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**SAJHEDARI BIKAAS PROGRAM**

SAJHEDARI BIKAAS:  
Partnership for Local Development  
Quarterly Report #5 – April to June, 2014

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# SAJHEDARI BIKAAS:

## Partnership for Local Development

Quarterly Report #5 – April to June, 2014





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# KEY ACRONYMS

BASE	Backward Society Education
BUC	Banke UNESCO Club
CA	Constituent Assembly
CAC	Citizen Awareness Center
CAG	Content Advisory Group
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDO:	Community Development Organization (an SB partner LNGO)
CDP	Community Development Project
CM	Community Mediator
CMC	Community Mediation Center
CMU	Community Management Unit
CPN-UML	Communist Party of Nepal – United Marxist Leninist
CSA	Conflict Sensitive Approach
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAO	District Administration office
DDC	District Development Committee
DNH	Do No Harm
DYN	District Youth Network
EA	Equal Access
ENRUDEC	Environmental and Rural Development Centre
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender based violence
GESI	Gender equity and social inclusion
GIS	Geographic Information System
IDA	Interdisciplinary Analysts
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization

IP	Implementing Partner
IPFC:	Integrated Planning Formulation Committee
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGCDP	Local Governance Community Development Program
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, trans-sexual, bisexual, intersex
LNGO	Local NGO
LYG	Local Youth Group
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
MQS	Minimum Quality Standards
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OPI	Organizational Performance Index
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RLG	Radio Listener Group
R-SAC	Radio Strategic Advisory Committee
SB	Sajhedari Bikaas
SEDC	Safe and effective development in conflict
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
UCPN(M)	Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
WCF	Ward Citizens Forum
YI	Youth Initiative

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This has been a busy quarter for Sajhedari Bikaas (SB), involving both catch-up work and the initiation of new project activities. Some highlights of activities during the reporting period include:

1. After testing the SMS conflict reporting system in two village development committees (VDCs) during the previous quarter, SB launched the system throughout the project VDCs in June. A total of 515 community mediators (CMs) from all 58 VDCs have been trained in the use of the system, and 344 conflict incidents have been reported so far through SMS messages sent by participating CMs to Sajhedari's database.
2. This reporting period's Quarterly Conflict Assessment examined the views and perceptions of young men towards sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The Assessment found a fair amount of confusion among young men about what counts as SGBV. The participants' views on gendered roles were often informed by patriarchal norms and structures. Participants had mixed knowledge and opinions regarding the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community, but there was no mention of sexual harassment towards the LGBTI community. Participants identified the consumption of alcohol (especially during festivals and public fairs) and group dynamics as fuelling factors for SGBV. Additionally, participants reported that text messages, social media and the Internet are being used to harass women and girls. The participants identified a variety of strategies for addressing SGBV, including: more awareness-raising activities, especially targeting men and boys; stricter and/or better-enforced laws; and programs to address the unemployment of young men, which is seen as contributing to SGBV.
3. Community mediation centers (CMCs) were very active this quarter, registering 1,478 new cases and resolving 72% of cases from the previous quarter. Case registration was augmented by social marketing activities, including 58 school-based programs, 14 door-to-door campaigns, 116 street dramas, and the construction of 58 billboards and 58 wall paintings. The Center for Legal Research and Resource Development (CeLRRd) conducted 26 refresher trainings on basic mediation, which were attended by 639 community mediators (CMs). Several encouraging developments regarding the long-term sustainability of the CMCs emerged during this quarter, including the newly implemented Mediation Act that has strengthened the position of CMCs, and VDC budget allocations to two of the Sajhedari-supported CMCs. CeLRRd is continuing its efforts to integrate CMCs with traditional justice mechanisms (see p. 10 for additional details).
4. After conducting district- and VDC-level consultations, 113 women's economic groups were formed/re-formed in targeted VDCs in all six districts as part of the project's WORTH component. The groups have a total of 2,804 members, with good representation of marginalized groups. Of the 113 groups, five have started saving, and one has started lending.
5. SB also conducted a rapid assessment of 978 existing economic groups in the project area. The results suggest a strong need for strengthening the capacity of existing groups. Groups would benefit from capacity-building training and support for implementing suitable income

generating activities, as well as creating linkages with VDCs, district development committees (DDCs) and other institutions for sustainability.

6. Youth Initiative (YI) conducted 18 governance and accountability trainings, 13 life skills trainings, and six capacity building trainings for members of local youth groups (LYGs) and district youth networks (DYNs). Altogether, 941 participants took part in these various trainings. In addition to regular meetings, 5,563 members of LYGs and DYNs engaged in 177 community development activities during this reporting period. LYGs have strengthened their relationships with local VDCs. New VDCs (Narayanpur and Pratappur in Kailali and Pipladi in Kanchanpur) have provided LYGs with funding this quarter. LYG activities have helped to improve community sanitation and increase school enrollment while strengthening the leadership skills of LYG members.
7. YI also completed a youth group mapping survey this quarter to determine the status of existing local youth groups in the project districts. The survey found that the majority of youth groups are male groups involved in sports activities using their own resources. Most youth groups are not aware about budgets allocated for youth, or the procedure for and benefits of formal registration as a youth group.
8. Equal Access (EA) produced and broadcast ten episodes of national-level radio programs this quarter, and supported eight partner FM stations to produce and broadcast 96 episodes of local programs. Episodes dealt with good governance, local development, and issues directly affecting youth. EA cooperated with CeLRRd to produce a public service announcement (PSA) campaign to raise awareness about services provided by Community Mediation Centers (CMCs). In response to by-elections for vacant Constituent Assembly seats in June, EA created a PSA campaign and broadcast two roundtable discussions in Bardiya and Kailali that raised awareness among voters of candidates and their views on local issues. Out of 19 journalists who received GBV training, 17 are preparing articles on different issues related to GBV, including child marriage, physical violence because of dowry, and problems faced by Badi women due to lack of citizenship.
9. Governance LNGOs began community resource mapping activities this quarter. The activities were conducted with the participation of VDC officials, members of Ward Citizen Forums (WCFs), integrated planning formulation committees (IPFCs), key informants, and local community members. Altogether, 2,355 local community members participated in the resource mapping process. This mapping is designed to set benchmarks by collecting VDC-level socio-economic and other data for use in formulating DDC and VDC periodic plans.
10. Revenue assessments were conducted in conjunction with the community resource mapping activities. Consultants used literature review and community resource mapping data to identify potential resources for revenue generation. The revenue assessments were then shared with VDC-level stakeholders and used to prepare resource mobilization plans. After review and feedback from SB, the final drafts of the reports and plans will be shared with the VDCs and resource monitoring committees for endorsement. The process is underway and will be completed during the next quarter.
11. Three governance LNGOs initiated preparation of village profiles, mobilizing 210 local enumerators. The VDCs took responsibility for organizing meetings with participants from WCFs and IPFCs, and some VDCs contributed enumerator costs.

12. A public hearing program was attended by more than 50 people in Bijauri VDC, Dang with support from SB, following the guidelines of the Public Hearing Act, 2067. The program helped raise public awareness of citizens' rights and responsibilities regarding various VDC services and transparency as evinced by the questions and opinions raised by participants during the meeting.
13. Two governance LNGOs conducted eight workshops on accountability tools in project VDCs in Banke District during June. A total of 262 social mobilizers, WCFs, Citizen Awareness Centers (CACs), VDC monitoring committees and political parties attended. Training participants discussed plans to implement Citizen Report Cards in their communities.
14. SB's governance LNGOs provided financial and technical assistance to the VDC and DDC to manage an integrated mobile service camp for two days during June in Khaskuma VDC, Banke. Attended by 2,969 persons, the camp brought 29 agencies together, including the District Administration Office, District Agriculture Office, District Livestock Service Office, District Public Health Service, Fateh Bal Eye Hospital, Regional Soil Test Laboratory, and others to facilitate service delivery in areas such as the issuance of citizenship certificates, agricultural seed distribution, and veterinary medicine distribution. Eleven of the agencies collected people's demands, while another 18 delivered services.
15. The national research firm Interdisciplinary Analysts (IDA) implemented SB's first perception survey on local governance and community development this quarter. The survey included a structured questionnaire administered to 1,201 respondents as well as focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) with 186 government officials and other stakeholders. Over half of the survey respondents (59%) said their own economic situation is neither good nor bad. Sixty-seven percent of respondents said that their VDC is effective in encouraging development in their community. When asked to assess the performance of the present local government, nearly half of respondents assessed it to be good (47%) while a substantive number assessed it to be bad (19%). With regard to federalism, 45% reported not having heard about it and only 36% reported having heard about it. When the respondents were asked whether Nepal should be a federal state or a unitary state, a majority (60%) said "don't know/cannot say". The results of the FGDs and KIIs suggest that VDCs and DDCs are providing services that they are required to provide, but in a poor manner. While the 14-step planning process appears participatory, transparent, and rule-bound on paper, there is a lack of meaningful participation, and in most cases it takes place only for the sake of formality.

See **Annex 2** for a summary of the Q3 Workplan Status.



# 1.0 POLITICAL & DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

## 1.1 NATIONAL TRENDS

To improve access to justice and facilitate the resolution of disputes, the Government of Nepal introduced the Mediation Act on April 14, 2014. The Act gives wider legitimacy to mediation, a form of alternative dispute resolution. Before the Act, community mediation did not have legal status; only court-referred mediation was legally recognized. Sajhedari Bikaas is working to inform VDCs and CMCs of the provisions of the Act.

There have been positive developments in the constitution drafting process, which started with the adoption of rules of procedures, followed by the formation of five committees to move forward the drafting process. However, six months after the Constituent Assembly (CA) election, the 26 appointed members of the CA have yet to be nominated.

The appointment of Supreme Court judges drew national attention and sharp criticism from the Nepal Bar Association, among others, as some of the nominated judges have controversial pasts. Despite the criticism, the final eight judges nominated by the Judicial Council were appointed as Supreme Court judges after a parliamentary hearing.

The Act on Commissions on Investigation of Disappeared Persons, Truth and Reconciliation 2071 (2014) was signed into law in May amid criticism from human rights activists. A group of 230 conflict victims filed a writ in the Supreme Court challenging several provisions, including those relating to amnesty of grave human rights violations and 'forced reconciliation.' In June, the government formed a five-member committee under former Chief Justice Om Bhakta Shrestha to recommend names for heads and members of the proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission on Enforced Disappearances in line with the recently endorsed Act.

## 1.2 OPERATIONAL SPACE

In June, by-elections to the Constitutional Assembly were held in Bardiya-1 and Kailali-6. Prior to the election, there was an increase in political activity in both districts, with central-level political leaders visiting the region. The elections occurred peacefully on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, minorly affecting the scheduling of

some SB activities. Preliminary reports from the Election Commission of Nepal state that there was a 60% voter-turn-out. Candidates affiliated with CPN-UML and Nepali Congress won in Bardiya and Kailali, respectively.

The Cabinet of Nepal announced 72 municipalities in May 2014. Some of the VDCs in the SB Project districts were merged into neighboring municipalities. For example, Latikoili VDC of Surkhet merged with Birendranagar Municipality, Chuha VDC of Kailali was included in Lamki Municipality, and Shamsherganj VDC of Banke came under Kohalpur Municipality. The change in the status from VDC to municipality has created a question among Sajhedari partners, especially the governance LNGOs, of whether the project should continue in the newly declared municipalities. Sajhedari has begun consultation with local government officials and local partners about developing appropriate strategies in resolving the issue.

Citizen activism on several fronts highlighted the underlying tensions in the region, but did not have a direct impact on Sajhedari's operational space during this quarter. The eviction of Dalit families from Bheri Community Forest in Surkhet in April 2014, as well as other contested evictions in Bardiya, Kanchanpur, and Kailali led to protests and continued tension. Landless tenants in Banke and Bardiya Districts submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Land Reform and Management and staged a sit-in protest demanding the upholding of tenant rights from late April to late May. The NGO Nepal Land Rights Forum (NLRF) conducted a month-long land rights awareness campaign in Kailali in April-May seeking commitments from local authorities for rehabilitation of the landless. Most land allocation for the landless was stopped in 2007 due to ambiguities in the Land Reform Act.

Activism against the *Kamlari* system of bonded labor of girls continued this quarter. Freed *Kamlaris* continued local and national campaigns to pressure the government to fully implement previous agreements to fully abolish the *Kamlari* system. In response, in May the Kailali District Administration Office (DAO) hand-delivered letters with seven-day ultimatums to *Kamlari*-holding landlords to release the girls or face legal action, resulting in the release of approximately 65 *Kamlaris*. According to organizations working on *Kamlari* issues, several hundred known *Kamlaris* are still waiting to be rescued.

Activism surrounding the *Kamaiya* and *Haliya* forms of bonded labor also continued this quarter. Two-hundred and eight freed *Kamaiya* families in Bhajani VDC, Kailali were given land ownership certificates, following an earlier decision to resettle freed *Kamaiyas*. In May, the National Haliya Liberation Societies Federation submitted an 11-point memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office with demands, including the formation of a strong Haliya Rehabilitation Commission.

Several unions held elections in the project area this quarter. The Nepal Student Union in Dang conducted its general meeting and elected a new district committee in April, after eight years. Similarly, election of new leadership for the Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) was an issue of interest in the project districts, because four youth from these areas were elected to the central committee.

# 2.0 ACTUAL VS. PLANNED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 2.1 M&E ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This quarter, SB launched the SMS conflict mapping system and made progress on the development of the performance-based management system database. It developed minimum quality standards for local NGO partners and helped them carry out individual Organizational Capacity Assessments. Community mapping activities were carried out, as well as the Project's first perception survey. The M&E unit also provided ongoing support to partners and made revisions to activities based on findings. These activities are discussed in detail below.

### 2.1.1 Progress on indicators

Please see the attached Indicator Sheet in Annex 1.

### 2.1.2 Finalization of indicators

During this reporting period, the SB team reviewed the performance management plan (PMP) indicators and the Y2 Plan for Objectives A, B, C, and D. The data and findings from M&E activities were used to set indicators with the objective of improving program performance.

### 2.1.3 SMS conflict mapping system

SB has introduced an SMS/GIS conflict mapping system to address local disputes before they escalate into more serious conflicts. The SMS/GIS system allows conflict incidents qualified by type, intensity, and recurrence to be transmitted to the system's server by various SMS reporters 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 community mediation services.

After testing the system in two VDCs during the previous quarter, SB launched it throughout the project VDCs in June. Prior to the launch, CeLRRd district trainers were trained on the system, and then they trained 515 community mediators (CMs) from all 58 VDCs during May and June (see section 2.2.1). CMs have been reporting on conflict using the SMS system since June 9, 2014.

CMs reported 344 conflict incidents in June, of which 44% were cases of inter-personal conflict, followed by GBV (30%), resource-based conflict (11%), caste-based conflict (6%) and others. Twenty-eight percent of conflicts were classified as high-intensity, 48% as medium and 24% as low. Twenty-four percent of the incidents were reported from Dang, followed by 22% from Banke, 16% from Bardiya, 15% from Surkhet, 14% from Kanchanpur, and 9% from Kailali.

#### **2.1.4 Performance-based management system database**

Progress has been made regarding the development of the DevResults site, a web-based management tool. This quarter, the performance-based management system (PBMS) unit began uploading data to the DevResults site, and it is expected that the Pact results and measurement team will provide additional technical support to run the system and make improvements to the site. The next Pact results and measurement team visit is scheduled for the third week of July.

SB currently maintains two types of PBMS databases, i.e. survey databases and activities databases. The survey databases are for storing and analyzing data from surveys (mainly quantitative) to measure progress regarding outcome and impact level indicators. The activities databases are for storing activity-level information regarding trainings, workshops, meetings, group formation, etc. to measure the progress on process and output level indicators. Data for the survey databases are taken from surveys conducted by consultants or internal staff, while data for the activities databases come from SB, implementing partners (IPs) and local NGOs (LNGOs) conducting activities. IPs and LNGOs send their datasets in MS Excel and these are imported into MS Access. These databases are used to write reports and are the main source for indicator values. Activities databases are updated monthly and survey databases are updated periodically.

#### **2.1.5 Ongoing support to partners**

A quarterly monitoring and evaluation (M&E) workshop was held from June 26-27 and was attended by coordinators and M&E staff from Pact, the Center for Legal Research and Resource Development (CeLRRd), Equal Access (EA), Youth Initiative (YI), and 12 LNGOs from six districts. The main objectives of the workshop were: to reflect on previous quarter achievements and linkages between activities and broader project objectives; to review SB minimum program quality standards regarding governance program interventions to ensure that activities are in line with meeting the results and higher level outcome and impact indicators; to update partners about the M&E PMP data sheets and links between indicators and SB results; and to follow up on the Organizational Performance Index (OPI) to track changes in the organizations' performance and capacities.

During this quarter, Pact worked closely with the newly-selected LNGO partners to coordinate their reporting systems with the SB system. Each LNGO partner organized a quarterly M&E session/review and reflection to ensure that all planned activities are reported on and data from the field is of high quality. Partners prepared action plans and established baselines for the OPI, which will be compared annually to track changes in organizational performance according to the four key domains of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and sustainability.

#### **2.1.6 Community resource mapping**

Governance LNGOs began community resource mapping activities this quarter. This mapping is designed to set benchmarks by collecting VDC-level socio-economic and other data for use in program planning

and implementation. The data will also support VDCs and district development committees (DDCs) in preparing village profiles and village periodic plans (see Objective B- Result 2).

In May, 14 staff from the governance LNGOs were oriented on the use of community resource mapping tools and indicators, including participatory rural appraisal tools such as semi-structured interviews, resource map drawing exercises, and FGDs. Immediately after the training, LNGO staff conducted orientation trainings on community resource mapping for 58 social mobilizers. Upon approval by the Integrated Planning Formulation Committees (IPFCs), the LNGO staff and social mobilizers jointly carried out community resource mapping activities in project VDCs with the participation of VDC officials, members of WCFs and IPFCs, key informants, and local community members. Altogether, 2,355 local community people (including 35% females and representative proportions of different ethnic/caste groups) participated in the resource mapping process. The data were compiled and provided to consultants with expertise in the field, in order to prepare community resource mapping reports. The consultants then held meetings with VDC-level stakeholders to share the community resource mapping reports.

The resource mapping exercise revealed significant disparities among the VDCs in Sajhedari districts. Some VDCs have good office buildings, computer equipment, and adequate staff, while others remain resource deficient. VDCs with better office buildings tend to provide space for Sajhedari-supported Community Mediation Centers. Poor maintenance of office equipment and limited space for the filing of documents were common across VDCs. Some VDCs have service providers nearby, such as agricultural and livestock offices, but others have these only at a distance. The coverage of community-based organizations such as savings and credit groups, mothers groups, and cooperative forest users groups varies by VDC.

### **2.1.7 Perception survey**

The national research firm Interdisciplinary Analysts implemented SB's first perception survey on local governance and community development in April, and the report was submitted to USAID in July. The bi-annual survey is designed to examine trends in citizens' perceptions of local bodies' service delivery and attitudes towards decentralization in the target districts. SB will use the results to adjust program strategies and shift resources to activities/areas where they are most needed. Once the draft report is approved by USAID, it will be shared with SB partner organizations and stakeholders at the VDC, district, and regional levels so that collaborative efforts can be improved. For more details on the survey, see section "2.5.1 Result 1 - Local government officials effectively carry out their mandate" under Objective D.

### **2.1.8 Minimum quality standard (MQS)**

Sajhedari developed minimum program quality standards (MQS) for each of the major interventions for all LNGOs. These MQSs were developed in close consultation with the LNGOs and will be used to measure and ensure that the program activities are meeting the higher level outcome and impact indicators. Based on these standards, the M&E unit will develop monitoring checklists and conduct periodic internal quality assessments, which would include FGDs and KII with community members and government stakeholders during quarter four. The finding of these assessments will be shared with USAID, the internal program team, and SB partners.

### **2.1.9 Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA)**

This quarter, 107 participants from 12 LNGOs received training on Pact's Organization Capacity Assessment (OCA), and developed 100-day action plans to strengthen their capabilities. Pact's OCA uses a facilitated, customized self-assessment methodology to identify organizational strengths and needs, develop plans for capacity development support, build ownership and excitement for the capacity development process, and measure change in organizational capacity over time. Pact's OCAs are customized for the local context and are co-created with local partners. Partners assess their organization themselves with the support of an external facilitator.

### **2.1.10 Revision of program strategies based on monitoring findings**

During this reporting period, SB ensured that the findings of ongoing field-level monitoring activities, workshops and interactions were used to revise program strategies. Some key revisions made to the program strategies during this quarter included:

- Based on observations made while monitoring EA's Broadcast Audience Survey training, SB made several suggestions for improving the training. It emphasized focusing on basic knowledge of research types, methods and data collection techniques using mobile technology. It also suggested highlighting the importance of structured surveys for establishing baselines and comparing performance of supported FM radio stations.
- SB monitored EA's roundtable discussions with local government officials and other local stakeholders. The roundtables were found to be very productive and useful, but nonetheless some suggestions for improvement were made, such as requiring participation of all SB LNGOs/IPs, some of whom were absent from the discussions. The M&E unit suggested conducting the roundtable discussions twice per year.
- Based on a monitoring visit to EA's Youth Utilizing Social Media training, SB provided feedback and suggestions regarding the use of social media platforms and follow-up. The M&E unit suggested further basic familiarization with social media platforms, because some participants were initially unfamiliar with such platforms. It was also suggested that follow-up include collection of the participants' blog posts in order to gauge the training's effectiveness and identify gaps.
- The M&E unit monitored CeLRRd's community mediation activities this quarter. Community mediation centers (CMCs) have made great improvements in increasing case registration through social marketing activities this quarter. SB suggested locating CMCs nearby VDC offices, to the extent possible. Experience shows that CMCs located near VDC offices get higher numbers of cases, and have better security. Furthermore, SB emphasized the need to better link the SMS conflict reporting system with CMCs in order to improve the services they offer.
- Pact is working with all IPs and LNGOs to review their work plans to ensure activities' linkages to results and sustainable intervention strategies. Work plans must reflect SB's PMP indicators and program alignment with the Local Government and Community Development Program (LGCDP) II.

- Based on experience and findings of the quarterly workshop, IPs and LNGOs need consistent support to build their capacity to prepare high quality data and reports and to conduct data quality audits themselves. SB supports these efforts through the M&E quarterly workshops. The next quarterly workshop will be held in September 2014.

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

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

#### **Conflict assessments**

*GIS/SMS reporting for conflict assessments:*

See “2.1.3 SMS Conflict Mapping System.”

#### *Quarterly Conflict Assessment*

As per a previous agreement between Saferworld and Pact, this reporting period’s Quarterly Conflict Assessment examined the views and perceptions of young men towards sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), which was identified as an important issue in the Rapid Conflict Assessment. Data for the Quarterly Conflict Assessment was collected in March 2014, and the report was submitted in June. The methodology included FGDs and participatory research tools and exercises with 45 young men from the SB target districts, aged 20–23 years and from various caste/ethnic groups, in six two-day workshops.

The Assessment found a fair amount of confusion about what counts as SGBV. While some participants did not know, others were able to name different forms of sexual violence and harassment, but they did not always see these as part of the SGBV domain.

Participants indicated that a family’s honor, or *ijjat*, is tied to the behavior and appearance of the women in the family. It was repeatedly mentioned that ‘good girls’ – those who wear traditional attire and do not behave in what is considered a promiscuous manner – are not harassed or teased. Some participants suggested that women and girls who wear tight pants and miniskirts, or walk or talk in a ‘sexy’ manner, invite harassment and are to blame if it occurs.

The participants’ views on gendered roles seemed to be informed by patriarchal norms and structures. The participants often associated behavioral attributes such as caring and nurturing with their mothers, wives, sisters and girlfriends, and women were seen as having responsibility for family and household. The role of ‘girlfriend’ (a somewhat newer cultural role) was seen as not having as many restrictions as the roles of other women within the family.

Participants had mixed knowledge and opinions regarding the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community. There was no mention of sexual harassment towards the LGBTI community as participants did not identify any members belonging to the LGBTI that live within their districts.

Public areas and gatherings were repeatedly mentioned as places where harassment and teasing occurs. Participants identified the consumption of alcohol (especially during festivals and public fairs) and group dynamics as fuelling factors for SGBV. Additionally, participants reported that text messages, social media and the Internet are being used to harass women and girls.

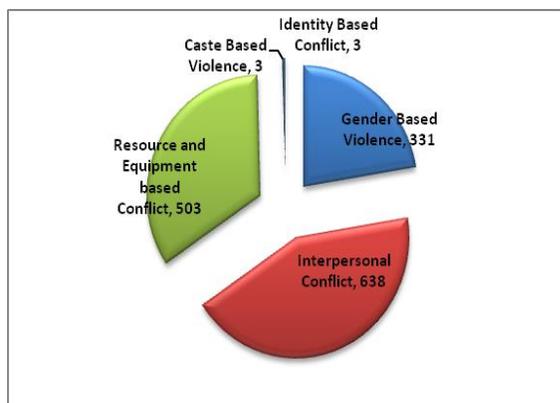
Participants made a variety of recommendations for addressing SGBV, including: more awareness-raising activities, especially those that target men and boys; stricter and/or better-enforced laws; and programs to address the unemployment of young men, which is seen as contributing to SGBV. Though some participants said women are primarily responsible for reducing SGBV, after completing the role-playing exercises, most participants agreed that change should start with men and boys.

The next conflict assessment will seek a better understanding of public perceptions of NGOs and external actors in Banke, Dang and Kailali. Saferworld and Pact have started to plan the methodology, taking into consideration potential sensitivities linked to this topic. Data collection is expected to take place in July, in cooperation with CeLRRd and LNGOs.

*Do No Harm (DNH), Conflict-Sensitive Approach (CSA), Safe and Effective Development in Conflict (SEDC) workshops*

From May 12-13, 2014, Saferworld organized a refresher workshop for Pact, CeLRRd, Equal Access, and Youth Initiative in Banke, targeted at those staff who participated in the DNH/CSA/SEDC workshop in May 2013, or who had a good understanding of these topics already. The workshop sought to refresh Pact’s and the IPs’ knowledge on key DNH/CSA/SEDC issues and principles to be borne in mind during project and program planning, implementation and monitoring. Participants reviewed the last year of project implementation and discussed upcoming activities, reflecting on good practices and areas for improvement related to DNH/CSA/SEDC. A total of 10 participants (including two female participants) took part in the workshop.

Likewise, Saferworld organized two DNH/CSA/SEDC trainings for Pact’s LNGO partners engaged in WORTH and governance work on May 26-31 and June 1-6, 2014. The objective of the trainings was to bring the LNGOs up to speed regarding these principles and to develop their ability to use basic tools and methodologies (such as interviews and focus group discussions) for context assessments, laying the foundation for their future participation in SB conflict assessments. Likewise, the LNGOs were familiarized with the required financial compliance procedures for accountability and transparency. A total of 30 participants (including 10 female participants) from the LNGOs took part in the two trainings.



**FIGURE 1** TYPES OF CASES REGISTERED CMCS, APRIL-JUNE 2014

**Community-based mediation activities**

The Center for Legal Research and Resource Development (CeLRRd) made progress on activities under Objective A this quarter.

CMCs were very active, registering 1,478 new cases (a significant increase over previous quarters). Of the cases registered the previous quarter, 72% were resolved, which is above the overall yearly target of 60%.

CMs held 51 quarterly practice sharing meetings, as well as monthly CM meetings at the VDC level. Likewise, CMC coordinators held 12 meetings at the

district level to review roles and responsibilities and build coordination. CeLRRd formed one new CMC in Phulbari, Dang this quarter, completing the process of CMC formation for the first phase of the SB Project.

Case registration was augmented with the help of social marketing activities, which raised public awareness about CMCs, the services they offer, and their approach to mediation. CMCs held 58 school-based programs to reach out to youth about the mediation approach. They also conducted 14 door-to-door campaigns, constructed 58 billboards and 58 wall paintings, and performed 116 street dramas to advertise their services.

Case registration was also aided by the newly implemented Mediation Act and CeLRRd’s efforts to build coordination between stakeholders. CeLRRd organized six district-level interaction meetings to discuss implications of the Mediation Act. Similarly, a regional interaction meeting on the Mediation Act was held in May and attended by district judges, local development officers, SB focal persons, and planning officers from the six project districts. Participants discussed the Mediation Act and ways to strengthen coordination between concerned stakeholders.

The police are increasingly referring general (non-criminal) cases to CMCs. Other government offices like the District the Administrative Office, District Land Reform Office and district courts have also started referring civil matters to CMCs.

Source of information	No of cases
Police office	87
Political representatives	61
Social marketing and mediators	1,303
Traditional justice leaders	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,478</b>

**TABLE 1 SOURCES OF REFERRALS TO CMCS, APRIL-JUNE 2014**

CeLRRd continued trainings for CMs during the reporting period. It held 26 refresher trainings on basic mediation, which were attended by 639 CMs.<sup>1</sup> These trainings included review of conflict sensitivity, cultural sensitivity, and the do-no-harm approach. Likewise, 515 CMs attended orientation workshops on the SMS conflict mapping system being set up by SB.<sup>2</sup> This training provided an overview of the

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<sup>1</sup> Participation in the refresher trainings included 45% women and generally reflected the ethnic/caste diversity of the districts as a whole. Participants included 40% Hill Brahmin/Chhetri, 30% Terai/Madheshi Janajati/Adivasi, 14% Hill Dalit, 6% Hill/Mountain Janajati, 5% Terai/Madheshi other castes, 3% religious minorities and 1% Terai/Madheshi Dalit. According to CBS Census 2011, 38% of the total population in the six SB project districts is Hill Brahmin/Chhetri, 30% is Terai Madhesi/Janajati/Adivasi, 12% is Hill Dalit, 9% is Hill/Mountain Janajati, 4% are Terai/Madheshi other castes, 4% are religious minorities, 2% are Terai/Madheshi Dalit, and 1% are Newar.

<sup>2</sup> Participants in the SMS reporting workshops included 39% women; several marginalized ethnic/caste groups were under-represented. Compared to the districts’ population, the Hill Brahmin/Chhetri group was over-represented in the workshops by 11%, whereas Terai/Madheshi Janajati/Adivasi, Hill Dalit, Hill/Mountain Janajati, and Terai/Madheshi Dalit

purpose of the system and the role of community SMS reporters. CeLRRd also held a training of trainers on basic mediation for the district coordinators, trainers and regional project staff.

Several encouraging developments regarding the long-term sustainability of the CMCs emerged during this quarter. In addition to the 17 VDCs that allocated budgets for CMCs last quarter, two more VDCs (Mahamadpur and Patabhar of Bardiya District) each allocated Rs. 30,000 to support CMCs this quarter. CMCs are coordinating with VDCs and DDCs for budgets in the coming fiscal year, and the new Mediation Act has given them a stronger basis for such advocacy. Mediators have become increasingly involved in other development activities in their VDCs, including road and health post construction, awareness-raising programs, and advocacy for women's health. Such active involvement suggests a sense of ownership over local development. CMCs are also becoming more accepted by traditional leaders. It was found that after becoming a mediator at the CMC, an individual from Baisibichawa, Kanchanpur was selected as *bhalmansa* (Tharu community leader) in his community. CeLRRd has also made efforts to select traditional leaders as CMCs and involve them in quarterly practice-sharing meetings. Still, much remains to be done to integrate CMCs with traditional justice mechanisms.

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

### **Establishment and capacity building of women's economic groups**

In order to address underlying drivers of conflict, SB is using Pact's world-renowned WORTH model for women's literacy and economic empowerment. The program uses the appreciative planning and action approach to implement village banking, literacy and business enterprise programs with women's groups (WORTH groups). The program focuses on providing increased economic opportunities and resources for women from marginalized, socially excluded, poor and minority communities.

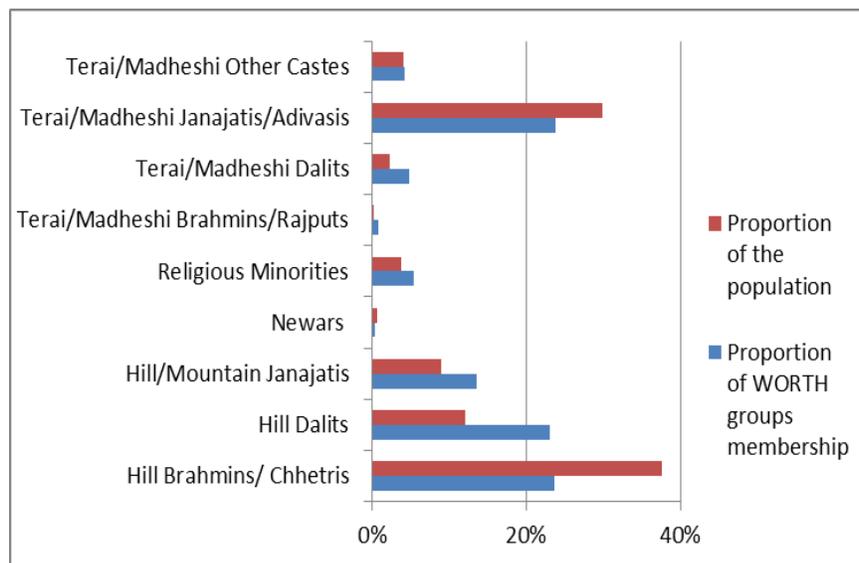
Under the savings-based WORTH model, women's groups are not provided cash incentives or subsidies. Instead, they are given literacy education, entrepreneurship training, and taught village banking skills to manage their own savings. They receive literacy classes for 72 weeks integrated with lessons on business and entrepreneurship, accountability and transparency, networking, and peace promotion. To date, the SB WORTH groups have received orientation on WORTH modalities, the purpose of women's groups, and group rules and regulations of village banking. Additional training is planned for the coming quarter.

In April, SB's partner LNGOs held district- and VDC-level consultation meetings with key stakeholders in order to introduce the WORTH program, its modality and strategy. Representatives from the DAO, DDC, Women Development Office, INGOs, NGOs, civil society organizations, UN agencies, and major political parties attended the district-level meetings. The VDC-level meetings were attended by VDC secretaries and representatives from local political parties, community-based organizations, local NGOs, and local user groups. Stakeholders asked questions and made suggestions for the improvement of the program. Six district-level consultation meetings were attended by 226 people, and 58 VDC-level consultation meetings were attended by 1,940 people.

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groups were all under-represented. The participants in the workshop included 48% Hill Brahmin/ Chhetri, 25% Terai/ Madheshi Janajati/ Adivasi, 9% Hill Dalit, 7% Terai/Madheshi other caste, 6% Hill/Mountain Janajati, 3% religious minorities, and 1% Terai/Madheshi Dalit.

After the consultation meetings, SB held community orientations for group formation and review of group procedures. As a result, 113 WORTH groups were formed/re-formed in targeted VDCs in all six districts (several additional groups remain to be formed, for a target of 116). The groups have a total of 2,804 members representing various marginalized groups (see the Figure 2). Of the 113 groups, five have started saving, and one has started lending.



**FIGURE 2** WORTH GROUP MEMBERSHIP BY CASTE/ETHNICITY

SB also carried out several important trainings and workshops for its district-based partners during this reporting period. With support from consultants from Root Change, SB organized an Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) workshop for all five LNGOs working on the WORTH program, in which they developed 100-day work plans. Similarly, a launch training was held in June in Nepalgunj for 29 empowerment workers from the five WORTH LNGOs. The training covered techniques for mobilizing women, forming groups and setting up village banks, as well as an overview of the WORTH model, the appreciative planning and action approach, and the WORTH accounting system.

District	# of Groups
Banke	24
Bardiya	16
Dang	17
Kailali	22
Kanchanpur	10
Surkhet	24
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>113</b>

**TABLE 2** WORTH GROUP FORMATION STATUS

A rapid assessment of existing economic groups in the project area was conducted by SB. After identifying 2,849 groups in the districts, 978 women's groups were randomly selected for assessment. On average, groups had 25 members and the caste/ethnic composition of their executive committees was roughly proportional to their membership, although religious minorities were less well-represented among the leadership. Groups were found to have an average asset value of Rs. 3,889 per member, although there was wide variation. The sampled groups' members received 10 different types of training within the last five years; leadership and management training was most common, while marketing and value chain training was the least common. However, 36% of groups received no training. Similarly, various groups had implemented four types of income generating activities during the past five years, although 24% had not implemented any type of incoming generating activity. It was found that 27% of groups had

linkages with NGOs, followed by 24% with government line agencies, 18% with VDCs, and 9% with DDCs, while 42% had no such linkages. The data suggest a strong need for strengthening the capacity of existing groups rather than forming new groups. Groups would benefit from capacity-building trainings and support for implementing suitable income generating activities, as well as creating linkages with VDCs, DDCs and other institutions for sustainability. Further detail on this is found in the Women Economic Growth (WEG) Assessment Survey Report. The mix of new and existing groups is being finalized and will be reported next quarter.

In the long run, WORTH aims to develop self-reliant women micro-entrepreneurs. WORTH will assist groups to link with cooperatives and microfinance institutions (MFIs) for long-term financial sustainability. The vision also includes coordination with WCFs, CACs, and VDCs so that group members can more readily access public resources.

### **Youth engagement**

Constructive civic engagement by youth is an important requirement for enduring peace in Nepal. Youth represent the fastest growing portion of the country's demographic, and are a potential driver of conflict if they are excluded from community decision-making. During this quarter, SB partner YI continued to provide training for local youth groups (LYGs), district youth networks (DYNs) and community management units (CMUs). The groups strengthened their relationships with local governments and engaged in a variety of community development activities during the quarter.

This quarter, YI conducted 18 three-day governance and accountability trainings and 13 three-day life skills trainings for the LYGs, as well as six four-day capacity building trainings for the DYNs. The governance and accountability trainings covered good governance, social accountability tools, the 14-step participatory planning process, and the responsibilities of local bodies. The life skills trainings focused on problem solving, decision making, critical and creative thinking, communication skills, self-awareness, and stress management. Likewise, the capacity-building trainings covered advocacy, networking, teamwork, and proposal/report writing. Additionally, three civic leadership schools were held and attended by 72 members of LYGs. Altogether, 941 participants took part in these various trainings.<sup>3</sup>

LYGs have strengthened their relationships with local government bodies. Some VDCs have formally acknowledged the LYGs for their contribution to local development, and have provided them with funding (some VDCs have provided up to Rs 50,000). Likewise, LYGs have carried out joint activities with VDCs and other bodies such as the District Agriculture Office. These developments indicate that the relationships between LYGs and local government bodies are growing stronger.

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<sup>3</sup> Participants in all YI trainings this quarter included 50% women, although several marginalized ethnic/ caste groups were under-represented. Compared to the districts' population (see CBS 2011 and earlier footnote), the Hill Brahmin/Chhetri group was over-represented by 8%, while Terai/Madheshi Janajati/ Adivasi, Terai/ Madheshi Dalits, religious minorities, and Terai/Madheshi other castes were under-represented. Forty-five percent of training participants were Hill Brahmin/Chhetri, 26% were Terai/Madheshi Janajatis/Adivasi, 13% were Hill Dalit, 9% were Hill/ Mountain Janajati, 3% were Terai/Madheshi other castes. One percent were Terai/Madheshi Brahmins/Rajput, and 1% were religious minorities.

In addition to holding regular meetings, 5,563 members of LYGs and DYNs engaged in 177 community development activities during this reporting period. The activities included infrastructure construction, disaster risk reduction, wild fire awareness-raising, public construction monitoring, agriculture activities, school enrollment, and community sanitation. Some examples are:

- The LYG in Narayanpur, Kailali received Rs 50,000 from the VDC to improve a damaged road.
- The LYG in Srigaon, Dang received VDC support of Rs 20,000 to build a waiting area for a local bus stop.
- The LYG in Pipladi, Dang organized a workshop on disaster risk reduction with support from the VDC (Rs 50,000) and YI (Rs 2,500).
- The LYG in Kamdi, Banke organized an awareness-raising activity on wild fire containment.
- The LYG in Fulbari, Dang coordinated with the CMU to monitor a government water tank construction project in their VDC.
- In coordination with the District Agriculture Office, the LYG in Kanchanpur VDC, Kanchanpur collected seeds of seasonal and off-season vegetables and distributed them free of cost to the local youth in the VDC to promote horticulture.
- The LYG in Mahadevpuri, Banke initiated a campaign for school enrolment which was later joined by the CMU, school management committees and other social leaders, and was broadcasted live by Pratibodh FM Banke.
- The LYGs in Sadepani and Dododhara, Kailali worked with their local governments to declare open defecation free zones in their VDCs.
- Eight LYGs and the DYN in Bardiya District collaborated with the DDC to organize a sports equipment distribution ceremony, after the DYN had demanded such equipment in a formal letter to the DDC.
- The DYN in Bardiya organized a sanitation program in Rajapur, Bardiya that was attended by the chief of the Area Administration Office, Rajapur, and the chief of the Armed Police Force, the chief of Nepal Police, as well as local people and youth.
- The DYN in Dang worked with the LYG in Hekuli VDC to raise DDC funds to establish an information center, which has been completed and includes a computer, printer, and furniture.

YI also completed a youth group mapping survey this quarter to determine the status of local youth groups in the project districts. Altogether 58 (38% female and 62% male) volunteers conducted the survey, soliciting information from youth clubs, VDC secretaries, teachers, health post in-charges, ward citizen forum (WCF) members, political parties, community based organizations (CBOs) and local media. The survey found that the majority of youth groups are male groups involved in sports activities using their own resources. Only a few VDCs have allocated budgets under the heading of youths, but most youth groups are not aware about these budgets or the procedure for and benefits of formal registration as a youth group. Likewise, the majority of youth group members lack knowledge about the existing national youth policy.

## Media campaigns

SB's partner Equal Access (EA) engaged in media activities related to Objective A this quarter.

In June, when the Election Commission of Nepal announced a by-election to fill vacant Constituent Assembly seats in Bardiya and Kailali Districts, EA responded with a public service announcement (PSA) campaign educating voters in these districts on the upcoming election. In addition, EA conducted two roundtables, inviting candidates to share their priorities for development with constituents. These discussions were broadcast live and included a call-in segment, giving the opportunity for SB target beneficiaries to directly reach out to candidates with questions and concerns. The roundtables provided voters the opportunity to better know their candidates and understand their development aims. They also helped to strengthen accountability links with candidates, who heard citizen views and publicly expressed commitments.

In terms of regular national level programming, EA produced and broadcast seven 30-minute episodes of the Naya Nepal radio program and three 45-minute episodes of the 'Saathi Sanga Manka Kura' program. The former program addressed issues of good governance and local development, while the latter dealt with issues directly affecting youth in the SB districts. Episodes were broadcast via Radio Nepal and 16 local FM stations in the SB districts.

At the local level, EA supported eight partner FM stations to produce and broadcast 96 30-minute episodes of the 'Sajhedari' radio program. Episodes focused on local issues of governance and development and included voices from target beneficiaries in the SB districts. Productions were in three local languages, including Nepali.

EA continued to conduct trainings to improve the capacity of actors involved in media programs this quarter.<sup>4</sup> It held a three-day refresher training for 15 community reporters, as well as a five-day training for 25 new radio listener group (RLG) facilitators. Similarly, EA conducted a five-day local production training for 24 local radio producers, focusing on improving quality of the 'Sajhedari' radio program. Likewise, it implemented a five-day training for 19 women journalists focusing on addressing issues of GBV utilizing media, and a three-day refresher training for 17 community action researchers, focusing on reporting and research tools. EA also held six one-day Youth Utilizing Social Media workshops with the aim of equipping youth with the skills to promote good governance using social media and the Internet. Finally, EA trained 20 enumerators for the Broadcast Audience Survey in surveying and data collection; the survey is expected to be carried out in mid-July.

EA held various meetings to guide radio programming, gaining inputs from experts as well as feedback from target beneficiaries. It held one content advisory group (CAG) meeting at the central level, eight CAG meetings at the local level and one radio-strategic advisory group (R-SAC) meeting at the regional level during the reporting period. Likewise, listener feedback was provided during 466 RLG meetings by 2,190 participants, who discussed issues presented on the radio programs. EA also conducted an SMS poll to understand the type of issues target beneficiaries want covered on the 'Sajhedari' radio program.

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<sup>4</sup> In total, 289 participants took part in EA activities this quarter, of which 44% were women. The most common ethnic/ caste group was Terai/ Madhesi Adivasi/ Janajati (34.2%) followed by X( 27.0%) Hill Brahmin/ Chhetri (13.3 %), Hill Dalit 36 (12.9%), Terai/ Madhesi Brahmin and Rajput and Religious Minorities ( 3.6%), and Tarai/ Madeshi other castes and Tarai/ Madhesi Dalits (1.1%).

Similarly, EA supported FM partner stations to conduct eight critical listening feedback sessions to assess the technical and programmatic quality of supported radio programming.

In addition to the two roundtables for the by-election mentioned above, EA organized and broadcast good governance roundtable discussions with local government officials, administrators, civil society organizations and citizens in each of the six SB districts this quarter. The goal of these roundtables was to engage the participants in dialogue on local development and planning, with efforts to ensure transparency and encourage the decentralization of power and resources to local governance units.

EA collaborated with CeLRRd this quarter on several activities. Together, they produced and broadcast a PSA campaign to raise public awareness about the services offered by CMCs. EA conducted a rapid assessment of this PSA and the PSA on the by-election, results of which will be included in a forthcoming report in July. EA also conducted an SMS poll in the SB districts to gauge community awareness and understanding of CMCs.

Out of 19 journalists who received GBV training, 17 are preparing articles on different issues related to GBV, including child marriage, physical violence because of dowry, and problems faced by Badi women due to lack of citizenship. After receiving social media utilization training, participants have initiated blogs on community issues of importance to youth. Twenty enumerators who received broadcast audience survey training have prepared questionnaires for an audience survey and completed field testing for a survey to be conducted in August.

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

Objective B is designed to establish inclusive strategic planning processes, assist communities with the creation of strategic development plans, and improve access to a diverse range of resources for development assistance. Through partner LNGOs, SB provides technical assistance, training, and/or material support to strengthen communities' abilities to identify diverse resources and equitably allocate local resources to the benefit of different segments of the community.

### **Governance LNGO consultation meetings**

LNGO partners working on the governance program conducted six district-level and 58 VDC-level consultation meetings with stakeholders this quarter. The meetings were organized to introduce the SB project and to create a conducive environment for implementation of the local governance programs. Stakeholders attending the district-level meetings included representatives from local bodies, line agencies, NGOs, chambers of commerce, media and civil society. The VDC-level meetings were attended by VDC officials, representatives of various political parties, WCF and Citizen Awareness Center (CAC) members, and social mobilizers. Altogether, 207 participants attended the district-level meetings, while 2,231 took part in the VDC-level meetings. The stakeholders welcomed the SB project and expressed their commitment to support its implementation. This resulted in stakeholder support during VDC resource mapping and profile preparation, and for the selection of micro-grant projects.

### **Orientation for newly hired LNGO**

A one-day orientation program for the team of the newly-hired governance LNGO for Bardiya, Community Development Organization (CDO), was conducted. Thirteen staff from CDO were orientated

on Sajhedari Bikaas, its planned activities, gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) policy, and USAID contractual obligations. The orientation program strengthened their capacity to plan, implement and monitor the SB activities while fulfilling compliance and minimum quality of standard (MQS).

### **2.3.1 Result 1 – Inclusive community strategic planning processes are established**

#### **Community resource mapping**

See section 2.1.6 “Community resource mapping” under M&E.

#### **Revenue assessments**

Revenue assessments were conducted in conjunction with the community resource mapping activities. In early May, 14 staff from the governance LNGOs were oriented on the revenue assessment process. Consultants were then hired to prepare VDC revenue assessments and projection reports. The assessments showed that most VDCs function with very limited amounts of revenue and little knowledge of sources for revenue collection. Although VDCs are allowed to raise revenue through taxes on a wide range of property, goods, and services, most rely only on traditional sources, such as land. The consultants used literature review and community resource mapping data to identify potential resources for revenue generation. The revenue assessments were then shared with VDC-level stakeholders. Based on the findings, the consultants facilitated VDCs to prepare resource mobilization plans. The drafts of VDCs’ resource assessment reports and resource mobilization plans have been submitted to SB for feedback. After feedback from SB, the final drafts will be shared with the VDCs and resource monitoring committees for endorsement and copies will be handed over for their use as policy documents.

### **2.3.2 Result 2 – Community development plans are established**

#### **Preparation of village profiles**

Governance LNGOs began work for the preparation of village profiles this quarter. Consultants facilitated orientation programs for enumerators on collection of field-level baseline data for village profiles during May and June. Subsequently, the governance LNGOs Backward Society Education (BASE), Banke UNESCO Club (BUC) and Environmental and Rural Development Centre (ENRUDEC) initiated preparation of village profiles, mobilizing 210 local enumerators.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Fifty-two percent of enumerators were females. Compared to the overall population of Banke and Dang Districts (where the profiles took place), Hill Brahmins/Chhetris were over-represented among enumerators by 16% and Terai/ Madheshi Janajati/ Adivasis were over-represented by 9%. Religious minorities were under-represented by 9%, Hill/ Mountain Janajatis by 6%, Terai/ Madheshi other castes by 6%, Terai/ Madheshi Dalits by 3%, and Terai/ Madheshi Rajputs/ Brahmins by 1%.

### **2.3.3 Result 3 – Community based organizations advocate for needed resources for financial, technical and commodity support**

#### **Support in implementing micro-grants**

The micro grants program is one of SB's major interventions under Objective B and C. Micro-grants will be awarded for projects demanded by communities through the participatory planning process. The governance LNGOs have collected the projects prioritized by citizens through the IPFCs and approved by VDC councils. The process of funds disbursement and implementation of the micro-grants will begin soon.

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

Under Objective C, SB provides technical assistance, resources, and training to institutionalize mechanisms for the transparent administration of funds, adoption of inclusive management systems, and the establishment of systems to promote sustainable development results.

### **2.4.1 Result 1 – Mechanisms for transparent administration of funds are institutionalized**

#### **Citizen charter**

The content for eighteen VDCs' citizen charters has been finalized in consultation with VDC secretaries, using guidelines provided by MoFALD. Large citizen charter boards have been prepared and placed on the VDC office premises. The charters promote transparency in service delivery and administration of funds.

#### **Public hearings**

A public hearing program was conducted in Bijauri VDC, Dang with support from SB, following the guidelines of the Public Hearing Act, 2067. More than 50 people participated in the hearing, including VDC-level political leaders, WCF and CAC members, youth and women networks, media persons, and members of marginalized groups. The program helped raise public awareness of citizens' rights and responsibilities regarding various VDC services and transparency.

#### **Workshop on accountability tools**

The governance LNGOs BUC and ENRUDEC conducted workshops on accountability tools in project VDCs in Banke District during June, targeting social mobilizers, WCFs, CACs, VDC monitoring committees and political parties. The workshops covered the use of public hearings, public audits and community monitoring. A total of eight two-day workshops were attended by 262 participants (32% females, with a variety of ethnic/caste groups). Following the workshops, participants from Mahadevpur VDC in Banke initiated the use of a Citizen Report Cards to evaluate the performance of the VDC and other government service providers.

### **Sajhedari Chautari meetings**

Thirty-two Sajhedari Chautari meetings were held this quarter with participation of SB partners. The Chautari meetings are designed to be a community-based self-monitoring tool, whereby representatives from SB IPs working at the local level present ongoing work to local community members for discussion, analysis, and feedback. This ensures that project activities are implemented as planned, and that they meet the minimum program quality standards. However, to date, the meetings have not included community members because IP partners' activities are still in the initial stage. The Chautari meetings have nonetheless promoted collaboration and coordination among SB partners at the field level, and provided fruitful feedback for planning upcoming activities.

### **2.4.2 Result 2 – Systems for sustainability are established**

Since the local partners just started their interventions this quarter, no activities have been implemented under this result.

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

Objective D activities provide technical assistance, material support, and training to improve the ability of local government officials to carry out their mandates and respond to local demands. This involves strengthening collaboration among civil society organizations (CSOs), CBOs, and local government units so as to identify local development priorities and support community engagement in local government budgeting and planning processes.

### **2.5.1 Result 1 – Local government officials effectively carry out their mandate**

#### **Integrated mobile service camp**

The DAO, DDC and VDC jointly organized an integrated mobile service camp for two days during June in Khaskuma VDC, Banke. The camp brought various line agencies to the VDC in order to facilitate service delivery for those citizens who do not have easy access to the district headquarters. SB's governance LNGOs provided financial and technical assistance to manage local arrangements for the mobile service camp. Attended by 2,969 persons, the camp brought 29 agencies together, including the District Administration Office, District Agriculture Office, District Livestock Service Office, District Public Health Service, Fateh Bal Eye Hospital, Regional Soil Test Laboratory, and others to facilitate service delivery in areas such as the issuance of citizenship certificates, agricultural seed distribution, and veterinary medicine distribution. Eleven of the agencies collected people's demands, while another 18 delivered services.

#### **Perception survey on local governance and community development**

The national research firm Interdisciplinary Analysts (IDA) implemented SB's first perception survey on local governance and community development this quarter. The report was submitted to USAID in July.

## *Methodology*

The survey was comprised of a structured questionnaire, which was administered to a total of 1,201 respondents living in the project districts. The interviews were administered face-to-face and responses were recorded using mobile phones. A platform known as “Mobenzi” was used to enter and transfer the data. After the completion of the fieldwork, data was processed and analyzed using MS-Excel and SPSS.

Out of 1,201 sampled respondents, a majority (41%) belonged to Tarai/Madhesi Janajati category, followed by Hill Brahmin/Chhetri (31%), Hill/Mountain Janajati (8%), and Hill Dalit (7%). Fifty percent of respondents were female.

The qualitative portion of the study was based on 18 FGDs and 15 KIIs with government and other stakeholders in the six districts. A total of 186 participants took part in the KIIs/FGDs.

## *Findings of the survey*

Over half of the respondents said their own economic situation is neither good nor bad (59%). The proportion saying likewise about the national economy was 44%. Fifty percent of all respondents thought their current living condition is the same as other people living in their community, while 31% thought that it is better, and 18% said it is worse. The majority of the respondents were optimistic about the direction that the country is headed in.

Approximately 46% of respondents said that the economic situation causes them anxiety, followed by 45% who attributed anxiety to "unemployment" and "lack of job opportunities" (which were 24% and 20% respectively).

Sixty-seven percent of respondents thought that their VDC is effective in encouraging development in their community. Over half of all respondents said that local government is doing very well or fairly well in addressing educational needs (71%), in improving basic health services (69%), in maintaining roads and bridges (55%), and in resolving violent conflict (52%). An overwhelming majority said that they had not been forced to pay a bribe, give a gift or do a favor for government officials in order to get the services provided by local government.

When asked to assess the performance of the present local government, most respondents assessed it to be good (47%) while a substantive number assessed it to be bad (19%). The perception survey explored the public’s preferences regarding the types of community development projects (CDPs). Over half of respondents (55%) said that CDPs related to infrastructure are required for their community, followed by CDPs related to agriculture (43%), income generation (38%), education (36%), health (29%), and awareness (22%).

With regard to federalism, a majority of the people (45%) reported not having heard about it and only 36% reported having heard about it. When the respondents were asked whether Nepal should be a federal state or a unitary state, a majority (60%) said “don’t know/cannot say”. Of the respondents who had made up their opinion on the issue, 23% said Nepal should be a federal state and 17% thought it should be a unitary state. Likewise, a majority of the respondents had not heard of decentralization, with only 22% reporting having heard of it. Of that 22%, 75% said they are either satisfied (35%) or somewhat satisfied (40%) with the level of decentralization and the service delivery provided by the local authority.

The survey attempted to measure relationships between various communities in the local areas. In response, the majority of respondents said that most types of relationships between local entities have

improved during the past one year. However, a relatively high proportion of respondents cited deteriorating relationships between people who hold different political views (19%), and between the well-off (i.e., rich) and less-well off (i.e., poor) (13.5%).

#### *Findings of FGDs and KIIs*

Respondents indicated the VDCs and DDCs are providing the minimum services required, but in a poor manner. There is a dearth of competent manpower and the use of information technology is minimal. Local governments use the government's well-defined 14-step planning process, which is designed to ensure the participation of different sectors of society, including marginalized groups. While the process appears participatory, transparent, and rule-bound on paper, in practice there is a lack of meaningful participation, and in most cases it takes place only for the sake of formality. Although the process involves representatives of all groups, major decisions are usually made by the powerful and the influential.

#### *Conclusions of the study*

IDA cautions against interpreting the survey results as an endorsement of local government service delivery, citing the general Nepali habit of moderation, saying "*theekaichha*" ("it's okay") to general questions by strangers. Furthermore, because most people are not aware of alternatives or higher ideals against which current levels of services can be judged, most judge service delivery at the local level to be okay. Thus, IDA argues that lack of public awareness regarding the rights of citizens, and especially regarding the entitlements of women and marginalized groups, has resulted in local government service mediocrity.

### **2.5.2 Result 2 – Local government units and CBOs/CSOs collaborate to identify local development priorities**

No activities under this result were planned for this quarter.

# 3.0 CHALLENGES & CONSTRAINTS – INTERNAL

## 3.1 STAFFING

The difficult living conditions in Nepalgunj continue to create challenges in the retention of staff despite the revision of the Local Compensation Plan (LCP) and provision of an Adverse Conditions Allowance that falls within the LCP. Pact continues to look for innovative ways to retain staff and is currently developing a staff training plan as one of several incentives.

## 3.2 LOCAL PARTNERS

As a team, Sajhedari Bikaas is dedicated to building the capacity of its partners. Program staff focus on technical issues while Grants and Contracts staff visit partner organizations to review their administrative, financial and operational processes. Staff are challenged by the large geographic coverage of the operational area. To address this challenge, Sajhedari established a branch office in Dhangadhi, which is scheduled to be fully operational on July 1, 2014.

# 4.0 ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES & CONSTRAINTS – EXTERNAL

## 4.1 PROTESTS & POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS

The CA by-elections held in Bardiya- 1 and Kailali-6 on June 22, 2014 had some minor impact on SB's movement in the related constituencies. A couple of pre-scheduled events were postponed. However, Sajhedari partners' managed the work with some adjustments.

## 4.2 SECURITY & SAFETY CONCERNS

Some groups such as *ex-Kamaiyas* and *ex-Kamlaris* are continuing their agitations in Sajhedari districts, demanding implementation of agreements signed between the government and their leaders. For example, on May 11, in Bardiya district, the death of an 81-year-old land tenant staging a sit-in demonstration created localized tension in the district. Land tenants demanded the government compensate the family members of the deceased and bring their demands to the immediate attention of government. Thus far, the incident has not seriously affected Sajhedari's project implementation. However, some of the members of Sajhedari groups formed under WORTH and governance NGOs are raising demands that Sajhedari should support these movements.

# 5.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

## 5.1 MAJOR CATEGORY EXPENDITURES

TABLE 3 Q3 FY 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY PER INVOICE CATEGORIES

Item	April-14	May-14	June-14	Q3 FY2014 Total	Cumulative
<b>Personnel</b>	47,400	53,060	48,455	1,48,915	<b>680,997</b>
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	13,801	16,724	15,532	46,056	<b>189,759</b>
<b>Consultants</b>	1,741	1,479	1,519	4,740	<b>323,683</b>
<b>Travel</b>	7,564	10,433	7,259	25,255	<b>218,359</b>
<b>Allowances</b>	5,153	6,764	10,938	22,856	<b>90,113</b>
<b>Equipment &amp; Supplies</b>	55,024	12,703	9,500	77,227	<b>246,017</b>
<b>Contractual</b>	1,87,568	232,732	2,63,940	6,84,241	<b>1,989,354</b>
<b>Other Direct Costs</b>	28,434	40,696	50,579	1,19,709	<b>336,581</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	56,158	53,031	55,012	1,67,201	<b>710,118</b>
<b>Fixed Fee</b>	8,355	17,502	8,800	34,657	<b>163,854</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>411,197</b>	<b>4,45,126</b>	<b>471,533</b>	<b>1,327,856</b>	<b>4,948,834</b>

## 5.2 STATUS OF EXPENDITURE FUNDS TOWARDS M&E PURPOSE

TABLE 4 M&E EXPENDITURES

Direct Costs	Amount
<b>Personnel</b>	5,566
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	1,669
<b>Travel</b>	2,111
<b>Equipment &amp; Supplies</b>	0
<b>Contractual</b>	19,458
<b>Other Direct</b>	4,504
<b>Subtotal Direct Costs</b>	<b>33,308</b>

<b>Indirect Costs</b>	5,031
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,388</b>

### 5.3 LOE UTILIZATION SUMMARY STATUS

A total of 977.79 days were utilized during this reporting period per the LOE Table. At the end of Year 2 Quarter 3, 24.20% of the total approved LOE has been utilized.

**TABLE 5** LOE UTILIZATION FOR Q3 FY 2014

Position	April 2014	May 2014	June 2014	Q3 FY 2014 Total LOE	Budgeted LOE	Remaining LOE
<b>LTTA – Expat (USN)</b>	48.25	80.41	49.50	178.16	3,250.00	<b>2,272.21</b>
<b>LTTA – CCN</b>	231.00	268.00	253.00	752.00	16,900.00	<b>12,968.37</b>
<b>STTA</b>	2.00	45.63	0.00	47.63	1,950.00	<b>1,512.27</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>281.25</b>	<b>394.04</b>	<b>302.50</b>	<b>977.79</b>	<b>22,100.00</b>	<b>16,752.85</b>

### 5.4 STAFFING MATRIX

In this quarter, SB recruited and hired a Regional Program Manager, Program Specialist Local Governance, Conflict Mitigation Manager, Performance Based Management System (PBMS) Manager and Cleaner.

**TABLE 6** 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	04/21/14	Hired	Madhu Kumar Bishwakarma
Operations Manager	06/05/13	Hired	Mary Giudice
Program Specialist, Local Governance	06/23/14	Hired	Shyam Mandal
Program Specialist, Local Governance		Vacant	
Program Specialist, Women Economic Growth	02/25/14	Hired	Reena Chaudhary
Performance Based Monitoring System (PBMS)	05/15/2014	Hired	Amlshwar Singh
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	04/10/13	Hired	Sudan Shivakoti
GIS Officer	01/13/14	Hired	Nim Bahadur Thapa Regmi

Director of Grants & Contracts		Vacant	
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
Procurement Assistant		Vacant	
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
Cleaner	06/02/2014	Hired	Chandra Kumari Thapa
Driver		Vacant	

# ANNEX 1: INDICATOR SHEET

Indicators	Type	Source/Method	Disaggregation	Geo-enabled reporting	Responsible	Frequency	Target: Yr2 (Jan-November 2014)	Progress (April-June,2014)
<b>Goal: Targeted Communities are empowered to better direct their own local Development</b>								
<b>Objective A: Enabling environment for community development established</b>								
<b>IR A1: early responses that address the causes and consequences of instability are institutionalized</b>								
Proportion of all mediation cases opened during the quarter preceding the period that were settled within 3 months	Outcome	Routine data collection CeLLRd - monthly reports	ward, district, gender, ethnicity**	No	CeLRRd	Quarterly	60%	72%
<b>F: Number of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving conflict or the drivers of the conflict</b>	Output	Count of number of new community mediation centers established, CeLLRd reports	VDC, District	No	CeLRRd	Quarterly	20	1
<b>F: # of groups trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills or consensus building techniques with USG assistance</b>	Output	Training reports	District/VDC/gender/age/ethnicity	No	CeLRRd	Quarterly	58	32
Number of new cases of individual/group conflict mediations opened during the reporting period	Output	Routine data collection CeLLRd - monthly reports	Ward, district, nature of dispute	No	CeLRRd	Quarterly	3786	1,478

<b>F: Number of conflict/fragility early warning systems, conflict assessment or response mechanisms supported by USG assistance</b>	Process	Count of number of systems in place and number of conflict assessments done		Yes	Pact/ Saferworld	Quarterly	5	1
<b>IR A2: enduring solutions to the problems that drive conflict are adopted</b>								
Proportion of supported economic groups that provide more than 5 loans per year to their members	Outcome	DNGO reports	District	Yes	DNGOs, Pact	Yearly	50%	0
Proportions of DNGOs 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	130	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	DNGOs, Pact	Quarterly	1,450	0
Number of new/existing women's economic groups formed during the reporting period	Output	DNGO reports	District	Yes	DNGOs, Pact	Quarterly	116	113
Number of economic group participants who received training on business and accounting	Output	DNGO reports	VDC, district, gender, ethnicity*, type of training, age category	No	DNGOs, Pact	Quarterly	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	0

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 group	No	Youth Initiative	Quarterly	1755	941
Proportion of VDCs who have youth groups/CMU who participate in the VDC planning process	Outcome	VDC meeting reports/files	District	Yes	Youth Initiative	Yearly	70%	0
<b>F: Number of media stories disseminated with USG support to facilitate the advancement of reconciliation or peace processes</b>	Output	national broadcast episodes plus local FM station broadcasts episodes	National or local FM broadcast	No	Equal Access	Quarterly	203	106
<b>F: # of non-state news outlets assisted by USG</b>	Output	Progress report	District/type of FM stations	Yes	Equal Access	Quarterly	16	16
<b>F: Number of USG supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation among key actors of conflict</b>	Output	Training reports/event reports, activity progress reports from IPs and DNGOs	District/VDCs, type of events, type of participants	No	PACT	Quarterly	1,500	0
Number of new listener clubs established	Output	EA routine reporting	District	Yes	EA	Quarterly	75	18
<b>Objective B: Communities access resources for development</b>								
<b>IR B1: Inclusive community strategic planning process are established</b>								
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	DNGOs/Pact	Quarterly	1,450	0
<b>IR B2: Community development plans are established</b>								
Proportion of village development plans with a functional sustainability plan that adheres to locally agreed standards	Outcome	Review of village development plans	District	Yes	DNGOs/Pact	Yearly	30%	0
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	DNGOs/Pact	Quarterly	522	0

<b>F: Number of awards made directly to local organization (cross-cutting indicators)</b>	Output	Progress report	Type of awards/District/NGO	Yes	PACT/DNGO	Quarterly	9	1
<b>IR B3: Community based organizations advocate for needed resources for financial, technical and commodity support</b>								
Proportion of village development plans that include a fundraising plan	Outcome	Review of village development plans	District	Yes	DNGOs/Pact	Yearly	50%	0
Number of micro grants provided for community development	Output	Review of grants reports/ GMIS	VDC/district	Yes	DNGOs/Pact	Quarterly	100	0
<b>Objective C: Communities implement inclusive development policies effectively</b>								
<b>IR C1: Mechanisms for transparent administration of funds is institutionalize</b>								
Number of individuals who received USG assisted training, including management and fiscal skills	Output	Training records	District, VDC, gender, ethnicity, age group	No	DNGOs/Pact	Quarterly	3020	0
<b>F: Number of people affiliated with NGOs receiving USG supported anti-corruption training</b>	Output	Training report	District/NGO	No	PACT	Quarterly	700	0
Proportion of community projects that are allocated to women, youth or marginalized groups	Outcome	Review of community project funding allocation	District	Yes	DNG)s/Pact	Yearly	50%	0
<b>IR C3: systems for sustainability are established</b>								
Proportion of user groups that improve their organizational capacity	Outcome	Organizational Performance Index adapted to user groups/community based organizations	District	Yes	DNGOs/Pact	Yearly	50%	0
<b>Objective D: Local government units function effectively</b>								
<b>IR D1: Local government officials effective carry out their mandate</b>								
<b>F: # of sub-national entities receiving USG assistance that improve their performance (government OPI)*****</b>	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/mentoring reports	District, gender, ethnicity age groups	No	DNGOs/Pact	Quarterly	1,450	0
<b>IR D2: Local government units and CBOs/CSOs collaborate to identify local development priorities</b>								
Number of times technical assistance is provided to local government ministries	Output	reports	n/a	No	DNGOs/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/external evaluator	Baseline, mid-term, endline	70%	0%
<b>Cross-Cutting Indicators</b>								
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%	100%

# ANNEX 2: Q3 WORKPLAN STATUS

Sajhedari Bikaas (AID-367-C-13-0003) - Q3

Workplan Status

As of Q3, June 2014

Workplan Activity	Who	Status	Details
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	-		
Baseline Report	IDA	Completed in previous quarter	
Quarterly M&E Workshop	Pact	Completed	Review meeting and reflection workshop conducted in June 2014 with LNGOs, IPs, and SB staff
Finalization of Indicator Protocol sheet	Pact	Ongoing	Draft prepared with IPs and LNGOs will be finalized in Q4
PMP Revision based on baseline	Pact	Postponed	Will revisit in FY15
Qualitative Study of program interventions on beneficiaries	Pact	Ongoing	Monitored through partner reports
Video Documentation on case study/success story	Pact	Postponed	Will conduct in FY15 after VDC planning cycle and micro-grants are underway
Harmonization Workshop on M&E efforts on governance	Pact	Postponed	Will conduct in FY15
PBMS Database established	Pact	Ongoing	Partially completed. DevResults finalization underway
PBMS Database operational	Pact	Ongoing	DevResults to be fully operational in Q4
Routine Data Quality Assurance (RDQA) tool development	Pact	Completed in previous quarter	
RDQA Workshop	Pact	Partially completed	RDQA Workshop conducted with IPs (CeLRRd, YI and EA). Workshop for WORTH and Governance LNGOs scheduled

			for Q4
Routine Data Quality Assurance Audit by SB	Pact	Postponed	Will be conducted in Q4
RDQA by partners (quarterly)	IPs/LNGOs	Ongoing	RDQA in all 58 VDCs completed by CeLRRd . YI and EA could not complete because of delayed in the recruitment of M&E officers.
Quarterly Report/Global Indicator/BSC Reporting	Pact	Completed	57% of indicators meeting 90% or more of their target
Functional M&E Database of IPs/LNGOs	Pact	Completed	Databases functional and maintained
Participatory Monitoring Tool Developed	Pact	Partially completed	Local Governance Barometer (LGB) developed and being piloted in August 2014
Development of GIS database	Pact	Completed	Spatial database includes SB groups (LYG, CMU, RLG, CMC, CAR, CR) by VDC; NGOs by VDC; demographic information by VDC as per Census 2011.
GIS Training to IPs/LNGOs	Pact	Previously completed	
Monthly Report	IPs/LNGOs	Completed	3 monthly reports submitted on time by all IPs and LNGOs
Annual Report	Pact	Due in December 2014	
<b>Full Implementation - Objective A</b>	-		
<b>Conflict Assessments</b>	-		
Quarterly Conflict Assessments	Saferworld	Ongoing	Draft completed in June and USAID comments are being incorporated
Workshop on conflict assessment with LNGOs	Saferworld	Completed	Workshop for LNGOs conducted in June
Conflict Sensitivity Training for LNGO staff	Saferworld	Completed	30 staff from 12 LNGOs trained in May and June in 2 events. Also, 10 staff from 3 IPs were provided refresher training in May 2014
<b>SMS Violence Reporting</b>	-		
SMS system established	InSTEDD	Completed	System up and running in June 2014
Training on the usage of SMS system	InSTEDD	Previously	

		completed	
ToT on SMS system	Pact	Completed	12 District Trainers from 6 SB Districts, 3 Regional Trainers, and one central CeLRRd staff were provided with TOT
SMS Training to CMs	CeLRRd	Completed	515 CMs trained
Pilot SMS system	CeLRRd	Completed	Conflict Mapping System piloted for one month, with real reporting started from June 9, 2014
<b>Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)/Community Mediation (CM)</b>	-		
VDC-level Consultations	CeLRRd	Previously completed	
Participants' Selection (based on GESI ) for Basic Mediation Training	CeLRRd	Previously completed	
Basic Mediation Training	CeLRRd	Previously completed	
VDC-level Quarterly Practice Sharing	CeLRRd	Completed	51 CMCs organized practice-sharing meetings attended by 27 CMs, VDC Secretaries, political parties, CeLRRd staff, and other stakeholders
Curriculum Developing for Refresher Training	CeLRRd	Completed	Curriculum finalized in April 2014
TOT on the Refresher Training	CeLRRd	Completed	12 District Trainers, 6 District Coordinators, and 3 CeLRRd staff trained as TOT on Refresher Basic Mediation Training in May
Material Printing for the Refresher Training for Mediators	CeLRRd	Completed	Materials printed in May 2014
Refresher Training for Mediators	CeLRRd	Completed	639 CMs provided refresher training in 21 events
Curriculum development/refresher manual for Group Mediation Training	CeLRRd	Postponed	SB is issuing an RFA for technical support in multi-stakeholder negotiation that will include training of CeLRRd mediators in FY15
ToT for Group Mediation Training	CeLRRd	Postponed	As above
Materials printing for the Group Mediation	CeLRRd	Postponed	As above

<b>Training</b>			
Group Mediation Training for the Mediators	CeLRRd	Postponed	As above
Community Mediation Center Establishment	CeLRRd	Completed	58 CMCs established in 58 VDCs (final CMC established this quarter)
Operation of Mediation Centers	CeLRRd	Ongoing	58 CMCs in operation
Social Marketing Campaign through street theater installing hoarding boards, etc.	CeLRRd	Completed	All 58 CMCs conducted Social Marketing Campaigns, including 14 rounds of door-to-door visits, 58 wall paintings, 58 hoarding boards, 58 school programs, and 116 street plays. In addition, CeLRRd conducted district-level interactions with stakeholders in 6 districts, and one regional-level interaction on the Mediation Act
Preparation of Review and Reflection Workshop	CeLRRd	Not planned this quarter	
Regional-level Review and Reflection Meeting	CeLRRd	Not planned this quarter	
Regional-level Quarterly Project Team Meeting	CeLRRd	Completed	1 meeting including staff from CeLRRd's regional and central offices
District-level VDC Coordinator's Monthly Meeting	CeLRRd	Completed	3 events each in 6 Districts attended by CMC Coordinators, District Trainers, and District Coordinator
VDC-level CMC Monthly Meeting	CeLRRd	Completed	3 events each in 58 VDCs
Coordinate with EA to design and deliver training to YI SMART Clubs	EA	Not planned this quarter	
Development of GESI Strategy Policy for CeLRRd	CeLRRd	Not planned this quarter	
Incorporation of issues dealing with SGBV in CMC	CeLRRd	Postponed	SB has issued an RFA for technical assistance to develop protocols and conduct training for CMs on how to deal with cases of GBV
<b>Youth Engagement</b>			
CBT/orientation for EC and Project Staff (Annual Review Meeting)	YI	Not planned this quarter	

Consultation meetings with local governance units	YI	Not planned this quarter	
Interaction meetings between Youth Networks and local government units at district level	YI	Completed	Consultations ongoing
Formation of District Youth Networks	YI	Previously completed	
Preparatory meeting for formation of Regional Youth Network	YI	Partially completed	One preparatory meeting completed as planned; however, an additional meeting is required to finalize formation of the network
Meeting of Local Youth Group on monthly basis	YI	Completed	3 monthly meetings organized by each of 58 LYGs with a total of 5,563 participants
Quarterly meeting of CMU	YI	Completed	One event organized by each of 58 CMUs to share learnings from 177 community development activities during the reporting period.
District Youth Network meeting (quarterly )	YI	Completed	1 event by each of 6 DYNs
Bi- annual Meeting of Regional Youth Network	YI	Planned for Q4	
Smart Club	YI	Removed from YI's workplan	
District-level workshop to identify youth issues and community development	YI	Completed	1 workshop in each of 6 Districts
CBT for District Youth Networks	YI	Completed	6-day CBT organized for all DYN members on topics of good governance, government structure, report writing, M&E, etc.
Training on Governance, Accountability, and Human Rights	YI	Completed	18 3-day workshops organized for a total of 447 LYG members
Youth Advocacy for Accountability and Transparency (YAATra) at District Level	YI	Removed from YI's workplan	
Civic Leadership School for representatives from 6 district YNs	YI	Completed	3 civic leadership schools attended by 72 LYG members
Life Skills, Civic Engagement, and Local	YI	Completed	13 3-day training workshops for a total of 286

Development Training			participants
Workshop on Peacebuilding at VDC level (Youth group and CMU members)	YI	Removed from YI's workplan	
CBT on Peacebuilding and community mediation for RYN members	YI	Planned for Q4	
Entrepreneurship Development Training	YI	Planned for Q4	
CBT on Micro Finance Cooperative Sustainable Development	YI	Removed from YI's workplan	
Youth Advocacy Campaign at District level	YI	Planned for Q4	
Regional Youth Conference	YI	Planned for Q4	
International Youth Day and International Peace Day celebrations at VDC level	YI	Planned for Q4	
Information and Advocacy Campaign envisioning the national youth policy	YI	Planned for Q4	
National Youth Policy Advocacy Conference	YI	Planned for Q4	
<b>Media Campaigns to promote stability</b>			
Production of Central-level Radio Programs - <i>Naya Nepal</i> and <i>SSMK</i>	EA	Completed	9 <i>Naya Nepal</i> and 2 <i>SSMK</i> produced
Broadcast of <i>Naya Nepal</i> and <i>SSMK</i>	EA	Completed	112 <i>Naya Nepal</i> and 32 <i>SSMK</i> broadcast
Content Advisory Group Meetings & Strategic Advisory Group Meetings ( <i>Naya Nepal</i> and <i>SSMK</i> )	EA	Completed	1 meeting at central level, 8 meetings at local level
PSA Production & Broadcast	EA	Completed	16 PSAs produced and broadcast for by-election voter education in Bardiya and Kailali
Stakeholder Workshops - Local Level	EA	Removed from EA's workplan	
Ongoing Community Reporter activities	EA	Completed	15 community activities reported on GBV and other subjects
Radio Listener Group meetings	EA	Completed	466 RLG meetings conducted with a total of 2,190 participants

Radio Listener Group Facilitator Training	EA	Completed	1 training for 25 RLGs
Ongoing Community Action Researcher activities	EA	Completed	9 activities by CARs, including participation in roundtable discussions, broadcast audience survey, and SMS polling
SMS Polls	EA	Completed	2 SMS polls conducted in Banke, Bardiya, Dang, and Surkhet on issues related to CMCs and Sajhedari activities
Production of Local Level Radio Program - <i>Sajhedari</i>	EA	Completed	108 productions of <i>Sajhedari</i>
Broadcast of Local Level Radio Program - <i>Sajhedari</i>	EA	Completed	208 broadcasts of <i>Sajhedari</i>
Local Level Content Advisory Group Meeting - <i>Sajhedari</i>	EA	Completed	8 meetings conducted on child marriage, local budget allocation, social audit or rehabilitation of freed Kamaiyas, local-level elections, youth participation in local development, and distribution of agricultural subsidies
Capacity Building of FM Stations - Themes of Governance Training	EA	Planned for Q4	
Radio Listener Group Micro-Grants Selection	EA	Planned for Q4	
<b>Support of Women Economic Groups (WORTH)</b>			
Formation/revival of women's economic groups	WORTH LNGOs	Completed	113 WORTH groups formed/revived including 2,804 community members
Rapid assessment of women's economic groups	WORTH LNGOs	Completed	Rapid assessment of 978 groups randomly selected from 2,849 groups identified through group mapping
Training to WEG groups on business and accounting	WORTH LNGOs	Planned for Q4	Scheduled for August 2014
Training to Literacy Volunteers	WORTH LNGOs	Planned for Q4	Scheduled for July 2014
Literacy Class to WEG members	WORTH LNGOs	Planned for Q4	Scheduled for August 2014
Support to WEG groups in mobilizing loans on	WORTH	Planned for Q4	Scheduled for July 2014

their saving status	LNGOs		
Development and implementation of 15 skill-building packages for self-management	WORTH LNGOs	Planned for Q4	Scheduled for August 2014
Development and conducting capacity building of WEGs	WORTH LNGOs	Planned for Q4	Scheduled for September 2014
Coordination meetings with line agencies for external resources	WORTH LNGOs	Completed	Consultations ongoing
Identification and promotion of access to income and other financial opportunities	WEG LNGOs	Planned for Q4	Scheduled for September 2014
Excursion visit to WEG members	WEG LNGOs	Planned for FY15	
Capacity assessment of WEG groups	WEG LNGOs	Planned for Q4	Scheduled for July-August 2014
<b>Full Implementation - Objective B</b>			
Support in VDC-level planning process by increasing transparency and participation by youth, women, and marginalized groups	Governance LNGOs	Planned for FY15	Scheduled to coincide with VDC planning cycle which will start by November
Integration of "Do No Harm" and " Safe Effective Development in Conflict" principles	Governance LNGOs	Planned for Q4	Saferworld will begin training in August 2014
Assist in developing VDC plans and profiles under the MOFALD guidelines	Governance LNGOs	Partially completed	The process of VDC plans and profiling began in June 2014 and is ongoing
Development of Periodic Plans	Governance LNGOs	Planned for FY15	This is an integrated part of the VDC Plans that began in June 2014 and is ongoing.
Conduct resource mapping, prepare resource management plans, and ensure implementation of the plans	Governance LNGOs	Partially completed	Resource mapping and resource management plans are already prepared for 58 VDCs. The implementation will take place after the VDC Council meetings expected to take place in November 2014
Capacity Development of WCF and CAC members in various trainings and their involvement.	Governance LNGOs	Planned for Q4	This will start from October

Development of resource management plans, including fundraising and sustainability plans, from other external sources (non-GON)	Governance LNGOs	Partially completed	Management plans have been prepared by 58 VDCs and are waiting for VDC Council approval for implementation, expected in November 2014
Organize meetings with WCF members to review and provide feedback on village development plans	Governance LNGOs	Planned for FY15	This will begin after the upcoming planning cycle, most likely in February 2015
Provide support to VDCs and DDCs in improving their performance under the MC/PM set by MoFALD.	Governance LNGOs	Partially completed	53 computers sets (computer and printer) and 53 solar sets (battery, charger, panel) ordered for 53 VDCs to be delivered in Q4
Micro-grants for community development projects	Governance LNGOs	Partially completed	Micro-grant procedures completed and proposals solicited for micro-grants to be issued in Q4
LNGO consultation meetings at district and VDC levels	Governance LNGOs	Completed	6 District-level events with 207 participants, and 58 VDC-level events with 2,231 participants (supplemental to Q3 workplan)
Public hearing	Governance LNGOs	Completed	1 event with 50 participants conducted in Dang (supplemental to Q3 workplan)
<i>Sajhedari Chautari</i>	Governance LNGOs	Completed	2 events were organized in Banke District with 30 participants (supplemental to Q3 workplan)
Integrated mobile service camp	Governance LNGOs	Completed	1 event in Banke District with 2,969 participants (supplemental to Q3 workplan)
Citizen charter	Governance LNGOs	Completed	Contents of citizen charter finalized by 18 VDCs (supplemental to Q3 workplan)
<b>Full Implementation - Objective C</b>	-		
Conduct harmonization and alignment activities among the stakeholders	Governance LNGOs	Removed from workplan	
Capacity building of the local bodies, WCFs/CACs in inclusive planning process and community contracting	Governance LNGOs	Planned for FY15	
Implementation of social accountability tools	Governance LNGOs	Partially completed	8 events of 2 days social accountability training conducted in Banke District with 262 people participants

Establish and promote to build the system of project maintenance and sustainability	Governance LNGOs	Planned for FY15	Will only begin after issuance of micro-grants for small infrastructure projects
Training on micro-grant and fiscal skills including anti-corruption approaches to UGs	Governance LNGOs	Planned for FY15	Same as above
Sustainability approaches and support to WEGs and UGs	WORTH LNGOs	Planned for FY15	
Support in establishing mechanisms for transparent administration of funds	Governance LNGOs	Planned for FY 2015	Same as above
<b>Full Implementation - Objective D</b>			
Perception survey of VDC Service Delivery Trends and Federalism	IDA	Completed	Report submitted to USAID
Implementation of Local Governance Barometer/Community Score Card	Governance LNGOs	Planned for Q4	Root Change to develop and pilot LGB during July-August 2014
Technical assistance to VDC staff on improving service delivery	Governance LNGOs	Planned for Q4	Computers and solar panels are being provided in Q4, along with training to VDCs on accounting software and social security registration
Women VDC secretary/Women Government Employee Forums	Governance LNGOs	Planned for FY15	
Pilot intervention/s aimed at stabilizing central government's fiscal commitment to Sajhedari Bikaas communities	Governance LNGOs	Planned for FY15	
Piloting PETS in sample VDCs/districts	Governance LNGOs	Planned for FY15	
Perception survey on Sajhedari Project interventions	Pact	Planned for FY15	
Apply Political Economic Analysis in sample VDCs/districts	Pact	Planned for FY15	
Support inclusive Ilaka-level planning	Governance LNGOs	Planned for FY15	

Sajhedari engagement/meeting/consultation with political parties	Pact	Planned for FY15	
Technical assistance to central ministries and state actors such as National Women's Commission	Pact	Planned for FY15	
<b>Other Activities</b>			
Coordination meeting with USAID IPs	Pact	Partially completed	Coordination meeting of Presidential Initiatives held in June 2014
Coordination meeting with Sajhedari IPs- central/regional level	Pact	Completed	1 organized in June with another scheduled for August 2014
Coordination meeting with Sajhedari IPs- district and VDC level	IPs/LNGOs	Completed	Monthly meetings of IPs and LNGOs on a rotational basis
Central Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting-quarterly	Pact	Removed from workplan	Will begin only after Pact's registration with the SWC is consummated
District Project Advisory Committee (DPAC) meeting- quarterly	Governance LNGOs	Removed from workplan	Will begin only after Pact's registration with the SWC is consummated
Review of Baseline Survey Report and adjustment of programming and PMP indicators	Pact	Partially completed	We have done synchronized some activities with indicators and vice versa. Will continue doing this.
Review of CDCS and adjustment of PMP indicators	Pact	On hold	
Streamlining PMP indicators	Pact	On hold	
Capacity building of local partners and users group	Pact and Partners	Completed	12 capacity building events conducted, and 100-day plans prepared by LNGOs
Review of GBV Assessment Report and integration in Sajhedari programming	Pact	Completed	RFA on GBV and mediation to be issued in Q4 to address report recommendations
Annual GESI Audit	Pact	Planned for FY15	This will be the initial task of the GESI manager currently being recruited
Out of school youth study	Pact	Removed from workplan	
Annual Conflict Assessment	Saferworld	Removed from	Saferworld is conducting quarterly conflict assessments

		workplan	instead
Judicial Assessment	Pact	Removed from workplan	

# ANNEX 3: SUCCESS STORIES



Community participant asking questions of panel members

## Local Governance Roundtable Discussion in Gadhi VDC, Surkhet

A “Good Governance Roundtable” was conducted by Equal Access (EA) in Gadhi VDC, Surkhet on June 16, 2014 to generate discussion between government officials, stakeholders and local community members on good governance at the local level.

During the roundtable, the Acting Local Development Officer (LDO) Mr. Rajendra K.C. engaged in discussion with other participants, including the VDC secretary, EA radio listener group members, members of political parties, local media partners and civil society organization representatives. All panel members answered questions from local community members in the audience. The discussions focused primarily on citizens’ right to information, the right and responsibility to participate in the local development process, and the CAC. Participants raised the issue of CAC staff not

visiting remote areas where many marginalized communities reside, saying that as a result they are not encouraged to participate in local development.

The LDO acknowledged concerns and answered questions positively. He made a commitment to Gadhi VDC that he will address issues raised by using social mobilizers and local radio and media to provide critical information about development and district activities and engage remote communities in the 14-step planning process.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. K.C. stated, “The District Development Committee cannot resolve every development challenge, particularly not without the participation of local communities. However, forums such as this and other opportunities that connect officials with the local community are a big step in making information more accessible and dialogue more transparent.”



Community participants at good governance roundtables discussion

## Radio Listener Group in Dang Implements Small Canal Project

Early one morning in Khairee, Chailahi Community in Dang, a group of young people armed with pickaxes and shovels gathered to begin work on a small infrastructure project. The project – to install a culvert pipe and widen a small canal – would allow vehicles, including tractors and ambulances, to enter the community. This represented an important improvement in the lives of community members.

The workers were all members of a Radio Listener Group (RLG), named Suryajyoti Radio Listener Group, which was formed in Khairi with support from Equal Access (EA). The group is primarily composed of youth and regularly tunes into the broadcasts of the Naya Nepal radio program and the 'Sajhedari' radio program produced by EA's production partner FM station, Naya Yug. Through these programs, the group learned that their VDC had allocated a small portion of the budget for community members that want to conduct important development activities. The RLG requested funds from the VDC for the canal project, and received Rs 15,000.

Pawan Chaudhary, the chair of the RLG, said that the by listening to the radio programs, "We learned that while conducting our activity, maintaining transparency is highly important. Moreover, we also learned that community participation in the development process helps to sustain local development.

So we decided to step-up and now we are finally installing a pipe over a small canal." Sita Chaudhary, an RLG member and the head of the monitoring committee for the canal project, said legitimacy is important so the group must follow the directions of the VDC in spending these funds, which were also covered on the radio program.



Radio Listener Group members in Dang digging a canal as part of a development project they proposed

## Local Youth Groups Organize for Community Development



The YLG in Dododhara, Kailali, at a ceremony to declare the VDC an Open Defecation Free Zone

The Inspire Nepal Youth Group, formed with support from Youth Initiative (YI) in Kailali's Dododhara VDC, has been very active since its establishment less than one year ago. It has 15 members from all nine wards in the VDC, who have played an active role in the VDC planning process and organized volunteer activities for a sanitation campaign along with local authorities. With the YLG's help, Dododhara was recently declared an Open Defecation Free Zone. As a result, the YLG has become famous locally and was formally honored by the VDC for its work on June 5, 2014.

Similarly, the YLG in the Dalit village of Khulaltole, Dharna VDC, Dang, has helped to improve access to potable water. Khulaltole has a *jaruwa*, or cistern, which can supply water for more than 100 families for drinking, bathing, and washing clothes. However, in recent years the *jaruwa* fell into disrepair because of a local superstition about a ghost who resides there and will harm anyone who enters it. The local YLG decided to address the problem by organizing a sanitation program and cleaning the *jaruwa*. Despite some community members' initial fears, the YLG members were able to convince people to participate, and the cleaning program took place on June 14, 2014. Now, the community has a source of clean water and they have acknowledged the important role of the Dharna YLG in debunking their superstition about the ghost.

Similarly, the YLG in the Dalit village of Khulaltole, Dharna VDC, Dang, has helped to improve access



The YLG in Dharna VDC, Dang, organized a clean-up of a cistern.



Participants in the cistern clean-up in Dharna, Dang.

## Becoming a Mediator Transforms Life for Somati B.K., Krishnapur, Kanchanpur



Community Mediator  
Ms. Somati B.K.

Somati B.K. was born into a Dalit family in Suda VDC, Kanchanpur, but due to a natural disaster, her family moved to the Tharu community of Chandanchowk in India, where she spent her early childhood. Her father worked as a blacksmith, but unfortunately became paralyzed and could no longer work, so her family again had to move, this time to Krishnapur VDC of Kanchanpur.

At the age of 14, Ms. B.K.'s father arranged her marriage to a man from the same village. Her father died, and her mother was left to occupy government land elsewhere, being landless. Ms. B.K. faced various problems in her husband's household and lacked support. She had communication problems with her husband's family, and her husband had a suspecting nature and did not allow her to leave the house or to talk with people outside the family. As a result, her level of self-confidence decreased and she was very unhappy.

Eventually, she was selected as a participant for basic mediation training provided by the Center for Legal Research and Resource Development (CeLRRd). With the help of other mediators, she convinced her husband to allow her to take part in the training. While participating, her daily progress in building self-confidence was readily apparent. At the end of the training, she told the group that she would be using the techniques and theory she learned in her personal life first. She finally decided to talk to her husband, leading to positive changes in her living situation. Her husband has even started taking suggestions from her regarding his small catering business in Krishnapur market.

Currently, Ms. B.K. has mediated two disputes. She tries to be empathetic with parties and encourages them to move forward. She has become an example for everyone by transforming her own life through the mediation skills she developed in basic mediation training. She says, "Being selected as a mediator and getting skills in building peace is my lifetime achievement."

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