

UKaid Skills for Employment (सीप) Programme Factsheet

UKaid सीप is brokering transformational partnerships with the private and public sector to propel growth of employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in priority sectors – commercial agriculture, light manufacturing, tourism, ICT, and construction – primarily in Province 2 and Lumbini Province. सीप uses an innovative Challenge Fund and Technical Assistance mechanism to build a more productive and equitable market-based skilling, access to finance, and ethical migration service and system linked to livelihood generation for Nepali youth. Using a collaborative impact approach, सीप unlocks private and public capital and facilitates system-wide collaborations—aimed at addressing systemic job and labor market constraints and harnessing the benefits of migration.

UKaid सीप Supported Partnerships

To support revival of the Palpali Dhaka industry for sustainable job creation and enterprise growth, सीप, with support from the Lumbini Province and Tansen Municipality, catalysed creation of and co-funding for **Palpali Dhaka Association (PDA)**. Comprising of nine firms, PDA is providing a coordinated platform to improve stronger skilling practices, including through standardized three-month apprenticeship-based curriculum on weaving, business literacy, and soft skills; set fair-trade standards; enhanced trainer skills; built marketing capabilities; and improved linkages with diverse actors like the NMB Bank, Triveni Spinning Mill, international buyers and Label STEP.

Laxmi Bank is expanding and refining the use of block chain technology by integrating an Application Programming Interface platform to make loan against remittance and other services more accessible and affordable for migrant households in Province 2 and Lumbini Province—targeting migrants already working in and traveling to the Dubai and Malaysia corridors. Through its micro finance partner Laxmi Laghubitta, the Bank is also extending tailored financial products, coupled with business development skilling, to promote enterprises—especially for women-led enterprises in the agri-sector.

Sana Kisan Bikas Laghubitta Bittyasanstha Ltd. is building entrepreneurial capabilities of returnee migrants, women, and disadvantaged groups—through improved access to tailored and bundled financial products, including credit and insurance, coupled with skilling—across 12 districts in Provinces 2 and Lumbini Province. For this, Sana Kisan is collaborating with 101 Small Farmer Agriculture Cooperatives.

MAW Earth Movers Pvt. Ltd offers job-linked skilling and certification, aligned with JCB and CTEVT, in Heavy Equipment Operator and Mechanics roles. With सीप's support, MEPL is on its way to introduce multi-tracking capability skilling in multiple and simulator-based skilling for the first time in Nepal; upgraded the capacity of local skilling institutes in Nepalgunj and Bhaktapur; set up a practical skilling centre in Janakpur; and is promoting inclusion in an industry heavily dominated by men.

KEY IMPACTS

- Thirteen enterprise-led partnerships established on a co-funding basis with the potential to enable employment and access to finance for an estimated 25,000 youth by 2022.
- Nearly 15,000 Nepalis have benefitted from market-aligned skilling, job placements, and financial access.
- Introduction of a unified curriculum by competing corporates in one of Nepal's top export industries (yarn) to introduce an apprenticeship-based model.
- Introduction of new job roles in transformative industries such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cloud Computing, and Heavy Equipment Mechanics.
- Expediting digitization in the country through support for e-logistics and agribusiness platforms.
- Catalyzed Public Private Partnerships and industry engagement in skilling to help revive traditional industries – such as Dhaka and high-end carpets.
- Promoting new job roles for women, including as Heavy Equipment Operators and Cloud Computing.



Lashmita Rai, 21, during her skilling as a Heavy Equipment Operator.

Upaya: CityCargo is accelerating transformation of the intra-city logistics industry as well as farm-to-market delivery of agriculture produce to close supply chain logistic gaps and boost digitally powered self-employment—for drivers and farmers. सीप has helped integrate skilling (covering digital literacy, financial literacy, customer relations, road safety and vehicle maintenance) in Upaya and agri-business partner Kheti's business model to drive up adoption of digital technologies; financing solutions; and inclusion. Upaya has entered the two-wheeler segment (in addition to four-wheelers), expanded to Butwal, Bhairahawa and Pokhara, and integrated with agriculture to expand market access for farmers.



Essentials on delivery even during lockdown / Credit: Upaya

Fusemachines has established a state-of-the-art AI centre to impart skills and enable high-value jobs. Fusemachines' short-term curricula—covering Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Computer Vision, and Natural Language Processing—were iterated, tested, and refined and have been adopted by five colleges to build broader skilling capability and democratize access for Nepali students.



Master weaver at N.P Rug Industries at Sarlahi. / Credit: STEP

Label STEP is developing fair-trade based weaving workshops and skilled weavers linked to the carpet value chain to cater to the global high-value luxury carpet industry. This partnership has taken Nepal's carpet manufacturing hub from Kathmandu to an underserved geographic area – Sarlahi which has traditionally served as the origin of Nepal's weaving community, and is creating jobs for local women, primarily from migrant households, and disadvantaged and PwD groups.

Genese Cloud Academy has helped enhance skilling capabilities of 50 academic institutes, including Institute of Engineering at Pulchowk Campus, by facilitating adoption of globally recognized cloud computing skilling and certification by Amazon Web Services. Using online and in-person instruction approach, aided by skilling of trainers, this partnership is building students' work-readiness. With catalytic support from सीप, in 2020, to promote participation of women in ICT, Genese also enabled the introduction of the U.S. based Girls in Tech in Nepal.

Nepal Yarn Manufacturers' Association and सीप's multi-factory partnership is enabling quality job-linked skilling and employment and improved factory capability at the Triveni Spinning Mill, Jagadamba Spinning Mill, Reliance Spinning Mill, Tricot Industry, and Jaya Spinning Mill. This partnership has led to the development of a standardized industry-adopted curriculum covering five job roles alongside upgraded infrastructure, inclusion, and streamlined operations.

Rojgari Services, a medium-sized job placement service provider, is expanding skilling-linked job placements for blue-collar job roles. सीप's partnership has improved Rojgari's digital and physical infrastructure and service quality. To onboard and connect job seekers with industry clients, Rojgari uses a combination of brick-and-mortar *Rojgari Pasals*, mobile outreach vehicle *Ghumti Rojgari Pasa*, and mobile and web application <www.rojgari.com>. सीप also brokered support from Rojgari for Lumbini Province Government's digital job portal.



Factories under NYMA have improved their skilling facilities, equipment, and accommodation for women. / Credit: NYMA

Shreenagar Agro Farm (SAF) has established classroom and farm-based skilling capability in Lumbini Province. Drawing on its linkages with diverse firms, SAF has developed and tested new modules covering five job roles: poultry, livestock, agri-business, maize, and aquaculture. In addition to hands-on skilling, SAF's end-to-end solutions include provision of access to input such as day-old-chicks and feed and market linkage with buy-back guarantees—to upskill and expand market access for smallholders and agri-enterprises, while also strengthening the firm's supply chain.

Financial institute partners **Nepal SBI Bank** and **Prabhu Bank** served migrant/migrant household population in Province 2 with an integrated array of financial products, including financial literacy and credit to promote enterprises.