

Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) was founded in Canada as a not-for-profit organization in 1958 and registered in 1968 with the aim of combating poverty and exclusion. Since establishment, it has been implementing poverty alleviation programmes in developing countries. It strengthens the development capacity of disadvantaged communities; supports initiatives for peace, human rights, governance and equality; mobilizes resources and promotes knowledge exchange.

CECI has been working for more than 30 years in Nepal, supporting socioeconomic development; democracy, governance and accountability; disaster risk management; and gender equality and social inclusion. It adapts 'need-based' and 'best fit' approaches to achieve development outcomes. Our strategy to help strengthen governance and public sector accountability is guided by the following approaches:



Ensuring accountability towards the people

CECI works to ensure public sector accountability, governance, and social transformation by bridging relations and enhancing constructive dialogue between duty bearers and right holders. It also supports building capacity and institutional arrangements for transparent and accountable service delivery. Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN) supported to enhance local governance including the provision of responsive and inclusive service delivery at the local level. Public



Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) Project built the capacity of civil society organizations to engage in participatory

budgeting, procurement monitoring, expenditure tracking and policy feedback. SUSASAN project is working with local government institutions and civil society organizations in 6 districts to promote public sector accountability by leveraging technological innovations and platforms.

Promoting accountability tools for responsive and transparent governance

CECI has supported and mobilized CSOs and NGOs at the local and national level to customize and practice governance and accountability tools. Specifically, CECI has supported to practice more than 15 social accountability tools in Nepal to ensure collaboration between demand and supply side for responsive and transparent governance. These tools are now widely practiced by governance stakeholders at the local level.

Accountability tools promoted by CECI:

- | Public expenditure tracking survey (PETS) |
- | Citizen charter | Citizen report card | Participatory planning and budgeting | Community score card | Participatory budget analysis | Grievance redress mechanism | Public hearing | Social audit | Public help desk | Public service tracking towards marginalized community including Dalit | Citizen jury | Zero tolerance to corruptions | Budget demystification | Gender and pro-poor budget analysis | and Public procurement monitoring |

Building CSOs' capacity and preparing local leaders for governance / accountability

CECI contributes to build capacity of civil societies to play strong roles in constructive engagement with the State and hold them accountable. It puts in place necessary institutional arrangements and approaches such as grant mechanisms, GESI, awareness raising, training, research and development to build CSOs' capacity and prepare local leaders for inclusive governance and accountability. CECI has worked with 200 NGOs/CSOs in 50 districts and developed more than 100 mentors and practitioners to strengthen good governance and public sector accountability at the local and national level. Such initiatives have promoted participatory development practices including participatory planning, implementation and monitoring at the local level. Some of the previous mentors and practitioners have been elected in the local government and are committed to work for transparency and accountability. Currently CECI is working with CSOs' and local government institution to build capacity of local elected representatives.

Technical assistance to government agencies for better service delivery

CECI works together with government agencies and provides technical assistance (TA) that ensures quality, timely and responsive service delivery for the citizens. The TA to MOFALD (under the Micro-credit Project for Women) helped develop strategies for empowerment and inclusion of women and marginalized group (WMG) through skills and entrepreneurship. Collaboration with the Ministry of Irrigation under Community Ground water Irrigation Sector Project (CGISP) ensured public-private partnership for increased cropping intensity, yields, productivity and family income of 50,000 participating farmers in the far and mid-western region of Nepal. Supports to local government institutions through SHAHAKARYA Project helped improve the socio-economic conditions of 50,000 households and institutional building of 1,000 community-based organisations in 500 hill communities. TA to the Ministry of Education / CTEVT has been contributing to improve the quality of technical and vocational training and skill development in the country.

Promoting inclusive governance

CECI works to institutionalize inclusive governance that values the human diversity. It drives through the principles of equality, non-discrimination and participatory democracy to establish just, equitable, and prosperous society for all. Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) is a CECI's priority area which has significantly contributed for empowerment and mainstreaming of women, Dalit, persons with disabilities, marginalized, poor and disadvantage ethnic groups at the local level democratic and decision making processes. 'Inclusion Round' of PRAN and the ongoing SUSASAN project worked/s to improve the capacity of women and marginalized groups to participate in policy/governance processes. CECI has taken initiatives to empower local elected women, dalits and marginalized community representatives for gender responsive and inclusive governance at the local level.



Integration of governance programming to sector results



CECI integrates governance approaches to achieve sector results in economic development, agriculture sector development and livelihood, environment and DRR. CECI designed and implemented various projects to link and contribute to local governance and community development that helped achieve integrated development outcomes in rural far and mid-western regions of Nepal. CECI is currently implementing PUNARNIRMAN project where governance and inclusion have been integrated to achieve the overall project objectives such as skill, enterprises, and livelihoods development. Integration of governance in sector programmes helped to ensure higher rate of success and greater sustainability.

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