

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018





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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-governmental organizations and community-based organizations.

Gender equality and social inclusion, transparency and good governance are at the core of our capacity building activities.

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.

MISSION

CECI's mission is to combat poverty and exclusion

FOCUS AREAS

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

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

Acronyms

| | |
|--------|---|
| ACNS | Autism Care Nepal Society |
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| AVID | Australian Volunteer for International Development |
| AVP | Australian Volunteer Program |
| BSET | Balaju School of Engineering and Technology |
| CCUL | Coffee Cooperative Union Lalitpur |
| CECI | Centre for International Studies and Cooperation |
| CIL | Independent Living Centre |
| CLD | Centre for Law and Democracy |
| CTEVT | Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| GAC | Global Affairs Canada |
| GESI | Gender Equality and Social Inclusion |
| GON | Government of Nepal |
| ICT | Information Communication and Technology |
| IEDI | Industrial Enterprise Development Institute |
| IMP | Integrated Pest Management |
| KPP | Kisan ko Poko |
| MAPs | Medicinal and Aromatic Plants |
| MSME | Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| NACCFL | Nepal Agricultural and Cooperative Centre Federation Ltd. |
| NHRC | National Health Research Council |
| NGO | Non-Government Organization |
| NYFN | Nepal Youth Federation Nepal |
| OWF | Organic World of Fair Future |
| PP-WHS | Plastic Pond Rain Water Harvest Systems |
| PSAs | Public Service Announcements |
| PWD | People With Disability |
| RTI | Right to Information |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SDP | Skills Development Project |
| SKBBL | Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Ltd. |
| SPS | Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary |
| TVET | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| WMG | Women and Marginalized Group |
| WUSC | World University Service of Canada |

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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 which was founded in 1958 and registered in 1968. CECI works to combat poverty and exclusion by strengthening the development capacity of disadvantaged communities; supporting initiatives for peace, human rights, gender equality, ending violence, disaster risk reduction, food security, resilience and adaptation to climate change; mobilizing resources; and promoting knowledge sharing.

CECI strives for innovation and efficiency through its interventions and partner relations, and

supports to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by collaborating with strategic partners to carry out programs and projects. Strengthening democratic governance and protecting the environment are systematically incorporated into all of CECI's programming. Since its establishment, CECI has mobilized more than 12,000 volunteers from Canada in 30 countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe, and has supported over 8,000 local partners.

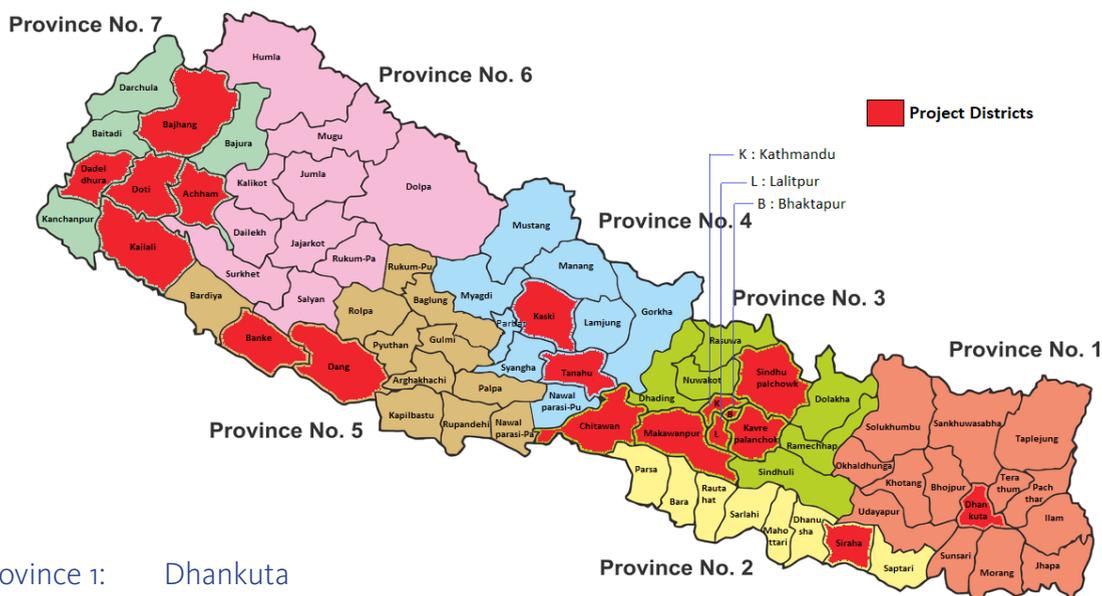
In Nepal, CECI has been active for over 30 years and has implemented a diverse nature of projects



and programs covering thematic areas such as agriculture, livelihoods, micro-enterprise, business development, governance, gender equality and social inclusion, climate change, and disaster risk reduction (DRR). It has delivered technical assistance to various government ministries and departments with the funding support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and USAID. CECI's projects and programs are

always aligned with the country's development goals. In Nepal, it ideally works under the auspices of an MOU initially signed with the Social Welfare Council in 1989 and subsequently renewed every five years. The partnership between various donors, government, civil society and the private sector has helped CECI foster a solid project management capacity and an extensive network of consultants and local service providers.

CECI's Project Districts in Nepal (2016-2017)



- Province 1: Dhankuta
- Province 2: Siraha
- Province 3: Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk, Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Makawanpur, Chitwan
- Province 4: Kaski, Tanahu
- Province 5: Dang, Banke
- Province 7: Kailali, Dadeldhura, Doti, Achham, Bajhang



Message from the **Country Representative**

Dear friends,

It is our pleasure presenting to you CECI Nepal's Annual Progress Report for the Fiscal Year of 2074-75 B.S. (2017-2018). This report will provide a comprehensive understanding of CECI Nepal's projects and highlights of notable achievements/impacts we have made in the development sectors. Like in previous years, our ambition for this year was to contribute to achieving the SDGs and the country's overall development efforts. During this period, we undertook three development projects and two volunteer programs which were focused on governance, livelihood improvement, economic and institutional development, vocational education, and gender and social inclusion. This year CECI's projects covered 18 districts and reached 55,000 direct and about 264,000 indirect beneficiaries.

One of the notable achievements we have made this year is reaching a milestone in e-governance by installing techno-hubs in municipalities and rural municipalities. This intervention has been possible under the project "Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal (Susasan)". The Susasan project is financed by GAC and is in its' second



year of implementation. Another remarkable contribution we have done this year is providing agricultural technologies supports to farmers to enhance their agriculture enterprises under the Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal (Punarnirman) project. This project is also funded by GAC that aims to improve sustainable livelihoods of the rural population in three districts who were badly affected by the mega earthquake of April 2015. In fact, the project is a continuation of the emergency and recovery support program that CECI provided after the earthquake.

Our consulting services to the ADB and the Nepal government funded Skills Development Project (SDP) came to an end this year. This five year project has been successful in making an impact on increasing employability of the

Nepalese workforce by establishing a market responsive and social and gender-inclusive technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system.

We mobilized 50 volunteers from two volunteer cooperation programs: the Canadian Volunteer Cooperation Program Uniterra and Australian Volunteers Program (AVP). Previously, the Australian Volunteer Program was known as Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID). On 31 December 2017, AVID ended and the new phase began with AVP. Australian Volunteers International (AVI) is managing the program globally. In Nepal, AVI manages the program through CECI. Both Canadian and Australian Volunteers serve in various governmental and non-governmental organizations within the country following

the governmental priorities. The details of the projects are showcased in the respective sections of this report.

We would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all our donors and project implementing partners, both the Government of Nepal (GON) and NGOs. I deeply appreciate the contributions made by the stakeholders to make our efforts successful. I look forward to continued cooperation, coordination, and collaboration in the upcoming days too. I extend my sincere thanks to CECI's dedicated staff and volunteers for their tireless efforts and contributions in implementing various projects and programs.

Last but not the least, sincere appreciation goes to Ms. Mallika Bhattarai, Communications Officer for designing and producing this report.

Keshava Koirala
Country Representative, CECI Nepal

Ongoing PROJECTS



LIVELIHOOD

Punarnirman

The Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal (Punarnirman) is a 3-year economic recovery project started in January 2017. It aims at improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable earthquake-affected communities in Nepal, particularly in the Districts of Sindhupalchowk (Barabise Municipality, Wards 7, 8 and 9), Kavrepalanchowk (Bethanchowk Rural Municipality, Wards 1, 5 and 6) and Lalitpur (Rural Municipalities of Konjyosom, Ward 2, Bagmati, Ward 3 and Mahankal, Ward 1). In fact, the project is being implemented as a continuation of CECI's efforts in providing emergency and recovery support after the 2015 mega earthquake in Nepal. This project has a target to reach 18,000 women, men, and youth (4,000 families), which accounts for 70% of the population who were badly affected by the earthquake in the working areas of three districts.

Punarnirman project has three major components: building capacity and promoting environmentally friendly and gender-sensitive agricultural and dairy production skills; facilitating the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) led by vulnerable populations of women; and increasing the employability of working-age adults, especially women and youth, through market-oriented skills training programs. The Project will also use a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) approach and include activities such as an analysis of cultural barriers to women's involvement and the development of achievement indicators related to gender equality and marginalized groups' participation in livelihoods related activities.

Mason training in Lalitpur



The achievements made in 2017-18:

- Established 114 sub-sector producers' groups (PGs) in vegetable farming (mainly cauliflower and tomatoes), milk production, and goat-raising in the three project districts. The purpose of establishing these PGs was to channel project resources and services in an effective and integrated manner. While forming PGs, priority was given to ensure the inclusion of women, marginalized groups, and Dalits so that they could get the maximum benefit from the project interventions. As a result, women constituted 72%, youth 65%, women and marginalized groups 83%, single women 4%, and Dalits 3% of the total PG members.
- Provided environment and gender-friendly production inputs and appropriate technologies for agriculture to 2,823 members of the PGs. Such agricultural inputs included vegetable seeds, spice crop seeds, composting materials, fruit saplings, chaff cutters, mini tillers, corn shellers, crates, materials for drip irrigation and poly house farming, etc. While supporting sustainable agricultural inputs and technologies, women and marginalized groups were given top priority to ensure their participation.
- Provided agriculture and livestock-related training to the PGs on environment-friendly vegetable farming technologies, hygienic milk production, animal shed management balanced ration making for livestock, compost manure making, and poultry farming. Special attention was given to ensure that the members understand the importance of using environment-friendly farming activities. Moreover, they were encouraged to go for organic fertilizers, Integrated Pest Management techniques (IPM), making and using compost manures, cultivating grass/fodders in private lands and discouraging



Farmers learning about crops management in Lalitpur



Corn shellers - saving time and energy



Woman ploughing with power tiller

- forest encroachment. A total of 1,751 PG members benefitted from these trainings.
- Supported the PG members to construct small-scale infrastructure such as poly-houses and micro-irrigation systems for fresh vegetable farming, animal shed improvement for better animal husbandry, and collection centers for providing market access to locally produced vegetable and milk products. A total of 925 small scale infrastructures were constructed.
- Organized nine training sessions on gender-responsive disaster preparedness to newly elected representatives of local governments. The purpose of the training was to recognize the importance of gender-responsive DRR activities. The session was organized upon the request of the local government itself.
- Identified key products/sectors to establish enterprises under the MSME component. Such products and services are tailoring, bamboo-based handicraft, carpet weaving, khoa making, vegetable nurseries, and carpentry. MSME support was also focused on women's and marginalized group's knowledge and skills to increase their income and increase confidence in decision making.
- Provided small grant support to 96 individual entrepreneurs and one group of entrepreneurs to restart, develop, or expand their local business (economic activities) which were greatly in decline after the earthquake in 2015. The grants are a one-time provision and provided on a competitive basis, but including the poor and vulnerable groups.

Small Support Can Make a Difference

Mrs. Kamala Timilsina, a single mother in Barhabise municipality ward-9 Ramche, was injured in a landslide and simultaneously lost her husband and other immediate family members. She weaved carpets as a secondary source of income, but her primary source of income was agricultural labour. She struggled physically in performing agricultural labour but unfortunately she had leg injuries and couldn't work. She then had a big financial crisis and was barely able to provide for her household including two children. She also had an outstanding loan on the carpet-weaving machine.

The Punarnirman project provided carpet-weaving material worth 15,000 Nepalese Rupees to the beneficiary in the form of a grant. The project beneficiary also made a personal contribution of 3,000 Nepalese Rupees.

The Punarnirman project helped to ease the household's financial burden and allowed the beneficiary to pursue carpet-weaving rather than strenuous agricultural labour. The financial contribution also relieved the household's stress in repaying the loans.



Collection Centre Helps to Get Good Price



Constructing phase of collection centre

One of the major activities of the Punarnirman project is to provide agricultural inputs to the earthquake affected population. In Lalitpur, the project has covered three rural municipalities: Kyonjosung (Shanku), Bukhel, and Bhattedanda. In Bhattedanda, more than 90% of farmers are involved in vegetable production where it is a primary source of income. Each family sells vegetables, both seasonal and off-seasonal, equating to an income of approximately Rs 50,000 to 500,000 a year. However, farmers were having difficulty selling their vegetables directly to the market since there were no vegetable collection centres. They turned to door-to-door middlemen or brokers who bought the vegetables at a price much lower than the market price.

The Punarnirman project provided NPR 80,000 to the Vegetable Collection Centre Committee to construct a centre. The Committee used the fund to buy construction materials like rod, cement, bricks, and galvanized sheet. Sanu Maya Jimba, a member of the committee, provided her land to construct the centre on free of cost for 15 years. In-kind support, such as labour, and local materials such as stones was provided by the members of the Collection Centre Committee. As a central hub, farmers can collect their vegetables at their leisure and protect them from harsh weather conditions.



Farmers harvesting potatoes for sale



Lal Bahadur Ghumba, Chairperson of the Collection Centre Committee expressed his happiness and said that this collection centre is being utilized both by members and non-members of the committee. It has made life easier for the people, as they don't need to rush each day to take vegetables to the milk truck so that they can be taken to the market. Now, they can store vegetables in the collection centre for several days.

The Vegetable Collection Centre filled the needs of local farmers. It has helped them get a good price for their hard work and even sell the products in bulk to the market, thereby avoiding middle men.



Inauguration of Techno-hub in Shanfebagar Municipality

GOVERNANCE

Susasan

Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal (Susasan), a four year project, is in its second year of implementation. The project was developed to bridge the gap of understanding between service providers (government bodies) and service receivers (Citizens, CSOs, NGOs) in utilizing the government services through the use of integrated technologies. It also complements the government's on-going initiatives and programs on governance and social accountability, as well as reconstruction efforts of recovery and rehabilitation programs after the April 2015 earthquake. Currently the project is being

implemented in six districts of two provinces: Sindhupalchowk and Lalitpur in Province No. 3 and Kailali, Dadeldhura, Achham and Bajhang in Province No. 7. The project is aimed at improving citizens', especially women and marginalized groups' engagement in the democratic decision making process, and enjoying human rights through the use of integrated technology. The project also aims to support public institutions to become more responsive to the diverse needs and rights of citizens.

The project has four major components
(1) Enhancing Citizen Engagement and

Influence, (2) Establishment of Techno Hubs, (3) E-Governance Capacity Building and Accountability, and (4) Project Management. It focuses on addressing digital technology gaps and develops specific strategies to reach particular marginalized groups, defined through gender equality and social inclusion (e.g. Women), youth, caste (e.g. Dalit), vulnerability (e.g. Persons with disabilities), indigenous and ethnic minorities (e.g. Adivasi, Janjati, Madhesi and Muslims), and geographically excluded and extremely poor communities.

The project team works in close coordination with local government. For effective and smooth implementation of the project, it is partnering with two national organizations – Freedom Forum and Young Innovations, and six district level CSOs (DCSOs) – one in each project district. Similarly, to build from international practices and experiences, it is also working with a Canada based NGO – the Center for Law and Democracy (CLD).

Achievements made during 2017-18:

During the fiscal year 2017-18, the project beneficiaries reached 2,419, of which the number of women is 1,532 (79%).

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Integration

GESI measures are developed for each output of the project, putting the emphasis on integrating GESI in each project activity or intervention. As a result, Training of Trainers (ToT) on formulation of GESI policies was conducted for project implementing partners. Following the ToT, the partner CSOs formulated their institutional GESI policies themselves and then organized training for another 138 CSOs in the districts. In the trainings, elected representatives and a GESI focal person from the respective local government were also invited where they shared



Public hearing in Dadeldhura

about the municipal plan and budget targeted to women and marginalized groups (WMGs) in the current fiscal year.

Technological Platform and Inclusion

The “Susasan” have been developing some of the technological platforms or tools and rolled out in local governments through establishing techno-hubs to promote citizen state engagement.

Technological platforms or tools developed are:

- **Municipal Information Data Portal** which displays and delivers the government’s day to day activities.
- **Points of Interest (POI)** is another tech-component that is aimed at capturing important facilities within the geography of local governments.
- **MunVoice** is primarily used by local authorities (elected representatives, officials etc) as a convenient way to reach the public with key messages. The medium is video while key messages are transcribed into other suitable languages.
- **Digitization of policies/programs of municipalities;** and
- **E-messaging system** which is an offline tech component that helps the elected head of local governments to reach out to a group of officials or individuals through text message. The system has generated out of the Municipal Human Resources Database that is being built across all the local governments.

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the local governments, eight Techno-Hubs have been established, six at the municipalities and two at the community level. The Techno-Hubs established at the municipalities are Sanfebagar in Achham, Barabise in Sindhupalchowk, Amargadhi in Dadeldhura and the Techno-Hubs in the rural

municipalities are in the Kailari rural municipality in Kailali and Bannigadhi Jayagadha in Achham. There are also two community Techno-Hubs at Urma in Dhangadhi Sub Metropolitan City Kailali and Sankhu in Konjyosum Rural Municipality. Techno-Hubs are established to contribute to promoting governance. All the established techno-hubs are under the management and operation of local governments. Only the technical support is being provided to the local governments to make the techno-hubs functional.

Environment

Environmental measures are considered mostly during renovation of physical facilities to establish and operate techno-hubs, for which a checklist of environmental measures is developed and followed. Mainstreaming environmental concerns involve ensuring the sustainability of results and protecting the environment.

Visibility

Three types of awareness materials were developed: Radio public service announcements (PSAs), posters/flow diagrams and animated graphics. In particular, PSAs and posters/flow diagrams deliver the information on local governance (structure, governance process, spaces for citizen engagement referring to a new constitution and local government act 2074), while animated graphics depict more on targeting WMGs based on the Right to Information (RTI). The Radio PSA was broadcast from Radio Nepal (national radio with high audience coverage) before and during the local elections to make WMGs aware of their rights and participation in democratic processes. Hence, the visibility materials can be used as resource materials to hold the government accountable.

अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय

खुला तथ्यांक दिवस

२०१८

INTERNATIONAL OPEN DATA DAY 2018

डाटा पोर्टल तथा सुचना प्रविधि केन्द्र उद्घाटन

www.sanfebagar.susasan.org

फागुन १९, २०१८



आयोजक
साफेबगर नगरपालिका

सहकार्य



Global Affairs
Canada



YoungInnovations

Sanfe becomes the first IT Centre

Susasan Project has been supporting twelve local governments with a holistic approach to develop information and communication technology (ICT) friendly, open, and accountable governments through establishing integrated technology. For this, various activities along with the technological platform are developed. Most importantly, techno-hubs are set up in the municipality as well as in the community. Sanfebagar Municipality became the first Open Local Government among 753 local governments to establish an integrated techno-hub. On March 3rd, Sanfebagar Municipality organized a grand event to inaugurate the techno-hub, marking International Open Data Day 2018 under its banner. With the inauguration of the IT Centre, the Municipality launched its first ever information and data portal. Key personnel from Province 7 including Minister of Finance Jhapat Bohara, Parliamentarian Harka Bahadur Kunwar, and mayors of several other local governments were present to witness the day. Similarly, a large group comprising of federal leaders, elected leaders of local government, security forces officials, civil society leaders, and journalists came together to talk about the significance of this day and more

importantly to discuss “Why it is the right time to ensure an Open Local Government”.

This technology is expected to be used by the Municipality in a sustainable way and will enable the convenient flow of municipal information, as well as increase responsiveness of the government towards women and marginalized communities. Kul Bahadur Kunwar, Mayor of Sanfebagar Municipality, acknowledged the support of Susasan project and stated, “Through the Municipal e-Portal, we aim to ensure public access to municipal data, information, as well as its activities. This facilitates access while communicating decisions and program budgets of the municipality to the citizens.”

Similarly Harka Bahadur Kunwar, a member of Federal Parliament, said, “I am happy to see Sanfebagar Municipality leading the way to establish itself as citizen-friendly through an easy access point to municipal information.”

Susasan project team, together with implementing partner Malika Development Organization and Young Innovations, the ICT Partner of the Susasan project, provided technical support to the municipality to establish techno-hub and in the preparation of the event.

Volunteer Program

Volunteering is a key part of CECI. With its' establishment in 1987 in Nepal, Volunteer Cooperation Program (VCP), currently named as Uniterra, was started. Similarly, since 1999 CECI started managing Australian volunteers under the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) program in Nepal. Currently this program is named as Australian Volunteer Program (AVP). Both Canadian and Australian Volunteer Cooperation Programs, CECI is still managing and in the past 30 years CECI has mobilized over 650 volunteers. The Volunteer program is focused on building capacity of partner organizations through the transfer of skills and knowledge. Volunteers especially provide technical support to the partner organizations in their project and programs, and help initiate generating economic opportunities linking them with the potential networks. CECI's volunteers are placed in both governmental and non-governmental organizations.



Canadian Volunteer Cooperation Program (Uniterra)

Uniterra is a Canadian volunteer cooperation and international development program that is jointly operated by CECI and WUSC in 12 countries across Asia, Africa and the Americas. The program supports inclusive market system development to benefit marginalized women and youth. Uniterra works with partners working in agro-product, non-timber forest product and handicraft sub-sectors facilitating growth and change in markets that impact marginalized populations in partnership with the governmental and non-governmental organizations. Uniterra volunteers help to build the capacities of partner organization by targeting the creation of job opportunities and

encouraging entrepreneurship among women and youth through skills transferring and knowledge management.

During this fiscal year a total of 25 volunteers, including 2 national volunteers were mobilized reaching 3,041 direct and 14,597 indirect beneficiaries. A total of 1,519 people (821 men and 698 women) were trained in various skills. Volunteers have developed and updated more than 260 tools for partners, including videos, manuals, strategy, publications, databases, websites, brochures, survey results, donor tracking templates, social media, case studies, and review reports.



Highlights of the achievements

made by Uniterra during 2017-2018:

Non-Timber Forest Product Sector



- The quarantine workshop conducted by Uniterra partner, Nepal Herbal and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA) last year with Uniterra support was followed up with two technical meetings. The follow-up action was to draw the attention of policy makers regarding export barriers, especially quarantine issues for Nepal Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for exports to India and China.
- A Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) implementation committee was formed and

has met twice. The issues raised during the workshop have been highly prioritised by both the Department of Plant Resources and the National Plant Quarantine Program. The following things have been decided and/or proposed in the meetings:

- Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary measures of the products imported and exported as a way to handle those issues going forward.
- Proposed 105 products in the quarantine list to India increasing it from 17 products in the past.
- Pest Risk Analysis of the three products Timur (*Zanthoxylum*), Dalchini (Cinnamon Bark) and Tejpat (Cinnamon Leaf) have been approved for improving the quality.
- Leadership development training highlighting leadership approaches, team management, and elevator pitches organized for board and general members of NEHHPA.
- Financial support was provided to the NEHHPA in preparing and publishing a “Personal Hygiene Manual” in Nepali. The manual will contribute to maintain the standard and quality of the products.
- A tool called Earthbeats for visual storytelling and a powerful marketing of the herbal sector in Nepal which was launched

in 2016 and is still helping the NEHHPA members expand their international markets. Similarly, storytelling video tools created by volunteers have become a vital communication tool for NEHHPA members while participating in international trade fairs.

- Support provided to the Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA) in the construction of five hybrid dryers that use solar and electricity power. These dryers will be pilot tested to dry cardamom and other Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) and agricultural products in Lamjung District. If successful, this technology is expected to improve product quality, amplify the international trade of MAPs and

in 15 districts of Nepal direct access to the Kathmandu market.

- Uniterra also supported NACCFL to conduct three events of intensive training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and post-harvest management training for member farmers. Altogether, 30 participants (including 19 females) participated in each training program.
- Uniterra along with IEDI provided three trainings on entrepreneurship development and Business Plan Preparation Training for 65 Israel returnee students to start up their career as entrepreneurs. To enhance knowledge and skills on modern agricultural technology among the youth,

Agriculture

- Nepal Agricultural and Cooperative Central Federation Limited (NACCFL) with the support of Uniterra organized a three day training on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) to its board and staffs. The training mainly focused on acknowledgement of GESI terms, present and previous status of GESI, and inclusion of the GESI concept in proposal writing.
- NACCFL, supported by Uniterra, opened a storefront of Kisan ko Poko (KPP), “a Farmers’ Basket” to ensure sustainability of the project. Uniterra volunteers helped NACCFL to finalise the business plan of KPP by conducting a workshop on the consumer survey. KPP is providing 497 rural farmers (388 female farmers) from 27 cooperatives



Sahakari Pasal

Sana Kisan Bikash Bank (SKBBL) Ltd, in collaboration with the Israeli Embassy has been conducting the Small Farmer Trainee Program providing opportunities for the youth farmers to go to Israel and work and learn to practice a modern agricultural system. 2144 students have already benefited by this program. The trainees who have received training have started the agricultural enterprise and are utilizing the knowledge gained in the training.

- Uniterra supported and facilitated hosting a consultative workshop to raise awareness of Central Dairy Cooperative Association Ltd. Nepal (CDCAN) members about the clause and conditions of livestock insurance. A private insurance company, Premier Insurance Company Ltd. is now linked with the CDCAN to work together for the insurance of the livestock ensuring maximum benefits to the farmers.
- A Uniterra volunteer supported Organic World and Fair Future (OWF) to participate in various trade fairs and expositions.



James supporting OWF during Fair Trade Christmas Bazaar

Women and Youth

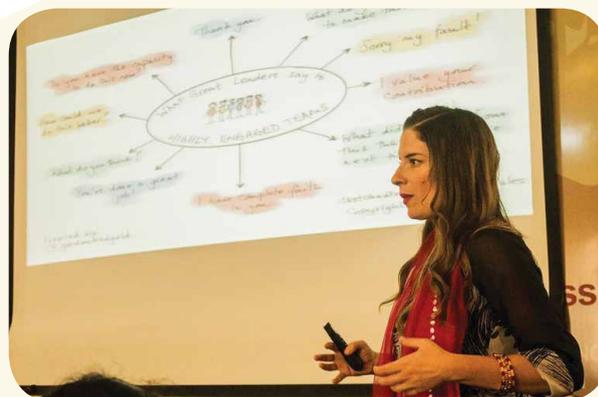


Antoine and Geraldine briefing about the handicraft

- Uniterra supported the Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association of Nepal (HIMAWANTI) in amending its constitution, developing the annual plan, and organizing and facilitating capacity enhancement workshop for local electoral women affiliated with HIMAWANTI, where 91 participants (79 female and 12 male) were present.
- With support from Uniterra, World Fair Trade Day was celebrated as part of advocacy efforts to increase awareness and visibility of Fair Trade among the general public. There were over 1,000 participants in the event and the event was successful in promoting the production and consumption of local products.
- Uniterra volunteers and Prerana, the strategic partner, are jointly helping other Uniterra partners in mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI). Six

events of GESI workshops/training are organized for NACCFL, Lalitpur District Milk Producers' Union, Coffee Cooperative Union Lalitpur (CCUL), and Balaju School of Engineering and Technology (BSET)/CTEVT.

- Uniterra volunteer convened a two-day Training of Trainers (TOT) on Leadership Development for Prerana and Nepal Youth Federation Nepal (NYFN) to enhance knowledge on leadership and management skills. As a continuation of this training, Prerana is conducting similar TOTs for Fair Trade Group Nepal and CCUL members.
- Career Counselling Workshops and TOTs have been conducted in NYFN and BSET/CTEVT as an initiative from Uniterra volunteers where 231 students and 16 teachers benefitted.
- Uniterra volunteer conducted training on social media for business and self-branding targeting the youth of NYFN who are involved in developing websites for various organizations. The training helped them build a platform to showcase their work to attract potential clients and new networks, and to also build an online reputation for their work.
- Uniterra volunteer provided various trainings including goal setting/career counselling, interview skills, non-verbal communication, active listening, constructive feedback, presenting skills, leadership, critical thinking and public speaking skills, and mental health (feelings/emotions, stress/anxiety, depression, addiction and suicide awareness, etc.) to 206 members of NYFN.



Jennifer providing Leadership Training to the members of partner organizations

The participants of ToT will be able to further train NYFN's other members.

- NYFN organised the "National Conference on Youth and Peace" to promote youth with support from Uniterra. A total of 109 youth participated in the conference.
- Uniterra supported the NYFN to organize a National Conference on "Youth and Sustainable Development Goals" where 213 participants from 47 districts participated. The major focus of the conference was professional development of youth and their contribution in achieving the SDGs. The participants were equipped with information related to the context of the SDGs, its localization, and further youth initiatives to access local market systems for income generating activities with the active participation of policy makers.
- Uniterra volunteer helped BSET/CTEVT to organize a job fair, where 22 employers and 1200 youth participated. An offer letter was given to 150 participants.

The opportunity
to learn becomes
the opportunity
to lead:
Becoming an
Entrepreneur



Ganga Kharel, a 28 year old female from Udayapur District is an inspiring figure for today's young women of Nepal. She has been married for ten years and is living with her eight year-old son and husband. Her husband usually lives in Janakpur where he serves for the Nepal police. Ganga got an opportunity to study and practice modern vegetable farming technology in Israel for ten months which highly benefitted her.

In Israel, she met Jeevan Rai from Ilam and Ramesh Bhattarai and Biren Guragain from Morang with whom she decided to start a small enterprise with small funds they had saved. However, they still lacked sufficient capacity to start. To address this issue, Uniterria in coordination with Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI) supported Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Ltd. (SKBBL) to organize entrepreneurship development trainings for Israel returnees. This is where Ganga Kharel and her friends were able to benefit and finally start

their own business in Bhadrapur. "It was really a challenging decision for me to convince my parents as I had to stay alone and far away from my home," explained Ganga. They weren't ready to send her far from the house so she had to take her father to Bhadrapur several times for convincing him. In spite of the negative response, she was able to convince her husband who said that "if you think the team is good enough, you can do what you want, but the risk will completely be yours."

With limited support from family, Ganga decided to chase her dream. She invested around three Lakhs in her team's business. Today her team has hired land on lease in four places in Bhadrapur where they have opened their own chicken farm, goat farm, grow vegetables like tomato, cabbage, potato, and sell those products at the market. They are also looking for an opportunity to expand their business, reduce the involvement of middlemen and diversify their products.

Plastic Ponds, an Effective Method for Water Harvesting

Experiencing water shortage is a common phenomenon in most of the hilly regions of Nepal. Manakamana community in Gorkha District is one that faces scarcity of water during the dry season and also suffers from erosion and landslides caused by excessive runoff during the monsoon months. The small farmers of Manakamana lack year-round irrigation systems for their cash crops which prevents them from being able to engage in commercial agriculture and makes them vulnerable to erratic precipitation patterns. Moreover, the community sees its supply of drinking water shrinking as the spring flows have significantly diminished and become intermittent ever since the 2015 earthquake.

To address these problems and support in the smooth run of the water system, CECI and NACCFL have launched a pilot project of making a plastic pond for rain water harvesting. Uniterra volunteer Laurent-Charles Tremblay has been teaching small farmers to construct the plastic ponds and has done some demonstrations as well. He is teaching how this simple rainwater harvesting technology helps them boost their livelihoods and increase their climate resiliency. Plastic pond rainwater harvest systems (PP-RWHS) are an effective way of collecting and storing runoff and rainwater during the wet season until later when it needs to be used during the dry months (e.g. for irrigation, livestock, domestic non-drinking



purposes, and fish farming). The plastic ponds are directly dug out in the ground and require some construction materials, including plastic sheets to cover the bottom and sides of the pond and hosepipes connecting the rooftop gutters to the pond. The costs for a multi-use PP-RWHS with storage capacity between 25,000 to 60,000 liters ranges between NPR 30,000 to NPR 60,000. As a pilot project Uniterra in coordination with NACCFL has sponsored the construction of two plastic pond systems. The small one has a harvesting capacity of 35,000 liters a year, while the big one has approximately 42,000 of harvesting capacity. The smaller one will be used for kitchen garden production and the bigger one for irrigating and fodder for livestock, for washing the livestock, and for domestic non-drinking purposes as well. A dozen of orientation meetings around the community have been organised in order to successfully introduce this technology to as many small farmers as possible. The goal of those meetings has been to present to small farmers about the construction, use, benefits and maintenance of plastic pond rainwater harvesting systems. The small farmers are inspired by this innovative water management system and have given words, they will replicate this throughout the community.



Australian Volunteers Program (AVP)

The Australian Volunteers Program is an Australian government initiative which aims to make an effective contribution to the development objectives of its partner governments in developing countries. The program mobilises qualified volunteers to work with Partner Organizations to share professional and technical knowledge and skills. Until the end of 2017, the program was known as Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) and was managed by the Scope Global and Australian Volunteers International (AVI). On 31 December 2017, the AVID program ended and the new phase began with the new Australian Volunteers Program (AVP) which is being managed by AVI globally. AVI, like Scope Global, has sub-contracted CECI to manage the Australian Volunteers in Nepal. The Program is being implemented in Nepal within the framework of the MoU signed between the

Government of Nepal and the Government of Australia in June 1999.

The AVP volunteers serve in those sectors where the Government of Australia provides aid to Nepal. Such sectors are: education, economic development, and disaster risk reduction and they are mainly engaged with government agencies, while a few volunteers have placements in local NGOs. The Australian Volunteers program supported 18 volunteers in Nepal in the fiscal year 2017-18 and the volunteers served in health and disability, education, disaster prevention and preparedness, and human rights sectors.

Volunteers who serve in Nepal build strong relationships with their host organizations which further contribute to bringing continued expertise and resources to Nepal.

Highlights of the achievements

made by AVP during 2017-2018:

- Helped develop the National Health Policy for the Ministry of Health and Population Nepal;
- Helped to develop an International level curriculum in Midwifery for the Bachelor's level at the Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences;
- Assisted in Biomedical Research at the National Health Research Council (NHRC);
- Worked to develop Online Education for the Department of Education;
- Helped to develop and establish Organization Development and Communication policies and systems at the Centre for Independent Living – an organization for PWD;
- Worked to develop Emergency Response procedures and systems at the National Society for Earthquake Technologies;
- Helped to train Community-Based Occupational Therapists with Karuna Foundation.



Contributing to film-making and awareness of people with disabilities

Australian Volunteer Helen McLaren, who is working as a Program Development Officer with Independent Living Centre (CIL), Pokhara assisted Nepali journalist and short film maker, Rajneesh Bhandari, to make a 5-minute short film, “Anjana’s Journey”, about people with disabilities (PWD) in Pokhara. This film narrates the life of Anjana K.C, who has been living independently despite her disability and her efforts to become self-sufficient. She has been going with the aim of school to becoming a disability activist. The film has been selected as a finalist of the 2018 “Focus on Ability” Short Film Awards in International Category in Australia. Helen assisted with coordination and planning of the film as part of her assignment with the Independent Living Centre (CIL), Pokhara.



Remarks from a Host Organization

Ms. Phuong Dinh is the first Australian volunteer in our organization Autism Care Nepal Society (ACNS). We, all the members of the ACNS, would like to thank Ms. Phuong Dinh for her outstanding contribution and also to the Australian Volunteers Program which provided her with this amazing opportunity. We really appreciate her precious time in our organization, her hard work, dedication, and compassionate behaviour while adjusting to life in Nepal. Her practical knowledge, skills, and a positive attitude helped our children with autism and teachers a lot by implementing different strategies to address sensory problems through therapeutic means. She has been loved and liked by the ACNS family.

Autism Care Nepal Society
Kathmandu

Support in Raising Funds

Australian volunteers, working in different sectors in Nepal, are not only providing technical supports to their host organizations, but also contributing to raising funds for them. Manasi Kogear, Program Development Officer for the National Association of the Hard of Hearing (HoH) and Deafened Nepal (Shruti) was successful in receiving a grant of AUD 1000 from the Australian Government to implement a project to raise awareness about hearing loss in primary school children. Through this project, Shruti has so far visited 5 schools in Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Godawari and conducted presentations on hearing loss for children in Grades 5 and 6. Shruti has also developed and distributed two colourful and easy to read brochures on hearing loss for children and parents at these schools.





Phase out project

Skills Development Project

Skills Development Project (SDP) is a grant funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Grant 0345-NEP), including a financial contribution from the Government of Nepal (GoN). The project's overall goal was to increase the employability of the Nepalese workforce by building an inclusive market responsive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system. This was to be achieved through SDP's four components (outputs) namely to: expand provision of inclusive

market-oriented training; improve the quality and relevance of TVET provision; implementation of policy, institutional and operations reforms; and effective project management, monitoring and evaluation.

CECI in a consortium led by World University Services of Canada, including Industrial Enterprise Development Industries (IEDI) and College and Institutes Canada provided

consulting services to the Skills Development Project (SDP) mobilizing local and international consultants to the TSDU, the (PIU) and CTEVT. The consulting team was comprised of eight specialists: (I) TVET System and Institutional Development Specialist-Team Leader; (ii) Public Sector Organizational Change Specialist; (iii) TVET System and Institutional Development Specialist-Deputy Team Leader; (IV) Finance specialist; (v) Procurement Specialist; (VI) TVET Monitoring Specialist; (vii) Gender and Social Development Specialist; (viii) Database Specialist. Additional international volunteers were mobilized to accompany the 10 QIP institutions to achieve and implement their quality improvement plans.

The project started in January 2013 for a five year period until December 2018; however, consulting service was for a period of about four and a half year starting from March 2014 to June 2018.

The project supported the Government of Nepal to develop a market-responsive, social, and gender-responsive Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system. This was achieved by expanding the number of basic (for 45,000 participants) and mid-level (for 600 students), market-oriented training opportunities, increasing the quality relevance and efficiency of TEVT provisions, improving coordination and regulation of the TVET sector, and improving the capacity for effective project management, monitoring and evaluation.



Project Partners:

Freedom Forum
Young Innovation
Rural Development and Research Center (RDRC)
Rural Environment Development Center (REDC)
Malika Development Organization of Nepal (MDO Nepal)
Sahara Nepal
Solve Nepal
Tuki Association Sunkoshi
Rural Development Multiple Service Committee (RDMSC)
Ministry of Industry (MoI) - Cottage and Small Industry Development Board
National Micro Entrepreneurs Federation Nepal (NMEFEN)
Autism Care Nepal Society (ACNS)
National Association of Village Development Committees in Nepal (NAVIN)
Federation of Nepalese Cottage and Small Industries (FNCSI) - Bhaktapur
Center for Independent Living (CIL)
Government of Nepal - Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MOFSC)
Independent Living Society (ILS) - Nepal
Karuna Foundation Nepal (KFN)
Survivors Nepal
SUTRA Centre for Development Education and Research - Nepal School of Social Work(NSSW)
Saksham Yuwa Nepal (SYN)
Siddhi Memorial Foundation (SMF)
Fair Trade Group (FTG)
Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA)
Himalayan College of Agricultural Science and Technology
Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT)
Agro-Enterprise Center (AEC)
Forest Enterprise Division (FED)
Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce (FNCCI)
Nepal Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL)
Central Dairy Cooperative Association Nepal (CDCAN)
Small Farmer's Development Bank (SKBBL)
Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association Nepal (HIMAWANTI)
Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI)
National Youth Federation Nepal (NYFN)
Prerana
Center for Micro Finance (CMF)
Federation of Women Entrepreneur Associations Nepal (FWEAN)





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