

South Asia Partnership –Nepal Annual Report Fiscal Year 2017/18 (16 July 2017 to 17 July 2018)



FY 2074/ 75



South Asia Partnership – Nepal
Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal
Email : sapnepal2041@gmail.com
Phone ; 4223230, 4223050

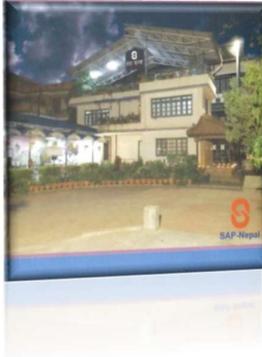
Table of Content

Contents

1. Overview of South Asia Partnership-Nepal (SAP-Nepal)	2
2. Major Interventions of SAP-Nepal in FY 2017/2018	6
2.1 Full Moon Symposium.....	6
2.2 Engagement with Local Governments : Role of NGOs/ INGOs.....	7
2.3 A Talk Program on Climate Change and Global Warming.....	8
2.3 69 th International Human Rights human Caravan	9
2.4 Election Observation.....	10
2.5 Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Promotion.....	14

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

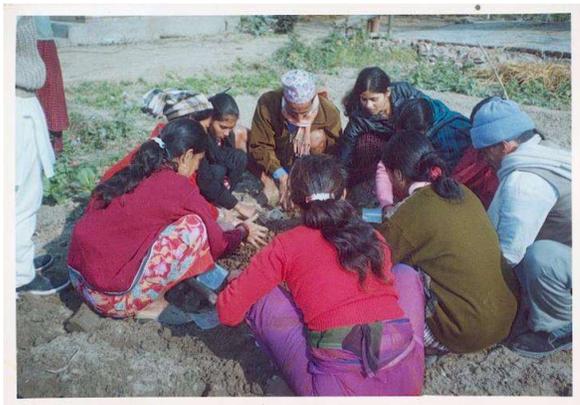
1.9 Evolution process of SAP Nepal

Through voluntary organizations in different guises existed well before the 20th 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



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 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).



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 2017/2018

2.1 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 .

Four Consultative meetings were conducted to explore potential areas of collaboration. The meetings explored and shortlisted the following areas for collaborative efforts: es of meetings were- **a.** Quarter Millennium Celebration **b.** National Symposium on 'Nation, Nationhood and Nationalism', **c.** South Asia Youth Conclave (Tourism), **d.** South Asia Year Book (on different theme), **e.** Get together of Professional on Full Moon Day and **f.** Setubandh-bridging the heart and mind of people

To execute the plan different different taskforce were formed such as Setu Bandha Movement, Full Moon Symposium etc. SAP-Nepal voluntarily took the responsibility of hosting secretariat and to function as coordinating organization.

The Opening Ceremony of Full Moon Symposium was held on 12 January 2017 at SAP-Falcha, chaired by Mr. Kedar Nath Upadhyay, Former Chief Justice.

Then after following Full Moon Symposiums were conducted over the year 2017/2018 on following topics:

1. Full Moon Symposium on Gender and Social Inclusion
2. Full Moon Symposium on Democracy and Development
3. Full Moon Symposium on Children and Development
4. Full Moon Symposium on Buddhism and Peace
5. Full Moon Symposium on Nepal's Foreign Policy: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
6. Full Moon Symposium on The Quarter Millennium of Nepal's Statehood – A festival for citizen – The roles of youth
7. Full Moon Symposium on The Dynamics of Ageing and the Aged in Nepal
8. Full Moon Symposium on Agendas of Quarter Millennium Celebration



2.2 Engagement with Local Governments : Role of NGOs/ INGOs



South Asia Partnership Nepal (SAP-Nepal) and Good Governance Programme/HELVETAS Nepal jointly hosted a learning sharing session among different NGOs/INGOs working on “Governance” theme. In fact, this meeting was a continuation of the earlier

learning sharing meeting which became a bit irregular. The session was held in SAP Falcha, SAP Nepal, Babarmahal on 3rd January 2018 (Wednesday) at 2.00 PM. The Surya Binayak Municipality, National Association of VDCs in Nepal (NAVIN) and NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) made brief presentations on their expectations and views in the session. The session was a unique opportunity to bring together around 28 participants which includes diverse array of representatives from local governments and their associations, civil society organizations and their association, different programme/projects and media.

After protracted and painful transition, Nepal has adopted a new constitution transforming the country into a federal democratic republic of Nepal. The rolling out of the constitution gained momentum. Local level elections in three phases were successfully completed and provincial as well as federal election was to take place very soon. The inter-governmental fiscal transfers as well as employee’s adjustment to the Palikas have already started and they are gradually becoming operational and functional.

Although the NGOs/INGOs sector is recognized for their enormous contributions and long-time involvement in growth, development and poverty reduction as well as effectively reaching the disadvantaged groups more meaningfully; these have continued to suffer from the allegations and misconception of being a donor-driven, “dollar harvesters” and non-transparent. At the same time, CSOs often criticize the existing legal framework for carrying forward the controlling legacy from the previous regime. They still suspect that the government is trying to restrict civic space in one way or another. It is felt that there has been increasing trend of government control either in the name of ‘effective coordination’, ‘avoiding duplication’ “consistency”, “transparency”, ‘uniformity’ etc. Because of these several significant positive as well as negative changes taking place in Nepal, it was felt that it was a time to get updates on these changes and its implications for NGOs/INGOs. So, the session was organized in a timely manner.

The session was moderated by Badri Manadhar, Programme Manager, HELVETAS Nepal. The session was an occasion to recognise, connect, and share information and knowledge with many relevant actors in the field of local governance. Issues faced both by local governments and NGOs/INGOs in the context of on-going federalization process were discussed. At the same time, many areas of cooperation and collaboration were also identified, the immediate priorities being the profile preparation and plan formulation following participatory methodologies. All participants put emphasis on continued discussion/dialogue between these entities, and on sharing lessons learned.

2.3 A Talk Program on Climate Change and Global Warming



South Asia Partnership -Nepal organized 'A Talk Program on Climate Change and Global Warming: Strategic Role of CSOs' in collaboration Nature Human Centric People's Movement (NHCPM) on June 25, 2018 at SAP-Falcha Kathmandu. This felicitation event was organized to honor Mr. Krishna Prasad Oli, as newly elected member of National Planning Commission. The event was chaired by Ms. Geeta Bhattarai, Chairperson of SAP-Nepal

and facilitated by Mr. Narendra Prasad Joshi, Executive Director of SAP-Nepal. Mr. Joshi also welcomed all participants and shared contribution made by Mr. Oli who has 4 decades long engagement combating global warming issues with Nepali CSOs.

Mr. Krishna Prasad Oli during his presentation highlighted on current status of climate change and strategic roles of CSOs. He also addressed the climate change as foremost intrinsic due to massive global energy consumption. This is due to man made infrastructures that created climatic hazards. As an example, in summer season the climate is experienced hotter and in winter it is doubled with cold weather. People's migration from rustic to urban lives, increased human population is another factor for climate change. There are routinely observed the climatic disaster more observed by USA's one study. During 5 months the extreme climate change is observed where Nepal contributes for 0.1% globally. If we observe this condition 'Stockholm Convention' also detains human history for the prolonged change in climatic disasters which is flood, sound pollution and many more to contribute global warming. 2 agendas were addressed i) limit to economic growth and ii) limit to livelihood growth.

In policies to change and repeal existing policies will always be appreciated by general public and CSOs. There were 41 participants (4 females) observed the event which also contributed for strategic involvement to amend public policies. For organic civic engagement with NPC, Mr. Oli had requested to CSO leaders to provide their valuable suggestions during promulgation of policies. As he also acknowledged CSOs contribution to implement those policies and ensured freedom of expression and freedom of Association. So far, the draft policies are more over designed for resilient Nepali society and socio-cultural transformation.

Lastly, facilitator for the event Mr. Joshi appreciated Mr. Oli's insight from world's social, economic, cultural and other aspects to deal with global warming and climate change. The event was ended up with closing remarks from Ms. Geeta Bhattarai soliciting example of The Government of KP Oli to national renovation and Mr. Oli of NPC for national planning processes.

2.3 69th International Human Rights human Caravan

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. The day was firstly declared by United Nation on December 10, 1948 which adopted the universal declaration of Human Rights. With the main Slogan “Our Rights, Our Freedom, Always” on 69th International Human Rights human caravan was organized showcased support for its root of cause. The march began from Bhadrakali to Santibatika, Ratnapark. In the program, South Asian Partnership Nepal actively participated with the banner.

Around 500 people participated representing various organizations with their banners. The human rally headed with the slogan like

implementing the constitution, End of Corruption, End human trafficking, Respect child rights, disable friendly environment, End of gender based violence and discrimination. The event ended with the conference by the renowned and prominent personalities like Ms. Lily Thapa President of Sankalpa, Deputy Chairperson of NEOC Mr. Kapil Shrestha, Chairperson of NGO Federation Mr. Mr. Gopal Lamsal.



2.4 Election Observation

2.4.1 Local Level Election Observation – 2nd Phase



SAP-Nepal is one of the national partners of National Election Observation Committee (NEOC) since 2008. As in past elections, SAP-Nepal staffs including board members participated in local election observation of May (1st Phase) and September, 2017 (2rd Phase).

During 1st Phase, SAP-Nepal participated in different phases (pre, during and post) of local election observation. Altogether 14 different polling centers of Kathmandu Valley and 2 vote counting centers of Kathmandu

and Lalitpur were observed and report of the same were prepared and forwarded to NEOC. SAP-Nepal also provided Vehicle support to NEOC observers.

During 2nd Phase, Altogether 15 different polling centers of Sarlahi district, province 2 (Haripur, Bagmati and Lalbandi Municipality) were observed .

During Observation following few crucial aspects were noted down:

- Local Election was concluded in peaceful environment.
- Voters are seen curious and excited to vote . Women voter are seen more in comparison to the male voters.
- Lines for the women, people with disability, senior citizens, pregnant and lactating mothers and sick people were arranged separately.
- Suggestions given by election observers were taken positively and implemented by Securities personnel and Election officer. Election officers of the most of the polling centre in Sarlahi has suggested to improve more on the voters' education.

Violation of Code of Conduct:

- Publicity poster/ flags of political parties were still posted/hanging on the wall nearer to the polling centers.
- Some polling centers were located in the small area which cause difficulties in line management and arrange toilet and water facilities for voters.
- However Political parties have arranged vehicles for the aged voters, PWD voters but due to lack of wheelchair facilities in pooling centers , they were taken to the booth very uncomfortably.

- Most of the voters were unaware about the election procedure such as stamping and folding ballot papers. In some centers, voters were being taught inside the polling centre .
- Due to confusing ballot paper and lack of voters' education, it took 6 – 8 minutes for one voter to cast a vote, which caused the other people to wait for a long time.
- In some places, political party members are still conversing with voters even in the voting line.
- Political party members including candidates are massively using vehicles with Indian number plates during local elections.



Suggestions:

- More focus should be given to voters' education. If the election commission could not do it alone then this responsibility should be given to local CSOs.
- Focus should be given to the size and color of ballot paper.
- Selection of polling centers should be done properly. Toilet and drinking water facilities should be provided adequately.
- Security personnel seem to be inadequate. Women security personnel were less deployed than the male. Female election staff as well as security personnel should be deployed in a 50% ratio.

2.4.2 House of Representative and Province Election Observation

According to plan, SAP-Nepal team consisting of 6 members travelled to Lamjung Besisahar from Kathmandu for pre-during and post provincial level election observation at Lamjung and Manang district. 3 polling centers of Lamjung districts were visited a day before the election. On the day of election on 10th Mangsir 2074, (26 November 2017) team started its regular election observation at Besisahar, Lamjung dividing into two groups. Team managed to observe altogether 8



polling centers in Lamjung district. During post-election observation in Manang district from 11-15 Mangsir, 2074 (27 Nov to 1 Dec 2017), team met political leaders, police officials, government authorities, election officer. The team had also informal discussions and area

ocular visit of ballot box collection centres. It was found the ballot boxes were put at district court safely. Approximately 74% voters were casted their vote during election in Manang.

During Observation:

- Federal and provincial election was concluded in peaceful environment. Voters were seen curious and excited to cast their vote.
- Women voters were found more empowered in Manang than Lamjung districts.

Violation of Code of Conduct:

- Publicity poster/ flags of political parties were still posted/hanging on the wall nearer to the polling centers.
- Some election officers of remote polling centres in Lamjung were allowing both husband and wife together to cast their vote even though she was fit and fine.

Husbands were stamping on ballot paper on behalf of wives without consent. Team observed the violation of voting rights of women and informed the election officer.

- In some remote centres in Lamjung, same people were being allowed to casted vote on behalf of senior citizen that he brought from home to centre. However Political parties had arranged some people for the aged voters and people with disability(PWD) voters but due to lack of wheelchair facilities in pooling centers, they were taken to the booth very uncomfortably.





2.5 Civil Society: Mutual Accountability Promotion

Since the project intends to strengthen enabling environment for CSOs and media and furthermore acknowledge the contribution of CSOs in Nepal, SAP-Nepal implements the project by fostering more legitimate, accountable and resilient Nepali Civil society that is capable of advancing the public interest. It will achieve this goal by accomplishing its objectives, while incorporating Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) across all project activities.

South Asia Partnership-Nepal (SAP-Nepal) has received the grant of CS:MAP 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

Progress Achieved towards Project Objectives

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

Activity 1.1: [Publication/ Dissemination of study report on CSOs contribution in Nepal's Development]

In this annum draft on CSOs contribution report was shared with the parliamentarians in the first quarter and final draft was received from the consultant. Still the report seeks to collaborate some significant evidences that CSOs had offered in the national development. The event informed to the parliamentarians about the sectoral fields for improving favorable environment for CSOs. Meanwhile, 9 province and federal parliamentarians had acknowledged CSOs' contribution with current challenges. As a result, the Province 3 has now incorporated some significant alignment in its NGO Registration Act. The content of the report is being edited by Professor Anand Aditya (Former Professor of Political Science at Tribhuvan University) assuring the quality of the report prior to dissemination. SAP Nepal team has been continuously working for improving the quality of the report by incorporating and analyzing new case studies. Till date 4 case studies (Kamaiya freedom, Women Rights and Human Trafficking, Community Forestry Users Groups, and Fast Track Code and continuous hearing) has been prepared and shared with FHI360.

Activity 1.2: [Infographics design based on research key findings of improving CSOs image]

Team has prepared and shared draft of 3 info-graphic to FHI360. First two info-graphic highlight the contribution of CSOs in women rights and community forestry. The third infographic on Truth Versus Hype has provided clear picture of the foreign fund mobilization in Nepal which highlights that government is mobilizing larger portion of the fund as compared to the CSOs rating 94.47% to 5.53%. The evidence-based document would contribute in image building of CSOs and clarify on allegation on CSOs. The infographic was shared in social sites i.e. facebook, SAP-Nepal website, twitter, Mero

Report, Youtube etc. The evidence-based product will be shared with NFN-Nepal and its consortium and government agencies.

Activity 1.3: Organize Interaction sessions with champion leaders on study findings and recommendations

Five interaction sessions on study findings were conducted. The events were participated by 131 participants (33 Females). As a result of the events a number of CSOs leaders, youth political leaders and ex- minister had agreed upon CSOs contribution and requested to develop lobby activity with policy makers and political leaders. The report has helped to change the perception of few bureaucrats, politicians and policy makers about the allegation towards CSOs as dollar farming that has no ground reality. One of the interactive sessions was held on the contemporary issue of tax policies related to I/NGOs recently implemented by the various municipalities. The event informed the extreme tax related issue for CSOs and possible way outs. It was realized by the participants that without lack of consultation with the CSOs such policies will abandon the essence of Constitutionally assured freedom of association. The evidence on the tax circulation shows the higher tax scheme for Nepali CSOs.

Activity 1.4: Facilitate Lobby events with government policy makers and leading political parties

Two lobby events were conducted with total beneficiaries of 74 participants (25 Females). The team lobbied for current challenges faced by the CSOs among the newly elected members of Parliament based on the findings of the CSOs contribution report. As a result of such parallel meeting have assured CSOs meaningful participation in law making process (Good Governance Act 2064). The team also lobbied with policy makers, parliamentarians, politicians and CSOs leaders against CSOs being alleged of being dollar grubber through sharing of evidence-based research of foreign/internal aid mobilization of Nepal. The team also lobbied against the contemporary issue of District Administration Officer's 3 points circulation regarding property declaration of every member of voluntary organization including NGOs. It was realized that such practice would discourage freedom of association and expression.

Activity 1.5: Coordination meeting with government agencies

Team has conducted more than 37 events one on one coordination meeting mostly with newly elected government officials and bureaucrats in this reporting period to bridge gaps between CSOs and government; and forge collaboration that enables civil society to actively contribute to state building process. Such meetings have provided platform for information sharing and constructive dialogues with government for developing congenial environment in policy advocacy. It has also contributed image building of CSOs and change perception of newly elected members towards CSOs that would eventually help in planning processes and address concerns of CSOs towards NGO Management Act, National Integrity Policy, NGO Registration Act and DAO's 3 point circulation. Bashistha Kumar Ghimire, Under Secretary of MoHA shared the current challenges of CSOs and had assured to reflect in NGO Registration Act 2075. Now the policy is being drafted by Nepal Law Commission.

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

Activity 2.1: Implementation of the perception survey/research recommendation

Team set up 6 multi-stakeholder dialogues with total beneficiaries of 93 participants (21 Females) with policy makers, bureaucrats, political leaders, CSOs, teachers/professors, and representatives of ethnic, dalit, youth, LGBTI groups to discuss key-issues/findings to improve perception on CSOs and present-day roles of CSOs in law/policy making process as well as localization of the SDG 16. The discussion

on the opportunities and challenges regarding number of CSOs in Nepal, categorization of the CSOs, creating effective monitoring platform were found fruitful to develop common understanding among concerned stakeholders. The bureaucrats suggested that CSOs need to demand their meaningful participation in law/policy making process.

Activity 2.2: [Community Consultation: Workshop on Key Scrutiny Issues Regarding CSOs Perception Among CS:MAP National Partners]

A meeting was organized with Government Officials of Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) , Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) regarding status and updates on draft social welfare and development bill. It was observed that there are multiple flaws in Social Welfare and Development Bill i.e. section 24 indicating base line survey of every project, Section 20 indicates termination of agreement with INGOs, Section 30 indicates accounting through A class banks etc.

Youtube link: - https://youtu.be/Td_GJHfy2Bw

Activity 2.3: [Meeting with think tank to enhance strategic role of CSOs]

The learning/findings from piloting of the Social Accountability (SA) Tools in Makwanpur and study of foreign fund mobilization in Nepal was shared among the think-tank groups including academicians and CSO leaders and valuable comments and recommendations of participants were incorporated in the report. The SA tool learnings were later shared with CSOs, parliamentarians, government line agencies and media of Makwanpur at sub-national level, while finding of foreign fund mobilization was shared in national level among the CS:MAP partners and government line agencies to qualify and validate report findings. During the reporting period contemporary issues of tax policies and NGO Registration Act 2018 was discussed among the think tank groups for their strategic inputs prior to discussing these issues with parliamentarians and policy makers. The tax event gave a new avenue to discuss, clarify and justify tax related policy endorsed by local units for I/NGOs. Similarly, think tank gave the strategic suggestion for proposing development of holistic umbrella act for governing overall activities of the I/NGOs by replacing existing acts and filling in existing policy gaps for stronger state mechanism. Total participants of the activity were 70 (13 Females).

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

Activity 3.1: [Social Accountability Promotion Training for internal governance of CSOs in selected CSOs in Makwanpur]

The learning document has been shared with FHI360 to be printed and disseminated into wider stakeholders.

Activity 3.2: Community Score Card Practice, Social Audit, Citizens report card practice, Public Hearing

Altogether team has completed 10 events of Community Score Cards (CSC), 2 events of Citizen Report Card (CRC), 10 events of Social Audits (SA) in 15 different local CSOs at Makwanpur with total beneficiaries of about 200 participants mostly female. The key findings of the training and practice of the 3 Social Accountability tools was shared among the CSOs in Makwanpur through a public hearing event. Deputy Mayor of Makwanpur District Coordination Committee (DCC) and district chapter of NGO Federation Nepal had committed regular practice of social audit of its partners. Realization of its

essence into public sphere by government and local CSOs, team feels it is one of the great achievement of the practices that indicates the initiative in improving the internal governance of the CSOs of Makwanpur.

Activity 3.3 Organize National Knowledge Sharing Workshop for Developing commonly agreed framework amongst national CSOs

A national level knowledge sharing event was organized to share on finding of piloting of SA Tools including Community Score Cards, Citizen Report Card, Social Audit with national level stakeholders. Which was participated by 80 participants (48 Females). The government line agencies and parliamentarians were positive about the replication of the pilot SA tools in many districts to attain the bigger goal of attaining accountability and transparency goals of the nation.

Activity 3.4 [Day Celebration]

It is a usual practice of SAP-Nepal to celebrate prominent days of national importance. In order to continue this practice SAP-Nepal celebrated 3 events during the reporting period that include National Democracy Day, International Women's Day and 12th National Day Against Human Trafficking by participating in rally and march passes organized by government authorities.

Cross Cutting Interventions

3.1. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Activities

SAP-Nepal has its own GESI policy. As per the policy GESI aspect is considered as cross cutting issue of all the events of SAP Nepal. So, due consideration is given to ensure fair participation of women, Dalit, LGBTI, ethnic communities and other social excluded communities.

3.2. Youth Engagement

Youth engagement has been ensured in events organized by SAP-Nepal. In order to ensure it, in every event an attendance of participants is taken in a standard formats that has a column of age category. An event titled "Talk program on Climate Change and Global Warming" was organized to know the view of youth on climate change and global warming.