Case Story #1: Women Empowerment through Irrigation Project

28 years old, Ms. Hari Maya Kurumbang is a member and beneficiary of Bhotekhola irrigation project. The Project was implemented in Miklajung Rural Municipality of Pachthar district with joint contribution of Swiss government and Nepal government in the year 2022.

Nowadays, Hari maya is working as skilled mason in her village and neighbouring villages too. During conversation, it was found, her journey as mason was started from the Bhotekhola irrigation Project.

Photo 1: Ms. Hari Maya Kurumbang, Bhotekhola IP, Miklajung RM, Pachthar

At the initial stage of the project, Hari Maya involved in construction work as an unskilled mason of the irrigation project. Later the project invited her quality control training. After the training, she was assigned to work in the masonry works of the irrigation canal for about two months. Subsequently, she well developed skill of construction work and started to work as independent skilled mason in her village for house construction and other civil works. She was so happy to earn good daily wage of skilled masons with her new skill.

Hari Maya's success story does not end here. She has succeeded in transferring the skill of mason work to her husband as well. She said "When I was married with Hari Bahadur Kurubang in 2017, our financial situation was very weak." She said, her husband used to work as a daily wage labour and there were managing our livelihood somehow.

One time in 2019, she was suffered from crucial health problem for a long time and her husband was compelled to take a loan for her treatment. She was recovered but the loan loaded their family and her husband had a very tough time to repay the loan. Then her husband went to Arab country for labor work. He had to work for about 14 hours a day in the hot weather place but manage to pay off the loan after one year. But unfortunately, Hari Bahadur's health was deteriorated due to heavy loaded work and could not continue the job and returned back home.

When her husband returned home, Hari Maya started teaching her husband the masonry works. Now a days, both of them are working as masons in the village and started good earning. They both husband and wife working as a skilled mason in village earn adequate money for their livelihood.

Now, Hari Maya and her husband has good earning, good health and sustaining their livelihood. This is one example of women empowerment through the irrigation program as well as indirect positive impact on employment opportunities to returnees from foreign employment too.