

CEPPS
Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening



CEPPS 2013-2014 WORKPLAN¹

NEPAL: Strengthen Political Parties, Electoral and Legislative Processes

August 3, 2013 – August 2, 2014

The Consortium of Elections and Political Processes Strengthening (CEPPS III) as the Prime Recipient of this award will implement the following activities through its two prime partners, namely the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI or the Institute) and the International Foundation for Election System (IFES), and its two second-tier sub-partners, The Asia Foundation and Internews Network, to achieve the objectives of the program titled “Nepal: Strengthening Political Parties, Electoral and Legislative Processes.” The three principal objectives of the program are as below.

- 1) *Promote and strengthen broader political processes,*
- 2) *Strengthen institutions involved in electoral processes, either as actors or participants,*
- 3) *Improve the democratic functioning of the Constituent Assembly (CA)/Parliament.*

The following workplan outlines activities to be implemented by the CEPPS Partners from August 3, 2013 to August 2, 2014, through United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Cooperative Agreement No. AID-367-LA-10-00001.

¹ CEPPS revised this workplan in February 2014 upon receipt of the mid-term evaluation.

CEPPS IFES/NDI NEPAL Workplan

August 3, 2013 – August 2, 2014

IFES/NDI

I. IFES/NDI Strategic Approach, Challenges, and Assumptions

Political Context

Nepal continues to experience delays in its political transition. The failure of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M) led government to advance an agreement between parties on another election date fuelled an unstable environment over much of the past year. Despite internal political disputes, administrative issues and the political influence of external actors which threatened to disrupt the election process, the government of Nepal and the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) prepared for the scheduled November 19, 2013 election. This second CA election took place as scheduled despite security threats, agitation by the 33-party CPN-Maoist alliance and a nationwide bandh in the days surrounding the election. Observer groups assessed the election as peaceful and well conducted, with voter turnout estimated at a record high of almost 80 percent.

The new CA held its first meeting on January 22. In addition to drafting a new constitution, the CA needs to address significant gaps in the governance framework, including improving the process to increase the ability of elected officials to enact legislation to address fundamental economic and social issues. At the time of this workplan revision, it is unclear to what extent the new CA will be able to promptly address these issues. Since the CA and Legislature-Parliament (LP) convened at the end of January, intensive work on key issues has yet to begin, in part because both chambers agreed to arrange the various parliamentary structures only after the rules of procedure (RoP) are amended. Political parties also continued negotiations over key government positions, including that of president, prime minister, CA chairman, and CA vice-chair. In the post-election period, it will also be important to improve the political dynamics between the main political parties to ensure consistency between proposed legislative agendas and party policies.

Over the past year, the ECN has led an immense voter registration initiative, registering over 75 percent of eligible citizens. The ECN reopened voter registration at the end of January 2014 and intends to mount a registration drive during the first half of 2014.

Having vastly improved voter registration rates, more needs to be done to improve marginalized groups' access to citizenship certificates. Upward of 2 million Nepalis do not have the citizenship certificate which enables them to engage in civic and economic life and marks their eligibility to register to vote. For enhanced credibility of future elections, citizenship certificate issues need to be addressed. While progress has been made in the inclusion of marginalized groups - such as women, Dalits, freed Kamaiya, people with disabilities, disaffected youth, and indigenous peoples - in civic and electoral activity, their underrepresentation in the new CA spotlights their continued marginalization from mainstream political life.

In addition to strengthening voter registration and access to citizenship certificates, parties need to begin focusing on preparations for preparing for local elections, connecting regularly with their local party branches, engaging in door-to-door outreach, gauging citizens' perceptions and opinions on local issues, drafting party manifestos, and outlining policies that address citizen needs. Political parties could also support the overall efforts of the ECN and the Nepali government in updating the voter registry to ensure that all eligible voters are accounted for. Regardless of when the local election might take place, it will be important to work across electoral stakeholders to facilitate the local election environment.

Finally, the 33 political parties that boycotted the CA election will need to be reintegrated in any future discussions about issues related to the organization of local elections and the legal framework that will govern it. Efforts will need to be made by the government of Nepal, political parties, the international community and implementing agencies, to keep communication channels open with the CPN-M faction to bring them into the political sphere and break from the current trends that might undermine political stability in Nepal.

IFES

In its work in Nepal since 1999, IFES has supported Nepali institutions and civil society to address similar challenges to the democratic process. IFES has established an extremely good working relationship with its major client, the ECN. IFES policy of using high level expert Nepali consultants embedded in critical development areas for the ECN, and their capacity to mentor their ECN counterparts to deliver results, has resulted in a high level of trust between the ECN and IFES. This is critical in preparing for possible local government elections over the coming year, where the ECN will need to act quickly to respond effectively to changing electoral, political and administrative environments. While IFES will focus on the longer term needs of building the integrity and technical and administrative professionalism of the ECN so that it attains long-term sustainability, any subsequent local government elections, and a possible referendum on the new Constitution will require specific support to ensure the ECN maintains the high standard of the CA elections. For this, the broad focus areas of IFES work over the coming year will remain electoral management capacities, effective electoral information and education activities, electoral supply capacities and electoral legal frameworks. In close coordination with local offices of the ECN, IFES will continue its current successful community level education programs implemented by local civil society organizations, to encourage further participation of targeted marginalized groups in community leadership and electoral processes, particularly addressing local elections and local governance issues.

IFES has established close working relationships with UNDP's Electoral Support Program (UNDP-ESP), as well as with NDI, The Asia Foundation, International IDEA, the Carter Center, the National Election Observation Committee (NEOC), Democracy and Elections Watch (DEW – through Election Observation Coordination Group, which NEOC chairs), the donor community and other relevant stakeholders, and during the forthcoming year will build on these to provide support to the ECN and other stakeholders in the most effective and collaborative manner, and will seek areas for increased collaboration. Together with CEPPS partner NDI, IFES will seek to exploit areas where the shared knowledge and experience of the partners can take forward the

development of the legal framework of governance and democratic institutions to support the work of the new CA. It is anticipated that this may utilize “Windows of Opportunity” funding where available.

The current political agreement calls for local government elections to be held within six months of the CA election. However the political and administrative ground work required for this will be extensive, including revised legislation for boundaries and constituency delineation, roles and responsibilities of the local bodies, as well as the basis for the election of representatives. It is anticipated that this timetable will be extended significantly, and IFES strategies will recognize this reality. Discussion of a possible referendum once the new Constitution is promulgated will be closely followed, and appropriate support to the ECN put in place as necessary.

IFES’ activities need to be highly flexible to be able to respond to demands within such an environment. The following workplan will provide a response that enables the ECN to maximize its effectiveness in preparing for and managing any electoral events as these are announced, whenever they occur, and civil society to promote participation amongst marginalized populations, both in general and for these expected events.

The key assumptions of this work plan are:

- The ECN continues to be receptive to assistance and cooperation with IFES, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding, and is active in seeking solutions to challenges that arise within its authority.
- A fully staffed and adequately funded ECN is willing to exercise fully its Constitutional and subsidiary legal authority within the context of any external challenges to conduct ongoing electoral operations
- The electoral calendar and the ECN’s decision-making schedule will provide adequate notice and opportunity for IFES to provide planned assistance.
- UNDP ESP continues to work in close partnership with IFES, actively coordinating support for the ECN’s activities.
- The ECN continues to accept a partnership with, but not control of, IFES-funded CSOs’ programs to deliver community level participation support programs focused on marginalized communities.
- There is broad political consensus on the legitimacy of institutions of government and on any further electoral events, including the date for elections for local government and the framework for such elections.
- A CA elected during the period of the workplan will continue work on finalizing a Constitution for Nepal and subsidiary electoral-related legislation, taking seriously consultations recommendations produced.
- There is an agreed basis for eligibility to register as a voter, which does not significantly change.
- The ECN’s commitment to training and capacity building, electoral education and additional donor support will be available for the overall training and electoral education efforts.

The legal and security environment in Nepal allows program personnel to deploy to Nepal and conduct necessary travel within Nepal, electoral activities to be conducted, and NGOs to operate.

NDI

Since 1994, NDI has conducted programming in Nepal aimed at fostering political party and parliamentary development, improving voter and civic education, and empowering women, youth, and other marginalized groups. As a result of its years of programming, NDI has established a strong relationship with political parties and parliamentarians, civil society, and the ECN. The Institute's approach of designing programs in close consultation and coordination with local partners, its capacity to adjust programming to partners' needs while leveraging the Institute's expertise and input on these needs, and its flexibility to work around political, social and cultural sensitivities has strengthened the level of trust and confidence of political partners in the Institute. NDI's use of both local and international resources, experts, practitioners and trainers has positioned NDI as a significant expert resource on political party building, legislative strengthening, and citizen participation.

NDI is fully aware that for Nepal's transition to be peaceful, durable and sustainable, the principles of inclusive, representative and participatory politics and democracy will have to be respected, and their practice has to be continuously maintained. This is specifically in the context of such a multi-ethnically, linguistically, culturally, and socially diverse country such as Nepal. As such, the Institute plans to continue its support to political parties and the CA-LP in a way that enhances and guarantees larger and more inclusive voice, participation, and input on issues and policies that impact some of the larger and more significant demographics of the country, including women, youth, and other marginalized groups. In the previous year, the Institute strived to work with parties to expand opportunities for trainings in order to build a strong knowledge and capacity base of party members and potential leaders from marginalized groups. In the current workplan, more emphasis will be placed on focusing programming on specific groups such as women and youth, and across all of the Institute's programming with political parties, the CA, and the civil society component.

In revising this workplan, the Institute's programming under the political party, legislative and civil society components is designed to create synergies in a variety of areas. For example, support to youth politicians will link them to the Future Leadership Academy (FLA) under the political party program, but also to the Next Generation Parliamentarians' Group (NGPG) and youth civic groups. Similarly, support to women parliamentarians will connect them to the Inter Party Women's Alliance (IPWA) under the political party program and to women civil society groups. By creating these connections, the Institute plans to have a holistic approach to both youth and women's issues to ensure that civil society organizations are able to articulate their concerns to the CA-LP and political parties; in return, political parties and the CA-LP will gain a better understanding of civil society expectations on how to best address national and local issues.

Continued support to parties to strengthen links between the national and local levels will be critical in ensuring smooth communication and feedback regarding issues facing citizens, and will allow parties to devise innovative ideas and effective policies to address them. By having

inclusive and representative party structures that include youth, women and other marginalized groups, and through creating opportunities for these groups to provide input on critical issues, parties can develop sound policies and platforms for use in future local and parliamentary elections.

With a CA-LP in place, the Institute plans to resume its support to the parliament through work with committees, parliamentary party groups, and the Parliament Secretariat. Taking into account USAID's Country Development Strategy, U.S. government legislative priorities and the importance of linking the Institute's governance program to such areas as economic growth, health, security and climate change, NDI plans to actively look for opportunities to create synergies between its support to committee work and bill discussion at the CA-LP and the issue areas mentioned above while creating avenues for citizen and relevant interest groups' input into relevant bills that are discussed in Parliament. Furthermore, the Institute will identify opportunities for the organization of constituency outreach activities around bills that fall under some of the areas mentioned above. NDI will capitalize on its relationship with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) to ensure that discussion and communication on economic and political issues are brought to the attention of political and parliamentary leaders to encourage them to ensure that democratic and economic developments improve the lives of Nepali citizens. As the main organization that will be supporting the LP, NDI convened a coordination meeting with its subgrantee The Asia Foundation (TAF), International IDEA, UNDP, and UN Women to share information about what each organization is planning in terms of programming for both the CA and the LP. While all organizations, with the exception of NDI, support the CA, the Institute will ensure there is continuity of the CA-LP coordination mechanism on a quarterly basis to ensure regular communication between different organizations to avoid duplication.

NDI has established close relationships with IFES, The Asia Foundation, Internews, the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN), International IDEA, and other relevant stakeholders. During the remaining period of this workplan, NDI will build on these relationships to provide support and increase collaborative efforts with its partners. This includes regular consultations with the ECN and IFES regarding NDI's post-elections programs; examples include IFES's voter registration, voter education and electoral reforms areas. NDI has already linked its voter registration programming with parties to IFES' civil society-supported work on voter registration in some districts, making use of the latter's survey findings about best ways to target marginalized groups in some districts. Under this workplan, NDI plans to seek additional opportunities for coordination, especially with regards to electoral reform areas. The Institute, IFES, and the ECN have already discussed the importance of having NDI-supported regional and national electoral reform workshops to be jointly organized with these two institutions. This reform area will greatly benefit from having NDI and IFES join their efforts and involve their stakeholders in the discussions and reform of the electoral and legal framework.

Similarly, the Institute will actively seek opportunities to engage other implementing agencies and donors regarding issues and/or initiatives which require larger donor support and involvement, such as legal and electoral reforms and women's and youth political participation programs.

Due to the volatile political climate, NDI's forthcoming activities need to be flexible to respond to the fluctuating environment in Nepal. At the time of the revision of this workplan, there is still no government in place other than the prime minister and a minister without a portfolio. Similarly, there are no parliamentary committees in place, and the Institute is unsure of the structure of the committees, which could result in delayed support to these committees. The set of different structures under the CA-LP is linked to the need to amend the RoP and the fact that CA members decided to amend the RoP before electing different chairs and deciding on committee membership.

Should the CA-LP work continue to be delayed, NDI will work with women parliamentarians and NGPG members to link them with women and youth under the Institute's party and civil society programs. This will ensure that they combine their efforts to work on common strategies to advance issues of interest and to advocate for these issues within political parties and civil society. In fact, NDI has already started these initiatives through its work with FLA and IPWA; between March 20 and 24, groups of FLA and IPWA participants met with CA members to discuss common strategies and areas of joint interest. Additionally, in February 2014, NDI convened youth CA members and FLA participants to discuss potential roles for youth in economic development.

A delayed functioning CA-LP will mean that NDI will design a training and consultation program with the permanent structure of the parliament, namely the Parliament Secretariat, to keep them engaged through capacity building in the areas of legislative research, committee report writing skills, and time management, which are all required skills to provide adequate support to CA members.

With regards to local elections, despite ECN's interest and commitment to organizing them in mid-2014, political observers and analysts agree that this is highly unlikely, especially given the delay in the formation of the government and upcoming party conventions for CPN-UML and UCPN-M. Both parties will be largely consumed by the preparations for their respective conventions, particularly with regards to consolidating party leadership positions. The local election framework also needs to be developed, discussed and approved by the parliament in order for it to take effect in time. Additionally, voter education and information programs will need to be developed. However, should an election date be announced during the timeline of this workplan, NDI will readjust its programming to respond to the needs of political parties, especially in the area of issue-based party platforms, campaign training, and party agent training.

Overall, NDI will remain flexible to fulfill its program objectives and provide support to political parties and civil society organizations despite a number of challenges beyond NDI's control that remain in place.

The key assumptions of this workplan are:

- Political parties are receptive to NDI's technical assistance and will commit resources to implement their plans and activities.
- Political parties are willing and able to apply technical assistance and guidance.

- The security situation remains stable and NDI can successfully conduct its programming without disruptions.
- CA-LP committees will start functioning during the timeline of this workplan.
- Members of Parliament are interested and willing to engage in constituency outreach activities.
- Parliament-Secretariat is willing and committed to a timely implementation of programs under NDI.
- Local elections are held within year four of the program.
- Women and youth civil society organizations, women and youth MPs, and women and youth party leaders are willing to work together on a common agenda.
- Nepal does not relapse into civil war or intense ethnic and regional conflict.
- The security situation allows for travel within the country and to the regions.
- The security situation in Nepal does not deteriorate to a level where journalists and project staff are put at unacceptable levels of risk in undertaking regional training, production of radio program that includes public participation, project activities or movement of journalists in order to access and contribute to the blog
- Political parties accept the outcome of polling and participate in the media programming.
- Journalists have access to the internet at the district level to contribute to the electoral news website, <http://www.nepalelectionchannel.org/nepali/>.
- Radio stations have alternative power backup to cope with hours of daily power cuts in order to perform relevant aspects of the planned programming.
- Kathmandu-based and district-based NGOs remain engaged in NDI's program despite NDI's minimal support of their overhead costs.
- MPs and district leaders are willing to participate in NDI's constituency outreach program and to follow up with concerned ministries, departments, agencies and other government officials.
- NDI is able to work with relevant parliamentary committees on holding public hearings about important bills that are under discussion.
- Parliamentarians and political parties are willing to discuss national issues on television and outline their policies and stand in this regard.
- The Parliament Secretariat remains willing to engage with TAF's media outreach capacity building.
- Parliament Secretariat/committee staff remain willing to participate in SPPELP legislative programs.

CEPPS/IFES 2013-2014 Workplan

August 3, 2013 – August 2, 2014: Revised February 2014

In the fourth year of the program, IFES will continuously support the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) on the following objectives under principle objective #2 - *Strengthen institutions involved in electoral processes, either as actors or participants.*

II. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The IFES program has the following objectives in support of the overall program goal #2 of strengthening institutions involved in the electoral process, either as actors or participants:

- **A. Strengthen democratic legal framework:** Support the development of a body of legislation on the electoral process that is comprehensive, coherent and consistent; which conforms to international standards and suits the socio-economic context and new political realities of Nepal.
- **B. Strengthen the ECN's electoral management capacity:** Improve the ECN's capacity to manage future elections and consolidate its mandate and performance through the provision of high level technical assistance in the legal, management and technical aspects of elections and long-term professional development capacity building.
- **C. Expand and Improve Delivery of Voter Education:** Work with the ECN and selected non-governmental organizations to plan, develop, and implement effective voter education programs, with a focus on capacity building, to enhance the electorate's understanding of democratic practices and rights, and increase participation in the electoral process.
- **D. Monitor, Analyze and Report on the Electoral Process:** Disseminate analysis on the ECN's activities and interactions with other electoral stakeholders.
- **E. Unforeseen Windows of Opportunity.** Address unforeseen windows of opportunity in Nepal's unpredictable post-conflict political and electoral environment, in order to achieve immediate beneficial results in line with the program objectives.

II. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Reflecting past achievements, challenges and lesson learned

This FY14 workplan builds upon over three years of experience implementing program activities through CEPPS, as a partner with NDI on the Strengthening Political Parties, Electoral and Legislative Processes (SPPELP) program. The programmatic activities within this workplan reflect overall achievements, challenges and lessons learned from the project period.

A key, cross cutting achievement instrumental to the creation and success of this workplan is the strong and constructive working relationship built between the ECN and IFES over the three years of project collaboration. The mutual trust facilitated the development of workplan complementing ECN strategic priorities and working to build the ECN as an institution following international best practice. During this period, in addition to regular trainings and capacity building activities, IFES will draw from its global experience and strong relationship with the ECN to support the ECN to build an internal gender unit and to review its electoral dispute mechanisms.

On civil society engagement, IFES has developed a strong civil society organization (CSO) network to effectively implement USAID-funded voter education programs. Through this network, such voter education programs reach marginalized communities in the Terai that would otherwise be excluded from the political process. For example, IFES and CSO partners will expand support to help marginalized groups (including Dalit, Freed Kamaiya, persons with disabilities, women and youth) to obtain citizenship certificates allowing them to register to vote.

Along with building on achievements, IFES has been diligent in identifying and learning from challenges. Challenges taken into account include capacity of local partners on technical skills and turnover of staff at the ECN. To address these challenges IFES staff and subject matter experts implement periodic capacity building trainings for CSO partners on relevant skills (such as applying for citizen certificates and implementing voter trainings) to address the knowledge and skills gap created by outgoing staff. With the ECN, IFES is building institutional knowledge that will stay within the ECN as a whole, and not only within individuals (for example, creating asexual harassment policy and internal gender unit).

Lastly, key lessons learned informed what activities were prioritized. IFES and CEPPS partner NDI increased field level collaboration starting in FY14, also IFES will work with NDI and CEPPS to also initiate more formal coordination. This workplan also includes plans for joint national level event to seek consensus for both national and local government electoral reform. Related to ballot production and voter education, lesson learned from the CA election experience (such as promoting implementation of past ballot production recommendation, and prioritizing experiential learning VE activities) will be fully implemented in all stages of related activities.

Mid-term evaluation – findings and adaptation

The USAID mid-term evaluation informed this workplan revision, with recommendations reflected in activities and in approach. The evaluation found that overall, the project remains relevant, though hindered by the changing political context in Nepal. As per evaluation recommendation, IFES is working closely with partners, including the ECN, NDI, and local CSO subawardees to ensure that programming remains flexible to support changing conditions and priorities of the Government of Nepal (GoN). For example, while IFES is prepared to focus on local government elections, it is simultaneously focused on longer-term capacity building activities that will continue even if local elections do not take place as scheduled.

The evaluation also calls for more formalized coordination between IFES and CEPPS partner NDI. This recommendation was particularly emphasized in the evaluation, and CEPPS has already initiated formal meetings bringing together IFES and NDI to discuss administrative synergies, and is looking towards how it can support synergies at the programmatic level.

Other recommendations include mainstreaming participation of marginalized groups across all activities (and more fully capturing their participation in data), along with clarifying roles in state restructuring. The IFES M&E team is expanding approaches to better ensure Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) is considered across program indicators. To support the USAID Democracy and Governance Assessment (DGA), IFES will leverage support from the Embassy of Norway to provide technical input on legal content related to systems of representation, affirmative action and quotas and restructuring of local government laws to be more representative and inclusive.

Summary of Workplan Activities to date

At the date of preparation of this workplan revision a number of the planned activities included in the original workplan, prepared in July 2013 and amended in September 2013 to reflect increased USAID funding, have been accomplished. To add clarity to this revised version these are briefly summarized in the table below. The revised workplan narrative reflects those activities yet to be carried out.

IFES achievement summary (August'13 - January'14)

Objective	Activities	Qualitative and/or quantitative achievement
Strengthen democratic legal framework	Technical assistance provided to draft election related regulation, policies and procedure and system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFES recommendations included in revised and adopted in electoral policy, regulation and guidelines (gender policy, election code of conduct, vote counting directive, observation policy, observation directive, training policy and directive; voter education policy and directive, media center operation directive, media monitoring directive, CA election directive, CA election rules)
Strengthen ECN's electoral management capacity	Technical and financial assistance provided to ECN for designing, development, production of training manuals & materials and to conduct training to various electoral administrators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various training manuals with CA election procedures and methodologies developed and rolled out by ECN: (i.e. election education, media, logistics and finance management, returning officers, security, polling and counting staff) Over 300,000 regular/temporary electoral officials trained for CA election, 2013 (voter education-31,442, media-2,667, polling and counting-276,948, security-50, returning officers-262, election logistics and financial management staff-1,003, Election observation-150)
Capacity Building, Material and Broadcasting support for VE campaigns	<p>-Technical and financial assistance provided for the design, production and implementation of VE programs and materials</p> <p>-Supported for sustainable redesign of ECN website</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VE events supported: street theatre shows (753), musical concerts (16) VE materials designed for general and specific (CSO) audiences VE materials produced: Polling video with sign language; Posters (60,000); Leaflets (2,350,000); Leaflet in Braille (10,000); Flipcharts (1,300); Stickers (75,000); Flex banners (10,500); T-shirts (18,500); Caps (20,000); Radio (4) and TV PSAs (3) with broadcasting Restructured, redesigned website launched in Nepali language with new, revised contents

Strengthen ECN's electoral management capacity	Technical and financial assistance provided to produce ballots for CA election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved capacity of ECN to produce ballots (through Janak Education Materials Centre)
Capacity Building, Material and Broadcasting support for VE campaigns	CSO review and planning meeting conducted in September & December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six CSOs participated in capacity building meetings directly related to CA election voter education.
	Voter education activities implemented for voter registration and for increasing participation of marginalized communities in CA election and civic/political rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 104,496 VE events conducted: 667 VDC level orientations, 3,585 group awareness raising sessions, 454 mock polling video shows, 60 youth focused college orientations, 727 community level mock polling, 604 Street drama shows, 98,387 Household visits and 12 flash mobs Total of 590 coordination meeting held with District Election Officers Total of 648,737 (309,995 male and 338,742 female) beneficiaries outreached through different VE activities conducted by CSOs Voter education materials developed and used: 129,200 posters, 783,000 leaflets, 185 banners, 191 T-shirts and 560 caps 121,500 disable friendly voter education materials developed and used 118 Community Awareness Forum (CAF) and 6 District Awareness Forum (DAF) formed and mobilized through Disability Project. About 25,000 community people sensitized on CA election and civic/political rights of persons with disabilities 5 different types of VE radio PSAs produced and broadcasted in 30 FM stations in 8,590 spots Youth focused VE Face book page created which was liked by above 12,000 users and visited above 70,000 users 5,714 people with disability casted their vote out of which 1,167 utilized electoral provision on disability in CA election.
Monitoring and Evaluation	IFES mid-term evaluation conducted by independent evaluator in Sep'13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program implementation progress to date assessed and lessons learned assessed for impact and appropriateness of implementation.
	Mid-term stakeholder's perception survey data analysis and report finalized in Aug'13	
	2 Surveys of marginalized group conducted by CSOs in support and supervision of IFES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSOs implemented 2 surveys (Survey to assess voter registration status – 3300 respondents; 72 enumerators trained/mobilized; Post-election survey to assess effectiveness of VE activities conducted by CSOs – 2,900 respondents; 72 enumerators trained/mobilized) <i>Overall Impact</i>-Capacity strengthened of partner CSOs for conducting surveys; Information about effectiveness of CSO program activities obtained and data used for planning VE program activities targeting CA election.
	IFES database updated and maintained on regular basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information readily available for monitoring and reporting of program activities

Objective A: Strengthen democratic legal framework

Following the election of the CA, IFES will continue to work with the ECN to ensure that the drafted political party related law is enacted and that drafts for a new electoral law are progressed to the stage where a full new law can be introduced for passage in a timely manner. Legal reform activities will also focus on revision of the legal framework for local government elections. Specifically, in the fourth year of this program IFES plans to implement the following activities to support the ECN's legal reform activities. The timing and achievement of the results of these activities will be heavily influenced by political developments within the CA.

Activity 1 - Technical Support and Capacity Building (Electoral Systems and Election and Political Party Related Legislation)

Over the remainder of the workplan period IFES' focus for legal reform will be on working with the ECN drafting committees on finalizing and reviewing and amending a legal and regulatory framework for local government elections. If drafting of the Constitution is finalized, activities will include progressing the passage of the existing draft political party law and finalizing the draft consolidated electoral law. Timing of these activities will to a large extent depend on whether current political agreements (reflected in decisions reach by the previous CA) are adhered to or modified. IFES will serve as a resource to the ECN to assist with input to its draft language for laws and regulations (including on quotas, local election law and political party laws), serving as an information resource to advise on electoral-related legal matters, particularly on international standards, good practices and experience. IFES will additionally explain to electoral stakeholders the impacts of various options in legal frameworks, such as for representation systems. IFES' legal technical advisors will continue to work very closely with UNDP ESP and International IDEA's constitutional and election law reform programs as on previous draft work, and collaborate, particularly on legal issues affecting political parties and electoral observers, with NDI and its sub-awardees.

Following the CA election, the technical support focus will shift to finalizing the new draft electoral law, following political agreement on its underpinning constitutional arrangements. As was recommended in the mid-term evaluation, IFES is continuing outreach to other donors, including the Norwegians, on potential future funding opportunities in this area.

IFES will provide the ECN with input on draft language on those electoral issues in the draft constitution that are revisited by the new CA. Once a new constitution has been promulgated IFES will work with the ECN and stakeholders to support development of remaining segments of the electoral law - such as electoral systems and candidacy/representation issues. Additionally, IFES will provide technical expertise to the ECN to review the existing legal framework for local government elections, and advise on the changes required to bring it in line with good practices for electing bodies of local governance. For these tasks in house IFES support will be augmented by visits by an international legal expert.

To build the capacity of new ECN legal staff, IFES will provide technical support to the ECN in interpreting the law, developing explanatory material and briefing stakeholders on their responsibilities under the law. In house IFES support may be augmented by short visits by an international expert.

Expected performance milestones:

- *Amended laws and regulations are in accordance with international standards and national political consensus.*
- *Development of a revised framework for local government elections is underway.*
- *Progress in finalizing drafting of post-constitutional electoral legislation and regulations.*

Activity 1.1 – Support Dialogue regarding the Electoral System and Electoral Legislation

As during the past three years of the program, IFES will promote dialogue in formal and informal meetings (with elected officials, political party representatives, election and government officials, journalists and other stakeholders) on resolving barriers to creating a widely accepted framework for future electoral laws. This framework will include discussion on electoral systems (ensuring that the system in use best reflects the need for inclusion; this will include analysis of the proportional representation system and its effectiveness in ensuring candidates from marginalized groups, and the use of appropriate quotas and affirmative action approaches to ensure inclusion) and on local election laws (specifically on reducing the complexity of the current laws and recommendations for affirmative action). Post CA election, IFES will work with ECN counterparts to hold a series of 5 workshops at national and regional level for a total of around 120 stakeholders from a spectrum of interests. A national event will be conducted jointly with NDI and the ECN to bring together relevant stakeholders to explore options and seek consensus for both national and local government electoral reform. Prior to this national event, there are also opportunities for CEPPS partners to coordinate on the organization of regional electoral reform workshops that aim at collecting input from various stakeholders (DEOs, party representatives, NGOs and local observers) that will feed into the national level conference.²

Expected performance milestone:

- *Expert stakeholder comment provided through public consultations is considered by the ECN and government in amending the legal framework for future national and local government elections.*

Activity 1.2 – Technical Support to the Drafting of the Election Law and Related Legislation and Regulations

Following the CA election IFES will coordinate with the ECN to review the appropriateness of current laws and compare the results of the review to the draft political party law finalized last year, and the current draft of a new electoral law. IFES will provide advice to the ECN on any changes to these drafts suggested by experiences during the 2013 CA election.

The attitudes of parties towards those constitutional issues determined by the first CA is not yet clear. Depending on party strengths there may be pressure to re-open some issues for further discussion. Some critical issues for electoral law, such as the basic elements of the structure of

² This IFES/NDI collaboration reflects the mid-term evaluation recommendation for greater formalized cooperation between CEPPS partners.

the State, an electoral system, and the nature of the Electoral Management Body were agreed by the first CA. Once it is clear that these agreements are still in place, IFES will commence work with the ECN on drafting those constitutionally dependent parts of the electoral law, making allowances for whatever federal structure might be agreed. Recommendations will be developed on the introduction of constituencies and candidate ranking into the proportional representation system to enhance transparency and accountability. It is not expected that new draft electoral and party laws will be a high priority for the new CA, or that there will be much discussion of them during year four of the program, as the next election is unlikely to be seen as an urgent issue.

The legal framework for local government elections is antiquated, particularly in its approach to representation. IFES will provide technical support to the ECN for a review of the current legal framework for local government elections, and drafting of amended legal provisions where the ECN believes this to be necessary. The timing of this activity will depend on the priority given to local elections in the post-CA election political environment. If elections are postponed for the foreseeable future, IFES will continue efforts to increase understanding among key stakeholders of the current legal framework for elections and representation at local level. Increased BRIDGE trainings will form the base of the education and outreach approach.

Expected performance milestone:

- *Drafts of appropriate electoral legal frameworks available for consideration by government and for public discussion*

Activity 1.3 - Capacity Building for Key Stakeholders on the Legal Framework

IFES will continue to provide targeted capacity building on electoral legal framework issues through formal and informal interactions with key stakeholders including political parties, electoral officials, media, government departments, observer organizations and other CSOs, particularly its CSO sub-awardees.

Following the CA election, IFES will continue to work with these key stakeholders to enhance their understanding of the detailed options for inclusiveness in new electoral laws, considering experience from this second CA election.

The legal framework for local government elections is archaic, and fits uncomfortably with the inclusive nature of Nepal's national representation system. Whether a local government election is imminent or not, understanding amongst key stakeholders of the current legal framework for elections and representation at local level is essential for an informed debate on how best to move forward with local representative bodies. Through formal and informal meetings, in coordination with the ECN and IFES' CSO sub-awardee network, IFES will work to improve key stakeholders' understanding of the deficiencies in the current law, which dates back to the early 1990s. Discussions will focus on improvements to key areas of the law, such as the structure of the local representative bodies, the election system, candidacy qualifications and campaign finance rules.

Expected performance milestone:

- *Formal and informal discussion sessions have enhanced stakeholders' understanding of the detailed provisions required in both short term and longer-term electoral legal frameworks.*

Activity 2 - Production of Information Resources

Information materials (including pamphlets and booklets) on the present/proposed framework for local government elections will be produced, if these elections appear likely to be held within the year. These information resources will be distributed through the ECN's district-based distribution channels and IFES CSO sub-awardees. IFES will also work with NDI to share this information with political parties at the local and national level.³

The lack of progress in finalizing a constitution and hence any consideration of draft electoral laws has severely limited other opportunities for IFES to produce legal information resources. IFES does not expect that this situation will improve significantly over the coming year, with the focus of the new CA likely to be on finalizing the constitution rather than new electoral laws.

Expected performance milestones:

- *Development of relevant and timely information resources in close coordination with the ECN*
- *Production and distribution (including pamphlets and booklets) of informational materials through the ECN, CSOs and political parties.*

Objective B: Strengthen the ECN's electoral management capacity

Activity 1 - Technical Assistance to the ECN in the Legal, Management and Technical Aspects of Elections

During the remaining period covered by this workplan the ECN may begin preparing for local government elections, given that there was broad political agreement to hold these within six months of the CA election. However, with the new CA concentrating on finalizing the new Constitution within twelve months, this is unlikely to happen. IFES will remain flexible to respond to the election calendar as it progresses and focus on building the management and technical capacities of the ECN staff, especially new staff. IFES will also work with the ECN to ensure its stakeholders are informed about proposed changes to the election process, and have the capacities to understand these.⁴ Support will be delivered in coordination with the ECN, UNDP_ESP and International IDEA.

Focus areas for IFES capacity building support are likely to be election performance review and future strategy development (including the preparation of a new five year Strategic Plan), re-

³ This IFES/NDI collaboration reflects the mid-term evaluation recommendation for greater formalized cooperation between CEPPS partners.

⁴ The USAID mid-term evaluation emphasizes the importance for flexibility in adapting to Nepal's electoral calendar. Activities are designed to build longer-term internal capacity of the ECN, while being prepared to switch to direct local election preparations once that are called.

commencement of voter registration, and local government election planning, with international advisers being drawn in on party/campaign finance, election dispute resolution, electoral systems and (in the longer term) boundary delimitation. BRIDGE trainings will also resume.

Activity 1.1 – Election Management and Strategic Planning Assistance

For local government elections, given the current absence of a timeframe or legal framework, and for which ECN planning has not yet commenced, IFES will stand ready to assist the ECN to identify areas where technical support will be most needed and will respond to the ECN's requests for assistance. (See annex 1 for list of anticipated activities in response to local election announcement). The continuing lack of certainty on the timing means that windows to develop medium to longer term operational and strategic planning within the ECN are uncertain. This situation, combined with the regular but unplanned rotations of staff through the ECN, requires that IFES maintain a flexible stance that will enable it to respond quickly in specific capacity development areas where the ECN requests assistance.

IFES will be ready to assist the ECN, Janak Education Materials Centre (JEMC) and donors with technical assistance on ballot production, equipment requirements and specifications with regard to the production of ballot papers for any local elections or for a national referendum.

IFES will also work with the ECN in reviewing its progress against the training and educational policies and plans recently developed with IFES support, and for the implementation of a new computer-based staff training information system (TIMS). For the ECN's formal annual review process, IFES has supported the central review workshop held at the end of January 2014 with logistical arrangements and technical advice and will do so for any similar event for Returning Officers. Later in the year, IFES will assist the ECN in developing its Strategic Plan for the period 2014 to 2019. IFES will be involved in the strategic planning committee in providing review and input and in holding stakeholder consultations at various levels to share the strategy plan with various stakeholders to obtain feedback. IFES support to ECN electoral management processes, strategic planning and operational planning will enable IFES to be well placed to build on the outcomes of the lessons learned exercise. IFES will stand ready to provide support (as it did during CA election preparations) in assisting the ECN in their planning for training, ballot production and voter education in any preparations for local elections as its support needs are identified.

Expected performance milestones:

- *The ECN is provided necessary technical support to assist with its planning and management of the local government elections, ballot production, information data management and printing.*
- *Development and Publication of the ECN Strategic plan 2014 to 2019.*
- *TIMS operational.*

Activity 1.2 - Voter Registration and Identification

IFES intends to continue work with the ECN to assess potential means of identifying registered voters who have died, and remove those names from the register in an effort to ensure the register stays current. Currently there is no specific mechanism to do this, and removal of these

names from the register relies on objections being lodged by other voters. Consequently deceased voters may still be included in the voter register.

The full potential of the ECN's continuous voter registration system has yet to be realized. It is anticipated that early 2014 installation of software and equipment will enable automated updating of the continuous register to commence, and the ECN is currently planning for this. The matter was raised in discussion at the ECN review workshop with the DEOs in late January 2014. Operation of this major enhancement to the voter registration system will require additional training for DEO computer operators and management staff and ECN HQ staff. While the ECN has no firm schedule for this system upgrade, nor a structure for the capacity development needed to support it, IFES, in conjunction with UNDP ESP, expects to provide training for around 200 computer operators and DEO staff on the upgraded system. IFES will seek to ensure that the ECN has regard to gender balance in selecting these staff for training.

Given the successful implementation of the mobile voter registration camps in 2013, IFES expects these to be established again in 2014, at least once prior to any local government elections. As previously, IFES will provide technical support, training materials, public outreach materials and help desk support to DEOs for registering voters from marginalized groups. In general, IFES' local voter registration support activities will continue to focus on making registration accessible to less advantaged groups - such as youth, women, and marginalized populations such as Dalits and freed Kamaiyas, people with disabilities and those in remote areas of the Mid and Far Western Regions of the country. In addition to support for voter registration, IFES will work with the ECN to support the issue of citizenship certificates to ensure that these groups are not barred from registration because of lack of documentation. IFES will also provide assistance for the ECN "voter registration week" now expected to take place during 2014 as indicated in the 11-point Godavari Declaration released by the ECN in January 2014.

The ECN has in the past strongly and successfully resisted any attempt to assess the comprehensiveness and quality of the voter register using independent quantitative and qualitative research. January and August 2013 surveys by IFES' CSO sub-awardees provided information on comprehensiveness and reasons for registering or not registering to vote. As part of the CSOs' research program post-CA election, further questions on participation in voter registration will be included in their regular surveys targeting marginalized populations over the next year.

Expected performance milestones:

- *Improvement in data accuracy of voter registers.*
- *ECN staff trained in updated elements of continuous voter registration system.*
- *More effective methods for removing deceased voters from voter register assessed.*
- *Survey results used by the ECN to assess voter registration comprehensiveness and targeting of missed voters.*

Activity 1.3 – Assistance with the development of an Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism (EDR)

IFES, in cooperation with UNDP ESP, has supported the ECN to analyse flaws in the current electoral complaints and dispute resolution process and to develop a draft legal framework for electoral dispute resolution that addresses the issues raised by observers at the 2008 election. However, this will only be incorporated in a new electoral law to be passed after a new Constitution is promulgated. Current provisions remain the same as in 2008.

IFES consulted with the ECN on the need to move forward to improve the implementation of dispute resolution processes under the current law prior to the local government elections, particularly through participation in the Strategic Planning activity. The ECN agreed and noted that EDR is a priority. IFES will thus deploy an expert team to work with the ECN and other stakeholders to evaluate and adopt tools to institutionalize and facilitate the EDR process. IFES will provide key ECN headquarters and district staff with the one central and five regional three-day training workshops on dispute resolution that the ECN eliminated from its pre CA election training calendar. IFES intends to provide technical, facilitation and related materials support for these workshops. If sufficient progress can be made other stakeholders will also be trained during this workplan period. Discussion will also begin on a review of failings in the Code of Conduct framework and action to develop an effective and workable Code or Codes for Nepal.

Expected performance milestones:

- *Adoption of processes appropriate to current laws and readily adaptable as these are re-written.*
- *Development of briefing programs and related materials required for complaints mechanism briefings for local government election stakeholders.*
- *Inclusion of provision for improved EDR procedures in the ECN Strategic Plan 2014/2019.*

Activity 1.4 - Polling and Counting Cascaded Training

For the November 2013 CA election, IFES supported content and logistical preparations for two separate strands of training to support the management and implementation of polling conducted by the ECN: one for Chief Returning Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers of each constituency; and the other cascaded training for Polling Center Managers and their Assistant Managers, culminating in pre polling day briefings for polling station staff. As a partner of the ECN, IFES developed and produced training manuals and materials for both types of training. It will now be necessary to assess the effectiveness, gaps and lessons learnt of the training to improve future election trainings. IFES will work with the ECN to assist in assessing the effectiveness of the training to election officials.

Now, in preparation for anticipated local government elections (although as yet with no specific timeframe), IFES will assist the ECN to develop and produce an election training plan, training manuals and materials for Returning/Assistant Returning officers, Polling/Assistant Polling Managers, polling station and counting staff. Moreover, IFES will provide funding, logistics, technical and facilitation support for a two-day workshop for master trainers for Returning Officers. Returning officers will then be trained at the regional level, and IFES will provide logistics, funding and technical support. Similarly, in order to manage local elections professionally, IFES will support logistically and on content for master and regional level

training of trainers workshops to train polling officers, assistant polling officers, polling station and counting staff. In addition IFES will support the ECN to develop materials for local election related training to security agencies, voter educators, election observers and media. CEPPS/IFES will ensure coordination with LGCDP.

Expected performance milestones:

- *Development of cascading training programs, training curriculum and materials on polling and counting, and operations and management of polling.*
- *Polling Centre Managers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers trained.*
- *Training materials on local election security, voter education, observers, media and social inclusion developed*

Activity 2 - Capacity Building

IFES will continue to support the development of the management and operational capacity of the ECN through BRIDGE training, organizational capacity building programs, and gender inclusion.

Activity 2.1 - Implementing a Program of Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) Training

In May 2013 a final version of the Assessment Report into the Sustainability of BRIDGE in Nepal, funded by UNDP ESP but into which IFES had substantial input, was provided to the ECN. BRIDGE programming was subsequently suspended until after the November 2013 CA election. In the first half of 2014, IFES will be working with BRIDGE partners UNDP ESP and International IDEA to support the ECN first to respond to, and then to commence, the implementation of the many recommendations of this report. In addition to new BRIDGE activities, some of the BRIDGE program for 2013 will be carried over to 2014. The 2014 BRIDGE may be curtailed due to possible local government elections. Final plans for 2014 were agreed to by BRIDGE partners in January 2014.

IFES expects that it will be providing logistics, technical, facilitation and venue funding support for the following BRIDGE programs between January/July 2014:

- One three-day workshop for 25 new ECN staff on election management principles,
- One three-day workshop for 25 ECN HQ and partner staff on electoral systems,
- One three-day workshop for electoral stakeholders on electoral access.

In addition to these fully IFES-supported residential workshops, IFES will provide materials development, technical and facilitation support for the following BRIDGE workshops:

- Three regional Gender and Elections workshops (lead partner UNDP ESP); and
- One Training the Facilitator workshop over 10 days to train 20 new BRIDGE facilitators (lead partner UNDP ESP).

Additionally IFES will fund and provide content development, materials and logistics support for half-day BRIDGE tutorials at the ECN every second month, from January 2014.

Expected performance milestone:

- *Further development of BRIDGE programs to ensure sustainable continuation of BRIDGE within the ECN*

Activity 2.2 - Professional Exchange Assistance (Study Trips)

In early September 2013, IFES support 2 ECN and JEMC staff to visit the production facilities in India for its new ballot printing press, for a pre-delivery inspection of and briefing on the machinery. This trip provided the ECN and JEMC with an opportunity to ensure the specifications as per machine order were met by the producer, and to learn about the capacity and operations of the custom-made printing press, which can also be used to print text books for JEMC's regular work, thereby ensuring its maintenance through regular usage. Following the trip, and during the installation of the press at JEMC, useful information on operating and maintaining the press was shared.

In the next period, IFES will support a study trip for an ECN staff member, staff of the JEMC and IFES national consultant to visit a ballot printing center in Dubai. The center in Dubai adheres to international ballot production standard, and the trip will serve as a model of excellence and point of reference for the local government election ballot production process in Nepal. The trip is planned for early summer.

Expected performance milestone:

- *Identification of and action on relevant opportunities for professional exchanges for the enhancement of the ECN's electoral management capacities.*

Activity 2.3 – Organizational Capacity Building

IFES will now use uncertainty over timing of local elections to support the general organizational capacity building of the ECN. The ECN's operational training plan, developed with IFES' assistance in the past year, requires that lower level district election office (DEO) staff be provided with at least one training program each year. In August/September 2013 IFES worked with the ECN to conduct one refresher training workshop for trainers (2 days, 26 persons) and five regional workshops for mixed levels of DEO staff (2 days, 156 trainees) on logistics and operational management planning and controls. In mid-2014 IFES intends support a series of interactive two day workshops, one at national and five regional locations for 150 political party representatives and ECN/DEO staff to enhance their electoral knowledge, focusing on: election management principles, voting, counting, community outreach and information management, together with other subject areas that the ECN regards as a priority. In 2014, IFES also intends supporting the ECN to implement another round of training for social studies teachers, to enhance their general electoral knowledge and communication skills and train them on local government electoral issues. IFES will provide technical and logistics support to conduct training to social studies teachers of three to five districts; one district from each development region - eastern, western and far-western regions.

In addition, IFES intends to provide technical and facilitation support to conduct a series of social studies teachers' training at Electoral Education and Information Center (EEIC) at ECN HQ targeting teachers working in three district of the Kathmandu valley. Plans and content for these series of workshops will be developed by IFES' technical advisors with ESP/UNDP, working closely with EEIC staff and the ECN's trained facilitators, broadening their technical knowledge and further developing their training skills.

Following the receipt of observer reports on - and an ECN review of, the 2013 CA election -, IFES will work with the ECN to analyze the recommendations of the reports and devise a strategy for implementing cogent recommendations to improve organizational performance for future elections. A first priority will be to identify those recommendations that are relevant and feasible to implement prior to the local government elections. IFES expects that there is likely to be a rotation of senior public service staff from the ECN after the CA election (and therefore an erosion of institutional memory). IFES will closely monitor staff turnover at the ECN and be ready to support with training for new staff in the basics of electoral processes and ECN systems issues, if the need arises.

With IFES technical support, the ECN has started to implement a Training Information Management System (TIMS) to maintain records of all training and capacity building programs implemented by the Commission, including the type and level of training, trainers and participants. This will provide an up-to-date record of their training and capacity building programs, for both the ECN and its staff, and for supporting stakeholders. It is envisioned that the reports from the TIMS database will also help plan future training programs for the Commission. IFES will assist with entry of training information including the profiles of over 200,000 trainers and trainees. The TIMS will also be operated at the district level. In order to institutionalise the TMIS system, DEO staff, particularly computer operators, must also be trained, and IFES will provide technical, logistics and venue support to the Commission.

During an election, the ECN use/recruit officials from various government and semi-government organizations to conduct polling and counting activities. Similarly, government and security agencies are responsible to provide security during elections. Therefore, it is necessary to enhance, on a regular basis, the capacity of personnel and officials working in government, quasi-government and security organizations. Mainstreaming electoral curriculum in their regular training programs organized by their various specialist training institutes represents a good strategy to enhance the electoral knowledge and management capacity of the personnel working in the respective agencies. In this context, IFES will initiate and provide technical support to the Commission to develop relevant electoral training curriculum to be mainstreamed in the training institutes such as Nepal Administrative Staff College, Local Development Training Center, National Police Academy, Nepalese Military Academy, and Academy of Nepal Armed Police Force.

Expected performance milestones:

- *Enhanced management and outreach skills of DEO staff.*
- *Observer reports analyzed and priority recommendations implemented in time for local government elections.*
- *Training Information Management System (TIMS) established and operational.*
- *Electoral knowledge of Government and security agency personnel enhanced.*

Activity 2.4 - Inclusion of Women in Election Management and Administration

During the past year there has been marginal improvement in the gender balance in ECN offices, but it is still very heavily weighted towards male staff in management positions. The ECN anticipates putting into operation its new gender policy early in 2014. IFES will work with UNDP ESP to ensure that a strong gender unit will be established within the ECN, and that both a gender strategy and gender action plan will be developed and implemented by the ECN, with emphasis on gender mainstreaming and more equal gender balance within the ECN. IFES has global experience developing gender units within election commissions, and will draw on this experience in forming its advice. Gender inclusion will be clear and unequivocal in training and educational materials produced by the ECN with IFES assistance, and will continue to be insisted upon for ECN training and education programs supported by IFES. IFES will advise and support the Commission to adopt a sexual harassment policy.

Related to trainings, IFES will work through the cascaded training program for polling officials to try to ensure that at least the same level of participation by women as officials (26%) achieved during the initial voter registration enumeration process is achieved amongst polling officials (22%). Post CA election, and in conjunction with BRIDGE partners UNDP ESP and International IDEA, IFES will also provide technical and facilitation support for the three planned regional Gender and Elections BRIDGE workshops.

IFES will encourage and support the Commission to initiate a Leadership Development for Women Electoral Managers capacity building program. The aim will be to provide a group of learning opportunities to build the leadership and election management capabilities of the participants. This will be addressed through a series of workshops, peer learning, trainings and

extended experience opportunities. To begin this initiative, IFES will support the organization of a peer learning and training group on leadership for the women staff of the commission during the period of this work plan. IFES will draw from its global experience in this women's leadership training, including developed curriculum and existing resources.

Expected performance milestones:

- *Established Gender Unit in the ECN.*
- *The ECN commences implementation of its gender strategy.*
- *Strengthened role of women in electoral management and leadership.*

Objective C: Expand and Improve Delivery of Voter Education

With CA elections now completed and discussion of local government elections tentatively under way, the bulk of IFES support for voter education will be focused on specific electoral activities and relevant materials. IFES will also support the ECN's and CSO sub-awardees' longer term campaigns to inform people about electoral processes and motivate them to participate. It is possible that the ECN may change its priorities for IFES' voter education support over the rest of this year from those agreed upon in the original development of this work plan. The ECN currently has no detailed post CA election plans in place for 2014/15. IFES will therefore be ready to respond flexibly to this uncertain environment to ensure the most effective delivery of an overall voter education program between the ECN and its development partners, encompassing support to the continuous voter registration program and update of the voter register, possible local government elections (or a referendum) with a view to motivating electoral participation of all citizens in electoral processes, including marginalized communities.

Activity 1 - Capacity Building Support to the ECN on the Design, Implementation and Evaluation of Voter Education Campaigns

With local government elections anticipated to be held (at an as yet undetermined time) in 2014/15, the focus of IFES capacity building support will be the planning, design and development of a range of information and motivational campaigns relevant to the immediate circumstances. The ECN will be supported in the design and development of products for marginalized target groups for its continuous voter registration and update of the voter register, and in its more general education campaigns on electoral participation.

IFES will support the ECN's Electoral Education and Information (EEIC) in its continuing efforts to improve the capacity of staff, by mentoring them in the development of educational programs and materials, and by supporting EEIC's continuing efforts to engage stakeholders at national and local level such as media, political parties, civil society organizations and government officials. IFES will work with the EEIC in developing programs and materials for its stakeholder interaction programs, such as for media. As part of its monitoring and evaluation activities, IFES has completed two stakeholder surveys (a third is currently in progress) of a series of seven surveys on marginalized communities, women and youth (see Monitoring and Evaluation below). To assist the ECN in targeting its voter education programs, IFES will

continue to provide data and analysis from these surveys that assesses the impact of the ECN's activities to date and assists it to identify priority electoral education and service areas.

In addition, IFES will encourage and support financially, and through research assistance, the ECN to undertake a study of the pattern of invalid votes at the CA election to identify types of invalidity, and thereby better inform the ECN's messaging to reduce invalid votes in future elections. This activity will be key to supporting the ECN to achieve one of the major objectives of its voter education program. IFES will also assist the EEIC to finalize the electoral education training manuals, and for the development of an electoral education kit for its educators, in small numbers at first, and depending upon its usefulness, advise on and support its wider implementation.

IFES will work with the ECN to develop its capacity to use unique branding and user friendly language appropriate for specific target groups, particularly using high profile Nepali artists in public service announcements (PSAs) and public events such as street theatre and concert tours to deliver its messages. The ECN has made some progress in this regard with its audio visual materials, but more support is needed to develop its capacities, particularly in relation to print materials and targeting of the youth audience. IFES will also continue to cooperate with the ECN in the production of disability friendly materials, such as print materials in braille and signing for community events, to be produced in coordination with IFES CSO sub-awardee National Federation of Disabled, Nepal (NFDN).

The new ECN website went live in Nepali just before the 2013 CA election, following substantial IFES input in organizing content development workshops and convincing the ECN that an updated, operational website was a priority. IFES will continue to support the ECN in the finalization of materials, including English/Nepali and Nepali/English translations, and remaining development work to make online information access to ECN materials and inter-office communication for ECN more reliable. Once fully operational, the new website will play an integral part in promoting the ECN and its work to the general public and key stakeholders and in promoting internal communication between the 76 ECN offices through an intranet facility: this facility is expected to be particularly effective due to the file transfer system, usage of the ECN's official email and a training management information system (TIMS) integrated into the website's intranet service. IFES has extended the contract of the website development contractor to March 2014, by which time it is expected that any revisions to the website in Nepali would be completed, the English version of the website will be fully operational, and ECN staff will receive all necessary mentoring, training and maintenance support. IFES will continue to provide technical advice for the regular maintenance and update of the website and intranet.

IFES will provide for a further training cascade to expand the pool of social science teachers trained as electoral educators, providing technical and facilitation support for a series of training events at the EEIC, and funding pilot training events in at least three districts of the eastern, western and far western development regions of Nepal. Similarly, IFES will also support the development of materials and implementation of a cascade of refresher training programs for electoral educators in preparations for anticipated local government election.

Working closely with the ECN, IFES supported the design and content of a wide range of voter education materials and events for the CA election, targeted at both a general audience and more specifically at women, people with disabilities and disadvantaged groups. IFES expects that the ECN will again request similar educational support materials for any local government elections, a possible referendum and the continuous voter registration program. However the ECN has not yet indicated exactly what support it will require. Similarly, the ECN is also expected to require support in the design and implementation of the 'voter registration week', which is a part of the 11-point declaration made by the ECN on completion of its post-CA election central review conducted in January with IFES support. This national registration drive will require the ECN to implement an effective publicity campaign, which IFES aims to contribute to, in addition to technical assistance for the implementation of the program all over the country within a single week, in view of the ECN's previous practice to implement voter registration drives in waves over a period of about a month across the country.

IFES will continue to work with the ECN to provide outreach support and enhance strategic relationships with key stakeholders such as NGOs, political parties, donors, the media, relevant ministries and private businesses, with a view to promoting and ensuring consistency of voter education messages, mobilizing support and coordinating voter education related activities.

Expected performance milestones:

- *Further development of active district-based network of electoral educators.*
- *Enhanced capacity of ECN staff to target messages to specific audiences.*
- *Stakeholders informed of critical aspects of the electoral process.*
- *New ECN website operational with regularly updated content in English and Nepali.*

Activity 2 - Material and Broadcasting Support for Voter Education Campaigns

IFES-supported voter education materials for the post-CA election period will continue to focus on improving the informed participation of women, disaffected urban youth and marginalized groups, with the ECN using its resources to cover more general messaging. The content and messaging style of these IFES-supported materials will continue to be built largely on the surveys of marginalized populations being done by IFES' CSO sub-awardees. IFES research has indicated that motivating urban youth to participate electorally is a challenge. Continuing the success of the first rap PSA in Nepal prior to the CA election and a subsequent PSA for the CA election, IFES will work with its CSO sub-awardee Youth Initiative to develop for the ECN a series of radio PSAs of similar style, to motivate urban youth to participate in the voter registration by applying for their citizenship certificates, and in the potential local government elections or a referendum. IFES will coordinate the broadcast of these PSAs on selected national radio networks, in youth-focused slots. Supporting these radio PSAs will be a single TV PSA, also with an urban youth focus. Drawing on the use of popular artists in the implementation of the pre-CA concert tour, IFES will ensure the use of similar, youth-focused, popular artists in the radio and TV PSAs. In addition, IFES will continue its support in encouraging the informed participation of eligible voters, including women, persons with disabilities and marginalized communities in voter registration and elections through production of radio and TV PSAs and broadcasting through both national and regional media stations.

IFES will also assist in producing a revised brochure on continuous voter registration, with focus on motivation to get citizenship certificates, and on continuous update of the voter roll. A guide to applying for citizenship certificates and enrolling to vote is also planned to be produced. IFES will work with its partner disabled peoples organizations to develop and produce a series of disability friendly information materials, in media such as braille and large format print, for the continuous voter registration. These types of materials will also be developed for any local government election, in addition to materials explaining the local electoral framework, and to motivate participation of specific marginalized communities.

IFES will also assist in production of public information videos for any local government elections or referendum, as well as complementing the ECN and other partner efforts to provide street theatre performances covering the bulk of VDCs, including possible support to the development of the script. Performance schedules will be devised between the partners to avoid overlap.

As part of a continuing electoral awareness program, IFES will work with the ECN in the design and production of 2014/2015 calendars promoting electoral education themes. For the EEIC, IFES will support logistically and design/content-wise, within available funding, the production of educational aids for local community electoral educators, including the relatively inexpensive cloth bags printed with voter education messages that have proved very successful in the past, and pamphlets advising people with disabilities of their electoral rights. The youth focused graphic handbook on electoral participation (around 25,000 copies), and the electoral pocket reference book (around 50,000 copies), that were postponed from production in year three, will now be developed and produced in coordination with the ECN in year four. Similarly, educational aids targeting increased general electoral participation by marginalized groups will be developed and produced in conjunction with the ECN. IFES will continue to work closely with NDI, TAF and their local partners, IFES' CSO sub-awardees, and other community service providers to identify and exploit additional means to ensure that key electoral education materials and messages can be disseminated through their program activities.

Expected performance milestones:

- *Increased voter awareness of voter registration drives, including the planned 'voter registration week' and local government election, particularly amongst targeted marginalized groups.*
- *Dissemination of voter and electoral education materials through print and broadcast media.*

Activity 3 – Sub-grants to selected NGOs to Develop and Deliver Voter Education Efforts

Since August 2011, IFES has allocated sub-grants to five CSOs – Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO) Dalit NGO Federation (DNF), Nepal National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA), Janaki Women Awareness Society (JWAS) and Youth Initiative (YI), working with local ECN offices and communities to inform and motivate marginalized populations (Dalits, freed Kamaiya, people with disabilities, youth and women) across 30 districts. For the second half of year four of this program the initial focus will be on voter education for voter registration and participation of marginalized communities in the anticipated

local government elections, as well as promotion of political and electoral rights of persons with disabilities and support to marginalized communities to obtain citizenship certificates required for voter registration.

In this period, IFES will add a two months' no-cost extension with the existing partner CSOs for February – March 2014, to enable the CSOs to complete their planned post-election review meetings with their respective communities and to perform a post-election survey which will develop a plan for the future CSO-led activities. After this, IFES then intends to introduce a longer term open contract with the five CSOs for a period of fifteen months i.e. April 2014 – June 2015. This longer term contract will be designed in a flexible manner to accommodate the frequently changing requirements of the ECN's voter registration program, voter education campaigns and the potential local elections. Delays in the local election dates and election preparations will result in adjustment of CSOs' activities timing in order to provide the most effective motivational and information support in marginalized communities for the revised timetable of election events.

Built into the next CSO contract from April 2014 will be resources for continued capacity building of the CSO partners, which will emphasize strategies and techniques to ensure sustainability within the organization of learned, technical skillsets and management skills.⁵

Activity 3.1 - Voter education for voter registration and participation in local government elections

The sub-awardee CSOs' activities will be implemented in close coordination with the ECN at the VDC and ward levels to ensure compatibility and complementarity. To prepare the staff of these CSOs for the intensive voter education activities for the local government elections, IFES will conduct a BRIDGE workshop on principles and methods of voter education in April 2014 for IFES sub-awardee CSOs. Similarly, once the framework for and timing of local government elections is established, IFES will conduct CSO trainings at the central and regional level on the local government election framework.

IFES, along with its sub-awardee CSOs, will continue to work at the community and household levels, mobilizing local level educators through Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs), Women's Groups, Freed Kamaiya Groups, Dalit Activist Groups and Youth Clubs. In this period, the CSOs will work with District and VDC level stakeholders, including DEO, Chief District Officer (CDO), observer organizations, CSOs, etc. to establish and mobilize election networks that promote electoral activities at both levels.

The mix of activities will be adjusted for each target group, using local educators and local languages so as to provide the most effective communications. Exact planning for other post CA election activities by IFES' CSO sub-awardees will largely depend on the timing and nature of ECN activities in 2014, the timing of any local government elections, and further discussions with DEOs. Through community level de-briefing sessions with project beneficiaries regarding their participation and engagement in the CA elections, CSO sub-awardees have planned

⁵ Sustainability of CSO capacity building is a specific recommendation of the USAID mid-term evaluation.

reaching approximately 21,800 women, Dalits, freed Kamaiyas and youth in these sessions. Information from these de-briefings will be compiled and shared with election stakeholders and will be used to inform the CSOs' future programs.

The CSOs will continue to support post-CA election activities such as on continuous voter registration process, planning and implementation, and overall electoral and civic education program for anticipated local government elections. To reach, motivate and educate the marginalized communities, the following face-to-face and community-based events are planned:

ACTIVITY	NUMBER	EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES
Formation and mobilization of District Election Networks	16	640
Formation and mobilization of Village Election Networks	80	3600
Household, school and workplace visits	45,000	135,000
Community based interactions	1,800	43,500
Mobilization of local self-help groups	300	14,540
Logistic support for continuous voter registration		30,000

As for the pre-local government election program, these activities will be supported by easily comprehensible educational and awareness raising materials whose messages will be consistent with those of the ECN, and designed for the specific target marginalized audience. Print products are expected to include:

- Flip charts on electoral education and local government elections – 500 copies
- Posters on electoral education and local government elections– 80,000 copies
- Handbills and leaflets on electoral education and local government elections – 250,000 copies

Radio programming will also provide support in more urban areas and to youth. This will focus on radio PSAs, with six motivational radio PSAs to be developed targeting youth, women, Dalits and freed Kamaiyas and broadcasting around 8,400 spots using a mix of national, regional and district level FM stations. The Facebook page developed for the CA election will be redesigned with information and applications focusing on overall electoral participation of youth, information on continuous voter registration and on local government elections. Approximately 70,000 youth are expected to visit and benefit from the redesigned Facebook page.

IFES has also coordinated with the PACT Sajedhari program in six districts in the Mid and Far West regions which overlap with IFES CSO sub-awardee working regions, starting at the end of 2012. Coordination included on citizenship certificates, linked to registering on the voter roll, and was timed during aired radio PSAs (and focused on government mobile camps at the VDC level). Further collaborations will work on raising awareness on citizenship certificate issues among marginalized communities to compliment efforts. IFES will also collaborate with Equal Access around radio programming.

IFES will promote active electoral participation by ensuring that members of marginalized communities know if they are registered on the new voters roll with photograph; that they are motivated and informed about casting their vote; and that they have some confidence to act as watchdogs of the elected representatives in order to make them accountable towards their constituencies. Appropriate messaging for these objectives will be established by research and pre testing.

The survey program for CSO sub-awardees will continue during the second half of year four, with overall sample sizes within their targeted marginalized communities of around 3,000. The first survey in early 2014 will collect information on the knowledge, participation and impact of voter education activities conducted by CSOs for the CA Election. In this period, five training sessions for CSO survey implementers will be conducted, for around 120 data collectors and supporting CSO office staff. Data collection, compilation and analysis of the survey will be conducted in the months of February-March 2014. Data from this survey will be analyzed and used as a basis for CSOs’ post-CA election voter education programs. Further surveys are planned for June-July 2014, to evaluate voter education performance and inform community participation, voter registration, citizenship certificate issue, future local government elections, local representation and other likely CSO-based education campaigns in 2014 and beyond.

Activity 3.2 - Support marginalized communities to obtain citizenship certificate for voter registration

Lack of a citizenship certificate is a widespread barrier to increasing the penetration of voter registration. Marginalized populations such as women, Dalits, freed Kamaiyas, and people with disabilities are groups that have had more limited access to obtain citizenship certificates and thus register to vote. Following the CA election, IFES will now work with the five CSO sub-awardees to further improve motivation, information and accessibility to obtain citizenship certificates and secure voter registration amongst their targeted marginalized populations. Sub-awardees will work in coordination with the relevant District Administration Offices and District Election Offices, and other USAID Nepal implementing partners, such as NDI, PACT, and The Asia Foundation. Timing of the activities will be dependent on the ECN’s voter registration activities, but will target an increase in voter registration amongst marginalized communities before the anticipated local government elections. Through this program IFES is targeting making citizenship certificates available to significant numbers of additional people from marginalized communities.

The CSO sub-awardees will focus on local community and household-based motivational activities amongst marginalized populations, and providing services to these communities so they can better access citizenship certificate issue and voter registration.

ACTIVITY	NUMBER	EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES
Household school and workplace visits	60,000	180,000
Community based interactions	1,500	31,500
Interaction/Lobbying with DAOs and VDCs	330	3,600

Local self-help groups mobilization	300	7,500
Help desks at DAO/DEO and at Mobile Camps	104	20,800
Logistics support (transport, citizenship certificate photographs) for the most needy groups for obtaining citizenship certificates		12,000

These activities will be supported by easily comprehensible educational and awareness raising materials on why and how to obtain a citizenship certificate including on compilation of required documents, and on the voter registration process. These will be designed for the specific target marginalized population audiences by the CSOs, using their local knowledge and with IFES support. Products are expected to include:

- Flip charts on voter registration and citizenship certificate process – 600 copies
- Posters on voter registration and citizenship certificate process (5 different versions) – 60,000 copies
- Handbills and leaflets on voter registration and citizenship certificate process (5 different versions)– 250,000 copies
- Citizenship Certificate Guidebook for community workers and self-help groups – 2,000 + copies
- Five Radio PSAs on voter registration and citizenship certificate process, targeting different marginalized groups – 6,240 spots⁶

IFES estimates, through analysis of target community populations, and also through information on citizen certificates gathered during voter registration campaigns that by the end of project August 20, approximately 32,000 persons will get citizenship certificates; through August 2014 (end of the workplan period) approximately 11,000 beneficiaries will get citizenship certificates.

For these new activities to enhance citizenship certificate take up rates and voter registration amongst marginalized communities, DNF, JWAS, NNDSWO, NNSWA and YI will work in up to 30 districts, mainly in the Mid and Far Western Regions of Nepal. Within each district the CSOs will select VDCs in which to work, based on voter registration data, estimated citizenship certificate shortfalls and accessibility criteria.

Activity 3.3 - Promotion of political and electoral rights of person with disabilities

During this work plan period, IFES will continue its work with NFDN to promote participation of people with disabilities (PWD), relating to local government election participation and enhancing participation in decision-making in local communities. This initiative will focus on the overall civic empowerment of people with disabilities through community based awareness raising, capacity building of self-help groups of people with disabilities, creation of informal networks of people with disabilities and other community-based groups, inclusion of people with

⁶ As per the USAID mid-term evaluation, understanding that radio is an effective medium for program, IFES is seeking to integrate radio components into new activities, and to find opportunities for expansion of current radio interventions.

disabilities in existing local governance groups, information dissemination on rights and provisions of people with disabilities, and (during the local government election period) conducting disability access election monitoring.

At the national level, the focus of NFDN will be on formation and enforcement of disability-inclusive electoral policies focusing on the electoral legal framework, political participation and governance. Three national level advocacy workshops will be conducted with participants from institutions including the ECN, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. NFDN will meet with the ECN on a regular basis to promote disability-inclusive electoral policies and practices. IFES will support NFDN to analyze existing policies and make presentations to the ECN and other relevant government bodies to improve election access for people with disabilities.

NFDN will conduct two one-day workshops at the national level for around 40 ECN staff on understanding disability rights. A two-day workshop based on the BRIDGE Access module will be conducted by IFES for NFDN and their implementing Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) for at least 20 participants (timing will coincide with release of updated Disability BRIDGE module). During this work plan period IFES will conduct an organizational assessment of NFDN (with potential external university partnership) and on the basis of the assessment results, two technical training workshops will be organized for at least 40 NFDN staff to further strengthen NFDN’s capacity to execute planned project activities. IFES will also provide regular monitoring and support to NFDN, both at national and community levels, through regular field visits by IFES staff. IFES will provide continuous support to NFDN on training design, facilitation, report writing, and coordination with the ECN.

One District Advocacy Forum (DAF) will be mobilized in each of six target districts – three in the Mid-West region and three in the Far West – for a total of 6 DAFs. A total of 120 Community Advocacy Forums (CAF) mobilized in 20 VDCs with a high population of people with disabilities, in each of the six target districts. The CAFs will be inclusive of existing local user groups and other groups such as women’s groups and Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP)-formed Ward Citizen Forums. Membership will comprise at least 50% people with disabilities. Similarly, the DAFs will be comprised of district level stakeholders including organizations working in human rights, disability, women’s issues, electoral management (district election office), the District /Development Committee, and the Women’s and Children Development Office.

Summary of IFES/NFDN Activities

	NUMBER	EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES
12		
National level advocacy workshops	3	TBD
Disability Rights workshop with the ECN	2	40
Capacity building workshop for NFDN and implementing DPO partners (conducted by IFES)	1	20
Technical capacity building training workshop for NFDN staff (conducted by IFES)	2	40

Training to DPOs on organizational management and electoral participation of people with disabilities	4	80
Mobilization of CAF and DAF	126	3,120
Training to CAF and DAF	126	3,120
Advocacy campaigns for rights of persons with disabilities	256	6300
Street drama performances	50	10,000
Orientation to local stakeholders (community groups, leaders, journalists, etc.)	156	3,120
Awareness raising events at community level	672	16,800
Lobbying with DEO, DAO, LDO, VDC etc.	36	720

These activities will be supported by easily comprehensible educational and awareness raising materials, designed for audiences with disabilities by the DPOs, using their local knowledge and with IFES support. NFDN will develop and use presentational tools appropriate to the participation of people with disabilities, such as:

- Flip charts: 250 copies
- Posters: 18,000 copies
- Handbills and leaflets: 120,000 copies

Furthermore, NFDN will also develop and use disability-friendly materials such as Braille materials, CDs, large format printed information materials and print materials in contrast colors.

From Nov 2013 through January 2014, NFDN, with IFES technical and logistical support, completed a disability access monitoring program for the CA election, in coordination with domestic observer organizations at selected locations covering all five regions and all three ecological zones, using a team of 125 observers with a disability. NFDN will compile a disability access report based on its observations and share it with relevant stakeholders in February 2014. The report will inform consultations with the ECN. Report findings will also inform possible development of a working group with the ECN and DPOs to plan implementation of report recommendations. The working group, if formed, would lead to more sustainable relationships between the ECN and DPOs.

For these voter education activities the six CSO sub-awardees will work in 30 districts, in approximately 1500 VDCs, mainly in the Mid and Far Western Regions of Nepal. Within each district approximately 50% of VDCs will be covered. These will be selected, following research by the relevant CSOs, from those VDCs with the highest numbers of members of their relevant marginalized communities.

Expected performance milestones:

- *IFES' CSO sub-awardees enhance electoral education for marginalized/less likely to participate groups in the pre, during and post-election phases for the local government elections.*

- *The cooperative relationship between CSOs and the ECN is enhanced. CSOs' survey research skills are enhanced and their survey results are used by the ECN and electoral stakeholders.*
- *Increase in marginalized populations motivated and able to obtain citizen certificates and register to vote as a result of IFES' CSO sub-awardees' activities.*
- *Increased participation and leadership by people with disabilities in local community/civic life. Electoral processes are more disability inclusive.*
- *Improved management, financial management/accountability and reporting by all six CSO sub-awardees.*

Objective D: Monitor, Analyze and Report on the Electoral Process

As for the past three years, IFES will continue to provide regular verbal and written reports and analysis of the evolving administrative and political situation. This service will provide translations of key electoral, legal, political and operational documents to stakeholders, assessing these against international standards and analyzing their impact on electoral processes. This analysis and reporting will be provided to USAID and the US Embassy in Nepal, the ECN, donors, other international and domestic stakeholders, and will promote understanding of current and potential electoral issues. IFES will also continue to provide analysis to support inter-organizational groups such as the Elections Working Group and relevant Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) committees, and will continue to work with observer organizations and coordination committees to provide them with relevant legal and policy documents and background analysis and briefings. IFES will continue to forward to USAID its bi-monthly internal reporting on project activities and the electoral/political environment.

IFES will also continue to review newspaper reports on the electoral and political process, and compile daily email digests of these newspaper reports for circulation to interested stakeholders.

Expected performance milestones:

- *Better informed decision making by local and international stakeholders based on IFES' political and electoral analysis and reporting.*
- *Local and international stakeholders fully informed about all CA election related activities.*

Objective E: Unforeseen Windows of Opportunity

Windows of Opportunity funds have been used during this fourth year of the program to complete the process of refurbishing the ballot printing presses purchased by IFES for the ECN for the 2008 CA election. USAID will be consulted concerning any further need for contingency funds.

Expected performance milestone:

- *Opportunities which may arise as a result of unforeseen developments on the political/election management interface, or with regard to technical requirements of the*

ECN, or unanticipated needs of CSO sub-awardees, will be pursued to gain full advantage for the relevant program objective and IFES partner organization.

Monitoring and Evaluation

IFES' Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) has now been reviewed and amended to reflect the additional funding received for years four and five of the program, and disaggregated data will continue to be collected for the indicators identified in the PMP. Particular attention will be paid to capturing disaggregated data of all marginalized groups. In addition, IFES will work to mainstream marginalized groups across all activities, not only those specifically targeting them.⁷ The mid project review of IFES' activities, and analysis of data collected at the end of year three for a follow-up survey of stakeholder perceptions of the ECN's activities have now been completed. Following the success of the initial round of surveys on voter registration, conducted by IFES' CSO partners in their targeted marginalized populations, a second round to identify gaps in election knowledge was finalized early in year four, and this information informed the CSOs' education campaigns for the CA election. A further two rounds of surveys are planned to commence in year four: tentatively one will be to assess the implementation/impact of voter education for the election and the other to gather information on local representation issues. Six-monthly workshops for IFES CSO sub-awardees will be held to assess progress against their targets and to plan future activities. IFES staff will also pay regular field visits to all CSO activities to maintain quality control and monitor progress.

IFES M&E staff will continue to support CSO sub-awardees to maintain and improve the integration of M&E into all their electoral support activities. As it has over the last three years of the program, IFES will support the ECN to determine the framework of the August/September 2014 annual review.

Expected performance milestone: Completion of at least two surveys by IFES CSO partners of their target marginalized populations, leading to better focusing of their programming. Increased the ECN's capacity for M&E.

IV. TRAVEL PLAN

The following travel plan is tentative, dependent on the ECN's agreement to and final identification of requirements for international expert support. Given these uncertainties, IFES anticipates the following international travel to take place in the remaining months of the fourth year of the project:

⁷ Increased disaggregation of data of marginalized groups participation, and mainstreaming of participation across activities reflects recommendations put forth in the USAID mid-term evaluation.

Personnel/Consultant	No of Trips	Activities and Tasks
IFES Acting Country Director (Vic Butler)	1	Completion of assignment – return to home base
IFES Country Director (Elizabeth Cote)	1	Travel to Nepal on assumption of duties
Regional Director	1	Programmatic monitoring and assistance
Program Officer/Coordinator	1	Programmatic and management support
BRIDGE facilitators	3	To provide expert facilitation for BRIDGE trainings.
Ballot Paper Print Consultant	1	Support ECN ballot production for local elections
Election advisor	3	To assist the ECN in implementing inclusiveness provisions in proportional representation elections and revise local government elections framework
Regional workshop attendance (disability inclusion)	1	To facilitate regional knowledge exchange of successful inclusion strategies in both Nepal and in Asia
Disability Inclusion Specialist	1	To work with disabled persons organizations (DPOs) and the ECN on increasing political participation of people with disabilities

V. ACTIVITY TIMELINE

A timeline in excel format is attached. The timeline has been revised in accordance with the activities planned with the ECN and IFES CSO sub-awardees, and will be further revised with regard to local government elections, if these elections are in fact scheduled within the current politically agreed period - within six months of the CA election - and to reflect any preparatory work for a possible referendum.

CEPPS/NDI 2013-2014 Workplan

August 3, 2013 – August 2, 2014

I. Program Objectives

NDI, together with its sub grantees The Asia Foundation (TAF) and Internews Network, will conduct activities over the five-year program to meet the following objectives in Nepal:

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

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

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

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

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

II. Planned Activities

Completed Activities (August 3, 2013 – January 31, 2014)

Sub-Objective	Activity	Qualitative and/or quantitative Achievement
1.A.1: Effective Party Organizing and Outreach	Future Leadership Academy (FLA) Training for Young Leaders	In September 2013, NDI conducted a campaign school for 48 FLA graduates, including 23 women, from 10 political parties representing 29 districts. This workshop focused on imparting technical skills to FLA graduates to prepare them to run for party positions in the CA elections. Four campaign experts from the United States and Canada trained the youth leaders. Out of the 48 participants, 13 were nominated by their parties (either through First Past The Post (FPTP) or Proportional Representation (PR) in the November 2013 CA elections).
	Supporting Women’s Advocacy for 33 Percent Representation in the Constituent Assembly	Under the Windows of Opportunity, NDI supported four nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) focused on women to advocate political parties and the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) about the importance of maintaining at least the 33 percent quota of women in the new CA. The aim of the campaign was to restore the women’s quota from 2008. NDI supported a network of NGOs, including Sancharika Samuha (Women Journalist Association), the Media Advocacy Group

Sub-Objective	Activity	Qualitative and/or quantitative Achievement
		<p>(MAG), Saathi and Didi Bahini, to advocate for political party leaders to return to the 33 percent quota. Activities included the development and distribution of posters and pins; meetings with ECN and senior party leaders; radio, newspapers and TV advertisements; and mobilization of women political leaders and other women's NGOs. Women won 30 percent of the 575 contested CA seats in the November 2013 election.</p> <p><i>Result: Based on the campaign, more focus was given to women's representation. The HLPC restored the number of CA members to 601 and the ECN promised to secure 33 percent representation. Based on the final election results, women earned 30 percent representation. This was an achievement of the campaign, since women were only expected to receive 25 percent women representation in the CA-LP.</i></p>
	Training of Political Party Poll Watchers	<p>In preparation for the November 19 CA elections and to assist political parties to better understand the concept of party poll watchers, NDI conducted a nationwide series of workshops to train master party agents on the electoral system and their rights and responsibilities as party agents. The trainings took place from September 28 to October 2, 2013. The Institute helped train 1,628 party activists from nine political parties, including 254 women. The workshop detailed voting and counting procedures and how party agents should react to irregularities. ECN officials reinforced this exercise by leading a mock poll. NDI also prepared an observer's checklist and critical incident forms to be used by the polling agents to document their observations on election day. In addition to the trainings, NDI distributed ten thousand copies of the polling manual and more than 30,000 copies of the checklist to train party agents and their respective parties.</p> <p>After these trainings, three of NDI's party partners (Nepali Congress, Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist and Rastriya Prajatantra Party) organized cascade trainings using their own resources in eight districts and trained a total of 950 polling agents from across the country.</p> <p><i>Results: NDI trained 1,628 party trainers and parties trained an additional 950 party agents using NDI trained party agents. Based on DEW-Nepal's election day observation, 98 percent of polling stations had party agents present on election day.</i></p>
1.A.2: Cross-Party Consensus Building	Inter-Party Cooperation and Consensus and Coalition-Building Consultations	<p>From February 5 to 8, 2014, NDI organized a series of consultative meetings between the Hon. Kjell Magne Bondevik, the former Norwegian prime minister and founder of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights; Mr. Bjarte Tora, special advisor on inter-party cooperation at the Oslo Center; and senior political party leaders.</p> <p>NDI invited the former Norwegian prime minister based on his experiences with inter-party cooperation and management of coalition governments. During the visit, Bondevik met with senior leaders from NC and Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist to discuss the formation of a coalition government. The leaders also discussed the necessary steps to create intra-party unity. In the meeting with the NC president, Bondevik shared his experiences on how to build confidence among coalition partners as a tool to sustain and strengthen the coalition.</p>

Sub-Objective	Activity	Qualitative and/or quantitative Achievement
		<p>In addition, NDI organized meetings with the NC negotiation team and the CPN-UML parliamentary party leader to discuss the coalition negotiations. In the meeting with the UCPN-M party leader, Bondevik focused on constructive opposition work in the parliament and the role the opposition can play in securing a new constitution.</p> <p>During the visit, NDI facilitated an informal discussion with members from the parties that constitute the High Level Political Committee (HLPC) to discuss the role an inter-party consultation mechanism can play in the current political situation. Mr. Bondevik and Mr. Tora also met with the three Madesh-based parties (TMDP, SP and MJF-N), which are planning to merge. All the meetings with the parties raised several important issues that NDI will continue working on; the parties also expressed an interest in continuing work on issues related to coalition-building and inter-party cooperation.</p> <p>Additionally, Mr. Bondevik met with ECN officials to discuss the role political parties could play in finalizing the work on party legislation and how the ECN could facilitate inter-party discussion to ensure that political parties fully understand the legal framework for political parties. The ECN Chief Commissioner appreciated this meeting and expressed a need for further cooperation with NDI on this issue.</p>
1.B: Enhance Political Party Electoral Competitiveness	Candidate Training for Political Party Women Leaders	<p>In September 2013, NDI organized two intensive campaign trainings for political party women in Kathmandu and Kaski. The objective of the training was to train potential candidates from the parties in order to prepare them for running in the November 19 CA elections, either on a first-past-the-post (FPTP) ticket or on the proportional representation (PR) list. The three-day campaign schools included day-long seminars that discussed women's leadership skills, running a campaign, and specific, personal consulting for individual candidates from the same parties.</p> <p>The Institute utilized national experts from the ECN to facilitate on the electoral system and election code of conduct. While a team of four campaign experts, including campaign strategist and women's political participation expert Cathy Allen and Sue Hammell, a sitting member of parliament from British Columbia, engaged in intensive and practical sessions with participants to develop a campaign plan, including how to develop your political campaign message; target and attract youth and women voters; recruit, train and support campaign volunteers; and deal with the media.</p> <p><i>Results: NDI conducted training for 92 women from nine political parties representing 43 districts. Twenty-six women received nominations from their party; four were given tickets under FPTP and 22 were given nomination through the PR list. Of the 22, five were elected from the PR list from Nepali Congress, UCPN-M, MJF-N and SP.</i></p>

Sub-Objective	Activity	Qualitative and/or quantitative Achievement
	Candidate Debates	<p>NDI, in collaboration with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI), organized a regional candidate debate in Biratnagar, Morang district. The regional debate was followed by a national debate in Kathmandu; in total, 18 candidates from nine political parties⁸ participated. British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) presenter Mr. Narayan Shrestha moderated the debates, giving all parties the opportunity to respond in the allotted time frame. Before the election campaign began, NDI coordinated with political parties and election authorities and reviewed election laws to overcome any obstacles for organizing and broadcasting debates on radio and television.</p> <p>The Institute shared its first public opinion research results with political parties to enable them to understand the highlighted issues at the district level. Makalu TV and two FM radio stations broadcast the Biratnagar debate live, while Nepal Television and six satellite TV stations aired the Kathmandu debate. The national debate received coverage from five major newspapers. A total of 374 invited guests attended the two debates, including representatives from the media, business sector, international community and civil society. Out of the 18 debate participants, two candidates were elected under the FPTP system whereas one was selected through the PR system.</p> <p><i>Results: NDI, in cooperation with FNCCI, organized two televised candidate debates where political leaders could present their policy options to citizens before the November 2013 CA election. Based on a post-debate poll among invited guests, more than 50 percent said that the debate changed their opinion on the parties and candidates.</i></p>
2.A.1: Technical Assistance to Domestic Monitoring Partner(s)	DEW-Nepal's Strategic Plan	<p>NDI worked closely with DEW-Nepal in ensuring effective observation coverage during all phases of the election and in the polling station coverage by observers. DEW-Nepal tracked the recruitment and deployment of observers in terms of inclusivity and disaggregated the observers by gender, age group, region, and sector or group affiliation; for example, Dalit, Janjati and Madhesi.</p> <p>NDI tracked public reports issued by DEW-Nepal based on frequency, content and media coverage, and included analyses on attribution on results and impact. Observers provided written and verbal testimonies to record the observation's results and impact.</p> <p><i>Results: DEW-Nepal formed committees in 56 districts and extended branches with representatives in five additional districts; public information materials were distributed; 214 constituency coordinators observed the pre-, during, and post-election phases; DEW-Nepal fielded 5,425 stationed and 477 district level mobile observers; and the electoral process was evaluated.</i></p>
	Strategic Planning on Monitoring Elections	<p>NDI continued assisting DEW-Nepal's central committee to operationalize their monitoring and reporting strategies. DEW-Nepal's inclusion policy guided the observer recruitment process. The inclusion policy required at least one-third representation of women, and</p>

⁸ The participating political parties included: UCPN-M, NC, CPN-UML, MJF-N, MJFN-D, TMDP, RPP, SP, and CPN-ML.

Sub-Objective	Activity	Qualitative and/or quantitative Achievement
		<p>proportional and geographical representation of underserved groups. The deployment of 5,425 stationary polling location observers covered 55 percent of the 9,834 total polling stations in the country. In identifying which areas to deploy observers, DEW-Nepal considered NDI's programming, relationship with parties, and knowledge of the political landscape. DEW-Nepal prioritized constituencies considered to be major strongholds of two to three parties as well as constituencies where tensions were expected to be particularly high.</p> <p>Findings from DEW-Nepal's observation will be included in a comprehensive election observation final report and will encompass topics such as: voter registration, nomination of candidates, the campaign period, voting, counting, proclamation of winners, and handing and adjudication of complaints.</p> <p><i>Results: DEW-Nepal based its observer deployment on policies generated by the central committee. DEW-Nepal developed policies for polling station coverage, inclusion/representation, and financial operations and reporting.</i></p>
	Assistance to the formation and orientation of DEW-Nepal district committees	<p>In early 2013, DEW-Nepal central committee members and NDI staff traveled to various districts to form the DEW-Nepal district committees and conducted an orientation on domestic election observation. By the end of August 2013, 56 district committees were formed, composed of an average of four local NGOs per committee, for a total of 198 NGOs. Each committee is composed of three to five members, including an elected chairperson and a secretary.</p>
	Election Observation Coordination Group (EOCG)	<p>In April 2013, NDI proposed the Election Observation Coordination Group (EOCG), a coordination mechanism among domestic and international election observer groups, donors and international organizations to encourage the different players to complement each other's efforts and improve efficiencies in the deployment of resources. The National Election Observation Committee (NEOC), which has combined funding from both the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) to support the deployment of 10,000 observers nationwide, was in support of the coordination group. By January 2014, the EOCG had held 12 meetings. At NDI's recommendation and with the Institute's support, the group developed a matrix available online where all members of the EOCG are encouraged to update the information pertaining to their own organization's activities such as deployment and coverage of observers and funding. In addition, NDI led the coordination efforts by examining areas where there are monitoring gaps to ensure that different observer groups, such as The Carter Center (TCC) and the Election Working Group (EWG), complement each other's efforts and engage in strategic and effective observation campaigns. Both TCC and EWG are regular attendees at EOCG meetings and receive briefings and meeting minutes.</p> <p>EOCG members expressed its interest to continue the meetings until the observation process is completed, including submission of final observation reports by domestic and international observer groups and holding of by-elections in four constituencies in four districts.</p> <p><i>Results: NDI held monthly coordination meetings through September and bi-weekly onwards until December. Domestic observers,</i></p>

Sub-Objective	Activity	Qualitative and/or quantitative Achievement
		<i>international observers, donors, and groups providing direct or indirect support to the elections or in election observation all attended these meetings.</i>
	Election-Related Materials	<p>NDI shared its election-related materials, manuals and guides with local partners and program stakeholders. These included the <i>Handbook on How Domestic Organizations Monitor Elections: An A to Z Guide</i>, which was translated, printed and distributed. NDI provided copies of the <i>Media Monitoring to Promote Democratic Elections: An NDI Handbook for Citizens Organizations</i> to the ECN commissioners.</p> <p><i>Results: DEW-Nepal and the ECN used materials provided by NDI.</i></p>
3.A.1: Strengthening the Legislative Drafting and Oversight Capacity of Parliament	Women CA Members' Roundtable	<p>Amid the high expectations of the Nepali public after the November 19 CA election, it is important to understand what exactly the CA can do to combat gender-based violence (GBV). What kind of protections can we expect a constitution to provide for women's rights? And what can we expect from the parliament? These are fundamental questions that need to be responded by the upcoming CA-LP. Considering the significance of a broader discussion on GBV issues and in order to provide a platform for key women parliamentarians, leaders and activists to share perspectives on how the new CA and other stakeholders can move forward on priority women's rights and GBV issues, NDI, the National Women's Commission (NWC) and USAID organized a panel discussion on December 9, 2013. The event was organized to mark the 16 Days of Activism against GBV and was anticipated to help increase awareness of the key issues related to women's rights and GBV in the constitution, influence public debate, and build pressure for a gender-sensitive constitution.</p>

Activities Changed or Removed from Workplan

Explanation of Proposed Workplan Changes

For the remaining period of this workplan, NDI has removed some of the programming included in the original year four workplan. For some of the activities, the Institute would not be able to implement them within the six month time frame. Other changes are based on the findings of USAID's midterm evaluation. The main rationale for the changes is to ensure that program activities are timely and relevant. By focusing on a series of consultations versus trainings and workshops, NDI's resources and expertise can be utilized in multiple program activities and can be part of political parties' internal strategies for becoming more representative organizations.

- In regards to the ToT, NDI will work with the parties directly to enhance program sustainability. By working with parties to develop internal training strategies and through the expertise of party members previously trained through the ToT process, NDI will help parties to start using their knowledge for internal capacity building, therefore enhancing the sustainability of the ToT program. This will also serve to support the parties in making these trainings an integrated component of party activities.

- During the remainder of the workplan, NDI will focus on senior-level leaders in its multiparty work and will focus on reform issues regarding party legislation as a major hurdle to multiparty cooperation. Due to the recent changes in the IPA structure, as well as feedback from USAID's midterm evaluation and further assessment from NDI, NDI will no longer work directly with IPA as it had in the past.
- The Institute will continue its programming for the IPWA as explained below, and link IPWA to women CA members, especially with regards to enhancing women's ability to push women's issues and legislation forward.
- NDI removed the community discussion supporting women's representation from the workplan because it was scheduled to take place before the November 19 CA election. Due to the busy pre-election schedule, NDI and DEW-Nepal did not conduct this activity as planned. In the post-election period, DEW-Nepal had limited funding and focused on other programming priorities as listed below.
- DEW-Nepal planned to develop an Election Security Assessment tool for local elections. TAF conducted a similar activity in coordination with the National Women's Committee, so NDI does not plan to develop its own version of this tool.
- NDI merged its plan to support DEW-Nepal with the deployment of observers for the local election with other electoral support given to DEW-Nepal in the election period.
- The Institute planned to hold a separate parliamentary orientation for women and young CA members. This activity will now be covered under the MP orientation and skill-building trainings that will be organized during the remainder of year four. This change ensures that there will be no duplication of efforts between this proposed orientation for women and youth MPs and the overall orientation for all MPs. NDI will continue to work with youth MPs through the NGPG. As recommended in the midterm evaluation, the Institute is in the process of developing a questionnaire to assess the needs of youth and women CA members to better target areas for training and capacity building not covered under the main CA orientation program.
- NDI also had proposed a televised national dialogue featuring CA members and political party leaders. However, the current political climate is focused on power-sharing, government formation, and other pressing issues. The Institute expects this activity to now take place in year five. NDI has met with USAID implementing partner Search for Common Ground (SCFG) to share topics and information that could be integrated into the SCFG program, including the sharing of NDI's public opinion research results. The Institute will continue to communicate with other implementing partners of USAID to utilize and share information and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Based on the findings of USAID's midterm evaluation, and USAID's recommendation in this regard, NDI removed its plan to create a parliamentary internship program.

Table: Activities Changed or Removed from Workplan

Sub-Objective	Changed/Removed Activity	Description
1.A.1: Effective Party Organizing and Outreach	National and Regional Master Training of Trainers' - Phase III	<p>Phase III of the ToT series will build on phases I and II conducted over years two and three of the program. The Institute will organize phase III of the ToT in early 2014 targeting previously NDI-trained master trainers. NDI will hold a national level training for the national master trainers in Kathmandu, followed by trainings for the regional master trainers in the remaining four development regions. These five-day residential trainings will focus on participants from marginalized groups, including historically excluded groups such as women, youth and ethnic groups.</p> <p>After completion of the national and regional phase III ToT, political parties will select the districts in which they will provide replicate trainings. The master trainers, with NDI assistance (see details below), will organize and conduct district-level ToTs. Political parties will be encouraged to send their most active master trainers who have been previously trained by NDI while replacing those less active with more committed individuals. Throughout this process, the Institute will continue to encourage political parties to provide opportunities to women, youth and marginalized groups whether as trainers themselves or as recipients.</p>
	Political Party Master Trainers conduct party trainings for senior party officials and elected members of the CA	<p>The Institute will actively seek opportunities for political party master trainers to conduct trainings for senior party officials and elected CA members within their respective parties. After the national ToT, the Institute will support its political party partners by providing training to their newly elected CA members on issues such as policy development, policy implementation, and the relationship between the party organization and elected representatives. This process will enhance internal communication within each party, and between the party and its parliamentary representatives. It will also provide visibility to the group of master trainers that the Institute has supported throughout the initial three year period of the program.</p>
	Logistical Support for Replicate District Trainings	<p>After the trainings of the master trainers, expected in April 2014, NDI's political party partners will be supported financially by NDI to conduct two replicate trainings to be conducted at the district level using the trained master trainers. To promote the sustainability of the ToT program, NDI will encourage political parties to use their trained party trainers as experts within their respective parties to strengthen internal party training. The replicate trainings will focus on the role of political parties in the electoral cycle, with a specific focus on the role of political parties at the local level, preparing for anticipated local elections, internal communication, policy implementation, and the relationship between the party organization and elected representatives. In addition, issues related to a new electoral system, forms of government and the basic structure of federalism will be included.</p>
	Inter Party Women's Alliance (IPWA)	<p>After the post-election conference, the Institute will support IPWA with the organization of forums where members can meet and discuss possible legislative agendas with elected women CA members. One aspect of such an agenda could be the role of women in the constitution-making process. Based on the conference, IPWA will be able to develop</p>

Sub-Objective	Changed/Removed Activity	Description
		<p>a strategy paper including recommendations for the ECN, political parties, civil society, media, and the international community on how to assist women and prepare them for the next election so that they may increase their representation.</p>
<p>1.A.2: Cross-Party Consensus Building</p>	<p>Inter Party Alliance (IPA)</p>	<p>With the dissolution of the CA in year two of the grant agreement, and the establishment of a technocratic-led interim government, IPA represented one of the few remaining avenues for constructive cross-party dialogue and served as a link between NDI and top party leadership. The IPA was instrumental for the Institute in carrying out its activities. In late 2013, the current members of IPA registered the entity as a nongovernment organization called the Inter Party Society and have allocated seats within the NGO (including the president and treasurer) to members of the previous IPA, therefore blurring the roles of IPA members between their party membership and their active membership in an NGO. As a result, NDI is reassessing its approach to inter party cooperation and cross party consensus-building through IPA. The Institute originally planned a post-election program to call for a restructuring of the IPA to include senior party leaders who could have political and grassroots support within their respective parties, and who could also speak on behalf of their parties on issues of national interest. With the registration of IPA as an NGO called IPS, the Institute is looking at different political networks to continue its support on this level.</p> <p>IPA will function to serve the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a better understanding of cross-party cooperation and consensus; • Discuss and take the lead on bringing party reform-related issues to party leaders and second tiers; • Participate in NDI program activities and consensus-building discussions; • Ensure political parties participate in program activities; and • Assist in planning for several high-level meetings in year four. <p>In addition, there is a need to have a broader discussion on the role of political parties in Nepal. IPA can serve as a forum where this can be discussed, and where different ideas on how to approach such a debate can be developed. NDI will work with IPA for members to hold consultations with their respective parties, develop discussion documents, and serve as co-facilitators for larger meetings between parties.</p> <p>In addition, NDI will encourage political parties to use candidate debates as a platform to address the issues highlighted in these polls. Detailed information is given in the section under public opinion polls and candidate debates. Besides previously determined working areas, the Institute will utilize the expertise of IPA members and their respective party positions to help minimize differences between political parties in the current fluid political situation. The Institute will continue</p>

Sub-Objective	Changed/Removed Activity	Description
		<p>to support IPA in year four of the program and will work on leveraging this forum to ensure it involves both party leadership and second tiers of the party as needed and relevant. After the CA elections in November, NDI plans to conduct a working session with IPA members to evaluate the November 19 election results and discuss lessons learned.</p> <p>In anticipation of local elections, the Institute will work with political parties to implement a pilot program that will hold IPA meetings in the five development regions. These meetings can discuss the role of political parties at the local level, identify common issues in the regions/districts, and address these issues at the national level. In addition, these meetings can help to develop and build trust among party representatives at the regional level. The impact of such activities could be that parties would then be in a position to discuss and agree on modes of cooperation for political parties at the regional level.</p>
<p>2.A.1: Technical Assistance to Domestic Monitoring Partner(s)</p>	<p>Community Discussion on Supporting Women's Representation in All Stages of the Electoral Process with a Focus on Women as Observers</p>	<p>Following the July 22, 2013, event in Kathmandu co-convened by NDI and DEW-Nepal titled "Supporting Women Representation in All Stages of the Electoral Process," some participants suggested that a similar event be held at the district level. DEW-Nepal will pilot similar events in five districts. Each district will be selected from Nepal's five development regions. Because of budgetary constraints, NDI is limited to five districts, but may be able to use windows of opportunity funds to expand the program. Electoral commission officials, district-level party members and DEW-Nepal staff will discuss their strategies for engaging women as polling station officials, candidates, campaigners, agents and observers. These events will be held before the November 19 elections and will run from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, when most rural women will be available. Between 30 and 50 participants will be expected. An open forum will be held after the presentations to discuss the barriers to engaging women in the different election-related events and on ways to address these challenges.</p> <p>Expected Performance Milestone: DEW-Nepal consolidates input from both national and rural discussions to enhance its ability to engage women as observers.</p>
	<p>DEW-Nepal develops an Election Security Assessment Tool for local elections</p>	<p>Women are most affected when the election security environment deteriorates. This discourages them from leaving their homes, sometimes to walk long distances, to cast their vote. They are further discouraged if they have to bring their children away from the safety of their homes. Movement by women candidates, too, can be limited. The opportunities for women to participate in the electoral process as polling station officials and non-partisan domestic observers would also be restricted.</p> <p>NDI will assist DEW-Nepal to develop an assessment tool, including a checklist, to better understand the election security environment in the local elections. The outputs from the assessment will be used to influence the deployment of state resources to improve security conditions. It also will be used to inform other stakeholders of the situation and encourage them to do their share to improve the conditions. The venue for the assessment will be a discussion and/or listening session with representatives of local organizations at the</p>

Sub-Objective	Changed/Removed Activity	Description
		<p>constituency level.</p> <p>NDI will provide input in the formulation of the assessment tool and in field-testing it. NDI will then transfer the tool to DEW-Nepal for the latter to disseminate to other organizations through a training exercise. NDI will pilot the discussion with DEW-Nepal in five constituencies in the Kathmandu Valley, the selection of which will be based on the election security reports from the 2013 polls. DEW-Nepal will then secure funds on their own to disseminate the assessment tool's technology in more constituencies.</p> <p>Expected Performance Milestone: DEW-Nepal convenes the five discussions and publicizes recommendations to state and other security and political actors.</p>
	<p>c) Support to the Deployment of Observers in the Local Elections</p>	<p>After the November elections and within the subgrant period, NDI will provide DEW's leadership committee with an analysis framework that would help the group identify in which constituencies they should deploy observers in future local elections, provided they are able to procure financial support. DEW-Nepal will have had the experience of observing national elections and will gain insight into the process at the regional debriefs and national post-election conference.</p> <p>DEW-Nepal will draw upon the expertise of one of its member organizations, Democracy and Elections Support Institute (DES), whose members have international experience in election administration. DEW-Nepal will utilize NDI's input, the regional debriefs, and the national post-election conference to decide the next steps in planning for the upcoming local elections.</p> <p>Based on NDI's technical assistance to new observer coalitions in different countries, the knowledge base and expertise gained in domestic monitoring is critical for the coalitions to succeed and continue to use their skills in future elections. NDI's technical assistance and support to DEW-Nepal will be measured in terms of the capacity for the coalition to be positioned to observe the upcoming election, become sustainable, get additional funding, and observe the local elections should they take place in 2014.</p> <p>Expected Performance Milestone: DEW-Nepal designs a tool to assess the local electoral contests and their environments and prioritize observer deployment for the local elections.</p>
	<p>e) Parliamentary Training for Women and Young CA Members</p>	<p>For women and youth to be effective parliamentarians, they must clearly understand the functions of the legislature and they must learn the rules of parliament, including all the various procedures and mechanisms for accomplishing goals. They must first learn the internal practices of the parliament to better equip themselves to successfully utilize these rules and to devise effective strategies to change the rules to advance women's interests and goals. Women have proved themselves to be particularly adept at cross-party collaboration; for example, the IPWA successfully continues to function in many districts across Nepal. This commitment to collaboration holds true even in a highly partisan environment, and particularly resonates in post-conflict countries like Nepal. Such collaboration would have a positive impact in</p>

Sub-Objective	Changed/Removed Activity	Description
		<p>parliamentary affairs.</p> <p>After the CA elections, newly elected women – and young CA members, if any win seats – would need assistance in learning to operate effectively in the CA. In NDI’s discussions with the major party leaders, most explained that new members in the previous CA were unprepared for the job.</p> <p>NDI will train a new class of women and youth CA members soon after the election in multiparty sessions. The day and a half training would include approximately 50 women and young people. The training will include the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing yourself as a newly-elected official; • Your job description as a parliamentarian; • Proper protocol of a parliamentarian (best practices/behavior); • CA rules and resources available from the Parliamentary Secretariat; • Keeping constituents informed/building your networks; • Working with and understanding the media, civil society and other interest groups; • Building coalitions to support important decisions and programs; • Introduction to basic constitutional drafting, concepts and terms; • Holding technical and political discussions; • Primer on key issues such as local elections and federal systems; • Creating a team to help you be a better leader; and <p>Tips for a successful political career.</p>
3.A.1: Strengthening the Legislative Drafting and Oversight Capacity of Parliament	National Televised Party Leaders/CA Members Dialogue	<p>NDI will conduct one televised dialogue with CA members and political party leaders in the presence of a live audience and national media. Topics could include empowering municipal/local government, resuming local elections after a 15 year hiatus, or advancing women into a more fair and equitable position in the parties. A neutral, independent moderator, assisted by two reporters and experts, would question the panel participants, and the main television channel, Kantipur, would be invited to air the discussions.</p> <p>This debate would be broadcast live on television and will put pressure on the MPs and their parties to clearly state their position on critical issues that citizens are interested in during the post-election period. Discussion of a topic such as local elections will also pave the way for additional discussion at the CA and party levels.</p> <p>Expected Performance Milestone: Provide an opportunity for citizens to watch a national dialogue between parties and CA members on main issues that affect citizens’ lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Sub-Objective	Changed/Removed Activity	Description
	Parliamentary Internship Program	<p>In years two and three, NDI began discussing the concept of an internship program to provide research and analytical resources to parliamentary committees, enhance parliamentary transparency and access and provide skills to a number of students with the opportunity to gain professional experience within the legislature while assisting the committees in their work. The Institute has reopened discussions with the Parliament Secretariat about this program component post-November 19 elections. Given the Parliament Secretariat's continued interest and request to setup a pilot internship program of no more than five interns, starting with a research/admin intern to be attached to the Secretary General of the Parliament Secretariat himself, the program aims to assist and enhance performance of the Parliament Secretariat, parliamentary committees and/or parliamentary party offices. Interns will be a useful resource for these parliamentary entities and their elected officials to enhance abilities to fulfill their parliamentary mandates, and to make well-informed, educated decisions and recommendations in the course of their work through improved research and information gathering capacity. Interns will assist committee members by conducting research on pertinent and timely issues and bills in debate, attend and report on committee meetings, and draft oral and written questions for elected officials. This effort will also help build the capacity of interns on research and drafting skills in the area of legislative work and enhance greater and meaningful youth engagement in political life and parliamentary activities.</p> <p>As a pilot program, NDI will closely coordinate the placement of an initial five interns; these placements will be based on consultations with parliamentary stakeholders and the students' universities. Interns will be placed for a period of six months or less to coincide with parliamentary legislative sessions and will be drawn from a diverse pool of universities but primarily selected from the faculties of political science, law, economics and management to ensure that they have sufficient academic and research background in relevant areas of expertise and/or interest to parliamentary committees and parliamentary party offices.</p> <p>The Institute will coordinate with the Parliament Secretariat, committee chairs, and/or parliamentary party offices of the major political parties to assess their needs and identify the nature of internships they may require. NDI will develop MOUs with the above-mentioned groups, which will highlight the objectives of the program, roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders, and the expected outcomes. Should the committees and parliamentary party offices become more receptive and interested in having additional interns the Institute will work with relevant universities and faculties to increase the number of interns in the next phase of the program. The Institute has held consultations with various academic institutions and shared the concept of the internship program with them. These institutions have shown interest in the program and are prepared to work in collaboration with NDI.</p> <p>In order to measure the effectiveness of the pilot program, NDI, in consultation with the Parliament Secretariat and associated academic institutions, will establish a program evaluation plan. The evaluation plan will measure the effectiveness of the program in terms of performance of parliamentary committees and/or parliamentary party offices where interns were placed, and in the interns' professional development. The Institute will ensure close oversight of the program by having bi-monthly meetings with parliamentary interns in order to:</p>

Sub-Objective	Changed/Removed Activity	Description
		1) provide relevant legislative research skills that will help them with their assignment; 2) guide them as needed on their tasks; 3) ensure they have enough assignments and oversight from the parliamentary side; 4) make sure they regularly attend and report on their activities; and 5) guarantee that they are given substantial tasks that will help them to learn and advance in their respective areas of academic and research.

Planned Activities (February 1, 2014 – August 2, 2014)

A narrative explanation of planned activities for program year 2013 to 2014 is included below. A timeline for program activity is included as an attachment.

Selection of Political Party Partners

Since the start of the grant in August 2010, NDI has worked with ten political parties.⁹ The selection of party partners is based on the following criteria:

- *Demonstrated commitment to democratic principles and non-violence;*
- *Political viability and base of popular support, as evidenced by election results;*
- *Level of grassroots organization; and*
- *Their ability to absorb and apply NDI assistance within the relevant program.*
- *Their ability to ensure a diverse representation of political parties.*

Following the November 19, 2013, CA election, the Institute has reassessed its strategy based on the election outcome, and the parties’ relevance in the current political context.

Based on a formal reassessment of its political party partners based on the above-mentioned criteria, NDI has divided its assistance package to political parties into three main categories with focus in terms of individual party assistance to the top six parties in the CA-LP: NC, CPN-UML, UCPN-M, Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal (RPP-Nepal), Madheshi Jana Adhikar Forum Nepal-Democratic (MJFN-D) and Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP). USAID is notified both verbally and through this workplan of changes in NDI’s party partners.

NDI reviewed the selection criteria that form the basis for its assistance to its main political party partners following the 2013 CA election. Parties are divided into three different categories. The Institute plans to deliver technical assistance and support to political parties and their parliamentary-party groups based on the following criteria:

Category A includes parties that will or continue to receive both single-party and multiparty support. The criteria adopted for selecting parties that will benefit from substantial single party assistance are as follows:

⁹ NDI’s 10 political party partners were: NC, UCPN-M, CPN-M, CPN-UML, Communist Party of Nepal Marxist-Leninist (CPN-ML), RPP, Sadbhavana Party (SP), Madhesi Jana Adhikar Forum, Nepal (MJF-N), MJFN-D and Tarai Madhesh Democratic Party (TMDP).

1. Registered as a political party;
2. A physical national office with functional national secretariat;
3. Presence outside Kathmandu (branch organizations);
4. Demonstrated commitment to democratic principles, including inclusive representation, internal party reform, non-violence and the objectives of the program;
5. A **minimum of 2 percent** of the total seats in the Constituent Assembly;
6. Has an important role to play in national and parliamentary politics;
7. Has either substantially and successfully participated in previous NDI activities or is interested in cooperation with NDI; and
8. Has the ability to absorb and apply NDI assistance.

Category A includes the following parties:

Party	Seats in FPTP	Seats in PR	Total representation	% of total seats in CA
Nepali Congress	105	91	196	32,6%
CPN-UML	84	84	175	29,1%
UCPN (M)	26	54	80	13,3%
RPP-Nepal	0	24	24	3,9%
MJFN-D	4	10	14	2,3%
RPP	3	10	13	2,1%

Category B includes parties that will only take part in multiparty activities, excluding multiparty discussions which are held for the purpose of designing or following up on single party assistance. At present, the activities that will be provided to this category of political parties will include:

1. Ad-hoc multiparty discussions on issues of national importance and major reform issues;
2. Inter-Party Women Alliance (IPWA) activities (provided the party is a member of IPWA); and
3. Consultative meetings with FLA.

The criteria for this category are:

1. Registered as a political party;
2. A presence in the Constituent Assembly;
3. A physical national office with functional secretariat;
4. Some presence outside Kathmandu (branch organizations);
5. Commitment to democratic principles, internal party reform, non-violence and the objectives of the program;
6. Has either participated in previous NDI activities or is interested in cooperation with NDI; and
7. Has the ability to absorb NDI assistance.

Category C includes all of the 30 parties elected to the Constituent Assembly in November 19, 2013 elections. Assistance to these parties will be in the following areas:

1. Participation in activities that fall under Objective 3: legislative strengthening, including: member orientation and skill-building programs; committee support; Next Generation of Parliamentarians (NGPG); and support to women CA members.

The only selection criterion for Category C is representation in the Constituent Assembly.

Please note that under its legislative strengthening program and, specifically, its committee and constituency support, the Institute will offer its assistance to all parties represented in CA-LP.

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

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

The political context in Nepal remains volatile and fluid. Although the CA election took place on November 19, 2013, Nepal still does not have a government. Similarly, nearly a month after the CA and LP convened, there are still no committees formed on either side, nor has the election of the CA Chairman and vice-chairman taken place. That said, the November election resulted in a reshaping of the political and parliamentary map in a way that has brought in a considerable number of youth Member of Parliament (MPs) to the legislature and maintained a sizeable amount of representation from women and other marginalized groups.

While the delay in government formation and decisions on the CA chairman and vice-chairman positions are the result of intra- and inter-party competitions and infighting, parties still practiced some internal democracy during the election process of the parliamentary group leaders, especially within the Nepali Congress (NC) and the CPN-UML. In fact, in both parties, the lack of internal consensus over a common candidate for the position of parliamentary party leader compelled the party to hold internal elections. The process was transparent and ended without questioning from the losing candidate and his faction. This internal democracy exercise represents a momentum within the parties to experiment and practice internal democracy processes. On the UCPN-M side, despite the existence of internal factions, the party still agreed on a common candidate and elected Prachanda as parliamentary party leader. Given the dynamics within these parties and in light of UCPN-M and CPN-UML's plans to hold their national conferences in May and June 2014 respectively, the Institute sees an opportunity to engage with them on party reform areas, women's participation, and other issues that can be discussed during their conventions.

To garner support for party reform areas, NDI will utilize several venues and opportunities to engage political parties, including training platforms, various party structures, youth and women's networks, and party reform based on inclusivity of traditionally marginalized groups.

Also of interest is the importance of supporting political parties in areas related to inter-party cooperation and consensus and coalition. In fact, post the November 19 election, it has become important to increase technical assistance and support in the above mentioned areas to create a

conducive environment for political party leaders to advance on the constitution and legislative agenda. NDI will continue to support parties in this regard and will also work on enhancing their relationship with parliamentary party groups. This aspect of the program will be closely coordinated and implemented with the Institute's legislative strengthening program.

Building on NDI's years of programming and strong relationships with youth and women within various political parties, the Institute will focus on providing assistance to women and youth after the CA elections. NDI believes that both women and youth have critical issues at stake; these groups are reform-driven and committed to change within parties. They also understand the need for policy improvements that will more effectively respond to the concerns of citizens. The Institute will continue to work with political parties through the High Level Political Committee (HLPC) or a similar network to foster practical, concrete policy discussions. NDI's approach to year four programming aims to maximize the impact of the overall program by linking the different program components and ensuring there is an integrated approach that builds on the various networks and activities available within the party, parliamentary and civil society components.

In year four, NDI will continue to encourage political parties to take a more proactive role in ensuring a healthy representation of marginalized sectors, including historically excluded groups, such as women and youth, as well as ethnic groups. NDI will work with existing party initiatives in youth wings and intra-party women's alliances that are currently working to achieve these goals.

1.A.1: Effective Party Organizing and Outreach

a) Building Internal Political Party Training Capacity

In years one, two and three of the program,¹⁰ NDI conducted national and regional training of trainers (ToT) workshops for 300 party activists¹¹ representing ten political parties to become master trainers for their parties. The Institute's ToTs have had a significant impact on the parties' work at the district level and on their ability to expose a larger number of their party activists to training as well as to increase the number of party trainers that can be used over the medium and long term. Shortly after the completion of the ToTs, many of the 300 master trainers took the skills acquired at NDI workshops and replicated trainings for 28,536 party activists in selected districts. These replicate trainings indicate an interest within political parties to conduct additional training for their local branches, which demonstrates the parties' growing need to have trained party cadres at the grassroots level. Political parties have organized and paid for many of these trainings without NDI's support, which speaks to the sustainability of the program. In addition, political parties have been quick to respond to the changing political environment. Previously, parties replicated modules on topics such as public speaking, party organization, election management, door-to-door campaigning, at the local level, and conflict resolution.

¹⁰ The first national ToT was held in Kathmandu on June 2011. The regional ToTs were conducted between September 2011 and March 2012 in Pokhara (Western Region), Chitwan (Central Region), Dhangadi (Far-Western Region) and Biratnagar (Eastern Region). The second national ToT was held in Kathmandu on September, 2012.

¹¹ The 300 master trainers come from 69 districts in Nepal.

During the remaining workplan period, NDI will assist the partner parties to further strengthen their internal training capacity through supporting the parties to develop their own internal training strategy. For parties to become more inclusive and representative, it is vital for partner parties to utilize their internal training capacity, and for NDI-trained master trainers to continue strengthening their local branches through trainings and activities for local officials and party cadres. The party internal training strategy could include: thematic areas the party would focus on, types of trainings and activities to implement, which groups the internal trainings should target and development of a party specific training manual that would be used for internal trainings in the party.

In order to assist the parties in developing their training strategy and strengthen internal capacity to be able to implement the strategy, NDI will assist its party partners with the following activities:

Intensive Training for a Selected Number of Previously Trained Master Trainers

NDI will hold a national level training in Kathmandu for the parties' most active master trainers previously trained by NDI during phases I and II of the ToT program. NDI will ensure that the participants are inclusive of traditionally marginalized groups, including women and youth.

Topics for these intensive trainings/refresher courses will be developed in coordination with the parties based on single party consultations, but can include the following topics: the role of political parties in the electoral cycle; policy development and implementation as ongoing processes in a political party; membership drives and retention of members; role(s) of party branches in policy development and party activities; relationship between party organization and parliamentary party in the Constituent Assembly/Legislative Parliament (CA-LP); and specific issues related to future local elections, debate on federalism/governance structure and topical issues (including health, economy, environment, education and food security). Out of the total number of party trainers trained by NDI in previous ToT phases, NDI would offer the parties to select the eight most active party trainers for the training. These trainings will assist parties build a solid base of trainers that can be strategically used in the party for internal trainings. NDI would advise the party during the selection process of participants for the training by providing the party information on whom of the previously trained trainers that have been most active. In addition, the party would also be advised to select participants in areas where the party would focus on developing its grass root structure so the trainers can be utilized to their fullest.

Consultations with Political Party Training Department

Prior to the national level training mentioned above, NDI will hold consultative meetings with the parties' training departments. During these single party consultations, the Institute will work with the parties to identify training needs and topics that can be included in the agenda for the ToT refresher course.

As a follow up to the ToT training, NDI will work with the parties' internal training departments to advise assist them with the development of an internal training strategy, including specific training topics and targeted areas and audiences. NDI also will present modules previously used in NDI trainings and assist the party to develop a party specific training manual. This manual

will be instrumental in ensuring that trainings conducted by the party will address its specific needs and that party members and officials receive the same information.

NDI will provide a list of all party members that have previously been trained by NDI, so the party can use these individuals as resource persons in future party training activities.

An important aspect of the consultations with the party's training department would be to present different types of activities a political party can conduct to train its members and party officials. The consultations would focus on how the party can conduct low cost trainings at the local level. This could enable the party to broaden its approach to internal trainings and also include training components in all party activities. NDI would offer, based on requests, additional training materials identified in the party's internal training strategy.

Expected Performance Milestone: Parties develop internal training strategies and utilize NDI trained master trainers to start implementing their strategies.

b) Ongoing Consultations/Technical Assistance to Political Parties

In year one, NDI conducted a baseline assessment of each political party to evaluate their strengths and areas for improvement. The assessment also included each party's self-identified priority areas of need for consultations and technical assistance. In years one, two and three of the program, NDI conducted individual and multiparty consultations and workshops with experts from the United Kingdom, United States, Northern Ireland, Canada, Morocco and Montenegro on topics such as internal party democracy, candidate selection, social media, voter registration, messaging, targeting, and outreach to women and youth.

The Institute will, resources permitting, continue to provide technical help and consultations to parties on topics responsive to party needs. Topics may include one or more of the following:

- Post-election evaluation and strategic planning
- Links between party and elected representatives
- Rules and regulation in a political party
- Internal party elections, identification of potential new leaders, mentorship
- Policy development and implementation
- The role of party conventions
- Party intra-communication
- Party relationship at the national and local levels
- Inter-party cooperation
- Internal party preparedness

NDI will work closely with the parties to identify areas where parties will require technical assistance. The Institute will bring in experts, both national and international, who will lead these individual workshops or consultations with specific technical committee that works on internal party reform. Additionally, NDI will also assist parties with technical assistance on how to build relations between the party organization and the party parliamentary party through consultations with party secretariat, party whips and central party members. The Institute will also continue to implement measures to ensure that political parties include historically marginalized groups such as women, youth and ethnic groups in these workshops.

Secretariat support

The secretariat in a political party can play a vital role in preparing and implementing internal party reform, planning for party conventions and internal strategy documents, and securing better representation and participation of traditionally marginalized groups. The major political parties have requested NDI's assistance in strengthening the role of the party secretariat to develop and strengthen internal party structures.

NDI will work with the chief office secretary and heads of departments to identify priorities for strengthening the party's operations. A focus in these discussions could be on the role of a political party during the electoral cycle and would address the three different phases of the electoral cycle.

Phase one, the *post-election period*, would focus on a review of the election, the need for internal party reform and development of strategies for the party. The second phase would focus on the role of the secretariat during a future *pre-electoral period*, with an emphasis on implementation of party strategy, planning and implementing party convention, relationships between the party organization and elected representatives, internal training, membership registration, candidate identification and policy development. Finally, the third phase of the electoral cycle would be the *election period* which could include election campaign planning, party nomination and election campaigning. Issues related to internal communication and relations between the national and local levels could also be covered.

The outcome of these meetings and consultations could be for the secretariat to develop a long-term strategy for its work and have this plan endorsed by the party's central committee and/or politburo. The Institute will, based on requests and funding permitting, assist the party with technical assistance to implement the party strategy.

Expected Performance Milestone: Parties continue to develop strategies and implementation methods for improving identified areas of reform, and enhance momentum for internal reforms by linking different party structures to build pressure on party leadership.

c) Future Leadership Academy (FLA)

Training for Young Leaders

In addition to developing cross party relationships, the FLA introduced young party members with democratic values and equipped them with political skills to apply within their parties and throughout their careers. In years two and three, NDI organized three intensive trainings for 48 promising youth party members, including 24 women, from across 31 districts and ten political parties. Of the 48 graduates, 17 have been either elected or nominated in various party structures such as central and district working committees. Nepali parties are currently encouraging and inviting youth to participate in party decision making processes, a positive sign considering that these young leaders are among the most educated, globally aware, environmentally responsible and least tolerant of discrimination. In recent meetings with party leaders, there were no plans to train young leaders differently from traditional training workshops. The Institute plans to continue assistance to youth to maximize their impact and to assist them to take up leadership roles in their current respective positions in their youth parties.

NDI will facilitate several consultations with FLA graduates which will focus on topics such as: youth gains in the 2013 elections; the role of youth in political parties; the role of youth as political leaders; the role of youth in the constitution-making process; and how youth political leaders can discuss methods of engaging and soliciting views from the youth population. In addition, participants in FLA will be provided a training session to empower them to become trainers for their respective parties' youth wings.

NDI also will assist FLA with a youth outreach program in at least two of the five development regions. Participants in these regional youth seminars would be local youth representatives from the major political parties. The topics can include: the role youth can play in politics at the regional level; identification of issues that concern youth at the regional level; and the role youth can play in the constitution making process, and FLA will take the lead in the trainings/discussions during the regional outreach program. FLA will in addition develop a questionnaire which will be used to solicit information on policy priorities from the regional youth meeting participants. As a part of the outreach program, representatives from youth civil society will be invited. NDI would coordinate with other organizations, for instance PACT World, to identify potential civil society organizations.

After the regional outreach activities, the Institute will assist FLA in analyzing the results from the questionnaires to develop a report outlining the policy priorities identified by the participants. The report will include the survey findings, youth policy priorities, and possible solutions. This report can also be used as an advocacy tool both within their respective parties to lobby for youth issues, as well as with CA members on youth issues.

The underlying objective for NDI is to ensure the discussion, development and the eventual establishment of a national youth agenda strategy where coordination and synergy is sought between youth civil society activists, political party members and parliamentarians.

To monitor the FLA's impact on its participants, NDI will develop a Kathmandu-based FLA steering committee where information could be gathered on the performance of FLA members. NDI also will measure how many FLA have found positions in their respective parties, and will track the outcome of FLA meetings with CA members, NGPG, and other groups. To keep track of these events, NDI will facilitate monthly FLA steering committee meetings in Kathmandu.

Expected Performance Milestone: Youth from political parties work together with youth from civil society and elected young members of the CA-LP in developing a national youth agenda.

d) Inter Party Women's Alliance (IPWA)

In the post-election period, the Institute will resume working with the Inter Party Women's Alliance (IPWA).¹² NDI has supported IPWA since March 2006 and assisted them with their expansion across Nepal. In year four, the first activity with IPWA will be a post-election gender audit workshop to analyze the November 19 elections and to draw conclusions on election performance. This workshop conference will serve to identify barriers to women's participation

¹² The IPWA represents 14 political parties and advocates for women's rights. It has established district sub-committees in 15 districts across the country.

and provide recommendations to strengthen the role of women in politics. The report will be used by members of the CA-LP Women's Caucus, as well as women from civil society organizations. NDI will assist IPWA to connect with other organizations working on women's participation for the gender audit workshop, including UN-Women and the ECN's gender election monitoring task force. Based on the workshop conference, IPWA will be able to develop a report including recommendations for the ECN, political parties, civil society, media, and the international community on how to assist women so that they may increase their representation in future election. This report could be used as an advocacy tool to lobby for the constitution making process and improvements in the electoral framework.

After the post-election workshop, the Institute will link IPWA to the CA-LP Women's Caucus to ensure that the two can coordinate on issues of common interest. IPWA could participate in the round table discussions planned for the women's caucus (see the parliamentary component below for more details).

NDI will further assist IPWA in soliciting input from women at the district level in order to create links between women at the local and national levels. Through support from NDI from the current grant, NDI has assisted IPWA to develop branches in 15 districts. In this workplan period, NDI will support IPWA to carry out activities in two selected districts to solicit input from women's NGOs and women at the local level. Districts will be selected based on criteria such as: strength of IPWA district sub-committee(s); presence of elected women CA members in each district sub-committee; and whether there is a functioning district sub-committee.¹³ The information collected will be analyzed by the IPWA and could form the basis for an advocacy campaign toward elected women CA members to advance the interests of women at the local level in the national political debate.

Technical Support to Major Parties' Women Wings

The 2013 CA elections results show a relatively lower number of elected women compared to the 2008 elections. One of the reasons for this representation can be attributed to the way political parties have included and supported women within their respective political parties. In the pre-election period, women in the major political parties lacked a common and unified strategy. While there was a visible external advocacy campaign by women and media groups, this was not matched by an internal party advocacy strategy. In order to strengthen the internal work of women within the political party and assist the women's wings to formulate a common agenda and approach to better representation, NDI will work with the women's wings of major political parties through a three-stage process. During this workplan period, NDI will support these groups through the establishment of a task force.

The first task force meeting will be for women politicians to discuss and identify their respective party's barriers to women's participation and representation in party structures and decision-making processes. The task force will complete a thorough analysis of internal party documents, including party constitution and nomination rules and procedures. The follow up meeting would

¹³ NDI has identified two criteria to gauge whether an IPWA district sub-committee is functioning: the sub-committee convenes a meeting twice a year, and it has identified or addressed one issue in the community per year.

be to identify strategies to overcome the identified barriers. The role of NDI in this meeting will be to assist the task force with international best practices and lessons learned and provide technical advice on how the women's wings of Nepali political parties can best address their own challenges. The final activity during the workplan period will be to organize a high level single party meeting with party leaders. This meeting will be an opportunity for women party members to present their strategy and secure support from the party to initiate internal reform to secure better women's participation in the future. For parties that will have a national party convention during the period of this workplan, NDI will suggest that these women party members could present their strategy at the national convention and seek support from the convention delegates. For those that choose this approach, NDI will offer assistance and advice on how to secure increased participation for women, which can feature as an agenda in their party convention.

Expected Performance Milestone: Women from political parties and elected members of the CA work together in the post-election period to develop a legislative agenda which incorporates input from women at the district level, therefore effectively championing and representing women's issues and concerns from the district level up to the national level. Women wings in major political parties develop a long-term strategy for increasing women's participation in political parties.

e) Public Opinion Research

NDI and its subgrantee Internews will conduct a series of opinion polls to provide political parties and media organizations with timely, substantive and actionable data on citizens' attitudes regarding public policy matters. The polls will also enhance citizens' voice and provide an opportunity for their opinions to be known and debated nationwide on radio, television and in print media. This series of polls will also allow the Institute to observe trends in public opinion, as well as to explore new topics in response to developments in the political landscape.

After each poll, NDI will organize consultative meetings to actively engage party representatives, elected CA members, IPWA and FLA members to help them understand and utilize the data in their work, and to assist in encouraging a more substantive dialogue on policy issues in Nepal.

Expected Performance Milestone: Political parties and leaders engage in debate on the opinion polls' findings so that the data received is used for internal party work and policy development. Media uses public opinion research results to facilitate additional nationwide debates and discussions on issues with a wide section of society. Media, particularly radio stations, use public opinion research results to facilitate additional nationwide debates and discussions on issues with their target audience, Nepali society. Four national public opinion polls are conducted.

1.A.2: Cross-Party Consensus Building

a) Inter Party Cooperation/Multiparty Workshops

In December 2013, the eight biggest political parties in the CA-LP agreed to turn HLPC into a permanent inter-party mechanism. However, NDI has learned that the parties are discussing

changing the name of this mechanism in a way that will allow them to reach out to other parties, including the CPN-UML. This would be a way of creating a more inclusive inter-party mechanism where issues related to constitution drafting can be discussed. NDI would liaise with members of the new HLPC and the parliamentary party whips for input to the Institute's cross-party consensus building activities. NDI would facilitate activities that would take place outside the CA-LP and could therefore include party organization representatives and also involve political parties that are currently not represented in the CA-LP.

The Institute will invite representatives from political parties to meet and will facilitate inter-party discussions related to electoral and political party reform, the role of political parties in political transition and the relationship between political parties and executive and legislative branches. Inter-party consultations and inter-party discussions can be facilitated by international high level politicians and/or experts and Nepali experts. NDI will also offer to share findings from the public opinion polls with party representatives in order to equip them with information to make informed party decisions and policies. NDI will also facilitate other discussions based on requests from political parties.

NDI, in cooperation with ECN and IFES, will facilitate multiparty discussions at the regional and national level to discuss issues related to electoral and political party reform. These meetings can also lead to the establishment of a multiparty task force to specifically work on the finalization of a new legal framework for political parties. In order to strengthen political parties to become more inclusive and representative organizations, it is important to ensure that parties have strong, functioning legal frameworks for politicians to follow.

These multiparty discussions will be used as a venue for political party representatives to identify possible working mechanisms to discuss issues affecting political parties as well as issues of national importance. This will be particularly important in the long-term when political parties will need to agree on the implementation of political party law and implementation of the new Constitution and new governance structure.

Expected Performance Milestone: Senior party members discuss and take steps to generate consensus and inter-party cooperation on identified issues and topics, including issues related to the development of a new legal framework for political parties.

1.B: Enhance Political Party Electoral Competitiveness

a) National Public Opinion Research: Political Party Policy Priorities and Political Party Strategies Based on Citizen Input

There is a pressing need for mechanisms that incorporate citizen input in political and legislative processes. NDI and subgrantee Internews will conduct a series of four national opinion polls to provide political parties and media organizations with timely, substantive and actionable data on citizens' attitudes regarding issues and public policy matters. International consultant David Dougherty will work with local polling firm Interdisciplinary Analyst (IDA) to conduct the polls. The first phase began in late August and covered a national sample of 3,000 individuals. Results of the first polls were released in October 2013. In particular, NDI, through the IPA, will work with political parties to enable them to interpret and appropriately respond to polling data. Since it

will be a series of polls, political parties and media institutions can observe public opinion trends and explore new topics in response to political developments.

NDI and Internews will offer individual consultations to political parties by providing a polling expert to work with each party. NDI will engage party representatives, elected CA members, IPWA and FLA members through consultative meetings to help them understand and utilize the data in their work, and to assist in encouraging a more substantive dialogue on policy issues. After each poll, NDI will analyze the polling data to assist parties in their responses. Internews will engage with a network of local radio stations in Nepal's five development regions to share public perceptions of political developments to better foster debate and public participation. The radio stations are part of the Antenna Foundation network, and were already involved in years one and two of the program. Three prominent radio stations from each region (a total of 15 radio stations) were invited to send proposals with program ideas, station's production capacity, technical capacity and proposed human resources. A total of 12 radio stations participated in the bid. Five radio stations were selected based on the proposal evaluation. This will provide an opportunity to engage party leaders on their party's strengths and weaknesses, and to build relationships with key stakeholders.

For more activities related to this component, please refer to Sub-Objective 2.B: Strengthen the Capacity of Media Reporting.

Expected Performance Milestone: Political parties and leaders engage in debate on opinion poll data to strengthen internal party processes and policy development. Five local radio stations, one in each of Nepal's development regions, engage in producing in-depth and informative programs on national opinion polls.

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

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

a) Post-Election Support to DEW-Nepal

Following the 2013 CA elections, NDI is working closely with DEW-Nepal to evaluate the domestic election activities, election networks and its CSO partners in an effort to determine how to assist these groups to most appropriately leverage their continued engagement in various electoral and political processes at the local and national levels. Where relevant, NDI will work with DEW to implement some of the proposed workplan activities.

In countries throughout the world, NDI has helped groups and networks participating in election observation identify long-term goals and consolidate organizational and technical skills developed through their election-related activities. The Institute has found that election monitoring initiatives produce substantial long-term benefits if the monitoring effort includes attention to setting long-term goals and consolidates its gains accordingly. Domestic election monitoring groups in other countries have made important contributions beyond elections by continuing to work in the areas of public accountability of elected officials, anti-corruption, civic education, media monitoring, parliamentary and executive oversight, and political and electoral

reform. Some groups have evolved into effective advocacy organizations at the national and local levels. Depending on the amount of funding and time remaining after the elections, NDI would assist in building the long-term capacity of these groups to stay engaged in their country's political affairs.

The main activities that NDI will conduct with DEW-Nepal are environment and gap analyses, strength, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis, and a review of the strategic and implementation plan for DEW-Nepal. NDI will assist the seven organizational members of the DEW-Nepal central committee to engage local district organizational partners in this exercise.

At the district level, DEW members will participate in the monthly electoral dialogues being planned in select districts throughout the country and facilitated by IFES, which also demonstrates examples of how the two CEPPS implementers are linking to each other's work and efforts. This will be a means to ensure continued engagement of DEW members on issue pertaining to the goals and objectives of the newly formed organization.

In addition, NDI will provide DEW's leadership committee with an analytical framework to aid the group in identifying which constituencies observers should be deployed in future local elections, provided the availability of financial support.

Lastly, NDI will provide a no-cost extension to DEW-Nepal's subgrant to assist in the implementation of the Institute's other post-election programming such as the regional electoral reform seminars, citizens' assemblies and voter registration of marginalized groups for the local elections (as outlined below).

Expected Performance Milestone: DEW-Nepal conducts SWOT analyses and prepares annual strategic plan for 2014-15.

b) Regional Election Process and Electoral Reform Seminar

NDI, in collaboration with the ECN and IFES, will examine the current election laws based on lessons learned to enhance the quality of elections and to correct impediments to access, eligibility and transparency. As such, NDI and IFES will support the ECN in constituting a task force of experts and other stakeholders to formulate recommendations for electoral reform lessons learned during the 2013 CA elections.

During finalizations of the reform recommendations, NDI, IFES and the ECN will jointly hold a five regional seminars for government officials, political party leaders, civil society organizations, domestic and international observer groups and members of the media to discuss electoral reform proposals and incorporate their input in the recommendations. These events will be facilitated by a task force comprised of a number of respected, experienced and diverse individuals. These multi-day events will allow for productive discussions pertaining to the electoral process as well as set aside time for political party leaders to offer input on the political party legal framework for elections. NDI will work with Internews to record the discussions of the regional seminars to be incorporated in its radio programming.

In addition, a series of smaller meetings and consultations with political parties, election administration and other stakeholders at the national level will be conducted to share the outcomes of the regional events and advance a discussion on electoral reform issues helping to identify a means of future implementing for the agreed upon outcomes. Once the extensive consultations are completed and the recommendations drafted, the task force will advocate for and present at the NDI/IFES/ECN-sponsored National Electoral Reform Conference (see below).

Expected Performance Milestone: NDI, in collaboration with the ECN and IFES, conducts regional seminars, which result in the consolidation of a series of recommendations for electoral reform,

c) National Electoral Reform Conference

NDI will extend its domestic and international observer coordination role by holding a national conference on electoral reform. Following the 2008 CA elections, some observer groups released post-election reports, but there was no effort to consolidate them and discuss how election-related processes could be improved.

To address this need, NDI will collaborate with the ECN and IFES to host a national electoral reform conference. This event will be designed to bring together various donors and stakeholders to explore options and seek consensus for both national and local government electoral reform. The conference will be held in Kathmandu in April 2014 after the submission of observer reports to the electoral commission and the Institute's regional electoral reform seminars. Leaders of political parties, CA members, ECN officials, relevant government agencies such as Nepal Security and Military, journalists, NGO representatives, civil society organizations, domestic and international election monitoring organizations, foreign embassies and international organizations will be invited to participate in the conference.

The conference will be designed to compile input from the regional reform seminars; analyze and prioritize recommendations in the context of the upcoming local elections; identify amendments in the laws that form the foundation of the electoral system that could be made by the parliament; and discuss procedural improvements that ECN could adopt and implement.

This event will produce a co-authored conference report inclusive of specific recommendations for improving the Nepal's electoral process, which will subsequently form the basis for an electoral law reform program. NDI will draft the recommendations and report regarding political parties and civil society, while IFES will write the portion related to the ECN and the government of Nepal. The outputs and recommendations from the conference will be used by ECN, NDI, IFES, and other interested national and international stakeholders to engage in electoral reform debates and support to these reforms through different activities.

Expected Performance Milestone: High level electoral stakeholders participate in a national electoral reform conference and contribute to the formulation of specific recommendations for enhancing the electoral process.

d) Voter Registration of Marginalized Groups for the Local Elections

Building upon the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) funded voter education project's lessons learned and best practices, the Institute plans to implement a campaign for voter registration process during the post-elections period. An outreach campaign will inform a diverse yet underserved segment of the population, including women, youth and ethnic communities, with a focus on Dalits and Janjatis, on the importance of registering to vote for future local elections.

NDI, in collaboration with DEW-Nepal, will conduct a brief review of CSOs representing the targeted groups to discern what information they lack and how best to provide it to them. NDI would coordinate with the ECN, its CEPPS partner, IFES, and other international and national organizations while planning voter registration campaigns and would use pre-existing ECN and IFES-developed materials as much as possible.

NDI and DEW-Nepal will implement the program in one district in each of the five development regions. NDI and DEW-Nepal will use information gathered from the November 19 elections to identify districts in the five regions where voter registration was low and compare it to areas where there is a high concentration of people from marginalized sectors. While this analysis is imperfect, it would provide a reasonable estimate of districts to target in the absence of turnout data by marginalized group or gender.

After the review, NDI will train 10 volunteers per district for a total of 50 volunteers, recruited by DEW-Nepal, on topics such as:

- How to identify or create opportunities to interact with women, youth and ethnic communities, with a focus on Dalits and Janjatis;
- How to design an implementation strategy to reach as many eligible voters as possible in an engaging and interactive way;
- How to use the flyers, leaflets, flip charts, posters and other materials and dissemination methods for the campaign most effectively;
- How to organize a meeting (developing objectives, setting an agenda, facilitating);
- Relevant voter education topics based on what is uncovered in the initial assessment with DEW-Nepal (could include knowledge of election procedures, the importance of voter registration and voting rights);
- How to inform voters on how to register to vote (including information from USAID/Nepal's Monitoring Nepal's Peace Process and Constitution Drafting Process (MNPPCDP)); and
- How to help voters find the information they need to be able to participate (where to confirm their voter registration, how to find their registration location, and what to bring for registration).

DEW-Nepal volunteers will visit villages to distribute informational materials and broadcast messages. The activity will be conducted for three days per week for eight weeks in each of the districts. The topics will focus on the importance of registration in order to exercise the right to vote and appeal to targeted groups to encourage their participation in future local elections. It will also cover topics such as the date and location for registration, and information on the necessary documents required for registration to ensure the program's targeted population understand the registration process and are able to register successfully. The messages and the

informational materials will be customized according to the dialect and cultural background for the individual districts and target groups wherever possible. This information will be distributed at all NDI and DEW-Nepal events targeting marginalized populations, such as the listening sessions and citizens' assemblies.

To monitor the impact of this program activity, NDI will encourage DEW-Nepal volunteers to implement a simple, closed-answer survey to event participants, collecting information such as "Did you try to register to vote?" and "Did you vote in the election in November 2013?" As this will be a local activity, DEW-Nepal district committee members and district-level volunteers will be making representations with the local CDOs and the LDOs prior to and during the conduct of these activities.

Expected Performance Milestone: Marginalized groups will be provided with information to make an informed decision about their electoral participation, including voter registration processes and how to vote in future local elections.

Sub-Objective 2.B: Strengthen the Capacity of Media to Report on the Electoral Process

a) Radio Programming and Trainings on National Opinion Polls

To coincide with the release of the first wave of national opinion poll results, NDI subgrantee Internews will launch a series of radio programs based around issues highlighted in the poll. Internews will work with Antenna Foundation Nepal (AFN) and five regional radio stations (Saptakoshi FM in Itahari, Narayani FM in Birgunj, covering Madhesh, Vijay FM in Nawalparasi, Krishnasar FM in Banke and Suklaphanta FM in Mahendranagar) to create media programming based on the poll results. Internews is also working with AFN and a local production house to conduct five trainings for approximately 100 Nepali journalists in enhancing reporting skills. Three trainings were completed by the end of August 2013. The focus of the trainings will be for journalists to interpret the polling results and to be able to generate stories based on the poll findings instead of merely reporting on the polls themselves. Journalists also will learn different skills on data reporting and skills in finding stories within quantitative data. These trainings will equip journalists with the knowledge to not only interpret and analyze the polling data, but to apply data journalism principles to compose engaging and useful stories from that data. Journalists will learn the fundamentals of data journalism, which entails using critical thinking skills to develop a hypothesis and using quality data to substantiate the hypothesis. Participants also will review the basics of surveys and statistics, including sample size, random samples, margin of errors, and the evaluation of methodology.

Internews' sub-grantee Antenna Foundation Nepal will also produce 40 episodes of "Loktantra Mantra," or Mantra of Democracy, a radio series focusing on issues related to the electoral process and electoral integrity. The key themes and topics for each show will be dependent on the poll results. Each poll will aim to determine the "hot button" issues of most critical concern to Nepali citizens. The series will delve deeper into the "why" and "how" questions to receive qualitative information based on the opinion polls results. The program will provide an in-depth report on the major issues, including the root cause(s), different sides of the issue, and available options for resolution. The program will provide a platform for national and local dialogue on citizens' concerns and will give candidates opportunities to respond to the most pressing issues in their constituencies.

The show will be nationally distributed through a network of 45 radio stations. AFN will work with five local radio partners from each development region (mentioned above) to create tailored programs based on regional polling results. These shows will engage local politicians, community leaders and other stakeholders in public discussions about the polling results and their implications for Nepal's future. These radio programs will play an important role in shaping discussions around important issues and serve as a counterbalance to pundit or politician-driven news cycles. AFN will consider the following aspects in the program's production to ensure relevance:

- Stimulate introspection and participation through an interactive format;
- Develop a simple and informative format, simplifying and adapting technical terms and concepts to the target audience; and
- Provide non-partisan information.

The polls will provide insight into current thinking among the general public to encourage politicians to address their constituents' most pressing concerns. A total of 200 programs (40 episodes x 5 radio stations) will be produced and broadcast during the project phase and will be broadcasted through 25 local radio stations.

Expected Performance Milestone: Media are utilized to facilitate debates on the results of national public opinion polling; 100 journalists are trained to cover polls and polling results; 15 producers and journalists from 5 radio stations will receive training in designing radio programs focused on polling results; a training module on covering public opinion polls will be developed and published online; Antenna Foundation Nepal will produce and broadcast a total of 240 radio programs focusing on issues covered by national polling; and 10 monthly reports of the radio dialogues' results will be published on the Nepal Election Channel website.

b) Community of Practice Website – NepalElectionChannel.org

Internews will also contract a web manager to expand and provide upgrades to the current dedicated electoral news website, <http://www.nepalelectionchannel.org/nepali/>. These upgrades will include better accommodation of polling results and infographics which will help explain polling results to local journalists and other stakeholders.

All materials published on the website will be cross referenced and publicized on social media platforms such as the Nepal Election Channel Facebook page and Twitter account to reach a broader audience. The social media platforms will also be utilized to stimulate further debate within Nepal's growing online community.

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

Following November 19, 2013 election, and the convening of the CA-LP, NDI plans to resume its support to the parliament and parliament secretariat in the form of capacity building and assistance to committees, parliamentary party groups and parliament secretariat staff. At the time

of this workplan revision, no committees have been set up under the CA or LP, and the election of the CA chairman and vice-chairman is still pending. While the Institute plans to fully re-engage with the parliament, its capacity to implement programs will largely depend on how fast the CA and LP begin functioning. Should the process be delayed, the Institute will readjust its programming to focus more on consultations with and assistance to young CA members through the NGPG and to women CA members through roundtable discussions.

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

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

a) Effective Committee Work

With the dissolution of the parliament in May 2012, NDI suspended some activities associated with parliamentary committees that required the involvement of the committee chairs and their members. As the core of legislative work takes place within these committees, they represented the best avenue to impact policy through direct input and recommendations from the relevant interest and citizen groups. Engaging with committees also provides opportunities to create relationships with new organizations from sectors including health, security, and climate change. In year three, and in light of the dissolution of the CA, NDI substituted its work with committees with a series of community dialogues and citizens' open forums that brought together citizens and former CA members to discuss issues of local interest.

Following the November 2013 CA elections, the finalization of CA elections results under the PR system took longer than expected due to UCPN-M claims of electoral irregularities. The issue was resolved on the basis of a four-point political agreement between UCPN-M, NC and CPN-UML. The CA convened on January 22, 2014 and the Legislature-Parliament (LP) started on January 26, 2014. While both CA and LP in normal parliamentary practices should proceed with the election of different officials, including LP Speaker and Deputy Speaker, CA Chair and Vice-Chair, Committee Chairs and members on both CA and LP sides, this process is delayed pending the discussion, amendment and adoption of new CA-LP Rules of Procedures.

For NDI to resume its originally planned activities, such as supporting different committees in building their skills and capacities and organizing committee hearings about bills that are introduced, committees have to be in place and functioning. The Institute will continue to monitor progress on the set up and establishment of all relevant parliamentary structures. Similarly, the Institute will closely coordinate with the Parliament Secretariat, TAF and USAID's economic and social sectors to ensure there is enough information and analysis of types of bills that have been tabled to prioritize the ones that will be subject to solicitation of public participation through committee hearings. Wherever relevant, NDI will utilize input collected through TAF's Town Hall Meetings (now called public consultations) and bill reviews in committee hearings and during constituency outreach activities.

Committee Hearings

Working at the committee level provides NDI with the best opportunity to have an impact at the parliamentary level. To ensure that committee work reflects citizen concerns and to promote

citizen input in the legislative drafting process, NDI will assist committees in holding two committee hearings, one in Kathmandu and one in a different district and region, to be determined later in consultation with relevant committees. Committee hearings, including sub-committee hearings, will be organized, taking into account the legislative, oversight and representative role of the committee. Examples of committees that NDI will prioritize in year four include Finance, Natural Resource and Means, Public Accounts and State Affairs Committees. The Institute will also explore opportunities of collaborating with other organizations, including USAID funded projects, that are working in different sectors such as health, climate change, environment, and food security, by utilizing experts from relevant socio-economic areas of USAID, to brief and provide relevant materials to relevant committees in order to better equip them with up to date information and data in this regard. Whenever possible, the Institute will take United States Government (USG) legislative priorities in selecting bills around which a committee hearing will be organized, or on which a constituency outreach activity can be focused.

The Institute will finalize and distribute copies of the committee hearing manual to all parliamentary committees. In year two of the grant, the Institute drafted the manual based on comparative practices and will be actively seeking input from the Committees and the Parliament Secretariat. NDI will also work with committee members and staff to help them publish public hearing manuals utilizing NDI's experience in other regions and drawing on internationally recognized practices. To address particular issues, NDI will collaborate with specific committees to ensure members remain aware of citizens' most pressing concerns.

To maintain the Institute's underlying commitment to inclusion and representation of marginalized groups throughout the life of the ongoing grant, the Institute will work with at least one committee chaired by either by a woman, youth and/or a member from a marginalized group.

Capacity Building with Targeted Committees

The Institute will meet with committee chairs and the Parliament Secretariat after the November 19 election to ensure there is an interest in capacity building programs for the parliamentary committees. If so, NDI will resume work with parliamentary committees and offer technical assistance in areas such as legislative drafting, legislative-executive communications and public outreach. Given the level of engagement the Institute plans to invest in committees, enhancing the capacity of committee members and staff will be relevant support to complement the other activities.

Specific trainings and mentoring will be provided for committee chairs, members and committee staff. During NDI's parliamentary program planning workshop held in January 2011, committee chairs and staff had highlighted the need and the importance of legislative-executive communication and coordination. In addition, the workshop had identified the following key areas for capacity building:

- Presentation and facilitation skills;
- Conflict management (between the ministries and committees, between MPs and chairs, and between two or more committees);

- Research methodology, including online sources; and
- Standardized and improved structure and quality report writing.

The Institute will consult with committee chairs once in place to assess the level of interest in these activities and to determine which capacity building areas if any to target.

NDI will provide customized workshops on recommended topics at regular intervals. Examples of committees that NDI will explore possibilities of coordinating with include the State Affairs Committee; the Public Accounts Committee; the Committee on Finance; the Committee on International Relations and Human Rights; the Committee on Natural Resources and Means; the Committee on Women, Children and Social Welfare; and the Development Committee. The Institute will remain open to working with additional committees as needed and relevant in year four. The underlying principle behind NDI's support to any of these committees is based on the importance of ensuring that legislation that has an impact on improving citizens' lives advances effectively in the committee while ensuring proper public participation and input on it.

To maximize the impact of its work with committees, NDI will coordinate expert advice and input sharing with committees on select bills. NDI will use experts on relevant topics, civil society and USAID to ensure that committees have up to date information, analysis, data and recommendations with regards to these bills. Of note, however, is that this aspect of the program can only be implemented if LP committees are in place and committee chairs are interested in holding public hearings about specific pieces of legislation.

Expected Performance Milestones: Committee chairs and staff are equipped with the skills to provide adequate assistance to relevant committees.

b) New Member Orientation and Skill-building Program

During a five-month period, including post-November elections, NDI has engaged in a series of regular meetings and consultations with the Parliament Secretariat to discuss, plan and agree on an orientation program for MPs. In this regard, NDI has compiled and shared sample MPs Orientation Binders from different countries, including Macedonia, Iraq, Sierra-Leone and Yemen with the Parliament Secretariat. The Institute finalized a table of contents for the orientation binder with the Parliament Secretariat and continues to closely and regularly communicate with the Secretary General of the Parliament Secretariat Mr. Manohar Bhattarai to ensure the timely organization of an orientation program. The orientation is critical in the immediate weeks following the start of the Legislature-Parliament especially given the fact that 85 percent of its members are new.

As of the revision of this workplan, the Parliament Secretariat had agreed to a two-day intensive induction at the CA-LP premises. NDI will support the Parliament Secretariat in organizing the new MPs into two to three groups and will organize a two-day session for each to go over the contents of a briefing binder, using mostly local experts. Based on discussions and mutual agreement with the Parliament Secretariat, the orientation binder includes on discussions and mutual agreement with the Parliament Secretariat, the orientation binder includes: the role of the CA in a transitional period, rules of parliamentary procedures, how a bill becomes law, the role and structure of the parliament as an institution, role and structure of committees and party-parliamentary groups, and the representative, legislative and oversight role of MPs.

As part of its work and experience of assisting legislatures throughout the world, NDI has produced modules and manuals for local and national representatives in Asia, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. For this program, NDI has adapted these materials to the Nepali context and translated them into Nepali.

NDI is in the process of developing a questionnaire to assess the impact of the orientation on the work and the ability of CA members to function effectively as a result of their training. This questionnaire will be administered at the start of the orientation and again a few months later to gauge any changes.

As of the revision of this workplan, the orientation program for new MPs has not taken place despite continued verbal commitment and interest from the Parliament Secretariat. The ability of NDI to deliver on these programmatic activities depends largely on the pace and will of the Parliament Secretariat to respond in a timely manner to program needs. The latter continues to face a number of challenges including the fact that parliamentarians have not yet resumed their normal work; parliamentary RoP are pending amendment; and the inability of the new CA to agree to a parliamentary schedule.

Expected Performance Milestones: CA-LP members receive timely orientation with key relevant documentation to enhance their ability to perform their functions.

d) Next Generation Parliamentarians Group (NGPG)

Over the years, NGPG has significantly expanded in terms of membership and representation by political parties. In January 2013, 14 additional members joined NGPG, making it a 48-member entity. The total number of member political parties has reached 15. This shows the growing interest of first-term parliamentarians in their individual growth towards being proficient legislators as well as their interest in public policy issues, such as the power crisis, unemployment, and corruption. More significantly, NGPG has been able to bring these next generation parliamentarians into a common forum even in the current polarized political environment. The development of relations with the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED) was one of the noticeable successes of NGPG in the third year of the program. NGPG has now successfully created avenues for first-term parliamentarians to establish friendly relations with similar entities in other nations.

Looking at the outcome of the election, 85 percent are new members, 93 members of the CA-LP are 40 or younger, and 54 are women. In year four, the Institute plans to focus its resources and technical assistance on the youth parliamentarians and hence the necessity to discuss and review the NGPG charter to make this entity open to younger members of the CA instead of it being open to both youth and first-term parliamentarians. This will ensure that young MPs have a platform to discuss and advance their agenda within the CA.

While calling for membership, NDI will focus more in ensuring that NGPG as an entity is inclusive of women, youth, and members from minority groups and communities. The Institute will continue to organize activities to build the leadership and legislation skills of new NGPG members, encourage networking, and promote international best practices. Similarly, the Institute will also organize knowledge-sharing activities on public policy and youth issues of national importance and will actively explore opportunities for cooperation with the FLA, NDI's

other youth program. For example, FLA members could present its youth questionnaire results report to NGPG members and discuss ways for the latter to act on the results pertaining to representation, legislation, and oversight of youth-related issues. In addition, NDI would also facilitate meetings between NGPG and youth NGOs as one way of strengthening the work of NGPG in the CA/Legislature-Parliament. The underlying principle for NDI is to ensure the discussion, development and eventually establishment of a national youth agenda strategy where coordination and synergy is sought between youth from civil society, youth from political parties and youth parliamentarians.

The Institute will organize needs-assessment sessions with youth MPs to determine their training needs and discuss topics they plan to work on together. Following this, NDI will hold a series of consultations with youth MPs in preparation for a national seminar that convenes youth from parties and civil society also to discuss on “comparative examples about the role of women and youth in successful parliaments” and how youth from civil society, political parties and parliament can jointly work on developing a national youth agenda and implementation strategy.

To monitor the impact of its work with the NGPG, NDI will track how many members of NGPG take action at the CA level, whether during question time, in committee meetings, or in their respective parliamentary caucus to raise and put issues of relevance to youth on the legislative agenda. Examples of monitoring include: number, nature, and relevance of oral and written questions raised by NGPG members; recommendations and/or amendments put forward during committee work on relevant bills; any action taken to persuade their respective parties to act in response to youth related issues; any articles or interviews published in the press; and any other initiatives that demonstrate an NGPG’s members understanding and commitment to champion relevant youth issues and impact policy in this regard.

NDI will work with NGPG to draft a three-month workplan and timeline on important legislative issues and policies. Sustainability will be measured by their capacity to take the lead on developing additional workplans over the course of the year and be able to adhere to different action items and the timelines for achieving them. This component will be closely coordinated with NDI’s existing youth related initiatives under the Political Party and Civil Society Programs. It will also use inputs from TAF’s youth-related Town Hall Meetings and any of IFES’s relevant youth research surveys.

As a first activity with young party and parliamentary leaders under this revised workplan, NDI and the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) jointly organized a roundtable discussion and interaction program for young political party and parliamentary leaders from Nepal. Singaporean public policy expert Rainer Heufers and Malaysian economic and industrial expert Dato J. Jegathesan led the event, which was held during the government of Nepal and FNCCI’s Nepal Economic Summit 2014. The presentations focused on discussing the role of good governance in economic development, with a particular focus on how to ensure linkages between good political party economic policies, and economic related legislation to push the economic agenda forward. This discussion also aimed at sensitizing young political and parliamentary leaders to the economic development issues, and encouraging them to take a leadership role in this regard.

NDI and FNCCI have closely collaborated and co-sponsored the organization of national and regional candidate and leadership debates prior to November 19, 2013 elections, and are

planning to work together on linking the political and economic sectors together in a way that encourages parliament and political parties in joining their efforts to champion and advance Nepal's political and economic development.

Quarterly Policy Dialogues

In partnership with FNCCI, Nepal Business Initiative (NBI) and the association of young entrepreneurs, the Institute plans to organize quarterly policy dialogues that bring together young parliamentarians, youth political party and civic leaders with their counterparts from the business sector to discuss political and economic policy issues and initiatives around which all concerned can develop an action plan to move them forward. This agenda for policy dialogues will be developed in close coordination between NDI, its party, parliamentary and civic youth leaders and the business sector and will take into account any relevant bills, legislation or reform that is or should be tabled in Parliament and or how each stakeholder can strategize to advance it within their respective institutions.

Expected Performance Milestone: NGPG members strengthen their leadership skills and develop their relationship with other emerging youth leaders in parties and civil society in a way that advances the political and economic agenda, with particular focus on youth related issues.

e) Women CA Members' Roundtables

To provide women in the CA with an opportunity to represent their constituents' concerns and take the lead on key women's political participation issues, NDI will organize one roundtable discussion between women parliamentarians, IPWA, interest groups and civil society organizations (CSOs). Potential issues for discussion could include women representation in local elections and party laws, health, education or the environment and policies that impact women's economic and social advancements. This discussion will ensure meaningful involvement of constituents and enhance their ownership in the legislation process. Additionally, it will strengthen constituent and representative relations, which is fundamental for a parliamentarian to fulfill his/her representative function successfully. Women politicians and members of the IPWA have worked effectively with many of the women's NGOs in the past and have demonstrated that women can work across political party lines to advocate for important issues. As with the rest of NDI's program components, the Institute will ensure close coordination and utilization of different networks and forums that are supported by NDI including IPWA and women CSOs.

f) Support to MP Constituency Outreach Activities

In order to enhance MPs outreach to their constituencies and improve communication between MPs, and civil society organizations and constituents, NDI plans to organize two constituency outreach activities with MPs who were elected on the FPTP system. The Institute will identify two districts in the Mid-West/Far West region and Terai that are known for having dynamic and effective grassroots organizations and the MPs that represent these regions. This will allow the Institute to work on bridging the gap between MPs and their constituents, and rebuild the latter's confidence in their elected representatives. NDI will select three to five MPs from different political parties, including at least one woman and one youth MP, representing these two districts

to coordinate on the implementation of two pilot projects on constituency outreach. The first constituency outreach activity will bring MPs from a district in the Mid- or Far-West with local CSOs, media and citizens to identify and discuss a local development issue, and outline recommendations for how to support local development projects leveraging the network within their party and at the national level through the parliament and government to advance local development. NDI will reach out to the Sajedari project based in the Mid and Far West to get an overview and assessment of local CSOs, local development issues, and get a list of local stakeholders that MPs should invite to the constituency outreach activity.

The second constituency outreach activity in the Terai could center around discussion of a bill that is introduced in Parliament. MPs could discuss the bill with constituents in the selected district and receive feedback that MPs could take back to the relevant committee. Should additional MPs elected under FPTP system show interest in being supported to conduct constituency outreach activities, the Institute will plan additional activities in this regard past the end of this workplan timeline in order to reach other regions and provide opportunities for more MPs to connect with their constituents.

Prior to the organization of these constituency outreach activities, NDI will develop and distribute a constituency outreach questionnaire to MPs in order to get details about how they view the role of an MP with regards to his/regular communication with his/her constituents; how they use constituent funds; any additional resources or tools they use to connect with constituents; whether or not they have a strategic plan with specific actions they plan to take to keep in touch with their constituents, informing them about their work at Parliament, and additional efforts they could make on their behalf in either the legislating, or oversight areas. This questionnaire would not only form the basis for a well-targeted constituency outreach program, but also provide good and relevant information in the future to use in the development of a constituency guide for MPs.

Expected Performance Milestone: The outreach activities provide an opportunity for MPs to reach out to their constituents and discuss local development issues.

g) Support the Parliament Secretariat in Drafting the Rules of Procedure

An election for the second Constituent Assembly (CA) was held on November 19, 2013. Although a new CA-Parliament is in place, the political parties have not been able to come to an agreement on how to move forward on the new rules of procedure. Rules of procedure are required to be written every five years by the CA-Parliament. The Parliament Secretariat presents rules of procedure for ratification in the first meeting of the newly elected body before any other business is discussed but the CA has not yet been able to finalize the Rules of Procedure. This provides an opportunity to revise earlier rules of procedure, if revisions are needed. There are provisions and practices from Constituent Assembly Rules 2008 that need to be amended to prevent a repeat of the failures of the 2008 CA. An improved dispute resolution mechanism, a more effective drafting committee, and the need to start framing the constitution from principles rather than details are some of the most needed changes.

NDI sub-grantee The Asia Foundation (TAF) and its partner National Constitution Foundation (NCF) supported the drafting of the rules of procedures for the 2008 CA. Building on that

experience, TAF and NCF will work with the Parliament Secretariat (Secretariat) and the Ministry of Law, Justice, Constituent Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs to reform procedural practices of the CA. At this point, TAF is prepared to support the process of drafting the rules of procedure, as the situation demands, either through support of consultations with constitutional experts, consultations with legal experts from political parties or through expert support to the rules of procedure drafting committee. The Secretariat has expressed that, since talks about the final form and amendments to the Rules of Procedure between the parties are continuing, they are not clear yet on the nature of the support they will need. TAF will continue to coordinate with Secretary General Manohar Bhattarai with periodic meetings to ensure that the Secretariat receives effective support, with recent meetings on January 15 and 30, 2014 and follow up conversations scheduled. TAF will coordinate with NDI to include the draft rules of procedure in the orientation binder to be used during NDI's post-elections orientation for CA members.

Expected Performance Milestone: The new Constituent Assembly will draft and implement improved rules of procedure.

h) Support legislature in achieving rapid implementation of the new constitution

The timing for a new constitution is uncertain at this point. Given that the likelihood of a new constitution being promulgated during the remaining period of the program is slim, TAF proposes to modify this activity. Instead of using provisions of the new constitution as a basis for conducting a compliance analysis of existing laws, TAF will use certain immutable principles of the interim constitution as the framework of analysis. There are four such principles: republicanism, secularism, federalism and inclusion. Of these four, federalism still remains under-defined both in the interim constitution as well as in the deliberations and conclusion of thematic discussion of the 2008 CA. On secularism, republicanism and inclusion, the legal principles remain well-defined but commensurate alignment of pre-existing statutes has not yet taken place. In year four, TAF will work with NCF and the Nepal Law Commission to conduct legal reviews on 20 key statutes to identify provisions within the pre-existing statute that require amendments.

Expected Performance Milestone: Twenty pieces of statutes are aligned to constitutional immutable principles adopted in the Interim Constitution of Nepal.

i) Strengthening the legislative drafting capacity of the Parliament Secretariat

Following the election of the new parliament in November, TAF will partner with NCF to work with the Secretariat to conduct two rounds of trainings to the sub-committee staff of the forthcoming parliament. TAF will coordinate with NDI's orientation training for the first round of training, which will include the rules of procedure, handling the media, conducting public hearings, preparing expert rosters and inter-agency coordination. The second round of training will cover drafting skills and content issues and will be conducted three months after the first round is completed.

In year three, the Foundation coordinated with the Embassy of India in Kathmandu to organize a study tour for a group of senior staff of the Parliament Secretariat of Nepal. The Nepali delegation was co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST), Lokh Sabha Secretariat. This study tour was

instrumental in establishing a relationship between the Parliament Secretariats of Nepal and India. To give continuity to this relationship, TAF plans to facilitate one study tour in year four. The focus of this tour would be to educate the Parliament Secretariat and key parliamentarians on the challenges of setting up federal legislatures. The Parliament Secretariat will be entrusted with the task of setting up federal legislatures in Nepal as soon as the constitution is promulgated. Since the Secretariat currently has no experience in planning and managing the establishment of federal legislatures, the study tour is expected to give them practical knowledge in establishing a scope of work for federalizing Nepal's legislative system.

The parliamentary delegation will visit the parliaments of the State of Delhi and Uttarakhand, chosen for their variance in size, resources and political context. The staff will visit different state legislatures to learn how these state legislatures function in relation to their federal counterparts and how they are horizontally linked. Once this line of communication is established, the Secretariat would have opportunities for future collaborations with these federal parliaments/state legislatures. TAF will also include four MPs (possibly the key chief whips) from the ruling and opposition parties in the delegation as well. The study tour will take place when there is an overlap of breaks in the parliamentary sessions in Nepal and in India. In year three, the study tour took place during the break in the Indian parliamentary sessions in April-May and the study tour in year four is likely to occur at that time.

This activity leverages the support of the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in India wherein TAF pays for the airfare and Indian government pays for local accommodations. Additionally, a study tour would provide an opportunity for the Parliament Secretariat staff and parliamentarians to get a first-hand learning experience where they could actually observe the structures and functions of the state legislatures.

Expected Performance Milestone: The Parliament Secretariat will develop a stronger legislative drafting capacity.

j) Improving the Parliamentary Library

TAF has been assisting the Parliament Library in improving its collection, upgrading and maintaining its infrastructure and expanding services since year one of the project. While parliament was in session, approximately 10 to 15 parliamentarians used the library on a daily basis. Based on the Five-Year Library Improvement Plan developed by Krishna Mani Bhandari, retired Chief Librarian of Tribhuvan University, TAF has worked with the Parliament Secretariat to define the scope of work for the activities at the Parliament Library. In year three, TAF catalogued 17,000 books and augmented the collection through CEPPS assistance as well as TAF's Books for Asia program. For physical infrastructure development, TAF has presented floor plan options to the Parliament Secretariat. Proposed activities will make the library more user-friendly and navigable as a valuable resource center for MPs as they work on various legislative efforts. To respond to parliamentarians' request for more books on federalism and state formation, TAF will help the Parliament Secretariat implement an online request tool for the requested resources. On January 10, 2014, TAF staff met with Secretary Thakur Prasad Baral, Joint Secretary Sudarshan Khadka, and librarian Indra Poudel to discuss the needs of the Parliament Library and the status of the library refurbishment. In year four, TAF will continue to

work with the Parliament Secretariat to upgrade the Parliament Library through the following activities:

- improve collection, cataloging, archiving and record-keeping systems in the library;
- assist library to prepare policies for day-to-day operations, including staffing plan/job descriptions for library staff;
- conduct training for library staff and parliamentary staff to effectively support MPs to make more effective use of the library;
- support office upgrades and space management (including non-structural, cosmetic work and alteration of floor space, as needed);
- provide resources for parliamentarians to search and request books remotely;
- digitize the collections and support upgrading of the parliament's website with a goal of making the digital catalogue available online;
- digitize the main committee decisions of the CA and make them web-ready; and
- archive rare books and documents.

Expected Performance Milestone: An updated library is established with institutionalized policies on borrowing, acquisitions, stocking, and archiving.

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

a) Providing Input to the work of the Parliament through Citizens' Assemblies

To enable members of marginalized sectors to provide input into the drafting of the constitution, from April to June 2014, NDI and DEW-Nepal will conduct five citizens' assemblies with identified marginalized populations or key segments of that population. NDI will oversee this activity, with DEW-Nepal and other local NGOs assisting in implementation at the local level. NDI and DEW-Nepal will begin by identifying which of DEW's constituent members have the greatest interest in and capacity to conduct an assembly and subsequent advocacy campaign, and the populations or segments they could reach. Priority would be given to groups that are already accessible to the DEW-Nepal network whose issues would have broader impact. Based on this, five target populations will be identified.

NDI, in collaboration with DEW-Nepal, will produce a report on the citizens' assembly proceedings and their recommendations for advancing a particular issue. Key participants in the citizens' assemblies will also have the opportunity to present their recommendations before the appropriate members of the parliament.

NDI and DEW-Nepal will structure the outputs of the citizens' assemblies to make them more advocacy-oriented and targeted to specific sectors of society to solicit support. For example, if the issue is improving the economic conditions of women, the Federation of Business and Professional Women of Nepal and the Committee on Women, Children and Social Welfare would be targeted.

NDI will ensure coordination between this component and the party and parliament component to maximize the use of the reports of the citizens' assemblies. The reports will be shared with the

Women CA-LP Members' Roundtable Discussion (3.A.1. (f)), where women members will represent their constituent's concern and take the lead on the issues mentioned in the report and help them to enhance their ownership in the legislation process.

Expected Performance Milestone: DEW-Nepal convenes the citizens' assemblies, produces the reports/advocacy papers, and make presentations before identified target groups or advocates.

b) Promoting Civic Awareness and Public Engagement on the Legislative Process

TAF consultant Binod Bhattarai of The Writing Workshop Pvt. Ltd. has completed the Parliament Secretariat Outreach and Communications Matrix, which details a plan for the Secretariat's public outreach. In year four, TAF will continue working with Mr. Bhattarai to implement the Outreach and Communications Plan. Mr. Bhattarai continues to meet regularly with Secretary General Manohar Bhattarai, Mr. Mukunda Sharma, Spokesperson, and related personnel at the Secretariat to ensure that the activities are in line with the Secretariat's needs. For instance, Mr. Bhattarai met with Secretary General Bhattarai and Subash Nembang, Speaker of the House, on January 22, 2014, and with Secretariat spokesperson Mukunda Sharma and Prakash Giri of the Parliamentary Affairs Journalist Society on January 24, 2014 to discuss various activities. TAF will also work with the Spokesperson's office to enhance the capacity of the committees to hold press conferences and disseminate relevant information in a timely manner. To support this capability, at the request of the Secretary General (Please see attached letter from the Parliament Secretariat), TAF will provide each parliamentary committee with a heavy-duty printer to generate press materials and communicate on a regular basis. The printers will support the committees in disseminating information in bulk, conducting press conferences and improving record management. For cost effectiveness, the printers to be procured will be calibrated against the need of individual committees with heavier duty printers assigned to committees with larger workloads.

The Parliament Secretariat's media center is located in the basement and it gets extremely cold during the winter months making it difficult for the Parliament Secretariat to use the media center for a long period of time. To enhance the use of the media center and facilitate press conferences, TAF will provide multipurpose heating and air-conditioning units to make the space usable during winter. At the request of the Parliament Secretariat, TAF has placed a technical officer on a temporary assignment with the Parliament Secretariat to provide day-to-day assistance on improving ICT infrastructure, integrating social media, and upgrading the Parliament Secretariat's website (please see attached letter of request from the Parliament Secretariat). The technical support staff reports to the Secretary General of the Parliament Secretariat, and contributes to the following activities planned for year four:

- prepare a communication manual for Parliament Secretariat;
- orient senior staff on effective communication and media management;
- orient communication staff and senior officials on ICTs and social media;
- orient staff in the Spokesperson's office on preparing press releases;
- provide support to the Spokesperson's office in organizing press conferences;
- support the Parliament Secretariat in training journalists on House procedures;
- review and adopt a media accreditation policy in consultation with journalists reporting

- parliamentary news;
- conduct an orientation for journalists on the Code of Conduct and parliamentary procedures;
- provide ICT tools to senior officials (including laptops and tablets);
- provide printers to the Spokesperson's office and various committees;
- provide air-conditioning units for the Parliament Secretariat's media center where press conferences are held; and
- redesign and update website.

TAF will continue to work with Interface Nepal to produce the weekly radio show "Hamro Kanoon" featuring contemporary legislative debates around issues such as federalization, citizenship, and fundamental rights, a parliamentary calendar for the week, edited floor debates, expert opinions, and studio debates on key pieces of legislation. In advance of the November elections, the show will also set aside five minutes of airtime for election-related issues in coordination with spokespersons from the Election Commission of Nepal. The radio show will be aired across 35 FM stations (30 existing and 5 new) throughout the country. The selection of these radio stations has been based on a careful assessment of coverage, demographic diversity, and cost.

Additionally in year four, TAF and Interface will conduct three regional capacity building workshops for the 35 radio partners currently supported under the CEPPS program. The two-day workshops will aim to enhance the understanding of legislative politics and processes, the role of radio media in the constitutional process and upcoming elections, and reinforce the cross-cutting synergies with other CEPPS program activities. Thirteen listener groups will be formed in town hall meeting locations and will meet on a quarterly basis. Some of the listeners' groups meetings will coincide with the ongoing town hall meetings. Interface will develop and print IEC materials and jingles to raise awareness about the radio program and maximize reach among the targeted population across the country. The jingles will be aired through the existing Interface Nepal Network (INN). Closer to the budget session, TAF will dedicate up to four episodes of the radio program on fiscal literacy, concurrently providing fiscal literacy trainings to the members of Budget Committee of the parliament particularly targeting the new members of the committee.

TAF will also work with the Writing Workshop in consultation with the Parliament Secretariat to design a pilot visiting program for students to provide a hands-on interaction with the parliament. The activities would include:

- design a routed tour of the Parliament building;
- develop targeted audiovisual and print materials explaining how the parliament works in different languages, including guided audio tours;
- develop interactive multimedia program;
- train Parliament Secretariat staff and Marshals involved in the visiting program; and
- pilot five school visits from the five development regions.

Expected Performance Milestone: Parliament Secretariat will begin to implement media outreach and communication strategy.

c) Building CSO Capacity to Monitor the Legislative Process

TAF will continue to partner with NCF to convene a broad coalition of marginalized communities, including women, Janajatis, Madhesis, Dalits and youth to conduct interest group audits of various legislations. This activity will be conducted twice a month. The audit group will vet the proposed legislations against constitutional principles, obligations under international conventions, and the advocacy agenda of concerned interest groups. The content of the reports will be aired through the radio show under 3.B. and, concurrently, through three print media outlets (*Shichhak* and *Nepal* are Nepali periodicals; *New Spotlight* is an English periodical), selected based on their audience and outreach. NCF will publish a compilation of feedback and input of the interest group audits on pertinent legislations to be shared with stakeholders including the relevant committees in the new parliament.

Following the dissolution of the parliament in May 2012, TAF had not been able to continue the procedural vigil on the legislative process. With the election of the new parliament, TAF will resume its work with NCF to work with the drafters of the rules of procedure to produce regular notes on the procedural compliance of the on-going legislations in parliament.

Expected Performance Milestone: Interest group audits on legislation will promote compliance with international standards, legal coherence, and responsiveness to concerns of marginalized communities. Procedural vigil will contribute towards holding parliamentarians accountable to the agreed rules of procedure.

d) Nationwide Public Consultations with Youth and Women on Draft Legislation (Bills)

TAF will continue conducting public consultations on political and legislative debates. The meetings will be conducted in 45 urban centers across the country every quarter. The proceedings of these consultations will be communicated to the relevant government agencies, the Parliament Secretariat, and the CA/legislative parliament through a quarterly debriefing session. In year four, TAF will work with Samudayik Sarathi and Women Act to take the legislative debates to over 7,200 women and youth. Samudayik Sarathi will be responsible for 22 town hall meetings per quarter and Women Act will be responsible for 23 public consultations per quarter. Members of parliament will be invited to attend the public consultations, especially those that are being conducted in their constituencies. TAF will also invite members of the Future Leadership Academy (FLA), the Inter Party Women's Alliance (IPWA), and other affiliated groups to join in these town hall consultations. TAF will link this program to legislative priorities outlined by the USAID Mission in Nepal in February 2014.

In response to USAID feedback, a separate session on facilitation skills and techniques was introduced in the three-day moderators training for the twelfth wave of public consultations. Mr. Bikal Sherchan, founder of National Institute of Leadership Development and a resource person for Nepal Jaycees, served as the trainer. The session included concepts of facilitation, tools and skills for effective facilitation, and practical sessions. The following monitoring and evaluation tools have also been introduced in the public consultations:

- Standardized methodological note for conducting the consultations, including pre- and

- post-assessment;
- Pre- and post-assessment to gauge the knowledge retention of issues discussed in the public consultations;
- Perception survey to gauge the quality of the participation level, including whether the participants felt that they had an opportunity to voice their opinions on specific issues that generated public interest among women and youth;
- Videography in at least five locations per wave. TAF will complete a content analysis to examine the effectiveness of the public consultations, including how many targeted audience of women and youth speak at the events; and
- Enhanced coordination with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders through coordinated visits to the events, press releases of the synopsis, and media monitoring.

Expected Performance Milestone: Quarterly public forums allow for the synthesis of the recommendations from the public consultations to relevant government agencies, the Parliament Secretariat, and the CA/legislative parliament (subject to elections).

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

Assessing the Pre-Election Environment

During the drafting of the 2013-2014 workplan, local elections were expected in 2014. However, in the post CA election scenario, the window of opportunity to hold local elections in 2014 is becoming less likely. The Institute will continue to closely monitor the political developments regarding any future election opportunities (including by-elections, local elections or referendums) during this revised workplan period. Should the local elections be declared, the Institute will prepare to assess the pre-election environment immediately to allow stakeholders sufficient time to review and act on the findings.

Windows of Opportunity (WOO)

Throughout year four, NDI will continue to search for windows of opportunity to enhance current programs or pilot innovative programs.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

In year three, NDI initiated the process of conducting an internal mid-term evaluation to review and evaluate progress of proposed targets. NDI commissioned Mitra Samaj, an organization with extensive experience in the evaluation field, to conduct a formative evaluation to: 1) review achievement of key results to-date; 2) refine key outcome measures, as appropriate; and 3) identify recommendations, particularly in light of the evolving political context in the country. In addition, USAID Nepal commissioned a mid-term evaluation of the entire CEPPS III program. To the extent possible, NDI's mid-term evaluation will complement the donor's efforts. Mitra Samaj proposed Dr. Sibhesh Regmi, a well-known figure in the development sector, as the Lead Evaluator. Mitra Samaj recently completed the data collection process. NDI will share the

findings of the mid-term evaluation with USAID. Any changes, if necessary, will be discussed with USAID.

In addition, NDI will continue its performance monitoring activities, including data collection and compilation, staff reflection, analysis and discussion (RAD) sessions, updating the quarterly M&E calendar, and ongoing data quality checks. NDI will also continue to assist its sub-grantees to strengthen their M&E activities.

Travel Plan¹⁴

NDI and its partners anticipate that the international travel listed in the table below will be required to implement the activities described in this workplan. Should any assumptions or circumstances change over the course of this program year, NDI would notify USAID and seek concurrence for revisions to this plan.

Title	# of Trips	Activities and Tasks
NDI Chief of Party	3	Home leave with 2 dependents
NDI Chief of Party	1	Program strategy and management consultations with D.C. staff
Resident Political Party Director	1	Home leave
Resident Political Party Director	1	Program consultation meetings in DC
Regional Director for Asia or Deputy Director	1	Overall program strategy and consultation with stakeholders
Resident Election Program Director	1	Deployment/Repatriation
Senior Program Assistant	1	Programmatic operational and administrative consultations
Political Parties Senior Advisor/International experts	10	Political party program assistance
Legislative Senior Advisor	5	Legislative program consultation
Elections/Civil Society	2	Elections program management

¹⁴ The following trips have been taken: six political party advisors; one NDI-DC program manager; one M&E program manager; one NDI-DC M&E manager; one accounting specialist; and two Internews polling consultants.

Expert		
Program Manager	1	Programmatic assessment and strategic development consultations
M&E Program Manager	1	M&E consultations in DC
M&E DC Manager	1	Internal mid-term evaluation
Accounting Specialist	1	Accounting training to DEW-Nepal
Internews Regional Management	3	Program management
Internews Polling Consultant	3	Consulting and training
TAF Study Mission	12	Nepali Parliament study mission to Indian Parliament