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REFLECT

CECI Nepal's Newsletter

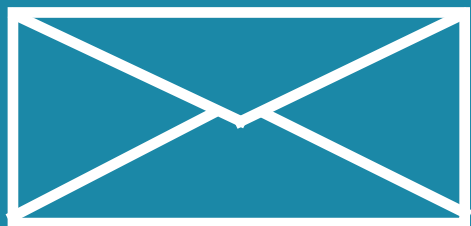
September-December
2017



International Volunteer Day



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to present you the latest edition of CECI Nepal's newsletter "REFLECT". In this edition, you will get a glimpse of our major activities carried out between September and December, 2017

As always, the end of the year brought forth many opportunities, challenges and achievements. CECI was selected as a Resource Organization to provide technical support in a project "Progress" funded by UN Women. The project is jointly managed by Didi Bahini and the Institute for Conflict Peace and Development (ICPD) and aims to advance the leadership of locally elected women, Dalits and marginalized community representatives in Nepal. We continued our regular field level activities; celebrated International Volunteers' Day; managed volunteer cooperation programs; welcomed new Australian and Canadian volunteers; and bid farewell to those who successfully completed their terms in Nepal.

We are looking forward to the year ahead as we build on our commitment to capacity building, agriculture and livelihoods, disaster risk reduction (DRR), governance and gender equality and social inclusion.

I would like to thank all our partners, including government agencies, donors and civil society organizations for their continued support and invaluable work in 2017.

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.

Enjoy reading this newsletter!

Keshava Koirala
Country Representative

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WOMEN IN MASON TRAINING

The community has been transforming leaving behind the traditional mindset. In response to the growing need of skilled masons on earthquake resilient construction technology, Livelihood Promotion of Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal (Punarnirman) project, under its skill development component, trained 50 people including four women in earthquake resilient construction technology in the southern part of Lalitpur district.

A week long training created strong awareness among the participants about the importance of the construction of earthquake resilient houses. The training curriculum jointly developed by the Department of Urban Development



and Building Construction (DUDBC) and National Society of Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET) was used in the training. Punarnirman project is being implemented in three districts: Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur with a financial support from Global Affairs Canada.

Sunita Ghalan, 22 years old of Sankhu Village, Lalitpur District, is one of the four female masons who received a seven-day mason training from Punarnirman project. Sunita says, "I used to be involved in house construction activities in my village. However, I was not aware of the earthquake-resistant technology, which I have learned from the seven-day training".



AGRICULTURAL INPUTS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

CECI/Punarnirman project provided agricultural inputs and technical skills to the members of producers' groups for the promotion of sustainable agro-based enterprises. The agricultural inputs mainly included seeds of vegetables and spices, composting materials, fruit saplings, and crates. Similarly, the training subjects include environmentally sustainable agriculture and livestock practices such as the use of relevant production technologies (seeding/planting, intercultural operations, disease and pest control techniques, etc.); post harvest handling techniques/practices (cleaning, grading, transportation, storage, marketing, etc.); production plans; and marketing techniques. The training was provided after the assessment of existing gaps in the knowledge and skills of target farmers on new production technologies.

The agricultural inputs were provided in close coordination with the government line-agencies and private traders/companies. A total of 718 members (78% women) benefitted from the training and agricultural-inputs.



Training on making organic fertilizer

Filed Level Activities till December 2017

- 12 Producers Groups are formed (in vegetables, goats & milk sub-sectors); 276 farm household involved
- 306 farmers trained in agro and livestock technologies.
- 537 farmers agricultural tools and equipments.
- 45 farmers received support to construct plastic tunnels for vegetables



Training on seeding and planting



ADVANCING THE LEADERSHIP OF LOCAL ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

CECI Nepal, as a resource organization, is supporting to advance the leadership of locally elected women, Dalits and marginalized community representatives in Nepal through the Progress Project, funded by UN Women and jointly managed by the Institute for Conflict Peace and Development (ICPD) and Didi

Bahini. The objective of the project is to enhance women's leadership capacity in gender responsive and inclusive governance and has conducted Training Need Assessment (TNA) of locally elected women and marginalized community representatives. A capacity building package was developed accordingly in collaboration with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW) and UN Women. A Training of Trainers (ToT), capacity building and leadership training will benefit more than 100 individuals, including the locally elected representatives to facilitate the development of gender responsive and inclusive governance policies and processes at the local level. CECI Nepal is providing technical expertise in governance and gender and social inclusion to ensure the quality of work.




GESI POLICY ADOPTED BY CSOS



GESI ToT in Dadeldhura

CECI under Susasan Project provided Training of Trainers (ToT) on formulation of GESI policies to six partner District Civil Society Organizations (DCSOs) in Achham, Bajhang, Dadeldhura, Kailali, Sindhupalchowk and Lalitpur districts. During the training sessions, the DCSOs were facilitated to develop their action plans and formulate/update their institutional GESI policies. Further, DCSOs gave GESI Sensitization and Policy Formulation Trainings to local CSOs in their respective districts. During the training sessions locally elected representatives and GESI focal

person from local government institutions were also invited to share and discuss on the municipal plan and budget targeted for the women and marginalized groups (WMGs) of the current fiscal year. This initiative motivated the local level civil society organization to adopt GESI policy in their organizations and promote equal rights.



“This is the first time I took GESI Training, I used to think that GESI training is only for women, but this training enlightened my thoughts, now, I learnt women can work as equally as men, there should not be any discrimination because of gender, caste, ethnicity, religion and disability. Now, I will insist my group to have GESI policy.”

Fulsari Tamang from Naksaal Bhagwati Women Saving group



“I used to perceive GESI as men and women only, but after the training, I realized it is also to be meant for socially, culturally and geographically excluded groups, and GESI policy is compulsory in the organization for the equitable distribution of rights and opportunities; This training opened my mind”.

Fulsari Tamang from Naksaal Bhagwati Women Saving group

ORIENTATION ON STHANIYA SARKAR SANCHALAN YEN 2074

CECI/SUSASAN organized a one day orientation program on “Sthaniya Shasan Sanchalan Ain 2074 (Local Government Operation Act, 2074)” in six districts of province 3 and 7. The elected representatives and government officials working in respective municipalities and ward offices were the participants of the orientation program. The program was facilitated by local district partners of SUSASAN project.

The orientation program discussed on the main features of the act and the roles and responsibilities of the elected representatives. Altogether 240 participants benefitted from the orientation program.



Orientation program in Kailali



Orientation program in Bajhang



Orientation program in Dadeldhura

MEDIA COVERAGE



CECI HONORS PRERANA

CECI Canada awarded Prerana with “Women in Action Award 2017”. Prerana is one of the partner organizations of Uniterra, a Canadian Volunteer Cooperation Program, and is working in the field of women’s rights and empowerment. Prerana won this award excelling 14 countries of Uniterra program in this category. The award was given during a joint meeting of the Uniterra National Advisory Committee and Subsector Committee on 8th September 2017 in Kathmandu. The meeting was attended by representatives of twenty-one Uniterra partner organizations.

Ms. Bimala Ghimire, the Chairperson of Prerana, after receiving the award said “Getting an international recognition is a motivating factor for us and we look forward to empowering more and more women, especially from marginalised and disadvantaged groups”



SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN FWEAN’S NETWORKS

With the support of CECI/ Uniterra, Federation of Women Association of Nepal (FWEAN) organised a Partner Engagement Event on 23 November 2017. The main purpose of the event was to focus on strengthening ties of FWEAN with existing partners and promote relations with potential partners. Through this partner engagement event, FWEAN was able to increase its outreach by sharing the organization’s goal and vision.



VOLUNTEER SECTION

Building Leadership Skills

Storefront Inauguration of Kisan Ko Poko

Uniterra Leave for Change (L4C) volunteer Marilyne Tremblay, who is working as a Leadership and Management Advisor at National Youth Federation Nepal, (NYFN) conducted a two-day training on “Training of Trainers on Leadership Management” for the board members and staff of Prerana, NYFN and National Disabled Fund (NDF). A total of twenty-six participants, including 10 women attended the training. The participants found the training very useful which has increased their confidence to deliver a similar type of training in the future. Building leadership skills, creating team spirit, and leading a project were the highlights of the event.

With incessant supports from CECI/Uniterra, Nepal Agricultural Co-operative Central Federation (NACCFL) succeeded in opening a retail sales store for Kisan Ko Poko in Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The Kisan Ko Poko (KKP) was launched in January 2017 and subsequently the storefront was inaugurated on September 24, 2017. Powered with the theme of “Think Global and Eat Local”, KKP connects small farmers of rural Nepal with consumers of Kathmandu Valley. KKP store showcases the wide range of local products collected from small farmers of remote parts of Nepal. KKP is aimed at collecting the products from fifty districts and open a few more sales outlets in Kathmandu to increase the sales.



NEW FACES IN VOLUNTEERISM

The period between September and December 2017 proved to be a very welcoming and overwhelming period for volunteer cooperation programs. During this period, CECI welcomed 5 Australian volunteers and 13 Canadian volunteers comprising eight long-term volunteers, one L4Change volunteer, and nine International Development (INDEV) long term interns. Long-term volunteers normally come for a one-year mandate; interns come for three to eight months, whereas L4Change volunteers come for three to four weeks. 'Leave for Change' is a corporate volunteering initiative that enables employees to transform part of their annual vacation into a volunteer assignment.



Joan Taffe, arrived Nepal in September after a long career in international development, specifically working in programming and project development. She is working as a Program Development Advisor with two local NGOs - HIMAWANTI-Nepal and

NACCFL. Raising funds to advance their programs is an ongoing process for both NGOs and she is able to contribute her experience in this area to help them develop more effective skills.

uniterra
A WUSC & CECI PROGRAM

**LONG
TERM**

Claudia Gamache arrived Nepal on November 5. She is working with the Central Dairy Co-operative Association Limited Nepal (CDCAN), an organisation that aims to represent farmers and dairy cooperatives in more than 40 districts over Nepal. She will assist farmers and cooperatives in increasing milk production and improving the quality of milk.



Laurent-Charles Tremblay Lévesque, with vast experience in international development and environmental governance across



East Asia, Latin America, and Africa, Laurent-Charles arrived Nepal in October. Currently, he is working as an Integrated Water Resources Management Advisor at the Nepal Agricultural Co-operative Central Federation (NACCFL). He will build an integrated water resource management guideline and policy program for NACCFL.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (INDEV)

The INDEV Volunteers come from the University of Waterloo in Canada. A total of nine INDEV Volunteers arrived in this period, as follows



Chandy Thach, came to work with Prerana as a fundraising intern. Chandy hopes to use her experience here to help realize assets that she can further develop in the future.



Jenna Wood is working as Website Development and Management Intern in Central Dairy Cooperative Association Limited Nepal (CDCAN). She has been helping CDCAN by gathering information and data of dairy cooperatives for websites and communication materials etc.

James Xin, came to work as a Market Promotion Intern for Organic World & Fair Future, a member of FTG.



Hayston Lam, is working as a Punarnirman Knowledge Management Intern in Tuki Association, Sindhu-palchowk since September 2017. Hayston hopes valuable experiences gained from his eight months volunteering in Nepal will help him succeed in a future career around disaster planning and management.



Carlee Jean Knight, a GESI intern is working with the Lalitpur District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union and supporting to prepare a women's economic empowerment action plan. She is also updating and creating GESI training programs and strategies.



Bushra Rahman is working as the Communications and Documentations Intern for the Federation of Woman Entrepreneurs' Associations of Nepal (FWEAN).



Heather Whitehead arrived in Nepal in September as part of Uniterra's Students without Borders program. For eight months she has been working with the National Youth Federation Nepal (NYFN) as an intern for documentation and organization.



Jaime Crncich, is a marketing intern for the Coffee Cooperative Union Lalitpur (CCUL) in Chapagaun, a Fair-Trade Group Nepal member. She is supporting to promote Nepali coffee market at national and international level.

Kathy Nguyen is currently finishing her assignment in Nepal with Nepal Agricultural Cooperative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL) as a market promotion interne. She has been involved in a relatively new initiative called Kisan Ko Poko (Farmer's Basket), which seeks to increase market access for small farmers throughout Nepal.



Ms. Cindy Wilkinson

Cindy Wilkinson is working as an Organisational Development Officer with Survivors Nepal, an organization working for the survivors of the 2015 earthquake. Ms. Cindy contributes towards building the capacity of program staff and assist in fundraising activities and system management to support and sustain the foundation. She also contributes in strengthening organisational governance systems, including program planning and implementation in rebuilding the lives of some of the hardest hit and impoverished communities in Nepal.



Ms. Helen McLaren

As Program Development Officer, Helen is working with The Independent Living Society (ILS) Nepal, a group of committed people involved in the movement to enhance the rights of people with disabilities (PWDs). Helen works with the team to strengthen and improve the organizational development skills and project management systems. She also supports to improve planning systems and processes by enhancing the capacity of Secretariat and staff. It's hoped her contribution will increase the capacity of

ILS to undertake their work independently, and people with disabilities' access to services.

Mr. Thomas Svich

As Communication Support Officer, Thomas supports the project "Strengthening Capacities for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Nepal (ABS-GEF)". It is a project supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – IUCN, Asia Regional Office for a period of 30 months. The Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) is in the process of executing the project with the technical support from IUCN Nepal. He is based in the IUCN and closely works with the Programme Management Unit (PMU) and Programme Execution Unit (PEU) teams to improve communication in programme planning and delivery mechanisms; enhance capacity in producing communication material and strengthen the reporting system.



Ms. Madeleine Broadbridge



Madeleine is working with the Independent Living Center for Persons with Disabilities (CIL) in a capacity of Communication and Partnerships Officer. She is supporting to enhance the capacity of Board members,

staff and members in advocacy and awareness campaigns on disability issues. Madeleine also uses her expertise to assist staff in proposal writing and donor and partnership engagement.

Ms. Nina Murray

Nina Murry is based in Karuna Foundation Nepal (KFN), a cross disability NGO that works for the prevention of avoidable disabilities by strengthening maternal and child health and rehabilitation of people with disabilities in their communities through community based rehabilitation (CBR). To promote a disability inclusive society, KFN provides need based supports in the domains of health, education, livelihood, social participation and empowerment, to persons with disabilities and their families. Nina contributes to designing an evidence based on contextual 'identification and intervention guideline' for functional restrictions for long term use in communities of KFN staff and associated stakeholders; providing training to the team on the benefits of Occupational Therapy and disseminating work and knowledge related information to educate an extended audience. At the community level, Nina creates awareness about the benefits of Occupational Therapy in the community as an intervention that enables improved social participation and independence and promotes inclusion of the persons with disability



EXPERIENCE IN NEPAL

Laurent-Charles Tremblay Lévesque:

My mandate is to provide integrated water resources management advice to Small Farmers' Agricultural Cooperatives Ltd. (SFACL) across the country. Last month, I travelled to Dhading, Gorkha and Chitwan Districts for consultation workshops with seven SFACLs (Kabelpur, Kalleri, Salang, Manakamana, Birendranagar, Parsa Khereni, and Padampur).

My team and I conducted 19 need assessment workshops with a total of 414 participants, out of which 198 (48%) were under 35 years and 336 (81%) were women. Three common challenges emerged out of our consultation workshops. First, a majority of them have low water storage capacity and are facing a great deal of technical difficulties in tapping surface or ground water. Second, finance for small-scale irrigation development is very restricted and difficult to access. Third, subsistence farmers have poor practical knowledge on integrated water resources management as exemplified: for instance, by the problems of wastage, runoff and nutrient overloading.



In the face of those challenges, NACCFL is currently applying for the Sustainable Water Fund, a grant provided by the Government of the Netherlands to support efficient and sustainable water use in agriculture. As part of this project, we aim to build 2,500 rainwater harvesting and grey water reuse systems, 60 solar water pumping projects and train 5,000 farmers on integrated water resources management. Another aspect of this project will be to advocate for enhanced small-scale irrigation, finance various ministries and government bodies involved in water and agricultural development.

Hayston Lam:

For the past three months, I have been stationed in Thumpakhar, Sindhupalchowk as a Punarnirman Knowledge Management Intern with Tuki Association Sunkoshi. What's unique about my position



is that I make frequent field visits to disaster-affected communities to monitor the progress of re-establishing economic/livelihood activities. This means that although my office is in Thumpakhar, I have had the opportunity to travel across Sindhupalchowk and even to other districts like Kavrepalanchowk as part of my mandate. It has been a valuable way of learning about authentic Nepali culture while gaining practical internship experience. However, personally, witnessing the devastation and challenges of post-disaster recovery work in these communities has also provided me tremendous respect for the affected families. In one particular case, a single-mother had lost her husband and the majority of her immediate family following a landslide. Despite suffering permanent physical injuries, she continues to provide private schooling for her two teenage kids working as a farmer. Fortunately, with the Punarnirman project, better and additional economic livelihood opportunities are being established in the project areas to increase the quality of life in disaster-affected communities.

Remarks from the Host Organization

Ms. Phuong Dinh is the first Australian volunteer to our organization Autism Care Nepal Society. We, all the members of the Autism Care Nepal Society (ACNS) would like to thank Ms. Phuong Dinh for her outstanding contribution and also to the Australian Volunteers

Program which provided her with this amazing opportunity. We really appreciate her precious time in our organization, her hard work, dedication and her friendly and kind behaviour while adjusting her life in Nepal. Her practical knowledge, skills and a positive attitude helped our children with autism and teachers a lot by implementing different strategies to address sensory problems through therapeutic means. She has been loved and liked by ACNS family.

Autism Care Nepal Society
Kathmandu

Photo Exhibition Kicks off

Australian Embassy in Nepal held a photo exhibition entitled “Nepal through Australian Volunteers’ Lens” from 18 to 25 December 2017 in Nexus Café, Lalitpur; to celebrate the International Volunteer Day 2017. The Australian Ambassador to Nepal, His Excellency Peter Budd inaugurated the exhibition in a large gathering of volunteers and representatives from Nepal Government, NGOs and INGOs. A total of 45 photos were displayed showcasing the experiences of Australian volunteers deployed in Nepal through the Australian Volunteers for International Development Program (AVID), an Australian Government initiative. CECI manages the Australian volunteer programs in Nepal. CECI staff were actively involved in making the exhibition successful.



Participatory Market Analysis of MSME and Viable Opportunities



MSME Consultant Suhrid Chapagain conducting FGD in Lalitpur

CECI/Punarnirman conducted series of focus group discussions with community people on market analysis of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

(MSME) in three districts: Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur. The FGDs were conducted based on the the results of participatory MSME mapping exercise. From the FGDs potential local level products have been identified in each district which the project will support to establish enterprises



Marcel Monette, Economic Growth Advisor in CECI Canada was on a mission

from 14 – 23 November in Nepal to support Punarnirman project in developing implementation strategies of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and economic infrastructures. During his stay in Nepal, he conducted several field visits to Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and held two day workshop for Punarnirman partner organizations for MSME strategies.

People On Mission

Uniterra Director Ms. Odette McCarthy was on a mission to Nepal from 27 October to 3 November 2017. During her stay in Nepal,



she visited some of the Uniterra partner organizations; conducted field visits to Southern part of Lalitpur and organized a half-day meeting with all the partners to know about their programs. In order to understand the development scenario in the context of restructuring government, she also visited the ministry of federal affairs and local development, the Social Welfare Council (SWC), and the National Planning Commission (NPC).



Ms Odette in Shankhu, Lalitpur

Uniterra Celebrates International Volunteer Day

CECI/Uniterra jointly with KOICA, Peace Corps, UN Volunteers, and VSO observed International Volunteer Day (IVD) on 05 December, 2017 in Kathmandu. The IVD was dedicated to celebrating volunteerism and raising awareness of the contribution of volunteers in Nepal. The objective of the event was to provide a forum to discuss volunteering in Nepal revolving around this year's theme: "Volunteers as First Responders in Times of Crisis: Volunteers for resilience and solidarity."



CECI Country Representative addressing at the ceremony



CECI Honored by DADA

District Agriculture Development Alliance, Sindhupalchowk honored CECI Nepal on the occasion of "37th World Food Day" on 30 October, 2018 for its contribution in the livelihood sector after the 2015 mega earthquake. To meet the basic requirements, CECI is continuously supporting earthquake survivors for relief, recovery and rehabilitation since the beginning of disaster happened.



Punarnirman Project Coordinator Madhusudan Karki receives the award

Currently, it is working for the promotion of resilience livelihoods of the affected communities in Sindhupalchowk district.



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