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SAJHEDARI BIKAAS PROGRAM

SAJHEDARI BIKAAS: Partnership for Local Development
Q2 FY 2014 – Quarterly Report #4 January 1 – March 31, 2014

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Contracting Officer Representative
Meghan T. Nalbo

Submitted to the DEC by

Nick Langton, Chief of Party, Sajhedari Bikaas Program
PACT Inc. Nepal
Sushma Niwas,
Sallaghari, Bansbari, House No 589
Budhanilkantha Sadad, Kathmandu, Ward No 3
Post Box No. 24200,
Kathmandu, Nepal

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Table of Contents

CONTENTS	i
TABLES	ii
FIGURES	iii
KEY ACRONYMS	iv
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	vi
1.0 POLITICAL & DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT	8
1.1 NATIONAL TRENDS	8
1.2 OPERATIONAL SPACE.....	8
2.0 ACTUAL VS. PLANNED ACCOMPLISHMENTS	10
2.1 M&E ACCOMPLISHMENTS	10
2.2 OBJECTIVE A: ESTABLISH AND IMPROVE THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	12
2.3 OBJECTIVE B: IMPROVE COMMUNITIES' ABILITY TO ACCESS RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT	19
2.4 OBJECTIVE C: IMPROVE COMMUNITIES' ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.....	20
2.5 OBJECTIVE D: INCREASE THE ABILITY OF EXISTING AND NEW GOVERNMENT UNITS TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY	20
3.0 CHALLENGES & CONSTRAINTS – INTERNAL	22
3.1 STAFFING.....	22
3.2 LOCAL PARTNERS	22
4.0 ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES & CONSTRAINTS – EXTERNAL	23
4.1 PROTESTS & POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS	23
4.2 SECURITY & SAFETY CONCERNS.....	23
5.0 FINANCIAL REPORT	24
5.1 MAJOR CATEGORY EXPENDITURES.....	24
5.2 STATUS OF EXPENDITURE FUNDS TOWARDS M&E PURPOSE	24
5.3 LOE UTILIZATION SUMMARY STATUS.....	25
ANNEX 1: INDICATOR SHEET	27
ANNEX 2: SUCCESS STORIES	32

TABLES

Table 1 Q2 FY 2014 Financial Report Summary by Invoice Categories	24
Table 2 M&E Expenditures	24
Table 3 LOE Utilization for Q2 FY 2014	25
Table 4 Staff Recruitment Matrix	25

FIGURES

Figure 1 Ethnic Breakdown of New Community Mediators	14
Figure 2 LYG Members in Dang Restoring a <i>Pipal Chautara</i>	15
Figure 3: Ethnic Breakdown of Participation in LYGs’ Volunteer Activities.....	16
Figure 4 Ethnic Breakdown of LYG Training Participants.....	16
Figure 5 Caste/ethnic Breakdown of DYN Committees.....	16
Figure 6 RLG Visiting Krishnasar FM in Banke	17

KEY ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
BASE	Backward Society Education
BUC	Banke UNESCO Club
CA	Constituent Assembly
CBO	Community-based Organization
CBSM	Community-based Self-Monitoring
CAR	Community Action Research
CeLRRD	Center for Legal Research and Resource Development
CMC	Community Mediation Center
CMU	Community Management Unit
CPN-M	Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist
CPN-UML	Communist Party of Nepal – United Marxist Leninist
CR	Community Reporter
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAO	District Administration Office
DDC	District Development Committee
DFO	District Forest Office
DQA	Data Quality Assurance
DYN	District Youth Network
EA	Equal Access
ENRUDEC	Environmental and Rural Development Centre
FFN	Fatima Foundation Nepal
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FM	Frequency Modulation
FY	Fiscal Year
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GIS	Geospatial Information System
HURADC	Human Rights Awareness and Social Development Centre
InSTEDD	Innovative Support to Emergencies, Diseases and Disasters
IP	Implementing Partner
JJMS	Jan Jagaran Mahila Sangh
LGCDP	Local Government and Community Development Programme
LNGO	Local Non-Governmental Organization
LOE	Level of Effort
LYG	Local Youth Group
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MJF-D	Madheshi Janadhikar Forum- Democratic
NC	Nepali Congress
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NLRF	National Land Rights Forum
NN	Naya Nepal
NNSWA	Nepal National Social Welfare Association
OPI	Organizational Performance Index

PBMS	Performance-based Management System
RLG	Radio Listener Group
RSAC	Radio Strategic Advisory Committee
SAC	Social Awareness Centre
SB	Sajhedari Bikaas
SMS	Short Messaging Service
SUPER	Social Upgrade in Progress of Educational Region
UCPN (M)	Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
VDC	Village Development Committee
WAM	Women Association for Marginalized Women
WCF	Ward Citizen Forum
WEG	Women's Economic Group
YAC	Youth Acting for Change

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This has been a busy quarter for Sajhedari Bikaas (SB), involving both ongoing work and the initiation of new project activities. Twelve new district NGO partners were brought on board, received orientation and training, and developed their first year action plans. It was also an important quarter in that VDC and District planning took place. Highlights of the project's activities during the reporting period include:

1. The server set-up for the Short Message Service (SMS)/ Geospatial Information System (GIS) reporting system was completed and training of reporters on its use begun. The system will allow SMS reporters to transmit conflict incidents qualified by type, intensity, and recurrence to the system's server and then be integrated into the GIS system.
2. The Second Quarterly Conflict Assessment was completed. The assessment noted that identity-based tensions and conflicts have decreased over the past few months, although petty crime, gender-based violence (GBV), suicide, and drug abuse continue to be areas of concern. It examined views and perceptions related to the November 2013 Constitutional Assembly (CA) elections, which respondents perceived as largely peaceful and fair. Respondents also lauded the Election Commission for Nepal's Code of Conduct, use of voter-ID cards, and the positive role of security providers in ensuring a safe environment. Methodology development has begun for the Third Quarterly Conflict Assessment, which will focus on GBV.
3. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) activities continued with 535 new cases registered in Community Mediation Centers (CMCs), 76% of which were resolved by Community Mediators. A total of 470 new Community Mediators were selected and trained in 19 Basic Mediation Trainings in four districts. Local governments have shown increasing support for the mediation program. Sixteen VDCs allocated budget funds totaling over Rs. 350,000 to support the newly established CMCs, and government offices began referring cases to them.
4. SB finalized contracts with five Women's Economic Group (WEG) local NGOs (LNGOs) and seven governance LNGOs. New LNGO staff were selected, oriented to the SB project, and trained on the WORTH model. LNGOs held District- and VDC-level consultation meetings with government officials and other stakeholders to introduce them to the project activities.
5. Local youth groups (LYGs) became increasingly active. Fifty-one LYGs participated in the annual VDC-level planning process that took place this quarter, and they organized and conducted six volunteer activities and six community development activities involving the participation of 273 youth. A total of 136 LYG members were trained on life skills, civic engagement, and local development, and six district youth networks (DYNs) were formed or reformed.

6. Radio production partners produced and broadcast a total of 42 new episodes at the local level and seven new episodes at the national level, addressing issues related to local government, youth, and women. In total, 70% of supported FM radio stations produced quality radio programs this quarter. Additionally, radio listeners' groups (RLGs) were increasingly active regarding local governance issues. They participated in the VDC planning process and held 87 meetings with the participation of 3,745 members.
7. Data collection took place in 72 VDCs for a perceptions survey on local government service delivery. The survey is assessing trends in perceptions of local service delivery and attitudes towards decentralization. The report will be completed during the next reporting period.

1.0 POLITICAL & DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

1.1 NATIONAL TRENDS

This reporting period was relatively calm in terms of national-level political disruptions. In February, the Nepali Congress (NC) and Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) reached a seven-point agreement that paved the way for the Prime Minister’s election, ending the almost one-year tenure of the Chief Justice-led Interim Electoral Council of Ministers. Subash Nembang from the CPN-UML was elected as Chairperson of the CA and Onsari Gharti Magar of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist (UCPN-M) was elected as Vice-Chairperson. A 49-member committee was formed to draft the CA Regulations, which are fundamental to allowing the constitution drafting process to resume. Consultations also started for bills on the proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Disappearance Investigation Commission.

While some political actors had announced that local elections would take place by June 2014, this is unlikely. The Election Commission of Nepal published a statement saying that local elections by June 2014 will be impossible, and even a November date is overly ambitious.

A transport strike in March by youth and student associations against a hike in fuel prices briefly hindered SB project field visits. However, there were no serious security issues observed in the project districts during this quarter.

1.2 OPERATIONAL SPACE

Continued demands for implementation of Kamlari freedom and rehabilitation

Activist groups in the mid- and far-western Tarai continued to push for freedom and rehabilitation for *kamlaris*, girls in bonded labor. The Freed *Kamlari* Development Forum (FKDF) and a consortium of organizations arranged a week-long public awareness campaign in the days leading to the major Tharu festival of *Maghi* on January 15th in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. They advocated for the government to implement the 10-point agreement previously signed with the United Committee for the Elimination of *Kamlari* Practice and issued a public appeal asking community members to identify anyone who is keeping *Kamlari* girls in their homes and to help rescue them. In response, the Kailali District Administration Office (DAO) issued a public notice asking people keeping *Kamlari* girls as domestic help to free them immediately and appear before the DAO, threatening strong action against those who failed to do so. Ten

Kamlari girls were released by the 11 February deadline. According to the FKDF, hundreds of girls are yet to be rescued/released in the Far and Mid-Western Tarai, despite the government's declaration of liberation of all *Kamlaris* in 2013.

Ex-Kamaiyas and other landless groups stage protests

Conflicts between landless people and the government continue to be a source of local tension. On January 26th, a land inspection team consisting of representatives from the District Land Reform Office was attacked in Basauti VDC, Kailali, allegedly by disgruntled, landless freed *Kamaiyas* (ex-bonded laborers) squatting in the area. The team was in the VDC to inspect a potential land settlement area as part of the government's *Kamaiya* rehabilitation efforts, although the exact reason for the attack is unclear.

On February 20th, land tenants (*Mohi*) in Banke District submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the District Land Reform Office (DLRO) demanding the protection of their land rights. According to the National Land Rights Forum (NLRF), an association of landless people and squatters, 1,939 tenants in Banke, 1,139 in Bardiya, and 212 in Surkhet currently claim ownership of the land they have been working. However, due to ambiguities in the Land Reform Act, the process of land allocation for tenants was stopped in 2007.

During an eviction on February 25th that was ordered by the Appellate Court, a government Forest Area Encroachment Control Team allegedly used force to remove 13 families from the Khanddevi community forest area in Shatakhani VDC, Surkhet. Reportedly, the team set fire to the makeshift camp and damaged the families' personal property. The 13 families are now residing in nearby villages. On February 28th, the NLRF submitted a memorandum to the District Administration Office (DAO) condemning the eviction, as no alternative arrangements had been provided. This was followed by the protests by people from squatter communities, including one on March 17th at the District Forest Office (DFO).

On March 9-12th, freed *Kamaiyas* disrupted a DDC meeting in Kailali, demanding a settlement. Similarly, on March 19th, landless people in Chaumala VDC, Kailali held a sit-in protest at the DAO after the DFO destroyed their huts to evict them from forest land.

Flooding

Many families that were displaced by the monsoon floods (e.g., in Kanchanpur District) still face dire situations, having lost property and housing. Further rains in early March resulted in some flooding, and several people died when a boat capsized on the Mahona River in Kailali on March 3rd.

Criminal activity

A variety of petty and serious crimes took place in the project's working area during the quarter, but did not affect project activities. Reportedly, a gang of armed men opened fire and attempted to rob a Nepal Bank Ltd. vehicle in Bardiya on March 4th while the money was being delivered to the Rajpur branch of the bank from Nepalgunj. They were unsuccessful and the incident was later reported to the police.

2.0 ACTUAL VS. PLANNED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2.1 M&E ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Progress on Indicators

See the attached Indicator Sheet.

Finalization of indicators

During this reporting period, the SB team finalized performance indicators for Objectives B, C, and D. The finalized indicators are included in *Annex 1: Indicators Sheet*.

Ongoing support to partners

A quarterly M&E workshop was held in January, which was attended by senior and M&E staff from Pact, Equal Access, Youth Initiative, and the Center for Legal Research and Resource Development (CeLRRD). The main objectives of the workshop were to reflect on linkages between activities and broader project objectives, to provide a review of the findings of the baseline study, and to provide orientation on routine data quality assurance (DQA) tools, data analysis, and reporting.

In May, Pact will work closely with the newly-selected LNGO partners to coordinate their reporting systems with the SB system. Each partner will have one additional M&E quarterly session to ensure that all planned activities are reported on and data quality from the field is of a high standard. Pact will also introduce the Organizational Performance Index (OPI), which focuses on the change in organizational performance which results from improved internal capacity. The OPI identifies four key domains of organizational performance as effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and sustainability. During the workshop, Pact will work with partners to complete OPI scoring sheets that will be updated and reviewed on an annual basis.

GIS activities

During the reporting period, the M&E team used GIS for program planning, reporting, and improvement. The team produced printed and electronic maps that show the locations of program activities and other relevant information, including a GESI chart, an NGO location map, and a group map showing the locations of women's, youth, and other groups formed under the project. The geo-enabled indicators that Sajhedari reports on are included in the Indicators Sheet.

Community-based self-monitoring

SB is working to finalize a community-based self-monitoring (CBSM) tool that will utilize a participatory method of project monitoring and evaluation. SB will work with existing community structures (e.g., Project Monitoring Committees) to build their capacity for ongoing assessment of project progress. The community-based committees will use the CBSM tool to ensure that project activities are implemented as planned, and that they meet the minimum program quality standards developed for the SB project. The findings will be aggregated by local project staff and presented at community meetings (called “*Sajhedari Chautari*”) for discussion, analysis, and feedback. Pact will prepare the CBSM concept and facilitate “*Sajhedari Chautari*” sessions beginning in May.

SMS Violence Reporting System

This quarter, server set-up of the Short Message Service (SMS)/Geospatial Information System (GIS) reporting system was completed and training of reporters on its use began. With support from a technical person from Innovative Support to Emergencies, Diseases and Disasters (InSTEDD), SB organized a one-day workshop on the use of the system. Topics included site set-up, reporting, and data uploading procedures. Twenty-five reporters, including CeLRRD staff, district trainers, and Community Mediators, were trained on the use of the system and tested it, reporting different types of conflict at the community level in targeted geographic areas. Altogether, 522 reporters and six Community Mediation Center Coordinators will be trained in the SMS-based violence reporting system by the end of June 2014.

The SMS/GIS system allows SMS reporters to transmit conflict incidents qualified by type, intensity, and recurrence to the system’s server and integrated into the GIS system. This ability to map incidences of conflict will allow SB to: (1) track trends of conflict that can have a potential impact over the life of the project, (2) direct more in-depth quarterly and annual conflict assessments based on the results of the SMS reports, and (3) establish a linkage with the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)/Community Mediation methodology.

Performance Based Management System Database

During this reporting period, the Performance-based Management System (PBMS) unit began set-up of the DevResults site, a web-based project management tool. Led by the Pact R&M team, SB held a five-day workshop to discuss the set-up of the site, how (or if) partners will upload their data to it, and other issues. A phased approach will be used in setting up the site, starting with the PMP indicators, and later tackling the process indicators. Improvements to the site will be considered based on experiences using it in the field. SB will work to complete the Excel set-up sheet in the next few weeks and upload historical data into the system. The next Pact R&M visit will be carried out in May or early June to set up the site.

Perception survey

Field work for the perception survey will be completed by the end of April 2014. The objective of the survey is to assess trends in citizens’ perceptions of local bodies’ service delivery and attitudes towards decentralization in its target districts. SB will use the results to adjust program strategies and shift resources to activities/areas where they are most needed. It will share the results of the perception survey with VDC, district, and regional stakeholders, so that collaborative efforts can be improved.

Revision of program strategies based on monitoring findings

Pact is working with all IPs and LNGOs to revise their work plans based on the findings of the baseline survey and learning from implementation in year one. CeLRRD, Youth Initiative, Equal Access, and Saferworld are undergoing a work plan amendment and contract modification process that is expected to be complete by the end of April 2014. Similarly, the SOWs and work plans of local governance LNGOs are being revised to reflect SB's program alignment with the Local Government and Community Development Programme (LGCDP) II.

Monitoring of CeLRRD's community mediation activities showed a lower-than expected number of registered cases to date. Based on this observation, SB worked with CeLRRD to increase social marketing in project areas to raise demand for mediation services. The new plan includes discussion of community mediation on FM radio, the installation of hoarding boards in public places, wall paintings in VDC office compounds and other public places, and school-based activities.

During the orientation of local partners and startup of their activities, SB realized the need to provide consistent support to build their capacities to fulfill project reporting requirements. Pact is organizing quarterly workshops that focus on data usage and report writing starting in May 2014.

2.2 OBJECTIVE A: ESTABLISH AND IMPROVE THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

Conflict Assessments

GIS/SMS Reporting for Conflict Assessments

See 2.1 M&E Accomplishments above.

Quarterly Conflict Assessments

Saferworld finalized the Second Quarterly Conflict Assessment this quarter. Based on six key informant interviews and 12 group discussions (six with youth only, six with general community members), the assessment examined views and perceptions related to the November 2013 elections to the Constitutional Assembly (CA), among other topics. Respondents perceived the elections as largely peaceful and fair. They lauded the Election Commission of Nepal's Code of Conduct for reducing political violence and ensuring that the CA elections were peaceful. Respondents felt that the voter-ID cards with voters' photographs played a major role in averting proxy voting thereby ensuring fair elections, a view that was also shared by the media. The positive role of security providers in ensuring a secure environment and the complimentary role of the media were also highlighted by respondents.

More generally, respondents felt that identity-based tensions and conflicts have decreased over the months since the elections. They cited petty crime, GBV, and suicide as continuing areas of concern. Most respondents believed that tensions/conflict over resources remained unchanged in the last three months, and described timber

smuggling, community forest management, and disputes between internally-displaced people as sources of conflict. Youth are seen as remaining vulnerable primarily due to the lack of gainful employment opportunities, concerns regarding youth drug abuse, and the enduring possibility of youth mobilization for violent purposes by political or other actors.

As part of a modification of Saferworld's activity plan, Pact is proposing that in the future only two of the remaining seven conflict assessments (one more in Year 2 and one in Year 3) observe conflict trends over time, while the others focus on specific conflict issues relevant to the SB project. Saferworld and Pact discussed a number of potential research topics for the Year 2 assessments, including young men's perceptions of GBV, social implications of youth migration, informal governance of natural resources, youth motivation to join political parties/groups, and perceptions of NGOs and other external actors. It was agreed that the Third Conflict Assessment will focus on the views and attitudes of young men towards GBV. Saferworld has started to develop the research methodology for the Third Conflict Assessment, and data collection is expected to take place in mid-April.

ADR Activities

CeLRRD continued its work to establish a Community Mediator Network within SB project districts. The network provides a mechanism for the peaceful resolution of disputes before they escalate to a higher level, and promotes dialogue within communities, which is important for the achievement of Objective A. The program showed signs of gaining local support and sustainability during this quarter. Sixteen VDCs allocated budget funds totaling over Rs. 350,000 to support the newly-established Community Mediation Centers (CMCs). Similarly, the District Administration Office in Bardiya, the District Court in Dang, and police and local leaders in Kanchanpur and Kailali referred cases to CMCs. The program is also gaining the support of traditional leaders like *Badhgar* and *Bhalmansa*,¹ who have come forward to serve as Community Mediators.

Consultation meetings

During the reporting period, CeLRRD held 16 VDC-level consultation meetings, leaving one final meeting to be held next quarter. These meetings were attended by local stakeholders such as government officials, political leaders, WCF coordinators, teachers, peace committee coordinators, social workers, and Dalit and Janajati network representatives. The meetings served to introduce stakeholders to CeLRRD's program and approach and to create a favorable environment for the selection of Community Mediators.

Community Mediator selection and training

CeLRRD continued its selection and training of new Community Mediators (CMs) this quarter. A total of 470 new CMs were selected and trained in 19 Basic Mediation Trainings in four districts. The selection process involved input from VDC secretaries, local political party representatives, social workers, and other concerned stakeholders

¹ A leader in the Tharu ethnic group who has the traditionally-inherited and culturally-granted authority to make decisions on behalf of the community members.

in order to select reliable and capable participants who garner local support. In some VDCs, political party representatives have shown an indifferent attitude towards the program, and there have also been some disputes over the selection process for the Community Mediator VDC Coordinator positions. In general, however, stakeholders have shown a positive attitude and have supported the mediation program.

GESI principles were used to ensure fair representation of women and marginalized caste and ethnic groups. Of the new CMs trained this quarter, 52% were male and 48% were female. The ethnicity/caste breakdown is shown in the figure below.

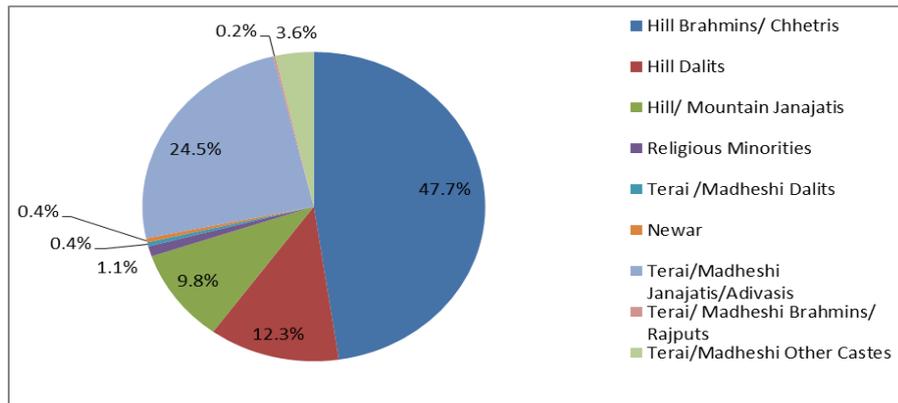


FIGURE 1 ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF NEW COMMUNITY MEDIATORS

Community Mediation Center establishment and mediation work

CeLRRD established 21 new CMCs in targeted VDCs. Twenty door-to-door social marketing events were held, reaching over 15,000 people, in order to raise awareness about the newly-established centers, the services they offer, and their approach to mediation. These activities helped boost the utilization of CMCs by communities this quarter. During the reporting period, 535 cases were registered in CMCs, 76% of which were resolved. Twelve cases were referred to the legal system and 143 cases are still pending.

CMCs held 31 VDC-level quarterly practice sharing meetings during which CMs shared their experiences and lessons learned, evaluating themselves as mediators and brainstorming good practices for the future. Likewise, CMCs held regular VDC- level CM monthly meetings, for more routine organizational matters. Similarly, six district-level meetings of VDC coordinators were held to share best practices and review roles and responsibilities.

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

Establishment and Expansion of New Women’s Economic Groups

During the reporting period, SB finalized contracts with five LNGOs that will work with Women’s Economic Groups (WEGs) to engage in small-scale lending and profit management activities using Pact’s WORTH model, a literacy-led approach for women’s economic empowerment. The selection process followed the same procedures SB used for the governance LNGOs described under Objective B. The contracted LNGOs are: Nepal National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA) in Kanchanpur and Kailali; Jana Jagaran Mahila Sangh (JJMS) in Bardiya; Women Association for Marginalized Women

(WAM) in Surkhet; Fatima Foundation, Nepal in Banke; and Social Upgrade in Progress of Educational Region (SUPER) in Dang. Selection of 46 LNGO staff was completed, and 17 LNGO staff received training in Pact's WORTH model. The training covered topics pertaining to organizing savings and credit groups and village banking. Trainers also discussed anticipated challenges based on Pact's experience running such programs in Nepal and internationally. WEG LNGO staff and SB project staff also held district and VDC-level consultation meetings with government officials and other stakeholders to introduce them to the project and the WEG LNGOs' activities.

Youth Engagement

During the reporting period, Youth Initiative (YI) continued its work with Local Youth Groups (LYGs) and Community Management Units (CMUs) to foster youth participation in local governance and development. Fifty-one LYGs and CMUs participated in the VDC level planning process that took place this quarter. LYGs developed youth agendas that they shared in the VDC planning meetings. This effort contributed to the inclusion of



FIGURE 2 LYG MEMBERS IN DANG RESTORING A PIPAL CHAUTARA

budgets for youth and sports in 39 VDCs (including three VDCs in Kanchanpur District that allocated budgets for youth for the first time). However, not all LYGs were trained on the VDC planning process by the time it began, which limited their participation in some cases. YI and LYG members also held informal meetings with major political parties and stakeholders in order to promote inclusion of youth priorities in DDC planning meetings and raise awareness at the responsibilities that the District Youth Networks will take over in the future (discussed below).

LYGs were also active in other capacities during this quarter. They helped organize and conduct six volunteer activities in their VDCs, including awareness campaigns about open defecation free zones and domestic violence, a street drama about social discrimination, a discussion program about youth issues, construction of a signboard, and celebration of Democracy Day. LYGs also conducted six volunteer activities in this reporting period. These included renovation of a *pipal chautara* (public sitting area) in Dang, two race programs for peace and good governance, an interaction on community youth participation, a volleyball tournament for raising awareness about youth issues, and a sanitation program at a high school. In total, 273 youth participated (39% female; ethnicity/caste breakdown is shown in the figure below). LYGs held a total of 65 group meetings and continued to build networks with community based organizations (CBOs) and WCFs within their VDCs.

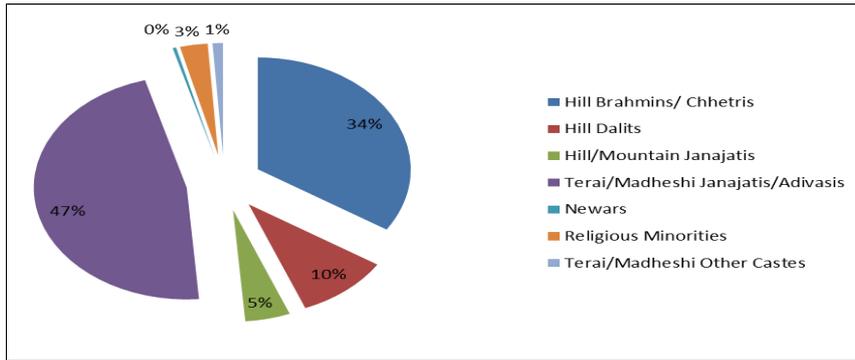


FIGURE 3: ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPATION IN LYGS VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

YI also conducted five three-day trainings on life skills, civic engagement, and local development for members of LYGs. The trainings involved many interactive activities related to problem solving, decision making, critical and creative thinking, communication skills, self-awareness, stress management, civic engagement, and local development. A total of 136 youth took part in the trainings in five districts (53% female participation; see the figure below for an ethnic/caste breakdown of the participants).

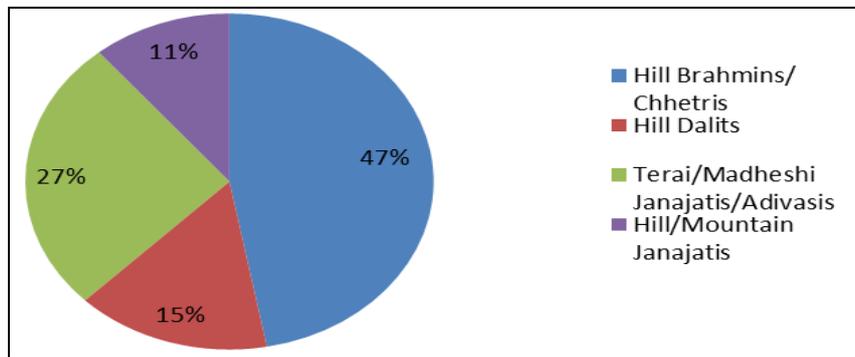


FIGURE 4: ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF LYG TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

YI formed new District Youth Networks (DYNs) in Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya, and Surkhet, and reformed DYNs in Banke and Dang that had been formed prior to the project, but later become inactive. The DYNs are made up of members from LYGs. They will engage in the district planning process and promote youth participation in DDC council meetings and other development-related activities. The DYN committees consist of 41% females; the ethnic/ caste makeup is shown in the figure below.

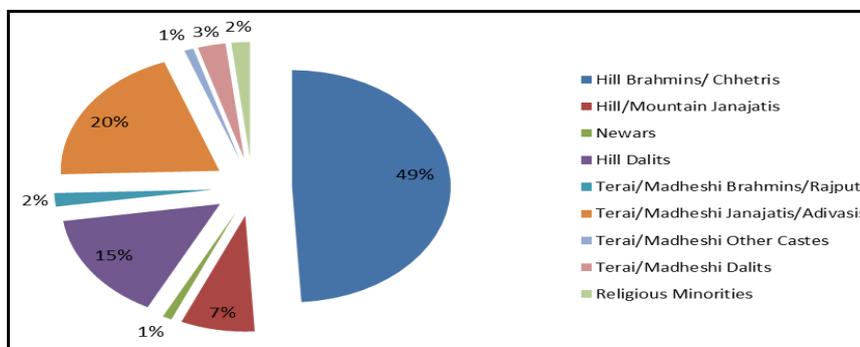


FIGURE 5: CASTE/ ETHNIC BREAKDOWN OF DYN COMMITTEES

YI completed CMU formation this quarter by establishing one last CMU in Kanchanapur VDC of Banke District, for a total of 58 CMUs currently in operation. CMUs consist of members from LYGs and other diverse representatives from society. They meet quarterly to provide guidance and support to LYGs, and to monitor and assess the implementation of VDC programs. Thirteen quarterly CMU meetings were held during this period. The remaining 45 CMUs will catch up by conducting their quarterly meetings in April.

Media Campaigns

Radio Programming Production and Broadcast

Equal Access (EA) continued the production and broadcast of the *Naya Nepal (NN)* and *Sajhedari* radio programs during the quarter. Each of the seven local production partner FM stations produced six episodes of *Sajhedari* with 42 episodes produced in total. Similarly, six episodes of *NN* (the national-level program that is now broadcast bi-monthly) were produced and broadcast. Additionally, one national-level *Sathi Sanga Manka Kura* episode on youth participation in community mediation was broadcast. In total, 70% of supported FM radio stations produced quality radio programs that addressed issues related to local government, youth, and women. EA worked in close coordination with CeLRRD and Youth Initiative to produce content that showcased SB activities related to youth, governance, and the CMCs. In total, over 15 episodes specifically addressing the 14-step participatory planning and budgetary process and 11 episodes on CeLRRD's mediation programs were broadcast. As a result of programming focused on the participatory planning process, EA has seen an increase in RLG members participating in the VDC local planning and budgeting meetings discussed below.



FIGURE 6 RLG VISIT TO KRISHNASAR FM IN BANKE

Radio Listener Groups (RLGs)

During this quarter, RLGs held 225 meetings with the participation of 3,745 members. As mentioned above, EA has noted RLGs becoming more active in taking collective action. In Durgauli, Kailali, the Sangharsha Tole Bikaas RLG formed an agenda based on members' needs that they took to VDC planning meetings. As a result, the VDC allocated Rs. 222,000 for their activities, including exam preparation courses for women seeking entry into the civil service, a campaign against violence against women, the purchase of sports goods, and a campaign against child marriage and girls' trafficking. Similarly, the Deepjyoti RLG of Thapapur-3, Kailali approached their local VDC officer for financial support and was able to conduct a street drama about violence against women in their community. The youth RLG Nawa Durga in Raikawar Bichwa, Kanchanpur raised funds locally to build a wooden bridge to their village and a tent house for their meetings. EA anticipates seeing more collective action from RLGs as they engage with the issues in SB's radio programming.

Most of the RLGs have provided positive feedback stating that programming has been helpful in informing them about how to participate in the local level development process. They have requested more discussion programs, dramas, and field visits by reporters to remote and marginalized communities.

EA trained 24 community members as new RLG facilitators in March. The training focused on the facilitation and leadership skills required to lead an RLG, and included practical exercises. Many of the facilitators were from marginalized communities (42% were from Tarai/Madhesi/Janajati/Adhivasi ethnic groups; 42% were from Hill Brahmin/Chhetri groups; 8% were from Hill/Mountain Janajati groups; and 8% were Dalit). EA has now formed a total of 87 RLGs, over 75% of the target for Phase I of the project.

Content Advisory Group Meetings

Equal Access organized a Content Advisory Group (CAG) meeting in March in Kathmandu that was attended by senior program leaders of SB implementing partners (IPs) and members of the National Women's Commission. The CAG meeting proposed focusing programming on six key themes during the next quarter: Community Mediation (Introduction), Community Mediation Centers (CMCs), Gender Based Violence and CMCs, VDC Development Budgets, Monitoring and Evaluation Committees' Roles and Responsibilities, and Constituent Assembly updates and expectations.

Radio Strategic Advisory Committee (R-SAC) Meeting

The Radio Strategic Advisory Committee (R-SAC) was formed this quarter to ensure that media activities are well designed and IP impact stories are incorporated into media programming. The first R-SAC meeting was held in January in Nepalgunj, attended by senior program leaders of the SB IPs. The committee discussed key project activities and plans for highlighting IP field work through radio programs in the future. The participation of IPs in the R-SAC meetings was important in fostering more coordination between IP efforts in the field and improving radio programming.

Local Content Advisory Group (CAG) meetings

Seven local CAG meetings were held during January, one by each FM production partner station, including EA's newest partner, Radio Tulsipur FM. Meeting participants included producers, Community Mediators, journalists, Community Reporters (CRs), Communication Action Researchers (CARs), DDC representatives, community members, and representatives from EA, Youth Initiative and CeLRRD. The meetings were aimed at finalizing and prioritizing production themes for future episodes of the radio program. The participation of IPs was helpful in identifying ways that IPs and FM stations can work with one another to highlight efforts and successes toward achieving project target results.

Critical Listening and Feedback Sessions (CLFS)

Critical Listening and Feedback Sessions (CLFS) were used to monitor the technical and programmatic quality of radio shows. During this quarter, seven CLFS were held at SB production partner FM stations and one at the national level was held for NN. Eight to ten people participated in each session, including IP representatives, CRs, CARs, producers, local organizations on governance, CMC representatives, producers from other stations, local youth group members, and LINGO representatives. After listening to the

episode selected for the session, they recommended strategies to represent more viewpoints and integrate more issues and stakeholders, including women and members of marginalized communities.

2.3 OBJECTIVE B: IMPROVE COMMUNITIES' ABILITY TO ACCESS RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Governance LNGO selection and orientation

In September 2013, Sajhedari advertised a request for proposal (RFP) from local NGOs for work at the VDC and district level to carry out Objective B and C activities related to governance. At the same time, an RFA was advertised for LNGOs to administer women's economic group (WEG) activities described in this report under Objective A. The RFAs were disseminated in local and regional newspapers and radio programs.

Once applications were received, the selection process consisted of five steps:

First, the selection team disqualified those applicants that did not meet the minimum criteria for eligibility. NGOs lacking registration within the district, affiliation with the Social Welfare Council, possession of a valid bank account, or possession of at least two recent audit reports were eliminated.

Second, the applications were subjected to technical review. Technical evaluation criteria included: clarity of approach and vision; linkages to the objectives of the project; monitoring and evaluation provisions; and quality of the organizational chart. In addition, there was a review of project oversight, accountability and key personnel. At the end of the review, three finalist LNGOs were chosen for each district.

Third, the selection team conducted a management capacity assessment (MCAT) of the finalist LNGOs. This included the verification of documents they had mentioned in the application and an assessment of the organizations' profiles to ensure they were properly registered as claimed within the district, affiliated with the Social Welfare Council, active in the working areas, had formation criteria for executive boards, maintained inclusiveness within the executive board, etc. The organizations' accounting, budgeting, reporting, M&E, and auditing policies and practices were also reviewed and assessed. This process identified each LNGO's possible level of risk (low, moderate and high) if funds were to be awarded.

Fourth, the team analyzed the cost proposals, reviewing budgets and linking them back to the work plan. Staff assessed each organization's ability to manage a budget, support incurred costs, and forecast the budgetary impact of programmatic requirements.

Fifth, the team performed past performance checks by contacting donors who had previously worked with the LNGOs. The team also visited top finalists in each of the six districts to meet with staff and board members in-person, and further investigate their program knowledge. Based on the findings of the site visits, as well as the previous review steps, the selection team recommended the names of the LNGOs for selection as partners.

During this reporting period, SB finalized contracts with seven governance LNGOs: Banke UNESCO Club (BUC) and Environmental and Rural Development Centre (ENRUDC) in Banke; Social Awareness Centre (SAC) in Surkhet; Backward Society Education (BASE) in Dang; Youth Acting for Change (YAC) and Human Rights Awareness and Social Development Centre (HURADC) in Kailali; and Nepal National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA) in Kanchanpur. In addition, Community Development Organization (CDO) is currently being contracted to work in Bardiya District and will be on board during the next quarter.

Selection of 71 staff was completed by the LNGOs, and Sajhedari Bikaas conducted two three-day workshops to provide orientation and guide them in developing work plans for the coming year. Eighteen participants from the LNGOs in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts met in Dhangadi on March 19-21, and 22 participants from the LNGOs in Banke, Dang, and Surkhet met in Nepalgunj on March 26-28. The participants discussed program goals and received guidance on USAID objectives. As part of the workshops, Pact tested the Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) tool it will utilize to assist partner organizations to assess their strengths and weaknesses, clarify their vision, plan for success, and take ownership of their future. LNGOs developed draft work plans of activities for the next two years and prepared budgetary frameworks. Local Development Officer Gyanendra Dhakal of Banke DDC, USAID COR Ramesh Adhikari, and UNDP Regional Dialogue Coordinator Shivpujan Biswakarma were among the workshop guests.

Following these workshops, the LNGOs began district and VDC-level consultation meetings with government officials and other stakeholders to introduce them to the project and the activities of the governance LNGOs.

2.4 OBJECTIVE C: IMPROVE COMMUNITIES' ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

As noted above, the LNGOs involved in implementation of this objective have been finalized and provided orientation regarding the SB project, and have begun carrying out district and VDC-level consultation meetings. Other activities under this objective will begin during the next quarter.

2.5 OBJECTIVE D: INCREASE THE ABILITY OF EXISTING AND NEW GOVERNMENT UNITS TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY

Perception Survey on VDC service delivery, federalism, and decentralization

This quarter, working with Interdisciplinary Analysts (IDA), SB undertook its first annual public perception survey of local governmental bodies' service delivery and attitudes towards decentralization and federalism in the project districts. In March, the survey questionnaire was pre-tested to ascertain whether or not respondents understood the questions, and slight modifications were made. Training for three monitors, six supervisors, and 24 enumerators, all of whom had participated in the baseline survey, was conducted from during March 21-25. The training included familiarization with the questions and their significance, use of the mobile phone-based Mopenzi software, and data collection practice. Field data was collected from March 26 to April 9 covering approximately 1,200 respondents, with each survey interview

lasting approximately 60 minutes. Despite minor technical setbacks, on the whole, data collection went smoothly. Additionally, 18 focus group discussions (FGDs) were carried out at the VDC and DDC level, and key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with 13 government officials at the DDC level. The FGDs and KIIs aimed to understand the challenges and gaps between the demand and supply side of local service delivery.

Data analysis is currently underway. SB intends to use the results from the surveys to adjust programming and better use project resources by shifting them to where they are most needed. The perception survey report will be shared with national and sub-national government line agencies and the wider governance community, such as LGCDP donor groups.

Strengthening DDC and VDC public financial management and vital registration systems

SB has begun a dialogue with DDC and VDC offices about their prioritized needs. Based on consultations to date, SB is working with MoFALD to provide in-kind support to improve public financial management, and also administration of the vital event registration and social security system. DDCs and VDCs are required to use accounting software provided by MoFALD to improve public financial management and address fiduciary risk. However, very few DDCs and VDCs in SB districts have received the training or hardware they need in this regard. Apart from five VDCs in Kanchanpur District, five DDCs and 54 VDCs in SB project areas still need software, hardware, and training. Similarly, the VDC offices are largely using traditional methods of registering and updating the vital event registration system. This is causing delays in the process, and the risk of data loss and manipulation of information. SB is clarifying MoFALD's needs and will consult USAID on procedures for providing in-kind support.

3.0 CHALLENGES & CONSTRAINTS – INTERNAL

3.1 STAFFING

One of SB's challenges has been the recruitment and retention of high quality staff. This is due in part to difficult living conditions in Nepalgunj and competition with other Kathmandu-based agencies. During this quarter, local staff salaries were reviewed against the revised USAID Local Compensation Plan (LCP) and adjusted as necessary. In addition, an Adverse Conditions Allowance that falls within the LCP was provided. Together, these steps should help to ensure that SB can attract and retain qualified staff. During this quarter, SB initiated recruitment for a new PBMS Manager and a Senior Regional Program Manager. Finalists were selected and are expected to begin work in April. Recruitment is also underway for a Nepali national to serve as Director of Grants and Contracts, a critical position as SB ramps up its grants/contracts to local partners. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed in April with a target selection/start date of May.

3.2 LOCAL PARTNERS

The selection this quarter of LNGO partners for governance and WEG activities was challenging for several reasons. Many of the applicant LNGOs had hired external consultants to write their proposals in English. SB staff had to be careful to ensure that LNGOs whose applications were less refined because they had not hired outside consultants were still afforded a fair review. During visits to finalists' offices, SB found that many of the LNGOs had to struggle to understand USAID contractual obligations, as most are new to the contract mechanism.

In SB districts, as in other parts of the country, NGO selection is a sensitive process due to the politicization of NGOs and the ubiquity of corruption and nepotism. SB dealt with outside attempts to influence the selection process responsibly, exercising fairness and transparency.

4.0 ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES & CONSTRAINTS – EXTERNAL

4.1 PROTESTS & POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS

Unlike previous reporting periods, there were few political activities to slow SB implementation during the past quarter. There was only one incident, in Kailali District, where local political parties obstructed the selection of Community Mediators during an open community consultation meeting. SB's partner for ADR, CeLRRD, is in dialogue with the parties to identify the underlying issues and resolve them.

4.2 SECURITY & SAFETY CONCERNS

As discussed in the Operational Space section, there are regular agitations by aggrieved groups in Kailali and Banke where landless *ex-Kamaiyas* and *ex-Kamlaris* are demanding implementation of agreements signed between the government and their leaders. Thus far this has not affected project activities significantly. However, as local governance NGOs begin working at the VDC level, agitating groups may seek to influence them. SB is in discussion with several organizations, including CeLRRD, to better enable them to mediate group conflicts.

5.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1 MAJOR CATEGORY EXPENDITURES

TABLE 1 Q2 FY 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY PER INVOICE CATEGORIES

Item	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Q2 FY2014 Total	Cumulative
Personnel	39,813.94	41,259.27	48,978.00	130,051.21	532,081.72
Fringe Benefits	8,653.79	7,796.73	12,700.00	29,150.52	143,702.49
Consultants	13,976.94	12,325.61	5,000.00	31,302.55	318,943.30
Travel	8,426.67	8,687.09	14,400.00	31,513.76	193,103.57
Allowances	3,334.32	5,674.90	8,500.00	17,509.22	67,257.64
Equipment & Supplies	4,726.16	-2,559.74	8,900.00	11,066.42	168,789.59
Contractual	173,135.87	81,451.41	189,365.96	443,953.24	1,305,112.95
Other Direct Costs	11,901.00	4,742.70	16,792.00	33,435.70	216,872.17
Indirect Costs	35,040.96	27,043.28	38,064.87	100,149.11	545,917.63
Fixed Fee	8,209.27	8,700.36	8,071.64	24,981.27	129,196.37
TOTAL	307,218.92	195,121.61	350,772.47	853,113.00	3,620,977.42

5.2 STATUS OF EXPENDITURE FUNDS TOWARDS M&E PURPOSE

TABLE 2 M&E EXPENDITURES

Direct Costs	Amount
Personnel	6,762.23
Fringe Benefits	2,585.45
Travel	1,208.49
Equipment & Supplies	6,431.00
Contractual	61,062.83
Other Direct	288.00
Subtotal Direct Costs	78,338.00
Indirect Costs	7,930.38
TOTAL	86,268.38

5.3 LOE UTILIZATION SUMMARY STATUS

A total of 861.48 days were utilized during this reporting period per the LOE Table. At the end of Year 2 Quarter 2, 19.77% of the total approved LOE has been utilized.

TABLE 3 LOE UTILIZATION FOR Q2 FY 2014

Position	Jan. 2014	Feb. 2014	Mar. 2014	Q2 FY 2014 Total LOE	Budgeted LOE	Remaining LOE
LTTA – Expat (USN)	49.34	32.88	54.88	137.10	3,250.00	2,450.37
LTTA – CCN	210.00	251.00	220.00	681.00	16,900.00	13,720.37
STTA	17.00	9.00	17.38	43.38	1,950.00	1,559.90
TOTAL	276.34	292.88	292.25	861.48	22,100.00	17,730.64

Staffing Matrix

In this quarter, SB recruited and hired a Human Resources Manager, an Office Manager, a Grants Specialist, and a WEG Program Manager, and submitted several additional requests to USAID to hire a Senior Regional Program Manager, Grants and Contracts Manager, GIS Officer/Consultant, and TCN Director of Grants and Contracts. SB is currently in the final process of recruiting an M&E Officer/Consultant and a CCN Director of Grants and Contracts.

TABLE 4 STAFF RECRUITMENT MATRIX

Position	Target Start Date	Recruit Status	Name
Chief of Party	11/22/13	Hired	Nick Langton
Deputy Chief of Party	01/08/13	Hired	Rakesh Karna
Regional Program Manager	02/17/14	Hired	Mahesh Nepal
Regional Program Manager	TBD	Vacant	Awaiting USAID Approval
Operations Manager	06/05/13	Hired	Mary Giudice
Program Specialist, Local Governance	04/01/13	Hired	Lilaraj Limbu
Program Specialist, Engineer	03/18/13	Hired	Dinesh Mandel
Program Specialist, Women Economic Growth	02/25/14	Hired	Reena Chaudhary
Performance Based Monitoring System (PBMS)	TBD	Vacant	Awaiting USAID Approval
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	04/10/13	Hired	Sudan Shivakoti
GIS Officer	01/13/14	Hired	Nim Bahadur Thapa Regmi
Director of Grants & Contracts	05/15/14	Vacant	In process
Grants Specialist	06/10/13	Hired	Suresh Sarki
Director of Coordination	01/29/13	Hired	Ram Paudel

Grants Specialist	10/23/13	Hired	Birendra Chaudhary
Director of Finance	01/08/13	Hired	Arun Prasad Shrestha
Finance Manager	03/18/13	Hired	Surya Upadhyaya
Finance Officer	10/23/13	Hired	Topendra Basnyat
Finance Assistant	05/06/13	Hired	Rita Diwan
Procurement Officer	12/16/13	Hired	Prakash Sunar
Administrative & Logistic Officer	01/23/14	Hired	Ameeruddin Ansari
Administration Assistant	TBD	Vacant	In process
Receptionist	07/08/13	Hired	Swechchha Shrestha
Driver	05/10/13	Hired	Dulari Tharu
Driver	08/01/13	Hired	Karna Bahadur Lopchan
Driver	08/26/13	Hired	Tika Ram Sunar
Driver	08/01/13	Hired	Rajendra B.K.
Program Specialist, Conflict Mitigation	03/10/14	Hired	Geeta Pradhan
Office Manager	10/17/13	Hired	Ananta Sharma
HR Manager	11/11/13	Hired	Anju Lamichhane
IT Officer	10/25/13	Hired	Bal Kumar Khatri
Cleaner/Cook	08/01/13	Hired	Nanda Gharti Magar
Cleaner	08/01/13	Hired	Sunita Tharu
Grants and Contract Manager	01/29/14	Hired	Sanjay Kumar Gupta
M&E Associate	02/19/14	Hired	Radhika K.C.
Residence Security and Maintenance Coordinator	01/09/14	Hired	Ram Kumar Lama
Office and Ground Maintenance	11/18/13	Hired	Chitra Bhandari

ANNEX 1: INDICATOR SHEET:

Indicators	Type	Source/Method	Disaggregation	Geo-enabled reporting	Responsible	Frequency	Target: Yr. 2 Jan-Nov 2014)	Progress as of March (Jan-Mar, 2014)
Goal: Targeted communities are empowered to better direct their own local development								
Objective A: Enabling environment for community development established								
IR A1: Early responses that address the causes and consequences of instability are institutionalized								
Proportion of all mediation cases opened during the quarter preceding the period that were settled within 3 months	Outcome	Routine data collection CeLRRD - monthly reports	Ward, District, gender, ethnicity**	No	CeLRRD	Qtrly	60%	76%
F: Number of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving conflict or the drivers of the conflict	Output	Count of number of new community mediation centers established, CeLRRD reports	VDC, District	No	CeLRRD	Qtrly	20	21
F: # of groups trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills or consensus building techniques with USG assistance	Output	Training reports	District/VDC/ gender/age/ ethnicity	No	CeLRRD	Qtrly	58	19
Number of new cases of individual/group conflict mediations opened during the reporting period	Output	Routine data collection CeLRRD - monthly reports	Ward, District, nature of dispute	No	CeLRRD	Qtrly	3786	535
F: Number of conflict/fragility early warning systems, conflict assessment or response mechanisms supported by USG assistance	Process	Count of number of systems in place and number of conflict		Yes	Pact/ Saferworld	Qtrly	5	2

Indicators	Type	Source/Method	Disaggregation	Geo-enabled reporting	Responsible	Frequency	Target: Yr. 2 Jan-Nov 2014)	Progress as of March (Jan-Mar, 2014)
		assessments done						
IR A2: Enduring solutions to the problems that drive conflict are adopted								
Proportion of supported economic groups that provide more than 5 loans per year to their members	Outcome	LNGO reports	District	Yes	LNGOs, Pact	Yearly	50%	0
Proportion of LNGOs that have an improved Organizational Performance Index (OPI) score	Outcome	OPI tool	n/a	No	Pact	Yearly	60%	0
Number of youth who have started a business or found a job through the YI activities	Outcome	Youth Initiative reporting system	District	No	Youth Initiative	Yearly	25	0
Proportion of supported FM radio stations that produce quality radio programs that address issues on local government, youth, women, disadvantaged groups	Outcome	Tool to measure quality (EA) score card	District	Yes	Equal Access	Yearly	60%	70%
Number of individuals who received USG-assisted training on inclusion (GESI charter) and the understanding of the root causes of the conflict	Output	Training reports	VDC, District, gender, ethnicity, type of training, age category***	No	LNGOs, Pact	Qrtly	1,450	0
Number of new/existing women's economic groups formed during the reporting period	Output	LNGO reports	District	Yes	LNGOs, Pact	Qrtly	116	0
Number of economic group participants who received training on business and accounting	Output	LNGO reports	VDC, District, gender, ethnicity*, type of training, age category	No	LNGOs, Pact	Qrtly	2,320	0
Number of youth groups and CMUs that have been established/revived/operational in the reporting period	Output	Youth Initiative reporting system	District	No	Youth Initiative	Yearly	1	1
Number of people who have been trained on the different YI training programs	Output	Youth Initiative training reports	VDC, District, gender, ethnicity, type of training age	No	Youth Initiative	Qrtly	1,755	136

Indicators	Type	Source/Method	Disaggregation	Geo-enabled reporting	Responsible	Frequency	Target: Yr. 2 Jan-Nov 2014)	Progress as of March (Jan-Mar, 2014)
			group					
Proportion of VDCs that have youth groups/CMU who participate in the VDC planning process	Outcome	VDC meeting reports/files	District	Yes	Youth Initiative	Yearly	70%	88
F: Number of media stories disseminated with USG support to facilitate the advancement of reconciliation or peace processes	Output	National broadcast episodes plus local FM station broadcasts episodes	National or local FM broadcast	No	Equal Access	Qtrly	203	48
F: # of non-state news outlets assisted by USG	Output	Progress reports	District/type of FM stations	Yes	Equal Access	Qtrly	16	15
F: Number of USG supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation among key actors of conflict	Output	Training reports/event reports, activity progress reports from IPs and LNGOs	District/VDCs, type of events, type of participants	No	PACT	Qtrly	1,500	0
Number of new listener clubs established	Output	EA routine reporting	district	Yes	EA	Qtrly	75	17
Objective B: Communities access resources for development								
IR B1: Inclusive community strategic planning process are established								
Number of local key stakeholders (community leaders, local government officials) trained in inclusive participatory planning	Output	Training records	District, VDC, gender, type of training	No	LNGOs/Pact	Qtrly	1,450	0
IR B2: Community development plans are established								
Proportion of village development plans with a functional sustainability plan that adheres to locally agreed standards	Outcome	Review of village development plans	District	Yes	LNGOs/Pact	Yearly	30%	0

Indicators	Type	Source/Method	Disaggregation	Geo-enabled reporting	Responsible	Frequency	Target: Yr. 2 Jan-Nov 2014)	Progress as of March (Jan-Mar, 2014)
Number of Ward Citizen Forum meetings that review the village development plan to ensure equitable distribution of local resources	Output	Meeting reports	VDC, District	No	LNGOs/Pact	Qrtly	522	0
F: Number of awards made directly to local organizations (cross-cutting indicators)	Output	Progress reports	Type of awards/District /NGO	Yes	LNGOs/PACT	Qrtly	9	12
IR B3: Community based organizations advocate for needed resources for financial, technical and commodity support								
Proportion of village development plans that include a fundraising plan	Outcome	Review of village development plans	District	Yes	LNGOs/Pact	Yearly	50%	0
Number of micro grants provided for community development	Output	Review of grants reports/ GMIS	VDC/District	Yes	LNGOs/Pact	Qrtly	100	0
Objective C: Communities implement inclusive development policies effectively								
IR C1: Mechanisms for transparent administration of funds is institutionalized								
Number of individuals who received USG assisted training, including management and fiscal skills	Output	Training records	District, VDC, gender, ethnicity, age group	No	LNGOs/Pact	Qrtly	3,020	0
F: Number of people affiliated with NGOs receiving USG supported anti-corruption training	Output	Training report	District/NGO	No	PACT	Qrtly	700	0
Proportion of community projects that are allocated to women, youth or marginalized groups	Outcome	Review of community project funding allocation	District	Yes	LNGOs/Pact	Yearly	50%	0
IR C3: systems for sustainability are established								
Proportion of user groups that improve their organizational capacity	Outcome	Organizational Performance Index adapted to user groups/	District	Yes	LNGOs/Pact	Yearly	50%	0

Indicators	Type	Source/Method	Disaggregation	Geo-enabled reporting	Responsible	Frequency	Target: Yr. 2 Jan-Nov 2014)	Progress as of March (Jan-Mar, 2014)
		community based organizations						
Objective D: Local government units function effectively								
IR D1: Local government officials effectively carry out their mandate								
F: # of sub-national entities receiving USG assistance that improve their performance (government OPI)*****	Outcome	Baseline - midterm and endline surveys	District/VDC	Yes	Pact	Baseline - midterm and endline surveys	5	0
Number of VDC that have run the local government barometer as a self- assessment tool	Output	Local Government Barometer reports	District	Yes	Pact	Yearly	5	0
Number of VDC officials trained and/or mentored in public administration, inclusive management, planning and implementation of VDC plans	Output	Training/mentor -ing reports	District, gender, age, ethnicity	No	LNGOs/Pact	Qrtly	1,450	0
IR D2: Local government units and CBOs/CSOs collaborate to identify local development priorities								
Number of times technical assistance is provided to local government ministries	Output	Reports	n/a	No	LNGOs/Pact	Yearly	4	0
Proportion of Ward Citizen Forums (UGs/CBOs, CSOs) who have tracked their budget allocation	Outcome	Baseline - midterm and endline surveys	district	No	Pact/extern evaluator	Baseline, mid-term, endline	70%	0%
Cross-Cutting Indicators								
F: Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income or employment)	Output	Progress Report	District/age	Yes	DNGO/PACT	Quarterly	50%	0%

ANNEX 2: SUCCESS STORIES

“Sajhedari helped me develop professionally.”

Laxmi Chaudhari of Hasuliya VDC, Kailali, is a student at Kailali Multiple Campus. She comes from a middle class family of Tharu ethnicity, a marginalized Tarai community. She learned about Sajhedari Bikaas’s Youth Empowerment Program through her peers, and when an internship vacancy was announced she applied and was selected as a volunteer. She learned a lot on the job regarding project implementation. She remembers that at the beginning, “I had felt very weak; I had poor communication skills and did not know how to speak in front of a group... I was not able to share my ideas effectively or convince others.”

During her internship, she helped the Youth Empowerment Program staff to establish VDC-level Youth Groups. This required facing her fears—speaking in front of groups and voicing



LAXMI HANDLING A SESSION OF LYG FORMATION

her opinions—and ultimately helped her to become more professional. She also gained insight into the internal operations of NGOs. Later, she played a role as a youth activist. Now, she has earned a job as a counselor with the SaMi project at Creation of Creative Society (CCS), an NGO in Kailali. She says that “Sajhedari helped me develop professionally.”

“Mediation gave me a new life”

Sita Nepali (name changed) of Sanoshree VDC, Bardiya, was very enthusiastic about the help she received from her local CMC in resolving a marital dispute. After losing her mother at an early age and growing up in poverty, Sita married a man from her own village at the age of 18. Unfortunately, her husband passed away only nine months after their marriage, and his family began to abuse her. She decided to leave them and, eventually, at her father’s behest, she remarried a policeman from Bardiya, who claimed to be a divorcee. This, sadly, was not the case. When Sita arrived at her new husband’s home, she was shocked to learn that he was still married to, and living with, his first wife. Disputes emerged, eventually resulting in the first wife leaving after being given land and half of the husband’s salary. This left little money for the household. To make matters worse, her husband began seeing a third woman and physically and psychologically abusing Sita. He even stopped providing her money to run the household.

Eventually, Sita decided to seek help. She met a mediator from the same VDC, who organized mediation between her and her husband. The mediation was difficult, but after three sessions they finally came up with a solution that her husband stop seeing the other woman and also stop abusing Sita. “Mediation has given me a new life,” said Sita, “and a new vision. We are happy to say that mediation has removed the root of our dispute and has helped us to live a healthy and happy life together.”

“Mediation helped us find a way forward”

Ramu and Shyamu (names changed) are cousins who live in Pratapur VDC-1, Kailali. For years, their supportive friendship was looked upon as an example by their community. Unfortunately, their relationship fell apart regarding a dispute over a loan of Rs. 4,000 given by Shyamu to Ramu 15 years ago. As time passed, Ramu was not able to repay the amount, so he instead began repaying in the form of seasonal crops, with interest. Six years passed this way, but still Shyamu did not get back what was owed, so he decided to consult community leaders to settle the dispute. The leaders decided that Ramu should give nine thousand rupees, including principal and interest, in cash. But still, after seven more years, Ramu had not paid the amount.

Eventually, Shyamu learned about the local community mediation center and decided to register the case, and Ramu also agreed to this. After a long session in which the mediators helped the cousins to realize the value of their friendship, they were able to reach an agreement: Ramu would pay Shyamu Rs. 5500, a reduced sum from what was agreed upon by the community leaders. As they were signing the agreement paper, both were crying and thanking the mediation center. Shyamu said, “We were just trapped by a small dispute which ruined our relationship for such a long time, but this mediation session helped us to reflect on the importance of our relationship and finally helped us to find a way forward.” The two have since re-established a supportive friendship.

“Radio programs have enhanced our level of knowledge about local issues....”

“In my community it seemed that people did not have any interest in education, health or local development. People didn’t realize that we should work together to develop our own community. Many people didn’t know about their rights and duties as a citizen,” says Tashmeen Bibi, a member of the Makka Madina Radio Listener Group (RLG) in Latikoili VDC, Ward No. 9, Surkhet District.



AN RLG GROUP MEMBER

Latikoili is a Muslim community of 150 households, with about 1,520 women. Although many women are unable to read in Nepali (having only attended the *madrassa*, where they learned Arabic), many of them have become members of the RLG. One such woman is Khairun Nisha, who was trained as a Radio Listening Group facilitator and helped start the village’s RLG. “People in our village did not listen to the radio in the past... But now we regularly listen to the ‘Naya Nepal’ and ‘Sajhedari’

programs, which have enhanced our level of knowledge about local issues and how to approach them,” she says.

After listening to the episode on Right to Information, RLG members visited the VDC office several times to obtain birth registration, citizenship cards, and voter ID cards. Ranjanu Khatun, an RLG member, says "Had we not listened to these radio programs, we would never have known about all these things, but now we know and can discuss them openly."

Another member of the Makka Madina RLG, Surajja Banu, said, "The women of this community are more active in social activities. Women have started telling others about domestic violence and governance issues." Club members say that the RLG has become a platform to discuss important local issues and work to resolve them.

U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523
Tel: (202) 712-0000
Fax: (202) 216-3524
www.usaid.gov