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CECI Nepal's Newslettler

January - April 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE





Dear Friends,

Welcome to the CECI Nepal's Newsletter "REFLECT"!

I am delighted to share with you the latest edition of our newsletter which highlights the major activities that were carried out between January and April 2017. During this period, CECI launched two new projects: Livelihood Promotion of Earthquake Affected People (PUNARNIRMAN) and Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal (SUSASAN). Both projects are being funded by the Government of Canada. Among other activities in this period, we convened our Annual General Meeting, conducted various trainings and workshops, welcomed new volunteers and bid farewell to those who had completed their mandates in Nepal.

Economic development, agriculture and livelihoods, disaster risk reduction (DRR), capacity building, governance, gender equality and social inclusion always remain the top priorities for CECI Nepal.

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

I would also like to offer sincere thanks to the CECI Nepal staff and volunteers for their support in preparing this newsletter. Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Mallika Bhattarai, Communication Officer for her hard work in bringing out this newsletter.

I hope you will find this newsletter useful!

Keshava Koirala Country Representative CECI Nepal

CECI WINS TWO NEW PROJECTS

In January 2017, CECI Nepal was awarded two new projects by the Government of Canada. These projects are: Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake Effected Population (PUNARNIRMAN) and Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal (SUSASAN).

SUSASAN

CECI Nepal is leading the Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal (Susasan) Project in partnership with Center for Law and Democracy, Young Innovations and Freedom Forum in six districts- Dadeldhura, Bajhang, Achham, Kailali, Lalitpur and Sindhupalchowk. This is a four-year project which began in February 2017.

The project aims to leverage and mainstream integrated technologies to improve the capacity of national and local NGOs/CSOs to monitor and report on public service delivery and human rights issues, especially in relation to Women and Marginalized Groups (WMG). The project also aims to enhance the capacity of the Government of Nepal to respond to the diverse needs and rights of people through bottom-up coordination,

communication and feedback between communities, village councils, district councils and national agencies (particularly the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) and its local line agencies) and to encourage citizen engagement to strengthen public sector accountability and responsiveness at the local and national levels in Nepal.

This project is designed to complement ongoing initiatives and programs at the national level and in targeted districts related to governance and social accountability as well as the ongoing recovery and rehabilitation programs in the government's reconstruction efforts since the earthquake on April, 2015. The project will build the capacity of over 40,000 persons directly (50% women of which 20% will be marginalized persons) which account for 60%

of the population of targeted districts including the government of Nepal. SUSASAN will close existing gaps between both the demand (NGOs/CBOs, communities, citizens, women and marginalized groups) and supply (Government) sides in different spheres of governance and social accountability.

PUNARNIRMAN

ivelihood Promotion for Earth-**L**quake Effected Population (PU-NARNIRMAN) was created to build upon achievements made by CECI Nepal in its early emergency response and recovery supports projects in three districts after the earthquake in April 2015. Punarnirman is a three year program that will now support building disaster resilient communities and encourage long term, gender sensitive and environmentally friendly economic recovery for 18,000 women, men and youth (4,000 families), which account for 70% of the population in three rural municipalities of three earthquake affected districts: Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur. The project will also build capacities and reduce existing gaps remaining between the demand and supply side of different spheres of economic development. The project uses environmentally sustainable GESI approach and does analysis of the cultural barriers to women's participation and the development of achievement indicators related to gender equality and marginalized groups' participation in its activities.

ORIENTATION: FOR SUCCESSFUL RESULTS

D ased on the concept that action and Dresult are especially important when starting a new project, in order to have a clear and common understanding of the objectives, activities and modality of a newly launched project Punarnirman convened a 3 day Orientation Program from 18th to 20th April 2017 in Dhulikhel to its three implementing partners Tuki Association Sunkoshi, Sindhupalchowk, Solve Nepal, Lalitpur and Rural Development Multipurpose Service Center, Kavrepalanchwok. District Coordinators, Social Mobilizers, Admin/Finance personnel of the projects and Executive Directors of the organizations participated the program. The main objective of the orientation program was to make the project concept clear and to have a common understanding of the project's objectives, activities and its methodologies. Mr. Nirmal Gyalang, Team leader of



the project did a brief presentation about the project. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and communication strategy, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, financial policies and procedures were presented and discussed during the program. Facilitation skills and social mobilization process were also discussed in the program as the success of the project depends upon the effective facilitation and social mobilization skills of all staff involved. The participants had shown their enthusiasm and commitment to make this project a success.



TOWARDS THE ADVANCEMENT: SDP

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Nepal funded Skills Development Project (SDP) is moving ahead with full speed to achieve its expected goal improving quality relevance of public training, and increasing private sector engagement in training delivery and job placement to 45000 (30% women) people during five year project period . Over a 3 year period from April 2014 to March 2017, SDP made around 70 % of physical progress. A total of 11 private Training and Employment Service Providers (TESPs) are recruited to provide training to 31340 people. Likewise, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with 33 Public TESPs to provide the training and employment services to 9,580 people. Procurement of a private TESP for 4,500 people is still ongoing in which 1,900 seats are dedicated to women to increase female participation in the program. A total of 26,793



students have been enrolled in the trainings with 20,661 who are already graduated. Among the total enrollment, 70% includes those who are considered disadvantaged and 31% enrollment is women. Looking at the sector wise enrollment, 12,179 are enrolled in construction, 4,431 in manufacturing and 10,183 in services.

SDP is a five year project that supports the Government of Nepal in developing a market-responsive and gender and social-responsive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)



system by expanding the number of basic to mid-level, market-oriented training opportunities, increasing the quality relevance and efficiency of TVET provisions, improving coordination and regulation of the TVET sector and improving the capacity for effective project management and monitoring and evaluation. A key priority of the project is to match the skills being learnt by TVET trainees with the needs of both the domestic and international labor markets. The impact of SDP will be increased employability of the Nepalese workforce. The establishment of a market-responsive, gender and social-inclusive TVET System is also the expected outcome of SDP. CECI in partnership with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and Colleges and Institutes Canada and the Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI) have been providing the Technical Support to this project.

AGM: TIME TO REFLECT & REFRESH

Ith great enthusiasm and in an **V** energetic environment, CECI Nepal celebrated its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 13th to 15th March, 2017 at Riverside Spring Resort, Kurintar, Chitawan. The AGM is always a big event for CECI as it provides an opportunity to all staff and volunteers to become closer and share their experiences with each other. It also helps to encourage knowledge sharing through discussions of the achievements of various projects and the contributions of the volunteers in Nepal to their respective partner organizations. The highlights of past year's projects were presented in an innovative way - through a one act play, video clips, quiz and question-answer session etc. Many energizers and fanfare activities were also conducted at the AGM which were fun and refreshing to the staff and volunteers.





SKILLS TRANSFORMATION

THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

CECI is well-known in Nepal through its volunteer cooperation program. CECI manages two Volunteer Cooperation Programs: Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) and Canadian Volunteers **Cooperation Program (UNI-**TERRA). Over the past 30 years, **CECI** has managed more than 500 volunteers in Nepal. Volunteers devote their time and expertise in both government and non-government organizations and help them to build the organizational capacity. Between **January and April CECI Nepal** welcomed six Australian and two Canadian volunteers.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Ms. Tenzin Genpo



Tenzin Genpo is working with Federation of Women Entrepreneurs' Association of Nepal (FWEAN) as a Fund Raising Advisor. Her mandate is for one year from January

2017 until January 2018. Coordinating and communicating with different funding agencies and supporters of FWEAN to get funds for different activities of FWEAN will be her major responsibility.

Mr. Daniel Germaine



Daniel arrived in Nepal on the first week of April with a mandate for 10 months. He is working with Fair Trade Group Nepal on the supplemental of the supplemental of

uniterra A WUSC & CECI PROGRAM

pal (FTG) and its member organization, Manushi as a Local Promotion Advisor. Exploring opportunities for marketing and selling handicraft products in the local market will be his main responsibilities.

Ms. Cheryl Chin

Ms. Cheryl is from Toronto, Canada and has been working with National Youth Federation Nepal



(NYFN) as an Information Technology (IT) Officer since April, 2017. This is her second mandate in Nepal. With an extensive experience of 10 years as an IT specialist with IBM Canada, her experience and skills will be an asset for NYFN. She is enjoying her life in Nepal which she says one of the most beautiful, generous and friendliest countries of the world.



Ms. Elizabeth Jeffrey

Ms. Elizabeth Jeffrey is in Nepal to work with Community Mediators' Society Nepal (CMS-N) as a Program Development Officer. She

is supporting the CMS-N team to strengthen institutional capacity in program planning and implementation. She will assist them in expanding linkages with potential donors and partners and work to improve program management systems. Her contribution will help to establishing a better monitoring and evaluation, and reporting system bringing efficiency and effectiveness to the program.

CMS-N is an umbrella organization for all community mediators in Nepal. By advocating for the rights of community mediators and the recognition of community mediation services, it works towards ensuring the rights of mediators.





Mr. Brent Downs



Mr. Downs is in Nepal to build the capacity of The National Micro Entrepreneurs Federation Nepal (NMEFEN) staff. He is working in NMFFEN as a

Product Marketing Advisor. He will provide support to NMEFEN staff to identify marketable products and potential buyers, identify buyers' requirements, develop sample displays, and produce hardcopy and online marketing tools. His initiatives will supports Micro Entrepreneurs in marketing their products both locally and internationally reaching on disadvantaged populations, especially unemployed women and youth. This will also lead to increased access to enterprise development, employment and income opportunities.

NMEFEN is a not for profit membership organization which promotes the interests of micro entrepreneurs from ethnic, indigenous and economically disadvantaged rural communities across Nepal.

Mr. Christopher Wardle



Mr. Christopher Wardle's is also working with NMEFEN as a Program Development Advisor. His role specially focuses on enhancing NMEFEN's capacity to identify

and secure new sources of funding. Mr. Wardle will closely work with staff to identify potential partners and donors and assist them in expanding their networks with potential national and international agencies.

His mandate will support the key staff to develop high quality program proposals and will increase the capacity in program development which will contribute to meeting the goal of NMEFEN of reaching disadvantaged populations,

especially unemployed women and youth, and lead to increased access to enterprise development, employment and income opportunities.



Mr. Greg Sabella

Mr. Greg Sabella is in Nepal to strengthen the skills of Regional Educational Directorate (RED) in database management and

disaster recovery through identifying training needs and providing guidance, mentoring and technical assistance. He will be working with RED team to design an information system to capture local education data, and also build staff skills in website development and maintenance.

RED is a regional government organization under the Department of Education. Its main responsibility is to play an intermediary role between the Department of Education and District Education Offices of its region. RED supervises and monitors the ongoing educational programs and activities being carried out by district level of-

fices and provides suggestions and feedback to its immediate junior organizations.

Mr. Gordon Moore

Mr. Gordon Moore is working with The Cottage and Small Industry Development Board (CSIDB) in the capacity of Information System Management Officer. CSIDB



is one of the key implementation partners of the Micro-Enterprise Development for Poverty Alleviation (MEDPA) Program. The goal of MEDPA is to contribute to the poverty reduction and employment generation efforts of the Government of Nepal through microentrepreneurship development.

Mr. Moore's role is focused on improving CSIDB's database, management information systems (MIS) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems for the data management, data collection, analysis and reporting of the MEDPA Program. He will work with both CSIDB and Government of Ne-

pal staff in database management and its utilization in the field of program management, planning and strategic policy designs. Moreover, his support will directly reach CSIDB's target audience, disadvantaged communities, and greatly assist in the development of the rural micro-enterprise sector throughout Nepal.

Ms. Sarah Studds



Sarah is also with the Cottage and Small Industry Development Board (CSIDB) as a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. Her role will focus on

supporting CSIDB to improve its M&E systems, especially in the areas of data management, data collection, analysis and reporting of the MEDPA program. It is hoped that her role will have a direct impact on rural communities as her work will be a tool to encourage and enable micro-entrepreneurs to create a new and dynamic business sector in the rural areas of Nepal.

MICROFINANCE SUMMIT AT A GLANCE

n March 15-17, the 4th National Microfinance Summit was held in Kathmandu with the slogan, "Balancing financial, social, and human values". The three day summit was coorganized by the lead of the Centre for Microfinance, an organization created by CECI in 1996, with the Nepal Rastra Bank and Sakchyam, Access to Finance for the sustainable, strengthened and progressive development of the microfinance sector, CMF organized the event. CECI/Uniterra made its contribution to the summit by contributing financially and providing volunteer resource. Uniterra volunteers, Kusum Lama and Alicia Ngyuen played a vital role in making the summit a success. They were involved from the beginning and supported in designing identity cards, brochures, certificates, notebooks, preparing biographies of resource persons to preparing the summit report.



The country representative of CECI Nepal, Keshava Koirala, also participated as a resource person for one of the panel discussions in the summit. The objective of the summit was to unite microfinance stakeholders in Nepal to express a collective commitment to build strong, socially responsible, and financially sustainable microfinance sector.

The summit featured participants from a variety of microfinance stakeholders in Nepal as well as abroad. Stakeholders participating in the summit included: MFIs, Financial Cooperatives, Financial Intermediary NGOs, Regulators, Development Banks, Government Ministers, Commercial banks, I/NGOs, academic professionals and Students, specialists, and experts in micro finance, as well service recipients.



JOB FAIR TO EXPLORE TECHNICAL OPPORTUNITIES

CECI/Uniterra under its cross cutting theme of "Women, Youth and Employment" supported the Balaju School of Engineering and Technology (BSET), a constituent School of the Council of Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), in organizing a Technical Job Fair. The job fair was organized to bring employers and job seekers in the same platform in exploring employment opportunities.





The theme of the job fair was "Exploring Technical Opportunities" and the objective was to assess employers and to provide better employment opportunities for BSET graduates. A 2- day event brought 22 employers from diverse fields, along with 1,200 visitors including current students and the graduates. Uniterra supported the job fair by providing financial and volunteer support. In the same way the event also helped to promote the Uniterra program in Nepal. The National Youth Federation Nepal (NYFN), a Uniterra partner shared a stall with the Uniterra. The event provided a great platform for NYFN in informing youth on various activities of NYFN and expanding their membership.

I niterra volunteer Antoine Jaujou was involved with the event from its conception till the execution and closing. He provided his support in designing the overall layout of the stall, communication materials and other logistics. While Karl Brown, another Uniterra Volunteer did CV review of BSET graduates. This helped BSET graudates to structure their CVs in the best presentable manner while applying for jobs. BSET aims to provide 100 % employment to all of its graduates. As 100 % of the graduates are youth, Uniterra believes that the Technical Job Fair will increase employment opportunities for youth and women. Furthermore, it will create stronger market linkages between employers and employees.

REWARDS FOR THE GREAT WORK



Antoine Jaujou, a Uniterra volunteer was awarded with the Certificate of Appreciation by Balaju School of Engineering and Technology (BSET) for his outstanding work during the School's 55th anniversary on 24 February 2017. He was personally honored by the Hon. Minister Kumar Khadka for his significant contribution in enhancing the Quality Improvement Program within Technical Education and Vocational Training.



↑ s a Research and Management AInformation System Advisor, Antoine is supporting the capacity building of Balaju School of Engineering and Technologies (BSET), a constituted school of the Council for Technical **Education and Vocational Training** (CTEVT) in Management Information Systems. His mandate is to provide information on key indicators that show how well the school is performing in the program. The school can easily find out how well the different programs are doing and use this information for further action if needed. The Google Suite for Education was implemented in BSET at the beginning of the year

with Antoine's initiative. The platform is designed to host and distribute digital tools, documents, communication, and collaboration through cloud-based technology. It is a free subscription which will ensure sustainability of the system for the future. A unit responsible for the MIS has been established and all the members will be trained in the coming few months to become systems experts. The platform will be used to improve the interactions and synergies of action among the staff and the students within the school.

WORKING IN NEPAL: IN THE LENS OF VOLUNTEER

Ms. Alicia Khan

Pal in the 1990's almost 1 woman an hour died during or immediately after giving birth. Through the immense efforts of many Nepali educators, organizations, government programs, agencies and healthcare workers, there has been a tremendous reduction in the maternal mortality rate today. However, while this is a wonderful achievement, and continues on the path of being further reduced through impressive initiatives, a staggering 4 women a day still succumb. A structure of extended family units make up the majority of Nepalese homes and the loss of these young women leaves a devastating void – a mother, daughter, daughter-in-law, wife – the beating heart of the household.

When I first started working as an Australian Volunteer in Development as a midwifery teacher/trainer at the Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences (KUSMS), I found it difficult to tell the midwives, midwifery teachers and students the maternal mortality rate statistic for Australia when asked. There is only a population difference of a few million people between Australia and Nepal and yet we lose less than 2 women a month in childbirth related deaths. The difference between these two statistics is a stark reality that represents many of the barriers, challenges and areas for attention that led me to become an AVID. The privilege of mere geography as an instance of random luck is a problematic concept to conceptualize and understand on a personal and professional

level. During my 12 month assignment, I was surrounded with people who worked their hardest at all times to help improve this situation. Since my role was predominantly to support the faculty in starting and teaching a new Bachelor of Midwifery degree, it was amazing to see how strong and motivated people were in the face of many adverse circumstances that were beyond any of our control. The teachers and hospital staff work miracles in spite of limited access to all the resources and essentials that we often take for granted in Australia – and they do it with a smile on their face while supporting each other through the challenges and hurdles. During my time at KUSMS, we successfully started the program with 6 students in the first batch – the first of their kind in the whole of Nepal – creating a new 'cadre' of midwives that will be highly skilled professionals that are building upon their previous nursing education and training with diverse, specialized and women centered theory, skills and knowledge to assist women and their families in Nepal.

Education for health improvement is an area of strong focus by the Ministry of Health, Nepal Nursing Council, MIDSON (Midwifery Society of Nepal) and other national and international stakeholders. The new program is one way to address the identified need within the UN Sustainable Development Goals of reducing maternal and infant mortality by increasing childbirth assistance by

a skilled birth attendant/healthcare worker. However, not only is this new program creating a new qualification of midwifery care, but KUSMS has achieved excellence in the development of an outstanding curriculum that converges to an international calibre as it meets all of the International Confederation of Midwives competencies and standards. Being a midwife is in itself a very rewarding and profession. It does not matter which country, language or culture we live or work in, but as soon as we tell a woman we belong to that breed we have the honour of hearing and sharing in the stories of pregnancy, birth, loss and life that is a constant universal in this world.

It was a great privilege to work alongside the faculty members, their nursing director Prof. Regina Singh and the Assistant Matron of Dhulikhel Hospital Subasna Shrestha to see the 'birth' of an enormous step in building the status of the midwifery profession in Nepal. We all share the desire to see a world where every woman and her family can experience the same luxury that we are afforded in Australia - the rarity of maternal mortality. Supporting, training and teaching the people who hold in their hands the ability to take steps to achieve this goal (faculty, students and hospital staff) personifies sustainable development where the ripples will have the greatest impact upon the future!

LAUNCH OF KISAN KO POKO: PROMOTION OF SMALL FARMERS



niterra's partner, Nepal Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL) formally launched its innovative product "Kisan Ko Poko" on 23rd March, amid the event attended by different stakeholders related to agriculture including but not limited to Minister of Agricultural Development, Hon. Gauri Shankar Chaudhary. The main objective of introducing "Kisan Ko Poko" is to provide better price for small farmers by avoiding middleman and in the similar manner serving consumers with locally produced agricultural produce at a reasonable price. After thorough consumer research, a baseline survey of producers (farmers) and market analysis, NACCFL came up with a driven product strongly backed by market research. The product was warmly received by participants of the event. In the coming days, you will be seeing NACCFL's shop near to your locality catering consumers with Kisan Ko Poko. This project was supported technically and financially by the Uniterra program from its inception. Please follow www. kisankopoko.wordpress.com and www. facebook.com/kisankopoko/ to know more about variety of available agricultural produce to fulfill your need. A big Congratulation! to the whole NACCFL team in successfully introducing an innovative product in the market.





TRAINING ON BUSINESS PLAN

► ECI/Uniterra provided partial finan-cial supports to Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Ltd. (SKBBL) to organize a 10 day training on Business development Plan for isarael Trainee. SKBBL has a program called "Small Farmer Training Program " with the support of Israel Embassy in Nepal. Under this program, youth belonging to small farmers are sent to Israel for a training program of 11 months to learn modern agricultural best practices. So far 1,599 youth have participated and successfully accomplished the training program. Now most of them are successfully running their own agro enterprise. Women and youth being Uniterra's target beneficiaries, Uniterra is aiming to empower them economically by conducting activities related to capacity building and entrepreneurship.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CECI WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF



Welcoming Daniel St.Germaine

uation Spe

Welcoming Cheryl Chin

CECI Nepal welcomed two Canadian Volunteers, Mr. Daniel St. Germaine and Ms. Cheryl Chin under Uniterra Volunteer Cooperation Program and two new staff for SUSASAN and PUNARNIR-MAN Projects amidst a lunch program.



Welcoming M&E Specialist Parshuram Rimal



Welcoming GESI Specialist Surya Laxmi Bajracharya

Ms. Surya Laxmi Bajracharya, GESI Specialist and Mr. Parshu Ram Rimal, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist are two new

faces of CECI family.

At the same time CECI Nepal bid farewell to Ms. Renu Adhikari who worked with CECI in

the capacity of Wash/ Shelter Engineer for about 2 years.

Hearty welcome to the new volunteers



Farewell to WASH Engineer Renu Adhikari

and staff and best of luck for the outgoing staff!

VISIT



Dr. Julie Kate Seirlis, Assistant Professor, International Development, from the University of Waterloo visited Nepal from 8th-14th January, 2017. It was a regular visit organized by the University to observe its students who were working as interns with various partner organizations of Uniterra. During the visit, she had several rounds of meetings with the students, the Uniterra team and partner organizations to learn more about Uniterra's work and the contribution of students to their respective partner organizations. A full day field visit to Baruwa, Sindhupalchowk was also organized to observe works done by Organic World and Fair Future Pvt. Ltd (OWF), a member of Fair Trade Group-Nepal.

PARTNERS MEETING

On 2nd February 2017, CECI-Nepal under PUNARNIRMAN project organized a one day Partner Meeting with Mr. Dilip Chinnakonda, South Asia Regional Coordinator and Monique Morazain, Project Officer of CECI. PUNARNIRMAN project partners from Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchok and Lalitpur districts attended the meeting. They introduced their organizations, briefed about their District Profiles and shared about their collaboration with CECI and work done in partnership during post-earthquake period. After the formal presentation, there was an interaction session. where partners put their queries towards the PUNARNIRMAN. The meeting also focused on the implementation of project activities. Partners presented the group work on detail activities breakdown, opportunity on the selected district and new innovation.

Mr. Chinnakonda shared the ideas about GAC's partnership detail and the structure of the project. Partners found the meeting very fruitful in sharing information and knowing each other better.







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