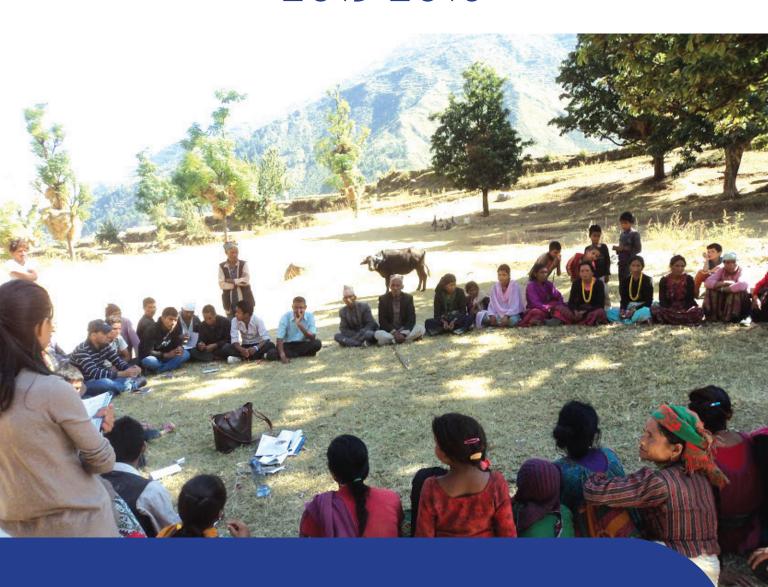
ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



Centre for International Studies and Co-operation (CECI) Nepal

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STRATEGY

CECI focuses on building the development capacity of local and disadvantaged communities. Our programs and projects support communities in becoming their own drivers for change by focusing on local ownership, empowerment and partnership with local non-government organizations and community-based organizations. Gender equity, social inclusion, transparency and good governance are at the core of our capacity building activities.

MISSION

CECI's mission is to combat poverty and exclusion

VISION

Through sharing and respect, we work for equality between men and women, both within our own organization and in society at large. We help to combat poverty and exclusion by building bridges within our international network of partners through intercultural interaction and international cooperation.

FOCUS AREAS

To enhance the quality of lives, CECI Nepal concentrates its actions in five areas of expertise:

- Economic development & livelihoods
- Agriculture and food security
- Local governance and accountability
- Human safety and emergency response
- Gender equality and social inclusion
- Disaster Risk Reduction

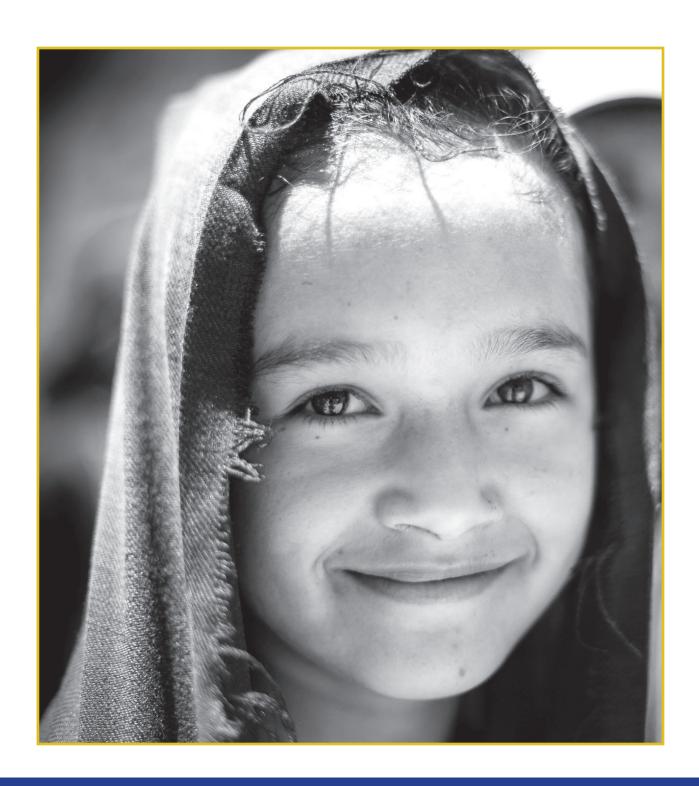


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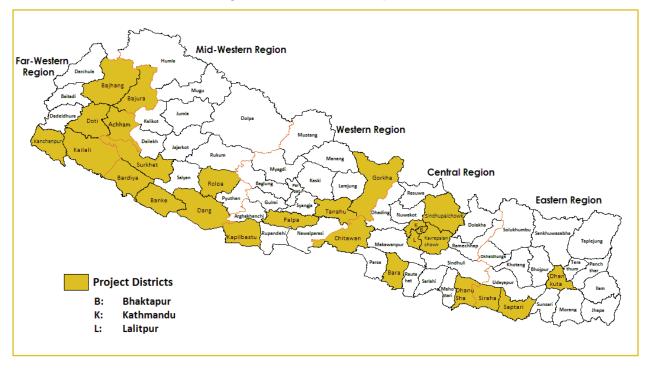
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About Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)

The Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) is a Canadian non-profit organization founded in 1958. Its mission is to fight poverty and exclusion by strengthening the development capacity of disadvantaged communities, supporting initiatives for peace, human rights and equity, mobilizing resources and promoting the exchange of know how. CECI's core competencies include providing diverse consulting and project management services to address the multiple facets of poverty

reduction. CECI manages dozens of projects in 15 Countries throughout Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Eastern Europe. The main focus is on services related to social and economic development, sustainable natural resource management, humanitarian assistance and disaster preparedness and mitigation. CECI's projects are financed by Global Affairs Canada, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Inter - American Development Bank (IDB), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World

CECI's Project Districts in Nepal (2015-2016)



Bank, European Union (EU), UN agencies and Department For International Development (DFID).

In 1987, CECI established its Nepal office, and since that time it has been supporting and implementing development projects to achieve the development goals of the country and promote an improved quality of life of people. CECI Nepal's projects are focused on agriculture, livelihood, microenterprise, business development, governance, and disaster risk reduction (DRR). It has delivered technical assistance to ADB, World Bank, Global Affairs Canada, and AusAid as well as other developmental donors who have fostered a solid project management capacity team and an extensive network of consultants and local service providers.

CECI Nepal works in partnership with local Non-Government Orgazinations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and has implemented more than 40 development projects and supported over 100 NGOs and 1,000 CBOs in undertaking programs. CECI Nepal also mobilizes international and national volunteers with financial contributions from Global Affairs Canada and AusAid. The majority of volunteers are placed in Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to enhance their institutional capacity and to recognize their significant contribution to the socio-economic development of Nepal. Volunteers are also placed in government agencies to support their planning and programming functions. CECI works in Nepal under the General Agreement initially signed with the Social Welfare Council in 1989 and renewed subsequently.







Message from the Country Representative

It is our immense pleasure to present the Annual Progress Report for the Fiscal Year 2072-73 (2015-2016 AD). This year brought many challenges as well as opportunities. The normal functioning was affected due to the earthquake of April 2015 and CECI Nepal got involved in earthquake response program for the first few months of the earthquake before returning to give continuity to other ongoing projects. This year CECI implemented six development projects covering 25 districts. The projects focused on governance, earthquake emergency response and early recovery, livelihoods improvement, economic development and institutional development of partner NGOs.

Two projects were successfully accomplished this year: "Earthquake Response Program" and the "Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS)". A total of 11,500 households in three districts Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur benefitted from the earthquake response and recovery program. Likewise, PETS was started in June 2015 for a period of 10 months in 58 VDCs of six districts (Banke, Bardia, Dang, Surkhet, Kailali and Kanchanpur) of Nepal. The

project was implemented in a consortium led by CECI in association with Policy Research and Development (PRAD) Nepal and the purpose was to track the expenditure of block grants at the District Development Committee (DDC) and Village Development Committee (VDC) levels as well as the Constituent Assembly (CA) development fund flow from its point of origin to expenditure.

The on-going projects of CECI are Multi-Donor Trust Fund/Program for Accountability in Nepal (MDTF/PRAN2), Consulting services to the Skills Development Project and two volunteer programs Uniterra and AVID.

The details on activities and results of each of these projects can be found in the respective sections below.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our donors and to our implementing partners, both Government and Non-Government Organizations for their support in successfully accomplishing the programs. I would also like to thank CECI staff and volunteers for their kind cooperation and contribution in implementing the projects and in the running of the organization.

Finally, I would like to thank our Communications Officer Ms. MallikaBhattarai for her efforts to bring out this annual report.

> **Keshava Koirala** Country Representative, CECI Nepal

Good Governance

Multi Donor Trust Fund

Program for Accountability in Nepal (MDTF/PRAN2)



Manakot VDC Yearly Planning Meeting

The second phase of the Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN2) is currently running. This is a World Bank funded program through the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). The program is active in 15 districts with the purpose of improving Public Financial Management (PFM) through demand side intervention. Activities under this phase are designed with the alignment of Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP) of Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD).

With a total budget of US\$ 950,000, CECI has been working as the Grant Management Agency (GMA) that involves providing grants to the selected 30 local CSOs of the 15 program districts and assist them technically with the process of implementation. 90 skilled human resources (1 Social Accountability Practitioner, 1 Assistant Social Accountability Practitioner and 1 part time finance officer from each CSO) are mobilized through CSOs to carry on the field level activities. The social accountability (SAc) tools being

practised are the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS), the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), the Treasury Single Account (TSA), and the Community Score Card (CSC). PETS is focused on the social security entitlements of senior citizens and single/widowed women, while CSC is focused on the education sector. Also, the program is concentrating on the capacity building and awareness for local body structures such as Social Mobilizers (SMs), Ward Citizen Forums (WCFs), Citizen Awareness Centres (CACs) and other monitoring committees and Integrated Plan Formulation Committees (IPFCs). The program has given priority in the constructive engagement of all stakeholders including citizens to strengthen accountability at all levels in improving PFM.

The major expected outcomes of the program are:

- Communities in the program areas (especially marginalized people) will be empowered to hold local governments accountable for participatory, pro-poor/gender inclusive budgeting and accurate budget execution.
- Increased Citizens' access to individual Social Security Entitlements –SSE (specifically, old age and single women's entitlements) and education services (specifically scholarship entitlements)
- National enabling environment for transparent, inclusive and accountable PFM is improved.



CDO of Banke District providing citizenship card

Achievements:

- Grievance Redress Mechanism established and started documentation in the VDCs.
- The list of Social Security Entitlements updated in the VDCs.
- Increased interest of citizens at local level towards monitoring of program and projects implemented in the VDCs.
- Citizen charter and grievance box updated and installed in the VDCs.
- The capacity of Ward Citizen Forums
 (WCFs) and Citizen Awareness Centres
 (CACs) strengthened on meeting agenda
 setting, meeting minute writing and
 documentation of daily activities.
- Clarity increased among citizens about the provisions given in the local body resource mobilization and management guideline 2069.
- Revised and improved Dalit and girl scholarship distribution system in the targeted schools.

Success stories



Before



After

The Citizen Charter installed in the Bankatawa VDC of Banke had not been updated for many years even though updates are mandatory. Also, the importance of the Citizen Charter was not recognized by both the service providers and the citizens. However, after MDTP/PRAN2's intervention in the VDC the old Citizen Charter was replaced by a new one and now the importance of the Charter is recognized.

Mr. Dal Bahadur Sunuwar, a citizen said "The Citizen Charter has facilitated me to fulfill the requirements to acquire services from VDC and it has reduced unnecessary time of verbal inquiry from the staff".

A nine year old girl **Ms. Sunita Limbu** from Budhimorang VDC of Dhankuta is mentally impaired (indolent) from birth and got a "C" class identity card from the VDC. According to the "Social Security Program Execution Procedure, 2069", "C" class ID holders are not eligible for social security allowances. In the course of time, she also lost her eye sight completely and her parents approached the VDC many times to change her ID to an "A" class to be eligible for the allowance, however the VDC officers refused saying this cannot be changed once issued.

During the focus group discussion for the Social Security Entitlements tracking survey, this issue came up and immediately the concerned authorities were contacted to explore the reality of the unchangeable condition of an ID. It was discovered that the VDC had given wrong information to Sunita Limbu's parents. Finally, the family was informed on the actual process and they were able to obtain a "A" class ID card for their daughter.

Sunita's mother said "Today I am very happy with PRAN program. Because of this program we could change the ID card of our daughter. Now she will get Rs. 1,000 per month, it is a big amount for poor people like us."







Ms. Dhan Maya Gharti said "From this program I understood that the citizens can register complains/ grievances directly to the VDC verbally or they can also put written complains/grievances in grievance box, if there are any."

Making the VDC budget and expenditure public is a mandatory requirement according to government guideline, but many VDCs are not practicing this. The activities of the MDTF/PRAN2 were implemented with the active participation of VDC secretaries and the citizens. They were made aware about transparency, accountability, the right to information and so on. As a result, Sorhawa, one of the VDCs of Bardiya started to publish its monthly income and expenditures on its notice board.

The VDC secretary said "We are making our VDC more transparent and accountable according to modern age."

Women of the Khairi Chandanpur VDC of Bardiya were unaware of the annual target group



development budget of the VDC. The budget was used in other activities but on paper it was recorded as having been spent on women's activities. After the orientation program under PRAN, women came to know about the target group development budget. They filed a proposal for sewing and cutting training and got the budget of Rs 120,000 for a 3 months training program involving 24 poor and disadvantaged women.

Skills Development Project (SDP)



Stitching training

Skills Development Project (SDP) is successfully running in its' third year. This is a five-year project started in March 2014 and is funded by a grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with a contribution from the Government of Nepal (GON). The project applies key aspects of the TVET Policy 2012 and helps the government to initiate strategic sector reforms that are aimed at improving overall sector management, performance, quality assurance and relevance of public training. The project increases the employability of the Nepalese workforce, by building an inclusive market responsive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system. This project also increases the private sector engagement in training delivery and job placement. Each intervention has been designed to increase the efficiency and result-orientation

of the TVET system making it more marketdriven. The project has the coverage of almost all the districts of the five development regions of Nepal with 45,000 target beneficiaries (40% female and 30% excluded groups).

SDP is managed by a consortium led by World University Services of Canada (WUSC) including CECI, Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI) and Colleges and Institutes Canada and has been providing Technical Consulting Support to the project. The Consulting Team has been providing technical assistance to both the CTEVT and Ministry of Education (MoE). The project is being executed by the MoE through the TVET Sector Development Unit (TSDU) and implemented by a Project Implementing Unit (PIU) formed under the CTEVT.

This year, the Consultant provided support in implementing the following project initiatives:

- to advance implementation of short skills training courses and employment services operated by Private Sector Training and Employment Service Providers (TESPs) and Public Sector TESPs for 23,620 persons, primarily women and members of excluded groups.
- to begin the selection of Private TESPs and Public TESPs to offer Round 2 of Level 1 and 2 short courses.
- to implement social marketing strategy to advance recruitment of women and excluded group members for short-term courses.
- to update the monitoring and evaluation plan, tools and training courses.
- to develop, installation and monitoring the use of the Project's training database and assist the PIU in providing ongoing orientation and training for private and public TESPs in Effective Training Practices, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Monitoring and Evaluation and Database Operations.
- to advance institutional reforms in Nepal's TVET system, develop an interim organizational plan for CTEVT, facilitate discussions of the CTEVT Restructuring Committee to review the plan and incorporate revisions and amendments as directed by the Member Secretary CTEVT and the Restructuring Committee.
- to procure and refurbishment equipment needed to introduce
 15 new Diploma and Technical School Leaver's Certificate (TSLC)
 programs in ten QIP schools.
- to monitor and evaluate all project components and advance Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI).
- to develop a GESI Module and Training Manual for integration in CTEVT curricula and GESI training for CTEVT, SDP staff, Regional Monitoring Offices, private and public TESPs. to ensure efficient financial management.



Cook training



Mobile Phone repair training



Furniture making training



Security Guard training

Volunteer Program

Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID)



Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) is an Australian Government program managed through Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australia and is being implemented in Nepal within the framework of MoU signed between the Government of Nepal and the Government of Australia. The Implementing agency for the Program is Scope Global based in Adelaide, Australia. CECI Nepal has been sub-contracted to deliver in country management services.

The AVID volunteers are mobilized in the same sectors where the Government of Australia provides aid such as health, education, economic development and disaster risk reduction. They are mainly engaged in Government agencies

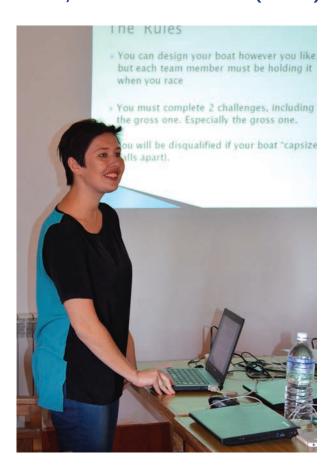
while a few work with NGOs. During the year 19 new volunteers came in Nepal and a total of 31 volunteers mobilized. The earthquake had a significant impact on the AVID program with volunteers being relocated to Australia due to safety concerns for a period of four weeks. Five volunteers opted to remain in the country while 11 volunteers were evacuated. Prior to redeployment, a protocol was developed to ensure that the risk for volunteers would be within reasonable safety standards. Of the eleven volunteers evacuated to Australia, three chose not to be redeployed, and eight volunteers returned to Nepal. The earthquake also disrupted the work of host organization (HO) but the volunteers who remained behind played critical roles in assisting their HO's in responding to the disaster at the national level.

Highlights of the achievements made by AVID during 2015-2016:

Health

- Supported Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in a Joint Annual Review and development of the 2013 Health Policy of Nepal to replace 1991 Policy
- Together with the team at National Tuberculosis Centre (NTC), a diverse and innovative operational research plan for the NTC was developed that has been included in the National Strategic Plan 2015-2020

Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH)



- Improved drilling and construction of ground water wells, and conducted Water Safety Plans- the identification of faults in water supply networks and treatment plants for existing water distribution systems
- Developed plans and actions for appropriate climate change resilience programs for the water supply sector of Nepal using Rain Water Harvesting System (RWHS); development of climate change resilience policy and guidelines in consultation with RWH stakeholders and reviews

Education:

- Contributed to the design of an Annual Strategic Implementation Plan (ASIP) as a member of the committee within the Department of Education (DoE)
- Contributed to the improvement of overall teaching content of social work education by reviewing current methods, making updates and reviews where necessary and

by sharing social work methods, techniques, tools and best practices from Australia; strengthening the quality of field work offered by the school to enable students to gain professional experience and improving student employment opportunities following graduation

Economic Development and Livelihoods

- Organized marketing training for microentrepreneurs and product exhibition to increase sales and income of microentrepreneurs associated with the National Federation of Micro Entrepreneurs of Nepal (NMEFEN)
- Developed operational manual and financial control system and tools for NMEFEN

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- Enhanced capacity of National Society of Earthquake Technology (NSET) and their stakeholders to promote improvements in construction quality control and assurance processes by developing standards, guidelines and training materials related to building construction quality and earthquake risk management.
- Improved the coordination of external communication activities across NSET divisions, through the development of a style guide and templates for different forms of communication to improve the quality and consistency of external communication and training of staff in communication skills.

Post-Earthquake Support

Five volunteers working in health WASH and DRR sectors stayed in the country to provide the following support:

- Rapid assessment, outbreak surveillance and data management in co-ordination with NTC and MoHP and WHO
- As a member of the WASH Cluster formed by the Department of Water, Sewerage and Sanitation and UNICEF, managed all information and communication related to the WASH Cluster
- As a member of the Foreign Medical Team Coordination Committee formed by the Ministry of Health, managed all health related information and coordinated the work of 150 national and international medical teams



Fund Raising

- Two volunteers working with the National Federation of Micro Entrepreneurs of Nepal (NMEFEN) who were evacuated to Australia raised AUD 31,000 to support microenterprises damaged by the earthquake.
- Australian volunteers also enhanced capacity of host organizations in planning, monitoring and evaluation, partnerships management, delivery of tuberculosis treatment, improving nutrition of mothers and children, improving water and sanitation technology, improving family planning practices, disaster preparedness, information system management, media, communication and public relation, fund raising, knowledge management, safe drinking water, strategic planning, business development and marketing, administration, management and human resource development among others.



UNITERRA



Forest Products, High Value Crops, Dairy and Handicrafts. These sub-sectors were validated after a thorough study on each sub-sector's role in Nepal's economy, government priority and potential involvement of women and youth. Fourteen Partners from core market, market support actors and government and semi-government organizations have been selected to implement U3.

Uniterra is a Canadian Volunteer Cooperation and International Development Program that has been active in Nepal since 2004. The two leading Canadian NGOs Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) and World University Services of Canada (WUSC) jointly manage the program in 13 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America. This program's main focus is to build the capacities of program partners working to reduce poverty through mobilizing both Canadian and national volunteers whilst facilitating partnerships and exchanging expertise between Canadian and developing partners.

Uniterra is currently in its third phase (U₃) which is applying an inclusive market system approach in four selected sub-sectors such as Non-Timber

This year 31 Canadian volunteers (12 Interns and 8 Leave for Change) and 6 national volunteers were mobilized. Because of the massive earthquake all the volunteers planned for the year could not be mobilized and the targeted number of people could not be reached. Those who were already in the country were evacuated to Canada and the program was halted until October 2015. However the volunteers' contribution to the partner organizations was highly satisfactory as they helped partners in developing e-marketing, external and internal communication. organizational development, information technology, monitoring and evaluation and product design. A total of 316 men and 196 women were trained in various skills. Most of the people trained were in organizational capacity development followed by knowledge sharing skills.

Highlights of the Achievements

made by UNITERRA during 2015 - 2016

- Workshop for the partners and volunteers to orient them about U3's strategy, volunteer mobilization procedure, roles and responsibilities of partners, financial procedure and intercultural dimensions.
- Market system research conducted to identify barriers and constraints faced by various stakeholders along the value chain and to develop an intervention program for involving and benefitting women and youth. Two Canadian interns from the University of Ottawa and four Nepali interns were mobilized for the research.
- Capacity assessment of 14 partners was undertaken to plan the support programs as well as to assess the impact of U₃ on the partner's capacity building and market system development in the sub-sectors at the end of the project.



UNITERRA team field visit

• Two Sub-Sector Committees (SSC) and one National Advisory Committee (NAC) were formed. The NAC committee includes 10 members from the government, the private sector and Uniterra partners. Likewise one SSC for Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) and Handicraft and one SSC for Dairy and High Value Crops were formed including 7 and 9 members respectively. One meeting each of the National Advisory Committee and two Sub-Sector Committees was organized. In the sub-sector meetings, the objectives of the formation of the committees were introduced. The member organizations presented their scope of work, their strategy,



FGD in Sarlahi district for market research

and the challenges they are facing. It was decided that the committee members will host a quarterly meeting to discuss the situation/challenges and how the partners and Uniterra can work to develop the market system.

- Four participants (2 young women and 2 young men), one each from four different partners participated in the International seminar organized in Vietnam. The theme of the seminar was "Youth Leaders in Entrepreneurship". Their experience and learnings were shared among the Uniterra and CECI Nepal teams.
- Lalitpur District Milk Producers' Union (LDMPCU), Uniterra's partner received financial and technical support from GCUIS to construct office building and dairy processing centre in Chapagaun. Uniterra supported LDMPCU to develop project proposal and to connect with GCUIS for this project, further Nepal Government ensured to do partial support to complete the building.

Phase out projects

Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS),

a study of block grants to VDCs, DDCs and CA funds

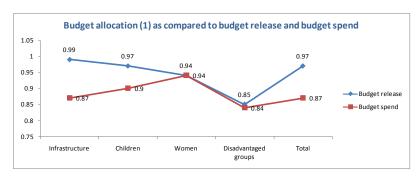
This year CECI Nepal in association with Policy Research and Development (PRAD) successfully completed the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) for the DDC block grants, the VDC block grants and the CA Funds. This study covered 35 VDCs in six districts i.e. Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya, Bankey, Dang and Surkhet. The study was supported by Sajhedari Bikaas(SB) Project/ USAID.

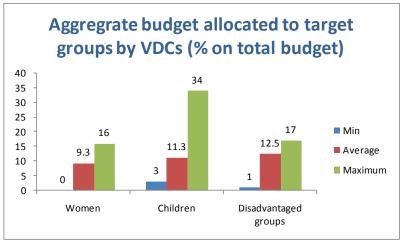
This study aimed at developing a clearer understanding on how the DDC/VDC block grants and CA funds (CADP and CAISP) flow from their point-of origin to their point-of-expenditure by conducting surveys on their use in different developmental activities; and suggesting measures for improving accountability and filling in the information gaps of public expenditure and resource allocation used at the decentralized level by tracking the complete expenditure flow right up to the end users.

The study team capacitated the district NGOs (DNGOs) of SB and collected field level survey data with their support. With the help of the study team, the DNGOs prepared district wise reports and presented the key findings among the district level stakeholders. After completion of the field level activities, CECI organized a national level sharing workshop on the key findings of PETS on June 23, 2016.









Summary of findings

- The study found some issues related to process of funds transfer, leakage and anomalies in budget allocation and spending in all three types of funds and recommended measures to overcome the existing gaps, bottlenecks and anomalies.
- Key findings included greater political/ elite influence in project selection and implementation, high deviation of target group development budget, ineffective supervision and monitoring and poor and scanty documentation.
- Political commitment of CA members and local planning priorities observed to be conflicting in project selection and implementation under CA Funds between CA members and DDC officials.
- Practice of lump-sum allocation of target group development budget without identifying the projects; zero advance system discouraging disadvantage groups to lead the user committee; and budget spending in last quarter of fiscal year were the key observation in DDC block grant.

Study recommendations:

- To avoid the settlement level planning and infrequent ward level planning processes; and the practice of seeking undue incentives for project approval; fund release and technical verification were key observations in the VDC block grant.
- To review and reform the policies and processes to better utilize the local budget.
- To revise the policy to allow the release of VDC funds directly to the VDC accounts; to provide
 additional support staff (transitional provision) to the VDCs; to review the zero advance system; to
 increase women representation in the user committees; and to balance between the CA members
 commitment and local planning priorities To review the process of capacitating target groups;
 strengthen monitoring and supervision mechanisms; make the user committees more transparent
 and accountable; and engage the ward citizen forums more actively in facilitating project selection.



An interaction on local budget expenditure

Earthquake Response Program

This year CECI successfully completed the Earthquake Response Program which started after the massive 7.8m earthquake on April 25, 2015. The Earthquake, its major aftershock of May 12 and other numerous subsequent aftershocks killed thousands of people and animals, rendered millions homeless, destroyed buildings, monuments, and temples leading to the loss of millions in property. According to the PDNA on June 2015, the earthquake had a serious impact on agricultural based livelihoods which creates a possibility of increased vulnerability to hunger and food insecurity.

CECI immediately began an emergency response program and livelihood support in the three major affected districts Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur. During the emergency phase CECI distributed humanitarian relief materials such as: tarpaulins, food packets, hygiene kits, kitchen utensils, water filters, solar lanterns and basic medical packages. CECI then initiated a livelihood and WASH intervention in the 3 VDCs of Lalitpur and Sindhupalchowk that were completely destroyed. This intervention included distribution of seeds for short duration vegetables and crops, replacement of livestock breeds (buffalo), repair and maintenance of cattle sheds, reconstruction of dairy enterprises and the repair and reconstruction of drinking water facilities for safe drinking water.

As many toilets were destroyed and in order to maintain proper hygiene and avoid high risk of infection and disease, CECI also provided mason training to 75 individuals who eventually constructed 1,825 toilets in Sindhupalchowk. All these activities were funded by Global Affairs Canada, CECI's own fund raising sources, and the Canadian Medical Association (CMA). In addition, the Rebuild Micro Enterprise Nepal (ReMEN), and the initiative of the Australian Volunteers, provided funding to support the recovery of women led dairy and microenterprises that were destroyed.







medical package, and provided psychosocial Beneficiaries: 5608 households

Early recovery: Drinking water and sanitation





nstruction, and distribution of wa carrying vessel and toilet hygiene kit.

Agriculture service/input



Micro-enterprises and dairy sector development

reconstruction and equipment (including chilling centers) Beneficiaries: 2250 households





Skill development training for livelihood recovery Beneficiaries: 168 people

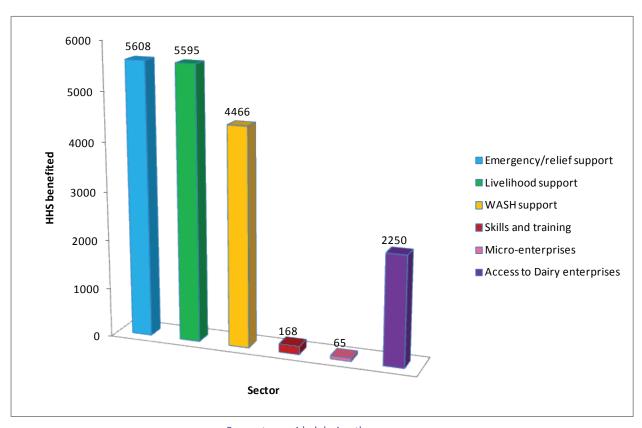
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Supports provided during the program





Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) Nepal

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