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SAJHEDARI BIKAAS PROGRAM

Sajhedari Bikaas
Quarterly Report # 2 April-June, 2013

Produced by Pact

(Contract No: AID-367-C-13-00003)

Program Areas/Program Elements: A06/A025, A08/A036, A06/A026,
A08/A025, A08/A036, A18/A074

Submitted to

**THE DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE OFFICE
THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)
NEPAL MISSION**

Maharajgunj, Kathmandu, Nepal

Submitted to USAID
July, 2013

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Acronyms

CeLRRd - Center for Legal Research and Resource Development

CNAS - Center for Nepal and Asian Studies CO – Contracting Officer

CoP – Chief of Party

COR – Contracting Officer’s Representative

DCoP – Deputy Chief of Party

EA – Equal Access

GESI – Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

InSTEDD – Innovative Support to Emergencies, Diseases and Disasters

IP – Implementing Partner

LDO – Local Development Officer

LOE – Level of Effort

MoFALD – Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development

MoHA– Ministry of Home Affairs

NEPAN - Nepal Participatory Action Network

PBMS – Performance Based Management System

PMP – Project Management Plan

SWC – Social Welfare Council

VDC – Village Development Committee

WCF – Ward Citizen Forum

YI – Youth Initiative

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I. Summary of the political and development environment in the targeted geographic areas

Political Situation

This quarter witnessed some positive moves in terms of shifting the date of the Constituent Assembly (CA)-II from May to November this year and action against elimination of the *Kamalari* system. However, disruption of voter registration and citizenship distribution work, rise of *Kamalari* Rights Movement and landless peoples' agitation, and seizure of private land by the CPM-Maoist seriously affected the operational area, during last quarter. Environmentally, floods and landslides presented challenges to full enfranchisement mobilization across the political landscape in the country, and in Mid-West and Far-West regions in particular.

On 13 June, the Interim Electoral Council of Ministers (IECM) announced the next Constituent Assembly (CA) elections for 19 November 2013. The announcement followed the promulgation of the final piece of electoral legislation which had been delayed due to the High Level Political Committee's (HLPC) failure to agree on proposed electoral provisions. Most notably, the one percent threshold of national votes to win a proportional representation seat (which would have excluded many smaller parties from the constitution drafting process) was dropped. However, the provision barring people convicted of serious crimes from contesting elections was retained. Meanwhile, the IECM established a Constituency Delineation Commission that is mandated to re-delineate constituencies on the basis of the 2011 Census data. The commission has been given a month to deliver its findings.

The announcement of the election date angered those parties that remain opposed to the process and IECM and HLPC, including the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist), the *Madhesi* People's Rights Forum-Nepal (MPRF-N) and the Federal Socialist Party (FSP). They claimed that the High Level Political Committee has not paid attention to their demands. On 16 June, together with a number of smaller opposing political parties, they enforced a nation-wide *bandh*. However, an expected program of protests did not materialize perhaps reflecting ideological and tactical differences amongst this loose alliance.

Political emphasis has now shifted to bringing opposing parties 'on board' and whether the larger parties will be willing to make necessary concessions in this regard is the paramount question impacting upon the realization of CA elections in November. Constituency re-delineation, and the ratio of proportional representation seats within the next CA, are important issues to resolve, though they will likely be complex and potentially contested. Many observers also remain uncertain in regards to the commitment of the major political parties to holding elections within the given timetable.

Operational Space in Mid-West and Far-west Regions

Protest across Mid-West and Far-West to end *Kamalari* system

Various *Tharu* groups intensified their protest programs following the death of *Kamalari*¹ Srijana Chaudhary (a 12-year old girl from Dang District who worked as a bounded child laborer in Kathmandu) during March. Though the Government of Nepal (GoN) declared the *Kamalari* practice illegal in July 2000, some activists estimate there are over a ten thousand (10,000)² *Kamalaris* engaged across Nepal. The Joint Struggle Committee then imposed a *bandh* on five *Terai* districts (Kailali, Kanchanpur, Bardiya, Banke and Dang) from 16-17 April claiming that the authorities failed to take action on the alleged murder. The agitating groups have warned of launching sterner protests if their demands are not addressed, including further *Terai bandhs*.

To pressure the Government to speed up the investigation of the death of *Kamalari* girl in Kathmandu, the United Committee for the Elimination of *Kamalari* Practice (UCEKP) enforced a *bandh* in the *Terai* districts of the Mid and Far Western Regions from 4 to 7 June. As a result, vehicle movement came to standstill and markets and educational institutions remained closed. This was particularly so in Dang District, where baton-wielding police charged a sit-in protest on 3 June. The *bandh* was called-off after demonstrators and the Government reached a 10-point agreement³ on 7 June. However, being frustrated with the slow implementation of the agreement, the UCEKP on 23 June threatened to resume their protest programs if their demands are not met by 17 July.

Land seizures continue as a source of tension in the Mid-West and Far-West regions

Land seizure (both new cases and relating to seizures from during the conflict) remained an outstanding issue leading to tension in some districts of the Mid-West and Far-West regions. On 3 April, cadres of CPN-Maoist reportedly captured over 30 hectares of land in Bardiya District. There were also two reported incidents in Kailali District that CPN-Maoist cadres had planted their party flag on conflict-era seized land, reaffirming that the land is still under their control and warning the owner not to attempt to cultivate or sell the property.

On 14 June, the All Nepal Peasants Association (ANPA) seized 20 hectares of land in Phattepur VDC of Banke District. The land was registered under the name of four local people, reportedly all cadres of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M). The ANPA-R accused the UCPN-M of having registered the land under the name of its party cadres while the ANPA-R claims that the land belongs to the government.

¹ “A *Kamalari* is a female from the *Tharu* community working as domestic helper in the house of landowner or house owner with the verbal or written commitment of her guardians or mediators for one year, receiving meager wages in terms of cash, crops or continuing education” (*Guideline on Education for freed Kamalaris*, Ministry of Education, 2012). According to different *Kamalari* advocacy and welfare organizations, *Kamalaris* are usually not provided proper food, clothing and accommodation and usually are not allowed to go home and meet their parents (and frequently are not allowed to go school) as they are confined to the premises of the house in which they work. Many *Kamalaris* are victims of verbal, physical and sexual abuse.

² Ref: <http://planyouth.ca/projects/kamalari-abolition-project-kap-nepal>.

³ In the 10-point agreement the government also agreed to release all those arrested while enforcing the *bandh*, bear the medical expenses of *Kamalaris* who were injured in the police baton charges, distribute identity-cards to former *Kamalaris*, form a committee to rescue all *Kamalaris*, carry out free and fair investigation into the cases of former *Kamalaris*, announce the end of the *Kamalari* system

While much conflict-era land has been returned to landowners (though often under conditions), there remain a significant number of outstanding cases. Seized land is not only a political symbol, but also a means of revenue generation. Interlocutors in Dang District reported that over the past several years, local Maoist leaders in the district are believed to be asking landowners to pay 25 percent of the current land value in order to get the land returned. This issue may become even more salient as parties find they need to raise finances in advance of any new election. During this reporting period USAID mobilized four implementing partner organizations to address Conflict Mediation and Mitigation under an APS mechanism. Mercy Corps and Saferworld will be working in the Mid-West and Far West regions on real Property-based conflict resolution processes. The Project will be meeting with Mercy Corps and Saferworld, as well as The Asia Foundation, all of whom have conflict and dispute mediation programming being implemented in the Far West and Mid-West districts – some overlapping the Sajhedari Bikaas districts and VDC's.

Obstruction of citizenship and voter registration

The CPN-Maoists were reported to have only carried out obstruction activities at a mobile camp in Gulariya, Kanchanpur, on 9 May. CPN-Maoist cadres reportedly broke two computers and seized some election documents. Police reportedly arrested four CPN-Maoist cadres following a clash at the site. The next day, CPN-Maoists imposed a *Chakkajam* in Kanchanpur protesting against voter registration and demanding the release of the arrested cadres.

On 15 May, CPN-Maoist cadres reportedly demonstrated and threw stones at police personnel at the mobile camp in Maintada VDC, Surkhet, who responded with tear gas. Two police personnel and three CPN-Maoist cadres were injured in the incident and police arrested nine CPN-Maoist cadres involved in the obstruction at the camp. Overall, the camp services were disrupted for only about half a day. CPN-Maoist reacted to the arrests with a Surkhet *bandh* on 16 May; however the integrated mobile camp at Maintada VDC continued, albeit with the deployment of additional security forces.

On 19th May, CPN-Maoist cadres reportedly obstructed a voter registration and citizenship certificate mobile team at Urahari VDC, Dang and clashed with security forces, with two police reportedly injured. Following the incident, an additional 125 security forces were mobilized and camp services were resumed. In Dang district again, on 20 May, the CPN-Maoist cadres reportedly clashed with security personnel while attempting to disrupt the citizenship distribution and voter registration process in Tarigaun VDC, with 12 CPN-Maoist cadres and two police injured during the incident. Due to the incident, the services from the camp were disrupted for about two hours.

Overall, the majority of obstructions in some of the Mid-West districts were limited and localized. Though CPN-Maoist cadres attempted to disrupt citizenship and voter registration services, camps were successfully carried out in Banke, Bardiya and Dang districts.

Obstruction for landlessness activism in the Far West Region

The issue of landlessness is occasionally a cause of tension and conflict in the Far West districts. During May, there were a number of sit-in programs and other protest actions by squatter associations and landless people in Kanchanpur and Kailali districts. On 23 May, the Cabinet decided to dissolve the 'Landless Squatters' Problem Resolution Commission' that was established in January 2012 to collect applications from landless people, issue identity cards to them after verification and recommend possible solutions to tackle landless people's issues.

The Far West Region has witnessed many effective *bandhs* and other protest programs enforced by landless people in past. Tensions and clashes have also occurred between landless people and local authorities, as well as between landless people, local communities and forest user groups, since most landless people live in camps on government or community forest land. New protests should be expected in the coming weeks and months in response to the dissolution of the Commission.

Confrontation between police and Buddhists in Surkhet District

On 25 May, a confrontation between police and Buddhists occurred while the latter attempted to install a statue of Lord Buddha in Kankrebihar (an archeological conservation area) in Surkhet District. Earlier, nine organizations including the Bhrahmin Samaj, Chhetri Samaj Nepal, Dashanami Samaj and Satnami Samaj had submitted a memorandum to the local administration against establishing the statue in the Kankrebihar area. In the confrontation, 17 Buddhists and six police personnel were injured. The Chairperson of the Buddha Gumba Construction and Protection Committee (BGPC) in Surkhet condemned the use of police force claiming that the police baton-charged the Buddhists while they were praying. Following the incident, NEFIN carried out a *bandh* in Surkhet from 26 to 27 May. In response to the *bandh* the local administration met with the BGPC on 27 May and agreed to release the arrested persons, return the statue and proceed with the request for approval of higher authorities for establishing the statue in Kankrebihar area.

Impact of monsoon related flooding

The early monsoon during the third week of June triggered large floods in different parts of Nepal. The Mid-West and Far-West districts were the hardest hit by the monsoon, compared to other parts of the country. The intense rainfall that began on 15 June caused massive floods and landslides in the six Sajhedari Bikaas Project districts. The water level in many rivers, mainly in Mahakali, Karnali, East Rapti, Seti, and Babai rose dramatically. The floods from Mahakali and Karnali Rivers affected many areas in Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya districts which caused loss of properties in many VDCs.

The Nepal Red Cross Society (NCRCS) reported that two people are missing and 4,820 families have been directly affected by flooding. Out of these, 1,880 families were displaced from their original locations in Bardiya, Kailali, and Kanchanpur districts. The report documents that 354 houses were partially destroyed, whereas 144 houses were completely destroyed by floods and

landslides. In terms of losses, Kailali, Kanchanpur, and Bardiya districts were the most highly affected by the flood and landslides.

Relevant national trends that may impact upon the Project

National Budget

For the recent past, Nepal's district and sub-district development has been adversely impacted by not having full budgets allocated and available for expenditure on-time. This has huge implications over social security and other local development priorities. The Government of Nepal (GoN) is preparing to introduce the full budget for the next fiscal year 2013/14 by mid-July.

The budget is said to focus primarily on election and security purposes. The budget would also support the proper implementation of the ongoing projects, as stated by the Finance Minister of the Interim Election Government. The Project will face some negative impacts if the fiscal year budget does not prioritize local development. Manipulation of the fiscal budget allocation and disbursement during the electoral process is not always fair and transparent. At the same time, Nepal is facing increasing problems of "unsettled" (non-reconciled expenditures, according to the annual Office of the Auditor General's audit of accounts) public expenditures that have direct impact on public financial management of local bodies. As a governance project, these and other budget-related issues will have short and long term impact on the Project.

Election Constituency Delineation Commission

A stay order of the Supreme Court ordered the government on 16 April 2013 to form a delimitation commission. On June 13, 2013, the government formed an Electoral Constituency Delineation Commission (ECED) under the leadership of a former Supreme Court Justice. The ECDC is tasked to submit its report to the government by July 25, 2013 which clearly indicates that the Commission will submit recommendations which may not be very sufficient comparing to the last two commissions. The major challenge before the ECDC is to whether stick with the old practices or go beyond the set norms and adopt something new. There are debates on whether the electoral constituencies should be based on inclusiveness and proportional representation of the marginalized communities or whether this should be based on the number of voters in the respective area. A strong voice from civil society is being raised whether the Commission should extend its area from 35 to all 240 constituencies. The Commission's report or recommendations will definitely going to raise conflict and can even affect the poll scheduled for this November unless political parties find an alternative to satisfy the need of all citizens and corners of the country while deciding on the electoral constituencies.

II. Review of accomplishments towards meeting the intended outcomes for the period as defined in the work plan.

District/VDC Selection

During this reporting period, based on the findings of the three Rapid Assessments on governance, conflict, and existing community development infrastructure, Sajhedari Bikaas finalized the six districts in close coordination with USAID and MOFALD. Following the finalization of the districts, the program team visited the district line agencies, especially the District Development Committees and Local Development Officers (LDOs), to present the findings and recommendations on the final 115 VDCs that were selected as part of the Rapid Assessments. Once these VDCs were endorsed by the LDOs, the VDCs were further disaggregated for the Phase 1 and Phase 2. The Project will implement activities in 25% of VDCs (58 VDCs) in 6 districts in first phase (2.5 years) and move the same activities to another 25% of VDCs (57 VDCs) in 6 districts in the second phase of the Project (last 2.5 years).

Sajhedari Bikaas VDC Breakdown-Phase 1 and Phase 2											
District	Total # of VDCs	Total Sajhedari VDCs	Phase 1-VDC Performance ⁴				Phase 2-VDC Performance				
			High	Average	Low	Total Phase 1 VDCs	High	Average	Low	Not Analyzed VDC during RA ⁵	Total Phase 2 VDCs
Kanchanpur	19	10	2	1	2	5	1	1	3	0	5
Kailali	42	21	2	4	5	11	5	1	4	0	10
Dang	39	20	2	3	5	10	2	2	6	0	10
Bardiya	31	16	3	3	2	8	1	2	5	0	8
Banke	46	23	4	4	4	12	0	3	8	0	11
Surkhet	50	25	3	5	4	12	1	2	9	1	12
Total	227	115	16	20	22	58	10	11	35	1	57

Baseline Survey

With the contract modification approved by USAID in the first week of June, the PBMS unit submitted the draft baseline survey protocol, methodology, and draft study tools with an anticipated turn-around of 10 days. The baseline survey will allow the Project to measure performance toward the overall results and objectives, consistent with the PMP.

With the mix of quantitative and qualitative sources of information, consistent with the PMP, the survey will provide adequate data to measure impact, as defined in ADS 203.1.1(a), should Pact or the Mission decide to undertake such an evaluation at or near the conclusion of the Project.

⁴ Rapid Assessments disaggregated the VDCs into three categories (High Performing, Average Performing, and Low Performing) based on their performance in 18 indicators related to governance and human development.

⁵ In the Rapid Assessments, Matela VDC of Surkhet was not analyzed due to unavailability of consistent data. However, based on the discussion with the LDO and recent Disadvantaged Group Mapping, Matela was also included in the Phase 2.

As part of the overall impact evaluation framework of the Project, the baseline survey will utilize the phased implementation strategy of the Project, providing a unique opportunity to use controlled trial study methodology at population level to demonstrate the impact of the Project.

At the writing of this report, Interdisciplinary Analysts (IDA), a national social science research institute, has been selected to conduct the baseline survey. It is anticipated that the field work will begin from August, with the final report submitted by the end of September 2013. The Project will utilize mobile technology platform, with GIS capability integrated, to conduct household surveys. Collected field-level data will be immediately sent to a central cloud-based database, and the results will be reviewed for quality control and analyzed in real time. As part of Pact's global mobile technology use, the usage of mobile platform will allow real-time monitoring of data as it comes in, eliminating the need for entry, and making it possible to see what common issues are and respond immediately. After the baseline is completed, Sajhedari Bikaas aims to roll out this technology for ongoing program monitoring in real-time.

Semi-Annual Workplan

During this reporting period the second Semi-Annual Workplan was produced and submitted to USAID/COR for review and approval. After follow-on meetings with the COR and ACOR, Pact/Sajhedari submitted a third revision of the Semi- Annual Workplan that was reviewed and approved by USAID.

OBJECTIVE A: Enabling Environment for Community Development

Result 1 – Early responses that address the causes and consequences of instability and conflict are institutionalized

(1) Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)/Community mediation

(1) Conflict Assessments

SMS-based Violence Reporting System

Of all other functions, the PBMS system will also include development of SMS-based violence reporting system. In close coordination with the implementing partners (IPs), Sajhedari Bikaas will introduce short messaging service (SMS) and geospatial information system (GIS) data collection, allowing longitudinal mapping of local disputes/violence, their types, status and duration. The Project aims to utilize this information to; 1) track trends of violence that can have potential impact over the Project; 2) direct more in-depth quarterly and annual conflict assessments based on the results of the SMS reports; and 3) apply this information to the Project's ADR/CM methodology and practices.

Based on the requirements set by Sajhedari Bikaas and its implementing partners, InSTEDD is creating the SMS system mechanism. This tool will provide frontline and real-time data for decision making. In the initial phase, the system will be tested internally by the Sajhedari Bikaas before rolling out to the Implementing Partners, thus providing local community mediators (CMs) with additional data for their mediation work.

At the writing of this report, with the contract being signed with InSTEDD, the draft technical requirements for the system has been finalized following various rounds of discussions with the internal Sajhedari Bikaas team, InSTEDD, Equal Access, Saferworld, and CeLRRd. The proposed system was then tested with two random Community Mediators (CMs) of CeLRRd and two random Community Researchers (CRs) of Equal Access. During the first phase of program implementation, there will be around 2000 SMS reporters, mostly registered community mediators of CeLRRd and Community Reporters of Equal Access. At the initial phase, Sajhedari Bikaas will pilot the system and limit the admin function to only internal staff, especially until the national elections, scheduled for November 2013. Until that period Sajhedari Bikaas would like to see the accuracy and reliability of SMS reports, analyze the requirements of conducting “data audits,” and see if the admin function could be handed over to the IPs. However, at this moment, our concern is that we do not want the severe case of violence being accessed by the third-party that could do “more harm than good.” It is anticipated that the system will be up and running by October 2013.

Quarterly Conflict Assessment

Sajhedari Bikaas has developed a draft theme for the first Quarterly Conflict Assessment. This quarter conflict assessment will focus on Probability of Mobilizing Migrant Youth in Political Conflict in Mid-West and Far-West districts. The conflict assessment is focused at the exploring the probability of migrant youth to be mobilized in fuelling conflict has the opportunity to explore the causes and consequences of these hundreds of youth workers of information job market. This section of youth population is excluded from political and development ‘movement’ and ‘agenda’ and thus Sajhedari has to find way and means to best strategize its programming in improving the lives of these young men and women. The key objective of the assessment is to identify the trends and practices of engaging the unemployed youth, especially the daily-wage based youth workers in informal job market, in political conflicts in Mid-West and Far-West regions.

To meet the objective, the conflict assessment should address the following, at the minimum:

- Identify urban and peri-urban “Hot Spots” where unemployed youth concentrate for daily-wage activities.
- Identify the incentives for violence, e.g. ethnic and religious causes, economic causes, demographic causes, interaction effects.
- Identify the mobilization pattern and frequency, e.g. organization involved in mobilizing them, financial gains, human resources.
- Identify the institutional capacity and responses, e.g. provision of security, communication channels.
- Identify the risk factors/vulnerability of these groups.
- Map the migration trend of these youth, including the mapping of the VDCs with high influx.
- Conflict Analysis of the current status of “daily-wage youth labors” and potential trigger for Sajhedari Bikaas, with possible recommendations for their engagement.

Sajhedari Bikaas is working with Saferworld to prepare the final draft concept of the conflict

assessment which will be submitted to the COR for approval. The assessment is likely to begin by mid-July and the final draft report of the first quarterly conflict assessment will be submitted to the COR in September 2013.

(2) (b) ADR Activities

Community Mediator Network

On June 17, 2013, the Center for Legal Research and Resource Development (CeLRRd) has been contracted to implement the community mediation work under Sajhedari Bikaas Project. CeLRRd has established regional office in Nepalgunj and district offices in Dang, Bardiya, Surkhet, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. It has also selected the Project staff and provided one-day orientation on the SB principles and approaches. CeLRRd is currently working on developing training manual/package for the community mediators and operational guideline for the Community Mediation Centers (CMCs) in ADR. The training package that CeLRRd is developing for the CM is based on 7-step approach of ADR and on the curriculum approved by the Supreme Court's Mediation Committee on 20th June, 2007.

Conflict Sensitivity Training

Saferworld conducted a workshop on Conflict Sensitive Approaches (CSA), Do-No-Harm (DNH) and Safe and Effective Development in Conflict (SEDC) took place from 19-22 May 2013. The total number of participants was 18 which included 5 participants from Pact, 4 from Equal Access, 4 from Youth Initiative, 3 from CeLRRD and 2 from the USAID's Hariyo Ban Project. Out of the 18 participants, 2 were female (Pact representatives).

The capacity assessment showed that none of the participants had received training in SEDC prior to this training, two-thirds of participants had not received trainings in DNH and three-fourths had not received any training in Conflict-Sensitivity. Furthermore, two-thirds of the participants were not familiar with conflict-sensitive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) as well as how SEDC can be incorporated within their M&E practices. Additionally, one-third of participants were not familiar with the concept of conflict assessments and how to use them for work-related purposes. More than half of participants were not familiar with the tools used for conflict assessment.

The workshop was facilitated by different Saferworld experts, led by Larry Attree, Saferworld's Acting Head of Policy, and previously a Conflict and Security Advisor. A mixture of presentation, discussions and participatory exercises (including role plays) were used to make the workshop lively and ensure that participants get both a theoretical foundation on CSA, the opportunity to reflect on their current planned work and how it reflects CSA or could be made more conflict sensitive, in addition to practical exercises.

Overall, the level of participation shown by the participants was positive, particularly from organizations which had representatives from the district level. Participants were active during the presentations as well as practical exercises. The training was developed with the

understanding that it would be useful for the Project staff that would be coordinating or directly implementing the Project at the district level. However, some of the participants were senior-level managers which made it difficult for the facilitators to meet the needs and expectations of these different groups.

The workshop allowed staff from the Hariyo Ban project to participate. This can certainly be considered as an ‘added value’ as highlighted by many participants from all organizations as it provides an opportunity for different programs implemented in the same region to understand each other’s purpose and approaches and encourages coordination and cooperation. Participants also highlighted that they would appreciate more opportunities to meet, discuss their work and share experiences.

Result 2 – Enduring solutions to the problems that drive conflict are adopted

(1) Capacity Building & Community Stabilization

(1.a) Engagement of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and User Groups (UGs) (1.b)

During this reporting period no CBO’s or UG’s were engaged under the Project.

Establishment and Expansion of New Women’s Economic Groups

As part of the required Community Resource Mapping exercise the Project will conduct a rapid assessment of Pact's previous women's economic empowerment groups in the targeted districts in the next reporting period (August). Pact previously worked under USAID funding in some of the districts of the Far-West and Mid-West regions, and some of the women’s economic development groups still exist. When possible, the Project will build upon the capacity of existing women’s economic groups, and when there is a gap, will consider forming new groups. Also, the Project is aware that other women’s groups exist and have been engaged by other USAID IP’s, most notably the Aama (Mother’s) groups that have since been supported by Suaahara and may be supported by a collaboration between Suaahara, H4L, KISAN, and Sajhedari. These women’s groups are built on the established MOH-supported Women’s Community Health Volunteer network, and target network strengthening, improved nutrition (through the introduction of improved vegetable varieties for production and sales), and improved household incomes (through introduction of micro-enterprise poultry and vegetable marketing schemes).

Based on that rapid assessment, the Project will contract a consultant, Erica Tubbs, to develop the women’s economic development curriculum. That training is scheduled for the next quarter (late-September). Pact has a strong women’s economic growth through community-based savings and lending cooperatives curriculum in Nepalese already based on previous work, but will look to update those materials based on the evolution of the methodology since 2007. It is anticipated that during the next reporting period, the Project will request USAID approval of engaging Pact’s experienced and innovative Women’s Economic Growth specialist, Erica Tubbs, for a short-term consultancy. Ms. Tubb’s currently works with Pact in their successful community-based micro-finance project in Myanmar, and is an experienced trainer in Pact’s [WORTH](#) community-based women’s savings and investment methodology.

During this reporting period, the Project also requested USAID/COR and CO approval for creating a new Level of Effort (LOE)-supporting the Women's Economic Growth (WEG) Manager position, to be recruited from the Regional Project Office in May-June, and on-boarded in the next reporting period. Ms. Tubbs consultancy would dovetail with that recruitment to insure the new WEG Manager's overlap with her training and professional development of Project staff in the WORTH methodology and approaches.

(1.c) Youth Engagement

On June 17, Youth Initiative is contracted to implement the youth empowerment work under Sajhedari Bikaas Project. Youth Initiative has established a regional office in Nepalgunj and will establish district offices in Dang, Bardiya, Surkhet, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts in July. YI is in the process of selecting staff. YI is currently working on developing a concept paper and methodology for a rapid survey of existing youth groups in the Project districts and at the VDCs. That activity will be completed within the third quarter reporting period.

(2) Media Campaigns

The Government of Nepal (GoN), through the Ministry of Home Affairs, conducted mobile Service Camps to support elections and voter registration by issuing citizenship certificates and registration of voters in all 75 districts. At the district level, the District Administration Offices (DAOs) identified remote area cluster points where mobile "Service Camps" would be stationed for a maximum of five days.

Sajhedari Bikaas, together with its media partner Equal Access, coordinated its efforts with relevant GON line agencies at the central, district and local level to effectively contribute in raising public awareness and knowledge about the importance of services being provided by these Service Camps. The Project's major focus was on producing public service announcement (PSA) radio spots with pre-election and citizenry mobilization themes. The Project broadcasted the radio spots, which were reproduced in Nepali, Abadhi, Tharu and Doteli, through 12 local FM stations in Sajhedari Project districts, and nationally through Radio Nepal, Ujyalo 90 network, and ACORAB.

Sajhedari Bikaas conducted a survey during the end of May 2013 which reemphasizes the effectiveness of this type of media campaign in motivating women and other marginalized and disadvantaged groups to attend the mobile Service Camps. In Surkhet district for example, 25% of the people visiting the camps were found to have listened to the PSAs. In Dang district, women were found to be benefitting more from these PSAs than men. Respondents from Bardiya district reported that the message from the PSA's was "simple and clear." In addition, they said that the reproduction of PSA's in other local languages served the intended purpose of reaching out to different linguistic groups. The survey also revealed that about 14% of those who listened to the radio broadcasts shared the information learned through the PSAs with friends and family members.

To smooth the implementation of the media activities under Sajhedari Bikaas, Equal Access has opened its Regional Office in Nepalgunj and will complete the recruitment of five (5) staff to support the operation there by August. Equal access is currently developing criteria to select 15

Community Reporters (CRs), Community Action Researchers (CARs) and 12 partner FM stations as major part of the media component. The selection criteria reflected EA's ongoing commitment to ensure a strong emphasis on prioritizing GESI principals wherever possible in the recruitment and selection practices.

An Outcome Mapping workshop was led by Gemma Ferguson, technical consultant for Equal Access/International in June. The purpose of the workshop was to assist and support production and M&E teams begin to consider types of changes for key audiences/beneficiaries and the media's role in driving changes. One of the ideas to come out of the workshop discussions was to hold outside broadcasts, in partnership with local production partners, in each of the six Project target districts.

OBJECTIVE B: Communities Access Resources for Development

Result 1 – Inclusive community strategic planning processes established

LNGO Selection

As one of its core approaches to sustainability, Sajhedari Bikaas is working to ensure that each designated district will have LNGOs capable of sustaining efforts at the district level that ensure communities are able to access resources for future development; effectively engage women, youth, and other marginalized groups in the community's work to form new local entities; and that communities are assuming the responsibility to build a positive future – the tangible practice of the Projects three defining Key Principles. The program will partner with at least one strong LNGO per district, through a competitive bidding process, to play a critical role in implementing activities across all four objectives. During this reporting period, Request for Applications were drafted and reviewed by staff, for submission to USAID and Pact HQ's Grants & Contracts unit for review, comment, and approval. It is anticipated that the RFA's will be issued publicly by the first week in August. LNGOs will be the primary institutions interfacing with communities. Pact will build upon the work preceding it, wherever possible, by other "governance" projects such as UNDP/GON's LGCDP, DfID/GIZ's Enabling State Programme (ESP), the Rights, Democracy and Inclusion Fund (RDIF), USAID's Community Support Project, and others. It is anticipated that the LDO's and DDC Secretaries will be engaged in the first tier RFA proposal submission review and selection process for LNGO applicants from their respective districts.

Sajhedari Bikaas will issue a Request for Applications (RFA) for local NGOs in August, setting a two-month process of LNGO selection in motion, ending with signed agreements around mid-September. The Project will use NGO networks and usual print, radio, and electronic media outlets to announce the RFA so that it reaches as wide an audience as possible. The Project staff will conduct RFA information meetings in each of the districts where interested local NGOs can clarify questions they have. All deliberations will be posted on a public site so that questions across districts will be available to all interested local NGOs.

The Project will establish a local NGO selection committee, that will include each district's respective LDO and DDC Secretary, which is outlined in the Grants Management Handbook

and the Project's Community Contracting procedures and guide. The Sajhedari Bikaas grant solicitation will highlight and give weight to local NGOs with strong governance and women's economic development capacity in their respective districts.

It will be essential that the Project has a very transparent and open RFA process. Based on experience gained from the previous Nepal Governance Citizen Partnership Project (NGCPP), local NGOs can be very politicized at the sub-national level and it is critical that local NGOs, as well as the district and sub-district governance leadership understand the process and see it as credible.

OBJECTIVE D: Local Government Units Function Effectively

Development of Objective D Strategy

Pact's Director of Governance, Marc Cassidy, travelled to Nepal in June 2013 to lead the design of the Sajhedari Bikaas Objective D Strategy. In order to achieve this, Pact held discussions with various agencies, USAID, USAID IPs, DFID, MoFALD, The Asia Foundation, and others to hold discussions on Objective D activities so that there is a common understanding of prioritized programming in support of local governance and increased participation and engagement by marginalized groups and women, in the absence of local level elections.

The purpose of Objective D is to provide technical assistance, material support and or training to improve the ability of local government officials to carry out their mandates. This involves strengthening the collaboration between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)/Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and local government units in identifying local development priorities, and supporting community engagement in local government budgeting and planning processes in 50% of the VDCs (approximately 115 VDCs) within the targeted six Project districts (Dang, Banke, Surkhet, Bardiya, Kailali, and Kanchanpur) located in the Mid-West and Far West regions of Nepal. District-level maps of the Phase I and Phase II VDC's have been provided to USAID.

The intent of the Objective D strategy is to serve both as a roadmap for near-term programming and as a forward looking document that can guide future investment in local governance processes and institutions within the target districts. This strategy was produced to be a living document that adjusts to evolving political events and the lessons learned during the Project implementation process. It will be responsive to government and development partner interventions ensuring maximum coordination and collaboration of investments in the target districts. Lessons learned during the implementation process and opportunities for scale up will be identified and presented to USAID for consideration during the fourth quarter of Year I.

III. Explanations for why intended outcomes were not met (if applicable).

I. Information on management issues

a. Administrative problems

The Project continues to be plagued by uneven levels of support from Pact's HQ, in particular, its Senior Program Manager and Grants & Contracts (G&C) units. During this reporting period there was turnover at Pact HQ of critical G&C staff, including its Director and Senior Manager (Mary Kelly) who had been directly supporting the Project. Significant delays in completing contracts and agreements with the Project's major IP's (CeLLRd, Youth Initiative, and Equal Access) were experienced due to either G&C staff turnover, or the fact that Pact HQ had no backup to the Senior G&C Manager when she went out on personal leave. This set the Project back at least two months in on-boarding its local IP's, which subsequently impacted on the Project's burn rate, as much of the Project's funds in the post-Start-up phase were/are projected to "flow-down" to the Project's IP's. Without them fully engaged and contracted, fund allocation had to be withheld, and consequently, implementation by the local IP's.

Similarly, Pact HQ experienced turnover in its Senior Program Manager, Kipp Efinger, during this reporting period. Kipp took a field-based position with Pact in Thailand, and was in effect, not available to the Project at the same level and capacity as he was during the Start-up phase where he played a crucial role in support to the Project's reporting, administration, procurement, and staffing. No replacement has been recruited for this critical position as of the closure of this reporting period, though recruitment is underway. It is recommended by the COP that the Senior Program Manager position be expanded, in both LOE and Budget support, to provide the level of support needed to the Project from HQ. This could be done through a consolidation of some of the LOE already allocated to Pact HQ staff, and reallocation of budget and LOE within the existing Project budget.

It would also be remiss of the Project to not report the dramatic fall-off in assistance, leadership, and performance realized by the Project whenever the COR is on leave, or otherwise out-of-country. Delays in procurement, approvals (staffing, travel, review and approval of required documents, survey methodologies, etc.) all are essentially put on hold when the COR is absent from the Mission. This has significantly impacted upon the implementation of the Project, and its schedule.

Finally, the contract specifies that USAID will assist the Project with GON approvals for visas, importation of equipment (i.e., vehicles), etc. While USAID, and the Mission on whole, have been responsive to the Project's requests for letters to the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc., the fact is, the GON has been non-responsive or very slow to comply with the Mission's request. This has for instance, held up the Customs clearance and registration of the Project new 4WD vehicles for over two months. These delays in procurement and delivery of equipment, visas, GON approvals, etc., have contributed to delays in Project implementation. The Project is aware that there is little or nothing to be done to remedy this situation, and that it is simply a matter of dealing with the reality of "doing business" in Nepal. Nonetheless, it has

impacted upon Project implementation.

b. Problems with implementing partners or community groups

Other than the delay in on-boarding its major IP's, no other problems have been experienced by the Project during this reporting period. An issue of senior management, raised to EA/I during the first reporting period (Jan – March 2013) was remedied with EA/I's engagement and deployment of Dorothee Stangle and Gemma Ferguson to support the programming and management leadership of the Project's media sub-contract. The Project is concerned however, that EA/I find a suitable, qualified, and motivated replacement for Ms. Stangle when she returns to the US as scheduled in late-August.

c. Steps taken to resolve those problems identified

See above.

IV. Anticipated future problems, delays, or conditions or constraints that may adversely impact implementation of the Project

A number of issues have adversely impacted on the Project's implementation to date, and fall into both institutional and cultural categories. They are:

Project Agreement with SWC. Pact's INGO registration with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) was anticipated to take at most 90 days. Registration, under the General Agreement (GA) was completed within this reporting period, but it took more than five months from the original submission of the GA application to final endorsement by the SWC. The Project is now moving forward with the Project Agreement. In June, Program staff began re-visiting the six district LDO's for their approval of the requisite "Pre-consensus" form and cover letter, for submission by Pact to SWC under provisions and guidelines for the Project Agreement application. By the end of June, half (three) of the districts LDO's had approved the Pre-consensus applications, and provided cover letters to the Project. The remaining three districts are projected to be completed by mid-July.

Bandhs/Holidays. National and local strikes, or *bandhs*, have impacted on the Project during this reporting period. Over eight days have been lost during this reporting period, to local and national bandhs that have either prevented staff from reaching the office, or effectively closed offices and vendors that would have otherwise been available to the Project for normal business. In addition, Nepal is a culture rich with holidays and festivals. This too, impacts on the Project's ability to implement. While the festival schedule was reportedly "light" during this reporting period, it will become increasingly disruptive to implementation schedules as the year progression – with October and November being largely "unscheduled" as far as expectations of work performance are concerned. These both represent culturally acceptable interruptions in work performance delivery, and need to be taken into consideration by Project management. To that end, many of the senior staff have taken housing near the office, so won't be subject to delays or non-attendance due to local bandhs, which are prevalent in the Project districts.

a. **Plan to deal with anticipated problems, delays or constraints**

See sections above for remedial actions to be taken for each of the described problems and/or constraints.

V. Information of security issues affecting project integrity and safety of implementing partners and community groups

Strikes and road blockade. Several groups are calling for strikes and road blockade. Some political parties are agitating against this government whereas some groups, such as landless and Kamalari rights group are threatening to go for strikes and road blockade. This will affect our and IPs field movement, be it a district level consultation meeting with government stakeholders or LNGO selection process. Likewise, Equal Access, CeLRRd and Youth Initiative have planned for field visits to introduce the Project, organize community meetings, training and consultation workshops in the district and VDCs and to form groups. Frequent strikes and road blockade will affect the timely execution of the planned activities.

Electoral process. As a governance project, Sajhedari is cautiously planning to engage in upcoming election making sure we try out best to contribute in making it more inclusive and transparent. We're envisioning our role in public awareness-raising through mass media and citizenship/voter registration process in our project areas. Some political parties and other groups are obstructing the process and so our engagement in election related activities may be misinterpreted as Sajhedari being in side of the government.

Issues of landless, freed Haliyas and ex-Kamalaris: landless people and their associations in the Mid-West and Far-West regions are in struggle for last two months. This protest is more likely to continue in this quarter as well if government does not address their demands of implementing the recommendations of the previous landless commissions. Similarly, freed Haliyas will continue their protest programs demanding proper rehabilitation and to press the government to address their land concerns. It will not have direct impact on the Project activities in this quarter but will affect our operations in the future as their demands relate to local government as well. Likewise, the Kamalari rights activists are also threatening that they would resume the protest if the agreement is not implemented by mid-July.

VI. Status of finances and expenditures -- analysis & explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs

There were no cost overruns or high unit costs to report during this period. All major procurements were done in accordance with FAR and Pact, Inc.'s own procurement regulations and guidelines, and were submitted for review and approval to the Project's CO at USAID. In addition, unit costs have been compared within the market, and across other purchasing agencies and businesses by our Finance and G&C staff. The Project will continue to rigorously analyze costs, and its own procurement processes – both externally and internally – to assure “best value” for donor funds. The one outstanding issue related to Finance is the Project's burn rate, which is projected to total only about 70% of the Year I

total budget, due to late starts on all aspects of the Project's Start-up (i.e., Rapid Assessment/District and VDC selection, District and VDC approvals, Baseline Survey implementation, on-boarding of LNGO IP's, completion of contracts and agreements with major IP's, etc.). The Project projects a higher burn rate in Year II and Year III that will absorb this carryover from Year I.

VII. Status on the expenditure of funds for Monitoring and Evaluation purposes by cost type

Below, please find the current status of funds expended through the end of this reporting period for Monitoring and Evaluation activities:

Direct Cost

Personnel	10,301
Fringe Benefits	41.13
Allowances	0
Travel	1,815.42
Equipment & Supplies	16.31
Contractual	33,913
Workshop	
Other Direct Costs	1,101.03
Subtotal Direct Costs	47,187.89
Indirect Costs	5,496.20
Subtotal Indirect Costs	5,496.20
TOTAL	\$52,684.09

VIII. Status of utilization of Level of Effort (LOE) as compared with Section F Level of Effort

A total of 1,543,26 days have been utilized as of June 30, 2013;

- a. **Expressed as work days**
or, 1,543 work days, which is equal to;
- b. **Expressed as a percentage of annual available LOE**
39.16% of annual available LOE.

IX. Project available LOE - by labor category

Long-Term Technical Assistance (LTTA) – Expatriate: 3,250 days

Long-Term Technical Assistance (LTTA)- CCN: 16,900 days

Short-Term Technical Assistance (STTA): 1,950 days

X. Success stories and good practices

During the second Quarter of the Project through which this report covers, most of the Project's early focus was on Start-up and meeting a very tight schedule of Contract Deliverables to USAID – most due within the first 90 days of the Project. However, within that exaggerated and hurried schedule, some successes and good practices are notable;

Service at the Doorstep

Sajhedari Bikaas, together with its media partner Equal Access, coordinated its efforts with relevant GON line agencies at the central, district and local level to effectively contribute in raising public awareness and knowledge about the importance of services being provided by these Service Camps. The Project's major focus was on producing public service announcement (PSA) radio spots with pre-election and citizenry mobilization themes. The Project broadcasted the radio spots, which were produced in Nepali, Abadhi, Tharu and Doteli languages through 12 local FM stations in six Project districts, and nationally through Radio Nepal, Ujyalo 90 networks, and ACORAB.

Sajhedari Bikaas conducted a survey during the end of May 2013 which sought to measure the effectiveness of this type of media campaign in motivating women and other marginalized and disadvantaged groups to attend the mobile Service Camps. In Surkhet district for example, 25% of the people visiting the camps were found to have listened to the PSAs. In Dang district, women were found to be benefitting more from these PSAs than men. Respondents from Bardiya district reported that the message from the PSA's was "simple and clear." In addition, they said that the reproduction of PSA's in other local languages served the intended purpose of reaching out to different linguistic groups. The survey also revealed that about 14% of those who listened to the radio broadcasts shared the information learned through the PSAs with friends and family members.

Relationship with Implementing Partners.

During the past quarter, the following activities were completed, and progress made, as reported:

Equal Access' achievements in the past quarter

- Election and Citizenship Media Campaign – This was an additional project activity requested by Sajhedari and USAID. Under a tight timeline, EA garnered a productive working relationship (including full support for all content) with the Ministry of Home Affairs, produced and launched 12 PSAs in four languages and carry out an extensive impact assessment, including the collection of audio case studies. The impact of the PSA Campaign exceeded expectation with 38% of survey respondents stating that they visited the camps because of the influence of the recent radio PSAs.

- Assessment of local radio capacity - In May, EA team members visited over 50 FM radio stations throughout the six Sajhedari Bikaas project districts and carried out formal assessments of the facilities, staffing structure, motivation and community approach. These assessments will form part of the parameters for future collaboration in terms of local production and broadcast under the project.
- Nepalgunj Office Start-up - The EA Nepalgunj office was identified, refurbished and procurement of office equipment was initiated during this quarter. The office will be fully functional and staffed by the end of July 2013.
- Internal Capacity Building – EA staff attended a range of workshops and trainings over this quarter, which will combine to result in higher-level results across technical and administrative staff. The workshops/trainings included:
- Outcome Mapping Workshop - EA production and M&E team members participated in an internal outcome mapping workshop to shape the design and focus of the radio programming messages and approach.
- Grants and Compliance Training - Administrative Manager (Ms. Achala Rajbhandari) and Finance Manager (Mr. Hari Paudel) attended a training program titled “Grants & Compliance (G&C) under USG funding” organized in Dubai from April 9 to 11, 2013.
- Conflict Sensitivity Training - EA technical staff attended a four day workshop on Conflict Sensitive Approaches organized by Safer World in Hotel Summit, Lalitpur from May 19 to 22, 2013. The workshop highlighted conflict sensitive approaches that are now integrated in all training program and outreach activities.

GESI in Equal Access’ work in last quarter

All the decisions and actions in regards to staff recruitment process carried out this quarter are in compliance with EAs HR management guidelines and GESI strategy. EA aims to take positive steps to recruit staff from “disadvantaged groups” (including women, disadvantaged castes and ethnic minorities) and to create and maintain a friendly environment to attract and retain staff from disadvantaged groups within EA.

The need for GESI was taken into consideration during EA’s recent recruitment in Nepalgunj. Two of the four filled positions meet GESI requirements. During the next quarter, EA will be hiring a Nepalgunj based Training/Outreach Officer, 15 Community Reporters, 2 CRs coordinators and 17 Community Action Researchers from within the project districts. During the process women, youth, Tharu, Madhesi, Dalit & Muslim candidates will be provided highest priority. Applications will also be highly encouraged from Kamalari, Baadi, Muslim girls and youth. A GESI focused strategy was also seriously considered while selecting FM stations. Nine of the total 16 FMs are community owned. Likewise, two FM stations out of 16 stations chosen from Bardiya & Banke are exclusively owned and managed by Tharu & Dalit community. There are no FM stations managed by women in existence within the project districts; however EA has sought to work with FM stations that employ women at the staff and board level. Over the course of the project, EA will aim to build the capacity of women in the media in general as well as educating

stations on the need to be gender inclusive.

Going forward, EA will encourage FM partner stations to abide by the GESI strategy in content development and human resource selection. Radio stations will be encouraged to choose females, youths, and representatives from marginalized community as participants in the EA led training programs. Moreover, Radio content from episode to episode will be made diverse and multilingual. Collaborative partner stations will produce the content in languages majorly spoken in the local community and ethnic minority groups.

Success Stories

- Ms. Pushpa Choudhari, Station Manager, Radio Gurbaba, Bardiya, stated that in addition to Nepali, Gurbaba FM produced the PSA in Tharu language, and broadcast them frequently through their station. She observed that in listening to the PSAs many people who had missed the camp which had already been held in Basgadhi started putting pressure on the concerned government authority to provide the services in the location which was easily accessible to them. “Realizing the genuine pressure from the community a second round of camps was held in Basgadhi. I would say that this is the result of our broadcast as we reached many people with information who did not know about the previous camp.”
- In regards to the PSA campaigns in local languages, Mr. Narayan Koirala, Founder & Station in Charge of Radio Bheri of Surhket with coverage to Sajhedari Districts such as Kailali, Bardia & Surhket observed that, “I like the way this PSA campaign was implemented, it was very interesting to convert the original state of the PSA with all its essence into the local/regional language. Our station disseminated messages into Doteli, Tharu & Nepali and I expect similar methods in disseminating vital information of national importance like citizenship and voter registration with much participant and interactivenss in the future.”
- Ms. Mamata Choudhari, Naumasta, Banke – “I listened to the information about citizenship distribution camps on local radio and visited the camp to obtain my citizenship certificate. I also got myself registered as a voter from the same place where I got my citizenship card. It would have been difficult if I had not heard about it on the radio.”
- Mr. Pujan Bishwakarma, Station Manager, Pratibodh FM, Kohalpur, Banke states "We thought many people were unaware about the camp schedules and services offered by the government. The District Administration Office of Banke also added camps in a new place like Kohalpur which was not planned earlier by the CDO Office. When we heard that the CDO office is conducting a camp in Kohalpur we continued to broadcast the PSA even after our broadcast agreement period was over with Equal Access. Considering the importance of the campaign we also contributed through radio by offering free of cost broadcasts of the PSA."

Saferworld's Achievement in last quarter

- Final Rapid Conflict Assessment (RCA) report has been submitted. The purpose of the RCA is to identify and provide an initial snapshot on key issues around existing or potential tensions, and to support Pact in its VDC selection process. The RCA has been welcomed and received positive feedback by USAID and other international stakeholders.
- Selected Pact and IP staff (all together 18) have improved understanding on CSA as a result of training sessions which took place on 19-22 May, 2013.
- Provided advice through emails, meetings and other conversations to InSTEDD and Pact in order to assist in the development of a baseline questionnaire and text messaging system which is conflict sensitive and addresses the local context and environment.

CeLLRd and Youth Initiative

Both CeLLRd and Youth Initiative completed and signed their formal Agreements with Pact/Sajhedari during this past reporting period. The first allocation of funds was made to each in late-June, following completion of the MCAT assessment by Sajhedari staff. Project activities are scheduled to begin for each in early July.

Relationships with MoFALD and local agencies.

During this reporting period, Pact staff met with the MOFALD Joint Secretary, Bodh Raj Niroula, to present the findings of the Rapid Assessment and the selected Districts and VDC's. The meeting went well, with the Joint Secretary asking the Project to present the findings to the six respective district LDO's and ask for their input on the "recommended" VDC selections. As a result, all six district governance bodies (LDO's and DDC's) concurred with the Project selections, with only minor changes. Two districts (Kailali and Bardiya) required more negotiation as their LDO's wanted to base the VDC selections solely on DAG (Disadvantaged Group) mapping and indicators in their respective districts. A compromise was reached in these last two districts where the Project agreed to assume 7 or 8 of their recommended VDC's. But, the process also earned the Project buy-in from both MOFALD and the six district governance leaders.

Relationships with Donors and Collegial Initiatives.

During this reporting period, Pact staff attended a series of formal and informal meetings with donors and collegial implementing agency representatives that began building solid programming and communications relationships with USAID's Implementing Partners. Monthly meetings were held during the past quarter with COP's from the Hariyo Ban (WWF), KISAN (Winrock), Suaahara (SCF), and Health for Life/H4L (RTI) projects. Sajhedari is acting as the "coordinator" and convener of these meetings. During the past reporting period the COP's shared their respective PMP's, and committed to sharing data

from their respective Baseline Surveys. Sajhedari shared both the GESI Strategy and the Rapid Assessment findings with these USAID IP's. The IP's have generated maps of the districts and VDC's where their project activities overlap, and as a result of these regular monthly meetings, have engaged in informal meetings with and between, respective management staff. Cooperative approaches to project activities and implementation of specific interventions has been discussed, and the basis for these on-going discussions has been set. Several specific project activities have been identified between Sajhedari and KISAN that will engage women and small-business start-up activity support, as well as improved nutrition interventions. The group has committed to continued monthly meetings, and on-going dialogue around resource sharing and programming collaborations.

During this reporting period, Sajhedari's COP also met with the Director of the World Bank's PRAN project, to begin discussions on project overlap and shared interests – as well as possible collaborations between PRAN and Sajhedari. The Director, Keith Leslie, requested Sajhedari to take lead on convening a “coordination meeting” between all such “governance” project donors and partners, including DfID (ESP), USAID (Sajhedari and CARE/Nepal's CSP), GIZ, DANIDA, etc. That meeting is projected to be held in the third quarter (July – September 2013).

Attachments:

○ Staff Recruitment Matrix

Position	Target Start Date	Recruit Status	Name
Chief of Party	03-Dec	Hired	Michael Dockrey
Deputy Chief of Party	15-Dec	Hired	Rakesh Karna
Regional Program Manager	15-Dec	Hired	Arjun Kumar
Regional Program Manager	15-Dec	Hired	Sheela Yogi
Operations Manager	06-May	Hired	Mary Giudice
Program Specialist, Local Governance	01-Apr	Hired	Lilaraj Limbu
Program Specialist, Engineer	18-Mar	Hired	Dinesh Mandel
Program Specialist, Conflict Mitigation	15-Mar	Hired	Reena Chaudhary
Performance Based Monitoring System (PBMS)	04-Mar	Hired	Raju Kandel
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	10-Apr	Hired	Sudan Shivakoti
GIS/IT Specialist	28-Feb	Hired	Basant Adhikari
Director of Grants & Contracts	01-Apr	Hired	Shib Nath Mahato
Grants Specialist	09-Jan	Hired	Tek Lawati
Director of Coordination	29-Jan	Hired	Ram Paudel
Grants Specialist/Officer	10-May	Hired	Suresh Sarki
Grants Specialist	07- Aug	TBD	TBD
Director of Finance	09-Jan	Hired	Arun Prasad Shrestha
Finance Manager	18-Mar	Hired	Surya Upadhyaya
Finance Officer	07- Aug	TBD	TBD
Finance Assistant	06-May	Hired	Rita Diwan
Senior Grant & Finance Officer	TBD	TBD	TBD
Grant & Finance Officer	07-Aug	TBD	TBD
Grant & Finance Officer	07-Aug	TBD	TBD
Director of Administration	25-Feb	Hired	Kamalesh K. Lal
Administrative Officer	24-Apr	Hired	Satya Narayan Chaudhary
Administrative Officer	TBD	TBD	TBD
Temp Administrative Assistant	23-Jan	Ended 22-Apr	Kamal Nepal
Administration Assistant	23-Apr	Hired	Ameeruddin Ansari
Receptionist	15-Jul	TBD	TBD
Driver	10-May	Hired	Dulari Tharuni
Driver	7-Aug	TBD	TBD