

# South Asia Partnership –Nepal

## Annual Report

### Fiscal Year 2018/19

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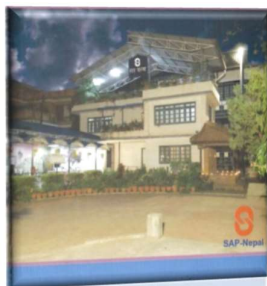
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# 1. Overview of South Asia Partnership-Nepal ( SAP-Nepal)

## 1.1 Introduction:



SAP Nepal is one of the leading National Non-Government Organizations (NGO) for promoting Good Governance since its inception in 1985 A.D. SAP Nepal promotes the processes of capacity building of communities, socially excluded and disadvantaged groups, CBOs/ NGOs and other civil society organizations in the areas of good governance, social accountability, peace building and economic empowerment. It also works to strengthen linkage, partnership and networking between and among the CSOs, the state and the citizens for institutionalization of democratization process at local, state and federal level.

## 1.2 VISION

### Just Society with Peace and Prosperity



SAP-Nepal has a vision of creating a *Just Society with Peace and Prosperity*. SAP-Nepal envisages a society where people have wider participation in decision making so that they may control their own lives and the future of their communities. It will be a society, which guarantees equity in opportunity to secure basic human needs and the security of person and property, and finally the sovereignty of the people. Freedom, recognition of human rights, nonviolent action, social accountability and democratization of authority will be the other facets of the envisaged social capital.

## 1.3 MISSIONS

The acquisition of professional competencies from decades of learning in certain areas and sectors has given SAP-Nepal an inspiration to deal with the issues by specializing and strengthening area/sector based units through the following three missions:

1. Promotion of potentialities of disadvantaged groups for their development so that they can lead dignified lives in a society that has forgotten the importance of human values, by providing space for sharing and learning experiences among the civil society
2. Promotion of equitable access to resources and economic opportunities to the poor, creating an enabling environment whereby they can become competent to change their livelihoods by productively utilizing all their potential resources
3. Promotion of pro-people governance at the local and national levels by strengthening and creating solidarity in the civil society to advocate pro people inclusionary policies and practices for social justice and human rights

## 1.4 Goals/ Objectives

Analyzing the current situation and need of the country at different levels, SAP-N has envisioned the following goals for the achievement of the missions stated:

- 1.1 Empowerment of disadvantaged groups (marginalized women, *Dalits*, ethnic communities and *Madhesis*) to enhance their human development potentialities by enhancing knowledge/skill and participation in decision-making and development programs.
- 1.2 Creation of a congenial environment for the promotion of human development and human rights encouraging disadvantaged groups to improve their living standards by reforming public policies, improving service delivery systems and increasing inclusionary practices.
- 2.1 Promotion of access to economic opportunities for the poor, enhancing their capacities to promote local resource based economic activities.
- 2.2 Enhancement of productive utilization of resources by the poor by encouraging them to improve their life style through the utilization of unused and scattered local resources.
- 3.1 Enhancement of Conflict Transformation Practices by improving the understanding of the people on the causes and consequences of conflict and insecurity and the enhancement of knowledge, skill, attitudes and behavior to direct conflict towards a constructive approach and the promotion of sustainable peace and human rights.
- 3.2 Promotion of an Accountable System in Governance by designing an appropriate participatory framework for advocacy and practicing social accountability tools

## 1.5 Core Values

SAP-N is a value based organization and gives due value to the capacities of people for their innovative characteristics in developing culture of adaptations. It also understands the deeper gap in the capacities of the people due to social, natural and other phenomena. The major values thus adopting by the organization are as follows:

1. People have innate potentials for change
2. Socio-economic transformation can be achieved through people based development
3. Adoption of inclusive approaches leads to social justice
4. The Civil Society is an effective actor for promoting governance, democracy, human rights and accountability at all levels

## 1.6 Approaches

**Partnership:** Working in partnership with various national and international organizations that is characterized by transparency, accountability and equality between and among partners

**People Centered:** People- centered development represents a shift from the service delivery option to strengthening the capacity of local people themselves to manage their own concerns and influencing their environment

**Gender Sensitive:** It is considered as one of the cross cutting issues in every development programs to promote equitable development.

**Sustainability:** Sustainability is considered as continuity with growth of development process even after phase over of the project supported by external organization

**Non-Partisan:** Civil society organizations in general should remain above any party politics for effective and efficient development facilitation.

## **1.7 Action**

### **1. Policy Research and Advocacy**

SAP-Nepal applies its best efforts to policy analysis and research in order to find out its relevancy and the status of implementation for effective knowledge sharing and advocacy. It facilitates advocacy campaigns to influence policies at different levels ranging from the village to the district, regional, national, and South Asian levels.

### **2. Linkage and Networking**

Social, economic or political governance are the major strategic focus of SAP-Nepal to extend linkage and networking. The process promote linkages and networking to institutions from the village, district, regional, national and international forums.

### **3. Capacity Building**

SAP-Nepal looks at capacity building as a whole range of ideas, approaches, and development interventions. With an increase in the role of civil societies in the promotion of the rights and entitlements of citizens, influencing government policies and filling gaps in services, attempts are made to increase their activities at the policy level. It involves strengthening of the people's understanding of their own needs and their right to participate in governance.

### **4. Knowledge Management**

Knowledge management includes the process of identifying intellectual assets within organizations. SAP-Nepal understands sustainability as continuity with growth, adopting the principles of social justice, economic viability and environmental friendliness. It focuses on a three-pronged sustainability approach namely, organizational sustainability, development process sustainability and financial sustainability.

## **1.8 Strategies**

Based on the knowledge and infrastructures it has developed in the last 35 years, SAP-N adopt the following strategies:

1. To promote forums of civil societies for organizing and networking Disadvantaged Groups (DAGs) so that they can raise their voices for human development and pro poor policy influencing to deal with governance issues
2. To facilitate consultative processes on positive discriminatory processes for human development and human rights
3. To facilitate resource generation processes by promoting an enterprise development mechanism to enhance technical backup support for the poor
4. To facilitate capacity building interventions for accessing economic opportunities for the poor
5. To enhance the system/mechanism of analyzing the status of policies and practices relating to conflict transformation, peace reconciliation, accountability and protection/enhancement of human rights
6. To influence agencies to adopt an inclusive governance framework
7. To adopt and promote social accountability tools for good governance promotion at different levels

## **1.9 Evolution process of SAP Nepal**

Through voluntary organizations in different guises existed well before the 20<sup>th</sup> century, NGOs as they are recognized today have a more recent history in Nepal. For example, Guthi system was already established firmly in Nepal. Slowly but surely, Nepal saw the arrival of social as well as Welfare and

Charity Organizations. In such a scenario, South Asia Partnership – Nepal was established in 1985 in affiliation with the then Social Service National Coordination Council (SSNCC). Those were days when everything was different. SSNCC, as the only governing body had a tight hold over the NGOs thereby restricting their development work. In the initial few years of its establishment SAP-Nepal provided funding support to grass-roots NGOs to implement welfare nature of projects. To address the changing need of the NGO sector SAP-Nepal initiated the Human Resource Development Program (HRDP) in 1989 to give needed training to development workers. Later it was realized that problems confronted by the rural populace of Nepal are multi-dimensional in nature that needs integrated approach to solve it. Community Action Program (CAP), a multi-sectoral and community based integrated development project of SAP Nepal was based on this thinking which was initiated in 1990



its goal of building a better society before the situation got totally out of control in terms of high dependency of external funding agencies on NGOs and lack of capacity of Nepali NGOs to take up growing responsibilities. SAP Nepal ventured into another area by starting the Long Term Partnership Program (LTPP).

Then came 1991 and multi-party democracy in Nepal. The year was not only a milestone in the political arena, but also in the field of development. SSNCC became SWC (Social Welfare Council) with liberal policies and a broader vision. NGOs got a change to be their own bosses. From 300 registered NGOs in 1990, the number of NGOs registered with SWC has jumped to 2100 in 1994. This alone can give a picture of how things have changed. In such a situation, SAP- Nepal got a chance to really flourish and work harder towards



SAP- Nepal diversified its programs through LTPP with a life span of five years to build up people's institutions at the local level. The main aim of LTPP was to support and strengthen the institutional capacity of local voluntary organizations by promoting institutionalization and self- reliance through participatory process of development which responds to the expressed needs of disadvantaged community.

In 1994 there was one more dimension in the SAP- Nepal evolution process. SAP-Nepal initiated NGO Resource Center or PATH project (Participatory Action Towards Holistic Development) in collaboration with SNV Nepal. It was turning point for SAP-Nepal to change its paradigm from need-based to right based approach. From 1994 onward SAP-Nepal has been actively involved in peace building, good governance and social accountability promotion intervention at different levels.

## 2. Major Interventions of SAP-Nepal in 2018/2019 (2075/2076)

### 2.1 A Round Table Discussion on Sapta Koshi Conclave



A round table discussion event titled “Sapta Koshi Conclave” was held on 19 July, 2018 at SAP-Falcha, Babarmahal, Kathmandu that was organized jointly by South Asia Partnership – Nepal and Quarter Millennium Celebration Committee (QMCCN). The major objective of the event was to create a loose networks of expert from various field for discussing the opportunities and challenges provided by the Sapta Koshi River (one of the biggest rivers of Nepal and located in eastern part of Nepal) in

both India and Nepal and the role that civil societies could play to reduce societal harms and increase societal benefits. Total of 16 participants representing experts of various sectors ranging from agriculture to flood expert contributed to the event.

The discussion in the event was centered on formation of civil society organization in border area of both India and Nepal that would also act as flood surveillance unit, resource and border encroachment surveillance unit, unit to deal with different environmental issues to reduce the societal harms and increase benefits from the Koshi River. The participants discussed about the possibilities of construction of large number of wetlands in both upstream and downstream of Sapta Koshi River that would also be source of livelihood for large number of inhabitants. Birendra Yadav, an environment activist, presented his idea about watershed and natural management and benefits of upstream-downstream co-management. He said, the citizen's legacy should be maintained by endorsing people's watershed policy. Professor Anada Adita added by highlighting the huge possibility of tourism growth in Saptari of Nepal. In administrative perspective, Kasi Raj Dahal gave suggestion that Sapta Koshi conclave program should be looked over by both local and provincial level government and decision should be taken collaboratively because the impact of the river is widespread than localized.



## 2.2 12<sup>th</sup> National Day Against Human Trafficking Day



It is a usual practice of SAP-Nepal to celebrate prominent days of national importance. National Day against Human Trafficking is one of such event. With joint collaboration of Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare and different I/NGOs working for human rights and against human trafficking a public rally was organized on the occasion of “12<sup>th</sup> National Day against Human Trafficking Day” on September 5, 2018 with the main objective to raise awareness among the public about the

human trafficking issue in Nepal. SAP-Nepal participated in the rally as one of the lead organization. The procession was led by the Nepal police band playing the cultural music.

More than 500 human rights activists, civil society member, government officials, Nepal Police and others marched in rally route starting from Bhrukuti Mandap to Sahit gate and ending in National Assembly Hall (Rastriya Sabha Griha) with the slogan in Nepali “The important essence of the federalism, let’s take responsibility, warn and collaborate to end human trafficking”. SAP Nepal team also demonstrated full support to the program by promoting the slogan of the program through banner. The rally program was followed by the main function at City Hall that included video presentation about the status of human trafficking in Nepal, inauguration program, poem recitation, honoring people who have made major contribution for reducing human trafficking incidences in Nepal, and speeches from the honorable guests of the program.





## 2.3 Mainstreaming ICT in CSOs governance



A public discourse on the theme “Mainstreaming ICT in CSOs governance: partnership with government and non-government sectors” was organized by South Asia Partnership Nepal (SAP-Nepal) on 5 October, 2018 at SAP-Falcha, Babarmahal, Kathmandu. The event provided platform to discuss the role of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in ensuring good governance of the CSOs and to explore opportunities for collaboration to form loose ICT forum for mainstreaming ICT in CSOs. SAP Nepal also took this opportunity to felicitate Mr. Narayan Neupane (Founder Chair, Global Nepal ICT Consortium) for his contribution in promoting ICT in development sector.

Narayan Neupane (Chair, Global Nepalese ICT Consortium) in his presentation on mainstreaming ICT in CSOs governance highlighted the importance of ICT for development of transitional country like Nepal that is planning on graduating to developing nation from least developed nation. He also pointed out that ICT has been extensively used in the development sector and that it could be mainstreamed in CSOs governance through establishment sector wise tele centers that is easily accessible to public and institutions. According to him such centers would bridge the digital divide between the public and institutions and ensure fundamental right of Right to Information of the public. He also mentioned the importance of global consortium for enhancing the ICT use in development of Nepal.

Hempal Shrestha (ICT Specialist, Advocate) in his presentation identified CSOs as an agent of change as well as first and maximum user of ICT as a tool of institutional information sharing. He also stated the six major roles of ICT in development that included: enhancing decision making, increasing employee productivity, improving team collaboration, creating business partnerships, enable global reach, and facilitating organizational transformation. He added, in the field of CSOs governance, ICT can be used as tool for ensuring the enhanced transparency and accountability through easier access to institutions information. He suggested that ICT could be mainstreamed for ensuring good governance through ICT capacity enhancement of CSOs. Hence, the presentations from the ICT experts and the discussion concluded that mainstreaming ICT in CSOs governance would extensively help to ensure their transparency and accountability.

## 2.4 International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR)



On the occasion of “International Day for Disaster Reduction 2018” with the main objective to raise awareness among the public about the disaster reduction, SAP – Nepal participated in the rally organized in Kathmandu organized by DpNet on Oct 7, 2018. More than 400 participants from organizations such as Red Cross Society, UNDP and other organizations working in environment and policy sector marched in rally route from Bhrikuti Mandap to Sahit gate and back to Bhrikuti Mandap, displaying banners and supports in support of the event and for raising awareness.

Almost all the banners reflected on the Sendai 7 targets as focus for last year and this year disaster day celebration along with the theme for 2018 “Reducing the economic loss of disaster”. Sap-Nepal actively participated in the event by displaying banner reflecting the Sendai 7 target and theme for 2018 and marching with the other participants in the rally. Such rally event and participation of CSOs helps build positive image of CSOs by highlighting the CSOs contribution in the disaster reduction in Nepal and its role in raising awareness about the disaster along with other social issues.



## 2.5 Rally on 16 Days Activism against Gender- Based Violence



SAP- Nepal participated in the rally organized by National Women Commission on Nov 25, 2018. The rally was organized to mark the beginning of the celebration of 16 Days Activism against Gender-Based Violence as a part of international campaign for challenging violence against women. More than 50 organizations participated in the rally with more than 200 participants who marched in the rally route from Exhibition Road to Ratnapark ending with Trikun-Sabha comprising concluding speech

from National Women Commission. SAP-Nepal also participated in the various other programs of 16 days Activism from Nov 25-Dec 10 conducted by organizations working for women rights. For instance: SAP-Nepal attended the event "I speak against gender based violence" (I speak Campaign) event organized in collaboration of Saathi and MAG. The event included sharing of the personal experiences of gender-based violence by the celebrity (Karishma Manandhar, Actress) and well know personalities. Such events would highlight the CSOs contribution in addressing the cases gender-based violence.



## 2.6 10<sup>th</sup> National Human Rights Magna Meet (December 7-14, 2018)

Being one of the organizers of 10<sup>th</sup> National Human Right Magna Meet, CS:MAP national advocacy partner SAP-Nepal organizes several events by mainstreaming human rights at forefront. Followed up with 6 subsequent events team was busy in celebrating historical movements at Kathmandu.



On 7 December 2018, team joined in preparatory meeting of 16 days of activism organized at SAP Falcha. The event addressed the state and non-state actors to develop action plans for the celebration. On 10 December 2018 the team engaged in national mass rally organized among 165 NGOs/ INGOs stating strategical movement of CSOs in federalization of Nepal.

Organizing rally on the occasion of “70<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Day” is a part of this celebration that was led by NGO Federation of Nepal. SAP Nepal along with other organizations working in the human rights sector actively participated in the rally and marched in the rally route from Bhrikuti Mandap to Ratnapark. The organizations participating in the rally promoted the international slogan “**Let’s stand up for equality, justice and human dignity**” and national slogans for human rights day celebration “Sustainable Development and Human Rights: Main concern of Nepal” respectively. Being a part of such mass campaign on human rights would eventually help CSOs involved in improving public perception.





Similarly, SAP-Nepal had been partnering for preparing and finalizing content of CSOs action to raise human right issues with substantial evidences through media documentary with Saujanya Media Pvt. LTD which has been circulated among national and international dignitaries.

CSOs contribution in securing Human rights in Nepal was organized on **13 December 2018** in Kathmandu which was attended by Member of National Human Right

Commission Ms. Mohana Ansari, Right Activist Mr. Kapil Shrestha and Ms. Lily Thapa. 70 participants (28 female) attended the event. Contributors of the event mentioned about the undeniable contribution made by CSOs for citizens cause and shared the challenges in present context. Finally, CSOs drew an attention of the NHRC to reinforce concerned officials to undertake cases regarding human right violation seriously.

In closing ceremony of Human Right Magna Meet held on 14 December 2018 at Administrative College, Jawalakhel and attended by 500 participants SAP-Nepal was honored as one of the best contributors for the cause by Magna Meet Committee.



## 2.7 International Youth Conclave 2018



The International Youth Conclave (IYC) 2018 was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 in joint collaboration of South Asia Partnership Nepal (SAP-Nepal), Teenage Society Nepal (TSN) and Setubandha.

IYC2018 assembled young leaders, innovators, peacemakers, youth activists and civil society pioneers from around the globe to encourage them in understanding global issues and its policies, and share their perspectives and knowledge on the topic. The theme for IYC 2018 was **"Home of today's and tomorrow's change makers."** The ultimate **goal** of IYC 2018 was to provide platform for **joint advocacy and action for achieving global peace and sustainable development** through mutual learning and shared responsibilities.

The objectives of the conclave 2018 were:

- To share the best practices through mutual learning on ideas and initiatives of advocacy tools to achieve sustainable development goals from the youth perspective and encourage youth to lobby them in their own respective governments.
- To share and explore the different ideas of inclusive policy-making, good governance, entrepreneurship development and SDGs.
- To promote the idea of cultural diplomacy through inter-cultural dialogue, cultural exchanges and sharing of experiences to achieve peaceful solutions to conflict.



Back in October 2017, SAP-Nepal had also hosted the first ever **Nepal-Bangladesh Youth Conclave** which was participated by 100 youths of Bangladesh and Nepal. The participants of the events had suggested to organize International Youth Conclave. Accordingly this event was organized.

## 2.8 Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Promotion

South Asia Partnership-Nepal (SAP-Nepal) has received the grant of CS: MAP/FHI360 issued under the "Civil Society Mutual Accountability Promotion". The aim of the grant is to strengthen enabling environment for civil society organizations in Nepal and anticipated objectives are:

- (i) Improved legal and policy framework based on international standards to create an enabling environment for civil society
- (ii) Improved public understanding and confidence in the role of civil society organizations (CSOs)
- (iii) Improved self-regulation of the sector and internal governance of CSOs

## 2.2 Brief Progress Achieved towards Project Objectives

### Objective 1: [Improved legal and policy framework for strengthening civil society engagement]

- Evidence based study on "The contribution of Civil Society Organizations in the Development of Nepal" was conducted under this project. That has figured out how Nepali CSOs have contributed and been contributing in promoting, strengthening, and institutionalizing democracy; ensuring good governance; empowering women, Dalits, minorities, and deprived sections of people; promoting livelihood and maintaining resilience of people; and providing supports on infrastructure, health/sanitation, and education. The draft of the report has been disseminated through 6 multi-stakeholders dialogues ensuring the participation of 12,531 persons with participation of female around 22 percent.
- 3 info-graphs namely (i) Internal and External Fund mobilization in Nepal, (ii) Contribution of CSOs in Community Forest, and (iii) Contribution of CSOs in Ensuring Women's Right have been prepared through media and illustration consultants. The draft info graphs has been shared among 500 participants including parliament members, political leaders, planners, prominent civil society leaders, opinion makers of national and province level.
- Five interaction sessions were conducted with total beneficiaries of 131 participants (33 Females) to share about policy reforms based on the key findings of the study report and the info-graphs; and contemporary issues related to policies influencing CSOs. As a result of which notably CSOs and political leaders and ex-ministers have agreed upon CSOs contribution and requested to develop lobby activity with policy makers and political leaders.
- The project team organized a series of lobby (around 50) meetings with selected influential political leaders and government representatives for reinforcing policy reforms in 6 different policy drafts (Social Welfare and Development Bill 2073, Three-point Circulation for CSOs by 77 DAOs, National Integrity Policy, Tax policy circulated by local government, draft Social Organization Act 2075, and draft Social Development Act 2075). As a result of these interventions, a considerable volume of recommendations of these events is being reflected in the revised draft bills of federal and provincial governments.
- 95 official and unofficial visits were carried out in municipalities, wards, political leaders, bureaucrats, parliamentarians by the program team of SAP-Nepal to share on pertinent issues related to CSOs and development. Such meetings were found effective in engaging government stakeholders in discussion forums.

## **Objective 2: [Improved Public Understanding in the Strategic Role of CSOs]**

- A small scale of survey was conducted in Makawanpur district with a diverse team of people (45 persons) to know their perception towards and expectation from CSOs; and CSO friendly policies and plan. Similar such two provincial events were organized with 240 diverse stakeholders (including 94 female) and collected and documented the growing concerns of participants that includes national vs. international practices to promote CSO friendly policies, growing tendency of government to scrutinize CSOs role etc. The events were found useful to compile probable policy inputs for the government policies being formulated at local, provincial and federal level.
- A series of consultations focusing on lobbying activities to replace Social Welfare Act 2049 through Social Welfare and Development Bill 2074 and Social Organization Act 2075 were organized and event was participated 70 participants including 23 females. The key findings and/or concerns of participants were shared with the concerned persons of Ministry of Finance requesting to incorporate in the preliminary Social Welfare and Development Bill drafted by Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW).
- SAP-Nepal has been providing platform for think tanks (A pool of professionals with self-motivated to function as opinion makers on contemporary issues of nation” for intellectual discourse on pertinent issues. It further expedited the process during the reporting period to share on CSO related issues. A several rounds of thematic discussions (5) on different issues including CSOs priority in changing context, emerging local taxation issues, oversight public resources, self-regulation and strategic role of CSOs were conducted with think tanks members.

## **Objective 3: [Improved internal governance and social accountability of selected CSOs]**

- Social Accountability (SA) tools were piloted in 15 selected CSOs of Makawanpur. The practitioners and observers reported that the guidelines for Community Score Card including indicators are found useful for CSOs interested in improving internal governance practices.
- Based on Social Accountability Framework designed in the training, selected 15 CSOs were mentored by multi-disciplinary team to practice SA tools ;Citizen Report Card and Social Audit .The project team was successful in conducting 32 events (15 community score cards, 2 community report cards, 15 social audits) mobilizing CSOs partners and concerned stakeholders. The events was participated by 899 participants (female 597)..
- National Knowledge sharing event was organized by inviting all concerned stakeholders of the project so as to share the major learning, gaps and way ahead in presence of 60 participants. It was found very effective platform due to presence of these influential participants

## **2.9 Interaction on amendment of National Human Right Commission Bill 2068**

"Interaction program on amendment of National Human Right Commission Bill 2068" was organized on 13 May 2019 with an objective to discuss the amendment of National Human Rights Commission Bill 2068 that is found to be contradicting with the constitution of Nepal, previous court verdicts and Paris Principle along with conveying the recommendations to the concerned body. The event was organized in joint collaboration of SAP- Nepal, Youth Advocacy Nepal SAP-Nepal and Human Right Magna Meet. The event was participated by 61 participants mainly comprising human rights activists.





## 2.10 Full Moon Symposium



Full Moon Symposium is a gathering of civil society, intellectuals, academicians and professionals from different field in every Full Moon Day. It is the gathers of citizens organized and united by common interest, goals, values or tradition and mobilized into collective action either as beneficiary or stakeholder of the development process

where discussion/ interaction on pertinent issues of the country along with the entertainment programs are carried out. The objectives of Full Moon Symposium are **a.** Formation of common forum to share on pertinent issues **b.** Preparation of roster of subject experts **c.** Discourse on pertinent issues and **d.** Documentation, publication and dissemination

A cycle of 12 fullmoon symposiums of a year on different topics has been completed in collaboration with different stakeholders. This year SAP-Nepal broke the cycle to research on further collaboration opportunities and its sustainability.

On May 18, 2019, Full Moon Symposium event on "Inauguration Ceremony of SETUBANDH (Bridging Hearts and Minds of People)," a study project on Nepal-India and Madhesh-Hill Relations was organized by SAP-Nepal in collaboration with SETUBANDH, Pragma Foundation, We the Citizens, Foundation Nepal Trust, and Samudaya. The event was chaired by Kedar Nath Upadhaya (Former Chief Justice of Nepal) and included 51 participants comprising civil society leaders and diplomats. The event created a platform for mass sharing of the initiative that would further take form a successful campaign for improving Nepal-India and Madhesh-Hill Relations.

In the inauguration event, Prof. Anand Aditya presented concept of the SETUBANDH which is more of a campaign to explore ways of improving Nepal and India boarder relations. He explained further the problem propositions, approaches and strategy of the concept.

SETUBANDH follows the 5D-5d approach and 3 track strategy.

5D-5d approach:

5D: Deliberate – Dialogue – Discuss – Discourse – Debate

5d: deepen - dam - dredge - divert – drain

3 Track Strategy:

- *Track One* (Political: Govt. to Govt.) – important but not adequate – Has survived over the last 7 decades but grossly insufficient, partially effective, largely inefficacious, and often with form unseen, huge side effect

- *Track Two* (Professional Knowledge Elite) – Instrumental yet complementary – Erratic, fragmented
- *Track Three* (Public: Citizen to Citizen) – Fundamental Base – By and large missing so far

In the event, the findings of initial observation tour of the boarder districts of Nepal and India from Mechi to Mahakali was shared by Prof. Anand Aditya. The study tour was conducted with an objective to explore the polarization of Nepal India Relations and reasons of alienation between Tarai-Madhes and Hill Communities. The CSOs leaders attending the event praised the concept and expressed their interest of supporting the campaign in every ways possible.

#### Lesson Learned:

- In order to ensure organizational sustainability there should be continuous and utmost for efforts for internal and external resource mobilization/management ensuring continuity and growth of every program intervention in both process and performance
- There is a need of continuous efforts for piloting social accountability tools and there by lobbying and advocacy for institutionalization of SA tools mainly at local and federal levels
- Institutionalization of GESI in CSOs governance process promotes inclusive organizational good governance

#### Way forward :

- Lobbying and advocacy for enabling environment of CSOs and gender sensitive governance
- Continued efforts for increasing image of SAP Nepal as an expert organization in the areas of promoting social accountability and gender sensitive good governance promotion
- Increasing presences of the organization as mutual accountability promotion in the changed federal context
- Explore possibilities of resource generation/mobilization at various level for continuity and growth of program interventions

## **Annex – I**

### **Success stories**

Success Stories on proactive action against regressive bill

#### **“Appreciative Intervention against the Regressive Bills”**

The existing legal provisions in the country regarding the formation of NGOs/CBOs governed by different policies are fairly enabling. However, some bills/acts are still causing barriers to the constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights (freedom of expression, assembly and association) and causing procedural hindrances. Hence, their amendment could further enhance the enabling environment for the operation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to contribute as governance and development partner of the government of Nepal. CSOs have been approaching government regularly through decades for amendment of such regressive bills/acts such as Social Welfare and Development Act 2073 and Social Organization Act 2075.

In the ever changing and complex world of policy advocacy, CSOs are increasingly recognizing the need to understand policy process better, use evidence to engage more effectively and develop strategies in order to engage with policy makers in a more systematic way in order to ensure sustained impact on the development of the country. In the recently changed political context of Nepal, government is now involved in the process of drafting policies based on the three tiers (local, provincial and central) are also amending few central level policies simultaneously. Hence, tapping this opportunity of influencing the policy process in “**right time through right action**”, SAP-Nepal took initiative following strategy of collaborative and evidence based lobbying, leading delegations and media publication.

Social development act as made public by the Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC) for the public consultation has been observed having few provisions as non-complying with the constitutional provisions and international human rights standards. SAP-Nepal initially conducted discussion in this matter with the policy makers of the draft by sharing the study conducted by Professor NirsimhaKahtri (Professor, Tribhuvan University) on the act. Professor Khatri in his presentation pointed out various loop holes in the draft along with the recommendations for amendments. Followed by the discussion, SAP-Nepal conducted a multi-stakeholder dialogue involving concerned ministries (MoWCSC, Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) discussing the relevancy of the act. As a result, MoF decided on halting the bill in 2073 due to lack of its relevancy and proposed on redrafting of the bill which has not yet been initiated.

Similarly, Social Organization Act 2075 which is in drafting process by MoHA comprised of some procedural hindrances resulting in cumbersome process of registration/renewal of CSOs. After MoHA handed over the responsibility of drafting the Social Organization Act to Nepal Law Commission (NLC) that would be replacing three-decade long policies (Association Registration Act 1997, National Directive Act 1961 and Social Welfare Act 1992), SAP-Nepal took an initiative to ensure the stakeholders participation in the policy making process and incorporation of recommendation from CSOs in the policy through strategic interventions of evidence based lobbying, coordination and collaboration with government, and media publication.

To initiate the discussion on this draft bill and to know the status of the amendment progress of Association Registration Act 1977, SAP Nepal had informal meeting on October 1, 2018 with Bashistha Kumar Ghimire (Under Secretary, MoHA) who also expressed his interest of participating in the initial level discussion of the draft bill. The informal meeting was followed by the systematic and phase wise lobbying at both national as well as provincial level. At the national level, the first phase of lobbying with Members of Parliament was conducted with the objective to develop common understanding of the policy to be drafted among the government and the CSO leaders. The second phase, multi-stakeholder dialogue with CSOs leaders, think tank and representatives of federations working for minorities and marginalized population highlighted on the priority sectors to be addressed in the act that included: categorization of CSOs, protecting fundamental rights, registration of CSOs in Office of Registrar, clear mission-vision and institutional framework. In the event, RajendraThapa (Undersecretary, NLC), who was involved in the drafting process took note of the recommendations to comfort registration hurdles of CSOs through five-yearly renewal of CSOs, easy and speedy monitoring mechanisms to incorporate in the draft for creating CSOs enabling environment.

To address potential gaps in federal and provincial acts for CSOs, the third phase of the lobbying was conducted in province 3 and 5 at Makwanpur and Butwal respectively in collaboration with NFN and

INSEC; where Mr. Thapa presented more improvised and matured draft that reflect federal government policy governing CSOs that was appreciated by the CSOs leaders at both provinces. These events also reflected on the flaws in provincial acts that may cease CSOs' freedom of expression and association. CSOs in both the provinces stood against the development of such regressive acts and expressed their interest to adopt the improved draft of federal act instead.

The final phase lobbying comprised of 2 events organized at national forum on January 24 and February 11, 2019 respectively, both devoted in parallel discussion with policy makers from SWC, MoWCSC, MoHA and NLC. In both the sessions, CSOs along with appreciating the positive changes that has been made in the draft also strongly opposed on the restrictive provisions (prior approval required before signing any of project, no duplication of organizations, seizure of CSOs without court verdict and many more) that require immediate revision before tabling to Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPCM) and Federal House of Parliaments.

SAP- Nepal was able to receive some tangible results through these short interventions. SAP-Nepal also had opportunity of putting forward the recommendation in written as well as oral form in different forums along with forming an alliance for policy advocacy to CSOs friendly environment. Followed by the SAP-Nepal initial discussion, similar discussion were also held by the CS:MAP partners. These collaborative efforts were successful in creating pressure for necessary amendment to be made in the regressive bills. This shows how one innovative and visible action can spur into an entire campaign. Hence, SAP-Nepal has decided on continuing the strategic interventions for influencing policies through its own endeavors. The result thus attained also reflects on CS:MAP objective of Strengthened legal and policy framework and improved public perception towards CSOs through active engagement of the CSOs and their contributions. To conclude, "**advocacy is a never ending process**", hence it should be continued framing new strategy with multi model and multi agency approach, building partnership with diverse nature of stakeholders and strengthening collaboration with existing national CS:MAP partners.