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CECI Nepal's Newsletter

January—April
2016

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE



Dear Friends,

We have the pleasure to bring out this new edition of CECI Nepal newsletter 'IMPACT'. In this issue you will get a glimpse of our major activities/programs from January to April 2016.

During this period we continued our on-going projects on governance, i.e. program for accountability in Nepal (PRAN), earthquake response project, consulting work with the Skills Development Project and managing volunteers from Australia and Canada. Besides implementing regular projects, we conducted annual general meeting (AGM), attended mission visits and convened workshops and seminars. We welcomed new volunteers and bid farewell to outgoing volunteers. As always, we are strengthening our commitment towards economic development, agriculture and livelihoods, DRR, capacity building, governance and gender equality and social inclusion.

I would like to thank all of our partners including government agencies, donors, civil society and other organizations for their continued support in our development efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Mallika Bhattarai, Communication Officer, for her initiatives and hard work to bring out this newsletter.

We welcome your comments and suggestions for improving this newsletter.

Keshava Koirala
Country Representative
CECI Nepal

CECI NEPAL AGM

PEACEFUL RETREAT
WITH BEAUTIFUL
VIEWS OF THE
VALLEY AND
HIMALAYAS



AGM participants

This year, CECI Nepal held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) of its staff and volunteers on 07 and 08 April 2016 at the Hattiban Resort in Kathmandu. The AGM is a big event for CECI as it brings all the staff members and volunteers together in one forum to promote knowledge sharing and discuss the achievements, results and challenges of on-going projects/activities of CECI Nepal. At the AGM, individual project presentations were made by respective project officers. Intensive discussions were also carried out for improving CECI Nepal's communication strategy and future programming.



A colorful cultural evening was organized on 07 April where the Australian Volunteers, Canadian Volunteers and Nepali staff presented cultural programs reflecting the cultures of their respective countries. Besides, team building exercises were organized that entertained the participants and provided an opportunity to bring the staff and volunteers closer and know each other better.

Guest speaker, Mr. Kanchan Kharel, the President of YUWA was also invited to present about “Youth Mobilization in National Development”. Mr. Kharel gave an excellent overview of youth mobilization, their importance in development and the current situation of youth in Nepal. CECI has a priority for inclusion of youth in its development projects.



Kanchan Kharel, President of YUWA presenting at the AGM



AVID presentation



Team building exercise



Nepali team cultural performance

ONE YEAR LATER

DOCUMENTING EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY IN NEPAL

CECI head office Communication and Documentation delegates were on a mission to Nepal from February 25 to March 4, 2016. The main purpose of the visit was to observe, assess and document the support provided by CECI after the earthquake of 25 April 2015. The six member mission team included Kiran Ambwani, Photographer; Stanley Pean, Writer; Benoit Aquin, Photographer; Dilip Chinnakonda, Asia Humanitarian Aid/Asia Coordinator; France Isabelle Langlois, Communication Director and Lauren Klein, Communications Officer.

The team visited the target VDCs in three districts (Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur) where they observed and documented the supports provided by CECI during the emergency relief and subsequent recovery phase. They also had interactions with communities in regards to the effectiveness of the support and future needs.

The documentation will be helpful in conducting a fundraiser photo exhibition in Canada in commemoration of the first anniversary of the April 2015 earthquake.



Communication team in Lalitpur



Communication team in Kavrepalanchowk



Communication team in Sindhupalchowk

TRAINING FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

MDTF/PRAN2 partner-Policy Research and Development (PRAD) organized a three day training on Community Score Card (CSC) in Narayangadh, Chitawan from 11-13 March, 2016. The objective of the training was to enhanced knowledge of Principal Social Accountability Practitioners (PSAcPs) and Assistant Social Accountability Practitioners by providing them technical as well as practical skills on implementing CSC including dalit and girls scholarship tracking. The training participants were from four MDTF/PRAN2 districts: Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha and Gorkha.

Mr. Hem Tembe, Team Leader of MDTF/ PRAN2-CECI participated the training and provided input in the process of CSC and scholarship tracking questionnaire development. CSC will be implemented in the

primary schools for the improvement of quality education. dalit and girl students' scholarship will be tracked to produce analytical report to share with the government line agencies



CSC input tracking at school



Scholarship questionnaire pre-testing



Participants of CSC training

REVIEW MEETING CONVENED

The first review meeting of CECI/MDTF/PRAN2 program was held from 18 to 19 January 2016 in Dhangadhi. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of field level activities of each CSOs, provide guidance in producing quality report and case stories, create platform for the exchange of learning and to explore ideas or strategies to tackle issues/challenges faced in the field. CECI as grant management agency (GMA) has been providing sub-grants to 30 Nepali civil society organizations (CSOs) from 15 districts to implement social accountability tools on public financial management (PFM) at local level.



Floor discussion at the review meeting

Representatives from MDTF/PRAN2 partners New ERA, PRAD including the World Bank PCU were present at the meeting. They also shared their experiences and learning particularly on Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS), Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and Treasury Single Account (TSA). Review meeting concluded that the activity calendar of each CSOs in the Terai districts to be reviewed to expedite the field activities as the Terai movement has pushed back the deliverable deadlines of the activities. Similarly, coordination and cooperation with District Development Committee

(DDC), Village Development Committee (VDC) and other stakeholders to be maintained continuously to make the program more transparent and result oriented.



Gita Adhikari presenting group work



Prithvi Raj Ligal from PRAD facilitating the meeting

TWO COMMITTEES FORMED UNDER U3 PROGRAM IN NEPAL

Uniterra is a Canadian Volunteer Cooperation Program funded by Global Affairs Canada and jointly managed by WUSC and CECI, two of the largest NGOs in Canada. Uniterra program has been implemented in different phases since 2004. Currently Uniterra is running in its third phase (U3) and has adopted an inclusive market systems development approach as the key innovation in the program. This innovation will address root causes of market failure and facilitate systemic change in economic markets. Two committees National Advisory Committee (NAC) and Sub-Sector Committee have been formed under U3 to support U3 programs in Nepal.

The committee members are from private sector, NGO partners and government agencies.

The NAC will provide strategic direction to the program and review annual work plan, resource allocation and monitor country level risks. It will have representation from core, support functions and enabling environment partners. The sub-sector committees will provide technical supports to the sub-sectors issues like capacity building of actors, technology, product development, market linkages and improving specific outcomes.

The first sub-sector committee (SSC) meeting was held on 21



SSC meeting

March, and the national advisory committee (NAC) meeting was held on 24 March, 2016 in which the objective of SSC and NAC were shared with the committee members. Issues and challenges facing in the subsectors were raised and discussed. Some of the ways forward dealing those challenges were also suggested by the members at the meetings.



NAC meeting

FACES OF U3 VOLUNTEERS

At present U3 has seven long term Canadian volunteer in Nepal. They are working with different partner organizations such as NGOs, Development Bank and the government.

Mr. Gerard Carlo Valle is from Port Moody, British Columbia, Canada and has got a bachelor's degree in Economics and a certificate in Sustainable Community Development. He has work experiences in NGOs of both developed and developing countries mainly in the areas of improving psycho-social, and economic outcomes of vulnerable groups. He started volunteering job in Nepal from November 2016 and working with Centre for Microfinance (CMF) as a Documentation and Database Development Advisor. He is supporting microfinance sector through advocacy, policy analysis, organisational development, research, and resource development. He is looking forward to gaining valuable field experience in Nepal which will allow him to build on new



perspectives and insights in development approaches and community. He believes volunteering for development provides rich opportunities for both the personal and professional growth.

Ms. Shayenda Suyeshkumar is from Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She has a bachelor's degree in Commerce with a specialization in Accounting. With 7 years of work experience in the financial service in Canada, she had held leadership and management level roles in workplace and recognized for her collaboration on many successful projects. From November 2016, she has been working with Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Ltd. (SKBBL) as an Organizational Development Advisor. She



is looking forward to using her knowledge and skills to help implement a human resource system at SKBBL.



Ms. Paige Mueller is from Alberta, Canada and has education background in journalism. In January 2016, she came to Nepal to work with Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Ltd. (SKBBL) as a Communications Advisor. She is hoping to develop a sustainable communications plan for the Bank as well as develop some materials they will be able to use in future, which falls in line with her interest in story-telling and social enterprise. She is looking forward to living and working in this fascinating country with her incredibly passionate and knowledgeable colleagues.



Samantha Lacourse lives in Quebec, Canada. She studied International Studies and Modern Languages at the University of Ottawa. She has worked with student refugees in the Dzaleka refugee

camp in Malawi and child protective services in the northern region of the Arctic Circle. As of December 2016, she has been with the National Youth Forum Nepal (NYFN) as an Organizational Development Advisor. She hopes to build NYFN’s organizational capacity through strategic design, proposal writing and developing the skills of the human resources department. She enjoys stepping back into the international cooperation community in a role that she loves and finds culturally fascinating.

Nadia Roy is from Quebec, Canada and is graduated in International Development Studies. She has professional experience in project development, coordination, international relations and in business development and marketing. She

is volunteering in Nepal as an Organizational Development Advisor with the Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA). Her mandate is to support herbal producers, manufacturers and traders to promote and commercialize unique plant-based products from Nepal. NEHHPA is an umbrella organization of over 60 herbal companies throughout Nepal. Nadia says “being a Uniterra Volunteer is all about sharing experiences and learning from each other. I hope to exchange and contribute as much as I can. I chose CECI for its valuable experience and because I share Uniterra’s philosophy that economic growth, when inclusive, is the most powerful driver of poverty reduction”.

Ms. Cheryl Chin has been living in Toronto, Canada for the last 15 years. She has a bachelor’s degree in Electrical



Engineering and a master’s degree in Business Administration. From January 2016, she has been working with Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Ltd. (SKBBL) as an Information Technology (IT) Officer. With an extensive experience of 10 years as an IT specialist with IBM Canada, her experience and skills will be an asset for SKBBL. She is enjoying her life in Nepal which she says one of the most beautiful, generous and friendliest countries of the world.

Karl Brown was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec. He spent the last 15 years in Calgary, Alberta working in various areas of the private sector from finance to underwriting and finally spending 5 years running a team of Business System Analyst in application development. Just over 2 years ago, he decided that he needed a change in his life and wanted to work more in the area of development so he quit his job, sold his belongings and signed up as a volunteer



SUPPORTS IN NEED: VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

After the earthquake of 25 April in Nepal, CECI worked in three highly earthquake affected districts: Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur. At the beginning CECI supported in distributing emergency and early recovery materials and then started work on supporting livelihood and rehabilitation sectors. CECI also provided a small support in Khotang district with emergency relief materials.

A total of 11,500 households were provided support during the one year period. CECI is now planning to start next phase in which it will support 25,000 people to start new small and mid-sized agricultural and dairy enterprises as well as off-farm enterprises which will have a wider impact in the community.



I am quite happy with CECI as I am supported with Tarpauline and Hygiene Kits. It was raining the day after the earthquake and we were forced to sleep outside. But within a week of the earthquake CECI distributed tarpauline which was very necessary at that critical moment. Although CECI provided a few items, these items were of high quality and could deliver in the right time- which matters the most.

- Kanchi Tamang, Kavre



We are quite happy with the construction of toilet at our school. Toilet was completely destroyed by the earthquake and children were forced to defecate in open areas. The construction of the toilet will promote open defecation free area around our school.

-Sarashwati Secondary School. Ghumthang



Earthquake destroyed all our ways of making a living. Of the 3 buffaloes I had, 2 perished during the earthquake. I had lost my hope and I was worried that how I will run my life! But CECI came to support at such a time of need that I now have 2 buffaloes to undertake milk production business and continue my livelihood activities”.

-Samjhana Timilshena, Sankhu, Lalitpur



The solar light provided by CECI gives enough brightness and is enough for our room. Because of this solar light we do not feel that there is no electricity.

Sabitra Poudel, Ramche Sindhupalchowk

The whole package of support from CECI/Tuki has sustained villagers to survive even in the worst period of our time. I found more systematic on distribution of relief material. The recipients are very satisfied with the distribution process of this organization.

Krishna Bahadur Shrestha – Local Social Worker, Ghumthang VDC, Sindhupalchwok

We had big source of water before earthquake in the village but due to earthquake the water source dried. CECI helped us in that difficult situation and rehabilitated the multi-purpose water supply system. Now we could regain old days due to CECI's support.

Kanchi maya Tamang, SipaleCilaune-8, Kavrepalanchowk



AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On February 23, 2016, seven Australian volunteers arrived in Nepal with the one year work mandate. They were well received by CECI Nepal team amidst a small welcome program. They began their work with their host organizations after having gone through the In-Country Orientation.



Meg Edmonds is volunteering as a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) in the Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit (SEIU). She is

supporting strengthening the monitoring of the WASH Sector Development Plan, reporting and cohesion between Technical Working Groups. She is also working with staff to upgrade the web-based system for reporting; and establishing a system to assess and monitor the contributions of sector stakeholders and achievements on critical areas in policy compliance, service delivery and effectiveness. On

the communication and reporting front, she is supporting regular communication of SEIU activities through blogs, their website, analytical reports and summary briefs, and participating in regular meetings with the Sector Stakeholder Group and the Technical Working Groups (TWGs).

Dr. Boaz Bernstein is working as the Online Education officer at National Center for Educational Development (NCED). He is contributing to the enhancement of access to quality and affordable education, especially for disadvantaged groups and women, and



building the capacity of local communities and institutions in managing schools more responsibly and with stronger accountability. His focus is on improving digital interactive training curricula and materials for teacher trainings, and enhancing the delivery of ICT-based training programs. He is also working with staff on building collaborative relationships with universities and related policy research and training institutes in the public and private sector.

Matthew Bennett is working at the National Society for Earthquake Technology reviewing and improving building standards, structural



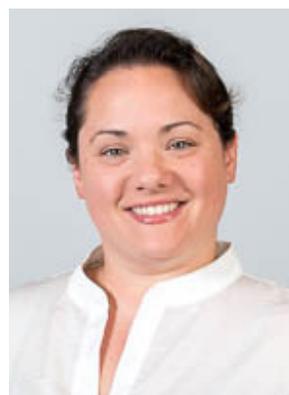
resilience and increasing the level of knowledge and understanding of disaster risk reduction measures and emergency preparedness in Nepal. In his role as Building Inspection Support Officer, he is working closely with the NSET team to strengthen building inspection systems and increasing staff capacity in developing and implementing building inspection systems, policies and regulation.



Stephanie Hubbard is a Communications Officer at NSET, working with staff on improving the organization's capacity in developing communications plan to support their programs

and projects. In her role she is also focusing on increasing awareness within the community in regards to disaster resilience as well as improving the level of knowledge and understanding of disaster risk reduction measures and emergency preparedness.

Alicia Khan is a Midwife Trainer assisting and conducting theoretical and clinical activities with midwifery students, as well as providing ongoing support to midwifery tutors. Her goal is to improve the quality of midwifery care at clinical sites such as hospitals and outreach centres. She is also collaborating with donors and implementing research activities to ensure a better quality of health care service in Nepal and the continued skill growth of its health professionals.



Bryce McKay is a Volunteer Nurse Educator at Kirtipur Hospital where she is assessing and refining their processes, training staff and increasing the quality of patient care provided. She is looking at ways of improving nursing

protocols and maintaining the continued upgrading of the nursing staff skills. She is a strong contributor to ensuring that free and low cost healthcare is made available to the less fortunate in Nepal.

Ms. Colleen Moses is a Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor presently reviewing the DoE's existing M&E reporting system, guidelines and tools so that she can work collaboratively with staff to identify and implement improvements. Together they are revising and developing reporting templates and analyzing data for reporting. She is also assessing the staff's monitoring and evaluation skills and knowledge so that she can develop a plan for enhancing their capacity through ongoing trainings, coaching and advisory support.



VOLUNTEERS' BLOG

COMMUNICATION IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

BY : STEPHANIE HUBBARD

In the immediate aftermath of the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake, survivors had limited information on current events, or what to expect in terms of help and aftershocks. To fill the information vacuum, rumors spread of predicted earthquakes and relief supplies, adding to the chaos. At the organizational level, conflicting information from many different sources made planning an organized response even more difficult.

A key communications challenge in Nepal is reaching disadvantaged and remote communities. While it is quite easy to reach people with regular access to mobile phones, the internet, TV, radio and newspapers; reaching people isolated by geography, language, gender roles, social status, and inability to access mass media or the literacy barrier is difficult.

My role at the National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET) includes creating communications plans for our education, disaster risk reduction and safer housing programs, as well as strengthening communications with communities. Teaching people in all communities how to make their houses safer, prepare for earthquakes and what to do during and after a disaster saves lives and can hasten the recovery effort.

NSET already has excellent partnerships across major media in Nepal. The challenge lies in reaching the many people who are geographically isolated, do not have access to media, are illiterate or who do not speak Nepali. Fortunately, NSET has an excellent network of regional offices, social mobilizers and community programs. My goal is to utilize these

resources to help achieve NSET's vision of Earthquake Safe Communities in Nepal by 2020 and I am happy to work with NSET.

LDMPCU: A STORY OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP AND CAPACITY BUILDING

BY UNITERRA NEPAL

Piles of files on the table, proposals ready for submission, meetings to attend, field visits planned, cash to be released to dairy farmers, this is a typical work day at the Lalitpur District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union (LDMPCU). All tasks are efficiently managed by a small team of staff and volunteers. The team are focused, busy and committed to the objectives of LDMPCU, however if you look back seven years ago, it would tell a different story.

LDMPCU is an umbrella organization composed of milk producer cooperatives. Established in 1998 to improve the economic, social and cultural status of small farmers involved in livestock and dairy farming. Its services include the establishment and management of chilling centers, market linkage, animal health insurance, training, exposure visits, networking and marketing. Prior to the start of its partnership in 2009 with CECI/Uniterra it consisted of 47 affiliated cooperatives with 5,500 households producing 30,000 liters of milk per day and donor support was

non-existent. Since 2009, CECI/Uniterra has mobilized 10 Canadian and 3 national volunteers to support it in various areas from capacity building activities to increasing visibility which included developing programs on clean milk production, animal health, networking, marketing, fodder/feed production and cooperative institutional development. Currently, 64 milk producer cooperatives including multipurpose organizations are affiliated with the union controlling the collection and distribution of milk in the district. These 64 organizations consist of 5,150 households. Apart from the domestic consumption of milk, about 40,000 liters are sold every day in the district alone. LDMPCU has gained the trust of its stakeholders and donors with its enhanced capacity and its visibility, which has led to an increased networking, pool of stakeholders and donors.

After the earthquake, in an effort to revive and strengthen the dairy business, LDMPCU was granted two CECI funded projects. The Earthquake Project supported LDMPCU in providing

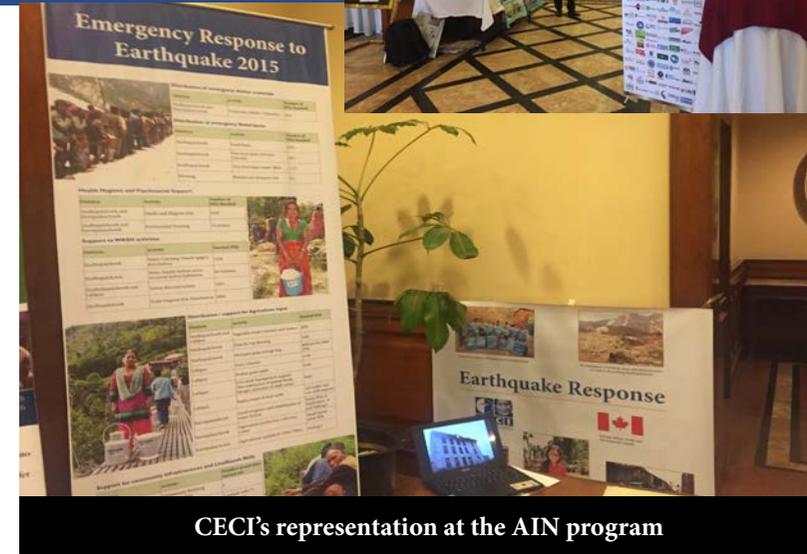
milk cans, vegetable seeds, CGI sheets, toilet construction, manger construction, chafe cutters, buffalo support, micro enterprising, digital milk analyzers, repair of chilling vats and various trainings. The GCIUS Project beginning in fall 2016 and receiving partial funding from the Nepal government which will focus on building a new milk processing facility and purchasing milk processing equipment. The Centre will allow for the production of diversified milk products and increase future revenue. Agriterra, a Netherlands based organization did the assessment of LDMPCU and is interested in partnering on future capacity development programs. It was also a first round pick for the US-Nepal recovery support proposal call.

LDMPCU is not only extremely satisfied and happy, but proud of its 7 year partnership with CECI/Uniterra. A relationship that combined with the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of LDMPCU staff has established the union as a role model for other cooperatives in its capacity of planning and program implementation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

EARTHQUAKE IN MEMORY

On the 22nd March 2016, CECI participated the program organized by the Association of International Non-Government Organizations (AIN) to mark the anniversary of April (2015) earthquake. AIN is an umbrella organization of INGOs working in Nepal. During the program AIN presented the works carried out by its members in response to the impact of the earthquake. Utilizing this common platform CECI also presented its work done during the one year period in the three highly affected districts of Nepal i.e. Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk and Lalitpur.



CECI's representation at the AIN program



CECI Nepal staff

Nepal staff commemorated the anniversary of earthquake of 25 April 2015, which killed thousands and rendered millions homeless. CECI staff recalled the moments by watching a collection of video incorporating the footage of earthquake effects and CECI's response. During the event Kiran Wagle, Program Development Coordinator of CECI Nepal highlighted the works done by CECI after the earthquake in three districts. At the same time CECI staff expressed the deepest condolences to those who lost their family members and wishes for speedy recovery and reconstruction initiatives ahead.

CECI/Uniterra conducted an interaction program on 25 April, 2016 during Asia Regional Program Coordinator, Ms Stephanie Hoey's Nepal Mission. During the program, Uniterra partners shared relevant information on their work areas and the associated issues and challenges. The program was also followed by a Reception Program with the participation of Uniterra Nepal team, volunteers, partners and other stakeholders.



Stephanie with volunteers



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