

Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Project

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Issue 15

CS:MAP Newsletter

Word from the Chief of Party, Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Project

I take immense pleasure in bringing to you yet another issue of the Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Project (CS:MAP) monthly newsletter. I sincerely hope that this 15th issue will help us to reflect upon activities and achievements from the month of December 2018, share with and learn from one another, cherish the collective results that we have achieved this far, and aspire to do more towards advancing the Nepali public interest. As with the earlier issues, we anticipate that you will enjoy going through this edition, and provide feedback on making future editions even more interesting and fruitful.

Happy reading!

Bishnu Sapkota
Chief of Party, CS:MAP; Country Director, FHI 360 Nepal

International Anti-corruption Day 2018

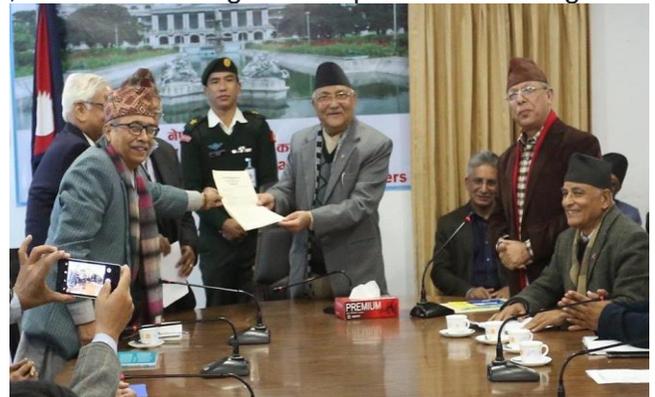


CS:MAP led anti-corruption campaign on the occasion of International Anti-corruption Day, December 9 with the objective of mobilizing citizen participation in addressing and controlling corruption; and getting elected local-, provincial-, and federal-level representatives to sign a pledge through a public function stating that they will not engage in any kind of corruption.

The main global objective of the International Anti-corruption Day and the campaign that followed was to eliminate corruption to make way for a prosperous and content society, across the geographical boundaries.

This initiative was built on *Ma Khaandina*, an anti-corruption campaign begun last year. '*Ma Khaandina*' is a Nepali civil society-led anti-corruption initiative, aimed at ending the malpractice of taking and giving bribes, and standing up against pervasive corruption in Nepal. '*Ma Khaandina*' (I will not eat), refers metaphorically to '*khaane*' (the act of eating) in reference to corruption in general and taking and giving bribes in particular in the context of Nepal.

This year, (2018) the anti-corruption campaign was mounted in 33 out of 34 districts where CS:MAP's national advocacy and local implementing partners played a key role in leading it. The national and local partners played a catalytic role in organizing, collaborating and leading the campaign in the districts. More than 1,630 people from 33 districts together with elected



representatives and officials from the governments, the private sector, civil society actors, students and the general public participated in the event and took a stand against corruption.

The major activities carried out this year include: Memorandum handover; Signature collection; Photo booth; Talk program; Facebook profile picture frame; SMS My Voice – *Mero Palika, Mero Chaso Campaign*; Public service announcement; Capture the bytes of those who signed a pledge last year; Print and distribute leaflet; Meeting of parliamentarians; Post Banner; produce and broadcast anti-corruption views, interviews; Play anti-corruption song through FM radio stations; and Issue press release, among others.

Strengthening Enabling Environment for Civil Society and Media Organizations in Nepal

Province 1 Commits to Consult Media in Developing New Laws

Chief Minister of Province 1 Sherdhan Rai has said that the provincial government was committed to coordinate with the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) and other media stakeholders while developing any media laws and policies in the province. He said, "We had also consulted the FNJ provincial committee while developing the Radio, Television Broadcasting Act of the province. We made some major amendments to the draft as per the suggestion of FNJ." Inaugurating the National Convention of FNJ in Biratnagar on December 20, 2018, he urged all the local levels of the Province to coordinate with FNJ district chapters and other stakeholders including journalists at the local level before adopting any local-level law regarding media. Presenting a paper on Review of FNJ's Strategic Vision, former president of FNJ Shiva Gaunle highlighted the change in FNJ's strategy for advocacy and campaign based on the federal structure. He said, "Not only the media related laws, but some other laws may also affect press freedom. Hence, we need to be careful." FNJ Vice President Bipul Pokhrel presented a paper on the Role of FNJ Provincial Chapters, while General Secretary Ramesh Bista presented a paper on advocacy actions that FNJ had undertaken in the previous year regarding reform in laws and policies to create enabling environment for media and journalists. Former Chairperson of FNJ Tara Nath Dahal presented a paper on the current legal and policy environment regarding media in Nepal. He highlighted the constitutional provisions on press freedom, and provisions of international human rights instruments that Nepal is a party to.

FNJ organized its National Convention on December 19 and 20 December 2018 in Biratnagar, the Capital of Province 1. Minister for Internal Affairs and Law of Province 1 Hikmat Karki who looks after information and communication including media in the province, urged journalists to be more responsible while reporting. He said, "Despite being committed to press freedom there seems a need to regulate media through laws." FNJ President Govinda Acharya asked the provincial and district leadership of FNJ to monitor law and policy formation regarding media at provincial and local levels. Mayor of Biratnagar Metropolitan City Bhim Parajuli, leader of the Provincial Parliament of Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum Jaya Ram Yadav, President of Minimum Wages Fixation Committee Gangadhar Parajuli, President of Press Chautari Ganesh Basnet, President of Nepal Press Union Badri Sigdel also were present. FNJ district presidents from 75 districts, Province Committee Presidents and 10 General Secretaries including Valley, Institutional and Associate provinces, Central Committee Members and Former Presidents participated in the event.

Task Force Formed to Advance Open Government Partnership

Freedom Forum organized a dialogue on 'Collaborative Advocacy and CSO Readiness for Open Government Partnership' on December 30, 2018 in Kathmandu. The objectives were to bring together civil society leaders and Open Government advocates to review the efforts made so far on Open Government Partnership (OGP) and reinforce the agenda of OGP in Nepal.

OGP as a multilateral initiative aims to secure commitments from government to promote transparency, empower and engage citizens, fight against corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. This event is a continuation of several previous dialogues organized by Freedom Forum on OGP.

Tara Nath Dahal, Chief Executive of Freedom Forum, said that CSOs' role in establishing new constitutional rights, access to information, anti-corruption, open data, fiscal transparency, performance audit as well as broader democratic and other governance reform initiatives in Nepal were some of the important achievements.

Narayan Adhikari, CEO of Accountability Lab, Jit Ram Lama, Chairperson of NGO Federation of Nepal, Bishnu Pukar Shrestha, Chair of CAHURAST, Anita Bindu, Chair of Media Advocacy Group and others suggested CSOs to educate, empower and engage with each other and all layers of government in different thematic areas related to OGP. 'Working via thematic group modality will enhance CSOs readiness when adopting OGP by the government' said Tanka Raj Aryal, Law and Policy Advisor of CS:MAP. Most of the participants expressed the need to develop an introductory document and toolkit on OGP. Participants recommended to develop a model project and make the best use of the initiative launched in Nilkantha Municipality, Nepalgunj Municipality and Dhangadhi Municipality.

A task force comprising three members: Narayan Adhikari, Krishna Sapkota and Dayasagar Shrestha was also formed which will suggest revitalizing the previous works and prepare a calendar and framework for strategic intervention on OGP. A total of 25 representatives (4 female) participated in the event.

Discussion on Draft Social Organization Act Held

SAP-Nepal organized a provincial-level sharing event on 'Draft Social Organization Act, 2018' in coordination with Nepal Law Commission and in collaboration with NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) and Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) in Province 5, Rupandehi on December 29, 2018. The objectives were to share draft Acts and collect inputs from stakeholders and to promote participatory approach in the formulation process of the Act.

Executive Director of SAP-Nepal Narendra Prasad Joshi, in his welcome remarks, highlighted the interrelation between province and federal government to ensure freedoms of expression and association, fundamental rights of the citizens. Chair of Law Commission, Province 5 Dr Kumar Acharya presented the key highlights of the draft of the Act including provision of case filling at district court to hear grievances of CSOs, legal rights of board members and staff with government funds to sustain CSOs. Similarly, he also mentioned the mandatory provisions of registration of CSOs and their transparency and accountability in programmatic and financial interventions. Under Secretary of Nepal Law Commission Rajendra Thapa said that the new provision requires no police report, renewal once in five years, one window registration, provision to submit yearly financial statement to concerned government line agencies except financial audit report with a budget of up to 1 million rupees, registration of federations at federal government, categorization of CSOs except *Guthi* (trust) to be managed by *Muluki Dewani Samhita* Act, etc. He also mentioned about the registration process of civil society organizations as per the scope of their work either in central, provincial or local government and their respective regulatory bodies. Minister of Internal Affairs and Law Kul Prasad KC, said that the proposed federal and provincial Acts need proper categorization of CSOs, wider terminologies to create space for provincial Act, financial incentive to CSOs from provincial government, proper monitoring mechanism to strengthen partnership between provincial government and CSOs. Chair of NFN, Province 5 Govinda Regmi, presented a position paper of NFN Province 5 highlighting the registration, segregation, monitoring with punishment and reward, tax exemption, etc. of CSOs. Participants said that the provision of financial audit report, registration of local CSOs in every units are process-oriented and time-consuming, authority for registration, and social security funds for CSOs among others were not favorable to CSOs.

A total of 53 participants (1 LGBTI, 35 female) including four parliamentarians of Province 5, Under Secretary at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law - Province 5, Deputy Mayors of Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City and Siddhartha Metropolitan City, four Ward Chairpersons participated in it.

Sharing "GESI Review of CSOs' Registration, Operation and Renewal" with CSOs and media coalition

Samjhauta Nepal and Media Advocacy Group (MAG) reviewed CSOs' legal framework regarding registration, operation and renewal process from a GESI perspective. Association Registration Act 2034, Social Development Bill, Legal Landscape Report on Civil Society Organization of Nepal (developed by the GoGo foundation) and Assessment of the Legal Environment for CSOs and Media in Nepal carried out by ICNL were used to reflect on legal obstacles in CSOs and media registration, renewal and operation from a GESI perspective. On December 28, 2018, a sharing event was organized with the objective to share the review with the coalitions and to collect recommendations in the review report. CSOs' national coalition led by the NGO Federation of Nepal and its

Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kathmandu district chapters together with the media coalition led by the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) participated in the discussion. Representatives from various media houses and civil society were also engaged in the discussion.

Honorable Member of National Planning Commission Dr. Usha Jha, Under Secretary of Nepal Law Commission Rajendra Thapa, President of NGO Federation of Nepal Jit Ram Lama shared their reflections on GESI challenges for CSOs and what can be done within their respective portfolios to make a GESI friendly enabling environment for CSOs. Rajendra Thapa shared that this event has been held at the right time since a comprehensive bill for CSOs is in the process of drafting and the recommendations made in the review will be useful to the legislators as it is a proactive step towards making the bill GESI friendly.



Government Engagement for Effective Public Resource Use and Service Delivery

Elected Representatives Commit for Civic Engagement in Policy Making

CDC-Nepal organized an interaction on "Civic Engagement in Local-level Policy Formulation Process" in Rasuwa district on December 28, 2018. The objectives were to enhance the understanding on the role of civil society organizations among stakeholders, to discuss on new policies, Acts or legislation at district level and to build consensus among CSOs to draw government's attention on current issues.



Chairperson of Federation of Nepali Journalists, Rasuwa Chapter Hem Nath Khatiwada, presenting a short concept note on 'Civil Society and Its Role in the Changed Context' highlighted on the issue of civic engagement in local-level policy formulation process in Rasuwa district. Representatives of all political parties, elected representatives, journalists, and leaders of civil society discussed on the status of the local-level policy formulation in the district.

Majority of participants said that there had hardly been any civic engagement or citizen participation in the policy-making process at the local level. Since the elected representatives had no experience in policy making, they resorted to modelling their policies on those provided by the province. So, five local units of Rasuwa district were unable to increase civic engagement, collaboration, partnership and coordination at the local-level policy formulation process. Mainly the representatives of political parties and CSOs focused on civic engagement in policy making and elected representatives committed for civic engagement and coordination for policy formulation at the local level. They also committed to collaborate with civil society and local media for open government partnership principles.

Civil society representatives from 10 organizations also handed over a request letter to District Coordination Committee (DCC) Rasuwa to ensure civic engagement and partnership of CSOs on policy formulation, reform and promoting good governance. DCC Rasuwa committed to coordinate with all local units, and stakeholders to increase civic engagement in policy-making process. There were 56 participants including 18 women.

Interaction on Vibrant Civic Space and Policy Priorities Held

Interactions on vibrant civic space and policy priorities was organized in Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts on December 26 and 27, 2018 respectively. The interaction helped to build consensus among the CSOs and other stakeholders on the importance of them working together for common issues, including policy advocacy. Both interactions focused on the role of vibrant civil society to advance the causes relevant to better internal governance of CSOs and of governance mechanisms as envisaged in the Constitution of Nepal. Institute of Human Rights Communication, Nepal (IHRICON) organized them in which two CSO champions Prof. Kapil Shrestha and Dr. Netra Timsina were the lead resource persons. Talking about the premise of civil society and its interlinked role

with the state and the market, the resource persons emphasized on the need of CSOs ensuring internal governance so as to gain legitimacy in advocating for policy (re)formulation and their execution. They added that civil society organizations play many roles in a society, based on the vision and mission of their members and the constituencies they serve. CSOs create spaces for people, organize and mobilize people to work together. They represent group interests and defend human rights and monitor the effects of public policy and market practice, hold public authorities to account for their performance and to their human rights obligations, and advocate policy agenda and programs, they added.



CSOs often act as change agents and bring new ideas and strategies to address challenges. Sustainable Development Goals have five pillars which is also called as '5 Ps' viz. People, Planet, Progress, Peace and Partnership. Hence, civic society aims to attain these '5Ps' within 2030, they further said.

Participants said that participatory interaction on such issues increases the likelihood of policy reform being a reality. Altogether 58 (25 female) representatives of civil society, elected representatives and journalists participated in the interactions.

Civil Society and Gaunpalika Join Hands to Promote Accountability

Civil society organizations and Chair of Gulmidurbar *gaunpalika* have agreed on engaging expert CSOs and citizens in the law-making process.

Chairperson of Gulmidurbar *gaunpalika* Ashok Kumar Thapa, issued a press release at the end of *Sajhedari Manch* meeting held on December 10, 2018 to ensure optimum transparency in the development work of the *gaunpalika* and engage CSOs in the legislative process. "Citizens and CSOs should know in advance what laws local government is making," said Thapa, adding, "Gulmidurbar *gaunpalika* will try its best to engage citizens in the process in the days to come".

The participants from the private sector, media, and civil society unanimously stressed on the need for collective efforts for people's participation and coordination during planning and development process to be initiated by the local governments. *Sajhedari Manch* at Gulmidurbar *gaunpalika* comprises 34-members from local CSOs, media, the private sector, and citizens from marginalized communities.

CA Leverages to Set up Help Desk at Lekbesi Municipality

Sundar Nepal has been organizing various programs at the local level of Surkhet district particularly focusing on Lekbesi and Bheriganga municipalities, the working areas of CS:MAP. Common Assembly (CA) formed in Lekbesi Municipality had raised the issue that the general public had been facing problems to access services of the municipality due to lack of Help Desk. The issue was also discussed in *Sajhedari Manch* and *Sajha Sabha*. The pressure exerted from different spectrum of civil society made the mayor of Lekbesi Municipality commit to establish a Help Desk at the municipality during a *Sajha Sabha* meeting. CA discussed and followed up on the issue for a couple of times to implement the commitment.

Now, a Help Desk has been established in the municipal office. Govinda Wali, a service receiver, said that following the setup of the Help Desk, it has been easier for the service seekers to get information on the services that the municipality provides. "The Help Desk provides information on where to go, whom to see and what process needs to be followed in order to avail a service from the municipality," he said. Keshar Dangi, Information Officer of the municipality, said that the establishment of the Help Desk had reduced the number of people to be dealt with in several stages. "We have found the system good and will continue it as it is very supportive for the public to access services," he added.

CA and Gaunpalika Interact on Civic Participation

Civil society members, CAs, LDAGs and other local people jointly organized an interaction with Duduwa *gaunpalika* on December 23, 2018 with the objective of enhancing the role and importance of civil society and ensuring the participation in and engagement of people with the local level.

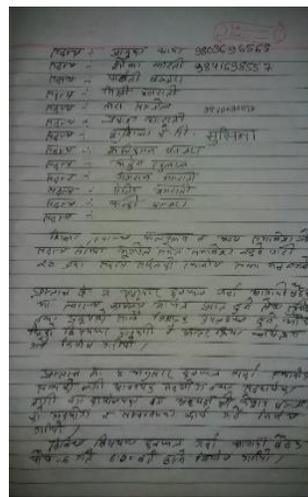
Bhola Bhattarai spoke about the importance of the role of civil society in planning, service implementation and civic engagement with local levels. Chair of Ward No. 5 Parashuram Budhathoki, said that the local issues and problems could be identified, discussed and solved during CA meetings. He further said that he had been able to collect information related to the community from CA. "The local issues would have remained unknown to the Ward Office had there been no CA. Thus, these CAs are a key platform to identify, discuss and raise issues and solve them locally," he added. Participants from the Wards along with Jabre Khan, a head teacher, also discussed the issues of education sector and current situation.

The interaction was much appreciated especially by the Ward Chairs and others as it provided an opportunity for the common people to interact with their elected representatives, and government officials. Many of the Ward Chairs felt the need of CA in each Ward. They said it could support both the community people and Ward offices to have a common platform for the people and the elected representatives to discuss on programs and policies that affect their lives.

Therefore, the interaction ended with a plan to establish CAs in all Wards of Duduwa *gaunpalika*. Chairperson of the Ward No 5 Narendra Kumar Chaudhary and Deputy Chairperson Sajida Bano committed to address the local issues. Chaudhary and Bano also signed on a press release jointly issued by the civil society and Duduwa *gaunpalika* on their commitment to address the local issues. A total of 58 people including Wards Chairs and members, government representatives from HEAD, and civil society representatives participated in the interaction.

Panauti Municipality Replicates Common Assembly

Civic engagement platforms initiated with the efforts of CS:MAP are gradually attracting local governments for a buy-in. A year ago, Tribeni *gaunpalika* in Rukum had formed Common Assembly (CA) in all Wards on its own and were operating with technical support from CS:MAP. In yet another recent example of the government buy-in, Panauti Municipality in Kavre district formed its own CA in Ward No 8.



Being inspired by the effectiveness of CS:MAP-initiated CA in Ward No 1 of the municipality, a new structure was formed in Ward No 8 on December 6, 2018. The municipality has also decided to replicate and expand CA in all Wards so that citizens can discuss on public service delivery and public resource use and engage with the local governments.

The new CA has 31 members (20 female). Ward Chairperson Keshav Banjara said that this would provide opportunity to citizens and the local governments to interact, engage and listen to each other on public service delivery and public resource use and their oversight, and seek citizen feedback on the performance of local governments.

Civil Society Discusses Mutual Cooperation

Samudayik Sarathi conducted a district-level interaction on "Cooperation between Civil Society and Local Governments: Challenges and Opportunities" at Chautara, Sindhupalchowk on December 25, 2018.

Civil society activist and senior advocate Chandra Kumar Khatri presented a paper on the topic. Participants expressed worries on shrinking space of civil society across the country. Emphasizing the need for vibrancy of civil

society organizations, participants highlighted that civil society should work keep oversight on government activities and caution governments for corruption and unethical practices. They also said that civil society actors should also be accountable and transparent for improving mutual accountability from federal to local levels. Former president of NGO Federation of Nepal District Chapter Sindhupalchowk Som Sapkota said collaboration and cooperation between governments and civil society was a must for strengthening democracy. Participants from media, civil society, legal profession, the private sector, government officials and elected representatives, among others, took part in the interaction.

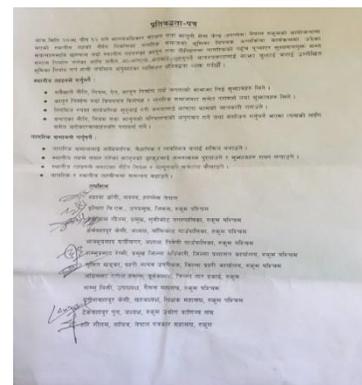


Civil Society Emphasizes on Expanding Civic Space

With the objective of recreating the vibrancy of civil society and expanding civic space at the district level, CS:MAP partners organized civil society interactions in different districts. Human Rights Protection and Legal Services Nepal (HRPLSC) organized civic interactions in Rukum, Rolpa, Salyan and Pyuthan districts. These interactions were actively participated in by journalists, the private sector, academia, legal professionals, CSOs, elected representatives, and government officials.



During interactions, civil society champions/activists presented papers on the themes of CSOs' participation in law-making process in Rukum and role of civil society in the changing context in Pyuthan, Salyan and Rolpa districts. CSO champions strongly raised the issue that CSOs were not being engaged in the law-making process at the local level.



Participants also criticized the local governments in Rukum for not inviting expert civil society organizations for their inputs in the legislative process. Constitution of Nepal mandates that local government should formulate 22 different laws to exercise 'exclusive powers' given to the local governments.

CSO champions said that civil society requires to be vigilant and keep oversight on government activities. Chief District Officer of Rukum Shambhu Prasad Regmi said that civil society and local governments must join hands to support each other. Mayor of Musikot Municipality Devil Lal Gautam said that civil society knowledge, skills and expertise should be utilized by the local governments. Deputy Chair of District Coordination Committee, Indira B.M. urged civil society to seek ways of engaging with the local governments to fully enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of association.

A similar event was also organized in Dolakha on December 25, 2018 by HURADEC. Chairperson of HURADEC Hom Pathak presented the paper on the role of CSOs. He said that CSOs were highly active and defended human and civil rights as well as promoted humanitarian assistance. He pointed out the need for coordination between local government and CSOs in the planning and development issues. 27 representatives (9 female) including representation from political parties, legal sector, media and academicians participated in the event.

Social Audit to Promote Accountability and Transparency

SOCH Nepal organized its own Social Audit on December 16, 2018 in Kathmandu with the objective of promoting transparency and accountability within the organization. Program Advisor for SOCH Nepal Uttam Niraula presented a brief concept of Social Audit and its importance. Member of Federal Parliament Yagya Raj Sunuwar

was the chief guest of the program. The stakeholders including the representatives of Kageshori-Manohara Municipality, Budhanilkantha Municipality, government agencies, academicians, journalists, leaders of CSOs were part of the program.



Major organizational achievements and contributions of the projects for the betterment in people's life, and challenges faced since the inception were presented and discussed with the beneficiaries and stakeholders. Majority participants appreciated the initiation of SOCH Nepal for promoting internal governance.

The chief guest praised SOCH Nepal's initiation and said that it should be taken as an example by other CSOs to promote accountability and transparency. Similarly, Director of the Office of Auditor General highlighted on the need of promoting governance by government, civil society and the private sector to promote accountability and transparency.

LDAG Supports to Tap Public Resources

LDAGs have been playing a catalytic role in increasing the access of the local people to public resources in different districts. Shree Janachetana Radio Samuha of Ghorahi Submetropolis Ward No 2 Kadakhutti in Dang district, is one of the well-functioning LDAGs. Thanks to the initiatives it has taken and the results of its activities, it is known as a 'model' group in the locality.

The LDAG has been successful in supporting the common people to tap public resources for drinking water, gravelling road, irrigation, Dalit scholarship and free education for marginalized and poor students.

On the initiative of Shree Janachetana LDAG, Ward Office has allocated Rs 800,000 for two wells, Rs 700,000 for irrigation, and Rs 300,000 for gravelling road.



Similarly, the LDAG played a catalytic role in enrolling six marginalized students at a government school, and the Ward Office provided school bags, books, uniform and stationery. The stationery support and uniform encouraged the drop-out students to resume their study. The LDAG also coordinated with government school for timely distribution of scholarship to Dalit students.

Critical Listening Feedback Sessions Held

Critical listening feedback sessions (CLFS) were organized from December 18 to 26, 2018 by 10 local production partners in coordination and collaboration with CSOs of the respective districts. The overall objective of these feedback sessions was to gather feedback to understand the strengths and identify any shortfalls of radio programs to improve to achieve the intended outcomes.



CLFS is one of the direct tools to collect feedback and suggestion of the audience to improve radio programs. This method can provide instant feedback to the production team regarding the effectiveness of the radio program based on its content and presentation. It is a kind of monitoring of radio program. Critically listening to radio programs needs to be one of the major components of communication for

development radio projects which helps to spread intended message through radio programs to the wider audience.

Altogether, 204 people from the government, local representatives, CA members, *Sajhedari Manch* members, LDAG members, CAR, CR, media representatives, and CSOs participated in the CLFS in the first quarter.

These meetings also allow production team to seek commitments from government stakeholders to listen to the radio program and engage in further interactivity. "We have seven schools in our Ward, but still we haven't practiced health tests for the students of school free of cost. But after hearing this radio program, I committed to organize free health checkup camp for the students within coming three months," Ward Chairperson of Sailung *Gaunpalika-4* said in the program organized by Radio Sailung on December 20, 2018.

Capacity Building of CSOs and Media

CSOs Capacity on Governance and Leadership Built

NEPAN conducted three-day training in 'CSOs Governance and Leadership Development' to chairpersons and executive directors of 14 CSOs from December 28-30, 2018 in Kathmandu.

The objectives were to reflect on major findings and address the gaps of organization capacity assessment (OCA) focusing on understanding CSO and its system, and CSO governance and role of board for effective leadership. It also aimed to review the present realities as an outcome of OCA and Advocacy Readiness Index (ARI) roll out of internal good governance and achievements; explore what principles, and values guide in CSOs; explore the areas to strengthen institutional governance and create action plans.



The training reflected on major achievements and challenges faced by CSOs while applying the Institutional Improvement Plan (IIP) in their context. Sessions were built on major findings and changes in score of OCA done in 2017 and 2018.

Major topics were understanding organization and its core elements, Organization as a system approach; Governance in CSOs; Structure of board and its selection process; Role of board and management team; Board development and evaluation; Role of CSOs in the federal system and Effectiveness of team. Sessions employed different adult learning principles and approaches such as games, case study, assessment, review-reflection, presentation, discussions followed by action planning. A total 26 (5 female) participants from 13 CSOs participated in the training.

Facilitation Skills of CARs Enhanced

NNSWA organized a training in Facilitation Skill Development for Community Action Researchers (CARs) from December 14 to 15 in Kathmandu and 20 to 21, 2018 in Nepalgunj. The objective was to enhance the facilitation skills of the participants. During the training, participants demonstrated micro teaching sessions by applying the facilitation skills and techniques. A total of 32 CARs participated in the training.

Refresher Training Held

MITRA Samaj organized 'Refresher Training in Participatory Evidence-based Action Research' in Kathmandu and Nepalgunj from December 11 to 13 and December 17 to 19, 2018 respectively.

The objectives were to improve the capacity of District Coordinators and Community Action Researchers (CARs) in utilizing participatory research tools for generating information and evidence so as to support policy advocacy efforts.

During the training conducted with support from Equal Access and ISO partners NEPAN and NNSWA, participants were trained in the concept of research purpose, planning and its processes, contextual knowledge on sub-national governance, conflict sensitivity, power dynamics, gender and social inclusion sensitivity, and networking and collaboration.



The participants were capacitated in utilizing various research tools such as community mapping, observation, interviews, and focus group discussions, IVR (Interactive Voice Response System), *Mero Report*, SMS My Voice, and Outcome Harvesting. A total of 66 CARs from different districts participated in the training.

Finance Management Capacity of Partners Enhanced

CS:MAP organized a two-day Partner Finance Management Workshop for 10 implementing partner organizations of western region on December 18-19, 2018 in Nepalgunj.



Two persons, Treasurer and Admin Finance Officer, were invited from each organization, with a total of 19 participants (6 female).

The objective of the workshop was to share knowledge and skills that implementing partners gained from CS:MAP for efficient fund management and to orientate to legal and donor compliance, importance of financial monitoring, and cost-sharing contribution among others.

The workshop focused on ways to sharing ideas and experience; introduction of organization and what drives it; internal control; governance practices in NGOs; poor governance causes corruption and fraud; internal control and governance cycle, and discussed on contemporary issues on new labor laws, provision of Social Security Act, 2018, income tax provisions, Social Welfare Council requirement and its compliance in the context of NGOs in Nepal.

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