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IMPACT

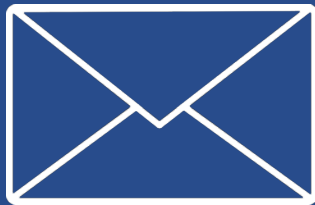
CECI Nepal's Newsletter

**May—December
2015**

CECI Nepal would like to apologize for the delay in the publication of our newsletter. Due to the devastating earthquake followed by several aftershocks and ongoing border obstructions and terai agitation, implementations of many of our program activities were delayed. We were not able to publish our newsletter from May to August on time. Thus this issue covers the period from May to December 2015.

We wish all our readers a Happy New Year 2016 and look forward to hearing your comments and feedback on the newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the latest edition of CECI Nepal newsletter 'IMPACT'. In this issue you will get a glimpse of our major activities from May to December 2015.

During this period we faced many challenges but also got many opportunities. At the end of April, a devastating earthquake of 7.8 magnitude hit the country killing thousands and displacing millions of people. CECI immediately began an emergency response program which now continues as a recovery and livelihood supports program for earthquake victims. CECI signed one new project in good governance entitled the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) with PACT under the Sajhedari Bikaas (SB) project funded by USAID. New phases of PRAN and UNITERRA Projects also began their implementation in this period.

CECI continued its on-going programs such as consulting work with the Skills Development Project and managing its volunteer programs. We welcomed new volunteers and bade farewell to outgoing volunteers. As always, we are strengthening our commitment towards capacity building, good governance, gender equality and social inclusion. I would like to thank all of our partners including government agencies, donors, civil society and other organizations for their continued support.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Mallika Bhattarai for her untiring efforts to bring out this newsletter.

I hope you will enjoy reading this.

Keshava Koirala
Country Representative
CECI Nepal

NEW PROJECT IN GOOD GOVERNANCE



PETS survey with local authority and general public

CECI Nepal launched a new project in good governance. A consortium led by CECI in association with PRAD has been awarded the USAID project to

conduct a public expenditure tracking Survey (PETS). PETS is a survey required to be carried out under the Sajhedari Bikaas (SB) project funded by USAID and implemented by PACT.

The Sajhedari Bikaas project is a five-year project aimed at empowering communities in directing their own development and is designed to offer sustainable, locally appropriate development solutions while maintaining the programmatic flexibility necessary to quickly respond to a dynamic operating environment. Its focus is on engaging communities and marginalized groups to participate in the 14 steps DDC/ VDC planning process in order to promote district development plans (DDPs) and



Household survey in Kanchanpur

village development plans (VDPs) that reflect local priorities, as well as to facilitate constructive citizen-state engagement at the district and local levels.

The main objective of the PETS is to develop a robust and accurate understanding of how and why selected funds (i.e. DDC/VDC block grants and CA development funds) flow from their point-of-origin to final expenditure; and to build the capacity of district NGO (DNGO) partners to independently conduct PETS activities at the VDC and district level. The study covers 58 VDCs of six districts (Banke, Bardiya, Dang and Surkhet, Kailali and Kanchanpur) of Nepal. The duration of the study is 10 months i.e. from July 2015 to March 2016

PETS Approaches:

1. To collaborate with SB staff, their district-based NGO partners (DNGOs), and other stakeholders to develop a set of user-friendly instruments
2. To carry out PETS activities in order to track and understand the political financial flow of funds from central government to the local levels
3. To provide training and follow up support to DNGOs in carrying out PETS activities at the district and VDC levels

4. To conduct a combined analysis of VDC, DDC and central level data. The PETS comprises the areas of work that carry out Public Expenditure Tracking (PETS) of CA funds, DDC and VDC block grants; and capacity Building of the local NGOs to conduct PETS independently



PETS training in Banke



Survey in Kailali

MDTF/ PRAN2 IN ACTION

CECI Nepal signed the second phase of the Program for Accountability in Nepal entitled “MDTF/PRAN2” on 03 July 2015. Mr. Keshava Koirala, the Country Representative of CECI and Mr. Takuya Kamata, Country Manager of the World Bank represented the respective organizations in the signing process.



Mr. Takuya Kamata and Mr. Keshava Koirala signing the MDTF/PRAN2 contract

MDTF/PRAN 2 is a World Bank program promoting demand for good governance in Nepal; and is being implemented in agreement with the Government of Nepal. It is financed by the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) for the period of July, 2015 to December, 2016; and is being implemented in 15 districts covering all five development regions of Nepal

The main objective of MDTF/PRAN2 is to strengthen the transparency, accountability, efficiency and inclusiveness of public financial management (PFM) in

Nepal by fostering the use of Social Accountability (SAC) Tools. To this end, it aims to strengthen the capacity of citizens, civil society organizations and other non-state organizations in constructive citizen engagement with government agencies. MDTF/PRAN2 has 5 components: CSOs' capacity building, grant management, knowledge management, media support, program management/coordination. CECI manages the grants to the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in implementing the SAC tools.



CONTRACTS SIGNED WITH 30 CSOS

On August 5, 2015, CECI Nepal began the signing process of the MDTF/PRAN2 sub-contracts with the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) which was completed by August 08, 2015. A total of 30 CSOs received sub-grants to practice social accountability tools under MDTF/PRAN2. These CSOs will be utilizing SAc tools such as Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM), Community Score Card (CSC) and Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS).

CECI has selected local CSOs on the basis of a competitive process conducted by the grant management committee (GMC) of MDTF/PRAN2. GMC short listed the CSOs on the basis of merit after rating the proposals submitted by them. Consideration was also given for inclusiveness using the criteria such as women led organizations and member of disadvantage and marginalized groups in the CSO's Board.



UNITERRA 3 IN ACTION

After the successful completion of Uniterra second phase in March 2015, its third phase (U3) was started from April 2015 for a five year period. U3 will identify and focus on the development of key economic subsectors within Nepal's economy and will employ an inclusive market systems approach. Uniterra believes that a market system is inclusive when it extends choices and opportunities to the poor and other excluded groups such as women and youth. In Nepal, U3 has prioritized the sub-sector i.e. Dairy and High Value Cash Crops, Non-Timber Forest Products and Handicrafts for promotion, using inclusive market system development approach.



Welcoming U3



Mr. Koirala draping Khada to Shayenda

U3 Volunteers Arrived

Our first group of U3 volunteers arrived in Nepal on November 2015 and commenced their year-long assignments. They began work with

their host organizations following completion of their In-Country Orientation Program. The CECI Nepal Country Representative, Mr. Keshava Koirala welcomed them by draping them with the traditional khada amidst a small celebration. Their placements are with 3 different organizations. Gerard Carlo Valle will be working with the Centre for Micro-Finance; Shayenda Suyeshkumar will be working at Sana Kisan Bikas Bank, and Karl Brown is with the fair trade organization, Manushi. We wish them the best success in their mandates and a wonderful stay in Nepal.



Mr Koirala welcoming new volunteers

SUPPORTS CONTINUE TO EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

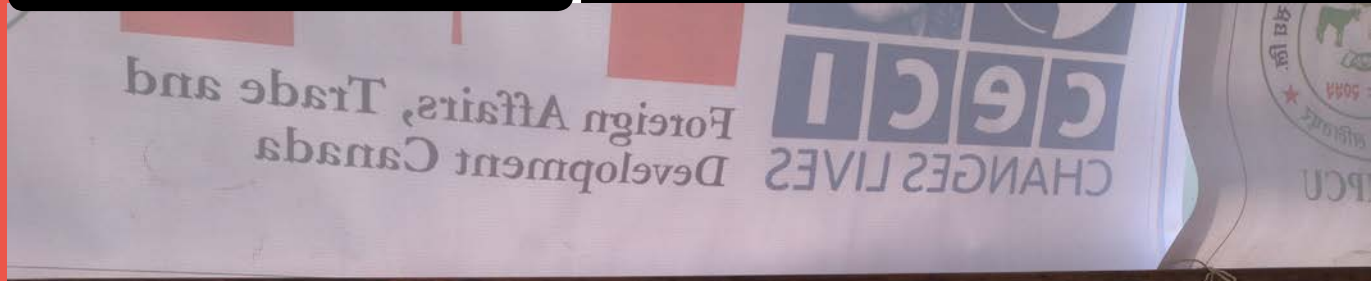
After the devastating April 25th earthquake, CECI Nepal immediately set up an emergency Response Team and started supporting an emergency response program in the most affected earthquake districts of Sindhupalchowk, Kavre and Lalitpur. During the emergency phase CECI supported the distribution of relief materials such as tarpaulins, food packets, hygiene kits, kitchen utensils, water filters, solar lanterns and basic medical packages. At the end of June 2015, CECI Nepal wrapped up its first phase of emergency response and began its early-recovery phase including WASH interventions and agricultural and livelihood support.



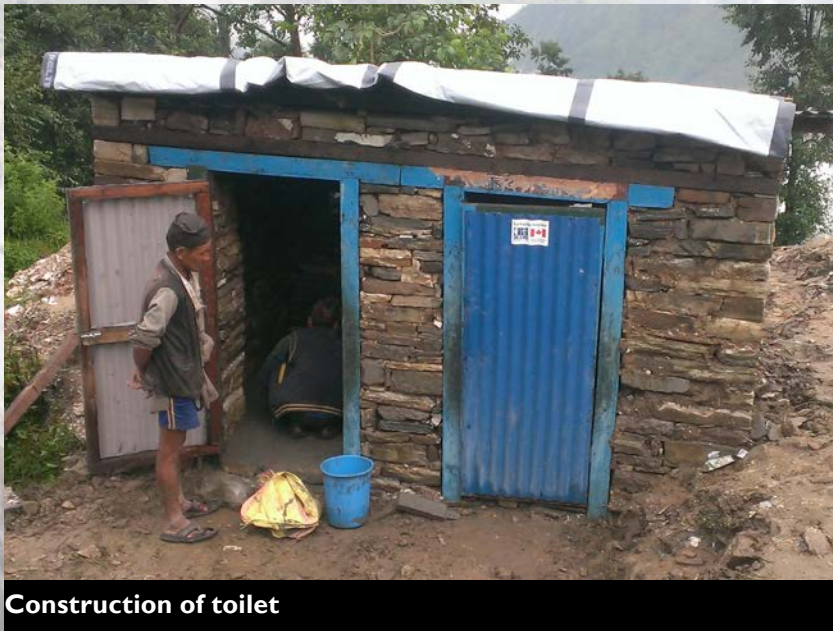
Supports in microenterprise



Tarpaulin distribution



livelihood supports



Construction of toilet

In Sindhupalchowk CECI supported reconstruction of toilets and repair and reconstruction of drinking water facilities for the entire households of the 3 targeted VDCs of Maneshwora, Ghumthang and Ramche. In Lalitpur CECI supported the repair and maintenance of cattle sheds and restoration of dairy enterprises, replacement of cattle, and distributed improved seeds of vegetables and fodder crops.

These activities were funded by DFATD, CECI, and the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), and Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA). In addition, "Rebuild Micro Enterprise Nepal (ReMEN), an initiative of Australian Volunteers, provided funding to support the recovery of women led dairy and microenterprises destroyed by the devastating earthquake.

TRAINING/ WORKSHOPS

Trainings for Employment

The ADB-funded Skills Development Project (SDP) is providing numerous trainings for employment. For the last one and half year duration 7,734 (36.18% women and 75.53% members of excluded groups) enrolled in the basic level training provided by the Private Sector Training and Employment Service Providers (TESPs) under the initiatives of SDP. The trainings lead to employment in the Construction, Manufacturing, and Service sectors. The project is funded by the Asian Development Bank and is delivered by the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTEVT). Consultants who support the project delivery are managed jointly by Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Colleges and Institutes Canada and the Industrial Enterprise Development Institute of Nepal. WUSC leads the consortium.



Embroidery training



Mechanical training



Cutting and stitching training



Security training

Pre-Service Orientation workshop

CECI under MDTF/PRAN2 project organized a 3 day orientation workshop for 30 Social Accountability Practitioners (SACPs). The workshop was held from 21 to 23 September in Kathmandu. The main objective of the workshop was to develop common understanding among all SAC practitioners about MDTF/PRAN2 and to clarify the role of partner organizations. At the orientation workshop SACPs were made clear about the nature of the project, their roles and responsibilities in carrying out the programs. They were also oriented about CECI Nepal's financial and technical reporting tools. The MDTF/PRAN2 partners like New ERA, PRAD and ACORAB also delivered the sessions.

The orientation workshop was successful in building the confidence of the SACPs on effective implementation of designed activities under MDTF/PRAN2. It provided opportunity for them to share field level learnings, experiences and challenging issues. The possible solutions of the issues were also identified through the discussion.



Anjali Thakali, Deputy Coordinator PRAN/WB addressing at the Orientation Workshop



Hem Tembe Team Leader PRAN/CECI briefing activities of the program

Capacity Building Training

CECI successfully conducted 3-day capacity building training from 24 to 25 September for its 30 Principal Social Accountability Practitioners (SACPs). The training was organized to provide knowledge and skill to the principal SACPs for the proper and effective application of selected SAC tools in the respective districts. The participants' knowledge on collection, analysis and presentation of local level information was also strengthened from the training.



Dr. Chandra Mani Adhikari delivering training session on budget analysis

The training particularly focused on the delivery of skills and knowledge on specific SAC tools: Budgetary Process, Gender and Pro-poor budget analysis, Right to Information (RTI), Public Audit, Public Hearing and Public Procurement. Also, in the training, participants were orientated on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) as well as Local Body Resource Mobilization and Management Guideline, 2069 of MoFALD.

This training reinforced the importance of successful implementation of SAC tools at local level. At the end of the training, participants explained deeper and wider scope of each SAC tool which has contributed in the expansion of their skill and knowledge on those SAC tools.



Training participants

TOT ON PETS

CECI Nepal delivered capacity building training (training of trainers) on PETS from 28 to 30 September 2015. The training was attended by the 26 participants from PETS partner organizations of the mid and far western region. The main objective of the training was to support participants in increasing their knowledge and skills on the application of PETS study as a tool of social accountability to track public expenditure at the local level.

The training covered subjects of public financial management process and cycle; demystification of budget and budgetary terms and process; funds flow mechanisms and process; PETS budget and social inclusion (gender and pro-poor budget) and practical sessions on data collection, data entry and tabulation. In addition to the conceptual/theoretical knowledge, participants were also given opportunities to visit and interact with relevant stakeholders such as District Development Committee (DDC), District Treasury Comptroller Office (DTCO), VDC, CA representative, users committee and beneficiaries of the selected

funds, where they piloted the research instruments/questionnaires developed by the research team.

The training participants will be engaged in carrying out the PETS study and will also transfer the gained knowledge to their respective organizations and social mobilizers at VDC level. Prithvi Raj Ligal (Team Leader / PFM Expert of the study team), Kishor Maharjan (Research Advisor), Hari Hara Nath Regmi (Statistician) of PRAD, Kiran Wagle (Social Inclusion Advisor) and Binod Upadhyay (Accountability/ PETS Advisor) of CECI Nepal delivered the training sessions.



Prithvi Raj Ligal delivering a session during TOT



Keshava Koirala, CECI Nepal Country Representative addressing at the workshop

PETS TRAINING IN SIX DISTRICTS

In between October 7 to 17, CECI organized four sets of two day data collection training for the social mobilizers (enumerators of PETS) and other project staff of the local governance NGOs in Sajhedari Bikaas in Kailali, Kanchanpur, Bardiya, Banke, Dang and Surkhet. Objective of the training was to provide necessary knowledge and skill to the enumerators of PETS to collect evidence based and clean data sets for PETS. Altogether 92 participants benefitted from the training. The training was jointly facilitated by Binod Upadhayaya, Accountability/PETS Advisor of CECI Nepal and district team of PETS.



Training participants in Banke



Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in Surkhet



CECI Nepal participated in “Cycle and Walking Rally” organized to celebrate the International Volunteer Day on 05 December 2015. The program was organized jointly by various Volunteer Sending Agencies coordinated by UNV. The cycle rally began from the UN House in Pulchowk while the walking rally took off from Basntapur. Both rallies converged at a small celebration in Bhrikuti Mandap, where the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Bhim Rawal, the chief guest of the program delivered his thoughts on volunteerism. This year’s IVD message was “Volunteer Action Counts” with the slogan of “Your world is changing. Are you? Vteer!”

Both Canadian and Australian volunteers and staff from CECI participated in the rally.



MEETINGS

UNITERRA GLOBAL MEETING

The Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) and World University Service of Canada (WUSC) organised Uniterra Global Meeting in Canada from 01 – 06 November 2015. It brought together 80 Uniterra staff members and partners from 15 countries for training, networking and programming.



Participants from Nepal, Vietnam and Bolivia

The objectives of the global meeting were to strengthen team dynamics and have a common understanding of the different teams' roles and responsibilities within the program structure. Program strategies, volunteer management and operational

aspects and outreach and fundraising were the main focus of the global meeting.

The 6 day event contained presentations, staff trainings and team meetings and provided an opportunity to have in depth discussions. The meeting was co-facilitated and prepared jointly by the members of the Canadian team and country teams. Open space was also planned with outside facilitation to allow for more subjects to be covered in depth, in small groups, and to identify concrete follow-up action. Uniterra is a joint initiative of WUSC and CECI, funded by the Government of Canada through the Department of Foreign Affairs Trade & Development (DFATD).



Global Meeting

UNITERRA PARTNER MEETING

CECI Nepal organized U3 partner sharing meetings on the 16th December 2015 in Lalitpur. The purpose of the meeting was to present an overview of U3, to familiarize partners with the U3 focus areas, to have same understanding in the roles and responsibilities in volunteer mobilization and to provide orientation on financial procedures. U3 approaches, methodologies, expected results, and intercultural communication perspectives were also discussed at the meeting. Along with Uniterra team 14 partners and 4 Canadian volunteers were present at the meeting.



Partner meeting

CECI ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of CECI was held on from 27 to 29 October 2015 in Montreal Canada. All the Project Directors/Country Representatives of CECI program countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to enable sharing and learning from each other's experience and create greater synergy on the works among different countries and with the Head Office.

Some of the major topics discussed in the meeting were: development of programming and docking between the field and headquarters teams, "how to work together?" roles and synergies, as well as the training and support needs of field teams. Also discussed were how to build synergy with the volunteer cooperation programs by highlighting the challenges and Issues, and ways to maximize synergies between the field and headquarters and clearly defining the different structural models of infrastructure costs on the ground, as well as the importance of synergy between the human resources department of the head office and the field offices to ensure support that can empowerment the field offices.

VISITS

On 26 November 2015, a team of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) visited Bhattedanda, Lalitpur District. The purpose of the visit was to monitor the impact of the Earthquake Response Project implemented with a financial support from GAC. The visiting team included: Carol Mundle (Deputy Director of Business Intelligence) and Andreeanne Bourque (Program Officer, International Humanitarian Assistance Directorate) of GAC. The members of the visit team also included Keshava Koirala Country Representative of CECI, Amar Sainju (Team Leader), Renu Adhikari (WASH Engineer) of Earthquake Response Program. Staff and board members of LDMPCU facilitated the visit.



Carol Mundle and Andreeanne Bourque



Renu Adhikari , WASH Engineer
briefing about the project

AVID TEAM VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

CECI Nepal's AVID team members Hari Bastola and Rajendra Khadga visited Australia to attend Scope Global's 2015 Global Workshop held in Adelaide, Australia, from 23 – 27 November. 21 team members from 19 AVID Program countries attended, along with over 30 Scope Global Adelaide staff. DFAT and Australian Business Volunteers representatives also attended key sessions. The workshop included several ICM presentations on the best practice and lessons learned including disaster/risk management, client management, and host organisation engagement. Flinders University, Adelaide, presented their findings from their ongoing research project on the impacts of international volunteering.

Rajendra presented experiences and lessons learned in risk management during the earthquake in April 2015 and all the participants found it to be a very useful session. The workshop also discussed business diversification focusing on Outbound Student Mobility and how offshore teams can support this initiative. Commitments were made by each region and department at the conclusion, with progress and actions to be monitored in the coming months.

CECI Nepal



Annual Report 2014-2015

In October 2015, CECI published the Annual Report of the fiscal year 2071 – 2072 B.S (2014-2015) highlighting the major project activities and achievements of the year. The report was distributed electronically to various government ministries and departments, NGOs, INGOs, donor agencies and other stakeholders.



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