

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017





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PRAN Project, Uniterra Team, AVID, SDP Project,

STRATEGY

CECI focuses on building the development capacity of local and disadvantaged communities. Its 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.

VISION

Through sharing and respect, CECI works for equality between men and women, both within its own organization and in society at large. It helps to combat poverty and exclusion by building bridges within its 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 & livelihoods
- Agriculture and food security
- Local governance and accountability
- Human safety and emergency response
- Gender equality and social inclusion
- Disaster Risk Reduction

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CECI	Centre for International Studies and Cooperation
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CDCAN	Central Dairy Cooperative Association Limited Nepal
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FWEAN	Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GON	Government of Nepal
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
L4C	Leave for Change
LBRMMG	Local Body Resource Mobilization and Management Guidelines
LDMPCU	Lalitpur District Milk Producers Cooperative Union
MoE	Ministry of Education
MDTF	Multi-Donor Trust Fund
NACCFL	National Agriculture Cooperation Centre Federation Ltd.
PFM	Public Financial Management
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
NYFN	National Youth Federation Nepal
QIP	Quality Improvement Program
SWC	Social Welfare Council
SDP	Skills Development Project
SKBBL	Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Ltd.
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WUSC	World University Service of Canada
WMG	Women and Marginalized Groups
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

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About Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)



Founded in 1958 and registered in 1968, the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) is a Canadian non-profit organization which works to combat 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.

Since its establishment, CECI has gained valuable development co-operation experience in more than 25 countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. CECI has developed

harmonious and productive partnerships with bilateral, multilateral and UN Agencies such as: CIDA (now GAC), USAID, AusAID, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Commission, the Government of the Netherlands, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations International Children's Education Fund, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, IDRC, Ministère des Relations Internationales du Québec, and others.

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



CECI established its office in Nepal in 1987, and since then it has been supporting and implementing development projects to achieve the development goals of the country and to promote the quality of life of its people. CECI Nepal's projects are focused on agriculture, livelihoods, microenterprise, business development, governance, and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

It has delivered technical assistance to various government ministries and departments with the funding support of the ADB, the World Bank, GAC and USAID. The partnership between various donors, government, civil society and the private sector has helped CECI fostering a solid project management capacity team and an extensive network of consultants and local service providers.





Message from the Country Representative

Dear friends,

I am delighted to share with you CECI Nepal's Annual Progress Report for the Fiscal Year of 2073-74 B.S. (2016 -2017). This report provides you with a comprehensive understanding of our development projects and programs that covered 27 districts by reaching 101,050 direct and about 266,000 indirect beneficiaries in this reporting period.

During this period, CECI has successfully accomplished one project; Multi-Donor Trust Fund/Program for Accountability in Nepal (MDTF/PRAN2), funded by World Bank; and launched two new projects: Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Service Accountable in Nepal (SUSASAN) and Livelihood Promotion of Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal (PUNARNIRMAN). SUSASAN promotes local governance through constructive dialogue between government institutions and citizens leveraging the technology where as PUNARNIRMAN aims at supporting earthquake affected population in three districts with the providing support of livelihood promotion, skills and enterprise development. Our consulting services to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Nepal government funded Skills Development Project (SDP) is on-going.

CECI also managed 50 volunteers from two volunteer cooperation programs: UNITERRA and Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID). UNITERRA is funded by GAC and is jointly implemented by WUSC and CECI. AVID is an Australian Government program managed by Scope Global through CECI in Nepal. Volunteers serve in various government and non-government organizations within the country.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our donors and implementing partners both GON and NGOs. I deeply appreciate the contributions made by the stakeholders to make our efforts successful. I look forward to continuing cooperation, coordination, and collaboration in the upcoming days. I extend my sincere thanks to CECI staff and volunteers for their kind cooperation and contribution in implementing the projects and running the organization.

At last, I would like to thank Ms. Mallika Bhattarai, Communications Officer for designing and producing this report.

Keshava Koirala
Country Representative, CECI Nepal

New Projects

This year Global Affairs Canada (GAC) awarded two new projects to CEI: Livelihood Supports to Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal (PUNARNIRMAN) and Sustainable Use of Technology to Make Public Sector Accountable in Nepal (SUSASAN).

PUNARNIRMAN

Livelihood Promotion of Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal (PUNARNIRMAN) project aims to improve the quality of life in earthquake-affected communities, particularly the most vulnerable populations of Sindhupalchok, Kavrepalanchok and Lalitpur districts.

This project is designed to continue the achievements, CEI has made through previous phases of the earthquake emergency response and recovery support projects after the April 2015 earthquake. The project aimed at supporting gender sensitive and environment friendly long term economic recovery for 18,000 women, men and youth (4,000 families) which accounts for 70% of the population in the working areas of three districts. The project will also build



capacities and help to close existing gaps on both demand and supply side in different spheres of economic activity.

The project is targeted at building capacity and promoting environmentally friendly and gender sensitive agricultural and dairy production techniques; facilitating the development of micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSME) led by women; and increase the employability of working-age adults, especially women and youth, through market-oriented skills training programs. The Project will also use a Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) approach and include activities such as an analysis of cultural barriers to women and the development of achievement indicators related to gender equality and marginalized groups' participation in livelihoods activities. The project has been running full swing after the Project Agreement (PA) signed between CEI and Social Welfare Council (SWC).

Expected results of the project are: (1) 18,000 women and men affected by the earthquake will be participating in gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable and resilient economic activities; (2) 405 micro enterprises led by women will receive information on market analysis and 300 micro-enterprises will restart their business; (3) 300 women will receive information on labour market surveys and skills training.

SUSASAN

The Susasan project is designed to complement on-going government initiatives and programs related to local governance and social accountability as well as the ongoing recovery and rehabilitation programs in the reconstruction efforts. This project aims to increase empowerment of women and men, girls and boys, and marginalized groups, to engage in the democratic process, and enjoy and exercise their human rights. The project will use integrated technologies to enhance equitable and inclusive participation in the democratic decision making process especially for women and marginalised groups (WMG) and make public institutions responsive to the diverse needs and rights of citizens.

The SUSASAN project will work in two provinces (3 and 7) at two levels (Rural Municipalities and Municipalities) in six districts: Sindhupalchok, Lalitpur, Kailali, Dadeldhura, Achham and Bajhang.

The project involves four components (1) Enhancing Citizen Engagement and Influence; (2) Establishment of Techno Hubs; (3) E-Governance Capacity Building and Accountability as well as a (4) Project Management. It focuses on addressing digital technologies gaps and develop specific strategies to reach particular marginalized groups, defined through gender (i.e. women), youth, caste (i.e. Dalit), vulnerability (i.e.

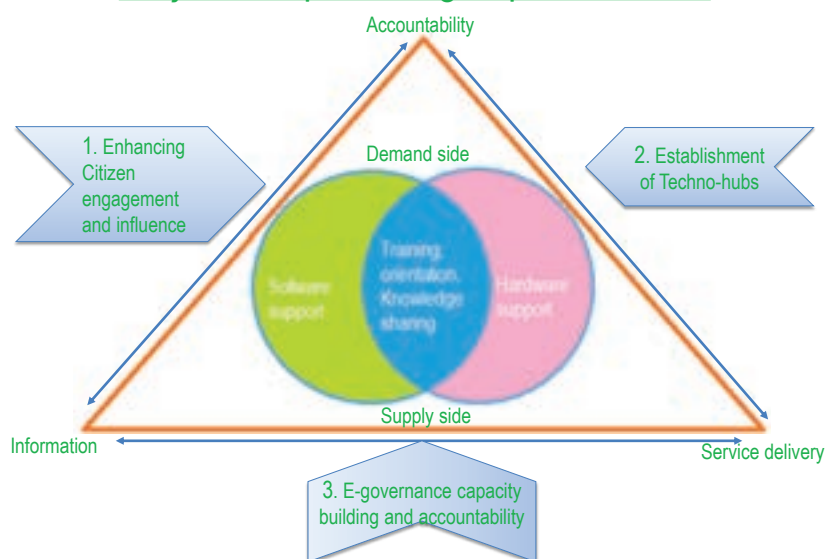
persons with disabilities), indigenous and ethnic minorities (i.e. Adibasi Janjati and Muslims) and geographically excluded and extremely poor communities.

The project's target:

The project directly targets 45,000 people and at least 120 civil society organizations in six districts with 60% women and marginalized group (WMG) of which 80% women will participate in the democratic decision-making process using integrated technologies. It also expects MoFALD and local line agencies will be more responsive to citizens especially WMG's needs and rights.

The project will be jointly implemented by CECI, the Canadian Center for Law and Democracy and Freedom Forum.

Project components/group of activities



Skills Development Project

Creating Jobs through Vocational Skills

Youth unemployment is one of the most pressing issues in Nepal. Low investments in private sector have resulted in limited potential for new employments. Consequently, the number of youth leaving Nepal for the foreign labour market is increasing every year. The Country is facing challenges in creating productive and income generating employment opportunities for about 400,000 young people every year. To address this issue and to increase the employability of the Nepalese workforce by building an inclusive market responsive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system, the Skills Development Project has been implementing with financial support from ADB and a contribution from the Nepal Government. The project which started in 2014 has so far created employment for approximately 20,000 youth. The project is on course to achieving its set target of creating employment for 45,000

(40% female and 30% excluded groups) by 2019. The project has also increased 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 market-driven. The project covers almost all the districts of Nepal.

The SDP 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. CECI in a consortium led by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) including the Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI) and Colleges and Institutes Canada has been providing technical consulting supports to the project. The consulting team provides technical assistance to both the CTEVT and Ministry of Education.



The major achievements during 2016-17 include:

- Completed Market Driven and Inclusive Short -term training by Private and Public Training and Employment Service Providers (TESPs) to a total of 23,620 persons (9,056 women) in the construction, service and production sectors.
- Awarded Private TESPs to deliver training to an additional 17,300.
- Improved the quality of program and auditing process in ten CTEVT Constituent Schools and developed QIP Minimum Performance Standards for 2017.
- Established GESI Unit in CTEVT for policy planning and organizational development and it is functioning.
- Integrated GESI in CTEVT Curriculum and Quality Improvement Program (QIP)
- Improved Database and data back-up within CTEVT and its' constituent schools.



Volunteer Program

CECI manages two volunteer cooperation programs in Nepal: the Uniterra program, funded by the Canadian Government and the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID), funded by the Australian Government. More than 600 volunteers have served for Nepal since the program started in 1987. The Volunteer program is focused on building the capacity of partner organizations through the transfer of skills and knowledge. Volunteers from Canada, Australia and Nepal provide technical support to the projects and programs of CECI's government and non-government partners.



Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID)



The AVID 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 the volunteers are mainly engaged in Government agencies while a few volunteers have placements

in local NGOs. During this year CECI managed a total of 34 volunteers. 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 AVID during 2016-2017:

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)



- Designed M&E Guidelines for the Building Code Implementation Program in Nepal (BCIPN) to establish a consistent approach to evaluation. The guidelines cover process, and roles and responsibilities for planning and evaluation; formulation of evaluation questions introduced as part of the project planning phase; and introduces a process of review – ensures that there are multiple checks in place to ensure the relevance of the questions/links to project outcomes.
- Developed monitoring and evaluation system to improve quality of survey data analysis.
- Produced comprehensive Quality Assurance Handbook for the construction of the most common building types in Nepal which includes checklist for quality checks for materials and workmanship to ensure proper quality of construction at the site for non-engineered building construction.
- Developed a quality control document to guide the quality of informal building construction works.

Health/WASH



- Designed Nepal Rainwater Harvesting Guidelines for the Department of Drinking Water and Sewerage (DWSS) under the Ministry of Urban Development.
- Prepared training package on sewerage network design and modelling and DWSS engineers trained and coached to deliver programs in the field.
- Supported in increasing uptake of rainwater harvesting (RWH) to improve design standards for water and waste water systems.
- Developed an Emergency Nutrition Training Manual which is being implemented in earthquake affected districts to uplift the nutritional status of the malnourished mothers and children.
- Assisted to improve capacity of HO in nutrition research to improve delivery of Vitamin A program in Nepal.

Education



- Supported the Nepal School of Social Work (NSSW) to host International Students' Study Tour-2016 for the students of Social Work of Griffith University, Australia.
- Supported to establish partnership between United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and Kathmandu University School of Medicine (KUSMS) for a volunteer assignment to start Midwifery course at KUSMS.
- Provided supports to develop relationship between Australian Partner Organization (APO) and Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) - Policy, Planning and International Cooperation Division (PPICD); and Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) with James Cook University (JCU) - School of Medicine and Dentistry.
- Established partnership between Nepal Technical Assistance Group (NTAG) and University of Sydney - School of Public Health and continued Australian Program Organization (APO) relationship. These partnerships were established by volunteers who worked with these Host Organizations few years ago.

- Established APO relationship between YUWA, a youth organization and Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice and jointly designed an assignment focussing on promoting youth entrepreneurship.

Micro- Enterprise and Job Creation



- Developed revenue raising marketing strategy for National Federation of Micro-Entrepreneurs Nepal (NMEFEN)
- Developed simple database of micro-entrepreneurs (ME) products to promote product marketing
- Developed website for marketing ME products
- Developed marketing and product brochures; and trained micro-entrepreneurs in marketing.
- Provide supports to the host organization team in designing strategy and tools for marketing.



UNITERRA: Canadian Volunteer Cooperation Program



Canadian Volunteer Cooperation and International Development Program, UNITERRA has been active in Nepal since 2004. Currently, it is in its third phase (U3) applying an inclusive market system approach in three sub-sectors i.e. high value crops, non-timber forest products, and handicrafts. The program builds the capacities of partner organizations by mobilizing both Canadian and national volunteers.

This year, 45 Canadians including 2 national volunteers were mobilized. A total of 1519 (821 men and 698 women) were trained in various skills. Volunteers have developed and updated more than 260 tools for partners including videos, manuals, strategies, publications, database, website, brochure, survey results, donor tracking templates, social media, case studies, and review reports.

Highlights of the achievements

made during 2016-2017:

Dairy

- Supported LDMPCU in the construction of milk processing centre and milk pipeline, which has helped save both time and transportation cost of members of LDMPCU.
- Along with National Cooperative Federation (NCF), Uniterra supported to LDMPCU to have exposure visit of 15 members to Gujrat, India to learn the milk processing centre operation.
- With the support of Uniterra and the Dairy Development Board, CDCAN organized five events for Milk Analyser Training to 145 technicians (139 male and 6 female).



Agriculture

- Uniterra supported National Agriculture Cooperation Centre Federation Ltd. (NACCFL) to launch Kisan ko pokro (farmer's basket) which is an alternative way for consumers to access locally grown agricultural products while supporting small farmers throughout Nepal. A total of 121 participants (23 women and 98 men) participated in the product launching event.
- Supports provided to Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Ltd (SKBBL) to organize Business Plan Preparation Training to those who returned from Israel after taking training on Modern Agriculture System in a coordination with SKBBL and the Embassy of Israel to Nepal. 1150 people have enrolled in this training.



- A guide book for finding the right balance for drug residue testing has been developed and provided three types of trainings to five teachers who work at the Himalayan College of Agriculture and Science Technology (HICAST) Laboratory.

Non Timber Forest Product



- Uniterra supported Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA) to organize a workshop along with the Trade and Export Promotion Center (TEPC) to draw the attention of policy makers and open a discussion regarding export barriers especially quarantine issues for Nepal Medicinal and Aromatic Plants to India and China during the 6th Nepal International Trade Fair 2017 (Total participants 57 peoples, 11 female and 46 male).
- Earthbeats, an initiative launched by two Uniterra volunteers which uses visual storytelling as a tool for promoting herbal sector in Nepal.

Microfinance Summit

- In March, the Centre for Micro Finance (CMF), one of the market support actors and a partner of Uniterra's held a national micro-finance summit. Two Uniterra volunteers were mobilized to assist in organizing the summit. (Total participants 596 people, 138 females and 485 male)

Inclusion of women in market systems

- With the support of Uniterra and various other sponsors, FWEAN organized the 2nd International Women's Trade Expo bringing Nepalese women entrepreneurs onto a common platform to exchange and develop knowledge and ideas while forming partnerships; and giving them opportunity to network with international women entrepreneurs from SAARC countries. 97 women entrepreneurs exhibited stalls during the expo.
- A Uniterra Volunteer initiated an online Complaint Form on SOHS's website in the event of misconduct, harassment, and discrimination.



Youth Inclusion



- A Uniterra volunteer has trained over 700 youths (420 women and 280 men) on employability skills in Nepal.
- The Youth collective Coding (YCC), a project initiated by a Uniterra volunteer to provide mentorship for 13 youths on communications/ IT related skills.
- A Uniterra volunteer helped the Balaju School of Engineering and Technology (BSET) in organizing a job fair with 19 employers and 2000 visitors attending.
- A L4C volunteer reached 117 youths by conducting career counselling sessions and Training of Trainers (ToT) for the members of NYFN. Similarly, she conducted two career counselling sessions for 124 students and 16 teachers at BSET.

Technical Support in Business Plan Development

- Supported the Nepal Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL) on their Business Plan Development for a new agro product called Kisan Ko Poko (Farmer's basket).
- Supporting Lalitpur District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union (LDMPCU) to draft a business plan for a Milk Processing Plant. As part of the plan, market research was conducted in July 2017 in which Uniterra also supported LDMPCU in selecting, training, and guiding research interns.



Phase out project

Multi Donor Trust Fund/Program for Accountability in Nepal

This year CECI successfully completed the second phase of the Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN). This was a World Bank program funded by the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) so the project was literary known as MDTF/PRAN2. CECI was involved in the Grant Management Component of Citizen Engagement in PFM/MDTF since its initial Phases and continued this role in the second phase which began in July 2015 and was completed in December 2016. Under this component, CECI provided 30 sub-grants to local CSOs in 300 VDCs of 15 districts of Nepal to improve their public financial management through the implementation of various Social Accountability (SAC) Tools. The sub-grantee CSOs implemented the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS), the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM), the Community Score Card (CSC), the Pro-poor and gender budget, Procurement Monitoring, Right to Information (RTI) and Public Hearing/Public Audit for promoting accountability in PFM. Along with other SAC tools, the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) was focused in Dhankuta, Bara, Banke, Bardiya and the Bajhang, under this tool, senior citizen and single woman entitlements were tracked and analyzed for policy feedback. The Community Score Card (CSC) concentrated on Primary Schools in the Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha and Gorkha districts, and was used to track and analyze Dalit and Girls' scholarships.

In the rest of the districts such as Kapilvastu, Dang, Rolpa, Palpa, Kailali and Bajura - the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) tool was implemented. Other SAC tools like Pro-poor and gender budget, Public Procurement, Right to Information and Public Hearing/Public Audit were common in all target districts and VDCs.

As a result of the Citizen Engagement in MDTF/PRAN2 program, some immediate positive changes have emerged at the local level. A conducive environment for constructive engagement has been created and transparency and accountability have been reflected in practice. The project capacitated the CSOs on applications such as SAC tools and the intervention of the CSOs greatly benefited the most marginalized citizens of the VDCs.



Likewise, the capacity of local government structures particularly the Ward Citizen Forum (WCF), the Citizen Awareness Center (CAC) and the Integrated Plan Formulation Committee (IPFC) have been enhanced. The SAC tools were successful in boosting the confidence of the citizens to speak-up and be involved in discussions including local level planning and the budgeting process. It was observed that prevailing accountability issues could be resolved by making citizens aware of their role, responsibility and entitlements.

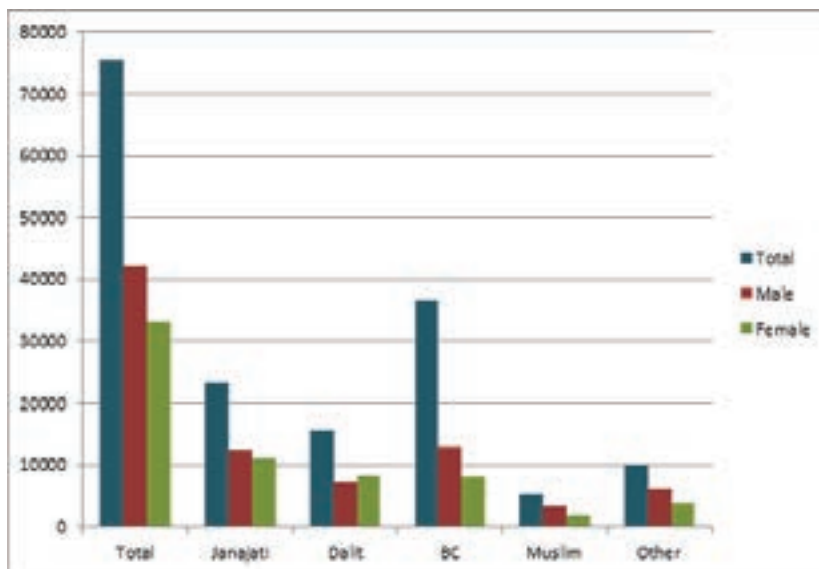


The total direct and indirect beneficiaries of the program were 75,438 and 156,381 (excluding radio audience 5,488,038) respectively.

SAC tools Implemented:

- Community Score Card (CSC)
- Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS)
- Grievance Redress Mechanism

CECI would like to extend sincere thanks to the World Bank for entrusting us with the execution of the grant management component.



MDTF/PRAN2 Beneficiaries

MDTF/PRAN2:

Stories from the field

Persons with disabilities became self-reliant

Along with Gagan Khadka, seven other people with disabilities live in Sunkuda VDC-8 of Bajhang District. Gagan is 46 and desperately seeking a source of income to feed his family. Persons with disabilities in the VDC were unaware of the allocated budget for their target group. With financial support from the Citizen Engagement in PFM/MDTF program, the Saipal Development Society organized an interaction program on the subject of target group budget allocation and expenditures. The interaction program discussed the practice of allocating 35% of target group budget in other sectors. Since the practice is against the provision of the Local Body Resource Mobilization and Management Guidelines 2069 (LBRMMG), political parties and the VDC secretary committed publicly to allocate the budget in empowerment and capacity development to the target groups. After this commitment, the Sunkuda VDC office allocated NPR. 50,000 during the fiscal year of 2072/73 for training eight disabled individuals on noodle making. After the 15-day training, Gagan started a local restaurant where he produces, cooks, and sells noodles.

Gagan said, "I am earning NPR. 1,000 to 1,200 everyday by selling chowmein. The training gave me hope to live and earn. Previously, I was unaware that the government allocates a budget for our capacity building. If I get continuous support in the upcoming days, I will be more self-reliant."

Public hearing for the first time



The Kavre VDC is in the north hill part of Dang which is one of the remotest VDC's in the district. Like many other VDCs

in Nepal, this VDC had no experience in interface meetings between service providers and seekers to exchange feedback for improvements. With financial support from the Citizen Engagement in PFM/MDTF program, the Sisea Nepal organized various activities focusing on VDC staff, local political leaders, Ward Citizen Forums (WCF), and the Citizen Awareness Center (CAC) in the subject of Public Hearing Guidelines of 2067. It also highlighted that public hearings are a mandatory action for ensuring good governance.

The outcome was that the VDC and stakeholders conveyed their commitment to conducting Public Hearings. Within a few months of the commitment, the VDC conducted its first Public Hearing program on March 9th, 2016 undertaking the steps stated in the Guideline.

Mr. Hom Lal Bhusal, the VDC Secretary expressed, "We were practicing public audit thinking it was a public hearing but now I know it is not the same."

The Citizen Awareness Center became active

The Prastoka VDC was unaware of their duties, responsibilities, and powers. They were attentive in demanding information from projects implemented by others but were not concerned with maintaining records of the activities implemented by the Citizen Awareness Center (CAC) itself. Due to this, many were skeptical about the CAC and its performance in the VDC. With financial support from the Citizen Engagement in PFM/MDTF program, the Rural Region and the Agroforestry Development Center organized trainings for the CAC members on pro-poor and gender-friendly budget analysis, Social Security entitlements, public audits, and practicing roles and responsibilities.

After the training, the CAC was able to maintain records of income and expenditures of livelihood and small infrastructure projects. They have also maintained a separate register to keep financial records of the projects being implemented with support from the Local Governance and Community Development Program.

Ms. Dulari Devi Chamai, Coordinator of Prastoka said, "I learned to update and maintain income and expenditure records of activities/projects undertaken by CAC."



Siyawati received senior citizen entitlement

For over a year, The Paterwa VDC office was not distributing social security entitlements on time. Due to this, many were skeptic about the proper use of these funds. Senior citizens, women, and persons with disabilities were frequently visiting the VDC office to claim their disbursement of entitlements but the VDC office was avoiding the situation.

With financial support from the Citizen Engagement in PFM/MDTF program, Janachetana Dalit Sangam implemented the Public Financial Management Improvement project at the Paterwa VDC of Saptari district. The project organized discussion and orientation programs for the members of the Ward Citizen Forums, the Citizen Awareness Center, and the Monitoring and Supervision Committee on the subject of Social Accountability Tools including the Local Body Resource Mobilization and Management Guidelines 2069. The discussion program covered issues related to social security entitlement, social audit, VDC council meetings, and elite capture of the participatory planning process. After the discussion, the VDC Secretary promised that VDC staff will regularly visit the wards and distribute the entitlements on time. As a result, 150 senior citizens, single women, and others received their entitlements at the ward level for the first time.

After receiving the allowance, Siyawati said, "I will spend a portion of my allowance for my medical treatment, and rest for toilet construction."





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