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CECI Nepal's Newslettler

May-August 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present you the latest issue of CECI Nepal's Newsletter 'REFLECT'. In this issue you will get a glimpse of our major activities carried out between May and August 2019.

During this period, we carried out various activities under Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal SUSASAN, funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and mobilized Australian and Canadian volunteers under two volunteer cooperation programs: Uniterra, funded by the Government of Canada through GAC and Australian Volunteer Program (AVP) funded by the Australian Government. CECI successfully completed Livelihood Promotion of Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal – PUNARNIRMAN Project funded by the Canada Government through GAC. The project is successful in achieving the targets of improving sustainable livelihood of the rural population in three districts who were badly affected by the mega earthquakes of 2015.

Besides implementing regular projects, we conducted trainings, seminars and meetings on various topics. We also welcomed new volunteers and bade farewell to those who completed their mandates in Nepal. We are committed further towards economic development, agriculture and livelihood, disaster risk reduction (DRR), capacity building of CBOs, governance and gender equality and social inclusion through our various projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners, including government agencies, donors and civil society organizations, without their support we would not be able to pursue our mission.

Finally, I would also like to offer sincere thanks to the CECI Nepal staff and volunteers for their support in preparing this newsletter.

Sita Ram Bhatta
Country Director
CECI Nepal

TOT ON COMMUNITY SCORE CARD

SUSASAN Project, funded by Canada Government through Global Affairs Canada (GAC), organized a three day Training of Trainers (ToT) from 10 to 12 July 2019, on “Implementing Social Accountability Tool: Community Score Card” in Lalitpur. Community Score Card (CSC) is a powerful tool to promote quality of public services through joint (service provider and receiver) assessment of current public services such as in education and health sector. SUSASAN Project is implementing this tool in community schools of targeted local governments. The participants of ToT included SUSASAN Project District Coordinators, school teachers, students, principals and representatives of municipalities of two project districts of Province No. 3 namely Lalitpur and Sindhupalchowk. The main objective of this ToT is to enhance capacity of demand (students, parents) and supply (school management team, teacher) sides to improve quality of education in the public schools by addressing barriers and strengthening existing accountability mechanism as part of governance and accountability processes. SUSASAN Project organized similar ToTs in Sudur Pachim Province No 7) covering four project districts: Achham, Bajhang, Dadeldhura and Bardia.



School students participating the TOT



School teacher presenting the the group work



IMS BROUGHT SCATTERED DATA IN ONE PLACE

Infrastructure Management System (IMS) was launched in August by Dhangadhi Sub Metropolitan. Dhangadhi Sub Metropolitan has been instrumental in embracing integrated technology and delivering its information and project updates to the public. With the support of SUSASAN project, SUSASAN project is implemented by CECI) in partnership with Freedom Forum, Young Innovation and Centre for Law and Democracy as well as six district-based civil society organization in a financial support from the Government of Canada through GAC. IMS has been developed and endorsed as a platform, for strengthening government services in Sudur Paschim Province and Province No. 3 Through the launch of IMS, the project aims to help government to be efficient in tracking the progress of infrastructure projects as well as to facilitate locally elected representatives to track the progress of infrastructure projects within the constituency.

“While there has been a significant infrastructure development in the country, an integrated system providing information on progress of such development was limited. With the launch of IMS system by the project, it has enabled this Sub Metropolitan to bring scattered data in one platform for public dissemination and improve the work efficiency of Sub Metropolitan by being accountable to the citizens” says Nirpa Bahadur Odd, Mayor of Dhangadhi Sub Metropolitan City



Mayor Nirpa Bahadur Odd inspecting the IMS



Suyas Chand, IT Officer, Dhangadhi Sub Metropolitan City is briefing about the IMS



Bajhang



Achham



Kailali

SUSASAN SCHOOL

Between May and August, SUSASAN Project organized series of ToTs and orientations on Municipal Technological Tools such as data portal, mobile apps, e-citizen charter, etc. for representative of municipalities, members of women's groups, school teachers, students and community leaders in all SUSASAN project districts. The purpose of conducting these programs is to familiarize beneficiaries on using new technologies and tools so that they can track available public services, provisions and budget and can participate as active citizens in local planning processes.



Sindhupalchowk



Bajhang



Bajura



Lalitpur

NEW AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer cooperation program is one of the CECI's core areas. Over the past 30 years, CECI has mobilized about 700 volunteers in Nepal. Volunteers serve in both government and non-government organizations and help to build organizational capacity through the transfer of skills and knowledge. During this period CECI welcomed nine Australian volunteers in Nepal.



Ms. Sarah Chan came in Nepal in July 2019 with one year mandate of volunteering as a Urban Planner in Gorkha Municipality. She provides technical support to the Municipality mainly on Integrated Urban Development Plan (IUDP) and elaborate land use plan for the areas designated by the municipality for development.



Mr. Andrew Bolam is volunteering as an Agro Enterprise Development Officer in Byas Municipality. He provides technical support in identifying potential of agriculture and agro forestry development in Nepal by developing long term development strategy and implementation plan through research and survey by working with key stakeholders including government, donors and maintaining partnerships with local, regional and international organizations.



Mr. Rolf Fenner is an Urban Development Planner in Triyuga Municipality, Udaypur. He came in Nepal in July 2019 with a one year volunteering mandate. Since then he is mainly providing technical support to the Municipality on land use planning for sustainable development by organizing workshops that promotes dialogues and information exchange among concerned authorities and stakeholders.



Ms. Stephanie Harder came in Nepal in May 2019 as a volunteer in the capacity of Urban Development Planning Officer in Vyas Municipality. She is providing technical support to the Municipality team specially in design and implementing of integrated urban development plan including land pooling, strategic development for local area planning of Vyas Municipality.



Mr. Jack Kelly, as an Urban Planner is working with Waling Municipality since June 2019. He is supporting the Municipality to elaborate land use plan for the areas designated by the Municipality; contribute to design integrated settlement planning at community level; develop and maintain partnerships with national and provincial government, local, regional and international organizations. He also ensures capacity development of local team members.



Mr. Nicholas Bernardini is working with Kushma Municipality as Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Engineer. He is mainly supporting to undertake surveys of the sources of waste; availability of land for its management and development strategy for waste collection, disposal and management. He also supports study of topography, water resources and its quality and design strategy and plan for water treatment and supply of safe drinking water. He closely works to facilitate capacity strengthening of Municipality staff.

Local Farmers Connected to Farmers Market

Stephen Clark, Australian Volunteer, is working with local organic farms in Budhanilkantha Municipality as part of the Australian Volunteers Program. He helps ensure the quality of products and promotes the products in growing tourism market. He has connected the organic farm with farmers market network, a network of local women who are growing and selling fresh vegetables at farmers markets around Kathmandu. This initiative has encouraged other farmers as well of Budhanilkantha Municipality to switch their vegetables farming practice from using chemical fertilizer to organic fertilizer. The Australian Volunteers Program matches a broad range of skilled Australians with partner organisations to support them to achieve their own development goals.



UNDERSTANDING LGBTIQ+

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans gender/Transsexual, Intersex and Queer/Questioning (LGBTIQ) rights movement in the complex sociocultural environment of Nepal has enjoyed some victories in gaining civil advances and visibility among people. Challenges still remain in addressing discrimination, especially based on sexual orientation, understanding the inter-sectionalism and spectrum of issues and about daily challenges with existing hetero-normative structures and the different barriers faced by the community in accessing basic services and opportunities. Uniterra, a Government of Canada funded volunteer management programme, organized a three day workshop from 7th to 9th August 2019 on “Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Focusing on

LGBTIQ+ and Sexual Harassment” to its partners. The workshop was successful in creating awareness and sensitive to understand the challenges and create a support mechanism for a safe space in the family, society and workplace.

This is the second orientation organized by Uniterra Nepal. Previously, an orientation on sensitizing LGBTIQ+ issues was organized for staff members.

Similarly CECI Nepal showed solidarity towards issues of LGBTIQ+ community by participating in the 16th LGBTIQ+ Pride Parade organized by Blue Diamond Society on 16th August 2019.



TRAINING ON PROPOSAL WRITING

Uniterra Nepal organized a three day training workshop on “Developing Skills for Proposal Writing” and “Grants and Taxation Compliance” from 29-31 July, 2019. The workshop was designed, developed and organized as per the need identified by Uniterra Nepal partner organizations. The ‘Developing Skills for Proposal Writing’ session was jointly facilitated by Dibya Karki (Program Development Manager, CECI Nepal), Narendra Kumar Rokaya (MEL Specialist, CECI Nepal) and national volunteer Prem Bahadur Rana (Program Development Advisor, Uniterra Nepal). ‘Grants & Taxation Compliance’ workshop was jointly facilitated by Stuti Regmi (Consultant) and Aman Uprety (Chartered Accountant). A total of 30 staff and board members of partner organizations participated in the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to build a basic understanding and concepts in proposal writing and enhance their skills in addressing grants and taxation compliance requirements of donors.



LAUNCH OF PILOT PROJECT

With the support of from Uniterra Nepal, Prerana (an NGO working women'somen rights, physical rehabilitation and social mobilization in Nepal), launched a pilot project 'Women's Entrepreneurship Development' in Sarlahi district. The project was launched in a strategic partnership support between Uniterra, Prerana and Elam-Helvetas on 6 May 2019. The project will connect over 1200 members of seven women's cooperatives to develop entrepreneurial skills of at least 110 women and create economic opportunities for their sustainable livelihoods. The project will also support to mobilize the resources collected by these women's cooperatives by developing 7 service providers (one each in 7 cooperatives).

SUPPORT IN SUSTAINABILITY OF WOMEN LED COOPERATIVE

For the first time in the history of CECI, a group of six volunteers from Coast Capital Savings Federal Credit Union (CCS), one of the largest credit unions in Canada, came to Nepal as a group to support Women Entrepreneur Consumer Cooperative Ltd. (WECCSL), a Uniterra partner in Nepal. WECCSL is a women led cooperative with a network of 105 organisations (around 60,000 members) and 72 individual entrepreneur members since 2011. These expert volunteers conducted training for 106 members of WECCSL on IT, marketing, financial literacy, and strategic planning and business plan development. A five year strategic plan (2019-2023) was drafted and consulted with other stakeholders. One of the biggest milestones for WECCSL was the financial commitment from CCS for the sustainability of WECCSL.



COMPLETION OF PUNARNIRMAN

CECI Nepal successfully completed “PUNARNIRMAN: Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal” Project on 30 June 2019. The project duration was 33 months and the project mainly supported in three areas: Agriculture and Livelihood; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Skills Development to the people of the most earthquake affected districts namely Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur.

The project was successful in building the capacities of the community and addressing existing gaps on both demand and supply sides in different sectors of economic activity, with a specific focus on vulnerable women and marginalized groups.

The project was funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and was implemented by CECI in partnerships with local NGO partners: SOLVE Nepal (Lalitpur), RDMC(Kavrepalanchowk) and Tuki Association (Sindhupalchowk).



The major achievements of the project include:

- Producer groups formed, trained, and equipped for agriculture and livestock production and marketing. They are engaging in income generating on-farm activities.
- Economic capacities increased through the improved management of business (expansion and marketing of the products).
- Trained on agricultural production and animal husbandry, and now they are engaged in diversified and sustainable agriculture and livestock-based economic activities.
- Farming culture changed from traditional (survival) methods to modern commercial farming techniques, including the use of new tools, technologies and concepts.
- Inclusive Community Disaster and Climate Resilient (CDCR) Committees formed to minimize the adverse impact of disasters on livestock and agriculture.
- Micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) (90%, led by women) were restored (damaged by the April, 2015 earthquake) or established.
- Youth were trained in various vocational skills and qualified by the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training's (CTEVT) skill test. Such vocational skills included: culinary art, early childhood development (teacher), beautician, electrician, plumbing and aluminum fabrication.



STORIES OF CHANGE

Conserving Tradition, Providing for Family

54 years old Sabir Kami returned to his village Maneshwora in Bahrabise from India after he lost his house and brother to the earthquake of April 2015. He decided to stay back in the village with his family and take care of his mother. However, it was an immense challenge to earn a living. Hence, out of compulsion, he started doing whatever work he could get hold working sometimes as a carpenter and sometimes as a laborer. With the earning as daily wage earner, he could hardly even feed his family. PUNARNIRMAN Project identified his skills as an experienced craftsman entrepreneur. Hence, the project provided him direct cash support to buy an electronic fan and iron cutter to restart his traditional business of making iron products and utensils.



In the past when he did not own iron cutter machine, it would take him several days to cut iron and he would require a helping hand whom he had to pay NPR 600 per day. He now earns a profit of NPR 1,000 per day on average, which is sufficient to meet the basic needs of his family. "After I got the cutter machine, I no longer need an assistant. This has saved my time and expenses. Now I am able to provide for my family", says Sabir. Sabir is happy in his workshop and has decided not to go to India again. He thanked CECI for providing support in his livelihood.

Happy Buffalo, More Milk Happy Family



Menuka Dahal, resident of Kyonjosome Lalitpur District, lost some cattle and suffered damage to her house after the earthquake in 2015. However, she didn't lose her hope. She continued rearing two buffaloes and continued her family occupation of farming. She had a traditional shed for

her buffaloes, which was very challenging for her as it consumed a lot of time to clean the shed. Time and again she started getting different health problems including severe skin infections.

When the PUNARNIRMAN Project provided her partial cash support of NPR 15,000 and technical assistance, she constructed an improved buffalo shed. "After the construction of the improved shed, the dungs are directly washed out to the compost pit, eliminating the need to pick and throw the dung using my hands." This has not only taken away additional work from Menuka's life, but has also helped to improve her health. She uses the dung and urine collected in the pit for their crops. This has resulted in better yield. The improved shed has a dedicated space for placing fodder for the buffaloes. Consequently, no fodder gets wasted or damaged. Since the improved shed is clean, it is free of mosquitoes and flies. The buffaloes are more comfortable. "In my experience, when buffaloes are comfortable and when the shed is cleaner, they give more milk," reveals Menuka.

Encouraged by increased milk production, she and her husband Nabaraj Dahal decided to buy three more buffaloes and one cow, further increasing milk production significantly. At present, they sell milk worth NPR 50,000 every month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SHARING MEETING



Khim Regmi, Project Coordinator

To mark the closure of PUNARNIRMAN project, CECI Nepal organized sharing meeting on 26 July, 2019. The program was facilitated by Madhu Karki,

Area Coordinator for the project. Khim Raj Regmi, Project Coordinator, presented project achievements, challenges and lessons learned during the project implementation period. The sharing meeting was participated by representatives from Social Welfare Council, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and Ministry of Finance as well as representatives from embassies, multilateral and bilateral agencies.



INTRODUCTION WORKSHOP



Australian Volunteer Program (AVP) organised an Introduction Workshop to introduce a new volunteer, Mr Jack Kelly - Urban Planner to the Partner Organisation, Waling Municipality. The Mayor of the municipality, Mr. Dilip Pratap Khand including twenty five municipal officials and members welcomed the volunteer. The mayor thanked the Australian Government for their support through AVP program and talked about the need of the volunteer position - Urban Planner in their municipality to strengthen the integrated urban development and land use settlement of the Waling Municipality. The workshop highlighted on the discussion around how the municipality and the volunteer could work together to make the assignment successful.

PARTNER MEETING



PUNARNIRMAN project organized project closing workshop for its partners on 28 June 2019. The workshop was attended by project staff of partner organizations, consultants and members of project thematic evaluation teams. The workshop validated the evaluation reports presented by different thematic evaluation teams (DRR, Economic Analysis and SWC). The workshop also focused on results achieved during 33 months project intervention and discussed about the loopholes of the project. Certificate of Appreciation was presented to social mobilizers, project staff and representatives of partner organizations.



New publication: PUNARNIRMAN Project success stories book

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