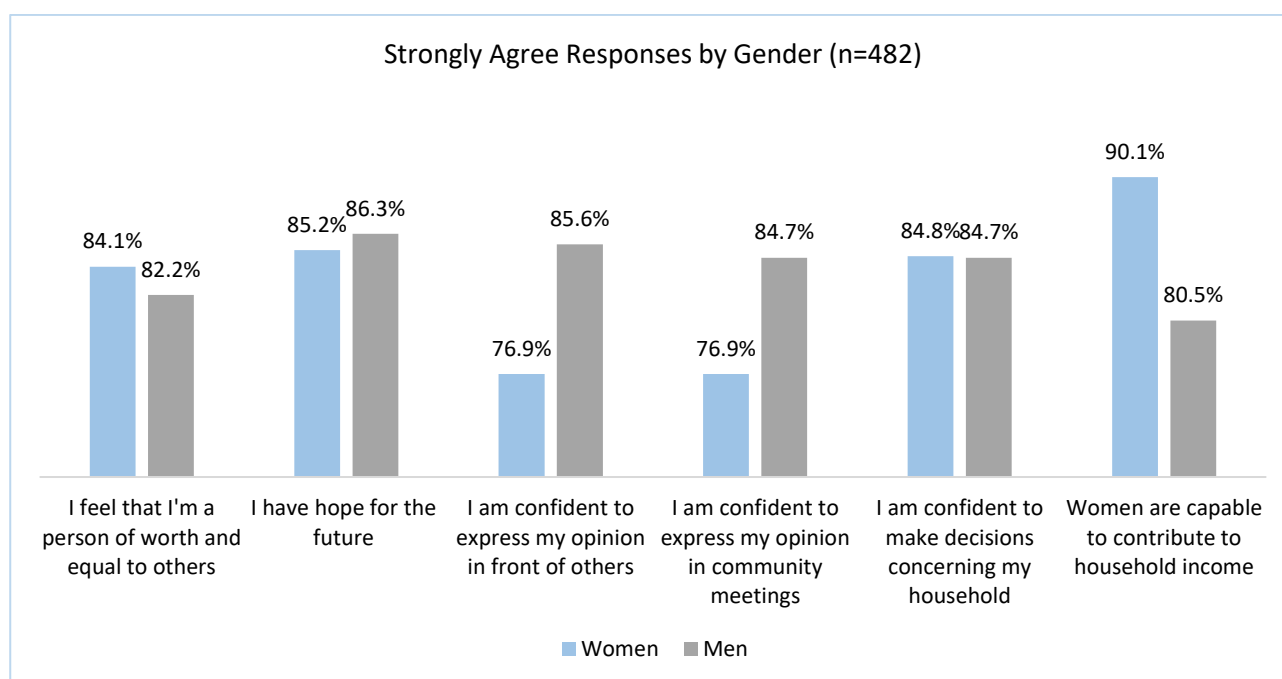


Figure 35 Strongly Agree Response by Gender

3.6.2. Household Decision-Making

The respondents were also asked who normally makes most of the decisions on how to spend the money made from income-generating activities from women's income-generating activities where the woman is mainly contributing. It is very interesting to note, that 50 per cent of the women responded that it was the husband and wife jointly in comparison to 23.7 per cent of men that also gave this response. In particular, 40.7 per cent of the men responded that it was the respondent and another household member jointly.

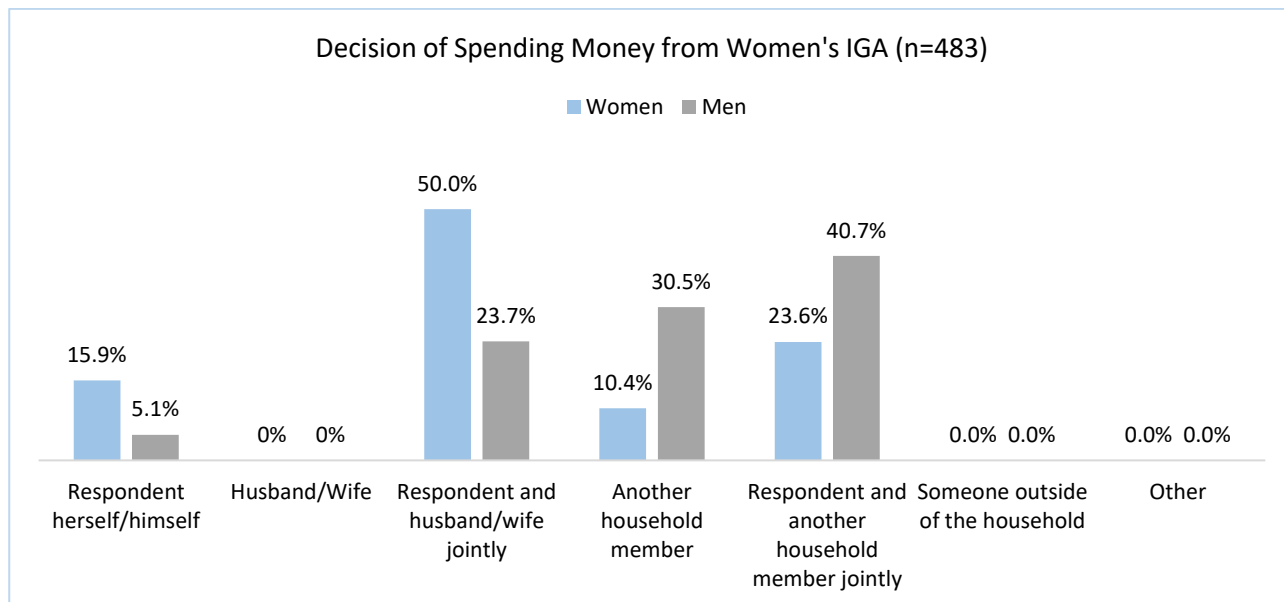


Figure 36 Decision of Spending Money from Women's IGA



Figure 37: House painting livelihood participants with their post-training materials

4. CONCLUSION

The midline survey results indicate that the project has been successful in improving the livelihoods of participants. Specifically, **38.5 per cent** of participants had increased their income after the training due to the income received from the trade on which they were trained. When considering the total income (both the income from the trade on which they were trained and any additional trade), **47.8 per cent** of livelihood participants reported an income increase. The trainings have been particularly useful for the livelihood participants, as **87.6 per cent** reported that they had used the trade skills that they had learnt, primarily at work and at home.

Nonetheless, the midline survey reveals that there are significant differences in the income received from the different trades and some trades seem to have fared better in comparison to others. For instance, 77.3 per cent of poultry farming participants, 56.0 per cent of tailoring and mobile repairing participants experienced an income increase. This is in comparison to the 13.6 per cent of house painting participants, 10.4 per cent of hand-embroidery participants and 0 per cent of bee-keeping participants that experienced an income increase. Consequently, further analysis will be done and additional semi-structured interviews held with selected participants, to understand the reasons and to identify learnings to guide the design of the next phase of the livelihood intervention.

Furthermore, while the midline survey indicates that fewer of the participants that had personal and household debts before the training, had debts after the training – the overall percentage of participants with personal and household debts and the mean amount of those debts had increased after the training. 76.2 per cent of participants with debts, reported that the debt at midline occurred after the training. The main reasons reported for the new debts was to meet basic household needs (65.5 per cent) and to start a new business (19.2 per cent). The debts incurred to meet basic household needs might have been due to a response bias, on the assumption that participants might expect to receive additional support if they mention that they have new difficulties in meeting their household needs. This is because the Bridge Project seeks to target the most vulnerable and phase two of the livelihood intervention, includes additional support for 200 of the 600 who are the most vulnerable and interested in further support. The new debts incurred to start a new business, may be due to participants feeling more confident in being able to pay back the loan. As a result, additional semi-structured interviews will need to be held with selected participants to further understand these results. The endline survey, scheduled to take place at the end of 2020 or 2021, will also be a significant opportunity to understand changes in the income and debt status of beneficiaries between the baseline, midline and endline points.

Overall, the midline survey results have provided key learnings from the livelihood intervention. These findings will inform the design and implementation of phase two of the livelihood intervention, which consists of providing further support to 200 of the 600 livelihood participants in Bajura and Kanchanpur, and livelihood support to 100 new beneficiaries in the district of Surkhet. The midline survey results have also supported the project in selecting the 200 livelihood participants for further training, based on their interest and level of vulnerability.

As the project sought to select the most vulnerable, using the midline survey data, the following selection criteria was used:

1. The participant had to be interested in further training (compulsory);
2. Have a personal income before the training which was less than NPR 3,001s;
3. The total income during the month preceding the training (from income from the trade on which they were trained and any additional trade) was less than NPR 3,000s;

4. Participants responded that income was insufficient and that they had to either “use savings to meet expenses” or “borrow to meet expenses”; and,
5. The respondent had i) a personal or a household debt which exceeded 25,000, ii) which was incurred more than 1 year before the training iii) for the purpose of paying off an old debt or basic household needs.

Livelihood participants meeting either 4 or 5 of the aforementioned criteria (criteria 1 was a requisite) were prioritized for level 2 training (wherever possible, as this was also dependent on the minimum and maximum quota for each trade). When necessary, the participant’s income amount was also used to narrow down the number of participants for each trade based on the quotas, with participants with lower income levels being prioritized.

5. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: MIDLINE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE



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Midline.pdf

ANNEX 2: BASELINE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE



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