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CECI Nepal's Newsletter

September-December
2016

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE



With great pleasure I would like to welcome you to the latest issue of CECI Nepal's Newsletter 'REFLECT'. In this issue you will get a glimpse of our major activities carried out from September to December 2016. This issue also highlights the work on governance that CECI has undertaken in its development projects.

During this period, we continued ongoing projects: providing technical assistance to the Skills Development Project (SDP) and the two volunteer programs, UNITERRA and AVID. Multi Donor Trust Fund/Program for accountability in Nepal (MDTF/PRAN2) was successfully completed. Besides implementing regular projects, we conducted trainings, seminars and meetings on various topics. We also welcomed new volunteers and bid farewell to those who completed their mandates in Nepal. We are committed further towards economic development, agriculture and livelihoods, disaster risk reduction (DRR), capacity building, governance and gender equality and social inclusion through our various projects.

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

I would also like to offer sincere thanks to 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.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions for further improvement.

Keshava Koirala
Country Representative
CECI Nepal

TRAINING ON SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY TOOLS

CECI, under its MDTF/PRAN2 project, organized a 4-day training on selected social accountability tools for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in three different regions. The purpose of the training was to develop critical mass of Principal Social Accountability Practitioners (PSAcPS) at local level for the promotion of accountability from demand side intervention. The selected training tools were Community Score Card (CSC), Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and Citizen Participation in Audit (CPA).



Pranav Bhattarai conducting the session

Maheshwor Kaphle, Pranab Bhattarai and Vishwo Raj Dotel were the main Resource Persons for the training. As a guest speaker, Prithvi Raj Lugal delivered one hour session on Citizen Participation in Audit Process. The trainings were conducted in three geographical clusters; in Biratnagar, from 11 to 14 September; in Chitwan from 25 to 28, September; and in Nepalgunj from 18 to 21 October 2016. A total of 87 CSOs representatives from 42 districts participated in the training. The training provided comprehensive concept on implementation methodology and practical knowledge on proper applications of SAc tools. The training mentioned both theoretical and practical sessions. One day practical session in the Health Post with active participation of Health Post In charge, Women Health Workers and local people was one of the main attractions of the training, where participants got chance to demonstrated their skills as Principal Social Accountability Practitioners in specific service sector.



Vishwo Raj Dotel conducting the session



Prithvi Raj Lugal addressing the session



Practising CSC at the Health Post in Paraspur VDC, Banke

NEW FACES OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer cooperation program is one of the CECI's core areas. Over the past 28 years, CECI has mobilized about 500 volunteers in Nepal. Volunteers serve in both government and non-government organizations and help them to build the organizational capacity through the transfer of skills and knowledge. During this period CECI welcomed two Australian and eight Canadian volunteers in Nepal.



Of the two Australian volunteers, Mr. Chay Garde is working with Association of District Development Committees of Nepal (ADDCN) in the capacity of Local Development Planning Officer and Ms. Claire Mercer is working with the Independent Living Center for Persons with Disabilities (CIL) as an Organizational Development Officer.



Welcome lunch

Eight Canadian Volunteers including two long-terms and six International Development (INDEV) interns started their volunteer mandate in Nepal during this period. Long term volunteers are generally placed for one year period whereas INDEV interns are placed for eight months.

LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERS

Karl Brown is working as an Entrepreneurial and Life Skills Development Advisor at National Youth Federation Nepal (NYFN). He is supporting youth for developing their entrepreneurship and soft skills.



Dr. Tirtha Bajgai is working as a PEST Risk Analysis Advisor at Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA). He is supporting to herbal industries and farmers for good agricultural and manufacturing practices and quality control mechanism. He is also supporting integrated pest management (IPM) practice. Furthermore he has started a preparatory work to develop cosmetic products using Nepalese herbal ingredients.



Ms. Courtney Lang is working as a Documentation Advisor from September 2016 with Nepal Agriculture Cooperative Central Federation Ltd. (NACCFL)



Ms. Alicia Nguyen is working as a Library & Event Management Advisor from September 2016 with Center for Microfinance (CMF)



Ms. Tishani Hettiarachchi is working as a Program Implementation Advisor from September 2016 with Lalitpur District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd. (LDMPCU)

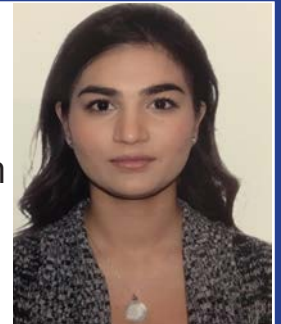
INDEV INTERNS

Ms. Sharon Mai is working as a Media & Communication Advisor from September 2016 with Association for Craft Producers (ACP), one of the members of Fair Trade Group Nepal (FTG Nepal).



(FTG Nepal).

Ms. Mishal Wahab is working as a Communication & Documentation Advisor from September 2016 with Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI) Nepal.



Mr. Jonathan Oldenberger is working as a Sales Promotion/Outlet Management Advisor from September 2016 with Organic World and Fair Future Pvt. Ltd. (OWF), one of the members of Fair Trade Group Nepal

MILK PIPELINE PROJECT BY GCIUS

Group of International Collaboration in Engineering from the University of Sherbrooke (GCIUS) consisting seven engineering students, volunteered with Lalitpur District Milk Producers Cooperative Union under the Uniterra Program. They were involved in a construction of milk pipeline system to transport milk from the only women run mild cooperative down to the chilling center.



GCIUS Team



Milk Collection Centre

The project consists of a 400 meter long Milk Pipeline connecting collection center to the milk chilling center. This work has significant positive impact in the efficiency of women as it reduces their work load and time. The Milk Pipeline was formally inaugurated on 10 December 2016 with an overwhelming participation from dairy farmers, members of Lalitpur District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union (LD-MPCU) and representatives from CECI/Uniterra. It has added additional milestone for already successfully running Women only Milk Cooperative. Other similar cooperatives have been inspired to build such system in their area.



Inauguration ceremony of Milk Pipeline System

CECI PROMOTING GOVERNANCE IN NEPAL

CECI has been in Nepal for about 30 years and has supported initiatives for Economic Development, Agriculture and Food Security /Livelihoods; Climate Change and Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction; Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI); Human Right, Peace, Democracy and Governance process. It has promoted knowledge exchange and developed critical masses through collaboration and nation-wide network with Government Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, and Private Sectors. Governance is CECI's one of the core strategic programming sectors and it also crosscuts other sectors.

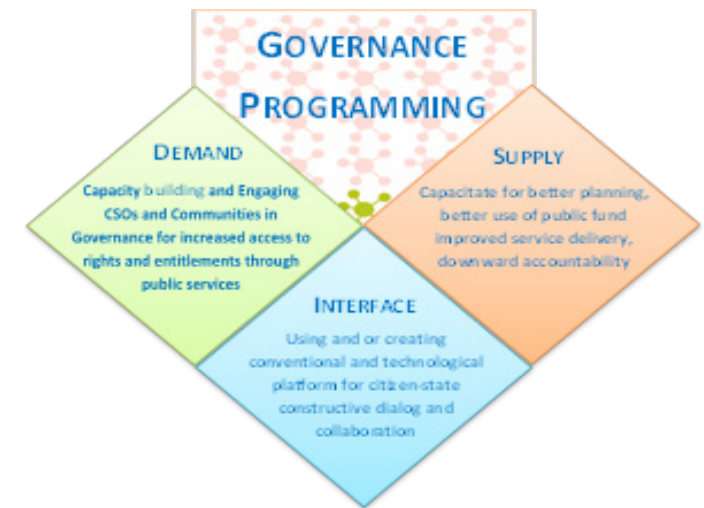
THEMATIC AREAS AND APPROACHES FOR GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING

Public Financial Management, Village/ Municipal Good Governance and Good Society; Participatory Performance Monitoring are thematic areas of the governance program for CECI. CECI's approach for governance programming is using and/or creating conventional and technological platform for citizen-state constructive dialog and collaboration. Raising awareness, building capacity and engaging the citizens in governance process is its demand side approach.

Supporting government institutions to improve capacity for participatory and effective decision making; efficient and effective use of public funds, improving service delivery; and increasing institutional response and accountability is the supply side approach.

MECHANISM AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY TOOLS PROMOTED

Conducting research, knowledge management, building capacity, creating interface for the constructive citizen-state dialog, and creating critical mass through resource and community mobilization are the mechanisms being promoted by CECI through its programs. Bringing government and civil society institutions together for piloting and contextualizing new tools, themes and mechanism of governance and social accountability; and promoting digital-democracy and e-governance are supporting vehicles. CECI has promoted a number of social accountability tools including Participatory Planning and Budgeting Process, Community Score Card, Citizen Report Card, Social Audit, Public Audit, Public Hearing, Budget Literacy, Participatory Budget Analysis, Public Procurement Monitoring, Public Expenditure Tracking,



Tracking of Public Services, Governance Barometer, Exit Poll, Pro-active Disclosure of Information, Right to Information, Grievance Redresses, Participatory Performance Monitoring, Citizen Jury, Zero Tolerance Against Corruption.

PROGRAM AND PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

Program for Accountability in Nepal – PRAN

CECI implemented PRAN, a World Bank Funded (State and Peace Building Fund; and Multi Donor Trust Fund) program to promote demand side of Governance in

Nepal since 2010. This program aimed at creating critical mass in the field of governance and social accountability through customizing and piloting social accountability tools; providing action learning grants for practice; and promoting constructive citizen-state engagement in governance process; and to improve governance and institutional performance in Nepal by promoting more accountable, honest, transparent and responsive government agencies delivering quality services. Through the program, CECI disbursed sub-grant contracts to 134 civil society organizations across 46 districts of Nepal to practice/implement social accountability tools. This program targeted Women, Dalit, Indigenous people, Children and the other disadvantaged groups including senior citizens, people with disabilities, single women and youth.

Through PRAN, CECI collaborated with various government agencies at national and local level including Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and their respective district and frontline service providing agencies.

Major activities carried out by this program includes raising awareness among

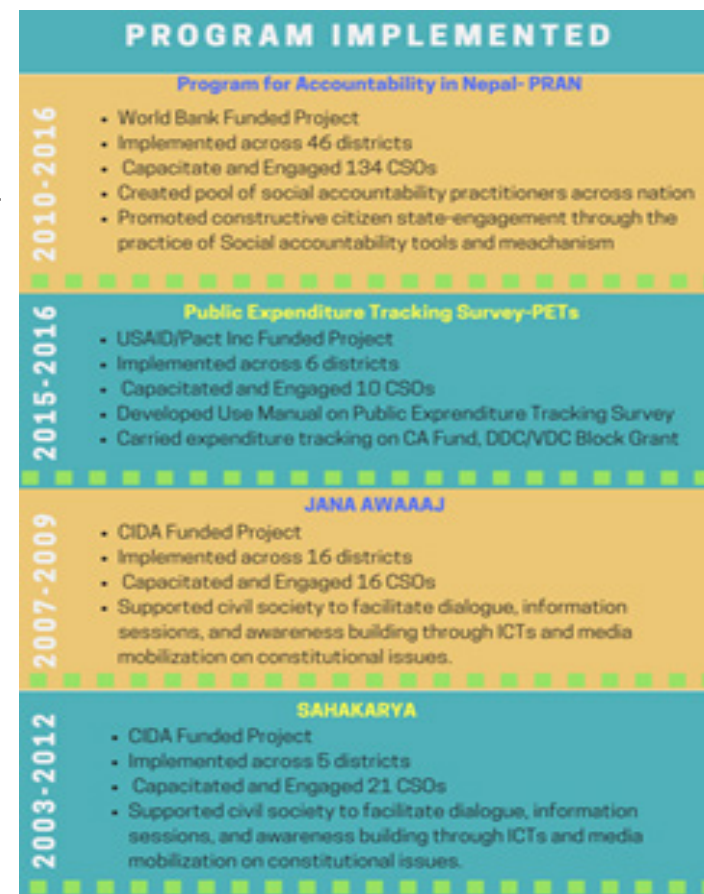
the target beneficiaries on their rights and entitlements; using space for citizen engagement in governance process provided by relevant service acts, regulations and guidelines; conducting research and studies on social security allowances, scholarship to Dalit and Girls, Assessment of Quality of Education at Community Schools; assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery by VDCs, Municipalities, Community Schools and Health Posts; linking local budgetary system with Treasury Single Account.

This program also strengthened capacity of local bodies/structures through trainings, workshop, interactions; and collaboration with civil society organization to assess and improve the planning process, grievance redresses, communication, service delivery and performance monitoring through more than two dozen social accountability tools.

Public Expenditure Tracking Survey-PETs

CECI in association with Policy Research and Development (PRAD) successfully completed the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) for the DDC block grants, the VDC block grants and the CA Funds. This study covered 35 VDCs in six districts i.e. Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya,

Bankey, Dang and Surkhet. The study was supported by Sajhedari Bikaas(SB) Project/ USAID. This study aimed at developing a clearer understanding on how the DDC/VDC block grants and CA funds (CADP and CAISP) flow from their point-of origin to their point-of expenditure by conducting surveys on their use in different developmental activities; and suggesting measures for improving ac-



countability and filling in the information gaps of public expenditure and resource allocation used at the decentralized level by tracking the complete expenditure flow right up to the end users.

This program capacitated 10 district NGOs (DNGOs) of SB and collected field level survey data with their support. With the support from project, the DNGOs prepared district wise reports and presented the key findings among the district level stakeholders. After completion of the field level activities, CEI organized a national level sharing workshop on the key findings.

Jana Awaj

CEI implemented project Jana-Awaaj with the support from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) from 2007 to 2009. The project aimed at building capacity of local CSOs and promoting citizen's participation especially marginalized and disadvantage groups in constitution making and electoral processes. The project supported 16 NGOs and civil society organizations across 16 districts of Nepal to facilitate dialogue, information sessions, and awareness building through ICTs and media mobilization on constitutional issues.

Sahakarya

Sahakarya was a bilateral project between the governments of Canada and Nepal implemented by CEI in between 2003-12. The project aimed at contributing for poverty reduction in the 5 districts of Mid and Far-western Development Regions of Nepal. Linking Sahakarya to LGCDP and Institutional development was two major component of the project. The institution development component, supported to develop various tools for the capacity of DDC, VDC, CBOs, NGOs in planning and monitoring for equitable distribution of LGCDP grants.

Support provided through this project were training of VDC Secretaries on participatory planning, demand and supply of services, GESI and proposal writing trainings; publication of IEC materials for enhancing demand and supply sides of the public goods and services; simplifying documents and guidelines related to LGCDP to be used by DDCs and VDCs and training of the officials; preparing data collection formats during annual review and planning process for VDCs and DDCs; and developing demand collection and analysis tools for VDC/DDCs.

Strategic Direction for Future

CEI will continuously work in governance and accountability sector with the following major strategic direction:

- Supporting local level restructuring process;
- Promoting digital democracy, e-governance and technological innovations;
- Collaborating with government institution for strengthening service delivery, responsiveness and accountability;
- Raising awareness and building citizens capacity; and
- Promoting constructive citizen-state engagement in governance process

CEI is planning to implement GAC funded SUSASAN project in 6 districts of central and far-western development regions. This project is aiming to adopt technological innovations to promote digital democracy, e-governance and accountability in collaboration with government and non-government stakeholders.

FINAL SHARING MEETING

Two Final Sharing and Reflection Workshops were organized with partner CSOs under the MDTF/ PRAN2 project. The first workshop was held in Chitawan from 23-24 December, 2016 covering participants from 9 districts whereas the second workshop was held in Bardiya from 29-30 December, 2016 covering participants from 6 districts. The workshops were conducted basically to review and reflect field level learning and experiences along with collection of feedback and future recommendations. Participants were also provided with basic knowledge and skills on accounting and taxation in the workshop.



CA. Aman Upreti, conducting session on Accounting and taxation process



Group work



Meeting Participants

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF MDTF/PFRAN2

CECI Nepal successfully accomplished the second phase of Multi Donor Trust Fund/Public Financial Management-Program of Accountability in Nepal2 (MDTF/PFM-PRAN). The project began in July 2015 for a period of 18 months. CECI-Nepal, as a Grant Management Agency, provided sub-grants to 30 local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) of fifteen

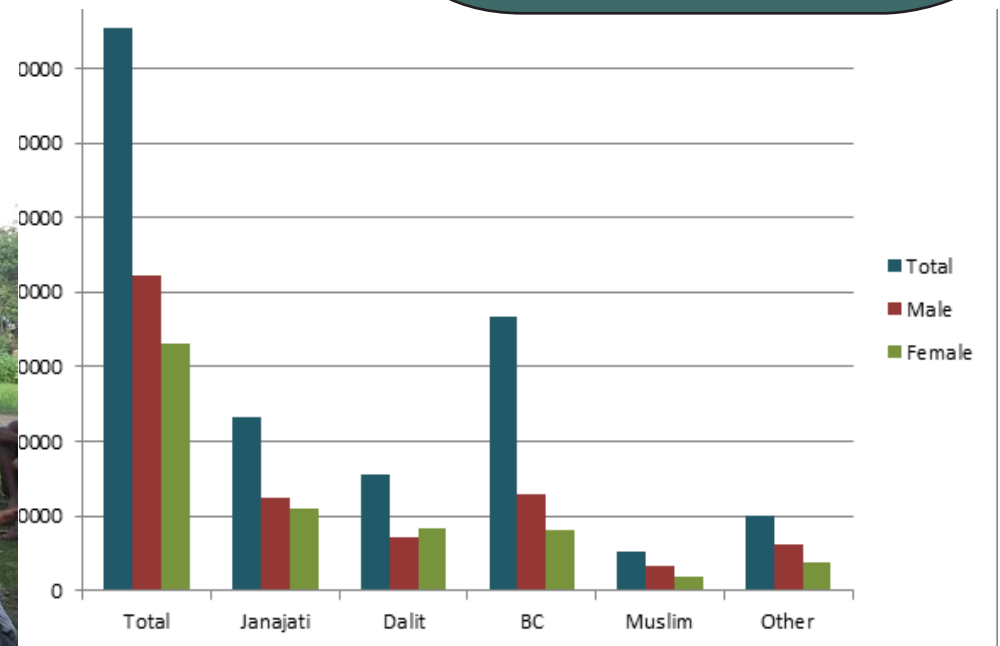
districts to improve Public Financial Management through the implementation of various Social Accountability (SAC) tools.

As a result of this program, some immediate tangible changes have emerged at local level. Participation of target communities improved in planning and budgeting process and they are being able to demand their entitlements. Other examples are establishment of grievance redressal mechanism, increased use of citizen charter and timely distribution of entitlements as well as scholarships.

Based on these changes, each sub-grantee CSO has produced several case stories and testimonials which have been compiled for a separate publication. The total direct and indirect beneficiaries of the program are 75,438 and 156,381 (excluding radio audience 5,488,038) respectively.

SAC tools:

- Community Score Card (CSC)
- Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS)
- Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)



Direct Beneficiaries (* BC= Brahmin/Chhetri)

IVD CELEBRATION

On December 5, Australian and Canadian volunteers along with CECI staff participated in the International Volunteer (IVD) Day program. It was a joint event organized by Volunteer Sending Agencies (VSAs) including CECI, UNV, Peace Corps, VSO and KO-ICA. The theme of this year's IVD was “#Global Applause-give volunteers a



Canadian Volunteers with Unitererra Team



Australian Volunteers with AVID Team

hand”. For the first time, this event launched its first edition of Volunteer Award to acknowledge and appreciate commendable works done by volunteers for achieving Nepal’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Three national volunteers and one international volunteer were awarded in the event based on the stories they submitted highlighting their contribution. Ms. Elizabeth Hacker, a Researcher on behalf of VSO presented research findings on role played by volunteers in national development. There were also panel discussion and break-out sessions on various topics like

Reconstruction Resilience, Food Security, Youth Volunteering, SDGs, Volunteerism, Private Sector Volunteerism, and Social Inclusion. The event was a big success with participants from various stakeholders like VSAs, government agencies, embassies, donor agencies, INGOs, NGOs and the press.



MISSION FROM HEAD OFFICE

It was a great pleasure for CECI Nepal to welcome Mr. Robert Perrault, President of CECI Board and Ms. Claudia Black, Executive Director. They visited Nepal from 13 to 24 November, 2016. The main purpose of the visit was to get an understanding of ongoing projects in Nepal and to observe the support provided by CECI and Uniterra Program with a special focus on post-earthquake activities. During their stay in Nepal, they visited Sindhupalchowk and Lalitpur Districts where CECI is involved in providing rehabilitation support to the survivors of April 2015 earthquake. They interacted with local communities and visited local partner organizations as well as government and donor organizations



Uniterra Partner Meeting



Visit in Sindhupalchok



Visit in Lalitpur



Interaction with local people



CECI President Robert Perrault addressing the community people

NEWS IN BRIEF

RECEPTION

On 17 November, 2016, CECI Nepal hosted a reception to honor the visiting President, Mr. Robert Perrault and Executive Director, Ms. Claudia Black of CECI. It was an excellent opportunity for the visiting guests to meet various development partners. The reception was attended by the representatives of Government Agencies, Donor Community/Diplomatic Mission, partner organizations, INGOs, NGOs and other dignitaries.



PARTNER MEETING



CECI/Uniterra Nepal organized a half day partners' meeting on 17 November with Mr. Robert Perrault, President, CECI Board and Ms. Claudia Black, Executive Director (ED), CECI. All Uniterra partners attended the meeting, introduced their organizations and briefed on their collaboration with Uniterra and work done by volunteers. After the formal presentation, there was an interaction session where partners put their queries to the CECI President and ED about future partnership. Also, the CECI President and ED sought suggestions on how CECI/Uniterra can further help them in future. Partners found the meeting very fruitful in sharing information and knowing each other better.

A separate meeting between the President, ED and volunteers was also held. The main objective of the meeting was to listen from volunteers' own words about their volunteering experience in Nepal. It was a very interactive session with lots of experience sharing from volunteers. Issues and challenges faced by volunteers and ways for resolving those issues were discussed in the meeting.



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