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CS:MAP Newsletter

A few words from the Chief of Party, CS:MAP

It gives me immense pleasure to present to you the fourth issue of the Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Project (CS:MAP) monthly newsletter. This newsletter for the month of February 2018 provides a snap-shot of some of the activities and achievements from the month of January 2018. As with the earlier issues, we anticipate that you will find this newsletter useful to understand what other CS:MAP partners are doing, and will provide your feedback in making future editions even more interesting and fruitful. Happy reading! Regards!

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

Strengthening the Enabling Environment for Civil Society and Media Organizations in Nepal

Policy dialogue between Social Welfare Council (SWC) and CSOs

GoGo Foundation organized an interaction program with the board members and staff of SWC on January 25, 2018 at the premises of the Social Welfare Council (SWC) in Kathmandu. Kedar Khadka, Executive Director of GoGo Foundation, presented the Landscape Report on CSOs to highlight gaps in policy reform, and operational challenges facing CSOs. Nirmal Baral, the Vice-chair of SWC, said SWC was constituted to facilitate and coordinate work among CSOs. He stressed on the need for dialogue between SWC and CSOs to resolve policy issues and problems facing CSOs. Bir Bahadur Thagunna, Treasurer of SWC, talked about the increasing communication gap between CSOs and SWC. *"CSOs should approach*

SWC to talk about their differences and grievances on issues related to existing guidelines and directives", he said. Shiva Kumar Basnet, Acting Director of SWC, expressed commitment on SWC's readiness to discuss draft laws and challenges with wider civil society, admitting this was not a practice in the past. SWC officials and board members collectively highlighted the need for strengthening collaboration and cooperation between CSOs and SWC in days ahead. Out of 21 participants, 3 were female.



Expert dialogue on 'National Assembly Election: Representation Framework'

National Election Observation Committee (NEOC) organized an expert dialogue on 'National Assembly Election: Representation Framework' on January 25, 2018 in Kathmandu. Various organizations and stakeholders concerned with electoral assistance, monitoring, communication and reform in Nepal, critically assessed the National Assembly election procedure. Discussions revolved around the complexity associated with the single transferable vote

(STV) system, coupled with different weightage rendered to provincial assembly members and chiefs & deputy chiefs of the local federal units. The participants urged the Election Commission of Nepal to simplify the vote counting process and make use of technology wherever possible. Presentations made by NEOC and IFES discussed the need for representation of people with disability, marginalized communities, women and Dalit at the National Assembly.

Participants discussed the need for electoral procedure to ensure compliance with constitutional and legal provisions. Another topic of discussion was qualification of candidates and participants were of the view that the government should specify qualities, capacity and expertise for the three



members to be nominated by the President. The discussion also identified several areas for advocacy and reform to make future elections more credible. Forty-two participants (10 female) including former Chief Election Commissioners Mr. Surya Prasad Shrestha and Nilkantha Uprety, graciously attended and offered their opinions. Representatives of several domestic election observation groups advocated for the need for close observation and study of the upcoming National Assembly election.

Sharing 'GESI checklist' and 'GESI analysis of the journalist code of conduct' with deputy mayors of Kathmandu district

On January 23, 2018, Samjhauta Nepal and Media Advocacy Group (MAG) brought together five Deputy Mayors from Kathmandu district including, Renu Rai (Budhanilkantha), Bindu Simkhada (Kageshwori Manahara), Sukra Laxmi Shrestha (Shankarapur), Bhanu Dotel (Tarakeshwor) and Sushila Adhikari (Nagarjun) to take part in a dialogue with a loose network of media organizations, representatives and journalists. One of the core objectives of this program was to share a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) checklist developed by CS:MAP with the Deputy Mayors, as a possible tool for assessing the development and implementation of policies with a GESI lens. While Babita Basnet, president of MAG, presented the GESI checklist to the Deputy Mayors, Dr. Mahendra Bista, former president of the Federation of Nepali Journalists, presented the analysis of Nepal's Journalist Code of Conduct 2016 from a GESI perspective. Bindu Simkhada shed light on the kind of challenges they faced as Deputy Mayors and how this hindered the effective execution of their roles. Media portrayal of newly elected leaders as not doing much towards the advancement of public interest while only taking interest in perks and facilities was not right and conveyed a wrong message, she added. The event was broadcast by Nepal Television and *Janta* TV and also covered by the *Nagarik* daily.



Civil society and media engagement with government on public services delivery and resource use

Thirteen Common Assembly meetings were held this month in Kathmandu, Gorkha, Okhaldhunga, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Dhading, Makwanpur, Rukum and Gulmi districts. These meetings are held on a periodic basis and are organized by local civil society groups with the aim of providing citizens and civic groups a platform for engaging with their local government on improving public service delivery in health, education, agriculture and disaster recovery and reconstruction. Additionally, CS:MAP CSO partners conducted social accountability trainings for local stakeholders with the support from Intermediary Service Organizations (ISOs), in Gulmi, Palpa and Kapilvastu districts. RWDC used the Community Scorecard tool to assess services offered by a local health post in Dang. Four *Shreejanshil Shakhas* were established in Dhading, Makwanpur, Gorkha and Okhaldhunga districts. Listening, Discussion and Action Group (LDAG) meetings were held in all 34 program districts with 16 additional LDAGs being formed in January 2018.

Shreejanshil Shakha: A step to innovation

Prakash *Shreejanshil Shakha* hosted by Prakash Youth Club in Kapilvastu initiated its new chapter with the support from IRDC. A computer set and basic

furniture have been provided to the youth club to contribute to



श्रृजनशिल शाखामा तपाईंलाई हार्दिक स्वागत छ

शाखा खुल्ने समय : विहान १०:३० वजे देखि पेलुकी ४:३० वजे सम्म
वडा शाखाबाट होवाशिवा वा एहवा भित्र कुनै कुनै पालन गर्ने अनुमति छ ।

- यस शाखामा आउदा अभिलेखकारमा राखिएको रजिटरमा नामदर्त गर्नुपर्नेछ ।
- यस शाखामा रहेको कम्प्युटर तथा इन्टरनेटको प्रयोग गर्दा बढीमा ३० मिनेट सम्म प्रयोग गर्न सकिने छ । अन्य व्यक्तिहरू सो को प्रशिक्षण गर्न भएको कुरा ध्यानमा राख्नु होला ।
- यस शाखामा रहेको कम्प्युटर तथा उपलब्ध इन्टरनेटको प्रयोग सरकारी सेवा सुविधा तथा जनसरोकारका विषयहरू एवम् सूचनामूलक, खोजमूलक तथा ज्ञानवर्धक कुराहरूको खोजमा सिमित रहनुपर्ने छ ।
- अत्यावश्यक भन्दाभन्दा नगरी ज्ञान वातावरण सिर्जना गर्न सव्योम गर्नुपर्नेछ ।
- आफूले खोज चाहेको विषयमा थप सव्योम तथा जानकारी चाहिएमा शाखाको जिम्मेवार व्यक्तिसँग सव्योम लिई सूचनाहरू हेर्न र लिन सकिने छ ।
- यस शाखामा रूढिउजेल सम्म कृष्य आइको मोबाइल लाई ...भाइड्रेसन मोडमा राखीदिनुहोला ।

नोट: वडा शाखाबाट प्राप्त सेवा सुविधाका लागि गर्नुपर्ने भ्रमण सकारात्मक एवं प्रोत्साहन दिनुहोला । तपाईंको अनुभव, अनुभव र प्रतिक्रिया हामी लागि महत्त्वपूर्ण छ ।

its work in increasing youth engagement in improved public service delivery. Vice chairperson of Vijaynagar Gaunpalika, Laxmi Chaudhary expressed her commitment to support such initiatives in future, while inaugurating the *Shakha*. The *Shakha* will be used as a center for information exchange, civic education

and dialogue, particularly around public service delivery and policy reform issues. IRDC will provide necessary support to document discussions around public interest. The *Shakha* has prepared a code of conduct for visitors and has started to document visitors' information in a systematic manner.

The *Shreejanshil Shakha* in Kailali district is being used as a common space for local level interactions for the district. FMDC conducted a coordination meeting with

Policy Corner established in CDC, Nuwakot

CDC Nepal has established a policy corner in its office in Nuwakot from January 2018. CDC Nepal had planned to establish this corner as an outcome of the Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) conducted in May 2017. The policy corner provides access to employees to newly developed policies and guidelines as well



Social Accountability tools and citizen's access to governance

Mayor of Ghorahi sub-metropolitan city, Narulal Chaudhary, decided to develop *Rampur Health Post* as an urban health management center. The health post now has a full-time doctor with laboratory facility for pathology tests and medicines. From December 27 to 29, RWDC, with the support from NNSWA, used the Community Scorecard, a social accountability tool to assess staff behavior, status of medicine distribution, transparency of accounting system and visibility of various equipment. Involving the participation of the health post management committee, health post staff, community people, common assembly members and elected representatives of Ward 2, the exercise aims to resolve issues/problems identified during the process and improve



अधिकार प्रयोग गर्न नपाएको जनप्रतिनिधिको गुनासो

● परिचय दुई/भनगरी, पुस २९
सिंहदरवारको अधिकार स्थानीय तहमा आएको भन्ने पनि सोधिएका अधिकारजनसूचक जनतालाई सेवा दिन नसकेको गौरीगंगा नगरपालिका वडा नम्बर ९ र ११ का जनप्रतिनिधिकहरूले गर्न नपाएको बताएका छन् ।
जनप्रतिनिधिकलाई अधिकार सम्पन्न बनाइएको भन्ने पनि केही दैनिक कामकाजका कागजातमा हस्ताक्षर गर्ने बाहेक अरु अधिकार प्रयोग गर्न नपाएको वडा नम्बर ९ का वडा अध्यक्ष हरिप्रसाद तिवारीले बताए ।
एकएमडिसी तथा विकास र सामाजिक परिवर्तनका लागि सञ्चारले गौरीगंगा नगरपालिकाको मसुरियामा मंगलबार गरेको सुशासन र विकास निर्माणका सवालमा जनप्रतिनिधिकसंगको अन्तरक्रिया कार्यक्रममा जनप्रतिनिधिकले अधिकार प्रयोग गर्न नपाएको गुनासो गरे ।
वडा नम्बर ११ का वडा अध्यक्ष विनोदकुमार चौधरीले आवश्यक कानून निर्माण गरेर स्थानीय तहबाटै जनताले सबै सेवा पाउने सुनिश्चितता गरिनु पर्ने बताए । उनले आफूहरूको ध्यान सुशासन कायम गर्न र विकास निर्माणमा

कोन्द्रत रहेको बताए । स्थानीय तहका जनप्रतिनिधिकलाई स्थानीय तहका अधिकारका बारेमा प्रशिक्षणको आवश्यकता रहेको उनको भनाई थियो ।
जनप्रतिनिधि योग्य भएपछि विकास निर्माणको जिम्मा अब महिलाहरूले लिनुपर्ने बताइन् । वडा सदस्य प्रेम ताडीले विकास बजेट फारदर्शी किसिमले आवश्यक काममा खर्च गर्नुपर्ने बताए ।
जनप्रतिनिधिकले ईमान्दारीतका साथ काम गर्न सके र वर्षभित्र धेरै विकास गर्न सकिने उनको भनाई थियो । स्थानीय तिलाधार न्यूरोले एनपीतिक योजना बनाएर विकास निर्माणका काममा केन्द्रीत हुन जनप्रतिनिधिकलाई सुझाव दिए ।
स्थानीय स्तरमा देखिएका समस्यालाई समाधान गर्न स्थानीय सभा गठन भएको उल्लेख गर्दै उनले सुशासन र भ्रष्टाचारको अन्त्यमा जोड दिनुपर्ने बताए ।
कार्यक्रमको सहजिकरण एकएमडिसीका कार्यक्रम संयोजक ज्योति जोशी र अभियान अधिकारी निराजन पुरियारले गरेका थिए भने कार्यक्रमको सञ्चालन आरटीआई मसुरिया संयोजक पवन बोगटीले गरेका थिए ।

CSOs, elected representatives and media from the Gauriganga municipality at the *Shakha*. The discussion focused on priorities of the Municipality, social and development issues, people's expectations and municipality's efforts to scale up development efforts in meeting peoples' expectations. The elected representatives of Gauriganga Wards 9 and 11, including Ward Chair Hari Prasad Tiwari, requested support from CSOs to develop and implement local level policies and guidelines.

as updated policies of the organization. While employees now have increased access to organizational policies and guidelines, even visitors are coming in to understand the functioning of the organization. This has helped CDC Nepal in enhancing staff reading habits and in enhancing the internal governance of organization. CDC also takes this as a good opportunity to solicit feedback on policies from the team and to review accordingly. Besides the organization policies, CDC Nepal is also collecting newly drafted and updated government policies and procedures (especially on Health, Education, DRR and Agriculture as well new Local Government Operation Act 2074).

transparency and accountability at the health post. The improvement plan that resulted from the process, identified the need for a public campaign to make people aware of available services; sought management commitment to make 35 types of medicines available; provide regular pre-natal care services focused on all households in the Ward; provision of essential medical equipment; and conducting regular nutrition improvement campaigns. All 30 participants expressed their satisfaction over the use of the tool for effective public service delivery and oversight. Ward chairperson Keshab Acharya thanked RWDC for the support.

RTI and CSO information desk in provincial trade fair – Nepalgunj

IHRC managed a CSO desk to provide information on the 'right to information' (RTI) at the provincial trade fair in Nepalgunj held from January 25 to February 05, 2018. IHRC negotiated for a free stall with FNCCI Banke, and coordinated with the NGO Federation and other CS:MAP partners, including HRPLSC, to display and distribute their available resources on RTI from the stall. An estimated 1,500 visitors come to the fair every day and IHRC has planned to provide RTI and other information material to about 1,000 people during the fair. RTI application forms have also been made available to the visitors and volunteers trained on RTI and IHRC personnel have been providing information to the stall visitors. In addition to the information, IHRC will provide need-based support to the visitors to file RTI.



PPWGs active in having third party monitoring mechanism in the district

A Public Private Working Group (PPWG) meeting facilitated by HRPLSC in Rolpa, focused on having third-party monitoring committees for effective public service delivery and public resource use at the local levels. The meeting chaired by the District Coordination Committee chief, decided to request all local units of Rolpa to form third party monitoring committees and carry out different activities as provisioned in the Local Government Operation Act – 2074, for strengthening governance in the district. Fourteen members of the PPWG, including representatives from the private sector, civil society and media, discussed on the need and process for the formation of the monitoring committees, mandatory placement of citizen charters in public offices, deputation of information officers, and conducting public hearings on a regular basis.

Civil Society and media interact to discuss on their roles in the changed context

This month, a total of nine interactions were held in an effort to revive the discourse on CSOs roles in the changing context.



In this connection, HURADEC Nepal conducted an interaction program among civil society, media, newly elected people's representatives and other relevant stakeholders, on December 28, 2017 in Charikot, Dolakha district. Among the 28 participants, former Chairperson of Nepal Bar Association Krishna Bahadur Basnet presented a concept paper on the role of civil society in the changed context. The interaction helped district stakeholders to come together into a common forum on issues of common interest. HURADEC vice chairperson Uddav Prasad Pokharel chaired this

meeting where the vice chairperson of the Dolakha District Coordination Committee (DCC), Manmaya Jirel was chief guest. The chief guest focused on the importance of such events during development of new policies at the local level. She added that civil society should play an active role and carry out effective oversight in strengthening governance. She also requested HURADEC to organize similar interaction programs on a regular basis.

On January 10, 2018, DEC Nepal organized an interaction program in Makwanpur district on the "Role of CSOs in the changed context" in collaboration with NGO Federation, Federation of Nepali Journalists and



South Asia Partnership Nepal. DCC chairperson Raghunath Khulal and vice chairperson Bhagwati Pudasaini were the special guests at this program attended by 53 participants. The



discussion was led by two papers presented by Bol Bahadur Karki from the NGO Federation and Pratap Bista from the Federation of Nepali Journalists. The papers revolved around CSO and media contribution to balanced development and promoting right to information. The DCC chair asserted that CSOs can play a stronger role as development partners and he assured that the government will provide necessary support for creating an enabling environment for CSOs.

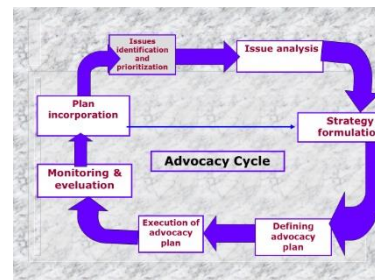
The DCC vice chair proudly announced that she has declared her personal assets as required of an elected public official, and expressed her commitment for providing continuous support in increasing coordination amongst different CSO stakeholders. The USAID Democracy and Governance Specialist, Krishna Pathak, stressed on the need for CSOs to partner with local governments in curbing corruption. The interaction concluded with a renewed commitment to work for increased representation of marginalized communities in policy and plan formation; provide district level policy recommendations for CSO oversight after wider consultations; CSO partnership with municipalities in five-year plan formulation; provide continuity to campaigns to curb corruption; to support elected public officials to make their assets public; and develop common understanding on indicators of internal good governance for CSOs and their adoption and implementation.

Capacity building of CSOs and media

Twenty-eight CS:MAP district coordinators and community facilitators learned about facilitation skills in a training provided by NEPAN. Additionally, 34 district coordinators also gained knowledge on advocacy strategy which will help them in finalizing district level cross sectoral advocacy issues. The knowledge imparted by Kathmandu Living Labs on the use of ICT tools, is an added tool for CSOs to work on enhancing governance at the local level. CS:MAP ISO, *MITRA Samaj*, also trained district coordinators on how to develop strong personnel and financial policies. NNSWA conducted a 4-days workshop with IHRC in Banke and RWDC in Dang to review and revise their personnel and financial policies.

Workshop on advocacy strategy planning for Civil Society Organizations

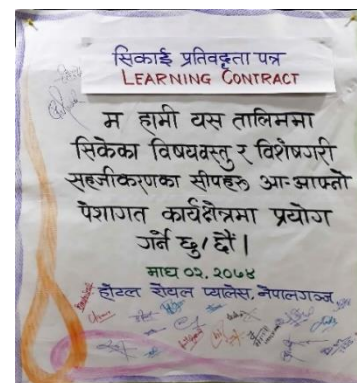
NEPAN organized two workshops on 'Advocacy Strategy Planning,' from January 1-2, 2018 in Kathmandu and January 18-19, 2018 in Nepalgunj. Thirty-three CS:MAP district coordinators participated in these two-day workshops that aimed to inform and update participants on the steps involved in an advocacy cycle and in its design, implementation and assessment. Participants identified advocacy issues related to the health, education, agriculture and disaster risk reduction sectors and then used the problem analysis tree to analyze these issues. They then prepared a detailed strategy and plan to which resource person Bhola Bhattarai provided feedback. At the end of the workshop, participants made commitments to finalize the plan and validate the issues by sharing it with district coalition and common assembly members, as well as concerned community members.



Facilitation skills training for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

NEPAN organized two training sessions on 'Facilitation Skills' for 50 participants from the 14 CS:MAP CSO partners. These two-day events (December 30-31, 2017 and January 16-17, 2018) were organized in Lalitpur and in Nepalgunj respectively. The fifty facilitators from 34 districts were capacitated on the fundamentals of facilitation (including basic concepts such as teaching, training, facilitation, mediation, negotiation, etc.); foundations of facilitation using the

appreciative inquiry concept; handling group dynamics in facilitation; and facilitative listening skills. Techniques such as learning contract, river of life, four-face tool, speed dating, fears and hopes were discussed using



illustrative talk, short demonstrations, discussion and presentations. Short practical sessions to facilitate meeting; using brainstorming and role play; facilitating public consultation/group discussion etc. were performed as simulated exercises. At the end of the training, the added learning was documented by using

a 7-step ladder tool. What participants will do after this training as a part of way forward was documented. The participants found the training useful for enhancement of their knowledge related to facilitation, and highly appreciated the practical and contextual sessions.

Policy review and update workshop

In a bid to increase knowledge of standard provisions and procedures on personnel and financial policies among executive leaders of CS:MAP partner CSOs, and support them in standardizing, reviewing and updating the policies of their respective organizations, MITRA Samaj conducted a three-day 'Policy Review and Update Workshop' in Kathmandu from January 10 to 12, 2018. Twenty-six participants from 14 CSOs participated in this workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to address the gaps in policies of CSOs identified during policy review conducted by FHI 360 along with the findings of Organizational Capacity Assessments. By discussing identified gaps in existing personnel and financial policies and provisions, the workshop provided a way forward for all CSOs to revise these instruments. During the workshop, a standard sample policy frame was also provided. Developing action plans was one of the major agendas during the workshop to revise each CSO's policies. Each CSO fixed their deadline to revise their policy and three ISOs – MITRA Samaj, NEPAN and NNSWA will provide necessary support.



USAID and CS:MAP Joint Field Visit

USAID AOR for CS:MAP Krishna Pathak, alternate AOR Reshma Thapa, M&E Specialist Bishwas Rana and Democracy and Governance staff Ganga Maharjan along with



CS:MAP team members conducted a joint visit to 12 districts: Banke, Surkhet, Dang, Rukum, Salyan, Pyuthan, Rolpa, Gulmi, Arghakhanchi, Makwanpur, Nuwakot and Rasuwa districts, between December 27, 2017-January 23, 2018. The field visits focused on:

providing technical inputs to local CSOs on strengthening civil society in the districts and use of social accountability tools, monitoring field activities of CS:MAP partners and learn good practices, interact with government and civil society stakeholders about the CS:MAP work, interact with civil society on their views about the roles of civil society in the changed context and learn about the functioning of sectoral service providing line agencies and issues around functioning of local government. The interactions held in the district headquarters helped to re-invigorate a vibrant discussion on the role of civil society in democratic governance, both to critically oversee government's role and engage with government constructively.



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