



CEPPS Quarterly Report: July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014

**NEPAL: Strengthening Political Parties, Electoral and Legislative Processes
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Project Dates: August 3, 2010 to August 31, 2015

IFES: Total budget: \$11,282,000 Expenses to date: \$7,529,155

Fourth Quarter Expenses: \$583,457

NDI: Total budget: \$15,222,000 Expenses to date: \$10,257,504

Fourth Quarter Expenses: \$836,558

Total budget: \$26,504,000 Expenses to date: \$17,786,659

Fourth Quarter Expenses: \$1,420,015

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Problem Statement

As Nepal undergoes the process of drafting its constitution, with significant implications for its electoral system, CEPPS partners continue to provide technical expertise aimed at solidifying democratic gains and institutionalizing inclusive electoral, political, and legislative mechanisms. With the anniversary of Nepal's Constituent Assembly (CA) elections approaching on November 19, 2014, political parties, civil society, and government officials continue to face numerous challenges on the road to a fully functioning democratic system.

The internal factionalism, missed deadlines, and empty promises appear to have turned a once optimistic public against the political parties. Although the election of the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) signaled a shift to a more moderate national leadership, political parties continue to focus on maneuvering for political power rather than working towards solving the country's problems. They lack the willingness or ability to settle disagreements over a wide range of issues. To combat this, CEPPS/NDI has continued its work with political party partners to strengthen internal party capacity and leadership structures and promote inclusion of marginalized groups, such as youth and women.

The CA-Legislature Parliament (CA/LP) has struggled to find consensus and pave a way forward in drafting the new constitution and proceeding with its legislative responsibilities. Delays continue to plague the CA/LP and little optimism remains that the constitution will be promulgated by its original January 22, 2015 deadline. Despite these challenges, CEPPS/NDI is working with members of parliament (MPs) and the LP Secretariat staff to train MPs on topics including budgeting skills, committee processes, and constituent outreach.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) is preparing to hold local elections, which have been last held in 1998. Structural problems remain; many marginalized populations remain unable to obtain the necessary citizenship documents to register. If marginalized communities, particularly women and youth, increase their electoral participation, they can play a crucial role in shaping Nepal's future. In order to help the ECN meet the challenges of planning and delivering local elections, CEPPS/IFES will continue to provide support to the ECN by building on the Commission's professional and technical development through targeted efforts in the areas of election planning and management, strategic planning, out-of-country registration and voting, political campaign financing and electoral dispute resolution mechanisms.

The upcoming months provide an opportunity for Nepal to promulgate its long-awaited constitution, hold local elections, and move toward a more peaceful and democratic Nepal. CEPPS partners will lead efforts to improve the political participation of marginalized groups, increase citizen outreach and voter registration through targeted campaigns, and enhance the capacity of government officials to carry out their duties.

Theory of Change and Critical Assumptions

Having recently undergone a dramatic political transformation, distrust of the government remains a challenge to Nepal's political development. Added to this, Nepal is a country fragmented by ethnic, linguistic, caste and geographic divides. Active participation in both national and local electoral processes is essential to strengthening a common national identity, government legitimacy and belief in the political process.

If political parties improve their internal structures and become more inclusive, representative organizations, then the citizens of Nepal will be better able to have their voices heard and set local and nationwide political agendas. To that end, CEPPS/NDI continues to build on its positive working relationships with its political party partners to promote and strengthen parties' internal structures, training capacities, and inclusion of marginalized groups. This work focuses on both single-party and multi-party activities, and requires CEPPS/NDI to coordinate closely with parties to identify and assess each party's specific needs.

The work of the CA/LP – to draft a new constitution and fulfill legislative duties – is slow, as party leaders and government officials remain divided in their legislative priorities and constitution-drafting agendas. To combat this, CEPPS/NDI is providing training to youth and women MPs to better prepare them for their roles as legislators. CEPPS/NDI is also working with MPs to draft reforms and recommendations for currently tabled bills in an effort to improve the laws so they work more effectively for Nepali citizens. Lastly, to highlight the importance of

constituent relations, CEPPS/NDI has organized constituency outreach activities aimed at connecting lawmakers with residents of their home districts and bridging the gap between local concerns and the national political agenda. These activities are critical opportunities for lawmakers to acknowledge their mandates and deliver on their legislative duties.

Despite citizens' distrust of government, the ECN is one of the best-regarded institutions in Nepal's government structure, enjoying a high level of credibility in Nepali society and political circles. Recognizing this critical opportunity, CEPPS/IFES is working to build and institutionalize the ECN's capacity to deliver credible elections as an essential component of building trust between the people and their government. Simultaneously, CEPPS/IFES is working with the ECN and civil society stakeholders to integrate women, people with disabilities and historically marginalized groups in a more inclusive political process. When citizens are educated about the electoral laws and processes, they are better equipped to monitor and strengthen the credibility of the electoral system. This dual focus on citizen inclusion and ECN capacity strengthens a system where citizens exercise their right to participate in the electoral process and hold their elected officials accountable. Both CEPPS partners will continue their work with civil society organizations (CSOs) and marginalized groups to increase awareness of local elections; promote voter education and registration; and create an informed, active citizenry.

There are a number of underlying assumptions that influence the nature, scope and aim of the program. The key assumptions for the program are listed below.

- The security situation remains stable and CEPPS can successfully conduct its programming without disruptions.
- There is broad political consensus on the legitimacy of institutions of government and on any further electoral events, including the date for local government elections and the framework for such elections, to include a consistent and determined basis for eligibility to register as a voter.
- Local elections are held in year five of the program. If by the end of January 2015 a date for the elections has not been announced by the government, CEPPS will revise its workplan and budget to support increased civic education activities with partner civil society organizations (CSOs), broaden its geographic scope and scale up those activities not contingent on organization of local government elections.
- The ECN continues to be receptive to assistance and cooperation with CEPPS, to include broad electoral education outreach and community-level programs focused on marginalized communities, is active in seeking solutions to challenges that arise under its purview, and will support electoral reform initiatives.
- The ECN is adequately staffed on a consistent basis to work with CEPPS/IFES on program activities and has the overall financial resources to conduct ongoing electoral operations.

- Parliamentary committees are interested and willing to organize committee hearings.
- MPs are interested and willing to engage in constituency outreach activities, and MPs who have constituency offices are interested in receiving assistance to further strengthen their offices.
- MPs make effective use of the fellows they are assigned and use the latter's research and analysis to enhance their visibility and increase their impact in parliament.
- Civic groups and the business community remain interested in participating in policy dialogues with youth MPs, and vice-versa.
- Journalists have access to the internet at the district level to contribute to the electoral news website: <http://www.nepalelectionchannel.org/nepali/>.

Objectives

CEPPS Objective 1: Political parties more effectively contribute to democratic processes in Nepal.

- Sub-Objective 1.A: Improve democratic political party organization structures and operations.
- Sub-Objective 1.B: Enhance the electoral competitiveness of political parties.

CEPPS/IFES Objective 2: Strengthen institutions involved in electoral processes, either as actors or participants.

- Sub-Objective 2.B: Strengthened democratic legal framework for elections.
- Sub-Objective 2.C: Strengthened electoral management capacity of ECN.
- Sub-Objective 2.D: Expanded and improved delivery of voter education.

CEPPS/NDI Objective 2: Civil society initiatives more effectively contribute to transparent electoral processes.

- Sub-Objective 2.A: Enhance the capacity of civil society to monitor elections.
- Sub-Objective 2.B: Strengthen the capacity of media to report on the electoral process.

CEPPS Objective 3: The CA/Legislature Parliament more effectively fulfills its democratic functions.

- Sub-Objective 3.A: Strengthen the legislative drafting capacity of the legislature.

- Sub-Objective 3.B: Increase communication between representatives and their constituents.

CEPPS Objective 4: International assessment mission provides impartial appraisal of the electoral environment and recommendations for future electoral processes.

Political Update Relevant to Program Implementation

The constitution writing process missed the September 6, 2014 deadline for resolving the contentious issues remaining from the previous CA. Two issues contributed to delays: Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M) obstruction of the CA proceedings, including boycotting the all-party conference scheduled for September 17; and tension over the most contentious constitutional issues, including the selection of an election system and federal model. If reaching consensus appears unattainable, these issues could instead be decided through a majority vote in the CA. If not, it is likely that the January 22, 2015 deadline for promulgation of the constitution will be missed, consequently delaying further long awaited local government elections.

The main strength of this government has been in its efforts to ensure that the peace process remains on a stable ground, for which it has obtained the support of the UCPN-M and other smaller parties represented in the CA. Although the constitution drafting process is moving slowly, it is at least moving in the right direction with the formation of five CA committees and a regular meeting schedule. Another noteworthy achievement of the government is promulgation of the law related to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission on Enforced Disappearances (CED). However, these achievements have been eclipsed by the failure of the government to carry out even routine functions, such as appointing ambassadors to foreign countries and giving full shape to the constitutional bodies by appointing the final 26 CA/LP members from the cabinet.

Key Activities this Quarter

- CEPPS completed nationwide consultations on electoral reform, including five regional electoral reform dialogues and a national electoral reform conference.
- CEPPS/NDI organized one national training and three regional trainings with party partner Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal (RPP-N).
- CEPPS/NDI, in cooperation with the Future Leadership Academy (FLA), held four FLA region workshops in the central, western, and far-western regions to provide youth with new skills and seek feedback on youth issues for a national youth policy.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee Internews and its partner Interdisciplinary Analysts (IDA) completed fieldwork for the third and final round of national opinion polls, which focused on local governance issues, public perception of political parties, and media consumption behaviors.

- CEPPS/IFES utilized a local legal consultant to provide technical expertise to the ECN to prepare its recommendations to the CA constitutional drafting committee on election systems and the role and mission of the ECN in the new constitution.
- CEPPS/IFES developed a strategic plan with the ECN for its Gender and Social Inclusion Unit.
- CEPPS/IFES initiated a survey on citizenship certificate status among marginalized communities, completed the “Study on the Status of Citizenship Certificates of Target Marginalized Communities” (*see Appendix I*) and conducted a fourth mini-survey on assessing the knowledge, attitude and perception of marginalized populations on local government elections.
- CEPPS/IFES conducted trainings for social studies teachers in the electoral process.
- CEPPS/IFES finalized a handbook on procedures to acquire a citizenship certificate and trained CSO partners on these procedures.
- CEPPS/IFES provided continuous support to voter registration and supported the inclusion and political participation of people with disabilities.
- CEPPS/NDI conducted the remaining community events in its voter registration information campaign (VRIC) in the target districts of Baitadi, Jhapa, Kaski, Lalitpur, and Sunsari.
- CEPPS/NDI supported the LP finance subcommittee on a public procurement act briefing and field fact finding mission.
- CEPPS/NDI partnered with the Nepali nongovernmental organization (NGO) SAATHI to organize a women CA/LP members’ roundtable discussion on citizens’ input on the Local Self Governance Act (LSGA).
- CEPPS/NDI collaborated with youth MPs and the parliamentary committee on women, children, senior citizen and social welfare to organize a discussion program on National Youth Council Bill, 2071.
- CEPPS/NDI disseminated the youth MPs’ needs assessment survey findings to 30 youth MPs representing different parties.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF completed the 15th and 16th waves of public consultations.

Key Results/Achievements

- After CEPPS/NDI’s workshop with UCPN-M, participants developed and presented a report from the workshop to party leaders. CEPPS/NDI will follow up with the party to focus on these identified priorities in the upcoming quarter.

- CEPPS/NDI trained 170 party officials from RPP-N on issues including internal party policy, local election planning, and the roles and responsibilities of local party branches.
- At CEPPS' five regional dialogues and one national conference on electoral reform, 672 participants (179 women) recommended areas of reform to the ECN in time for its input to the CA constitution drafting committee. The 76 local CSOs represented in this process were strengthened by their participation in the electoral reform dialogue.
- CEPPS/IFES trained 119 electoral officials, including electoral education training for social studies teachers and a workshop on the ECN's gender policy with political parties.
- CEPPS/IFES produced and distributed civic and voter education materials on voter registration and obtaining citizenship certificates;
- CEPPS/IFES engaged a total of 21 national level and/or local level CSOs to promote political participation and voter education in marginalized communities.
- CEPPS/IFES and its partner CSOs reached a total of 171,170 people (86,706 women and 1,677 persons with disabilities) through voter education events.
- CEPPS/NDI reached over 3,000 people in this quarter's VRIC community events, providing them with voter education and registration materials.
- CEPPS/NDI and its subgrantee TAF reached 50 MPs this quarter, through its roundtable discussions, fact finding mission, youth needs assessment survey, and public forums.

Constraints/Challenges/Lessons Learned

- CEPPS/NDI continued to experience delays and disruptions in its work with political party partners, due to internal factions and centralized decision-making processes.
- CEPPS/IFES encountered obstacles to continuity of capacity and relationship building at the ECN due to changes in ECN staff, especially at the senior level.
- CEPPS encountered an under-representation of women in trainings and other electoral management initiatives due to women's low representation across Nepal's civil service.
- CEPPS needs to expand civil society's capacity to take on a more active role in strengthening Nepal's electoral democracy through engaging in nonpartisan advocacy and lobbying at the local and national level.

II. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

Activities

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 1: Political parties more effectively contribute to democratic processes in Nepal.

Intermediate Result 1.1: Political parties are more representative of Nepali citizens.

Intermediate Result 1.2: Political parties in Nepal more effectively implement competitive electoral campaigns.

Intermediate Result 1.3: Citizens have more information and analysis on the policy differences across political parties in Nepal.

Sub-Objective 1.A: Improve democratic political party organization structures and operations.

Sub-Objective 1.A.1: Effective Party Organizing and Outreach

Workshop for UCPN-M Party Officials and Party Department Heads

From July 21 to 22, 2014, CEPPS/NDI conducted a residential workshop for senior party officials and party department heads of UCPN-M in Dhulikhel, Kavre district. A total of 40 participants,¹ including nine women, attended the workshop. The topics, selected based on the needs of the party, included: strategies for strengthening the party organization; working procedures and internal communication between the party departments; the party's relationship with the government; and how to operate as the opposition in the CA/LP. CEPPS/NDI shared results from its post-election survey that focused on citizens' views of UCPN-M. This information provided the party with a better understanding of their geographic and demographic strongholds while showing potential areas for improvement.



Left: Participants during an icebreaker exercise; Right: Senior UCPN-M leaders

Based on these results, the party decided to conduct its own membership survey to learn more about their membership base, specific member priorities, and how to best improve communication strategies to inform all party members of party strategies and decisions. CEPPS/NDI will work with UCPN-M to assist in developing their membership survey.

Consultations with CEPPS/NDI Party Partners

¹ Participants included: seven department heads, two party secretariat staff, four politburo members, six CA/LP members, and the party spokesperson.

During this quarter, CEPPS/NDI held a number of consultative meetings with leaders from four of its political party partners.

RPP-N: The meetings with RPP-N, held on July 1 and August 26, focused on how the party's internal trainings should be part of the overall strategy of party strengthening from the grassroots to the national level. Leaders discussed the types of technical support CEPPS/NDI could provide as part of phase three of the national training-of-trainers (ToT) program. Topics ranged from internal party policy and policy development, roles and responsibilities of local party branches, and the relationship between national and local branches. CEPPS/NDI presented findings from the post-election survey conducted by Internews and IDA, giving the party a better understanding how it is viewed by citizens.

"The national survey done by NDI and its statistics did really help us modify RPP-Nepal's future strategies and programs for implementing our plans and programs in the grass root level."

-- Sushil Shrestha, CA member and Chairman, Central Training Department, RPP

Rastriya Prajantantra Party (RPP) and Madheshi Janadhikar Forum Nepal-Democratic (MJFN-D): CEPPS/NDI met with training department heads from RPP and MJFN-D in July 2014 to discuss internal training events at the regional level. These consultations focused on development of the local party branches, with specific emphasis on how to prepare for policy development, candidate identification, and outreach activities at the local level.

CPN-UML: On August 28, the consultation with Prithivi Subba Gurung, Secretary of CPN-UML, focused on single party training, including regional workshops with women and youth wings of the party to assist in strengthening the party organizations. In addition, CEPPS/NDI discussed the possibility of assisting the party in conducting its own membership survey.

UCPN-M: As follow up to the July workshop with UCPN-M senior officials, CEPPS/NDI met with standing committee member Hon. Shakti Basnet and central committee member Satya Pahadi on September 9 to discuss how CEPPS/NDI can assist the party in building and strengthen its grassroots organization. The party acknowledged that one of the reasons it lost the November 2013 election was due to weak organization and lack of voter outreach. The party said it wants to strengthen a number of district branches to serve as models for other branches. The work at the district level would include policy development, outreach activities, and internal communication. Lessons learned and best practices from these model districts would then be replicated by the party in other districts.

Single Party Training for RPP-N

As a part of CEPPS/NDI's support to strengthening political party organization and improved internal communication within the parties, CEPPS/NDI is organizing regional workshops with partner parties to train local branch officials on their roles and responsibilities and to strengthen the link between the national and local levels in the party organization. The first phase of the program was the national ToT conducted in April 2014 to train master trainers of the parties, followed by single party trainings to develop the training curriculum for the regional workshops.

Preparation Workshop for Regional Training: On July 1, CEPPS/NDI and RPP-N organized one national ToT workshop for RPP-N trainers who would then train local party branches. RPP-N president Hon. Kamal Thapa opened the workshop and CEPPS/NDI trained participants on the following issues:

- roles and responsibilities for local branch officials;
- role of local branches in local election preparation;
- policy development;
- candidate identification; and
- the relationship between national and local branches.



RPP-N Chairman Hon. Kamal Thapa at the ToT

RPP-N party officials trained participants on party documents, including the organizational structure, party statute, and party manifesto. After the training, CEPPS/NDI worked with the RPP-N training department to finalize the agenda and content for the regional trainings.

Regional Trainings: CEPPS/NDI supported RPP-N in implementing four regional trainings (see *Table 1*) for 170 local branch presidents and secretaries. The trainings focused on: internal party policy and local election planning, the relationship between national and local branches, roles and responsibilities of local party branches, and communication and citizen outreach. To strengthen internal communication, CEPPS/NDI and RPP-N conducted a separate training on computer skills and on how to use email and internet for communication.



RPP-N participants at a regional training

Table 1: Overview of RPP-N Regional Trainings

Date	Region	Participants	
		Total	Female
August 2-3, 2014	National: Kathmandu	35	5
September 1-3, 2014	Eastern: Jhapa	40	2
September 5-7, 2014	Central: Makwanpur	51	2
September 9-11, 2014	Western: Kaski	44	3
Total		170	12

At the end of the regional trainings, the party formed a regional training committee consisting of members from all districts within each region. This committee was tasked with developing a training agenda which should include replicate trainings in all districts within the region.

Meeting with Future Leadership Academy (FLA) Planning Committee Members

Throughout the reporting period, CEPPS/NDI met with the FLA planning committee to plan the regional FLA workshops in three regions: Central, Western, and Far-western. During these meetings, members developed the content for each workshop, including: youth leadership, negotiations, youth in the constitutional development process, and internal democracy and team building skills. Members discussed strategies on how to best move forward the national youth agenda and how to lobby within their respective political parties to develop unity on a common youth agenda.

Given the preliminary results of the youth survey from the eastern and mid-western regions, the planning committee decided to include a presentation of these results to the president and general secretary of 10 party youth wings after the conclusion of the final round of regional FLA workshops.

FLA Regional Workshops

In July and August 2014, CEPPS/NDI, in cooperation with the FLA planning committee, organized four FLA regional workshops in Kathmandu and Parsa districts (central region), Kaski district (western region), and Kailali district (far-western region). A total of 224 youth leaders representing 12 political parties² and 19 districts³ attended these workshops. Women accounted for 28 percent of the participants, with 14 participants in Kathmandu, 14 in Parsa, 12 in Kaski, and 23 in Kailali.



Participants engaged in various activities during the FLA regional workshops

A total of 13 NDI-trained master trainers delivered presentations on youth and leadership, negotiation skills, internal democracy and youth, network building and campaigning, and the role of youth in campaigning. The workshops also included group discussions, where participants shared concerns about youth challenges in their region and brainstormed potential solutions. During these workshops, participants completed a questionnaire to provide feedback on policy priorities that can be used to lobby young CA/LP members and form the basis for a national multi-party youth agenda.

² Nepali Congress (NC), CPN-UML, UCPN-M, MJFN-D, Madheshi Janadhikar Forum-Nepal (MJF-N), Terai Madhesh Democratic Party (TMDDP), Sadbhavana Party (SP), RPP, RPP-N, Communist Party of Nepal – Marxist-Leninist (CPN-ML), National Madhesh Socialist Party (NMSP), and Nepal Janata Dal

³ Central Region: Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Kavre, Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, Chitwan, and Makawanpur; Western Region: Kaski, Tanahun, Myagdi, Syangja, Parbat, and Baglung; Far-western Region: Kailali, Kanchanpur, Doti, and Dadeldhura

FLA Members Engaged with Civil Society Youth for International Youth Day

On August 11, on the occasion of International Youth Day, CEPPS/NDI supported three FLA members to organize a discussion with 21 youth from civil society groups in Lamachour village development committee (VDC), Kaski district.



FLA members in discussion with local youth

Local youth participants raised the challenges they face (lack of employment opportunities, technical education, youth health and security) and asked what the FLA members have been doing to address these issues of youth within their political party and at the national level. FLA members shared their experiences as youth politicians, responded to the concerns of youth and discussed ways to incorporate the youth agenda in the constitution making process. FLA members encouraged the youth from Lamachour VDC to develop a youth network and begin to invest in agriculture as they have good access to the local market. This was the first time that FLA members directly interacted with youth from civil society at a VDC level to get a better understanding of the challenges they are facing. Participants completed a questionnaire aimed at gathering information and feedback from youth on policy priorities.

“NDI organized such event in multi-party set up on the occasion of the International Youth Day and provided opportunity to discuss on agenda of the youth. This program has opened the door for youth politician to work together to address youth agenda and promote cross-party relationship among youth politician.”

-- Bishnu Gautam, CPN-UML, Kaski district

FLA Presentation on Youth Survey Results

On September 4, NDI Director of Political Party Programs Ivan Doherty met with 13 FLA members from eight parties. The FLA members shared their experiences as youth politicians and discussed the role they have been playing within their party as FLA members. During the meeting, the FLA members presented the key findings from youth surveys conducted from May to August 2014; these surveys focused on youth challenges, solutions, and the role of youth in the constitution making process. Mr. Doherty provided examples and resources on creating effective strategies for advocating a youth agenda and to increase activism in addressing this agenda as part of the constitution making process.

National Workshop for FLA Members

“Other organizations give us fish whereas NDI supported us and gave us skills to catch the fish. This training imparted us with practical skills to develop policy, strategies and face media.”

-- Manoj Sah, FLA member from MJFN-D



FLA participants interact with Ivan Doherty.

From September 19 to 21, CEPPS/NDI conducted a national workshop for FLA members in Kathmandu. The 50 participants, including 22 women, represented 10 political parties from 28 districts⁴ of Nepal. The three-day workshop focused on imparting technical knowledge and practical skills to better equip FLA members to succeed in policy development, advocacy and lobbying, and media relations

and communication.

FLA members used the findings from their youth survey, conducted during the regional FLA events earlier in the year, to identify and develop six policy papers on: 1) youth unemployment; 2) youth and health; 3) youth participation; 4) youth and education; 5) drug addiction and crime; and 6) constitutional protections for youth. Television and radio producer/presenter Prakash

Girim taught participants how to effectively use media to build good media relations. Participants created a video of a 15-minute mock debate and received feedback on their performances by Mr. Girim.



FLA participants preparing and presenting policy papers.

The workshop participants developed strategies to advocate and lobby on the six identified youth policy issues, which included meeting party leadership and youth wing leaders, creating a petition campaign, and revitalizing the FLA Facebook page. To finalize the youth policy and plan for their activities, FLA members formed one ad-hoc policy committee and one ad-hoc advocacy and lobbying committee.

Meetings with Political Party Youth Wing Leaders

During this quarter, CEPPS/NDI organized a series of meetings with four youth wing leaders from three of its party partners (NC, MJFN-D, and UCPN-M). CEPPS/NDI and the youth

⁴ Sunsari, Baglung, Kailali, Banke, Siraha, Bara, Kathmandu, Bhojpur, Kalikot, Kanchanpur, Pyuthan, Jajarkot, Dailekh, Nawalparasi, Khotang, Rolpa, Bardiya, Jhapa, Morang, Dhanding, Nuwakot, Bhaktapur, Rupandehi, Sarlahi, Saptari, Mahottari, Dhanusha and Parsa

leaders discussed next steps for organizing regional workshops for party youth wings to increase youth participation in party decision-making processes. These meetings focused on the needs of youth and how CEPPS/NDI could provide technical assistance to address these needs, to include:

- enhancing youth leadership skills;
- defining a leadership role for youth in politics; and
- improving organizational development, with a focus on preparations for local elections.

UCPN-M Youth Wing Training

On September 10 and 11, the Young Communist League (YCL), UCPN-M's youth wing, and CEPPS/NDI organized a workshop for 60 young women. UCPN-M Party Chairman Prachanda inaugurated the program and senior leaders, including Baburam Bhattarai, Vice-President Narayan Kaji Shrestha, and Hisila Yami, encouraged the YCL cadres to be more active and engaged in the party organization, with a focus on the party's youth inclusion policy. CA Deputy Chair Onsari Gharti Magar, CCM Satya Pahadi, local experts Usha Malla Joshi and Rajita Thapa, and CEPPS/NDI political party program director John Lovdal facilitated the sessions on women's leadership, preparations for local elections, women's role in NGOs/INGOs, and women's role in the upcoming local elections. Following the workshop, with the objective of developing activities at the local level, YCL established a coordination committee in each of the five regions.

UCPN-M Women's Wing Advocacy Program

On August 23, CEPPS/NDI and the UCPN-M women's wing organized an advocacy program in Kathmandu. Women members met with senior leaders to discuss the draft party constitution and women's representation in the new agreement. During UCPN-M's national conference in May 2014, party leaders promised to develop the provision of 33 percent women's representation in the party's central committee. However, the draft constitution only mentioned a "special provision" for women in the party central committee. To create pressure on senior leaders before finalizing the party constitution, more than 150 women leaders (including CA members and central committee members (CCMs)) provided suggestions and recommendations to Ms. Posta Bahadur Bogati, vice-chair of the party constitution amendment committee.



Posta Bahadur Bogati speaks during the advocacy program

Sub-Objective 1.A.2: Cross-Party Consensus Building

Multi-Party Meeting with Women's Wing Leaders

On August 6, CEPPS/NDI met with 14 leaders from the women's wings of six parties⁵ to share experiences from the party conventions held by the UCPN-M, CPN-UML, and RPP-N. The aim of the meeting was for the women's wings to share experiences on their efforts to secure better representation within their respective political parties, such as when convincing senior leaders to adopt 33 percent women's representation within the party.

UCPN-M Secretary Bimala K.C highlighted the support her party received from CEPPS/NDI to organize several meetings with members of their women's wing to create a strategy for national conference; consequently, UCPN-M increased the number of women in the central committee. RPP-Nepal also secured a noticeable increase in the number of women in the central committee and endorsed a provision of 33 percent women's representation from the central to district committees. Similarly, CPN-UML stated that, despite many challenges, they secured more women's representation in the central committee.

Regional and National Consultations on Political Party Act

For a full description of this event, please see CEPPS/IFES Objective 2.B.

Multi-Party Secretariat Meeting

On September 5, CEPPS/NDI held a multi-party secretariat meeting with NDI Political Party Programs Director Ivan Doherty. Participants included 18 secretariat staff, from party office secretaries to CCMs responsible for party office secretariats. The discussion focused on sharing experiences, challenges, and opportunities from party secretariats in Nepal. Based on his international experience, Mr. Doherty offered tips on how to strengthen the party secretariat.



Party office officials during the meeting on party secretariats.

Sub-Objective 1.B: Enhance the electoral competitiveness of political parties.

National Opinion Polls

During this quarter, Internews and IDA completed the fieldwork for the third and final round of national opinion polls. The third wave of polls sought to provide deeper insight into local

⁵ NC, CPN-UML, UCPN-M, RPP-N, RPP, and MJFN-D.

governance issues, public perception of political parties, and media consumption behaviors. A total of 4,000 participants responded to the survey, which reached 44 districts, 183 VDCs, 28 municipalities, and 433 wards from all five development regions. (*Please see Appendix II for details of sampling methodology and Appendices III and IV for the final questionnaire in English and Nepali.*)

CEPPS/IFES OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen institutions involved in electoral processes, either as actors or participants.

Intermediate Result 2B.1: Improved legal framework that ensures transparent electoral procedures that promote genuine and competitive elections.

Intermediate Result 2B.2: Legal framework is a product of inclusive, public dialogue.

Sub-Objective 2.B: Strengthened democratic legal framework for elections.

Support to ECN's Input to the CA Constitutional Drafting Committee

At the request of the ECN, CEPPS/IFES hired Madhab Paudel, a senior national legal expert, to advise on the ECN's input to the CA constitutional drafting committee. Paudel prepared two position papers – one on the electoral system and the other on the ECN's structure, role and functions. Both papers are being deliberated at the CA with significant implications for the ECN.

To further contribute to the ECN's capacity to strengthen institutional reform under the new constitution, CEPPS/IFES invited electoral legal expert Kåre Vollan to Nepal to contribute to the electoral reform dialogue (ERD). Vollan worked closely with Paudel to develop the recommendations to the ECN and contributed to the consolidation of regional recommendations from the ERD in line with international best practice.

Regional and National Electoral Reform Dialogues

In August and September 2014, CEPPS, in consultation with the ECN, held a series of five regional electoral reform dialogues (ERDs) and one national ERD. The regional events took place in Biratnagar, Chitwan, Pokhara, Dhangadhi, and Nepalgunj, and ended with a national event in Kathmandu on September 12. In total, 414 representatives from political parties, civil society, media, legal associations, national and local government agencies, the security sector, and the ECN participated in the six events (see Table 2). The consultations aimed to:

- Facilitate a constructive, multi-stakeholder dialogue on electoral reform initiatives at the regional and national level;
- Generate common recommendations to advocate for the implementation of electoral and political party reforms at party, parliamentary and civil society levels;



A working group discussion being held at the regional ERD in Chitwan

- Develop viable mechanisms for the advancement of priorities identified during the dialogues;
- Provide input and support to the ECN in its electoral reform initiatives.

Table 2: Breakdown of Electoral Reform Dialogues

National Dialogue on Electoral Reform			
Location	Date	Participants	
		Total	Women
Biratnagar, Eastern Region	August 7-8	54	8
Chitwan, Central Region	August 12-13	52	16
Pokhara, Western Region	August 15-16	60	12
Dhangadi, Far-Western Region	August 20-21	66	13
Nepalgunj, Mid-Western Region	August 23-24	52	12
National Conference, Kathmandu	September 12	130	32
Total		414	93

Regional ERDs

During the regional dialogues in Nepal’s five development regions, 284 participants (including 61 women) from 69 districts discussed the advancement of electoral reforms and developed recommendations for key stakeholders to strengthen electoral laws and processes. CEPPS media sub-partners Internews and Antenna Foundation mobilized their network of 32 FM radio stations to maximize outreach and share information on the ERDs. Special guests included: Election Commissioners (ECs) Dr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav (Biratnagar) and Dr. Rambhakta P.B. Thakur (Pokhara); ECN Secretary Madhu Regmi (Dhangadi); Hon. Commissioner Ila Sharm and ECN Under Secretary Gopal Prasad Aryal (Nepalgunj); and Chief EC Neel Kantha Uprety (Chitwan). For a full agenda, please see Appendix V.



Regional ERD in Nepalgunj

The main objective of the regional dialogues was to identify common recommendations from a cross section of Nepali society on reforming electoral and political party laws, including local government election reform. Working groups at each dialogue addressed a variety of contextually important topics including:

- an assessment of areas for improvement from the recent elections in Nepal;
- regulations of political parties and role of political parties in elections; and,
- preparations for local elections.

As part of the communication strategy, 25-minute radio programs were produced in each development region in partnership with CEPPS/NDI subgrantee Internews, and broadcast by six FM radio stations. These programs were later summarized into a 25-minute program which was broadcasted by Antenna Foundation over 60 radio stations across the regions.

National Electoral Reform Conference



Speakers at the National Electoral Reform Conference

Following the regional electoral reform dialogues in August, CEPPS/IFES and CEPPS/NDI hosted a national electoral reform conference in Kathmandu on September 12. More than 130 participants attended, including 32 women. All five of the ECN commissioners attended the opening session, where Chief Commissioner Neel Kantha Uprety and USAID Mission Director Beth Dunford delivered opening remarks. Honorable Uprety stated the ECN would take ownership of the suggestions and recommendations consolidated from the nationwide dialogue. The day-long conference featured testimonials from five

regional delegates, presentations on the regional recommendations, and working groups on electoral, political party, and local bodies' election reforms. CA Vice-Chair Onsari Garti Magar, ECN Commissioner Gurung, and DGO Director Maria Barrón delivered closing remarks. For a full agenda, please see Appendix VI.

Media outlets Internews and Antenna Foundation mobilized their network of 32 FM radio stations to maximize outreach and broadcast the roundtables – which featured 7-10 local representatives – throughout the regions.

All participants received background papers prepared by CEPPS/IFES, CEPPS/NDI, and the ECN, on the following topics:

- consolidated recommendations from domestic and international observation reports;
- electoral reform areas ;
- political party law – international best practices;
- provisions concerning regulation of political parties in Nepal;
- campaign finance regulation;
- legal structure of local elections; and,
- candidate identification and nomination process.

For more information on ERD background materials and a full list of recommendations from the ERDs, please see Appendices VII and VIII. A video and full report for both the regional dialogues and national conference are currently being produced and will be shared with the ECN,

members of the CA and the government, political parties, civil society leaders and the dialogue participants.

Intermediate Result 2C.1: Percentage of citizens reporting confidence in the integrity and capacity of the ECN.

Intermediate Result 2C.2: Number of benchmarks met in the implementation of the ECN's strategic plan.

Sub-Objective 2.C: Strengthened electoral management capacity of ECN.

Technical Assistance to the ECN on the Legal, Management and Technical Aspects of Elections

During this quarter, CEPPS/IFES engaged in a number of activities to strengthen ECN's electoral management capacity.

Support to the Strategic Plan

From July 17-21, CEPPS/IFES provided both logistical and technical support for a series of four half-day preparatory meetings to develop the framework for ECN's annual review and next five-year strategic plan (2014-2019). These preparatory meetings, attended by 28 ECN officers from all departments, helped generate the five pillars of the strategic planning framework: 1) institutional development; 2) organizational and capacity development; 3) voter registration and electoral technology; 4) voter education and outreach; and 5) logistics and election operation.

Having identified these areas, a five-day workshop was held from July 25-29 in Kathmandu with district election officers (DEOs). The first day focused on the annual review followed by four days of strategic planning on the five pillars. Similarly, a workshop with junior ECN staff was organized on September 14. ECN meetings with political parties, media, government agencies, and international development partners were organized from September 15-17; CEPPS/IFES participated and provided crucial input.

Support to the Gender and Inclusion Unit

Building on past work, CEPPS/IFES played an integral role in drafting the ECN's gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) strategic plan along with a one-year action plan. Following nearly a month of in-country consultations, CEPPS/IFES' gender and strategic planning specialist worked with ECN officers from the Gender and Social Inclusion Unit to draft the strategic and action plans, which were submitted to the ECN in early August and are currently under review by the commissioners and unit members. The strategic plan is expected to be finalized early in the next quarter and could contribute substantially to further institutionalizing gender and inclusion best practices throughout the ECN's work.

Out-of-Country Voting

CEPPS/IFES provided assistance and advice to the ECN on out-of-country registration and voting provisions for Nepalese citizens living outside Nepal. CEPPS/IFES worked with the ECN to conduct an out-of-country voter registration feasibility study, providing relevant literature such as the CEPPS/IFES White Paper on Out-of-Country Voting⁶ and conducting an orientation workshop for ECN delegates in Washington, D.C. The orientation session, which was led by Peter Erben, IFES' international expert on out-of-country voting, highlighted international best practice and key opportunities for Nepal. Additionally, on September 22 in Kathmandu, CEPPS/IFES supported a meeting initiated by the ECN to present findings of missions carried out by ECN commissioners in Bahrain, Belgium, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States on out-of-country registration and voting. Delegates represented 16 embassies, three development partner organizations, and government representatives from five institutions: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Ministry of Labor and Employment, and the ECN. A total of 36 participants (nine women) participated.

Implementing a Program of Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE)

Due to lack of funding from the Government of Nepal and the Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF), which have been covering some of the costs of training programs, including travel costs and allowances, fees, and per diem for ECN resource persons, there were no BRIDGE activities conducted during this quarter. ECN officials were reluctant to facilitate trainings without receiving their usual stipend (which neither the United Nations Development Programme's Electoral Support Project (ESP) nor CEPPS/IFES can provide).⁷ However, CEPPS/IFES continued to press the ECN and their BRIDGE partners to review and revise the BRIDGE calendar for the remainder of 2014. CEPPS/IFES expects BRIDGE workshops to resume in November.

Organizational Capacity Building

Following the establishment of the GESI unit, CEPPS/IFES supported the ECN to implement key gender interaction events from July 8 to 11 in Banke, Dang, Biratnagar, and Kathmandu. Each event was attended by political party representatives, DEOs, and female development officers. A total of 177 representatives (82 women) from 16 districts participated in these events. The objective of the workshops was to inform stakeholders about the establishment of the ECN's GESI unit, and help strengthen its integration. In particular, the participants noted appreciation for the ECN's efforts to increase the number of female poll workers and adopted provisions for the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, and sick people during the 2013 CA elections and 2014 by-elections.

In an effort to expand GESI tools and resources, CEPPS/IFES took a lead role in developing a booklet titled: *Gender Equality and Election Management Bodies: A Best Practices Guide*. The

⁶ Published by IFES as a part of the White Paper Series in April 2012, written by Peter Erben, Ben Goldsmith and Aysha Shujaat.

⁷ IFES cannot pay fees to government or equivalent institutions' employees who are already on salary.

booklet, which highlights international and local best practice as well as key recommendations for integrating women throughout the electoral process, is being translated into Nepali and will be widely disseminated in Nepal by the GESI unit. The English version will be shared during the CEPPS/IFES U.S. election program (November 2-5, 2014) in Washington, D.C.

CEPPS/IFES also worked with the ECN to hold regular outreach events with stakeholders, such as the media, political parties, and civil society, on a variety of election-related issues. These interactions generated suggestions for reforming electoral laws and processes that reflect broader stakeholder engagement. CEPPS/IFES plans to provide facilitation and logistic support for at least six of the 12 planned interaction events in the next two quarters, as per the ECN's request.

CEPPS/IFES is contributing to the fifth meeting of the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA), scheduled to take place in Pokhara in November 2014. IFES helped develop the concept paper for the FEMBoSA meeting and, working with a CEPPS/IFES expert in political campaign finance, developed reference documents on campaign finance. The documents include an assessment of and accompanying background paper on political finance in Nepal, a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation on political finance regulations and a comparative study of other country systems. CEPPS/IFES has provided relevant literature for an ECN study on the political participation of women in Nepal, which will also be presented at FEMBoSA.

Intermediate Result 2D.1: Percentage increase in citizens' knowledge about electoral processes following USG supported voter education.

Sub-Objective 2.D: Expanded and improved delivery of voter education.

Capacity Building Support to the ECN on the Design, Implementation and Evaluation of Voter Education Campaigns

CEPPS/IFES continued to provide in-house capacity building to the ECN through the Electoral Education and Information Center (EEIC), playing an integral role in the development and implementation of the ECN's voter education and outreach plans, as well as facilitating ECN trainings of social studies teachers. Regularly held social study teachers' trainings aim to expand capacity of secondary-level social studies teachers to engage students on democracy and elections. During this quarter, the EEIC and CEPPS/IFES conducted two trainings in the Saptari District on electoral education, reaching a total of 104 teachers (including 10 women) from 71 public and four private schools.

Material and Broadcasting Support for Voter Education Campaigns

Working with the ECN and CEPPS/IFES' six CSO partners, CEPPS/IFES continues to support the development and production of a number of products related to civic and voter education, voter registration, and obtaining citizenship certificates (CCs).

In July, CEPPS/IFES worked with its six CSO partners – Dalit National Federation (DNF), Janaki Women's Awareness Society (JWAS), Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO), Nepal National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA), Youth Initiative (YI), and

the National Federation for the Disabled Nepal (NFDN) – to design and produce 160,000 leaflets emphasizing the benefits of a citizenship certificate, educating eligible citizens on how and why to obtain their CC, and encouraging them to register on the voter list once they received their CC. Partner CSOs distributed 20,000 copies of a more detailed brochure on the same topic. In addition to these resources, CEPPS/IFES developed a 60-page Nepali handbook on *The Process of Obtaining the Citizenship Certificate*. The handbook contains step-by-step guidelines for project community facilitators to educate eligible citizens on how to obtain CCs, including samples of the required forms; a description of the relevant government offices and authorities; costs involved with registration; and information on how to fill out the different forms. This document was developed in consultation with four experienced organizations already working on CC issues – the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), DNF, the Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD), and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA). The handbook is undergoing final review and will be published in October 2014.

CEPPS/IFES completed the translation, design and production of the Nepali version of the CEPPS/IFES and CEPPS/NDI publication *Equal Access: How to Include Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in Elections and Political Processes*. CEPPS/IFES and its disability CSO partner NFDN will begin dissemination of the 1,500 copies through networks of disabled people’s organizations (DPOs), the ECN, DEOs, and other CSO partners. Similarly, CEPPS/IFES produced 600 copies of the English version for dissemination among a wider audience in Nepal, including the EEIC library, public and private schools, and college libraries.

The following table lists the civic and voter education products/events designed, developed and/or produced and disseminated in this quarter.

Table 3: CEPPS/IFES Civic and Voter Education Activities

Civic and Voter Education Products/Events	Quantities/Number	
	For ECN	For IFES’ CSOs
leaflets on importance of citizenship certificate	-	160,000
brochures on benefits of citizenship certificate	-	20,000
manual on <i>Equal Access: How to include PWD in electoral and political processes</i> (in English)	600	
manual on <i>Equal Access: How to include PWD in electoral and political processes</i> (in Nepali, underway)	1,500	
radio programs produced on ERDs	30	

Completion of “Study on the Status of Citizenship Certificate of Target Marginalized Communities”

In July, CEPPS/IFES’ partner CSOs concluded a household survey collecting data on the status of CCs among marginalized communities in CEPPS/IFES target areas. Through 63,585 household visits, 48 community facilitators informed



and motivated 145,109 household members (72,450 women) on the importance of CCs and voter registration. In September, CEPPS/IFES finalized its findings in a *Study on the Status of Citizenship Certificates of Target Marginalized Communities* (see Appendix I). The study revealed that 22.4 percent of eligible Nepalese surveyed do not have CCs. Women (24.78 percent) were more likely than men (19.98 percent) not to have their CC, due to a lack of awareness of the process, required supporting documents, family support, economic resources, and access to district headquarters. Survey data is being used to inform CEPPS/IFES' citizenship survey outreach, aiming register 40,000 Nepalese as citizens and as new voters.

Project Review, Survey Training Workshop, Fourth Mini-Survey

CEPPS/IFES organized and facilitated a three-day review workshop and fourth mini-survey training from July 25-27 in Pokhara. A total of 16 participants (four women) including project/district managers and sub-grantee board members participated in the workshop. Participants reviewed the CC and voter education project activities to date and developed an action plan for the upcoming quarter. Participants also received training on survey objectives, methodology, implementation and reporting. The workshop was facilitated by CEPPS/IFES' M&E coordinator, IFES' CSO project officer, and IFES' project assistant; IFES also collaborated with the program coordinator from the FWLD. Following the workshop, the five CSO partners each organized a three-day workshop with district coordinators, community facilitators, and board members to review project activities and share survey training. A total of 117 participants (43 women) participated at these district-level training events in Kailali, Kanchanpur, Banke, Dhanusha, Morang, and Kathmandu.

Through implementation of a fourth mini-survey that reached 2,000 respondents across 230 VDC), 40 colleges, and 26 project districts, CEPPS/IFES' five CSO partners continued to gauge marginalized citizens' knowledge, attitude and perception on local government elections. The data is currently being compiled and analyzed. CEPPS/IFES expects to finalize the survey report at the end of October.

VDC-Level Orientations and Awareness-Raising Group Sessions

During this period, partner CSOs reached 19,382 people (10,387 women) through 239 local-level orientations across 230 VDCs and 503 awareness-raising group sessions in villages and colleges on the topics of citizenship certificate and voter registration. This outreach campaign targeted different marginalized groups, including Dalits, women,

Bharat KC, a youth with a physical disability, felt motivated to register to vote after participating in one of youth initiative's awareness raising events. Although he had registered for his citizenship certificate, Bharat did not know how to register to vote or participate in Nepal's electoral process. With this in mind, a youth initiative voter champion worked with Bharat to educate him and other community youth members about their right to vote. As Bharat noted:

"Today I am very happy because I have registered my name in the voter list. Youth initiative's awareness raising program helped me secure my voting right. I was unaware of what I needed in order to cast my vote, but now I can take part in future elections and vote for a better Nepal."

youth, and freed Kamaiyas, and focused on the importance of possessing a CC; the procedures needed to obtain it; registering to vote; and electoral participation of marginalized communities. Community facilitators used flip-charts, produced by CEPPS/IFES in collaboration with CSOs, to educate targeted communities.

Citizenship Certificate Obtainment Support

In addition to the work through VDCs, CEPPS/IFES CSOs assisted 174 people (70 women) from Bara, Surkhet, Rautahat, Rupandehi, and Jajarkot districts in obtaining CCs and registering on the voter list. CSOs provided required stationery for submitting the CC application, liaised with



offices of the VDC and chief district officer (CDO), provided transportation fees from village to district headquarter/CDO, and supplemented fees for taking photographs for the CC. Further, DNF organized a CC and voter registration camp in Rautahat Districts where 69 individuals (38 female) from marginalized communities obtained CCs with support from DNF. Along with the 69 people who obtained CCs, 101 additional people (16 female) were registered on the voter list.

Continuous Support to Voter Registration

In July and August, CEPPS/IFES' partner subgrantee NNDSWO supported the DEO in Kailali by setting up help desks at the district administration offices (DAOs). The help desks, which were operated by additional staff hired for this purpose by the CSO, provided information and assistance to people who came to the DAO to get their CC. This also included people from marginalized communities. The help desk ensures that people obtaining their CC are routed to the voter registration desk at the DAO and receive support to register on the voter list, if eligible. During this quarter, NNDSWO enrolled 674 people (279 women) in the voter list.

Stakeholders' Interaction

Six district-level stakeholders' preparatory meetings were conducted in Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, and Jajarkot districts to discuss the formation of district election network (DEN). Stakeholders such as DEO and DAOs representatives, district education officers, media, and CSOs participated in the meetings and shared how they can support each other in voter education, electoral participation and democracy building. Similarly, 188 VDC-level coordination meetings were held in Kailali, Dadeldhura, Doti, Accham, Baitadi, Bajura, Bajhang, Darchula Banke, and Danke to discuss the possibilities of creating synergies between each other. VDC secretaries, volunteers, community leaders, and CSOs participated in the VDC-level coordination meetings. CEPPS/IFES will meet with the new EEIC director at the ECN to discuss next steps for engaging these networks in local elections.

Table 4: Activities by CEPPS/IFES' CSO Partners

CSO/Activity	Total Beneficiaries	Male	Female
DNF			
household survey	29,252	14,422	14,830
VDC-level election network (meetings)	55	--	--
orientation and sensitization	1,297	700	597
awareness raising group events	951	356	595
coordination and collaboration with DEOs (meetings)	26	--	--
media mobilization (coverage events)	18	--	--
individuals supported for CC and voter registration	169	116	53
CC obtained through CC camp	69	31	38
voter registration through voter registration camp	170	116	54
mass reached through mini-survey on electoral issues	400	200	200
JWAS			
household survey	48,605	24,474	24,131
orientation and sensitization	1,030	--	1,030
awareness raising group events	2,146	869	1,277
coordination and collaboration with DEOs (meetings)	63	--	--
media mobilization (coverage events)	7	--	--
individuals supported for CC and voter registration	5	3	2
mass reached through mini-survey on electoral issues	400	200	200
NNSWA			
household survey	31,223	19,711	11,512
VDC-level election network (meetings)	12	--	--
orientation and sensitization	1,157	605	552
awareness raising group events	2,890	1,079	1,811
coordination and collaboration with DEOs (meetings)	48	--	--
mass reached through mini-survey on electoral issues	400	200	200
NNDSWO			
household survey	36,029	14,052	21,977
VDC-level election network (meetings)	121	--	--
orientation and sensitization	1,868	1,074	794
awareness raising group events	998	363	635
coordination and collaboration with DEOs (meetings)	35	--	--
media mobilization (coverage events)	25	--	--
mass reached through mini-survey on electoral issues	640	320	320
help desk support in DAO	674	395	279
YI			
orientation and sensitization	26	12	14
awareness raising group events	7,019	3,937	3,082
coordination and collaboration with DEOs (meetings)	56	--	--
media mobilization (coverage events)	6	--	--
mass reached through mini-survey on electoral issues	160	80	80
Total	167,578	83,315	84,263

Civic, Political, and Electoral Participation of Persons with Disabilities

In this quarter, 120 community advocacy forums (CAFs) and six district advocacy forums (DAFs) supported by CEPPS/IFES partner NFDN have regularly advocated on local disability issues. During this period, a total of 145 meetings of CAFs and DAFs took place. Additionally, 19 events occurred addressing inclusion, free education, and post-disaster response support. As a result of these advocacy initiatives, 145 persons with disabilities (66 women) participated in 92 different community groups, including forest users groups, women groups, savings groups, school management committees, youth clubs, etc. Furthermore, from July 17-26, district-level CAF conferences were organized in Banke, Bardiya, Dang, Kailali, Kanchanpur, and Dadeldhura districts to share achievements, challenges, and lessons learned with the different CAF members. A total of 282 representatives (137 women) from 116 CAFs from the six project districts attended these conferences. Key lessons learned include:

- it was important to use the network of ECN-trained voter education volunteers to provide voter education to people with disabilities during the 2013 CA election;
- CAF coordination with the community forestry user groups is essential to support people with disabilities so they can gain employment in the forest user group structures; and
- continuous and strong lobbying by CAF members with the VDC councils within their respective districts proved beneficial for the participation of people with disabilities.

During this period, CAF and DAF members supported village/district disaster relief committees to collect data on persons affected by the floods that occurred during the second week of August 2014 in Banke, Bardiya, and Dang districts, including data on persons with disabilities. Also during this quarter, DAFs advocated for improving representation of persons with disabilities in leadership positions. For example, Ganesh Raj Awasthi, 38, a DPO leader with a physical disability, was selected as the chairperson of the Ugratara Multipurpose Cooperative of Dadeldhura district thanks to the continued lobbying and advocacy initiatives by DAF members. CEPPS/IFES provided financial support for the logistical needs of these activities, and members' advocacy skills were developed through past trainings provided by CEPPS/IFES.

Due to CEPPS/IFES' and NFDN's regular advocacy initiatives, on July 23, the ECN appointed an under-secretary as their disability focal Person to make the electoral process more disability inclusive. With the ECN in the process of preparing its five-year strategic plan, NFDN will further advocate and support the ECN to make its strategic plan inclusive of persons with disability.

In addition to the above work, on July 23, CEPPS/IFES staff made a presentation on *Mainstreaming Disability - an IFES Nepal Experience* at USAID for USAID, U.S. embassy staff, and implementing partners. An article based on the content of the presentation was published in USAID's first quarterly report.

Monitor, Analyze and Report on the Overall Electoral Process

Ongoing Analysis and Reporting on the Evolving Electoral Environment

During this quarter, CEPPS/IFES reported to stakeholders on the progress of electoral related developments on the “None of the Above” provision in the LBEP, 1992. Monthly reports on program activities and analysis of the political and electoral environment were provided to U.S. embassy officials and USAID. CEPPS/IFES continued its circulation of the two-page monthly newsletter highlighting partner CSO activities to share best practices amongst implementing partners, encourage collaboration, and inform other stakeholders on CEPPS/IFES civic and voter education activities. Early in July, CEPPS/IFES shared an analysis of the content of the by-election observation report it produced with the ECN. CEPPS/IFES also shared findings of its *Study on Status of Citizenship Certificate of Target Marginalized Communities* with USAID.

Provision of News Clipping Service

CEPPS/IFES continued to deliver its daily news clipping service on the evolving political and electoral situation in Nepal targeting 22 national and international partners and election stakeholders. In late August, CEPPS/IFES interrupted its delivery of the daily news clippings to assess and improve the format.

CEPPS/NDI OBJECTIVE 2: Civil society initiatives more effectively contribute to transparent electoral processes.

Intermediate Result 2.1: Non-partisan election monitoring efforts are more comprehensive and systematic.

Intermediate Result 2.2: Media are better informed to cover election related issues at the national and district levels.

Sub-Objective 2.A: Enhance the capacity of civil society to monitor elections.

Sub-Objective 2.A.1: Technical Assistance to Domestic Monitoring Partner(s)

Voter Registration Information Campaign

VRIC Community Events

In July 2014, CEPPS/NDI, in partnership with its local partner, Democracy and Elections Watch (DEW-Nepal), continued to carry out VRIC community events in the five target districts of Baitadi, Jhapa, Kaski, Lalitpur, and Sunsari. These districts were selected based on high levels of invalid votes and low voter registration in the last



Locals looking at the informational calendars handed out during the community events.



Street drama being carried out at a VDC in Lalitpur district

CA elections. The campaign reached approximately 15,000 community members in 157 locations, covering 122 VDCs and 10 municipalities. Events typically included street drama and musical performances specifically developed for each district. The script and lyrics of the performances⁸ covered the importance of voter registration and the electoral process. In addition, volunteers distributed calendars that contained infographics on the voter registration process provided by the ECN.

Impact Survey

CEPPS/NDI worked with 44 trained DEW-Nepal volunteers to conduct the VRIC impact surveys in the targeted five target districts using Android-based mobile phone software and technology. The volunteers aimed to collect data to gauge the impact of the VRIC and to compare the results with findings from last quarter's baseline survey. (*Please see Appendix IX for report.*) The findings will be used to inform future voter registration and education programs. Volunteers surveyed 2,026 individuals (1,013 men and 1,009 women; four identified themselves as third gender); 53.1 percent represented marginalized communities; and youth 18 to 39 years old made up 55.13 percent.



DEW-Nepal volunteers interviewing a survey respondent in Jhapa district.

Regional and National Electoral Reform Dialogues (ERDs)

For a full description of this event, please see CEPPS/IFES Objective 2.B.

Election Observation Coordination Group (EOCG) Meetings

From July to August 2014, CEPPS/NDI continued its collaboration with the National Election Observation Committee (NEOC) and organized two monthly coordination meetings: July 18 at General Election Observation Committee (GEOC) and August 29 at NDI. During these EOCG meetings, participating organizations (*please see Table 5*) shared their experience and observations of the by-elections and suggested the need for a workshop to discuss the consolidated recommendations from the November 19 elections. EOCG members reached a consensus and agreed to work together on an EOCG project, such as holding an interaction with political parties and parliamentarians to lobby and advocate for the local elections and requested NDI to take a lead on this.

During the August 29 meeting, CEPPS/NDI thanked the EOCG members who presented on the topic of election observation and recommendations at the regional ERDs (*Please see Appendix X for a compilation of the recommendations from the different observation groups*). Attendees

⁸ Videos of the *dohori* and drama performance in Jhapa district can be viewed here: <https://drive.google.com/a/ndi.org/folderview?id=0B44xplEYjLw6ZDB6UkVieEZsQUU&usp=sharing>.

discussed fundraising tactics and examples of an umbrella election observation organization.

Table 5: EOCG Membership

Domestic Election Observer Groups	NEOC GEOC Constituent Assembly Election Observation Joint Forum (CAEOF) Election Observation Coalition Nepal (EOC-N) Alliance for Election Observation Nepal (AEON) DEW-Nepal
Implementing Agencies	CEPPS/NDI

Sub-Objective 2.B: Strengthen the capacity of media to report on the electoral process.

Media Programming on Polling

This quarter, CEPPS/NDI subgrantee Internews, its partner Antenna Foundation Nepal (AFN), and five regional partner stations produced and broadcast radio programming to discuss the results of the national opinion polls. The selected radio stations are listed below.

- [Saptakoshi FM](#), Sunsari (Eastern Development Region)
- [Krishnasar FM](#), Banke (Mid-Western Development Region)
- [Narayani FM](#), Parsa (Central Development Region)
- [Vijay FM](#), Nawalparasi (Western Development Region)
- [Shuklaphanta FM](#), Kanchanpur (Far Western Development Region)

AFN requested a no-cost extension in July 2014 to complete the production and broadcast of the remaining *Loktantra Mantra* programs. Starting in July 2014, *Loktantra Mantra* adopted a new program format based on recommendations made by the content advisors and feedback from the partner stations. The new format incorporates individual stories, montages, on-location reporting, interviews, and oral testimonies. The new format highlights the voices of political leaders, government employees and analysts. (*Please see Appendix XI for a map of radio stations and Appendix XII for key issues discussed in radio programs this quarter.*)

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 3: The CA/Legislature Parliament more effectively fulfills its democratic functions.

Intermediate Result 3.2: MPs incorporate constituent input into legislative processes.

Intermediate Result 3.3: CA/Legislature Parliament proceedings are more transparent.

Sub-Objective 3.A: Strengthen the legislative drafting capacity of the CA/Parliament.

Sub-Objective 3.A.1: Strengthening the Legislative Drafting and Oversight Capacity of Parliament

Support to Parliamentary Committees

During this quarter, as per the request of the LP's finance subcommittee, CEPPS/NDI provided technical assistance to the committee in reviewing the existing Public Procurement Act 2007 and providing necessary recommendations for the amendment. On August 7, CEPPS/NDI held a discussion with members and staff of the finance subcommittee on Public Procurement Act. International procurement expert Narayan Datt Sharma presented on international best practices and provisions of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) model law. Mr. Sharma highlighted some gaps between the current Nepali law and international examples, and made suggestions on relevant recommendations of the proposed amendments of the Public Procurement Act.



Members of finance subcommittee conducting hearing at airport construction site in Ilam district.

On August 8-9, CEPPS/NDI facilitated a field visit and fact finding mission to Jhapa and Ilam districts to observe projects impacted by the provisions of the existing Public Procurement Act. Seven members of the LP finance subcommittee and senior staff from the subcommittee and the parliament secretariat (*please see Table 6*) traveled to the field. Hon. C. P. Mainali, subcommittee coordinator, led the fact finding mission. The group observed two construction projects: Mechi bridge and Charali-Chandragadi-Kechana road in Jhapa district, and an airport construction site at Sukilumba, Ilam district. CEPPS/NDI and the MPs met with various stakeholders, including local government

agencies, project chief, supervisors, contractors, and citizens in order to get an update on these projects. MPs listened to citizens' concerns regarding delayed projects and the impact on their day-to-day life. The project chief of Mechi bridge informed the subcommittee members that the project had been delayed due to inadequate budget, lack of technical experts, and faulty design. National procurement expert Shakti Prasad Basnet accompanied the team and recorded his observations. Based on experts' suggestions and findings from the site visits, the finance subcommittee compiled a report of its recommendations on the proposed amendments on the Public Procurement Act. The report covers the gaps in the existing act, concerns and issues of projects that affect the community, and key recommendations of two expert consultants on these issues. The subcommittee has submitted a copy of the report to CEPPS/NDI (*Please see Appendix XIII for the Nepali version of this report*).

During the quarter, CEPPS/NDI also compiled relevant comparative procurement acts and reference documents from Bangladesh, China, Ghana, India, Japan, Philippines, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. Binders containing this information were distributed to the 12 members of the finance subcommittee, including three invited members and the secretary of the finance subcommittee.

Table 6: Participants on the Finance Subcommittee Fact Finding Mission

S. No.	Name	Party/Organization
1.	Hon. C.P. Mainali	CPN-ML
2.	Hon. Kamala Panta	NC
3.	Hon. Jagadishwor Narasingh K.C.	NC
4.	Hon. Ratna Sherchan	NC
5.	Hon. Janardan Dhakal	CPN-UML
6.	Hon. Rewatiraman Bhandari	CPN-UML
7.	Hon. Gopal Dahit	Tharuhat Terai Party Nepal
8.	Thakur Prasad Baral	Secretary, Parliament Secretariat
9.	Krishna Hari Khadka	Staff, Finance Subcommittee
10.	Manoj Kumar Giri	Staff, Finance Subcommittee
11.	Kanchha Dulal	Staff, Finance Subcommittee
12.	Prakash Kumar Lama	Staff, Finance Subcommittee
13.	Jagdish Regmi	Staff, Finance Subcommittee

Women CA/LP Members' Roundtable Discussion on Citizens' Input on the Local Self Governance Act (LSGA)

On August 5, CEPPS/NDI, in partnership with national NGO SAATHI, organized a roundtable discussion on citizens' input on the LSGA with women CA/LP members. The program aimed at: sharing the recommendations and input of citizens' assemblies conducted in five districts in June 2014; and sensitizing the CA/LP members on the LSGA and generating concrete recommendations for the amendment, which is currently tabled at the LP.



Chief Guest Hon. Onsari Gharti (center) listening to the participants' opinions.

CEPPS/NDI and SAATHI presented issues and recommendations from the citizens' assemblies' in the districts of Jhapa, Sunsari, Lalitpur, Kaski, and Baitadi. Twenty-six CA/LP members, including 20 women, engaged in a discussion of the proposed amendments to the LSGA and shared how they are lobbying to ensure meaningful representation within their parties. Special guests, including Deputy Speaker Hon. Onsari Gharti Magar and Election Commissioner Hon. Ila Sharma, highlighted features of the LSGA and additional areas for improvement. Local

governance expert Dr. Shyam Bhurtel highlighted some gaps in the LSGA but also outlined how the LSGA has addressed gender and inclusion issues. Representatives from CSOs, donors, and other government agencies attended the event. Dr. Bhurtel compiled the recommendations of the participants and guest speakers. His report will be provided to all the women CA/LP members to use as a reference material when discussing the bill in the LP.

Discussion on National Youth Council Bill, 2071

On September 24, CEPPS/NDI, in coordination with a core group of youth MPs and the parliamentary committee on women, children, senior citizens, and social welfare, organized a discussion program on the recently tabled National Youth Council Bill, 2071. During the event, 32 participants, including 24 MPs (16 of whom were women), discussed various bill provisions and provided feedback to make the bill more youth-friendly and ensure youth ownership. Most of the participants expressed reservations on the structure of the council and its executive committee. Similarly, women MPs demanded a 50 percent quota for all nominated seats in the council instead of the proposed 33 percent.

Legislative Research and Analysis Assistance to Parliamentary Committees

The LP Secretariat finalized the names of two expert consultants for legislative research and analysis assistance. These two experts will be attached to the development committee and the state affairs committee for a period of one week and will closely coordinate with the committee chair, members and the secretariat staff. The expert consultants, Kumar Regmi and Amita Dixit, will work on the bill made to amend the LSGA and the bill made to amend the civil service act, respectively. The expert consultants will review and analyze these bills and identify gaps and provide recommendations.

U.S. Congressional Study Mission for Parliamentary Committees' Senior Officials

In response to a formal letter from the secretary general of the LP Secretariat, CEPPS/NDI proposed a U.S. study mission for two joint secretaries of the LP Secretariat to study the U.S. legislative committee system. Upon USAID's approval, CEPPS/NDI received two names from the LP Secretariat: Krishna Hari Khadka and Him Lal Subedi, who are the secretaries of the finance and development committees, respectively. The mission, scheduled for January 2015, is expected to help them learn about the U.S. committee system, particularly committee hearings, and enhance their skills in organizing committee hearings in Nepal.

Distribution of CEPPS/NDI Legislative Strengthening Publications

During this quarter, CEPPS/NDI compiled 11 legislative strengthening publications and distributed them to the parliament library and LP Secretariat. The publications are as follows:

- Parliamentary Human Rights Committee
- Legislative Public Outreach on Poverty Issues
- Legislative-Executive Communication on Poverty Reduction Strategies
- Analyzing Legislation How to Read Bills Critically
- Legislatures and the Budget Process (An International Survey)
- Transparent Government
- Strengthening Legislative Capacity in Legislative-Executive Relations
- Policy Development Manual
- Constituent Relations
- Committees in Legislature-A Division of Labor (Nepali)

- A Glossary of Parliamentary Terms

Dissemination of Youth MPs’ Needs Assessment Report

On August 27, CEPPS/NDI organized a dissemination and sharing session on the findings of the CA/LP youth members’ needs assessment survey, conducted with 48 youth MPs (aged 40 and below) from May to June 2014 (*please see Appendix XIV*). The survey, presented to 30 youth MPs, identified education, health, and agriculture as three major policy areas in which MPs have shown interests in increasing engagement; additionally, media training emerged as the top area of interest for future capacity building activities.

Quarterly Policy Dialogues

During this quarter, CEPPS/NDI held two rounds of meetings with the new leadership and administration of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), and together, NDI and FNCCI decided to organize a dialogue between private sector entrepreneurs and youth MPs on the current status of Nepal’s economy. The event will be organized in the third week of October 2014. FNCCI will also prepare a list of priority legislation to provide to youth MPs during the event.

Dayitwa Fellowship Program

CEPPS/NDI held a series of meeting with Nepal ko Yuwa (NKY) to discuss their partnership in conducting a fellowship program with MPs and leadership training for youth MPs and politicians. After an assessment of NKY’s past performance and recent fellowship program, CEPPS/NDI included this program component in its year five workplan. CEPPS/NDI prepared a preliminary list of 20 potential MPs who will benefit from the program. CEPPS/NDI also initiated preliminary consultations with 10 shortlisted MPs and gathered information about their interest and time commitment for their potential fellows.

Supporting the Legislature in Achieving Rapid Implementation of the New Constitution

During this quarter, CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF continued working with its partner National Constitution Foundation (NCF) to conduct a compliance analysis of existing laws in relation to certain immutable principles of the interim constitution: republicanism, secularism, federalism, and inclusion. TAF and NCF held three consultative workshops to identify pre-existing statutes that require amendments when examined through a framework of analysis based on the above-mentioned immutable principles.

On July 7, 2014, NCF held a consultative workshop on social inclusion for 16 participants, focusing on identifying laws that should be reformed to achieve constitutional objectives of inclusive society. Legal expert Indu Tuladhar highlighted the principle of social inclusion and its place in the interim



constitution. Key stakeholders from the socio-legal sector, policymakers, the judicial sector, political parties, and other various interest groups discussed numerous statutes and agreed that a proactive approach must be adopted to ensure that Nepali law encompasses various groups that have been historically marginalized. CA member Hon. Ganesh Man Gurung noted that inclusion is “a continuous process, not an overnight process. Inclusion must be done from the grassroots level first and developed thereafter.”

On July 11, NCF organized a consultative workshop to initiate discussion on the alignment of pre-existing statutes to the principle of federalization as defined in the interim constitution. A total of 13 participants attended the workshop including legal experts, policy makers, and socio-legal academicians representing from various interest groups. Legal expert Khim Lal Devkota presented a research paper on the concept of federalization and the legal changes required to make Nepal a federal state. He highlighted the conceptual framework of federalism based on the international mechanisms and structures adopted by governments to permit recognition of diversity, common interests, identity, and functionality at the same time.

NCF’s third workshop occurred on August 5 and focused on republicanism and identifying the legal changes required to make Nepal a true democratic country. Nepal’s 2007 interim constitution not only declares Nepal to be a democratic country, it also makes Nepal a republic. However, the fourth amendment to the interim constitution, which inserted the declaration of Nepal as a republic, has no elaborate provisions on the republicanism. During the workshop, 13 participants worked to identify statutes that contradict current constitutional principles.

Improving the Parliamentary Library

In this quarter, TAF facilitated the procurement of 73 books for the LP Secretariat upon the request of the secretary general (*see Appendix XV for the list of books*). The refurbishment work on the library is currently on hold given the busy schedule of the committee meetings, which take place in the same building as the library.

Sub-Objective 3.B: Increase communication between representatives and their constituents.

Sub-Objective 3.B.1: Supporting Greater Public Awareness and Engagement in Work of Parliament

Constituency Outreach

On September 15, CEPPS/NDI met with five directly elected MPs from Kailali district to discuss future constituency outreach activities. As a first activity, the parliamentarians suggested the organization of a district-level discussion about the impact of landslides and erosion on Kailali’s environment. In addition, the MPs suggested that CEPPS/NDI organize a meeting with international organizations, such as the World Bank, Asian Development bank, and USAID, to discuss these issues and identify ways international donors can assist the district. CEPPS/NDI prepared a list of potential CSO partners for constituency outreach programs in Kailali district.

Promoting Civic Awareness and Public Engagement on the Legislative Process

Support to the Parliament Secretariat

On September 1-2, 2014, CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF and the Writing Workshop Pvt. Ltd. (TWW) held a meeting to review the accreditation policy drafted by the LP Secretariat with the support of TWW and prepare a final draft for adoption by the parliament. A team of seven senior secretariat officials participated in the meeting, which was facilitated by TWW staff.

TWW also worked with the joint spokesperson's office to support the LP Secretariat in initiating the dissemination of *Sambidhan Sabha/Sansad Maa Aaja* ("Today in CA/Parliament"), a daily update of CA/LP activities, to the media and MPs. These updates began on July 15, 2014 (*please see Appendix XVI for a sample newsletter*).

Radio Programming

TAF worked with Interface Nepal to broadcast a weekly 30-minute radio program. *Hamro Kanoon*. The program, which ran on over 30 different FM radio stations across Nepal this quarter, introduced and discussed various aspects of Nepali legislative processes. A total of 14 episodes on various issues aired during this reporting period, including: health policy, government policy and the CA, analysis of the third five year plan, and strategic planning of the Nepali judiciary. (*For a complete listing of the episodes and guests invited, please see Appendix XVII.*) To seek feedback on the program from listeners, Interface Nepal organized two focus group discussions in Nuwakot district on July 19, 2014 and Kavre district on August 22, 2014.

In order to strengthen the radio program, Interface Nepal held two capacity building workshops: one in Lainchaur, Kathmandu, on August 26, and the other in Nepalganj, Banke, on September 13. The participants in the workshops consisted of Interface Nepal's radio partners from the central and western regions, respectively. The training focused on building the capacity of local partners at the district level on how to leverage existing tools, such as the radio programs, to disseminate information on legislative proceedings to the public.

Budget Process Workshop

On July 2, 2014, TAF and Media Plus organized an orientation workshop on the budget process for 31 MPs, focusing on members of the budget committee. Participants viewed a seven-minute short film, *Hamro Budget* (Our Budget), produced by Media Plus, to provide an overview of the budget process and MPs' roles in the process. Rameshwor Khanal, former Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, and Dr. Chandramani Adhikari, economist and National Planning Commission member, served as resource persons to answer MPs' questions on Nepal's budget process (*please see Appendix XVIII for a list of MPs present at the orientation*).

Building CSO Capacity to Monitor the Legislative Process

TAF and NCF convened a coalition of five specific interest groups (Dalit, Madheshi, women, youth, and Janajati) to conduct legislative audits. Most of the representatives in this coalition have a legal background, which helps in the audit of bills to study compliance with international

norms and standards, legal and statutory coherence and other technical details. This quarter, NCF and the coalition audited bills on gender equality and gender-based violence, civil service, sexual harassment and witchcraft, local governance, NGOs, national youth councils, and land.

Following each social audit, TAF coordinated with the New Spotlight Pvt. Ltd. to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the audits through three print media outlets – Spotlight (English), Nepal (Nepali), and Shichhyak (Nepali). (*A summary of the bill review program is provided in Appendix XIX.*)

Public Consultations with Youth and Women on Transitional Legislation

From June to July 2014, TAF and its partners Samudayik Sarathi (SS) and Women Act (WA) completed the 15th wave of public consultations in 45 urban locations throughout the country. In response to the significance of the upcoming local elections, the 15th wave of public consultations focused on issues related to the Local Bodies (Elections Procedures) Amendment Bill, 2070. In each of the public consultations, a brief presentation was followed by moderated discussions on four key questions pertaining to provisions required for the effective inclusion of women in the local elections; relevant stakeholders and their roles for the effective implementation of the bill; provisions to ensure free and fair local level elections; and qualifications required of the candidates running for public office. Overall, 2,201 participants attended this wave of public consultations. The gender composition and ethnic demographics of the participants are presented in the table below.

Table 7: Demographic and Ethnic Profile of Participants in the 15th Wave of Consultations

Total	Gender			Age Group			Upper Caste		Adibasi/Janajati		Dalits		Un-identified	Muslims
	F	M	3rd	16-39	40-A	Not mentioned	Hill/Mtn	Terai/Madesh	Hill/Mtn	Terai/Madesh	Hill/Mtn	Terai/Madesh		
2,201	787	1,414	0	1,559	606	0	1,120	194	402	361	216	41	133	16

On September 17, TAF partners SS and WA organized a press conference for the synopsis report (*see Appendix XX*) of the 15th wave of public consultations on the proposed local elections bill. The event was attended by various stakeholders from the media, CSOs, and the legal sector, and included a presentation of the findings of the public consultations across the 45 districts. ECN Commissioner Hon. Ila Sharma and ECN Joint Secretary Lila Devi Gadtaula attended the event.

From August 9 to 11, 2014, the implementing partners conducted a three-day moderators' training for the 16th wave of public consultations on the Witchcraft Act (Charge and Punishment), 2071. In August and September, TAF and its partners held the 16th wave of consultations with women and youth in 45 urban centers around the country. In each of the public consultations, a brief presentation was followed by moderated discussions on four key questions pertaining to what practices were deemed to contain witchcraft; provisions relating to punishment of the perpetrators; reconciliatory and protective measures required; relevant stakeholders and their roles in minimizing violence related to witchcraft. The majority of participants of the public consultations agreed that stronger punitive measures were required to combat societal practices related to witchcraft.

On September 22, TAF partners SS and WA organized a press conference to release the synopsis report from the 16th wave of consultations. Hon. Ranju Kumari Jha, Chairperson of the LP’s Women, Children, Senior Citizens and Social Welfare Committee, attended the event, which included a presentation of the consultations’ findings. *(Please see Appendix XXI for the synopsis report.)* Overall, 2,275 participants attended this wave of public consultations. The gender composition and ethnic demographics of the participants are presented in the table below.

Table 8: Demographic and Ethnic Profile of Participants in the 16th Wave of Consultations

Total	Gender			Age Group			Upper Caste		Adibasi/Janajati		Dalits		Un-identified	Muslims
	F	M	3rd	16-39	40-A	Not mentioned	Hill/Mtn	Terai/Madesh	Hill/Mtn	Terai/Madesh	Hill/Mtn	Terai/Madesh		
2,275	987	1,288	0	1,548	671	56	895	344	430	127	149	131	172	27

WA held three advocacy meetings this quarter to present the synthesized public responses and reactions of the public consultations held on various bills to relevant MPs. The advocacy meetings focused on initiating a discourse with the targeted parliamentarians to share the public opinion on various bills discussed in the public consultations across the country under the CEPPS program. WA’s advocacy meetings covered the following bills: Managing Crime and Punishment for Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, 2070; Civil Code, 2071; and the Social Security Bill. On average, 15-20 MPs attended each advocacy meeting. Subsequently, TAF held a series of 12 sharing workshops with various political parties on the three bills mentioned above. TAF and its partners shared each bill in four separate sharing meetings with CA members from NC, CPN-UML, CPNM-Maoist, and other smaller parties. *(Please see Appendix XXII for quotes from the meetings and a breakdown of participants.)*



Participant at a sharing meeting

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 4: International assessment mission provides impartial appraisal of the electoral environment and recommendations for future electoral processes.

As local elections have yet to be announced, CEPPS did not hold any activities under this objective during the reporting period.

Collaboration with Other USAID Projects or Other Donor Agencies

CEPPS partners IFES and NDI held weekly meetings to plan the electoral reform dialogues. The institutes formed cross-organizational teams to select participations, carry out communication work, liaise with other stakeholders, and make logistical arrangements for the dialogues. CEPPS/IFES and CEPPS/NDI jointly organized five regional dialogues and one national electoral reform conference.

CEPPS/IFES increased synergy between the CEPPS and Norwegian Embassy election support programs with a new grant received from the Norwegian Embassy that will leverage common expertise to inform electoral legal framework reform initiatives. Under the Norwegian grant, electoral legal reform specialist Kåre Vollan has been providing ongoing support to the ECN on the reform of the election system. Select activities include: preparation of a position paper on the neutral voting alternative NOTA; review of the allocation of CA members to the 127 census groups to inform discussions on future election systems with regards to inclusion and exclusion; review of the status of the 2012 drafts of the party and the consolidated election law; and support to the ECN to hold a meeting for all the 31 parties in the CA to share ideas on reforms of the local electoral system. CEPPS/IFES asked Vollan to return to Nepal in September 2014 under the USAID program to contribute his expert technical assistance to the ERD events.

CEPPS/IFES maintains close ties with BRIDGE partner International IDEA on issues related to the drafting of the constitution and election systems. CEPPS/IFES has also provided technical assistance to IDEA-led trainings on electoral risk management targeting ECN DEOs.

Activities Next Quarter

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 1: Political parties more effectively contribute to democratic processes in Nepal.

- CEPPS/NDI will continue single party regional trainings with its party partners.
- CEPPS/NDI will provide technical support and regional trainings for the youth wings of political parties.
- CEPPS/NDI will hold a multi-party ToT for party women's wings and will work with the women's wings to provide targeted assistance where feasible.
- CEPPS/NDI will continue multi-party meetings with political parties.
- CEPPS/NDI will continue to work with its party partners to develop tailored assistance; specifically, CEPPS/NDI will: 1) provide trainings to party secretariats; 2) assist in developing membership survey templates for parties; and 3) present the results of the third national opinion poll to political parties.
- CEPPS/NDI will meet with the two new committees of the FLA and will facilitate meetings between FLA members and party leadership.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee Interviews will submit a final comprehensive report of the national opinion polls.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee Internews will hold FGDs in 15 locations across Nepal to validate information received through the national opinion polls.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee Internews will complete an external evaluation of its project and will submit a final project report to CEPPS/NDI.

CEPPS/IFES OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen institutions involved in electoral processes, either as actors or participants.

Sub-Objective 2.B: Strengthened democratic legal framework for elections

- CEPPS partners NDI and IFES will jointly organize a ceremony to handover the consolidated recommendations and report from the regional and national ERDs to the ECN, and further disseminate the report to stakeholders.
- CEPPS/IFES will support the ECN legal department in drafting consolidated electoral and political party law.
- CEPPS/IFES will provide technical guidance to the ECN to develop policies, regulations and directives necessary to conduct local government elections as well as electoral law reforms related to the constitution writing process.
- CEPPS/IFES will continue to organize meetings and interactive events to promote stakeholder consensus on an electoral legal framework for the local government elections.
- CEPPS/IFES will continue to support the ECN's efforts to publicize the amended Local Bodies Election Procedure Act, 1992 introducing a provision for 50 percent women candidacy quota.

Sub-Objective 2.C: Strengthened electoral management capacity of ECN

- CEPPS/IFES will conduct BRIDGE trainings on election administration and management for incoming ECN officers.
- CEPPS/IFES will support stakeholder outreach events at the ECN Media Centre by providing resource people, background documents and logistics.
- CEPPS/IFES will hire website specialists to facilitate and train the ECN on website development and maintenance.
- CEPPS/IFES will provide personnel for data entry in the training management information system (TIMS).
- CEPPS/IFES will provide technical inputs into development of ECN GESI unit including finalization and implementation of strategic and action plans.

- CEPPS/IFES will conduct consultation meetings to advance the removal of deceased voters from the voter registry.
- CEPPS/IFES will collaborate with the ECN to conduct a nationwide training for cadres of political parties from national to grass root levels on election dispute resolution mechanism and on the basics of election system and process.
- CEPPS/IFES will provide an opportunity for ECN chief commissioner to participate in an U.S. election program in Washington, D.C.
- CEPPS/IFES will continue to assist the ECN in their efforts to internalize out of country voter registration.
- CEPPS/IFES will provide technical inputs to FEMBoSA conference, including development of conference materials.

Sub-Objective 2.D: Expanded and improved delivery of voter education

- CEPPS/IFES will support CSOs voter education radio magazines as well as new initiatives to include persons with intellectual disabilities in the civic, political and electoral processes.
- CEPPS/IFES will design, produce and distribute guidebooks on electoral rights and the political participation of people with disabilities.
- CEPPS/IFES will continue to provide technical assistance to and develop materials for ECN/EEIC to ensure the successful implementation of social studies teachers trainings as well as other civic and voter education and outreach activities.
- CEPPS/IFES will provide sign language expert to work with DPOs to develop new signs related to democracy and elections.
- CEPPS/IFES will conduct ToTs and CSO training on continuous voter registration, electoral support, and CC support to marginalized communities, including training community facilitators to use the CC guidebook.
- CEPPS/IFES will organize gender and elections BRIDGE training for CSOs.
- CEPPS/IFES will facilitate interaction with six DPOs on how to integrate the ECN's five year strategic plan into the DPO strategy.
- CEPPS/IFES will print and launch two publications: *Equal Access* in Nepali (disability manual) and *Citizenship Certificate Procedures' Guidebook* (in Nepali and in English);

- CEPPS/IFES will form pilot national election networks, DENs, and village election networks of election stakeholders and DEOs in selected districts;
- CEPPS/IFES will provide voter registration help desk support to DEOs and DAOs as needed; coordinate with relevant stakeholders to plan and conduct joint mobile camps for CC dissemination and voter registration for targeted marginalized communities.
- CEPPS/IFES will publish the disability election access monitoring (DEAM) report and disseminate findings with relevant stakeholders.
- CEPPS/IFES will further disseminate the findings of the study on the status of CCs in marginalized communities and design programs and activities to address findings from the survey.
- CEPPS/IFES will provide organizational capacity building support to the six CSOs, based on the needs assessment conducted.

CEPPS/NDI OBJECTIVE 2: Civil society initiatives more effectively contribute to transparent electoral processes.

- CEPPS/NDI will work with Rooster Logic to draft the VRIC impact survey report.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee Internews will continue to disseminate infographics and poll data through Setopati.com and Setopati.net.

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 3: The CA/Legislature Parliament more effectively fulfills its democratic functions.

- CEPPS/NDI, in collaboration with FNCCI, will organize a policy dialogue with youth MPs.
- CEPPS/NDI will organize a constituency outreach activity in Kailali district; this activity will focus on an environmental issue.
- CEPPS/NDI will organize a media training for young women MPs.
- CEPPS/NDI will organize a capacity building training for Parliament Secretariat staff.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF will work with NCF to conduct legal reviews on 20 key statutes to identify provisions within the pre-existing statute that require amendments. The 20 key statutes, which must be resolved by new laws or through the process of legal reform and improvement, will be selected based on the inputs and feedback provided by the experts in the consultative workshops held on the themes mentioned above.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF will carry out a number of activities with the LP Secretariat: implementing trainings for sub-committee staff, completing the upgrade of

the parliamentary library space, designing a school visit program, and partnering with TWW and the Secretariat to implement activities based on the approved communication and public outreach strategy.

- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF will continue to work with SS and WA to conduct public consultations in 45 urban locations on a quarterly basis.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF will work with NCF and interest groups to identify and audit relevant legislation in the coming quarters. Furthermore, TAF will coordinate with New Spotlight to ensure a proper dissemination of the findings/recommendations of the interest group audits through the print media.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF will continue to engage with the advocacy team and conduct advocacy meetings with the CA members of the various political parties to ensure larger outreach of the public opinion and concerns on the bills discussed in the public consultations across the country.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF will continue to work with Interface Nepal in producing and broadcasting relevant legislations on the weekly radio show *Hamro Kanoon*. In the coming quarter, Interface Nepal will conduct a series of capacity building trainings for its contacts at its radio station partners.
- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF will work with Citizens' Campaign for Right to Information (CCRI) support a parliamentary watch effort that shares information about the attendance and contribution of the members of parliament through the website www.parliamentwatch.org.np.

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 4: International assessment mission provides impartial appraisal of the electoral environment and recommendations for future electoral processes.

- CEPPS will continue to provide ongoing analysis to the U.S. embassy, USAID, and other stakeholders on preparations for local government elections, the constitution-writing environment, and identification of key issues.

III. RESULTS

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 1: Political parties more effectively contribute to democratic processes in Nepal.

Sub-Objective 1.A: Improve democratic political party organization structures and operations

IR 1.1: Political parties are more representative of Nepali citizens

Indicator 1.F: Number of individuals who receive USG-assisted political party training

- A total of 224 youth leaders from 12 political parties⁹ received assistance and resources on negotiation skills, youth networking, team building, negotiation skills, internal democracy, election campaigning, and creating a youth agenda.
- Six of CEPPS/NDI's political party partners (NC, CPN-UML, UCPN-M, MJFN-D, RPP-N, and RPP) received technical knowledge on the role of party secretariat, building party organizations at the local level, and increasing communication between the national and local level.
- A total of 170 RPP-N party officials from three regions (eastern, central, and western) received technical knowledge from CEPPS/NDI on internal party policy and local election planning, the relationship between national and local branches, roles and responsibilities of local party branches, and communication and citizen outreach.
- A total of 40 UCPN-M officials (including seven department heads, two party secretariat staff, four politburo members, six CA/LP members, and the party spokesperson) received technical knowledge on preparing strategies for strengthening the party organization, improving working procedures and internal communication between the party departments, the party's role towards the government and how to operate in opposition in the CA/LP.
- A total of 60 youth women cadres from the YCL, the UNCPN-M's youth wing, received technical knowledge on women's leadership and preparations for local elections and women's role in NGOs/INGOs.
- Fifty FLA members (including 22 women), representing 10 political parties and 28 districts of Nepal, received technical knowledge on policy development, strategies, advocacy, media relations, communications, and lobbying.
- Based on the presentation of Internews' national survey, RPP-N changed its membership strategy by focusing more on recruitment. UCPN-M realized the need to strengthen its organization at the district and local levels to create a stronger party and improve its performance for future elections.

Sub-Objective 1.B: Enhance the electoral competitiveness of political parties

IR 1.3: Citizens have more information and analysis on the policy differences across political parties in Nepal

- Internews and IDA completed fieldwork for the third round of national opinion polling. IN and IDA distributed over 4,000 surveys in 44 districts across Nepal.

⁹ NC, CPN-UML, UCPN-M, MJFN-D, MJFN, TMDP, SP, RPP, RPP-N, CPN-ML, NMSP, and Nepal Janata Dal

CEPPS/IFES OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen institutions involved in electoral processes, either as actors or participants.

Sub-Objective 2B: Strengthened democratic legal framework for elections

IR 2B.1: Improved legal framework that ensures transparent electoral procedures that promote genuine and competitive elections

Impact Indicator 2B.1: Degree to which legal framework meets international standards

- The legal framework of Nepal is now assessed at level C¹⁰ (adequate framework that requires reform on some major issues to meet international electoral law standards) after a review by Madhab Paudel, a local senior electoral legal expert. This marks an improvement from the last assessment of level D (framework that requires significant reforms to meet international electoral law standards). The improvement is mainly due to an ordinance on Election of the Members of the Constituent Assembly (2013) which removed constitutional hurdles to holding the CA elections and replaced the Constituent Assembly Election Act (2007). Similarly, further elaboration of the law was set out in a large number of directives, as well as in a range of Codes of Conduct, all applying specifically to the 2013 CA elections.

Outcome Indicator 2B.1.1: Percentage of targeted stakeholders who believe that the legal framework provides a sound basis for the conduct of credible elections

- To be reported in year 1, 3, and 5.

Output Indicator 2B.1.2: Number of Laws or Amendments to ensure credible elections drafted with USG technical assistance (F Indicator, GJD 3.2)

- Amendment in the law of candidate deposit fees (reduced fees for women candidates) drafted with CEPPS/IFES support.

Output Indicator 2B.1.3: Number of regulations to ensure credible elections drafted with USG technical assistance

- No programmatic activities during this quarter.

IR 2B.2: Legal framework is a product of inclusive, public dialogue

Impact Indicator 2B.2: Degree to which international and domestic election observers report that the legal framework provides a sound basis for the conduct of credible elections

¹⁰ IFES drew from International IDEA's "International Standards for Elections – Guidelines for Reviewing Legal Frameworks for Elections" to review the current electoral legal framework against the most current and widely used publications. A five point scale for evaluation of the legal framework has been established from most positive (A) to most critical (E).

- Despite some improvements made in legal framework, the review of observers reports on the CA election indicates that the legal framework of Nepal still falls under level C (an adequate framework which allows for credible election but which should be improved in some key areas to bring more coherence and clarity to the framework).

Outcome Indicator 2B.2.1: Percentage of relevant recommendations from USG-assisted stakeholder consultations that are incorporated into the legal framework

- Parliament has not yet made amendments to the legal framework.

Output Indicator 2B.2.2: Number of USG assisted public sessions held regarding proposed changes to the country's legal framework (F indicator, GJD 1.1)

- Six (one national and five regional) electoral reform workshops with electoral stakeholders were conducted this quarter. A total of 672 participants (179 women) participated in the events.

Output Indicator 2B.2.3: Number of local CSOs strengthened that promote electoral reform and/or improvements in the electoral system (F indicator, GJD 3.2)

- 76 local CSOs were strengthened by participation in the ERD to promote electoral reform and to improve the electoral system.

Sub-Objective 2C: Strengthened electoral management capacity of ECN

IR 2C.1: Strengthened institutional capacity of the ECN to manage the electoral process

Impact Indicator 2C.1: Percentage of citizens reporting confidence in the integrity and capacity of the ECN

- To be reported in year 1, 3, and 5.

Impact Indicator 2C.2: Number of benchmarks met in the implementation of the ECN's strategic plan

- 40 of 51 benchmarks in the ECN's strategic plan were fully or partially achieved by the end of year four (24 fully and 16 partially). The assessment from year three (2013) found that 21 had been reached (17 fully and four partially). The improvement is mainly due to ECN implementation of election-related benchmarks during the CA election of November 2013. CEPPS/IFES contributed substantially to 21 of the 40 partially or fully achieved benchmarks, including capacity development of electoral workers including election management, voter education, gender and social inclusion, and establishment of electoral information system and library.

Outcome Indicator 2C.1.1: Number of electoral administration procedures and systems strengthened with USG assistance (F Indicator, GJD 3.2)

- The ECN's gender and inclusion strategy (2014-2019) and action plan (July 2014-July 2015) was developed with CEPPS/IFES technical support.

IR 2C.2: Increased professionalism and competence of election officials

Outcome Indicator 2C.2.1: Percentage of ECN officials who effectively applied techniques and lessons learned from USG-assisted training/capacity-building initiatives in their job

- 76 percent of the ECN officials trained in CEPPS/IFES-organized BRIDGE programs in year four effectively applied techniques and lessons learned at their job. The assessment was conducted through interviews with participants by CEPPS/IFES' M&E staff on a random sampling basis.

Outcome Indicator 2C.2.2: Degree to which international and domestic election observers report that temporary electoral workers conduct their duties in accordance with the law and procedures

- A review of observer reports on the CA election indicates that the temporary electoral workers performance falls under level C (significant deviations from conformity with laws and procedures that do not seriously impact integrity of elections). The observers' reports indicate that the management of the polling centers and performance of electoral workers were sufficient to ensure the integrity of the votes; CEPPS/IFES contributed to effective polling center management through extensive training reaching 657 new poll workers who managed 324 polling centers during the CA by-election of June 2014. However, the reports also indicate that there were several shortfalls that compromised the quality of the election and need to be improved.

Outcome Indicator 2C.2.3: Number of electoral officials trained with USG assistance (F Indicator, GJD 3.2)

- A total of 119 electoral officials were trained during this quarter. Training included electoral education training for social studies teachers and a workshop on the ECN's gender policy with political parties.

Output Indicator 2C.2.4: Number of training materials for electoral officials developed with USG assistance

- CEPPS/IFES produced a training manual for use by electoral officials in social study teacher trainings.

IR 2C.3: Integration of gender issues in electoral management

Output Indicator 2C.3.2: Percentage of women serving as electoral officials

- Women represented 27.4 percent of electoral officials serving during year four. This includes temporary electoral officials hired during the CA election and by-election. Further disaggregation of the data shows that the percentage of temporary women electoral officials was higher (27 percent) compared to permanent women officials (11 percent). The result of year four was less than year three (29.7 percent women officials); however, CEPPS/IFES was able to maintain a similar percentage at a time when the number of electoral officials increased greatly from 3,200 electoral officials in year three to 170,000 staff during CA elections. This is an important achievement that increased women's engagement in the electoral process.

Sub-Objective 2D: Expanded and improved delivery of voter education

Impact Indicator 2D.1: Percentage increase in citizens knowledgeable about electoral processes following USG-supported voter education.

- To be reported at the end of year 1, 3, and 5.

IR 2D.1: Increased understanding of the electoral process among stakeholders and voters

Outcome Indicator 2D.1.1: Percentage of target stakeholders that understand the electoral system and electoral legislation

- To be reported at the end of year 1, 3 and 5.

Outcome Indicator 2D.1.2: Degree to which the understanding of target citizens of the electoral process is enhanced by voter education

- Marginalized citizens' understanding of the electoral process was enhanced by an average of 36.7 percent during this quarter, as measured by pre- and post-event tests with 9,427 participants in the CEPPS/IFES-sponsored voter education events conducted by partner CSOs.

Output Indicator 2D.1.3: Number of people reached by USG-assisted voter education (F indicator, GJD 3.2)

- A total of 171,170 persons (including 86,706 women and 1,677 persons with disabilities) were reached through voter education events conducted by partner CSOs.

IR 2D.2: Increased local capacity in providing voter education

Outcome indicator 2D.2.1: Degree to which local partners implement voter education strategies

- Qualitative assessments as well as collated data indicate that CEPPS/IFES subgrantees achieved their IFES-approved benchmarks for their voter education activities. In year

four, 77 activities within eight benchmarks were tracked for each of the five voter education CSOs.

Outcome indicator 2D.2.2: Degree to which ECN implements voter education strategies and programs

- The ECN achieved all seven of its voter education benchmarks (100 percent), as identified in the ECN's 2009-2014 strategic plan. The result in year three was 71.4 percent. The November 2013 CA election allowed the ECN to implement the election-related activities to meet the benchmarks of the strategic plan.

Output Indicator 2D.2.3: Number of local CSOs strengthened that promote political participation and voter education (F indicator, GJD 3.2)

- IFES engaged a total of 21 national level and/or local level CSOs to promote political participation and voter education in marginalized communities.

CEPPS/NDI OBJECTIVE 2: Civil society initiatives more effectively contribute to transparent electoral processes.

Sub-Objective 2.A: Enhance the capacity of civil society to monitor elections

IR 2.1: Non-partisan election monitoring efforts are more comprehensive and systematic

- Based on the recommendations collected during the regional and national ERD events, the ECN incorporated several recommendations in its own memorandum to the CA's constitutional political dialogue and consensus committee, including:
 - The ECN should be able to announce the date of elections or that the date of elections should be stated in the constitution;
 - improving voting rights for Nepalis living abroad;
 - changing electoral rules so that candidates can only contest from one constituency at a time;
 - creating a 3 percent threshold to win seats under the proportional representation system; and
 - creating a more inclusive electoral system overall.

Indicator 2.1: Quality of domestic NGOs' published election monitoring reports

No results to report, relates to past activity.

Indicator 2.1.1: Quality of domestic NGOs' election monitoring methodology

No results to report, relates to past activity.

Indicator 2.1.2: Quality of domestic NGOs' election monitoring organizational capacity

No results to report, relates to past activity.

Indicator 2.1.3.1: Quality of domestic NGOs' election monitoring public information and analysis

No results to report, relates to past activity.

IR 2D.1: Increased understanding of the electoral process among stakeholders and voters

- As part of the VRIC, 3,000 local inhabitants of the five target districts received information related to voter registration.

IR 2D.2: Increased local capacity in providing voter education

Output Indicator 2D.2.3: Number of local CSOs strengthened that promote political participation and voter education (F indicator, GJD 3.2)

- CEPPS/NDI mobilized 50 DEW-Nepal volunteers to implement the VRIC community events. These volunteers, affiliated with various local NGOs, disseminated voter information and gained experience in managing and implementing community-based voter education programs.

[new] GJD 2.3.2-12 Number of individuals receiving voter and civic education through USG-assisted programs

- CEPPS/NDI, in partnership with DEW-Nepal, carried out the VRIC community events in 117 VDCs and six municipalities in the five target districts of Baitadi, Jhapa, Kaski, Lalitpur, and Sunsari. The campaign reached approximately 15,000 people total, of which 3,000 were reached in this quarter.

Sub-Objective 2.B: Strengthen the capacity of media to report on the electoral process

IR 2.2: Media are better informed to cover election related issues at the national and district levels

- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee Internews, its local partner AFN, and five regional partner radio stations aired 48 half-hour radio programs at the national and regional levels.

- CEPPS/NDI subgrantee Internews produced a three-minute video to showcase Internews’ work in Nepal. The video is posted online and can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FK5KyF7bXQ>.

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 3: The CA/Legislature Parliament more effectively fulfills its democratic functions.

Sub-Objective 3.A: Strengthen the legislative drafting capacity of the CA/Parliament

Indicator 3.F: Number of national legislators and national legislative staff attending USG sponsored training or educational events

- Twenty-six CA/LP members attended CEPPS/NDI’s roundtable discussion on the LSGA.
- Seven CA/LP members and six parliamentary staff participated in a CEPPS/NDI fact-finding mission to Ilam and Jhapa districts.
- 24 MPs participated in CEPPS/NDI’s discussion on the recently tabled National Youth Council Bill, 2071.
- CEPPS/NDI distributed the results of its youth needs assessment survey to 30 youth MPs.
- 39 national legislators and legislative staff attending CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF’s bill audit reviews and public consultations.

Sub-Objective 3.B: Increase communication between representatives and their constituents

IR 3.2: MPs incorporate constituent input into legislative processes

Indicator 3.2.1.2: Number of public forums resulting from USG assistance in which national legislators and members of the public interact.

- 4,476 people, including 1,774 women, participated in CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF’s 15th and 16th rounds of public consultations.
- MPs attended 26 TAF-sponsored forums to interact with their constituents.

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 4: International assessment mission provides impartial appraisal of the electoral environment and recommendations for future electoral processes

- As local elections have yet to be announced, CEPPS has no results to report this quarter.

IV. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE INDICATORS

Foreign Assistance Indicators	IFES	NDI	Quarter Total	FY11 Total	FY12 Total	FY13 Total	FY14 Total	Award Total
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Foreign Assistance Indicators	IFES	NDI	Quarter Total	FY11 Total	FY12 Total	FY13 Total	FY14 Total	Award Total
Number of individuals who received USG-assisted political party training.	N/A	696	696	975	1,370	4,761	2,323	9,429
Number of domestic election observers and/or party agents trained with USG assistance.	N/A	0	0	0	0	1,256	432	1,688
Number of laws or amendments to ensure credible elections drafted with USG technical assistance	1	N/A	1	0	0	0	3	3
Number of USG-assisted public sessions held regarding proposed changes to the country's legal framework	6	N/A	6	6	2	0	6	14
Number of local CSOs strengthened that promote electoral reform and/or improvements in the electoral system.	76	N/A	76	29	18	0	76	123
Number of electoral administration procedures and systems strengthened with USG assistance.	1	N/A	1	3	5	11	4	23
Number of local CSOs strengthened that promote political participation and voter education ¹¹	21	N/A	21	18	21	23	22	23
Number of election officials trained with USG assistance	119	N/A	119 (12 women)	88,199	345	645	3,546	92,735
Number of national legislators and national legislative staff attending USG sponsored training or educational events.	N/A	50	50	273	123	122	758	1,276

¹¹ The grand total is the unique number of CSOs and not the sum of year-wise figures presented.

Foreign Assistance Indicators	IFES	NDI	Quarter Total	FY11 Total	FY12 Total	FY13 Total	FY14 Total	Award Total
Number of public forums resulting from USG assistance in which national legislators and members of the public interact.	N/A	29	29	18	11	5	40	74

V. SUCCESS STORIES

Political Party Partners Embrace the ToT Program

CEPPS/NDI has seen significant success under its ToT program with political party partners. Following the different phases of the ToT, 310 NDI trained master trainers conducted follow-on trainings, replicating one or more CEPPS/NDI modules. What sets these trainings apart is the willingness of political parties to invest time and resources to build on the work initiated by CEPPS/NDI. These trainings are also indicative of the gradual change that has occurred through the years in the organizational structure of each of CEPPS/NDI’s political party partners. As an outcome of the ToT events, established parties, such as the NC and CPN-UML, have improved democratization of party structures. This is evidenced by the growing trend of consensus-building through participatory discussion on important issues. For parties such as the RPP, a pool of trained trainers who can succinctly articulate the party’s ideology has helped to attract new members.

With the completion of the second CA elections in November 2013, NDI initiated work with the fourth largest party in Nepal, the RPP-N. CEPPS/NDI organized a national level ToT for 53 party cadres, followed by regional ToTs. During the regional ToT, RPP-N opened email accounts for each of its district offices to facilitate more effective communication between the national office and its local branches. The trainers instructed district presidents to check their email accounts on a regular basis, as all future party communication would be via email. In addition, RPP-N introduced a strict timeline for its district offices throughout the country to simultaneously work to attract new members.

These changes highlight the inroads political parties are gradually making in terms of internal party structures and the positive working relationships that CEPPS/NDI shares with its party partners.

Improving Access to Citizenship Certificates

As a primary legal document in Nepal, the CC is important for banking; accessing formal education and employment; registering on the voter’s roll; and obtaining a variety of benefits, including social security and government allowances for people with disabilities, victims of armed conflict, and internally displaced persons. Yet despite its importance, there are significant barriers – including lack of knowledge or supporting documents and issues relating to gender,

caste, and extreme poverty – that hinder access to CCs, especially for those from Nepal’s more marginalized groups. An estimated 2.1 million Nepalis are without CCs,¹² further isolating the most marginalized groups from education and economic opportunities with negative impacts on human and economic development.

One of the first steps to ensure citizens’ rights is to facilitate and improve access to CCs across Nepal. From April to July 2014, CEPPS/IFES worked with CSO partners to conduct a survey on citizenship status among their target communities, which identified and assessed barriers to obtaining CCs. Community facilitators visited over 63,000 households in project districts that include some of the most marginalized communities in Nepal. Through these door-to-door exchanges, community facilitators explained the importance of citizenship certificates and voter registration to over 145,000 household members. Among surveyed individuals, 22 percent – the majority of whom are women – indicated they did not have a CC. The most commonly identified barriers expressed by the respondents include lack of awareness about the application process; lack of required supporting documents; weak family support; absence of economic resources; and inaccessibility to district headquarters. In August 2014, CEPPS/IFES’ partner CSOs, using adapted visual materials, reached out to 14,304 people (54 percent women) through nearly 400 awareness raising and educational events in villages and on college campuses. The events focused on the importance of the CC and the steps to acquire it.

CEPPS/IFES is currently finalizing a CC handbook in collaboration with CSOs and the UNHCR, which will assist civic and voter educators in their outreach campaigns. CEPPS/IFES expects this program in Nepal to enable an estimated 40,000 people to obtain their CCs and register to vote on the ECN voter list.

Promoting Electoral Reform

Following the November 19, 2013 CA election and June 22, 2014 by-elections, there is consensus across Nepal on the necessity of strengthening the current electoral laws to enhance the quality and inclusiveness of elections. As Nepal undergoes a constitutional drafting process, engaging citizens in electoral reforms represents a critical opportunity to strengthen the legitimacy and transparency of the reform process.

Recognizing the importance of broad stakeholder engagement in electoral reforms, CEPPS partners IFES and NDI collaborated on an initiative aimed at engaging relevant stakeholders to develop concrete reform recommendations for the ECN and CA representatives. This was achieved through the organization of five regional and one national dialogue on electoral reform in August and September 2014. In light of the ongoing political tensions between parties at the CA level, the ERD was a unique example of



Participants at a regional electoral reform dialogue

¹² May 2012. “Stateless in New Nepal: Inclusion without citizenship is impossible.” <http://asiafoundation.org/in-asia/2012/05/23/stateless-in-new-nepal-inclusion-without-citizenship-is-impossible/>.

facilitating collaborative dialogue across groups in an effort to ensure ownership and collaboration.

From August 7- 24, CEPPS organized five two-day consultations in Biratnagar, Chitwan, Pokhara, Gandhari, and Nepalgunj, bringing together political party representatives, election and government officials, CSOs, members of the business community, and other Nepali stakeholders. In total, 284 participants from 69 districts across Nepal attended. The dialogue provided a forum for stakeholders to work together to develop recommendations for strengthening electoral laws and processes. Working in groups, participants identified critical areas for electoral improvement; recommended political party regulations, including in campaign finance and election dispute resolution; and proposed reforms related to local election preparations.

The regional dialogues culminated in a national-level conference in Kathmandu on September 12 for 130 participants (32 women) participated in the one-day event, working to consolidate and finalize a set of recommendations related to electoral systems, political party laws and local governance reforms. As assured by Chief Election Commissioner Uprety, the ECN delivered the recommendations to the CA on September 28, taking the results of the nationwide consultations into account. The successful ERDs represented a model of collaboration between local electoral stakeholders, national leaders, election officials and international donor partners.

Public Consultations Enhance Legislative Dialogue

Through TAF, SS, and WA, the CEPPS program has been able to reach out to numerous CA/LP members through its public consultation program. The increased interaction with the MPs has been effective in enhancing the quality of legislative dialogues and in providing a platform for citizens to make demands for political accountability. The discourse initiated in these sharing meetings provides the CA members with opportunities to hear public opinion and concerns on bills from across the country and from various interest groups. Participants have expressed appreciation for the relevancy and effectiveness of the program. The discussions will continue to provide a reference point for CA/LP members to respond to the concerns of the public during legislative debates on the specified bills.

VI. ANALYSIS

Progress toward Achieving Objectives/Impact

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 1: Political parties more effectively contribute to democratic processes in Nepal.

Throughout this quarter, CEPPS/NDI focused on working with political parties to strengthen their roles as representative organizations. This work has been done through consultations with party officials and senior leaders and by providing the parties with training and workshops to prepare them for their own internal training programs.

The use of the post-election survey has been particularly important in this work. The results from the survey on citizens' views of political parties have been critical in providing the parties with

scientific information that they can use to develop strategies to further strengthen the party organization. For RPP-N, it has led to a tailored training program for all its district presidents and secretaries. The focus in the trainings is described above, but the fact that the party president has dedicated time to attend the three regional trainings conducted this quarter indicate that the party sees the importance in building its party organization from the grassroots level up. In consultations with the RPP-N party president, CEPPS/NDI has emphasized the important role this can have for a party to be viewed positively in the eyes of citizens and, in turn, increase its performance in elections.

For UCPN-M, CEPPS/NDI has held two survey presentations of the post-election survey. The presentations served as an introduction for reviewing the party's own internal strategic discussions related to how the party can increase its presence and strengthen its organization for upcoming elections. Party members also discussed how the party can best connection with voters by addressing issues of major citizen concerns. The specific outcome of these consultations is demonstrated by UCPN-M's continued interest in working with CEPPS/NDI to develop "model" district branches of the party. This program will start next quarter and will be a major priority for CEPPS/NDI.

The basis of CEPPS/NDI's work with political parties has been to develop a new generation of political leaders who have fresh, innovative perspectives to share. During this quarter, instead of providing training for a few select youth leaders, the youth leaders have continued to train other youths through regional workshops. Discussions from these workshops and the results from the youth survey have provided leaders with a better understanding of the challenges young people in Nepal are facing and have generated new ideas on how to develop effective solutions. For example, FLA members used this information while developing draft youth policies after the completion of the regional workshops. These participants have demonstrated a remarkable change and now actively provide and share skills and knowledge with others and use their acquired skills for practical use in developing policies. CEPPS/NDI's continued work with FLA will focus on assisting them to implement an advocacy and lobbying campaign to show that youth can provide substantial contributions to the current political debate. CEPPS/NDI will continue to assist the FLA in fine-tuning policy papers, building strategic partnerships with NGOs, and recommending resource persons on selected topics of importance to youth, such as unemployment and education.

This quarter, CEPPS/NDI's work with women focused on assisting the women in sharing and developing strategies to increase their participation within their respective parties. UCPN-M is leading in this work; with the assistance of NDI, they have been able to engage their party in a constructive dialogue on how internal party statutes can assist and secure better participation from women members. This shows that women's participation and inclusion can only materialize when women are working in unity with male leaders within their parties. CEPPS/NDI hopes that their work with UCPN-M can be used as a good example for other women's wings.

Finally, CEPPS/NDI initiated a new debate on the political party act in Nepal and how such legislation can change the ways that political parties have traditionally operated. These discussions show that there is a significant divide between party members at the district and

national levels. District levels are typically better informed about challenges citizens are facing, while national leaders are more focused on the bigger political issues. CEPPS/NDI will continue to provide decision-making bodies with information from the electoral reform dialogues and will also start the process of preparing political parties for the effects of this new legislation. CEPPS/NDI will work with senior party leaders, party secretariats, and relevant CA/LP members to secure support for this upcoming political party legislation.

CEPPS/IFES OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen institutions involved in electoral processes, either as actors or participants.

ECN commissioners and officials were involved in all the regional ERDs as well as national conference as both guests and participants. Through these dialogues, the ECN had access to detailed recommendations from nation-wide participants from the grassroots level. The commissioners and members of the ECN Secretariat were able to both put forward their ideas and suggestions with regards to electoral reform as well as gauge the public's opinion on the matter.

Sub-Objective 2.B: Strengthened democratic legal framework for elections

The legal framework for the 2013 CA election was improved compared to the legal framework in place during the first CA election held in 2008, due to ordinances, directives, procedures and codes of conduct. This is verified by international and domestic observer reports and technical assessments by legal experts. Several additional amendments have been proposed to the ECN, which derived from CEPPS/IFES-sponsored electoral stakeholders consultations during this quarter. If adopted, these amendments would further strengthen the democratic legal framework.

Sub-Objective 2.C: Strengthened electoral management capacity of ECN

As a result of CEPPS/IFES' regular support to the ECN and capacity building efforts, the institutional capacity of ECN has improved. An annual evaluation conducted with the participants of BRIDGE trainings organized by CEPPS/IFES during year four shows that 76 percent of the respondents effectively applied the techniques and lessons learned in their work. Such trainings contributed to the ECN's effective management of the CA election and the by-election. Additionally, out of 51 benchmarks set in the strategic plan (2009-2013), ECN was able to achieve 40 benchmarks during this year alone; it had reached 21 in year three of this program. This includes achievements in developing a new biometric voter registry, disability related provisions, development of a gender policy, the development of clear observation guidelines and the successful management of both 2013 CA election and June 2014 by-elections.

Sub-Objective 2.D: Expanded and improved delivery of voter education

The ECN achieved all of its strategic plan's benchmarks related to voter education during year four. The historically high voter turnout during the November 2013 CA election (79 percent) as well as decreased rate of invalid votes (0.19 percent in FPTP and 0.46 percent in PR) is the result of expanded and improved delivery of voter education by ECN and other electoral stakeholders. Additionally, as a result of the continuous effort of CEPPS/IFES partner CSOs, about 94 percent of eligible voters from target marginalized population cast their vote during CA election of

November 2013.¹³ The capacity of partner CSOs to deliver voter education has further improved, as shown by the annual assessment done by CEPPS/IFES and by the results of pre and post event tests conducted with target groups by partner CSOs. However, the national dialogue on electoral reform suggested that a much greater effort must be made to educate the population on the electoral process.

CEPPS/NDI OBJECTIVE 2: Civil society initiatives more effectively contribute to transparent electoral processes.

CEPPS/NDI, in partnership with DEW-Nepal, carried out the VRIC community events in 117 VDCs and six municipalities in the five target districts of Baitadi, Jhapa, Kaski, Lalitpur and Sunsari. The events, which reached 15,000 people in total (3,000 during this quarter), highlighted the importance of citizen participation in elections to safeguard democracy. Through this campaign, CEPPS/NDI reached individuals at the grassroots level who are often not covered by national level information campaigns. The program design, which incorporates entertainment to spread information, proved successful as people initially gathered to watch the music and performances, but stayed to receive voter registration information.

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 3: The CA/Legislature Parliament more effectively fulfills its democratic functions.

CEPPS/NDI subgrantee TAF's activities enhance the capacity of the LP Secretariat. Regular communication and coordination with the Secretariat is ongoing to ensure that the activities planned meet the Secretariat's needs. Activities designed to promote more citizen participation in the legislative process – radio programs, social audits, and public consultations – provide a space for dialogue in support of a stronger and more vibrant democratic process in Nepal. These activities ensure that voices of groups of people who have historically been marginalized are included in various legislative processes. Following the formation of the CA/LP, TAF and its partners resumed including legislators in program activities. TAF's activities in conjunction with CEPPS promote a parliament that is more proactive in communicating directly with the public and a public that is also proactively engaged in the legislative process.

CEPPS OBJECTIVE 4: International assessment mission provides impartial appraisal of the electoral environment and recommendations for future electoral processes.

As local elections have yet to be announced, CEPPS has no analysis to report this quarter.

Constraints/Challenges

There are two main challenges in working with political parties. First, parties are centrally controlled and all decisions on party activities and implementation of action points from CEPPS/NDI workshop need to be approved by party leadership. The successful implementation and impact of CEPPS/NDI's programs depend on the support from these leaders. To manage this challenge, CEPPS/NDI began to have regular dialogue with its party partners' chief office

¹³ See IFES post-election survey report, March 2014

secretary and with senior officials (including party secretary generals). These meetings prepare the party leadership on upcoming activities and the objectives of CEPPS/NDI's work.

The second challenge is that party leaders are easily distracted by internal factions and the current political situation in Nepal. Parties are sometimes unable to focus on building the party organization while participating in important national political debates. This can also be linked to the tendencies of highly centralized parties, where leaders are reluctant to delegate responsibilities to other office bearers and party secretaries. In some instances, this can slow down the implementation of CEPPS/NDI's program. To respond to this challenge, CEPPS/NDI uses the time for official approval for activities to work informally to prepare and develop the content of each training event so the Institute can quickly respond when the request from the party is officially communicated to CEPPS/NDI.

Ongoing changes to the ECN workforce, especially recent changes to senior staff, continue to challenge the continuity that is key to CEPPS/IFES' partnership in the field of civic and voter education, training, and strategic planning. Recognizing this challenge, the ECN has proposed a new constitutional provision ensuring stability among ECN staff.

Despite CEPPS/IFES' extensive efforts to engage women in electoral management and voter education, women continue to be underrepresented in ECN-related activities. For example, out of 114 social studies teachers trained during this quarter, only 10 were women. This is due in large part to women's low representation across the ECN as a result of the low representation of women in the civil service, especially outside of Kathmandu. Through targeted support to the GESI strategic and action plan, CEPPS/IFES hopes to alleviate this situation in year five.

The role and nature of CSOs in Nepal must be redefined so that civil society can play an active role in building a strong electoral democracy. For this, civil society must engender independence and gain credibility through nonpartisan advocacy and lobbying. CEPPS/IFES hopes to support CSOs in this endeavor as it establishes electoral networks at the national, district, and VDC level. The ECN has a new EEIC director, who CEPPS/IFES hopes will be more open to supporting these networks. There have been two main obstacles to a constructive and dynamic work collaboration between the ECN and CSOs. One is the reputed partisanship of some CSOs and the other is the ECN's lack of experience in working with CSOs to share initiatives related to the election process. Building a trustworthy working relationship between the ECN and CSOs is a challenge IFES will tackle in the final year of this program.

Financial

CEPPS partners IFES and NDI were able to work toward their respective objectives on electoral and political party reforms by joining forces and sharing the costs of an ambitious initiative to consult a vast cross-section of Nepali society. Through their ERD partnership, CEPPS/IFES and CEPPS/NDI expanded their impact and minimized costs.

The monsoon months which fall under this quarter provided logistical difficulties for both the CEPPS/NDI's VRIC programs as well as the ERDs. Even though participants from all 75 districts were invited and had sent their acceptance of the invitations to the ERDs, participants

from six districts were unable to attend the dialogues, as some roads were rendered inaccessible in the districts. In the absence of access to local transportation in other districts, the participants had to travel by air or rent vehicles, which increased the cost of travel stipends.

Lessons Learned

CEPPS/IFES's relationships with the ECN and civil society complemented CEPPS/NDI's close relationship with political parties and election observation groups to bring together a cross section of Nepali stakeholders for a unique dialogue process – the ERD. Both partners will continue to work closely whenever possible to maximize resources and results.

The preliminary work done in four half-day workshops among ECN staff prior to the five-day strategic plan and annual review workshop in Kathmandu helped identify five pillars on which to base the new ECN strategic plan. It enabled ECN staff to dive straight into the core discussions on the five pillars, concentrating the discussion on key issues. Thus, it is worth encouraging and supporting the ECN to conduct preparatory activities ahead of major events.

Given the extremely challenging economic and living conditions of Nepali citizens in general and more specifically that of CEPPS/IFES marginalized target groups, improved political participation and citizen engagement must often accompany improved access to basic resources. During year five of this program, in addition to its regular target groups, CEPPS/IFES plans to collaborate more closely with other international and national organizations involved in supporting small income generating activities, thereby linking economic, political, and social goals. This consideration will be taken into account as CEPPS/IFES intensifies its work on women leadership during year five.

Gender Integration

During this quarter, CEPPS continued its efforts to ensure gender equality among program participants. However, some challenges remain. For example, there are often low levels of women's political participation at the local level. If local party presidents and secretaries are invited to a CEPPS/NDI workshop or event, participants are overwhelmingly men due to the limited number of female party officials at the local level.

The political party law discussions this quarter dedicated a substantial amount of time to discuss different measures that can be used in the law to secure better participation and representation for women. For example:

- including a quota for women's representation in party organs at the national and local levels;
- providing specific requirements that certain amounts of state funding for political parties must be used for women's activities; and
- improving the nomination process for women candidates.

Although CEPPS NDI and IFES made a concerted effort to include women in the joint ERDs, the goal of 50 percent female representation was not attained. Fortunately, female representatives from political parties and civil society were vocal leaders who provided constructive input during

working groups. Through events like these, as well as continued CSO outreach and collaboration with the ECN, CEPPS is continuing to emphasize the importance of expanding women's representation throughout the electoral process.

During the baseline survey conducted in the last quarter, CEPPS/NDI observed that female survey respondents, especially in marginalized communities, were sometimes hesitant to talk to the men asking the survey questions. Female respondents also were hesitant to have their photos taken. CEPPS/NDI learned from this experience, and for this quarter's impact survey, CEPPS/NDI and DEW-Nepal mobilized female volunteers in these communities and instructed the volunteers to not insist on taking photos of a female respondent's face. Instead, volunteers would ask permission to take photos of their house or hands, which preserved their anonymity.

CEPPS/IFES, in partnership with CSO subgrantees, maintained a consistent focus on women and other marginalized groups during this quarter. The survey on the status of CCs highlighted that out of close to 260,000 households visited, 24.78 percent of women interviewed had not acquired their CC. CEPPS/IFES CSO partners are now focusing on this group to support the acquisition of CCs and increase voter registration.

The ECN has a significant opportunity to capitalize on momentum behind the creation of the new GESI unit to integrate the new gender policy throughout institutional culture. In addition to the GESI unit, and its CEPPS/IFES-supported strategic and action plans, the new gender and elections booklet could also improve gender inclusion throughout all spheres of the electoral process. CEPPS/IFES will continue its GESI support to the ECN during year five to encourage the implementation of regular concrete and sustainable actions aimed at increasing the integration of women and people with disabilities.

VII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix I – Study on the Status of Citizenship Certificates of Target Marginalized Communities
- Appendix II – Sampling Methodology for National Opinion Polls
- Appendix III – Questionnaire from the Third Round of National Opinion Polling (English)
- Appendix IV – Questionnaire from the Third Round of National Opinion Polling (Nepali)
- Appendix V – Regional Electoral Reform Dialogue Agenda
- Appendix VI – National Electoral Reform Dialogue Agenda
- Appendix VII – Background Documents from National Electoral Reform Dialogue
- Appendix VIII – Recommendations from the Electoral Reform Dialogues
- Appendix IX – Baseline Report from Voter Registration Information Campaign Baseline Survey
- Appendix X – EOCG Reform Recommendations
- Appendix XI – Map of Radio Stations Broadcasting *Loktantra Mantra*
- Appendix XII – List of *Loktantra Mantra* Program Issues

- Appendix XIII – LP Finance Subcommittee Recommendation Report on Proposed Amendments to the Public Procurement Act (Nepali)
- Appendix XIV – Findings from CA/LP Youth Needs Assessment Survey
- Appendix XV – List of Books for Parliament Secretariat Library
- Appendix XVI – *Sambidhan Sabha/Sansad Maa Aaja* (Today in CA/Parliament)
- Appendix XVII – List of *Hamro Kanoon* Programs
- Appendix XVIII – List of MPs Present at Budget Process Orientation
- Appendix XIX – Summary of Bill Review Program
- Appendix XX – Synopsis Report of the Public Consultations, Local Bodies (Elections Procedures) Amendment Bill, 2070 (Nepali)
- Appendix XXI – Synopsis Report of the Public Consultations, Witchcraft Act (Charge and Punishment), 2071 (Nepali)
- Appendix XXII – Advocacy Meeting Participants and Feedback