

Half Yearly Progress Report

Section A

1. Name of the partner: Integrated Rural Management Association (IRMA)
2. Project No: MIS/1482-70/MN/LIV-2/IRMA-1
3. Project Title: Sustainable Options for Uplifting Livelihood (SOUL)
4. Project Duration: June 2015 upto September 2015
5. Reporting Period: July - September
6. Description of Progress Towards Result:

(Please demonstrate with evidence towards the progress of the result. Do not write about activities conducted here. Give quantitative and qualitative data. Objective and result should be as per the LFA)

Objective 1: Formation and strengthening a group of older and younger men in the community who are committed to ensuring a gender equitable environment within families for children and women.			
Objective 2: Conscientisation of women's group in order to reclaim these equitable spaces within the community.			
Objective 3: Evolve common strategies and/or interconnections linking women's empowerment and men's engagement programmes for working on issues of gender in communities.			
Results	Target set for the quarter	Target achieved during the quarter. (Pls mention the status of the activity in this column)	Reason for Variance/ reason for non-achievement of the result.
Conduct baseline survey for 400 young and old men	Conduct baseline survey for 400 young and old men.	411 men interviewed using questionnaires for the baseline survey from 9 villages.	
Issue based Awareness Generation	Awareness programme in each of the 9 villages	189 participated in the awareness programmes.	There is no specific target no for this.

Campaign			
Formation and strengthening of a group of older and younger men in the community who are committed to ensuring a gender equitable environment within families for children and women.	Formation of fatherhood groups in each of the project villages.	9(nine) fatherhood groups formed.	
Advocacy, lobbying and Networking with different service providers and stakeholders.	Meeting with Kuki Women Union and area chief association on gender justice held once	Altogether 26 persons comprising of chiefs and women union leaders participated in the workshop.	
Block and District level events	One event each at block and district level	District level event in Imphal and block level at Urangpat.	
Facilitation of sessions with groups	9 groups/sessions.	Facilitating the fatherhood groups meetings with 7 groups.	The groups session in two villages could not be attended due to bandh.
Development of training module		Identifying training needs and design	

Section B

Description of the activities and the processes followed against each objectives (attach 3-4 photograph-original in JPEG)

Survey: A household survey was conducted in 9 villages in Senapati district. The head of the households were interviewed based on the set questionnaire. Altogether 411 heads were interviewed by Integrated Rural Management Association (IRMA).

Interestingly during the survey, it so happened that while interviewing the husband they look at their wives for answers but in some cases wives silently watch and are scared to interfere. Some are speculative as to why this time focusing on men and are reserved not very open to respond. In short the survey itself was sort of sensitizing men on issues of gender and understanding their perspectives.

Awareness Workshop: Integrated Rural Management Association workshop on the topic “Positive Fatherhood” at each of the 9 project villages it is the first time gender/women issues were openly discussed Following are the villages where the awareness workshops were

1. Bethel
2. Haraothel/L Tangnuom
3. L Chajang
4. Leilon Vaiphei
5. Samusong
6. Simol
7. Twichin
8. Urangpat
9. Wunghon



(IRMA) conducted awareness villages. For most of the of the by men and women together. conducted –



Awareness prog. at Twichin



Group Formation: Under the IGSSS – Soul Project Integrated Rural Management Association (IRMA) initiated a group formation wherein a total of 9 groups were formed in all the project villages. Each group consists of 10 –

20 members. Some of them are very enthusiastic as they find it very innovative where the men folks comes together in group to promote gender equality within their families and society at large.

Challenges faced and how these challenges have been addressed:

Manipur is engulfed with social and political unrest, social upheaval and distrust among the different communities. The past 4 months has witnessed routine bandhs and strikes crippling the functioning of institutions and daily business immensely impacted the general public across. This prevailing situation thus caused a lot of inconvenience in terms of field visits, conducting programmes and even distractions and unrest in the minds of the people. However, the programme staffs find a way that planned activities are carried out by confining in the areas and plan with the villagers as per their convenience. Most of the men are engaged in agriculture work and economic activities as well makes it difficult to organise programmes on week days so at times we have programmes on Sundays. Some of the main constraints are as follow -

- Most of the men were engaged in economic and family activities leading to the negligence of social awareness program/workshop.
- The monsoon season was one of the challenges for the IRMA staff; most of the men were engaged in agriculture work.
- Ignorance and negligence of responsibility by men in the society is another big challenge on the topic of Positive Fatherhood.
- The perspective of men on the concept that they are superior gender than women makes mobilization difficult.
- Frequent & simultaneous strikes, bandhs and blockades hampered interior communication and shifts in scheduled programs..
- Although some of the men interviewed were open to respond, few of them were very reserved.

Lesson Learnt during the reporting period

- It is learnt that communication skill is very important for the achievement of the project objectives.
- The life style and patriarchal world view of the community is reflected.
- Many of the men in the project villages have potentials/ multiple talents in different fields.
- Customary laws are practice in these villages with their own traditions yet in a unique way.
- The survey gives the insight of the villages' widows' condition.
- It is also learnt that gender mainstreaming in these villages will be a long process yet a challenging aspiration.
- It is also learnt that people of the project villages need to know the Legal Rights besides the Human Rights.

Expectation from IGSSS on Programme/partnership accompaniment and capacity building efforts required from IGSSS

For the positive outcome of SOUL Project Integrated Rural Management Association (IRMA) needs the following assistance from IGSSS

- ToT for concerned staffs and group leaders from the community.
- financial assistance to organize workshops/seminars
- skill development training for the project villagers
- Livelihood support programmes if it can go along with gender programme.

Case Study - One success Story

A middle aged man called Jangkhai Mate from Phai pijang, Urangpat has 6(six) children of his own and also looks after two daughters of his late brother. He treats his sons and daughters equally and strongly supports women emancipation. He sets a good example by giving equal treatment and support to his children (including two nieces) education and pursuing their career. Unlike other men he is very co-operative and gives space to his wife and children in terms of decision making and sharing responsibilities. He says that women's role does not confine to domestic chores but their activity also extends to household economic contribution and social development. Basing on the SOUL Project questionnaire he said he has a short temper which he wanted to control in regards to blooming the strong relationship with his wife.

Mr. Mate is an agricultural labourer by occupation, also the chief of the village. He appreciates and supports the IGSSS SOUL Project initiated by IRMA. His active participation and support for the project has positive impact in the village particularly the men.

Action Plan: N.A (to continue in the new project)

Sl. No.	Activity	Date & month	Venue	Budget estimate
---------	----------	--------------	-------	-----------------