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## REFLECT

## CECI Nepal's Newsletter

May—August 2018



## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR





#### Dear Friends,

Welcome to the CECI Nepal Newsletter 'REFLECT'. I am very much delighted to present this edition of REFELCT to you all. As you go through the newsletter, I believe you will gain insights about our project activities. I do hope, as in the past quarters, you will accept this effort of ours to connect with you.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Keshava Koirala, the former Country Representative of CECI Nepal for his long leadership and continuous dedication in CECI's mission in Nepal. I am glad to have the opportunity to work in CECI Nepal from August, 2018 in the leadership role.

I would like to thank all our development partners, government agencies, donors, project partners, civil society who are directly or indirectly associated with us to make our development efforts successful and I strongly believe that the same level of support will be extended in the days to come.

Sita Ram Bhatta Country Director CECI Nepal

## GOVERNANCE THROUGH IT

Today the Information Technology (IT) is being a part of life. It is being used to access information related with public services and concern from public institutions. Also the government of Nepal has been developing or initiating IT based different tools and mechanisms to promote transparency, accountability and governance. It is true that the IT based tools and mechanisms can make public services effective and efficient and also contributes in participatory decision making and planning processes. In order to support the government this initiation, the Global Affair Canada (GAC) supported Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in

Nepal-SUSASAN project has been supporting to the 12 local governments to develop IT based tools and mechanisms (online and off line) and rolling out through establishing techno-hubs in municipal offices and adjoining communities of six project districts (Achham, Bajhang, Dadeldhura, Kailali, Lalitpur and Sindhupalchowk). The tools and mechanisms developed so far are accessible for general public to obtain required information and data.

The municipal level information and data are published through the techno-hub. An interactive dash board is developed to promote citizen state engagement. It is anticipated that the IT tools and mechanisms will promote civic participation to improve governance at local level. Similarly, it strengthens the citizen-state engagement, particularly women and marginalized groups (WMGs) in the democratic and decision making process.

Mr. Gopilal Singtan Chairperson of Konjyosom Gaupalika, Lalitpur said "the techno hub would help make all the services being delivered by the Gaupalika effective, efficient and promote transparency and accountability".

A lso, the Vice- Chairperson of the Gaunpalika Minga Lama said "the establishment of a community techno



Susasan team with Kyonjosom Rural Municipality members

hub would increase easy flow of public information to the locals of Konjyosom including Shankhu which would also encourage women and marginalized groups to participate in a local decision making process". Shankhu Ward Chairperson Dhruba Prasad Ghimire echoed the importance of the techno hub in enhancing the access of the marginalized groups to information.



Inauguration of Tech-Hub in Konjyosom Rural Municipality

## CITIZEN SCHOOL OF SUSASAN

Digital governance is particularly important to build citizen state engagement and have inclusive, transparent, accountable and responsive governance systems. In order to fulfill this, Susasan project has been supporting to enhance the government initiatives of digitizing activities and data. The project has also developed the concept of "Susasan School" for targeted citizens particularly women and marginalized groups, local CSOs and government for orientation, interactions and trainings.

The Susasan School is a platform for technological solutions, discourse for capacity building, transferring skills to district

partner organizations, local government units and intermediary civil society organizations. In the last quarter, SUSASAN organized 13 such events on leadership and democratic citizenry process for district partner organizations and the municipalities. In addition; two digital literacy sessions for municipalities, an orientation on the municipal data portal to 98 wards and one co-creation workshop on technology and innovation for IT Officers in 12 municipalities was conducted.

The citizen school helps the targeted citizens, lo-



Susasan school in Bajhang



Susasan school in Dadeldhura

cal CSOs and government representatives understand the concept, principles, legal/policy framework, develop and or adopt policies, tools and mechanism for constructive citizen-state engagement in the governance process.





गोरखापत्र



#### Community techno hub set up for promoting good governance

Kathmandu, May 12: A community techno hub has been established at the office of Konjyosom rural municipality, ward no. 2, Shankhu in Lalitpur district of Province-3.

The techno hub was established as part of the Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepai (SUSASAN) Project being implemented by CECI Nepai, Young Innovation, Freedom Forum and SCIVE-Nepai with support from the (Sobal Affairs Canada (GAC).

The SUSASAN Project is being executed in Bagmati and Konjyosom rural municipalities of Lalitpur district. The project has the target to establish total four techno-hubs including two in rural municipality level and two at community level, shared Pratigya Neupane, SUSASAN Lalitpur District Project Coordinator on behalf of SOLVE-Nepal.

Inaugurating the techno hub. Chairperson of Konjyosom Gopilal Simtan said that the techno hub would help make all the services being delivered by the rural municipality effective and efficient and promote transparency and accountability of the concerned agencies under the rural municipality.

Also speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chairperson of the rural municipality Minga Lama said the establishment of community techno hub would increase easy flow of public information to the locals of Konjyosom including Shankin, which would also encourage women and marginalized groups to participate in local decision-making process.

Shankhu Ward Chairperson Dhruha Prasad Ghimire echoed the imp enhancing the access of the marginalized groups to information

Likewise, SUSASAN Project Team Leader Hem Tembe expected that the project end beneficiaries, women and marginalized groups, and other citizens would use the techno hub to the greater extent and enable their citive participation in local governance process through the use of technology.

The SUSASAN Project is being implemented in five other districts including Achham, Bajhang, Dadeldhura, Kailali and Sindhupalchowk besides Lalitpur.



## Susasan in Media





धनगढी उप-महानगरपालिको वडा नम्बर १५



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IT Centre comes into operation at Sanfebagar Municipality

नवदुर्गा गाँउपालिकाको सार्वजनिक सुनुवाई सम्पन्न



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## WORKSHOP FOR PARTNERSHIP

On June 8, 2018, CECI/Australian Volunteer Program (AVP) organized a half day Partner Organization Workshop. The purposes of the workshop was to give an update on the Australian Volunteers Program and share how partners can add value with the AVP. The workshop was addressed by the Head of Development Cooperation - Ms. Ainsley Hemming from the Australian Embassy. Ms. Hemming shared about the AVP and the Australian Government's contributions and collaboration in Nepal.



Ms. Ainsley Hemming

The Country team members of the AVP led the workshop where Hari Bastola, the Recruitment Officer of the AVP shared about the historical background of Australian Volunteers in Nepal. The Mayor of Dhulikhel Municipality gave his

reasons for seeking Australian Volunteer support while Dr. Luigi, former Australian Volunteer, shared his experience of volunteering in the workshop.

The participants of the program were five Mayors and one Deputy Mayor, judge,





Bidur Humagain, Chairman of Makawanpur Gadhi

Member Secretary, Dean of University, the Principal of Technical School and representatives from different Municipalities, Rural Municipalities, universities and other institutions.



# ToT: Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction

TECI/Punarnirman Project convened a ✓4-day Training of Trainers (TOTs) on Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction in Bhaktapur from the 23rd to 26th of July 2018. The purpose of the TOT was to improve understanding and practical skills on addressing special needs of most vulnerable groups especially women and childreen through GESI prospectives, that are needed in the process of disaster risk management in the community. All together 39 people participated in the event, including government representatives, (i.e. ward members and chairpersons, community leaders and the project's local partner staff).

ppreciating the event, Mr. Durga Prasad Adhikari, representative of the Mahakalchaur community of Kabhrepalanchok said "this training helped to internalize the priority needs of women,



Sujata Lama, Social Mobilizer

children and senior citizens during and after the disaster.".

Pabitra Pradhan, Ward Member of Ghumthang participating in the ToT

Ms. Pabitra Pradhan, representative of Barhabise Municipality-7, Sindhupalchok said "this training has highlighted the needs of people who cannot raise their voice; I will advocate this issue in my team and community through awareness events."

Furthermore, Ms. Sujata Lama, a social mobilizer of Chyasingkharka community expressed, "normally special need of women, children and senior citizen are neglected during the times of disasters. We have sketched the plan of action to mainstream GESI need in Local Disaster Risk and Climate Resilience Planning process of our Ward."



Playing gender responsive game during the ToT

## Small Support Counts a Lot

Mrs. Buddhi Maya Lama, resident of the Bethanchowk Rural Municipality, came in contact with the Punarnirman Project because of her keen interest in Dhaka Weaving. During her visit in one of her relatives in Kathmandu, she got a chance to observe the Dhaka weaving industry run by a group of women. She thought it was the best opportunity of employment for the women who are ideally seeking some opportunities to earn money.

This thought motivated her a lot and subsequently made her enthusiastic to run the Dhaka enterprise in her own place. She then formed a group "Bhugdeu Laghu Uddhami Samuha". This group started with 11 young women members who eventually came in contact with Punarnirman project along with the request of Dhaka weaving training.

Following their request the Punarnirman Project provided a 10-day Dhaka weaving training to 8 members of the group.

The training was conducted by the experts from Kathmandu who gave a complete package of training such as fixing the frame, loom making, Dhaka weaving, pattern designing, finishing along with marketing strategy. The project not only provided the training. but also shared the cost of buying three Dhaka weaving machines for those who really wanted to start a business immediately after the



training. With the contribution from the project, Buddhi Maya Lama and her friends bought the machine for Dhaka making. It's only been two months and they have already started exporting Dhaka shawls and mufflers to China. In a short time, their market network has extended as traders from Dhulikhel and Thamel have already placed some order. The project's small initiative made a big change in a sustainable livelihood promotion of rural women. Now it has lots of demonstrative effects to other many women in the village.

The Bethanchowk Rural Municipality has expressed their commitment to facilitate the promotion of Dhaka sales in local areas. Ms. Goma Adhikari, one of the members of the group proudly said "Dhaka weaving is better enterprise to the women like us in our village."

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## **CPAC**Meeting



Nirmal Gyalang, Team Leader, Punarnirman Project

The first Central Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting of CECI Nepal's Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal (Punarnirman) project was held on the 15th of May 2018 in Kathmandu. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Shiva Kumar Basnet, Acting Director, Social Welfare Council



(SWC) and cochaired by the Punarnirman project Team Leader Nirmal Gyalang. The meeting was participated by the representatives of different line Ministries, National Planning Commission, SWC and project implementing partner NGOs. Project activities, achievements and challenges were presented by the Project Team Leader, while the meeting participants provided constructive feedbacks for the smooth implementation of the project. The comminets will be incorporated in project planning.





Project Agreement Signed

On July 31 2018, Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal (Susasan) Project Agreement signed with the Social Welfare Council/Nepal, Government amidst a small gathering in the SWC office today.





## **Volunteering for Cause**

CECI manages two volunteer cooperation programs in Nepal: Australian Volunteer Program (AVP) and Canadian Volunteer Cooperation Program (Uniterra). Volunteers come to Nepal from different academic and professional backgrounds and serve here in government and non-government organizations. Over the last 30 years, CECI had managed more than 600 volunteers in Nepal.

## Reaching the Poorest Among Poor

Uniterra supported Prerana, an organization working for women empowerment and women's rights to conduct "an assessment on the situation of women cooperative formed by Prerana in Sarlahi District". Various assessment methods such as key informant interviews, observations and focus group discussions among cooperative members, cooperative managers, chairpersons, shareholders and board members were done within seven cooperatives. After the keen assessment of need and potentiality, Uniterra recommended the appropriate enterprising opportunities to the cooperative members.



## Capacity Building of Partners

As a part of capacity building needs, Uniterra Volunteer conducted a proposal writing training workshop at the Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HI-MAWANTI) for board members and staff. The aim of this training was to enhance their capacity on proposal development. A total of 17 people participated in the training. After the training, they developed two different proposals and were successful in receiving funds.

#### Uniterra believes in Fair Trade

Uniterra supported Fair trade Group Nepal to celebrate the World Fair Trade Day on the 19th of May 2018, where 1,300 people participated in the rally out of which 85% were women participants. It is an inclusive worldwide festival celebrating Fair Trade as a tangible contribution to sustainable development, especially the economic empowerment of small producers where gender equality in workplaces and responsible production practices are highly valued.



## **Initiative Towards Solving the Rural Water Crisis**

The water crisis is common in most of the rural part of Nepal, which has hardened the life of people. Somehow in order to mitigate this crisis Canadian Volunteers under the Uniterra Volunteer Cooperation Program have been working to find solutions and are transferring their knowledge to the community of water management practices. The volunteers are working through the Small Farmers Agricultural Cooperatives in four districts - Lalitpur, Gorkha, Dhading, and Ilam. They are supporting Nepal's Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Limited (NACCFL) in designing and implementing small scale irrigation development pilot projects. Under this pilot project, Fog Water Collection study was done and Plastic Pond Rainwater Harvesting Systems were constructed. Similarly, volunteers conducted a study on water management and irrigation efficiency in Bajrabarahi, Lalitpur.

The study was published by the Society of Public Health Engineers Nepal and the Global Water Partnership. Eventually, a paper was presented at the International Conference on "Water, Environment and Climate Change: Knowledge Sharing and Partnership", in April, 2018 in Kathmandu. Similarly, volunteers developed training

guide book on irrigation and water management and trained 30 farmers from 8 districts of Nepal. The training guide book can be used as resource materials for similar trainings in future.

More support was extended for writing and submitting grant proposal for scaling up the programme. In addition, the volunteers also developed a handbook on good water management practices for small farmers.





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#### uniterra A WUSC & CECL PROGRAM

Marie Michele, a student from University of Ottawa Canada, who worked as Communication and Documentation intern at Uniterra and CECI-Susassan and Purnarnirman project.



CECI/Uniterra mobilizes Uniterra, a Canadian Volunteer Cooperation Program in Nepal. Between May and August, 2018, it managed 10 volunteers, including three long term volunteers, six short term interns and one national volunteers. During this period a total of six intern volunteers started volunteering work in Nepal.

Sheikh Rawank Amin, a student from University of Ottawa Canada, worked as a Communication and Documentation intern at Lalitpur District Milk Product Cooperative Union.





Jasmin Macarios, who was from Hetauda from University of Ottawa, worked with Makwanpur District Milk Product Cooperative Union as a Website Development and Management Intern.



Kamal Mirani, a Production Development Volunteer from Trent University of Canada, working in Coffee Cooperative Union Lalitpur (CCUL)





Megan Sibley a Communication and Branding intern from Carleton University of Canada worked in National Federation of Youth NGO (NFYN) as

Charie Kaylan Brady, a student from University of Ottawa Canada, who worked as Communication and Documentation Intern at Center For Micro finance CMF.



#### New Australian Volunteers



**Dr. Douglas Wilson** is working in Veterinary Cliniian in Agriculture and Forest University, Rampur, Chitwan. He is supporting to develop a work-plan and a standard operation procedure SOP) for clinical and laboratory units of VTH, AFU, develop a module to link students with current global trend, upgrading the veterinary practices in the hospital and around and build and maintain the partnership with local and national government, professional and peer

networks.

Mrs. Lucinda Peterson is working in the Dhulikhel Municipality as an Urban Planner and supporting the Municipality in collecting and analyzing data and meeting with public officials, developers and community members to develop and present plans; plan for transport facilities and infrastructure in urban area. In addition to those tasks



she is helping develop environmental and natural resource planning; identify opportunities for economic growth, and encourage investment in an area; develop and/or maintain partnerships with local, regional and international organizations, local and national government, professional and peer networks

As a Mid Wifery Trainer, Ms. Maxine Hardinge is working with Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences. She is responsible to support in the assessments of student's performance; assist teachers with clinical precentorship, use of skill lab demonstrations and classroom theory teaching; conduct training workshops for the existing faculty and hospital staff working in the maternity department to improve women cen-



Ms. Saideh Samantha Kent is volunteering at Dhulikhel Municipality as a Program Officer. Her mandate includes identify opportunities in agriculture for increasing the profitability of farming and expanding the rural economy; develop program for promoting agrobased enterprises, creating marketing opportunities and support system needed for the sustainability of the program; design strategies for the participation of women, poor and marginalized groups in the program



to increase their livelihood opportunities; develops partnerships with businesses, cooperatives, donors, lenders, and local, state and federal agencies to promote and develop agriculture enterprises including agro-tourism; and support staff team in the implementation of projects through training and coaching.



#### ALL TOWARDS THE SAME GOAL

#### By Par Marie-Michèle Comeau July 31, 2018

I have been lucky to visit the field of two projects sponsored by CECI Nepal. This article reports on my experience in the district of Lalitpur. Lalitpur is one of the district in which CECI has been involved a lot as their two projects, Punarnirman and Susasan, overlaps one another in this district. However, one goal remains the same; communities' participation.

During our visit both to Bukhel and Sankhu, we could feel this community feeling. One of the Bukhel resident, Mr. Kalu Singh Bomjan (pictured), received a training on how to build goat feeders as a "V" shape, which helps prevent waste and is more efficient when it comes to feeding multiple goats. Not only does he build them for his own use, he also builds them for resale and for the rest of the community. During our time in Sankhu, we could really feel the importance of the communities' involvement in reconstruction, but also to improve the governance. As part of the Susasan project, one techno-hub that includes one computer, a laptop and a TV screen for the display of information have been installed in the ward office. It is looked over by the Chairman of the Ward office and is available for everyone in the community. Many software have also been developed and installed in the techno-hubs in order to help the community effectively.

To conclude the trip, our team stopped by the milk collection centre for Namuna women's cooperative in Sankhu, which is completely women-led. Women are the ones that are mainly involved at home when it comes to the task of milking the bulls and cows. We were lucky enough to see the process of women bringing their milk to the collection centre and have them measure the fat, and keep record of the amount of milk brought by every woman. Then, the milk was sent to the cooling centre through the pipeline built by the Uniterra program in 2016. The pipeline starts at the top of the hill, where the collection centre is, and goes all the way down to the cooling centre. This initiative has saved women time and money throughout the process.



All those activities ensure the participation of the community in the everyday tasks, which is a big part of the development of those communities and ensures the good development of the projects already in place.

My name is Claudia Gamache and I work in partnership with CDCAN as a Milk Production Advisor. My mandate consists of visiting farmers to assist them in better managing the milk production. To ensure a better management of their agribusiness, I train farmers on specific aspects of milk production management such as feeding practices, animal health and well-being, on-farm biosecurity procedures, and good management practices. The results of my interventions include an increase in milk

my interventions include an increase in milk production, an increase in the price received per liter of milk produced, a decrease in production costs and time. So far, more than 115 people have successfully been trained on better milk production management, which resulted in an increase of their annual incomes of 2.5 million NPR (CAD 29,710 \$), per total beneficiaries.

The thing I like the most about my mandate is to be working directly with Nepali people and be a part of their success. Seeing them apply new techniques and benefit from the results of these techniques makes me remember why I decided to come to this country in the first place.

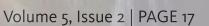
## Completion of SDP

onsulting Services for the Skills Development Project has been successfully accomplished as of June 2018. The consulting services were provided by the Consortium lead by **World University Services of Canada** (WUSC); CECI; Industrial Enterprise **Development (IEDI) and Colleges and Institutes of Canada. The project began** in March 2013 for a period of 30 months and was subsequently extended for 52 months. Since the WUSC office was not in Nepal, CECI took the responsibility of administrative and financial management of the project and provided support to both the local and international consultants.

The consulting team comprised of eight specialists: TVET System and Institutional Development Specialist; Public Sector Organizational Change Specialist; TVET System and Institutional Development Specialist; Finance

specialist; Procurement Specialist; TVET Monitoring Specialist; Gender and Social Development Specialist; and Database Specialist. Additionally, international volunteers were mobilized to accompany the 10 QIP institutions to achieve and implement their quality improvement plans.





### News in Brief

## FAREWELL WELCOME

On July 31, CECI Nepal Team bid farewell to the Country Representative Mr. Keshava Koirala organizing a lunch reception. Mr. Koirala has worked with CECI since



1995 and has vigorously contributed to CECI. CECI Nepal team will always miss his leadership and at the same time wish him much joy and happiness as he begins a new chapter in his life.

In the meantime, Mr. Sita Ram Bhatta has joined CECI as the Country Director. The CECI Regional Director Mr. Dilip Chinnaknoda



together with the CECI Nepal team welcomed Mr.
Bhatta organizing an in-house reception.

#### **FEDERALISM**

With the aim to educate on new Federal Governance System of Nepal, CECI organized a half-day presentation on "Federalism and Federal Governance: Experience of Nepal"on May 1, 2018. The session was delivered by Dr. Shankar Sharma, former Vice Chairperson of National Planning Commission, to the staff and advisory committee members of CECI Nepal. The presentation was mainly focused on the federal government structures, its' opportunities, challenges; and contributions to development needs in the present context.



#### **MEETING OF VSA**

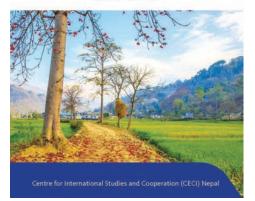
The Volunteer Sending Agency (VSA) meeting was hosted by Uniterra (CECI) Nepal on the 5th of May at CECI Nepal. Altogether 13 participants from five VSA participated the meeting. The agenda discussed were updates on Volunteer status (In-country, new arrivals, priority sectors), challenges and way forward. The organization participated in the meeting



were Uniterra, Australian Volunteer Program, JICA, VSO, Peace Corps and KOICA.



#### ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



In July 2018, CECI published the Annual Report of the fiscal year 2074 – 2075 B.S (2017-2018. The report was distributed electronically to various government ministries and departments, I/NGOs, donor agencies and other stakeholders. For further details visit: http://www.ceci.ca/en/news-events/ceci-nepal-2017-2018-annual-report



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