

SAJHEDARI BIKAAS: Partnership for Local Development

Quarterly Report #8, April – June 2015

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KEY ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CA	Constituent Assembly
CAC	Citizen Awareness Center
CAG	Content Advisory Group
CAR	Community Action Researcher
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDA	Community Development Activities
CeLRRd	Center for Legal Research and Resource Development
CLFS	Critical Listening Feedback Sessions
CM	Community Mediator
CMC	Community Mediation Center
CMU	Community Management Unit
CR	Community Reporter
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAO	District Administration Office
DDC	District Development Committee
DYN	District Youth Network
EA	Equal Access
EDT	Entrepreneurship Development Training
EW	Empowerment Workers
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GESI	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
GoN	Government of Nepal
GNGO	Governance Non-governmental Organization
IDA	Interdisciplinary Analysts
IPC	Implementing Partner Committee
IPFC	Integrated Planning Formulation Committees
IVR	Integrated Voice Response
LGCDP	Local Governance Community Development Program
LNGO	Local NGO
LYG	Local Youth Group
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NN	<i>Naya Nepal</i>
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
OPI	Organizational Performance Index
PETS	Public Expenditure Tracking Survey
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report
PDDP	Periodic District Development Plans
PMC	Project Monitoring Committees
PMP	Performance Management and Evaluation Plan
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PVDP	Periodic Village Development Plan
RLG	Radio Listener Group
RTI	Right to Information
SB	Sajhedari Bikaas
SM	Social Mobilizer
SSMK	<i>Saathi Sanga Manka Kura</i>

ToT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
VSMC	Village Supervision and Monitoring Committee
WCF	Ward Citizen Forum
YI	Youth Initiative
YDS	Youth Dialogue Series

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sajhedari Bikaas (SB) is pleased to share its third quarterly report for Year 3. This reporting period covers activities performed from April-June 2015. Highlights from this quarter include the following:

- Interdisciplinary Analysts (IDA) was selected through a competitive procurement process to conduct SB's next two biannual perception surveys. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team held two meetings with IDA to design the survey methodology for Perception Survey 3, which will measure progress on outcome and impact indicators.
- SB held progress review and reflection workshops in Nepalgunj with a total of 64 participants (46 male, 18 female) from all 13 district-based non-governmental organization (NGO) partners and national partners - the Center for Legal Research and Resource Development (CeLRRd), Equal Access (EA), and Youth Initiative (YI). Participants discussed methods to measure changes attributable to the project, strategies for integrating components, and internal and external coordination. They also prepared lists of lessons learned from all project components, changes to activities based therein, and results of the adaptations.
- SB conducted on-site sample data verification in 12 Village Development Committee (VDC) offices in five districts. The assessments focused on 10 indicators, mainly related to the project's Objectives B and C. The team found that 70% of data was verifiable with evidence and 30% was not, and is working with partners to improve data collection. SB also prepared a Scope of Work for developing a participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) training manual in Nepali.
- A total of 1,351 new cases were registered with Community Mediation Centers (CMCs) against this quarter's target of 1,001. The most common types of cases were interpersonal conflicts, followed by gender-based violence (GBV) and resource-based conflict. This pattern is consistent with previous quarters and also aligns with the results of SB's SMS-based conflict mapping. Overall, the resolution rate of cases registered averaged 75%.
- As a result of SB's outreach activities, CMCs continue to receive case referrals from a range of local stakeholders. For example, 6% of cases this quarter were referred to CMCs by the police, political parties, traditional justice practitioners, or VDCs. Likewise, 2% of cases were referred by community based organizations (CBOs), such as WORTH¹ groups.
- Under the WORTH program, Empowerment Workers (EW) and literacy volunteers facilitated 1,040 literacy classes. On average, each group held 3.4 classes per month with concepts about village banking and small business management integrated into the curriculum. Customized literacy materials including picture cards and books for

¹ Women's savings, credit, and literacy groups based on Pact's WORTH model developed in Nepal during the USAID-funded Women's Empowerment Program in 1997-2001.

different reading levels include: *Our Group* (basic literacy), *Selling Made Simple* (guidelines for starting small businesses), and *The Road to Wealth* (independent study for advanced readers). Most group members have now started to read words with the help of *Our Group*, a tailor-made basic literacy book that combines learning alphabets and words with practical skills for group facilitation.

- A total of 4,687 members from 176 WORTH groups in five districts² have saved a total of NRs. 3,507,296 to date through a combination of mandatory savings, voluntary savings, interest earnings, group income, and fines and penalties. A total of NRs. 1,602,542 was saved this quarter, compared to NRs. 893,451 last quarter. WORTH NGO partners organized 20 business and micro-enterprise trainings which were attended by 502 WORTH group members. The trainings covered methods for identifying business opportunities, business concept planning, risk analysis, marketing, pricing, and salesmanship.
- Local Youth Groups (LYGs) and District Youth Networks (DYN) designed and implemented 175 community development activities (CDAs) involving 5,059 local community members. CDAs included campaigns for school enrollment, road and tap maintenance, organic fertilizer production training, public mural on Right to Information (RTI), program on governance and accountability, and collection of materials and funds for earthquake relief.
- Equal Access (EA) produced 12 episodes of *Naya Nepal* (NN) and one of *Saathi Sanga Manka Kura* (SSMK), which were broadcast by 16 local partner FM Stations and Radio Nepal. Some of the content from this quarter included community mediation, District Council meetings, the role of youth in the local development process, local tax collection and utilization, and post-earthquake episodes on relief, building safety and demolition. Local production partners produced 103 episodes of the half-hour show *Sajhedari*, on topics including user committees, women's economic groups, and citizenship, which were broadcast by 16 broadcast partner stations. Sixteen of the episodes were produced in the Tharu language, five in Awadhi, and one in Doteli.
- In response to the devastating April and May earthquakes, EA began producing relevant Public Service Announcements (PSAs) at the request of United States Agency for International Development (USAID). A total of seven PSAs related to the earthquake were produced this quarter, containing vital information on health and hygiene, safety precautions, government disaster relief funds available for affected populations, safety measures while demolishing houses, and challenges for women after the earthquake. Beginning April 30, the PSAs were broadcasted by more than 40 local radio stations in the 14 most affected districts and also by two national stations: Ujjyalo 90 Network and Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal/Community Information Network (ACORAB/CIN). A rapid assessment, conducted by EA, found that 72% of respondents 'strongly agreed' that the PSAs helped to provide them with information; more than 66%, 75% and 34% (respectively) said they had taken action after learning from PSAs about safe demolition, health and hygiene, and VDC and Ward Funds for victims, respectively; and more than 90% said they had shared the messages that they heard from the PSAs.

² WORTH group activities in Dang that had been suspended were resumed in July 2015.

- In order to strengthen VDC financial management, SB collaborated with Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) to hold six VDC accounting software training workshops this quarter. These trainings were conducted by local trainers who received Training of Trainers (ToT) last quarter. A total of 152 VDC secretaries and assistant accountants participated (14 female, 138 male).
- SB supported two four-day trainings for VDC and District Development Committee (DDC) staff in Kailali and Dang on software for registering vital events. A total of 68 persons participated in this training (13 female, 55 male). In response to MoFALD's policy of ensuring 100 percent VDC coverage in each district, SB is supporting accounting and vital event registration software training in all VDCs in its project districts.
- Following the April/May earthquakes, SB made plans with USAID to draw upon its core strengths to provide a quality, medium-term response to three earthquake-affected districts: Dhading, Lamjung, and Gorkha. In May and June, SB mobilized staff and resources to begin the process of planning activities, identifying VDCs, and selecting district-based NGO partners. In the new districts, SB's objective is to place communities at the center of reconstruction efforts to ensure local ownership and sustainability of results. Interventions will include: 1) Rapid roll-out of locally-managed small-scale infrastructure projects with citizen participation and oversight; 2) Coordination of Integrated Mobile Service Camps; and 3) Facilitation of VDC-level post-disaster plans.

I.0 POLITICAL & DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

1.1 NATIONAL TRENDS

Nearly 9,000 people perished and over 2.8 million are left in need of humanitarian assistance following the two powerful earthquakes that shook Nepal on April 25 and May 12. Public services in the 14 most-affected districts were disrupted and vital infrastructure left in ruins, with schools, hospitals, and other public facilities destroyed. The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Report (PDNA) prepared by the National Planning Commission estimated the economic cost of the losses at NRs. 512 billion, or more than USD \$7 billion.³ In late June, at a conference organized by the Government of Nepal (GoN), international donors pledged more than USD \$3 billion to assist with relief and longer-term recovery efforts.⁴

But money is not enough to address the devastation. The early stages of the earthquake response were marred by poor coordination and inefficient use of resources by the government, donors, and NGOs alike. The weaknesses in governance that have characterized post-conflict Nepal were even more apparent in the context of a major national disaster. Once immediate relief efforts are concluded, longer-term recovery will require improved coordination and increased transparency in the use of resources. Importantly, the traditionally marginalized and vulnerable groups that suffered most from the disaster will have to be included in efforts to rebuild.⁵

The earthquakes provided a glimmer of hope for a more cohesive Nepali society. In the weeks after the quakes, open kitchens became a common sight, and people offered their spaces for neighbors and strangers alike to put up shelters. Especially encouraging was the role of youth, who volunteered for relief efforts and were active in mobilizing resources and monitoring responses through social media. For government and donors, the challenge will be to capitalize on this goodwill through programs to sustain civil society involvement in medium and long-term recovery.

The impact of the earthquakes also reverberated in the Constituent Assembly (CA), where members had been deadlocked on negotiations over a new constitution for months. The deadlock broke on June 8 when the Nepali Congress Party (NC) and Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML), along with a coalition of 30 parties led by the

³ The PDNA is accessible at: http://npc.gov.np/web/new/uploadedFiles/allFiles/PDNA_Executive_Summary_rev0730.pdf

⁴ See <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jun/25/nepal-earthquakes-3bn-aid-pledge-international-donors-kathmandu>

⁵ In June, Pact reached agreement with USAID and GoN to expand the geographic focus of Sajhedari Bikaas (SB) to include the earthquake-affected districts of Lamjung, Gorkha, and Dhading. In these districts, SB will draw upon its core strengths to provide a quality, medium-term response, assisting selected VDCs to develop post-disaster recovery plans, rapidly roll out locally-managed small-scale infrastructure projects, and facilitate integrated mobile services camps so citizens can receive services most needed in the post-disaster environment. Additional potential activities are currently under discussion. SB's post-earthquake plans are outlined under Objective B and Objective D of this report.

Maoists and Madhesi front, signed a 16-point agreement opening the way for the constitution-writing process. The parties agreed on major contentious issues, including the form of government, number of federal provinces, and the Constitutional Court. However, missing from the agreement were the names and demarcation of the proposed eight federal provinces. As a result, sections of the Madhesi front withdrew from the agreement. Adding to the complications, the Supreme Court issued an interim order on June 19 declaring the 16-point deal unconstitutional.

Nonetheless, a draft constitution was tabled on July 1. It contains progressive provisions on fundamental rights and directive principles, especially regarding education. But in other areas, it has attracted criticism from human rights groups. For example, it fails to accord Nepali women the right to pass on Nepali citizenship to their offspring without proof of the father's Nepali citizenship. Members of the CA were charged with consulting their constituents on the contents of the draft constitution, a process that is scheduled for July. With the new draft comes the further postponement of local elections until after the new constitution is promulgated.

1.2 OPERATIONAL SPACE

During this reporting period, SB's operational space was minimally affected by the nationwide *bandh* announced by the Maoist-led 30 party alliance for April 7-9, 2015. During the first day, the organizers were successful in shutting down major marketplaces and highways across the country, including in SB districts. However, the strike was called off after the first day due to strong opposition from citizens and the business community.

In the month of May, the heat wave affecting parts of Northern India impacted some project districts, especially Banke, Kailali and Kanchanpur. Temperatures up to 45-48 Celsius were recorded in these districts, affecting the daily lives of many people. Some markets closed, as did some private schools. Implementation of project activities in several communities was constrained during this period.

Although SB's core working districts were not affected by the earthquakes, the implementation of several planned activities, including training on VDC accounting software and vital events registration software, was delayed as government bodies prioritized relief efforts in disaster areas. Many SB staff and partners were with their families, while others were engaged in relief efforts of their own. At the end of May, all SB staff returned to their posts. Some SB staff were required to shift their attention from ongoing activities in core districts to planning and start-up of activities in SB's three new districts—Dhading, Lamjung, and Gorkha.

On June 30, in two of SB's new districts, Gorkha and Dhading, the government identified 19 settlements to be relocated due to the heightened risk of landslides. This included 16 settlements in Gorkha and three in Dhading, and is likely to affect SB's VDC selection process that is currently underway. The risk of landslides is expected to intensify during the coming months as the monsoon rains continue, making travel to new project VDCs challenging.

On March 17, the National Information Commission issued a special order requiring all government and non-governmental agencies operating in Nepal to conduct proactive public disclosure of information on a quarterly basis. Part of the requirement is the appointment of an information officer in all government and non-governmental organizations, including Pact. This order, which helps to realize the objectives of the Right to Information Act (2064), will facilitate SB activities, such as its Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) and other social accountability measures.

2.0 ACTUAL VS. PLANNED ACCOMPLISHMENTS⁶

2.1 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

2.1.1 DevResults

SB entered data directly into DevResults throughout the quarter. Tables with disaggregated values for each indicator that SB reports on were entered and stored for all geographic units. Partners can use the system to report indicators periodically, to produce reports, as well as for further analysis. In March 2015, an event was organized to upload data in the system. A second round of training for partners on the use of stored data for further analysis and reporting from the system will be held in the next quarter. DevResults can be accessed at <http://sajhedaribikaas.devresults.com> and at the practice site <http://sajhedaribikaas.training-devresults.com>.

2.1.2 Perception Survey 3

The M&E team worked with IDA to design the survey methodology for Perception Survey 3, which will measure progress on outcome and impact indicators. This survey has two components: a quantitative household survey and a qualitative analysis based on Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews. A total of 2,400 households in Phase 1 and Phase 2 VDCs, and 480 households from non-SB VDCs (as a limited-SB activity group) will be sampled; thus, the overall sample size will be 2,880 households. The field work for the survey commenced in June and is ongoing at the end of the quarter.

2.1.3 Thematic outcome monitoring

SB organized a one-day workshop on thematic outcome monitoring in June in Nepalgunj. Thematic outcome monitoring is designed to increase the project's learning by evaluating outcomes related to larger project themes that are not captured through indicators. The workshop, which was attended by M&E staff from all SB partners, resulted in the development of survey tools and preparation of action plans for data collection, analysis, and sharing. The thematic outcome monitoring, consisting of four assessments on the topics of Media, Youth, WORTH and Governance, will be conducted by M&E staff of partner organizations during the next quarter.

2.1.4 Quarterly progress review and reflection workshops

On May 28-29 and June 28-30, SB held progress review and reflection workshops in Nepalgunj with a total of 64 participants (46 male, 18 female) from all 13 district-based NGO partners and national partners - CeLRRd, EA, and YI. Participants discussed methods to measure changes attributable to the project, strategies for integrating components, and internal and external coordination. They also prepared lists of lessons learned from all project components, changes to activities based therein, and results of the adaptations. SB is in the process of preparing a "lessons learned" document that will be completed next quarter after collecting relevant case studies and other evidence. Some examples are

⁶ For a detailed comparison of achieved vs. planned activities, see Annex 4: Progress against Workplan.

included below under 2.1.8 *Revision of program strategies based on monitoring findings*. Workshop participants also identified salient characteristics of sustainable groups/institutions formed and supported by SB.

2.1.5 Organizational Performance Index (OPI)

In May, SB conducted a mid-term OPI assessment that compared results with baseline scores for CeLRRd, EA, and YI. The organizations showed overall improvement with an average score of 3.0 compared to the baseline of 2.2 (on a scale from 1 to 4, lowest to highest). However, CeLRRd's composite score of 26 represented a decline from its Quarter 1 score of 29 out of 32. This was due to decreases in its scores related to social mobilization and trust. SB is working with CeLRRd on strategies to improve performance in these areas. Additionally, YI's composite score declined from 30 in Quarter 1 to 26 in Quarter 3. This was due to YI's inability to set clearly defined outcome level targets for its programs while approval of their Year 3 workplan was pending. With YI's workplan now approved and rapid implementation of activities, YI's performance and composite score is expected to increase again.

The exercise revealed that partners generally had improved their internal systems, skills, and policies, and were heading towards improvement in external performance, networks, and systems. Some notable areas for improvement include: strengthening measurement and analysis of outcome-level results, improving trust among beneficiaries, promoting local ownership and accountability of accepted policies, ensuring activities address actual needs, embracing learning as a key driver for change from within, and generating resources from multiple sources to ensure sustainability.

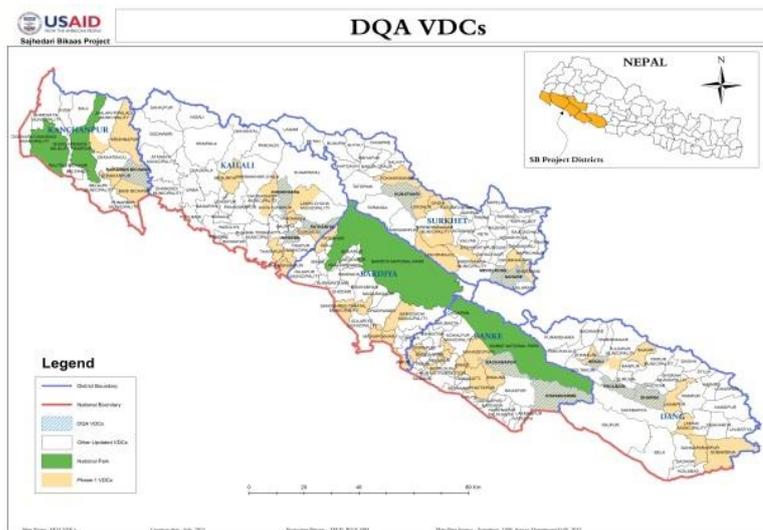


FIGURE 1 GREEN AREA REPRESENTS VDCS WHERE DQA WAS CONDUCTED

The partners' action plans to address their areas of weakness, which included: attention to effective implementation of annual plans to reach outcome-level targets, monthly review meetings with staff and board members for the effective implementation of revised policies, strengthening systems for organizational learning, and improving coordination with national/international networks and partners.

2.1.6 On-site data verification

In May, SB conducted on-site sample data verification in 12 VDC offices in five districts. The assessments focused on ten indicators, mainly related to the project's Objectives B and C. The team found that 70% of data was verifiable with evidence and 30% was not. The VDC offices often had good records of Local Governance Community Development Program (LGCDP) guidelines, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategies, internal resources (taxable land, houses, businesses, etc.), budgets allocated for women and marginalized groups, and other budget details of the previous planning cycle. However, some offices could not produce evidence about Ward Citizens Forum (WCF) review meetings from the previous planning cycle or budget tracking, and errors were found in the

data presented in fundraising and sustainability plans. Based on the findings, SB intends to provide additional guidance and training, if necessary, to governance NGO (GNGO) partners and VDC offices on data collection and documentation.

2.1.7 Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) manual

In May, SB prepared a Scope of Work for developing a participatory MEAL training manual in Nepali. The manual will be used to train social mobilizers, community facilitators, and community leaders to assess the decision making processes of their own CBOs for inclusiveness and transparency. Likewise, it will cover strategies for accountability in carrying out community development projects through activities such as consultation meetings with community members, public audits, and monitoring and evaluation of projects based on outcomes. Once the manual is completed at the end of FY15, it will be used by SB's implementing partners in various capacity building trainings for CMCs, WCFs, Citizen Awareness Centers (CACs), YLGs, Community Management Units (CMUs), Radio Listener Groups (RLGs) and WORTH groups.

2.1.8 Revision of program strategies based on monitoring findings

During this quarter, SB utilized the findings of ongoing field-level monitoring activities, workshops, interactions, and the previous quarter's learning review to revise program strategies and approaches. Examples of revisions include:

- Based on a recommendation from last quarter's learning review, CeLRRd held consultation meetings in order to boost collaboration between CMC and traditional justice practitioners from the Tharu community. See *Objective A, Alternative Dispute Resolution*.
- Based on listener feedback requesting more drama in radio programming, SB partner EA began to include drama segments in each *Naya Nepal* (NN) episode. See *Objective A, Media in Development*.
- Based on last quarter's learning review, which recommended strengthening the capacity of CMU in order to provide better guidance to YLGs, YI held a CMU strengthening workshop. See *Objective A, Youth in Development*.
- Based on last quarter's learning review, which recommended strengthening WORTH groups' networks to ensure their sustainability, SB held Linkage, Network and Sustainability Trainings for WORTH groups. See *Objective A, Women's Economic Groups (WORTH)*.
- Based on findings of last quarter's workshops and learning review, SB is seeking better coordination of its WORTH and governance components to increase the quantity and quality of women's participation in local governance processes. To this end, capacity development trainings were held jointly for Social Mobilizers (SM) and EWs. See *Objective B, WORTH groups, CMCs, YLGs, and RLGs in planning and local development*.
- Based on previous Perceptions Surveys, which found that only a small portion of disputes in communities are actually registered at CMCs, SB partner CeLRRd is increasing social marketing in order to boost case registration. Likewise, CeLRRd is recommending that community mediators attend WCF meetings, and that SMs attend CMC meetings, in order to increase linkages between the two. See *Objective B, WORTH groups, CMCs, YLGs, and RLGs in Planning and Local Development*.

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

2.2.1 Result 1 – Early Responses that Address the Causes and Consequences of Instability are Institutionalized

SMS-based conflict mapping

SB continued to implement its SMS conflict mapping system, which allows conflict incidents reported by 515 trained reporters to be qualified by type, intensity, and recurrence. Once transmitted to the system's server, the reports are integrated into the geographic information system. This enables SB to track trends and prepare response strategies before conflicts escalate. This quarter, there were 280 conflict incidents reported. The most common type was interpersonal conflict (61%) followed by gender-based conflicts (22%), and resource-based conflict (13%). Thirty-three percent of conflicts were classified as high intensity, 40% as medium, and 27% as low. The highest numbers (36%) of conflicts were reported from Bardiya, followed by Kailali (18%), Surkhet (18%), Dang (11%), Kanchanpur (12%) and Banke (3%). SB partner CeLLRRd followed up on the most serious cases, alerting partners and government offices. SB's plans to produce and distribute an analysis of conflict cases this quarter was delayed due to activities following the earthquakes, and will be implemented in Q4 instead.⁷

TABLE 1: TYPES OF CONFLICT REPORTED BY SMS AND INTENSITY, APRIL-JUNE 2015

Conflict Type	Low	Medium	High	Total	%
Interpersonal	41	62	68	171	61%
Gender-based	21	33	7	61	22%
Resource-based	11	9	15	35	13%
Caste-based	2	4	2	8	3%
Identity-based		2		2	1%
Political	1	2		3	1%
Total	76	112	92	280	100%*
%	27%	40%	33%	100%	

*Rounded

Quarterly conflict assessments

During this quarter, Saferworld submitted the final revision of the Sixth Quarterly Conflict Assessment that tracks conflict trends identified during the Rapid Conflict Assessment in 2013. Additionally, it conducted field research for the Seventh Quarterly Conflict Assessment, and submitted the report to USAID in June. The seventh assessment examines youth engagement in local development initiatives and the impact on local conflict dynamics. The report awaits USAID review and approval. Some preliminary findings include:

- There is widespread unemployment among youth in the three districts surveyed (Banke, Kailali, and Surkhet). Respondents said that because of the lack of gainful employment opportunities, youth remain idle and are prone to engage in deviant behavior.

⁷ Note that there is no intended link between the community mediation program, which addresses individual disputes, and the SMS conflict mapping system, which measures broad trends. Although CeLLRRd follows up on the most serious cases reported through the SMS system, the anonymity of community mediators (CM) who also serve as SMS reporters is strictly maintained.

- Many respondents reported a large generation gap. While youth are generally more educated and technologically savvy, their elders usually view them as impulsive, immature, and reckless. Youth are often excluded from decision-making processes and opportunities because of their age and lack of experience.
- According to various respondents, youth today are less interested in politics. Many youth reported feeling used by political leaders, and were frustrated by an older generation of leaders that are unwilling to allow upward mobility of the youth within their parties. Youth who remain aligned with political parties said that they maintain their relationships often because the parties provide a little remuneration, either in cash or kind (e.g. fuel for bikes), not because they have faith in the parties or ideological commitment.
- Countrywide, there is a rising trend of youth migration to various foreign destinations for employment. Many families in the surveyed districts have migrated to India for employment for generations, while youth today migrate to varied countries, such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Kuwait, and Malaysia. Families are inclined to assist youth to migrate due to economic pressures. As a result, in many settlements youth are conspicuously absent.
- The use of mobile phones and social media among youth has risen significantly in the last couple of years. Although this can build youth's overall awareness and connections, respondents said it is also has negative implications. For example, they said youth become too engrossed in social media to the extent that they ignore educational commitments, and some youth engage in harassment, particularly of young women, using social media and text messaging.

SB is addressing many of the issues identified by the seventh assessment through YI's work with youth groups, and by helping youth to find local opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment. Through engaging youth groups in the local planning process and community development activities, YI is helping them to become constructively engaged locally. (See *Objective A, Youth in development*).

The methodology for the Eighth Quarterly Conflict Assessment was submitted for USAID's approval this quarter. This assessment will seek to explore public perceptions of women's contributions to local economies and the potential impact of local conflict dynamics.

Alternative dispute resolution

This quarter, CeLRRd continued its Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) activities, which provide a mechanism for the peaceful resolution of disputes and thus contribute to an enabling environment for development.

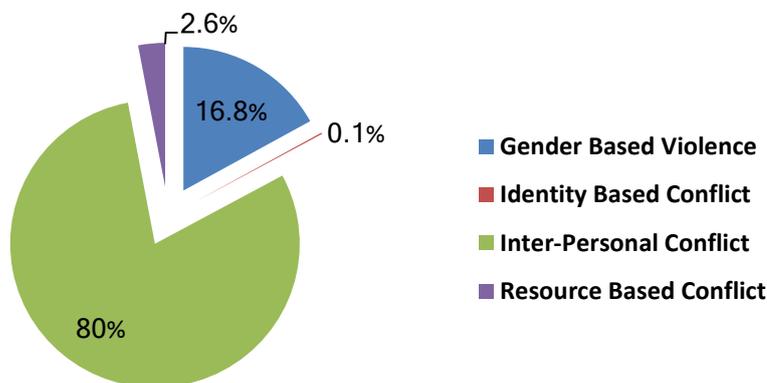
Disputes mediated

A total of 1,351 new cases were registered during this quarter, against a target of 1,001. The most common types of cases were interpersonal conflict followed by GBV and resource-based conflict. This pattern is consistent with previous quarters, and also aligns with the results of SB's SMS-based conflict mapping (see *SMS-based conflict mapping* above). Overall, the resolution rate of cases registered averaged 75% this quarter, close to a target of 80% resolution.

Mediators were trained in group mediation during the last quarter of 2014, with the understanding that mediation of group disputes is especially important in settling resource-based conflicts and in creating an enabling environment for community development. Three new cases of group mediation were registered during this quarter. Since the resolution of group conflicts tends to be a long term process, SB will report on the status of these cases in future reports as they evolve.

During the previous quarter, SB conducted ToT on gender and mediation for 78 district trainers (26 female, 52 male). This quarter, 228 new GBV cases were registered at CMCs, compared to 114 registered in the previous quarter. In cases where women were uncomfortable holding sessions at CMCs, mediators held sessions outside the CMC office at more private venues.

FIGURE 2 CASES REGISTERED IN CMCS BY TYPE, APRIL-JUNE 2015



Coordination with other stakeholders

During this quarter, CeLRRd held five consultation meetings in Phase 2 VDCs with district-level stakeholders to share the purpose and accomplishments of community mediation, solicit feedback for Phase 2 implementation, and improve coordination between CMCs and district-level stakeholders. The meetings included judges, government attorneys, district police officials, and representatives of the DDC offices, district bar associations, LGCDP, and district mediation monitoring committees. In addition, CeLRRd held 31 consultation meetings in Phase 2 VDCs attended by government officials, political leaders, WCF coordinators, and teachers. The district level consultations enabled CeLRRd to interact with and inform participants from the District Mediation Monitoring Committee and other stakeholders about SB’s community mediation activities that will begin in Phase 2 VDCs. At the VDC-level, the consultations focused on introducing the mediation program, explaining the dispute resolution process, and creating a favorable environment among stakeholders for the selection of mediators in Phase 2 VDCs.

In response to a recommendation from last quarter’s learning review, CeLRRd provided orientation on community mediation to traditional practitioners of justice in Tharu communities, known as *barghars*, *balmansas*, *mahatos*, or *aguwas*. These community leaders have traditionally been responsible for settling disputes in their communities, but generally through arbitration rather than mediation. CeLRRd held nine orientations with 25 leaders in Bardiya, Dang and Kailali, informing them about the facilitated interest-based mediation approach, which many of them were previously unfamiliar with. Many of the traditional practitioners expressed interest in adopting mediation techniques, becoming community mediators, or referring cases brought to them to CMCs.

As a result of SB’s outreach activities, CMCs continue to receive referrals for cases appropriate for mediation from a range of local stakeholders. For example, 6% of cases this quarter were referred to CMCs by the police, political parties, traditional justice practitioners, or VDCs. Likewise, 2% of cases were referred by CBOs, such as WORTH groups.

Basic Mediation Training and establishment of new CMCs

CeLRRd conducted 23 Basic Mediation Trainings for 544 (311 male, 233 female) community mediators in Phase 2 VDCs.

CeLRRd established 22 new CMCs in Phase 2 VDCs this quarter.

Social marketing of community mediation services

CMCs conducted 12 door-to-door social marketing campaigns in order to raise awareness about community mediation, primarily in Phase 2 VDCs. The social marketing reached an estimated 15,796 persons. In addition, CeLRRd partnered with EA to produce radio programming to raise awareness about CMCs. See *Objective A, Media in Development*.

Sustainability of CMCs

There were notable achievements towards the sustainability of the ADR program this quarter, yet challenges remain. See *Objective C, Sustainability of Community Mediation Centers (CMCs)*.

GESI in community mediation

CeLRRd is incorporating women and members of marginalized caste/ethnic groups into its ADR programs. Of the 544 new mediators who were given Basic Mediation Training this quarter, 233 (43%) were women, and their caste/ethnic makeup roughly mirrored that of the Phase 1 working VDCs (see

TABLE 8: INFRASTRUCTURE MICRO-GRANT PROJECTS

S.N.	District	VDCs	Types of Activities	Status
1	Banke	Phattepur	Market Collection Center	Completed
2	Banke	Khaskusma	Road Improvement	Completed
3	Banke	Binauna	Road Improvement	Completed
4	Banke	Kamdi	Market Collection Center	Completed
5	Banke	Sonpur	School Building	Completed
6	Banke	Ganapur	Road Improvement	Completed
7	Banke	Udharapur	Road Improvement	Completed
8	Banke	Shamsherganj	Road Improvement	Completed
9	Banke	Mahadevpuri	Community Building	Completed
10	Banke	Indrapur	Drinking Water System	Completed
11	Banke	Kachnapur	Public Toilet	On-going
12	Banke	Belhari	Road Improvement	Completed
13	Banke	Kamdi	Irrigation	On-going
14	Bardiya	Taratal	Culvert	Completed
15	Bardiya	Sanosree	Road Improvement	Completed
16	Bardiya	Kalika	Road Improvement	Completed
17	Bardiya	Patabhar	Road Improvement	Completed
18	Bardiya	Jamuni	Market Collection Center	Completed
19	Bardiya	Padnaha	School Building	Completed
20	Bardiya	Mohamadpur	Community Building	On-going
21	Bardiya	Deudakala	School Building	On-going
22	Dang	Hekuli	Road Improvement	Completed
23	Dang	Phulbari	Road Improvement	Completed
24	Dang	Tarigaun	Road Improvement	Completed
25	Dang	Dharna	Road Improvement	Completed
26	Dang	Bijauri	Community Building	On-going
27	Dang	Chailahi	Road Improvement	Completed
28	Dang	Gangaparaspur	Road Improvement	Completed

29	Dang	Gobardiha	River Training	Completed
30	Dang	Laxmipur	Community Building	Completed
31	Dang	Shreegaun	Road Improvement	Completed
32	Kailali	Durgauli	Road Improvement	Completed
33	Kailali	Dhansinghpur	Road Improvement	Completed
34	Kailali	Dododhara	Road Improvement	Completed
35	Kailali	Sadepani	Drinking Water System	On-going
36	Kailali	Narayanpur	School Building	On-going
37	Kailali	Patharaiya	School Building	On-going
38	Kailali	Pratappur	Road Improvement	Completed
39	Kailali	Chuha	Road Improvement	Completed
40	Kailali	Munuwa	School Building	Completed
41	Kailali	Masuriya	School Building	Completed
42	Kailali	Thapapur	Culvert	Completed
43	Kailali	Munuwa	Elevated Safe Shelter	On-going
44	Kanchanpur	Pipladi	Road Improvement	Completed
45	Kanchanpur	Baisebichwa	Road Improvement	Completed
46	Kanchanpur	Krishnapur	School Building	Completed
47	Kanchanpur	Shankarpur	School Building	Completed
48	Kanchanpur	Raikabar Bichawa	Drinking Water System	On-going
49	Surkhet	Latikoili	Road Improvement	Completed
50	Surkhet	Pokharikanda-06	Drinking Water System	Completed
51	Surkhet	Sahare-05	Road Improvement	Completed
52	Surkhet	Jarbuta 5,6	Drinking Water System	Completed
53	Surkhet	Kunathari-1	Irrigation	Completed
54	Surkhet	Lekhparajul	Drinking Water System	On-going
55	Surkhet	Mehalkuna	Irrigation	On-going
56	Surkhet	Ghumkhahare	Irrigation	On-going
57	Surkhet	Ramghat	Library Building	On-going
58	Surkhet	Dharapani	Road Improvement	On-going
59	Surkhet	Gadhi	School Building	On-going
60	Surkhet	Lekgaun	School Building	Completed

FIGURE 4 in Annex 2). Likewise, CeLRRd has made special efforts to reach out to Tharu traditional justice practitioners, as discussed above.

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

Women’s Economic Groups (WORTH)

SB continues to support women’s economic groups utilizing Pact’s WORTH model, an integrated literacy-led approach for women’s empowerment. The 5,328 women who are WORTH group members as of this reporting period come from a diverse set of ethnic/caste groups. For a breakdown, see **FIGURE 5** Annex 2.

Community orientation and group formation/reformation

EWs held 18 ward-level community orientations in Phase 1 VDCs, attended by 696 people. The events, which targeted disadvantaged community members and representatives from government line agencies, provided information about the WORTH model and the

opportunities it offers local women. In tandem with the orientations, a total of 41 new WORTH groups were formed, with a total of 1,102 members in Phase 1 VDCs. WORTH NGOs started implementing start-up training packages for the new groups, which will continue into the next quarter. The new groups will be supported until November 2016 to ensure that they receive adequate capacity development and institutionalization support. Combined with the 159 groups previously reported, a total of 200 groups have been formed/reformed by SB to date.⁸

Literacy classes

EWs and literacy volunteers facilitated 1,040 literacy classes this quarter. On average, each group held 3.4 classes per month, with concepts about village banking and small business management integrated into the curriculum. Customized literacy materials including picture cards and books for different reading levels include: *Our Group* (basic literacy), *Selling Made Simple* (guidelines for starting small businesses), and *The Road to Wealth* (independent study for advanced readers). Most group members have now started to read words with the help of *Our Group*, a tailor-made basic literacy book that combines learning alphabets and words with practical skills for group facilitation.

Savings and loan activities

A total of 4,687 members from 176 WORTH groups in five districts have saved a total of NRs. 3,507,296 to date through a combination of mandatory savings, voluntary savings, interest earnings, group income, and fines and penalties. A total of NRs. 1,602,542 was saved this quarter, compared to NRs. 893,451 last quarter. WORTH groups issued a total of 1,023 loans to 1,003 members this quarter for NRs. 2,915,071, as compared to 1,076 loans given to 1,015 members for NRs. 2,165,413 last quarter. Although the average loan size of NRs 2,850 is relatively small, for many of the WORTH group members even this small amount is critical in assisting them to generate additional income. Members used loans for a variety of purposes, including animal husbandry, mushroom farming, candle-making, and snacks production. WORTH group members started a total of 161 small businesses within the reporting period.

TABLE 2: WORTH GROUPS LOAN DATA, APRIL-JUNE 2015

Partner	Districts	# of Loans	# Members Receiving Loans	Loan Amount	Micro-enterprises Started
NNSWA	Kanchanpur and Kailali	287	286	715360	116
JJMS	Bardiya	268	268	829169	0
FFN	Banke	144	144	626650	40
WAM	Surkhet	324	305	743892	5
	TOTAL	1,023	1,003	2,915,071	161

Training for WORTH groups

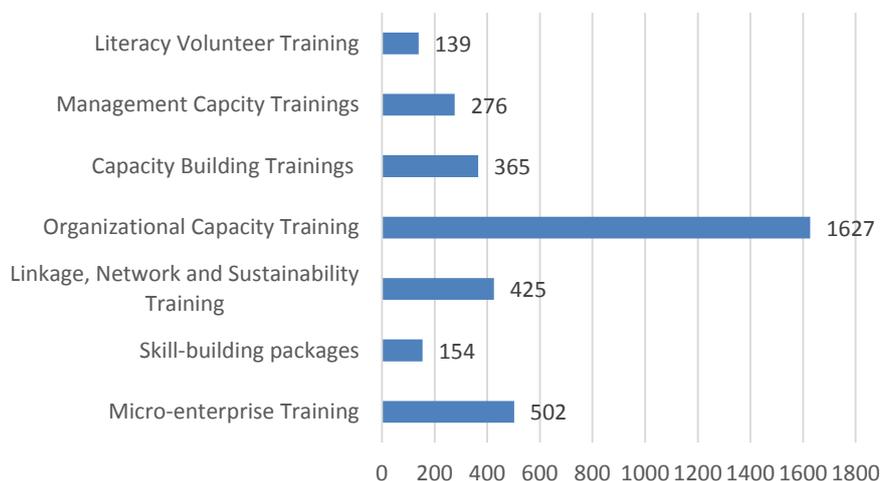
WORTH NGO partners organized 20 business and micro-enterprise trainings which were attended by 502 WORTH group members. The trainings covered methods for identifying business opportunities, business concept planning, risk analysis, marketing, pricing, and salesmanship. As a practical compliment to these trainings, partners organized training on seven skill-building packages for 154 participants. Specific skills included snack preparation, candle making, vegetable farming, livestock farming, and mushroom farming. At the end of the training, the women formed small enterprise groups and prioritized areas of interest for

⁸ Due to the suspension of SB partner SUPER in Dang, work with 24 groups was temporarily halted in October 2014. SB will restart these groups in July 2015.

possible support in mushroom farming equipment, rope binding machines, shelters for chickens, and sewing machines. Based on their prioritization, SB provided materials support to 84 groups, up to Rs. 50,000/group. A number of the small-enterprise groups have begun making profits, while others that were formed this quarter have postponed activity due to the agricultural planting season.

WORTH NGO partners also offered a variety of other training to WORTH groups. This quarter, SB offered Linkage, Network and Sustainability Training to help WORTH groups connect with local government agencies so that they can become self-sustaining beyond the life of the project. SB also conducted Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) training to enable WORTH members to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their groups and develop 100-day work plans to address identified weaknesses. Each WORTH NGO provided a series of five capacity-building trainings to group members, which provided skills for participating in local governance processes and group management. SB also provided Management Committee Trainings to orient new WORTH group committees on their roles and responsibilities, as well as village bank management and accounting systems. Finally, SB trained new literacy volunteers to facilitate literacy classes for the new WORTH groups.

FIGURE 3 # OF PARTICIPANTS IN TRAININGS FOR WORTH GROUPS, APRIL-JUNE 2015



Impact survey

In Quarter 1 of this year, WORTH NGOs conducted impact surveys of 103 WORTH groups in 48 VDCs in all Phase 1 SB districts, except Dang. They collected information on the household structure, economic status, social status, and access to local resources of the group members. Data entry was completed last quarter; the final report will be completed in the next quarter.

Review and reflection meetings

WORTH groups conducted VDC-level review and reflection meetings attended by a total of 847 group members. Participants discussed progress and challenges, including access to market for their products, lack of safe space for meetings in adverse weather conditions, and the ability to only give small loan amounts due to small savings amounts. They also shared best practices in terms of strategies for obtaining support from government line agencies, for example, requesting resource persons and facilitators for skills training.

WORTH group advocacy activities

A number of WORTH groups undertook campaigns around social issues this quarter. Many WORTH groups planned for these campaigns as part of the action plans they created during trainings. Additionally, EWs facilitate discussions during weekly meetings that have supported women who were previously only engaged in household chores and work together on community development issues. For example, in Belahari VDC of Banke, WORTH group members organized a campaign to prevent child marriage and the verbal divorce system in the Muslim community. SB facilitated collaboration between WORTH groups and GNGO partners to increase member participation in planning and local development. WORTH group members also took part in managing and monitoring local government-funded projects. See *Objective B, WORTH groups, LYGs, and RLGs in planning and local development.*

Youth in development

During this reporting period, SB's partner YI continued to implement a range of activities to promote youth participation in local development and governance processes.

Youth Dialogue Series (YDS)

DYN facilitated 17 YDS, which were attended by a total of 544 youth (228 female, 316 male). These two-hour sessions served to develop dialogue and civic leadership skills among participants. Topics included the role of youth in boosting school enrollment (in the context of the Ministry of Education's April School Enrollment Campaign), swine flu control, conflict mitigation, entrepreneurship, disaster risk management, earthquake safety, RTI, and youth participation in local users' groups. Following a YDS on the role of youth in maintaining a clean environment, the DYN in Surkhet organized a one-day clean-up campaign at Bulbule Lake, a famous body of water in the district. LYGs in Bardiya and other districts participated in school enrollment campaigns following YDSs on this topic. These examples demonstrate how YDS can serve as a springboard for volunteerism and direct involvement of youth in community development.

Youth employment activities

Following a recommendation from last quarter's learning review, YI conducted six follow-up meetings with 178 participants from the Entrepreneurship Development Training (EDT) carried out in September 2014. During the meetings, successful youth shared their experiences with those who had not yet been able to find employment or had not yet started businesses. Representatives from the Office of Small and Cottage Industry, District Agriculture Development Offices, District Animal Health Offices, and Skill Development Offices also took part in the meetings, providing additional advice and guidance. This quarter, 13 youth started new businesses in vegetable farming, tailoring, and other fields.

Community development activities (CDA)

LYGs and DYNs designed and implemented 175 CDAs involving 5,059 local community members this quarter. In April, CDAs included campaigns for school enrollment and against social discrimination, road and tap maintenance, and other activities, such as an organic fertilizer production training by the LYG of Tarigaun VDC, Dang, in coordination with Tulsipur Municipality. The latter resulted in four participants beginning production operations. After the earthquakes in April and May, CDAs focused on collection of materials and funds for relief, often in coordination with VDC Offices, WCFs, Disaster Risk Management Committees, and other stakeholders. For example, the DYN in Dang collected relief materials and NRs. 18,000, which was handed over to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. CDAs were also integrated with other areas SB programming. For example, the LYG in Masuriya, Kailali painted a public mural on the Right to Information, and the LYG of Sonapur, Dang organized a program on governance and accountability. LYGs in Sonapur and Latikoili, Surkhet assisted VDCs to hold Public Hearings. See *Objective C, Public Hearings.*

Trainings and workshops

In May, in response to a recommendation from last quarter's learning review, YI organized a workshop for strengthening CMUs. The 145 participants (65 female, 80 male) reviewed their roles as CMU members and developed quarterly plans to support LYG community development activities and youth participation in local governance.

YI held 12 three-day Evidence-Based Advocacy Trainings, which were attended by 150 participants (91 female, 59 male). The objective was to capacitate youth to use persuasive evidence to carry out advocacy work on issues relevant to them. They developed work plans for advocacy campaigns on topics like early marriage, drug abuse, child labor, youth participation, and accountability. These work plans will help guide LYG activities in the next quarter, with results monitored by SB.

YI conducted a three-day Governance and Accountability Training for 165 DYN and LYG members. The objective was to capacitate participants to monitor development programs using social accountability tools like public hearings and public audits, as well as to effectively participate in and monitor the local planning process. At the end of the training, participants developed VDC-level action plans to implement these tools. For example, the LYG in Srigaun VDC of Dang conducted an orientation program on monitoring Ward-level projects and plans to organize a monitoring program in the next quarter. DYN and LYG members will be monitored in the coming months to gauge their involvement based on the training. YI also conducted six refresher life skills trainings for 147 LYG members (67 female, 80 male) to boost the participants' skills and capacity for leadership so that they can better manage LYG activities.

National Youth Service (NYS)

NYS is a special new program of YI designed to familiarize youth with government systems and to capacitate them through direct involvement in the functioning of local government bodies. NYS volunteers are assigned for five-month periods to work in VDC or DDC offices. This quarter, eight NYS volunteers were appointed in Banke, Bardiya, Dang, and Kailali, where they are involved in tasks such as library management and documentation. The selection of NYS volunteers for Kanchanpur and Surkhet will take place next quarter.

VDC-level consultation meetings

In preparation for establishing LYGs in Phase 2 VDCs, YI organized eight consultation meetings with VDC secretaries, political party leaders, teachers, local CBOs, and youth organization representatives. In the meetings, YI provided information about SB programs, collected feedback, and solicited support for effective implementation of the project. Feedback included the need for inclusive groups to be formed, follow-up activities to training, and transparency in project budgets. Following the feedback that SB partners should jointly conduct VDC-level consultation meetings, CeLLRd and YI conducted joint VDC consultations in Surkhet.

Youth involvement in users' groups

Youth group members are increasingly taking part in local users' groups, such as Project Beneficiary Committees and Integrated Planning Formulation Committees (IPFC). A total of 95 LYG members and 45 CMU members are participating as members of users' groups, and 40 of them hold key decision-making roles in these bodies.

GESI in youth programs

Following last quarter's learning review, SB staff have worked with YI to improve participation of women and marginalized caste/ethnic groups in youth activities. This quarter, females constituted the majority in YI's evidenced-based advocacy training (61% of participants), governance and accountability training (57%), LYG quarterly review and reflection meetings (67%), and the National Youth Service volunteers (50%). There remains a need for improvement in other areas. This quarter, females remained minorities in YI's

CDAs (46%), the CMU strengthening workshop (45%), and life-skills trainings (45%). Furthermore, Hill Brahmin/Chettri groups were over-represented in many activities, as well as in leadership positions: 59% of participants at the CMU strengthening meeting this quarter were Hill Brahmin/Chettri, as were 57% of participants at the Regional Youth Network meeting (see

FIGURE 6 through **FIGURE 8** in Annex 2). Improvement in GESI, such that active and meaningful participation of young women and youth from marginalized communities is increased at all levels, is a top priority of YI during the coming quarter.

Media in Development

During this reporting period, EA and its partner stations continued to produce central and local-level radio programming and engage listeners, primarily through RLGs, in discussion and participatory action around project themes. In addition, EA produced a series of PSAs on earthquake relief and safety broadcasted in the affected districts just days after the initial quake.

Coordination and collaboration with other SB partners

EA coordinated with various partners to produce central-level programming. In April, EA produced two NN episodes on community mediation. CeLLRd, YI, GNGOs and WORTH NGOs also submitted success stories that were included in radio episodes. For example, an episode of SSMK was produced and broadcast on youth entrepreneurship, for which YI partners provided voice and content. In May, also in collaboration with YI, NN producers interviewed LYG and DYN members for episodes highlighting the role of youth in the local development process and in preparing their communities for natural disasters. After the earthquake, EA worked with the National Society for Earthquake Technology to produce radio programs and PSAs on building safety, demolition, and health. Likewise, it worked with the Women's Rehabilitation Center to produce PSAs on post-earthquake challenges for women.

For the locally-produced Sajhedari shows, producers coordinated with VDC secretaries, government line agency focal persons, CeLRRd, YI, and SB's governance and WORTH NGO partners to develop radio episodes. This helped enhance the quality of reporting on issues such as youth entrepreneurship, users groups, and establishing peace in local communities. The local governance partner NGOs also coordinated with SB producers to record and report on Public Hearings.

SB partners also participated in local Content Advisory Group (CAG) meetings and the Radio Strategic Advisory Committee meeting in order to provide input and guidance for upcoming programming. At these meetings, partners requested coverage of topics related to their activities and contributed ideas and information to improve episodes.

Central-level radio programming

EA produced 13 NN and one SSMK episodes this quarter, broadcasted by 16 local partner FM Stations and Radio Nepal.

This quarter, NN covered a variety of topics including alternative dispute resolution, good governance and community development, youth in local governance, and earthquake relief and reconstruction. One episode was produced in the heavily-affected community of Gorkha-4 Paslang featuring the voices of affected people. It focused on relief and rebuilding initiatives undertaken by local government bodies and the District Administration Office (DAO). At the request of many listeners over the last year, in May, EA began to include a short drama segment in each NN episode. This new inclusion helped lighten the program tone despite dealing with serious issues central to the SB project.

NN episodes also included 'guest producer' segments wherein producers from local partner stations worked one-on-one with EA lead-producers, providing opportunities for knowledge and information sharing. For example, as part of a disaster preparedness episode, Tikaram Chaudhary of Gurbaba FM, Bardiya produced a segment on the situation of people affected by last year's floods, many of whom are still struggling to get access to land and good shelter. Likewise, Sabitri Giri of Krishnasar FM, Banke produced a segment on the role of youth networks in connecting marginalized ethnic groups and women with local bodies and access to resources.

NN and SSMK included voices of community members from the project areas collected by EA's network of 16 Community Reporters (CR) and through the listener call-in system, Integrated Voice Response (IVR). A total of 527 SMS and 193 IVR voice messages containing voice material from listeners were received. Likewise, listener feedback was collected by EA's network of Community Action Researchers (CARs), and through IVRs and SMS messages submitted by listeners. Listeners requested programming topics including youth and women's empowerment, health, and disaster preparedness through these media. There were also requests for more programming in local languages, such as Tharu and Awadhi. Feedback provided was discussed during CAG meetings and adapted to into future programming.

During a central-level critical listening feedback session (CLFS) in June, 11 SB partner representatives from CeLLRd, Environment and Rural Development Center (ENRUDEC), Fatima Foundation Nepal (FFN), Pact, and YI evaluated the technical and programmatic quality of one randomly selected NN episode. CLFS participants listened to the episode in its entirety and rated it using a "score card."⁹The episode was about taxes collected by local bodies and their utilization. It received a score of 90%, a significant improvement over last quarter's 80%. The participants recommended using simpler, clearer terminology so that listeners can better understand. They also recommended interviewing more experts on the issues. They were impressed by the episode's drama segment and noted it was effective in delivering messages. EA will draw on this feedback while producing future radio programs.

Local-level radio programming

Local production partners produced 104 episodes of the half-hour show *Sajhedari*, which were transmitted by 16 broadcasting partner stations. Sixteen of the episodes were produced in the Tharu language, five in Awadhi, and one in Doteli. Segments within other episodes were also in local languages. Episodes covered similar topics as the NN and SSMK episodes, but with more locally-specific information and reporting by station staff. *Sajhedari* episodes also included reporting on Public Hearings with voice material from local community members and VDC secretaries.

Sajhedari episodes incorporated feedback from listeners obtained through RLGs and CARs, with content guided by eight local-level CAGs held during the quarter and attended by a total of 77 producers, SB partners, government and civil society representatives, and other stakeholders. Female participation in these meetings was 38%. Through these collaborative CAG meetings, topics for upcoming episodes were selected. During the next quarter, EA plans to work directly with each production partner FM station to ensure an increase in participation by women in local CAG meetings.

⁹ The score card was reviewed by Pact M&E team at the beginning of implementation and scores the episode on the format, presentation, topics, inclusion of voice, and technical aspects. EA uses these scores to monitor the effectiveness of radio programs and as points for follow-up with local producer mentoring and support.

A total of eight CLFS for *Sajhedari* episodes were held this quarter. They were attended by 69 community members, SB partner representatives, radio producers and RLG members. Each CLFS evaluated one randomly selected *Sajhedari* episode. Participants suggested improvements related to content, format, presentation, inclusion of voices, technical aspects, balance, educational value, linkages between state and society, and creativity. Three stations scored 90%, four 80%, and one 70%. These scores represent a significant improvement from the baseline conducted in 2013, when the average score was 59%.

PSAs and social media campaigns

In response to the devastating April and May earthquakes, EA began producing relevant PSAs at the request of USAID. A total of seven PSAs related to the earthquake were produced this quarter, containing vital information on health and hygiene, safety precautions, government disaster relief funds available for affected populations, safety measures while demolishing houses, and challenges for women after the earthquake. Beginning April 30, the PSAs were broadcasted by more than 40 local radio stations in the 14 most affected districts¹⁰ and also by two national stations: Ujjyalo 90 Network and ACORAB/CIN.

TABLE 3: PSAs PRODUCED AND BROADCASTED, APRIL – JUNE 2015

PSA Topic	# Produced	Partners	Languages	# Broadcasting Stations	Broadcast Dates	# of Broadcasts
By-election in Bardiya and Kailali	1	Election Commission of Nepal	Nepali, Tharu, Doteli, Awadhi	7	June 19-June 21, 2015	210
Earthquake Disaster Relief/Building Safety	1	NSET	Nepali	55	Apr 30-May 15, 2015	2,200
Earthquake Disaster Relief/Health	1	NSET	Nepali	55	Apr 30-May 15, 2015	2,200
Earthquake Disaster Relief: MOFALD Directives	1	LGCDP	Nepali	55	May 7 - May 17, 2015	1,100
Earthquake Disaster Relief/House Demolition	1	NSET	Nepali	30	May 17 - May 25, 2015	1,200
Earthquake & Gender Based Violence	3	WOREC	Nepali	35	June 3 - June 30, 2015	> 1,500

In order to assess the PSAs' effectiveness, EA carried out a rapid assessment in Dhading, Gorkha, and Lamjung. The assessment found that 72% of respondents 'strongly agreed' that the PSAs helped to provide them with information; more than 66%, 75% and 34% (respectively) said they had taken action after learning from PSAs about safe demolition, health and hygiene, and VDC and Ward Funds for victims, respectively; and more than 90% said they had shared the messages that they heard from the PSAs.

¹⁰ Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kabhrepalanchok, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Okhaldhunga, Ramechhap, Sindhuli and Makawanpur.

Independent bloggers posted new articles on the citizen journalism and social networking platform, *Mero Report*, which is maintained by EA. A total of six new blog-posts were sent from SB districts this quarter on topics ranging from the planning process to ideas for attracting tourism to the status of flood victims.

Radio Listener Groups and the micro-grant initiative

SB continued to support 100 RLGs established in Phase 1 VDCs, which held a total of 519 RLG meetings this quarter, attended by 9,115 group members (6,851 female, 2,264 male). Through RLGs, listeners engage in discussion and participatory action around the issues raised in radio programming.

EA designed a micro-grants initiative to provide seed-funding for RLGs up to USD \$500 in order to encourage participatory action. The process and experience of handling these micro-grants is designed to enable RLGs to undertake and manage more of their own projects in future. Based on pre- and post-test assessments conducted, EA found a general increase in workshop participants' knowledge on the topics covered, such as RTI and other social accountability tools. Likewise, participants at the skill trainings generally said that the trainings were effective in teaching skills such as bamboo crafts and candle making, but they often lamented that they did not have enough funds to start businesses and thereby unable to put the skills to use. One RLG held a street drama that was attended by a majority of members, while another installed 10 information boards raising awareness to stop child marriage. In total, the micro-grant activities had 958 participants/beneficiaries, including 651 direct beneficiaries (501 female, 150 male) and 207 audience members of street dramas and rallies.

The second round of the RLG micro-grants was launched in March, and a total of 58 applications were received by the submission deadline. The evaluation committee is in the process of reviewing all of the applications and began short-listing grantees in the month of June.

Training for women and indigenous journalists on GBV and development

From May 10-14, EA conducted a five-day training in Nepalgunj for 19 female journalists from SB districts on reporting cases of GBV and related issues. The training is a continuation of a Year 2 activity that was conceptualized in response to the findings of the Gender and Peace Building Survey conducted in Year 1, which determined that media should be used to address issues related to GBV and gender sensitivity. The training was co-facilitated by EA's Binaya Guragain and a local expert on media and gender, Jaya Luintel. Sessions included GBV concepts and trends, national and international instruments against GBV, use of new media platforms for reporting, and photography. Each participant will publish or broadcast two stories on GBV next quarter. The training will enable the journalists to better report on GBV cases and bring them into public discourse in a constructive way. At the same time, the training highlights areas of intersection between SB project activities and GBV, such as CeLRRd's alternative dispute resolution activities.

Likewise, EA conducted a five-day skills enhancement training from May 25-29 in Surkhet on reporting with a conflict sensitive lens and development issues for 18 indigenous journalists (8 female, 12 male). The training focused on strengthening the skills of journalists from marginalized communities to report on issues acting the development of their communities, such that they can publish/broadcast content that highlights their expertise, voice and views. Sessions covered national and international laws about indigenous peoples, new media and technology, and the work of the SB. Each participant was paired with an SB partner to produce and broadcast or publish two stories on indigenous people and development issues. An update on this activity will be reflected in the following quarterly report.

Other training

In June, EA held a training for 16 CRs (6 female, 10 male), including nine who were newly recruited. The training covered technical skills, information on radio formats, orientation on the SB project objectives and themes, social media, and ways to collaborate with SB partners. This network of CRs will serve as the “eyes and ears on the ground” in Phase 2 VDCs.

EA provided capacity building and refresher training for 16 FM station producers and station managers from eight partner FM stations in the project districts during June in Birendranagar, Surkhet. A representative from SB’s local partner NGO Social Awareness Center (SAC) attended the training and shared ongoing activities in governance and women’s empowerment. Likewise, a representative from the Local Development Office led a special guest session on local governance and development under DDC activities.

GESI in media programs

SB’s media programming is reaching a diverse group of listeners. RLGs have a high proportion of marginalized groups, and 77% of participants in RLG meetings were female this quarter (see **FIGURE 9** in Annex 2). Male participation is low, because males, especially from marginalized communities, often leave the village for work opportunities and are not able to participate in regular RLG meetings. Unfortunately, diversity in listenership is not reflected in the production teams that EA work with. Men and Hill Brahmin/Chhetris were over-represented in CAG meetings (e.g. in May’s meetings, 70% of participants were male and 43% were Hill-Brahmin/Chhetri). During the training for women journalists on GBV, Hill Brahmin/Chhetri groups were over-represented (see **FIGURE 10** in Annex 2), while in the special training for indigenous journalists, men were over-represented. Among the community reporters, 62.5% are male and Hill Brahmin/Chhetris were over-represented (see **FIGURE 11** Annex 2). Among partner stations’ head producers and people in decision-making roles, the skew in caste and gender is starker. While SB has reached marginalized groups through RLGs, the over-representation of dominant groups in the production teams tends to re-enforce age-old patterns.

EA committed to working with identified partner stations in reforming the composition of partner producers, and finding ways to mentor and groom staff who are female and from marginalized communities. For example, as part of the production training for FM production partners this year, a GESI session focused on the need to recruit more women for CAG meetings and other positions in general. EA is making efforts to increase the representation of women and marginalized ethnic/caste groups wherever possible in future journalists trainings, as recommended by last quarter’s learning review, which also seeks to increase radio programming in local languages.

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

2.3.1 Result 1: Inclusive Community Strategic Planning Processes Established

WCF bi-monthly meetings and WCF/ CAC orientations

This quarter, SB’s GNGO partners facilitated a total of 180 bi-monthly WCF meetings and 156 orientations for WCFs and CACS, which were attended by 17,271 persons (9,537 female, 7,734 male; for a caste/ethnic breakdown, see **FIGURE 12** in Annex 2). At the bi-monthly meetings, the SMs facilitated discussions about use of the budgets designated for target groups by MoFALD’s resource mobilization guidelines and the role of user committees like Implementing Partner Committees (IPCs) and Project Monitoring Committees (PMCs) in monitoring local projects. At the orientations, SMs discussed the roles and responsibilities of WCF and CAC members, emphasizing the crucial function these bodies play in empowering local citizens to participate in the planning process and to hold government service delivery institutions accountable.

2.3.2 Result 2: Strategic Community Development Plans Established

Village Profiles and Periodic Village Development Plans (PVDP)

During previous quarters, SB helped to finalize Village Profiles and PVDPs for 41 Phase 1 VDCs (51 VDCs began work on PVDPs, but some stopped because they were merged into municipalities). One remaining VDC in Masuriya, Kailali is currently finalizing its Village Profile and PVDP, and one VDC in Pokharikanda, Surkhet approved its PVDP this quarter. After the approval process in Masuriya, Kailali, the Village Profile and PVDP process will be complete in Phase 1 VDCs.

Periodic District Development Plans (PDDP)

In previous quarters, SB helped to develop PDDP in Banke, Surkhet and Kailali. All three districts endorsed the plans at District Council meetings last quarter, and this quarter Banke finalized the document at a validation workshop on May 24.

Support to District Information and Documentation Centers (DIDC)

As per the work plan, SB is supporting DDCs' DIDCs in all six districts to print strategic documents; this support was frequently requested by DDCs. This quarter, SB printed the District Transport Master Plan (DTMP) and the District Profile for Dang District. SB is coordinating with other DDICs to provide similar support in remaining districts next quarter.

Facilitation of MoFALD's VDC/Municipality-level post-disaster planning

Following the earthquake, SB revised its work plan to include support to VDCs and Municipalities in Gorkha, Lamjung and Dhading districts to develop post-disaster recovery plans for spending immediate relief funds provided by MoFALD. According to MoFALD guidelines, the funds will be managed by short-term committees formed in each VDC/Municipality, consisting of the VDC Secretary, WCF Coordinators, WCF members, and SMs of LGCDP. This quarter, SB began the process of selecting VDCs/Municipalities and GNGO partners in the new districts. SB will provide technical support to the short-term committees in preparing post-disaster recovery plans through a participatory planning process in August.

2.3.3 Result 3: CBOs advocate for needed resources for financial, technical and commodity support

WORTH groups, CMCs, LYGs, and RLGs in planning and local development

Through participation in the 14-step planning process, five WORTH groups were successful in acquiring funding for local projects last quarter. Women in Binauna and Kamdi VDCs of Banke successfully advocated for road construction projects, and two WORTH groups from Belhari VDC successfully advocated with their VDC to repair a broken bridge. A WORTH group in Sanoshree VDC of Bardiya was able to acquire funds for pig farming training. In Kamdi and Indrapur VDCs of Banke, WORTH members were appointed to user's committees to oversee local road construction projects. These WORTH groups played an active role in managing these projects this quarter, and several projects have already been completed.

In response to the need for greater coordination between governance NGOs and WORTH groups, this quarter SB conducted three three-day capacity development trainings for 94 empowerment workers and social mobilizers from all six project districts in April. The aim was to strengthen participation by women and marginalized group members in the planning process and implementation of local government-funded projects. EWs benefited by learning more about the work of SMs and the local planning process, while SMs benefited by learning more about the work of WORTH groups.

In order to promote better integration of CMCs with local government, SB has encouraged community mediators to attend bi-monthly WCF meetings to orient community members on

the mediation process. Likewise, SB encouraged SMs to attend monthly CMC meetings to orient mediators on local the governance processes. Through these efforts, SB hopes to increase case registration at CMCs and to involve community mediators in advocating for long-term funding for their CMCs from the VDCs.

LYGs are also playing a role in increasing transparency of local government in their communities. For example, LYG members submitted RTI applications (per the Right to Information Act [2064]) in Mahadevpuri and Samsanganj VDCs in Banke. As a result, they were provided information on building and road construction projects in their areas. Information gathered through these types of initiatives can be used by LYGs in designing advocacy initiatives, and it can enrich discussion in YDSs.

RLGs also advocated for local development projects with VDCs and other organizations this quarter. For example, the all-female Sagarmatha RLG of Bijauri VDC, Dang successfully advocated with the VDC secretary to acquire piping for a water project in their community. Similarly, after the Ekta RLG in Kailali received a VDC budget allocation for a community building last quarter, it discovered that the VDC funds were not sufficient to complete the project. So this quarter they contacted other NGOs in their area, and received additional funds from World Vision. These examples show that RLGs are widening their linkages in their communities in order to advocate for needed resources.

Micro-projects

Current Districts

Using a community contracting mechanism, SB is providing support valued up to USD \$5,000 for development initiatives prioritized in VDC plans.

A total of 174 micro-project requests were received during Year 2, of which 58 were approved in previous quarters. This quarter, an additional two were approved, one of which is an irrigation project being implemented in collaboration with USAID's KISAN project. The other small-scale infrastructure projects are for the construction of public culverts, roads, small bridges, school infrastructure, market sheds, and toilets. These projects were designed in collaboration with engineers hired for the purpose. Thirty-eight small-scale infrastructure projects have been completed and 22 are nearing completion. A complete list of projects by VDC, type and status is included in Error! Reference source not found. in Annex 2.

Additionally, SB has hired F-Skill to implement 58 vocational training programs using the community contracting mechanism. In this quarter, 22 trainings commenced in Kailali, Bardiya, Banke, Surkhet and Dang for 403 participants (252 female, 151 male). The trainings range from one to two months; three trainings have been completed and others are on-going. Topics include animal husbandry, beauty parlor skills, electrician skills, hair cutting, light vehicle driving, mobile repair, motor-pump rewinding and repair, motorcycle repair, off season vegetable production, plumbing, and tailoring. For a list of F-Skill's training by VDC, type, and number of participants see **FIGURE 13** in Annex 2.

Under the social initiatives component of the micro-project program, SB has received 20 proposals from VDCs for equipment support to health posts. SB has coordinated with USAID-funded Health for Life to identify items to be provided and procurement is currently underway.

More discussion of the implementation of projects using the community contracting mechanism is included under *Objective C*.

New Districts

Following the April and May earthquakes, SB made plans with USAID to utilize its community contracting mechanism to rapidly roll out locally-managed small-scale

infrastructure projects in targeted VDCs of Lamjung, Gorkha and Dhading districts. In each targeted VDC/Municipality, SB will provide community facilitation and technical oversight for two to three small-scale projects such as road and trail repairs, culverts, irrigation canals, latrines, water system repairs, or the repair of schools, health posts, or other community buildings. SB will ensure that “build back better” principles are followed so that new small-scale infrastructure projects are built according to best practices for earthquake prone geographies. Construction is expected to begin in the fall following participatory post-disaster planning scheduled to begin in August.

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

2.4.1 Result 1: Mechanisms for Transparent Administration of Funds Institutionalized

Transparent micro-project administration through community contracting

SB follows MoFALD guidelines in administering micro-projects, which are funded through a community contracting mechanism. The projects are managed by IPCs composed of 7-11 members, with 50% representation by women and at least one female in a key leadership role. Additionally, the projects are monitored by PMCs, which include members from the WCFs, CACs, GNGOs and VDCs. In previous quarters, SB facilitated the formation of IPCs and PMCs in Phase 1 VDCs. This quarter, GNGOs continued to provide project management training to PMCs and IPCs, covering sub-contract management, public audit and fiscal skills, and anti-corruption measures. A total of 122 members of PMCs and IPCs (70 males and 52 females) were trained.

All 58 PMCs undertook monitoring activities of micro-grant projects as per their mandate.

Workshops on social accountability tools for community stakeholders, including Village Supervision and Monitoring Committees (VSMC)¹¹

GNGOs organized 33 workshops on social accountability tools this quarter attended by 810 persons (347 female, 463 male). An ethnic/caste breakdown is provided in **FIGURE 14** Annex 2. Participants included representatives from VSMCs, WORTH groups, RLGs, LYGs, WCFs, CACs and IPCs, as well as officials from VDCs and line agencies and other community leaders. The workshops covered principles of accountability as well as specific tools such as exit polls, citizen report cards, community score cards, public expenditure tracking, public hearings, public audits, citizen charters, and participatory monitoring. These workshops helped to ensure that public hearings and public audits were carried out according to government guidelines, discussed in the sections below.

Public audits

SB promotes public audits as a social accountability tool of the micro-project program. At least one public audit must be performed after the first installment of the sub-contract is paid in order to receive subsequent installments. This quarter, SMs facilitated 44 public audits in 44 VDCs. Each audit was organized by the IPC, which disseminated the procurement and expenditure details related to the micro-project. The PMC then endorsed the expenses. Previously, public audits were frequently conducted as a mere formality, but the public audits for SB-funded micro-grants IPCs have presented income and expenditures as prescribed by government guidelines. These events have set an example for other local government-funded projects to follow.

¹¹ Previously referred to as VDC Monitoring Committees

Public hearings

This quarter, NGOs facilitated public hearings in 17 VDCs. A total of 1,078 service receivers (476 female, 602 male) participated in the programs (for a caste/ ethnic breakdown, see **Figure 15** in Annex 2). The hearings were chaired by VDC secretaries and included special guests such as local campus chiefs. Participants raised concerns and queries and demanded clarifications from the concerned development partners and service providers. Some issues raised in the hearings included officials' frequent absence from the office, perceived nepotism in selecting participants for training, budget allocations for women and *Dalits*, delays in provision of social security funds, and the perception that too many of the prioritized projects come not from WCFs but rather from IPFCs. SMs helped spread the word about the events in order to ensure participation. They also coordinated with EA's partner radio stations in order to record and report on the hearings. In preparation, they also conducted exit polls at VDC offices and Citizen Report Cards in order to identify issues to be addressed.

Sajhedari Chautari meetings

NGOs organized VDC-level *Sajhedari Chautari* meetings on a quarterly basis, which were attended by SB partners, VDC stakeholders, and community members. SB partners presented their progress from the previous quarter and plans for the next quarter, and solicited feedback. At meetings in Kanchanpur, participants asked about the sustainability of the SB project, while VDC officials expressed approval regarding the increased activity of WCFs, CACs, IPFCs, and PMCs due to SB activities. At a meeting in Dododhara, Kailali, community members raised questions about the process for micro-project selection, providing an opportunity for SB partners to deepen transparency on this issue.

2.4.2 Result 2: Inclusive Management Systems Adopted

Inclusive PMCs and IPCs for micro-projects through community contracting

SB worked to build inclusive IPCs and PMCs for projects using the community contracting mechanism. Of the 615 members of PMCs and IPCs who received project management training this quarter, 43% were female, and 63% were from non-Hill Brahmin-Chettri ethnic groups. This represents an improvement in the inclusion of marginalized groups compared to last quarter, when 42% were female, and only 52% were from non-Hill Brahmin-Chettri groups. However, an examination of the key decision making roles in the IPCs is less encouraging. Females make up only 35% and Hill Brahmin/Chhetri groups are greatly over-represented in the positions of president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary (see **FIGURE 16** in Annex 2). This is a serious concern which SB is working closely with partner organizations to address.

2.4.3 Result 3: Systems for Sustainability Established

Sustainability of Community Mediation Centers

Local funding of CMCs is important for their long-term sustainability. As reported last quarter, 34 Phase 1 VDCs have allocated funding for CMCs in this year's annual budget, and many other VDCs have prioritized CMCs in their PVDPs. Also, many VDCs provide facilities free of cost for the CMCs. According to the CMC operational guidelines, all CMCs that have completed the minimum operation cycle will be handed over to VDCs. No CMCs have yet been fully handed over to VDCs, but SB has set an end-date of January 2016 for its support to CMCs in Phase 1 VDCs. Between now and then, SB will continue to advocate with MoFALD for directing VDCs to support CMCs through their annual budgets.¹² Likewise, community mediators are being encouraged to attend bi-monthly WCF meetings in order to tell participants about the importance of CMCs and to advocate for funding from VDC block grants.

¹² The Community Mediation Act of 2068 affirms the need for CMCs, but does not stipulate that VDCs fund them.

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

2.5.1 Result 1: Local government officials effectively carry out their mandated

Training on VDC accounting software and vital events registration software

In order to strengthen VDC financial management, SB collaborated with MoFALD to hold six VDC accounting software training workshops this quarter. These trainings were conducted by local trainers who received ToT last quarter. A total of 152 VDC secretaries and assistant accountants participated (14 female, 138 male). Full implementation of the use of VDC accounting software is to begin in FY 2073 (July 2015). MoFALD will track the VDC implementation and SB will be able to report how many of the VDCs included in the training are actually using the accounting software.

Likewise SB supported two four-day trainings for VDC and DDC staff in Kailali and Dang on software for registering vital events. A total of 68 persons participated in this training (13 female, 55 male). The training strengthened local human resource to mentor and follow up with the operation of the software. Additionally, MoFALD mobilized LGCDP Information and Communication Technology Volunteers to provide backstopping and follow up for government staff.

In response to MoFALD's policy of ensuring 100 percent VDC coverage in each district, SB is supporting accounting and vital event registration software training in all VDCs in its project districts. The training will be completed next quarter.

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

Integrated mobile service camps

GNGO partners supported DAOs to conduct one- and two-day integrated mobile service camps in four districts. They facilitated by planning and managing logistics and invited the public. The camps were held in Kanchanpur (in Shankarpur VDC, attended by 376 persons), Surkhet (in Lekhparajul VDC, attended by 861 persons), Banke (in Baijapur VDC, attended by 1,065 persons), and Dang (in Shreegaun, Phulbari, Gangaparaspur and Gobardiha VDCs, attended by 554 persons). They included booths set up by DAOs, district public health offices, district education offices, the election commission, district agriculture development offices, district livestock service offices, district post offices, district women's and children's offices, and district drinking water and sanitation offices. Beneficiaries were able to register vital events, apply for citizenship and voting cards, obtain vaccinations for their animals, and access a range of other services.

Mobile service camps are proving to be an effective mechanism to address the gaps in government service delivery, and will be one of the interventions that SB supports in its three new earthquake-affected districts. The integrated mobile service camps will be announced in advance through local radio stations and SMS. Each camp will cover one to two VDCs and will be in location for up to two days, depending on needs.

2.5.3 Result 3: Communities engage in local government budget and planning process

Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS)

SB is working with Centre for International Studies and Cooperation Nepal (CECI) to implement a ten-month PETS study to track fund flows from their point of origin to point of expenditure (e.g., from the Ministry of Finance, to MoFALD, to DDCs or VDCs, to contractors

or IPCs, etc.). The study will help identify bottlenecks and discrepancies in the flow of funds, as well as analyze why these occur. As part of their scope of work, CECI will build the capacity of SB's GNGO partners to collect data at the district and VDC level for this study. Analysis will be completed by the consultant team, with findings compiled into a report that will be disseminated both locally and nationally. The consultant team is in the process of developing survey tools, a training manual for data collection and analysis, and a data analysis system. Training and data collection will begin next quarter.

3.0 CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS-INTERNAL

3.1 INTEGRATION OF ACTIVITIES AMONG SB PARTNERS

Given the size and complexity of the SB project, an ongoing challenge is to maintain coordination and integration across partners, sectors, and districts. In order to address this issue, participants at the annual partners' meeting in November 2014 recommended establishing an intranet for SB partners. In early 2015, SB created a Mosaic website, for partners to store SB-related information for easy access, as well as to share ideas and collaborate. At the end of this reporting period, the SB Mosaic page had a total of 130 pieces of content, including 66 documents and 57 blog posts. For example, EA regularly posts details about upcoming radio programs, enabling other partners to share the information with their stakeholders.

In addition, SB consistently held quarterly review and reflection workshops during Year 3. These workshops bring together program coordinators and M&E officers from 15 partner organizations to share challenges, lessons learned, and feedback with each other. These workshops serve as a platform for the partners to continue conversations on how to integrate more effectively across various components and activities on a regular basis.

3.2 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF SB PARTNERS

SB works to build the capacity of its district- and national-level partner organizations in order to improve impact in its target communities. In particular, SB focused on strengthening partners' management capacities. SB has trained and facilitated each partner in conducting OCA and developed plans for capacity development support. SB also trained partners in the OPI so that they can track progress in their capacity and performance.

Opportunities for improvement for SB partners in the areas of management and program implementation continue to emerge, particularly in promoting the effective and meaningful participation of women and marginalized communities. SB is committed to improving partners' capacities to address issues of inclusion. For instance, based on recommendations from the internal learning review and the GESI review, SB conducted a series of capacity building workshops in April 2015 for SMs and EWs to strengthen participation of marginalized groups in the planning process and local government-funded projects (see *Objective B, WORTH groups, CMCs, LYGs, and RLGs in planning and local development*). SB also plans to hold workplace anti-sexual harassment workshops for partner NGOs, which will include orientation on the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Elimination) Act, 2015 during Quarter 4.

4.0 CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS-EXTERNAL

4.1 EARTHQUAKES

SB's core working districts were not affected by the earthquakes in April and May, yet implementation of several planned activities was delayed as government bodies prioritized relief activities in disaster areas. Many SB staff and partners were with their families, while some were engaged in relief efforts of their own. At the end of May, all SB staff had returned to their posts. There were six SB staff members whose homes in the Kathmandu Valley or the affected villages received partial compensation through a Staff Earthquake Fund that was established with donations from Pact staff.

In the aftermath of the earthquakes, Pact worked with USAID and MoFALD to design new activities to support three earthquake-affected districts—Dhading, Gorkha, and Lamjung. Start-up activities began in June, with implementation scheduled to begin in August. For details, see Objectives B and D.

4.2 POLITICAL DISTURBANCES

During this reporting period, SB's operational space was minimally affected by the nationwide *bandh* announced by the Maoist-led 30 party alliance for April 7-9, 2015. During the first day, the organizers were successful in shutting down major marketplaces and highways across the country, including in SB districts. However, the strike was called off after the first day due to strong opposition from citizens and the business community.

4.3 HEAT WAVE

In the month of May, the heat wave affecting parts of North India impacted in some project districts, especially Banke, Kailali and Kanchanpur. Temperatures up to 45-48 Celsius were recorded in these districts, affecting the daily lives of many people. Some markets closed, as did some private schools. Implementation of project activities in several communities was constrained during this period.

5.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1 MAJOR CATEGORY EXPENDITURES

TABLE 4: Q3 FY 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY PER INVOICE CATEGORIES (USD)

Item	April-15	May-15	June-15	Q3 FY2015 Total	Targets Q3 FY2015	%
Personnel	60,952.83	59,365.37	62,527.92	182,846.12	158,857.79	115%
Fringe Benefits	15,008.02	15,068.87	17,701.65	47,778.54	64,887.54	74%
Consultants	8,166.50	3,362.43	3,361.68	14,890.61	17,950.00	83%
Travel	10,687.11	7,529.24	7,264.93	25,481.28	46,966.05	54%
Allowances	8,425.61	6,723.89	16,354.64	31,504.14	18,536.80	170%
Equipment & Supplies	6,808.31	4,285.33	6,373.73	17,467.37	10,075.00	173%
Contractual	340,736.44	350,258.99	602,261.16	1,293,256.59	1,041,609.04	124%
Other Direct Costs	36,118.75	49,844.20	31,138.49	117,101.44	120,465.63	97%
Indirect Costs	59,183.28	59,615.45	70,518.66	189,317.39	178,237.82	106%
Fixed Fee	7,707.93	11,109.69	11,354.47	30,172.09	49,956.47	60%
TOTAL	553,794.78	567,163.47	828,857.33	1,949,815.58	1,707,542.14	114%

Personnel costs exceeded the quarterly target; however, ongoing fluctuation in staffing tends to balance out spending on this line-item over time. The underspending in Fringe & Benefits will be balanced out following the payment of staff festival allowances at the end of the fiscal year.

The surplus in the Travel budget is due to the cancelation or postponement of staff travel during the immediate aftermath of the April/May earthquakes.

Installation of air conditioners and the payment for DevResults software increased the Equipment & Supplies expenses.

In addition to partner Contractual activities, micro grants and vocational training were conducted in this quarter, which helped to balance out underspending during previous periods.

The expenditure rate increased from 81% of the target in the last quarter to 114% this quarter. SB is on track to meet its FY15 spending target.

5.2 STATUS OF EXPENDITURE FUNDS TOWARDS M&E PURPOSE

TABLE 5: M&E EXPENDITURES

Direct Costs	Amount	Targets	%
Personnel	12,594.47	5% of total third quarter budget	
Fringe Benefits	3,337.83		
Consultants	267.86		
Travel	1,111.84		
Equipment & Supplies	301.80		
Other Direct	3,396.11		
Indirect Costs	6,302.97		
TOTAL	27,312.88	85,377.03	32%

5.3 LOE UTILIZATION SUMMARY STATUS

A total of 1,132.99 days were utilized against the 1,320 days projection during this reporting period per the LOE Table. At the end of Q3, 45% of the total approved LOE for the project had been utilized.

TABLE 6: LOE UTILIZATION FOR Q3 FY 2015

Position	April-15	May-15	June-15	Q3 Total LOE	Budgeted LOE	Remaining LOE
LTTA – Key Personnel	130.82	107.45	98.25	336.52	5,887.00	3,407.37
LTTA – Professional & Support	272.00	266.00	249.00	787.00	14,486.00	8,108.46
STTA	7.78	0.53	25.16	33.47	1,727.00	572.36
TOTAL	386.60	373.98	372.41	1,132.99	22,100.00	12,088.19

5.4 STAFFING MATRIX

The Procurement Officer, Governance & Media Field Coordinator positions were filled during this quarter and SB is in the final stages of filling vacant position of M&E Associate and additional positions for 3 new districts.

TABLE 7: STAFF RECRUITMENT MATRIX

Position	Target Start Date	Recruit Status	Name
Chief of Party	11/22/13	Hired	Nick Langton
Deputy Chief of Party	11/17/14	Hired	Basanta Pokhrel
Senior Field Director	03/09/15	Hired	Mahesh Nepal
Regional Program Manager	08/21/14	Hired	Shyam Mandal
Operations Manager	02/17/15	Hired	Howard Weston
Director of Grants & Contracts	07/17/14	Hired	Kumar Kafle
Director of Finance	02/16/15	Hired	Ram Chandra Paudel
Director of Monitoring and Evaluation	05/15/14	Hired	Amlshwar Singh
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	04/10/13	Hired	Sudan Shivakoti
Finance Manager	03/18/13	Hired	Surya Upadhyaya
Program Specialist, Women Economic Growth	02/25/14	Hired	Reena Chaudhary
Office Manager	10/17/13	Hired	Ananta Sharma
HR Manager	11/11/13	Hired	Anju Lamichhane
Program Specialist, Conflict Mitigation	03/10/14	Hired	Geeta Pradhan
Administrative Manager	08/25/14	Hired	Adarsha Shrestha
Program Specialist, Local Governance	07/07/14	Hired	Ram Prasad Dahal
Program Specialist, Local Governance	10/30/14	Hired	Ram Achai Yadav
G&C Manager	10/31/14	Hired	Suresh Sarki
GESI Manager	12/08/14	Hired	Srijana Chhetri
Senior GIS Officer	01/13/14	Hired	Nim Bahadur Thapa Regmi
Grants Specialist		Vacant	
Finance Officer	10/23/13	Hired	Topendra Basnyat
Grants Specialist	10/23/13	Hired	Birendra Chaudhary
IT Officer	10/25/13	Hired	Bal Kumar Khatri
Procurement Officer	04/09/15	Hired	Bishal Raj Shrestha
Administrative & Logistic Officer	01/23/14	Hired	Ameeruddin Ansari
Worth Field Coordinator	07/01/14	Hired	Birendra Thapa
Finance Assistant	05/06/13	Hired	Rita Diwan
M&E Associate		Vacant	
Procurement Assistant	07/07/14	Hired	Lok Bahadur Khadka
Governance Field Coordinator	06/01/15	Hired	Lok Bahadur Thapa Magar
Media Field Coordinator	06/08/15	Hired	Sharmila Lama
Governance Field Coordinator	06/22/15	Hired	Chandra Gurung
Receptionist	07/08/13	Hired	Swechcha Shrestha
Residence Security and Maintenance Coordinator	01/09/14	Hired	Ram Kumar Lama
Office and Ground Maintenance	11/18/13	Hired	Chitra Bhandari
Driver	05/10/13	Hired	Dulari Tharu
Driver	08/01/13	Hired	Karna Bahadur Lopchan
Driver	08/26/13	Hired	Tika Ram Sunar
Driver	08/01/13	Hired	Rajendra B.K.
Driver	07/07/14	Hired	Shib Kumar Thapa
Driver	07/21/14	Hired	Lal Bahadur Chand
Cleaner/Cook	08/01/13	Hired	Nanda Gharti Magar
Cleaner	08/01/13	Hired	Sunita Tharu
Cleaner	06/02/14	Hired	Chandra Kumari Thapa
Cleaner/ Cook	07/17/14	Hired	Rubina Damai

ANNEX I: PMP MATRIX

Indicators	Type	Source/ Method	Responsible	Target (Apr'- Jun'15)	Achievements (Apr'- Jun'15)	Remarks
Proportion of VDC projects budgeted in the previous planning cycle that were in the top 5 priorities list of WCFs	Impact	Baseline, mid-term, and endline surveys	District/ VDC	-	-	Data will be collected in Perception Survey 3 scheduled for July-August 2015
Proportion of budgeted VDC projects that were fully implemented/finalized within the previous planning cycle	Impact	Baseline, mid-term and endline surveys	District/ VDC	-	-	Data will be collected in Perception Survey 3 scheduled for July-August 2015
Goal: Targeted Communities are empowered to better direct their own local Development						
Objective A: Enabling environment for community development established						
IR A1: early responses that address the causes and consequences of instability are institutionalized						
Proportion of households that have witnessed the use of violence to resolve conflict in their community in the past year	Outcome	Baseline, mid-term, and endline surveys	District	-	-	Data will be collected in Perception Survey 3 scheduled for July-August 2015
F: Number of conflict/fragility early warning systems, conflict assessment or response mechanisms supported by USG assistance	Output	Count of number of systems in place and number of	Pact/ Saferworld /CeLRRd	1	1	Saferworld completed the 7th quarterly conflict assessment on "Youth engagement in local development initiatives in selected

		conflict assessments done				districts in Mid-West and Far West Nepal"
Proportion of project VDCs that provide a budget in the current financial year that covers the operating costs of the CMC (rental, stipend of mediator, other office costs, transport)	Outcome	Baseline - midterm and endline surveys	Pact/ CeLRRd	0%	0%	No target for this quarter
Proportion of all mediation cases opened during the quarter preceding the period that were settled within 3 months	Outcome	Routine data collection CeLRRd - monthly reports	CeLRRd	80%	75%	Total case registered: 1,351 (settled: 1020, in process: 226, referred: 9, not settled: 78, party not in contact: 14 and settled outside CMC: 4)
F: Number of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving conflict or the drivers of the conflict	Output	Count of number of new community mediation centers established, CeLRRd reports	CeLRRd	0	22	22 new CMCs established in Phase 2 VDCs
F: # of groups trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills or consensus building techniques with USG assistance	Output	Training reports	CeLRRd	22	22	Training organized in the Phase 2 VDCs
Number of new cases of individual/group conflict mediations opened during the reporting period	Output	Routine data collection CeLRRd - monthly reports	CeLRRd	1001	1,351	Total case registered: 1,351 (settled: 1,020, in process: 226, referred: 9, not settled: 78, party not in contact 14 and settled outside CMC: 4)
IR A2: enduring solutions to the problems that drive conflict are adopted						
F: Number of USG supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation among key actors of conflict	Output	Training reports/event reports, activity progress reports from implementing partners and DNGOs	PACT	0	0	No target for this quarter

Proportions of DNGOs that have an improved OPI score	Outcome	OPI tool	Pact	70%	75%	Partners improved their internal systems, skills, and policies and those of their networks. Some areas for improvement were noted: measuring and analyzing longer-term (outcome level) results and efficient use of resources in a manner that allows them to reach a wider audience.
Number of individuals who received USG-assisted training on inclusion (GESI charter) and the understanding of the root causes of the conflict	Output	Training reports	LNGOs, Pact	1000	1,066	116 female in WEG peace promotion trainings; 94 (51 female and 43 male) in Capacity Building Training for SM/EW; 544 (233 female and 311 male) in Basic Mediation Training; 165 (86 female and 79 male) in Governance and Accountability Training; 147 (66 female and 81 male) in Life Skills Training
Number of youth who have started a business or found a job through the YI activities	Outcome	Routine data collection Youth Initiative - monthly reports	YI	6	13	This is the result of EDT training and other activities (6 female, 7 male)
Number of Youth Groups and CMUs that have been established/revived/operational in the reporting period	Output	YI reporting system	YI	0	0	No target for this quarter.
Number of people who have been trained on the different YI training programs	Output	YI training reports	YI	450	462	From 18 training sessions, 165 (86 female, 79 male) youth participated in Governance and Accountability Training, 147 (66 female, 81 male) in Life Skills Refresher training and 150 (92 female, 58 male) in Evidence-based Advocacy Training
Proportion of VDCs who have youth groups/CMU who participate in the VDC planning process	Outcome	VDC meeting reports/files	YI	0%	0%	No target for this quarter
Proportion of supported FM radio stations that produce quality radio programs that address issues on local government, youth, women, disadvantaged groups	Outcome	Tool to measure quality (EA) score card	EA	80%	80%	8 local partner FM radio stations have been producing local episodes of Sajhedari. To measure the quality of the program, quarterly Critical Listening Feedback Sessions (CLFSS)

						were organized to track the progress. In this quarter, average score achieved is 80%. The PSA broadcast on post-earthquake areas not included
F: Number of media stories disseminated with USG support to facilitate the advancement of reconciliation or peace processes	Output	National broadcast episodes plus local FM station broadcasts episodes	EA	118	118	14 national and 104 local FM station episodes were produced. These episodes were broadcasted a total of 1902 times through 16 local FM stations and Radio Nepal
F: # of non-state news outlets assisted by USG	Output	Progress report	EA	16	16	16 local FM stations broadcast episodes
Number of new listener clubs/RLGs established	Output	EA routine reporting	EA	0	0	No target for this quarter
Proportion of supported economic groups that provide more than 5 loans per year to their members	Outcome	Routine data collection WORTH partners' monthly reports	WORTH-NGOs/Pact	40%	60%	106 WORTH groups out of 176 provided more than 5 loans this quarter
Number of new/existing women's economic groups formed during the reporting period	Output	Routine data collection monthly reports	WORTH-NGOs/Pact	41	41	Total of 200 WORTH groups formed to date
Number of economic group participants who received training on business and accounting	Output	WORTH LNGO reports	Pact	250	276	276 participants in management committee trainings. Due to the formation of new WORTH groups, the number of participants trained exceeded the target.
Objective B: Communities access resources for development						
IR B1: Inclusive community strategic planning process are established						
Proportion of community leaders and local government officials with a good understanding of inclusive participatory planning, including "Do No Harm" and "Safe Effective Development in Conflict" principles	Outcome	Questionnaire on a sample of community leaders and local government	Pact/IDA	-	-	Data will be collected in Perception Survey 3 scheduled for July-August 2015

		officials as part of baseline/ mid-term/ endline surveys				
Proportion of WCFs with GESI strategies in place	Outcome	Baseline, mid-term, and endline surveys	GNGOs/ Pact/IDA	-	-	Data will be collected in Perception Survey 3 scheduled for July-August 2015
Number of local key stakeholders (community leaders, local government officials), trained in inclusive participatory planning	Output	Training records	GNGOs/ Pact	0	0	No target for this quarter
IR B2: Community development plans are established						
Proportion of WCF members who indicate that they can provide meaningful input to the VDC plans	Outcome	Questionnaire on a sample of community leaders and local government officials as part of baseline/mid-term/endline surveys	Pact/IDA	-	-	Data will be collected in Perception Survey 3 scheduled for July-August 2015
Proportion of village development plans with a functional sustainability plan that adheres to locally agreed standards	Outcome	Review of village development plans	GNGOs/ Pact	0%	0%	No target for this quarter
Number of Ward Citizen Forum meetings that review the village development plan to ensure equitable distribution of local resources	Output	Meeting reports	GNGOs/ Pact	21	21	WCFs in all 46 reviewed the village development plans (25 had the meeting in Q2, 21 in Q3)
F: Number of awards made directly to local organization (cross-cutting indicators)	Output	Progress report	PACT/ GNGOs	44	46	34 micro-grants to IPCs/ PMCs; 12 award to district partners
IR B3: Community based organizations advocate for needed resources for financial, technical and commodity support						

Proportion of village development plans that include a fundraising plan	Outcome	Review of village development plans	GNGOs/ Pact	65%	99%	45 out of 46 PVDPs have been completed. All of them have sections on resource allocation. Additionally, SB supported 46 VDCs to develop Internal Revenue Generation Plans.
Number of micro grants provided for community development	Output	Review of grants reports/ GMIS	GNGOs/ Pact	27	38	38 micro-grants completed this quarter. Projects included shallow tube-well, safe shelter, community building, road, drinking water system, irrigation canals, culvert, market collection center, school building, school compound walls, and public toilets.
Objective C: Communities implement inclusive development policies effectively						
IR C1: Mechanisms for transparent administration of funds is institutionalized						
Proportion of citizens who feel that the administration of funds in the VDC is transparent	Outcome	Perception Survey	Pact	-	-	Data will be collected in Perception Survey 3 scheduled for July-August 2015
F: Number of people affiliated with NGOs receiving USG supported anti-corruption training	Output	Training Report	GNGOs/ WORTH- NGOs/ Pact	0	0	No target for this quarter
Number of individuals who received USG assisted training, including management and fiscal skills	Output	Training records	GNGOs/ Pact	150	122	Orientation given to IPC/PMC on micro-grant management and fiscal skills
Proportion of community projects that are allocated to women, youth or marginalized groups	Outcome	Review of community project funding allocation	GNGOs/ Pact	60%	-	M&E will determine the exact number of projects for youth, marginalized groups and women, and the criteria used for classifying projects for these groups. The assessment is scheduled for Q4
IR C2: Inclusive management systems are adopted						
Proportion of citizens who indicate that they actively participate in the decisions around VDC community development projects	Outcome	Perception survey	Pact	-	-	Data will be collected in Perception Survey 3 scheduled for July-August 2015

IR C3: systems for sustainability are established						
Proportion of user groups that improve their organizational capacity	Outcome	Organizational Performance Index adapted to user groups/community based organizations	GNGOs/ Pact	0%	0%	No target for this quarter
Objective D: Local government units function effectively						
IR D1: Local government officials effective carry out their mandate						
F: # of sub-national entities receiving USG assistance that improve their performance (MCPMI)	Outcome	Baseline - midterm and endline surveys	Pact	-	-	Indicator will be revised
Proportion of VDCs that have run the local government barometer as a self- assessment tool	Output	Local Government Barometer reports	Pact	0%	0%	Completed 2 pilot projects. The indicator will be taken out in the revised PMEP
% improvement in positive citizen views on federalism, decentralization and VDC service delivery	Outcome	Polling reports - baseline- midterm and endline surveys	Pact	-	-	Data will be collected in Perception Survey 3 scheduled for July-August 2015
F: # of individuals receiving voter and civic education through USG-assisted programs	Output		GNGOs/ Pact	-	-	The indicator will be taken out in revised PMEP
Number of VDC officials trained and/or mentored in public administration, inclusive management, planning and implementation of VDC plans	Output	Training/ mentoring reports	GNGOs/ Pact	250	266	Officials received training on VDC accounting software (152) , VERSS (68) and orientation on MCPM (46)
IR D2: Local government units and CBOs/CSOs collaborate to identify local development priorities						
Proportion of Ward Citizen Forums who have tracked their budget allocation	Outcome	Baseline - midterm and endline surveys	Pact/ external evaluator	80%	100%	WCF members were trained on local level planning, VDC level planning and social accountability tools to track budget allocations for FY 2072-2073, and accordingly they have tracked budget allocations

% improvement in positive citizen views on the effective implementation of community development projects	Outcome	Polling reports, baseline, mid-term, endline surveys	Pact	-	-	Data will be collected in Perception Survey 3 scheduled for July-August 2015
Number of times technical assistance is provided to local government ministries	Output	Reports	LNGOs/ Pact	-	-	Indicator will be revised
Cross-Cutting Indicators						
F: Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income or employment)	Output	WORTH reports	GNGOs/ Pact	100%	100%	200 WEGs with 5328 members in 6 districts

Updated on 13 July, 2015

ANNEX 2: ADDITIONAL TABLES AND FIGURES

TABLE 8: INFRASTRUCTURE MICRO-GRANT PROJECTS

S.N.	District	VDCs	Types of Activities	Status
1	Banke	Phattepur	Market Collection Center	Completed
2	Banke	Khaskusma	Road Improvement	Completed
3	Banke	Binauna	Road Improvement	Completed
4	Banke	Kamdi	Market Collection Center	Completed
5	Banke	Sonpur	School Building	Completed
6	Banke	Ganapur	Road Improvement	Completed
7	Banke	Udharapur	Road Improvement	Completed
8	Banke	Shamsherganj	Road Improvement	Completed
9	Banke	Mahadevpuri	Community Building	Completed
10	Banke	Indrapur	Drinking Water System	Completed
11	Banke	Kachnapur	Public Toilet	On-going
12	Banke	Belhari	Road Improvement	Completed
13	Banke	Kamdi	Irrigation	On-going
14	Bardiya	Taratal	Culvert	Completed
15	Bardiya	Sanosree	Road Improvement	Completed
16	Bardiya	Kalika	Road Improvement	Completed
17	Bardiya	Patabhar	Road Improvement	Completed
18	Bardiya	Jamuni	Market Collection Center	Completed
19	Bardiya	Padnaha	School Building	Completed
20	Bardiya	Mohamadpur	Community Building	On-going
21	Bardiya	Deudakala	School Building	On-going
22	Dang	Hekuli	Road Improvement	Completed
23	Dang	Phulbari	Road Improvement	Completed
24	Dang	Tarigaun	Road Improvement	Completed
25	Dang	Dharna	Road Improvement	Completed
26	Dang	Bijauri	Community Building	On-going
27	Dang	Chailahi	Road Improvement	Completed
28	Dang	Gangaparaspur	Road Improvement	Completed
29	Dang	Gobardiha	River Training	Completed
30	Dang	Laxmipur	Community Building	Completed
31	Dang	Shreegaun	Road Improvement	Completed
32	Kailali	Durgauli	Road Improvement	Completed
33	Kailali	Dhansinghpur	Road Improvement	Completed
34	Kailali	Dododhara	Road Improvement	Completed
35	Kailali	Sadepani	Drinking Water System	On-going
36	Kailali	Narayanpur	School Building	On-going
37	Kailali	Patharaiya	School Building	On-going
38	Kailali	Pratappur	Road Improvement	Completed

39	Kailali	Chuha	Road Improvement	Completed
40	Kailali	Munuwa	School Building	Completed
41	Kailali	Masuriya	School Building	Completed
42	Kailali	Thapapur	Culvert	Completed
43	Kailali	Munuwa	Elevated Safe Shelter	On-going
44	Kanchanpur	Pipladi	Road Improvement	Completed
45	Kanchanpur	Baisebichwa	Road Improvement	Completed
46	Kanchanpur	Krishnapur	School Building	Completed
47	Kanchanpur	Shankarpur	School Building	Completed
48	Kanchanpur	Raikabar Bichawa	Drinking Water System	On-going
49	Surkhet	Latikoili	Road Improvement	Completed
50	Surkhet	Pokharikanda-06	Drinking Water System	Completed
51	Surkhet	Sahare-05	Road Improvement	Completed
52	Surkhet	Jarbuta 5,6	Drinking Water System	Completed
53	Surkhet	Kunathari-1	Irrigation	Completed
54	Surkhet	Lekhparajul	Drinking Water System	On-going
55	Surkhet	Mehalkuna	Irrigation	On-going
56	Surkhet	Ghumkhahare	Irrigation	On-going
57	Surkhet	Ramghat	Library Building	On-going
58	Surkhet	Dharapani	Road Improvement	On-going
59	Surkhet	Gadhi	School Building	On-going
60	Surkhet	Lekgaun	School Building	Completed

FIGURE 4 ETHNIC/ CASTE BREAKDOWN OF NEW COMMUNITY MEDIATORS

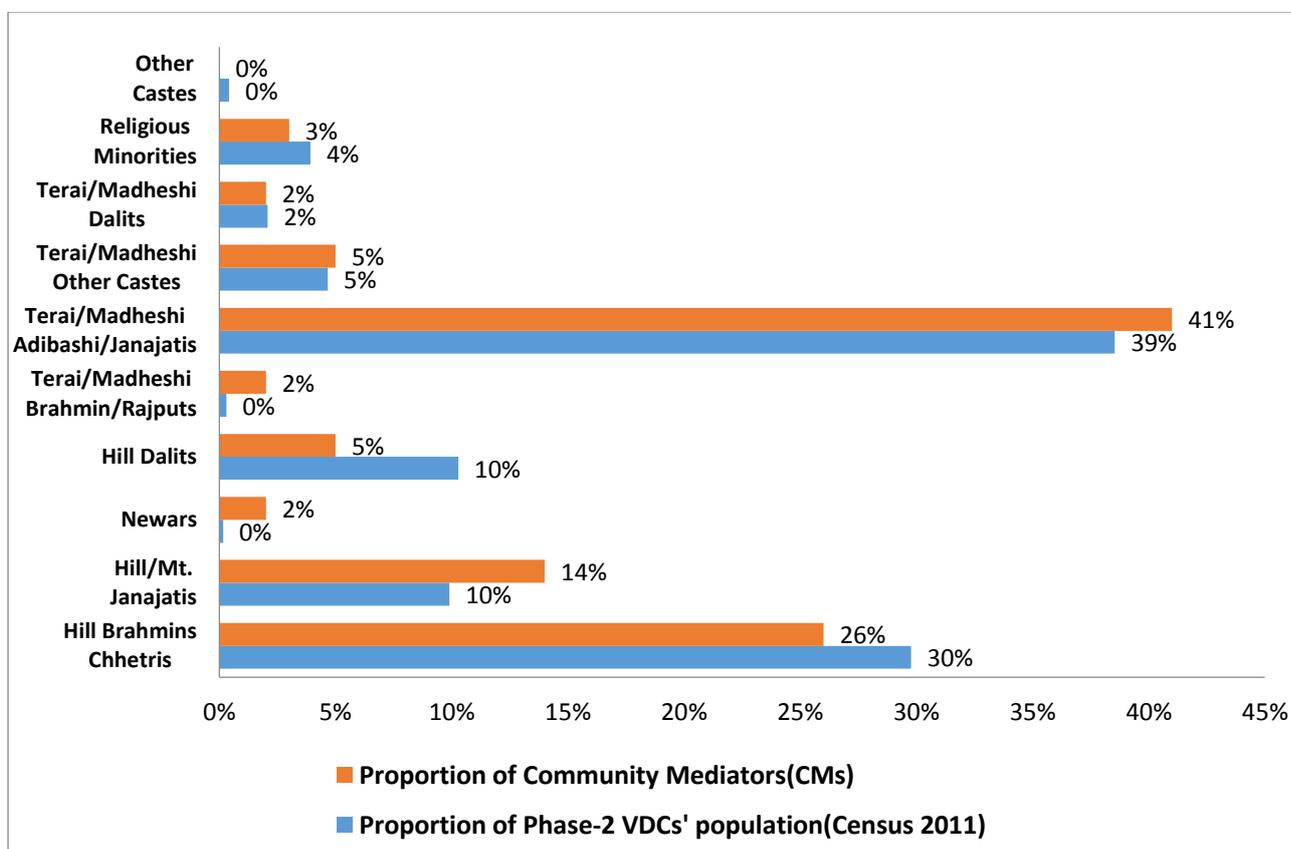


FIGURE 5 ETHNIC/CASTE BREAKDOWN OF WORTH GROUP MEMBERS

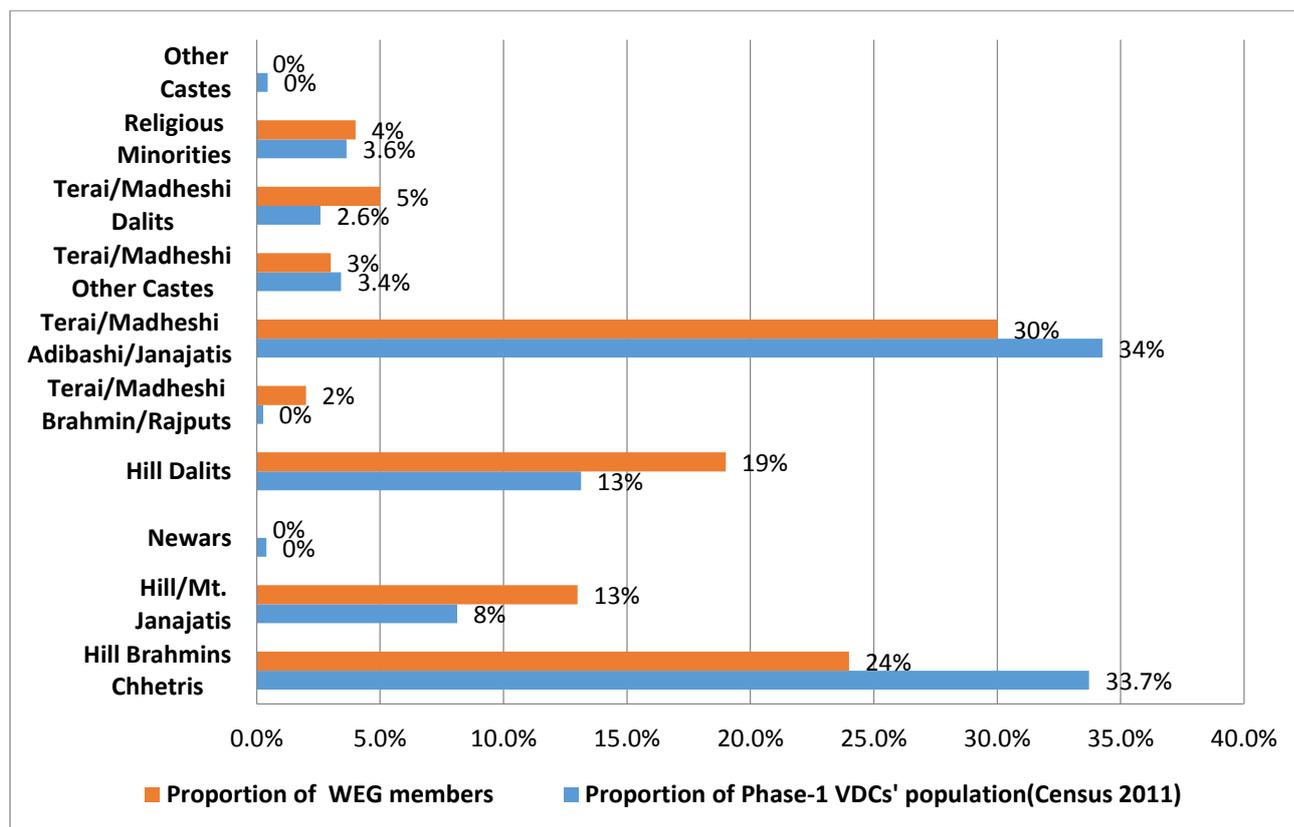


FIGURE 6 ETHNIC/CASTE BREAKDOWN OF LIFE SKILL REFRESHER TRAININGS FOR LYGS

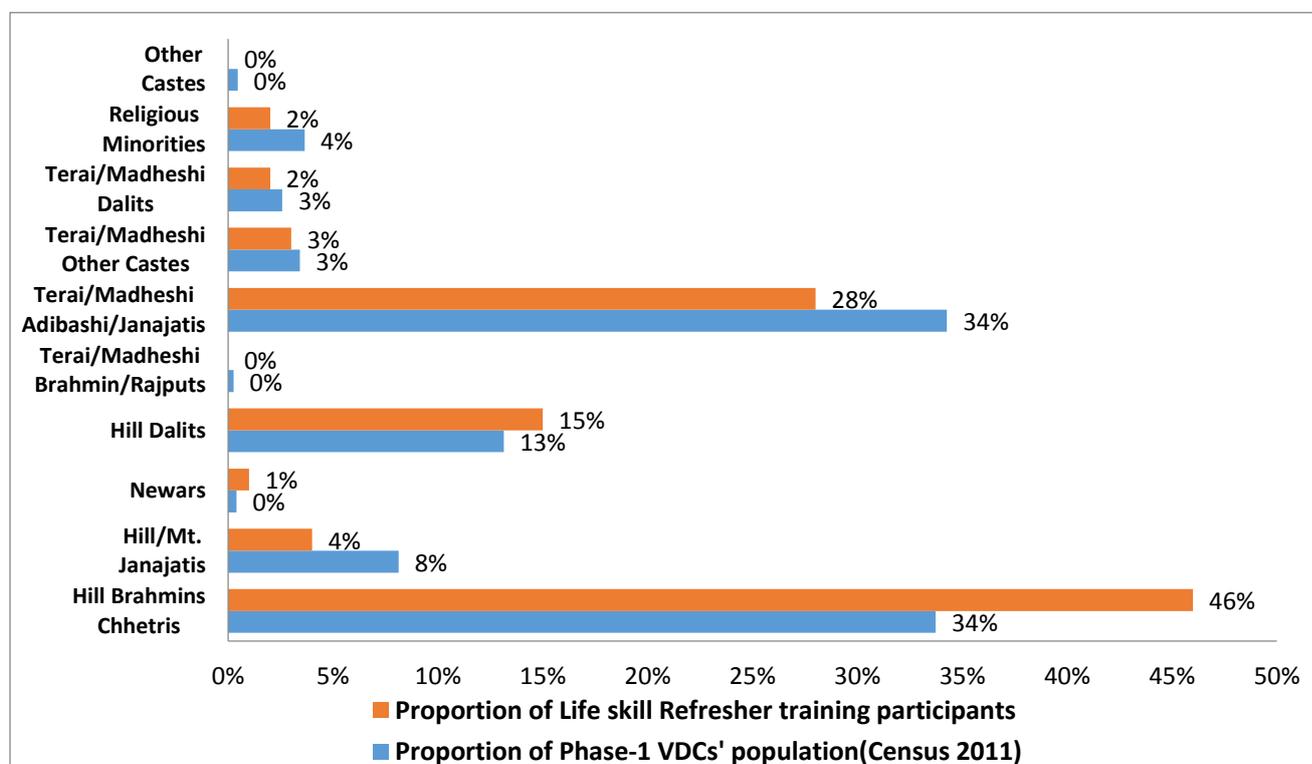


FIGURE 7 ETHNIC/CASTE BREAKDOWN OF CMU STRENGTHENING MEETING

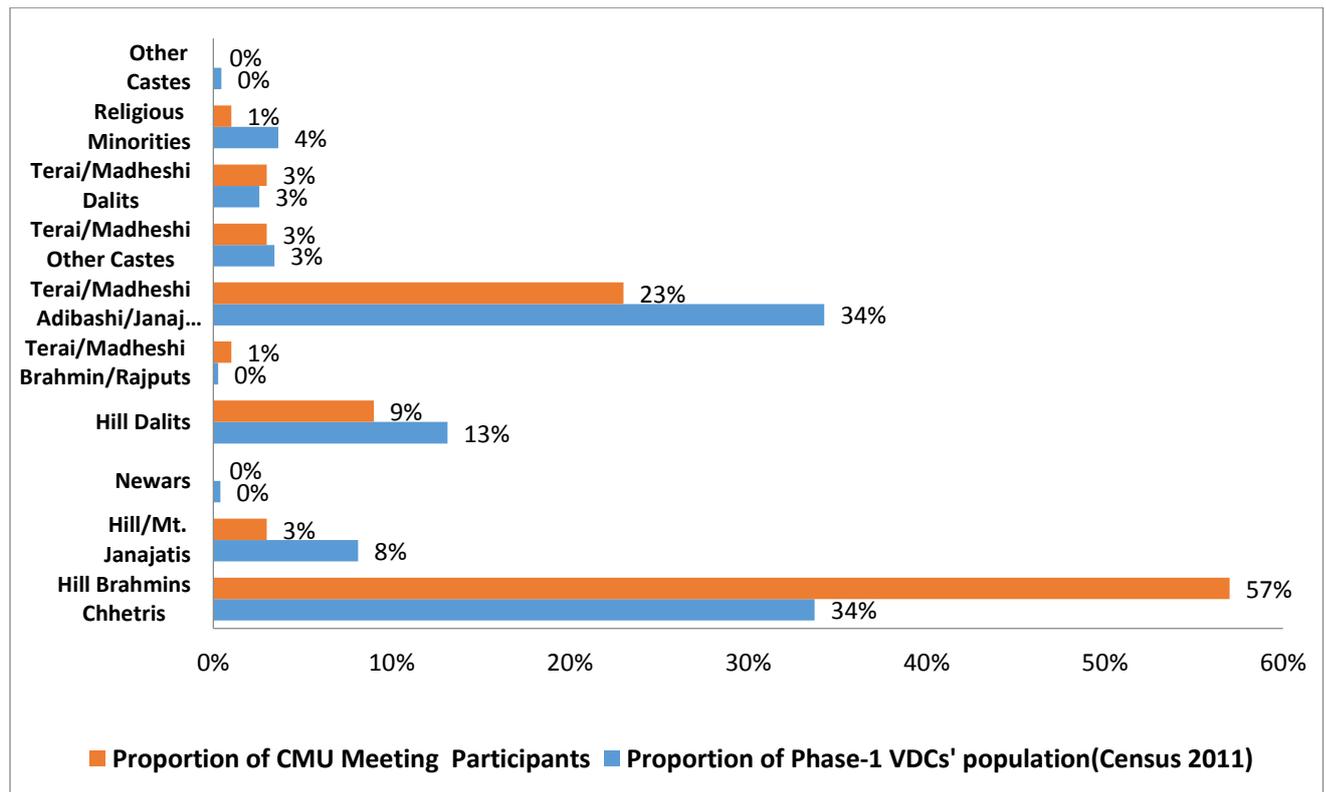


FIGURE 8 ETHNIC/CASTE BREAKDOWN OF RYN MEETING

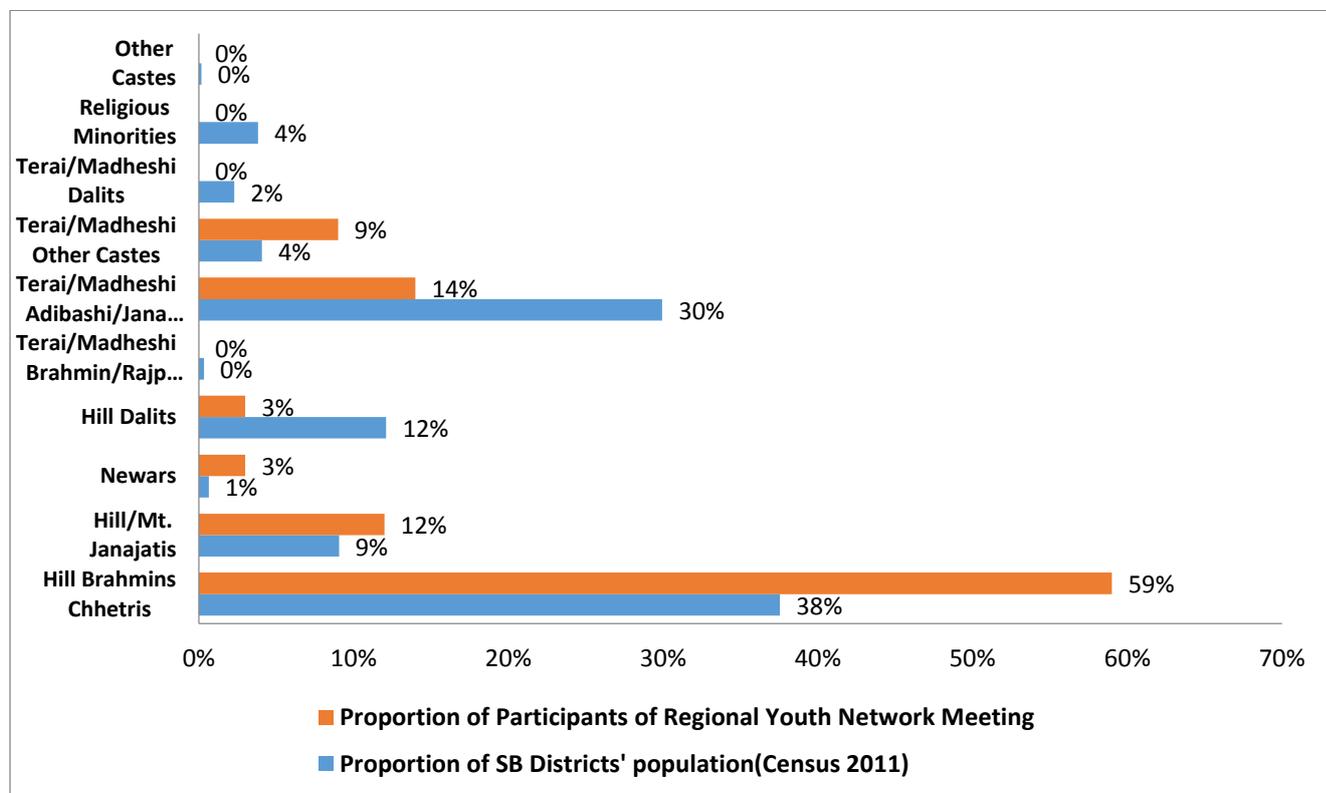


FIGURE 9 ETHNIC/CASTE BREAKDOWN OF RLGs

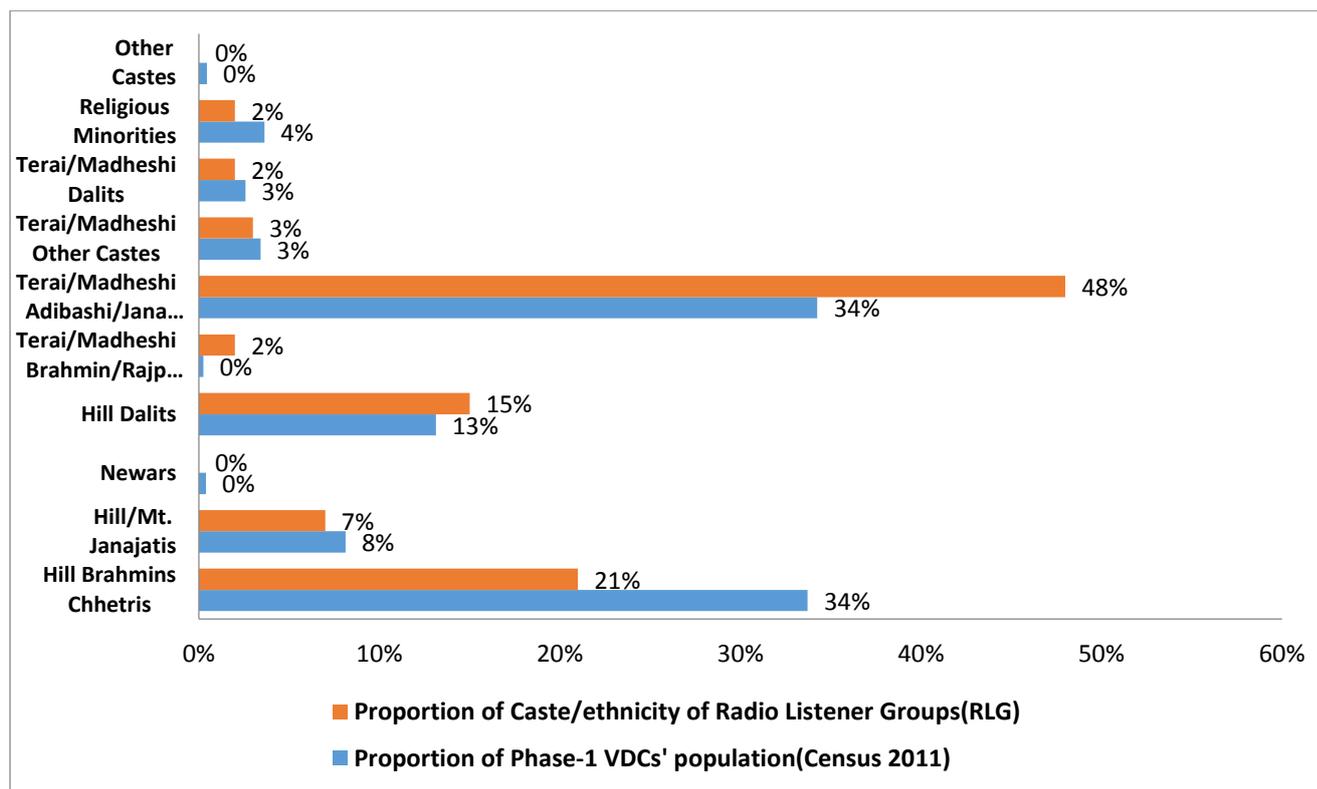


FIGURE 10 ETHNIC/CASTE BREAKDOWN OF FEMALE JOURNALISTS TRAINING ON GBV

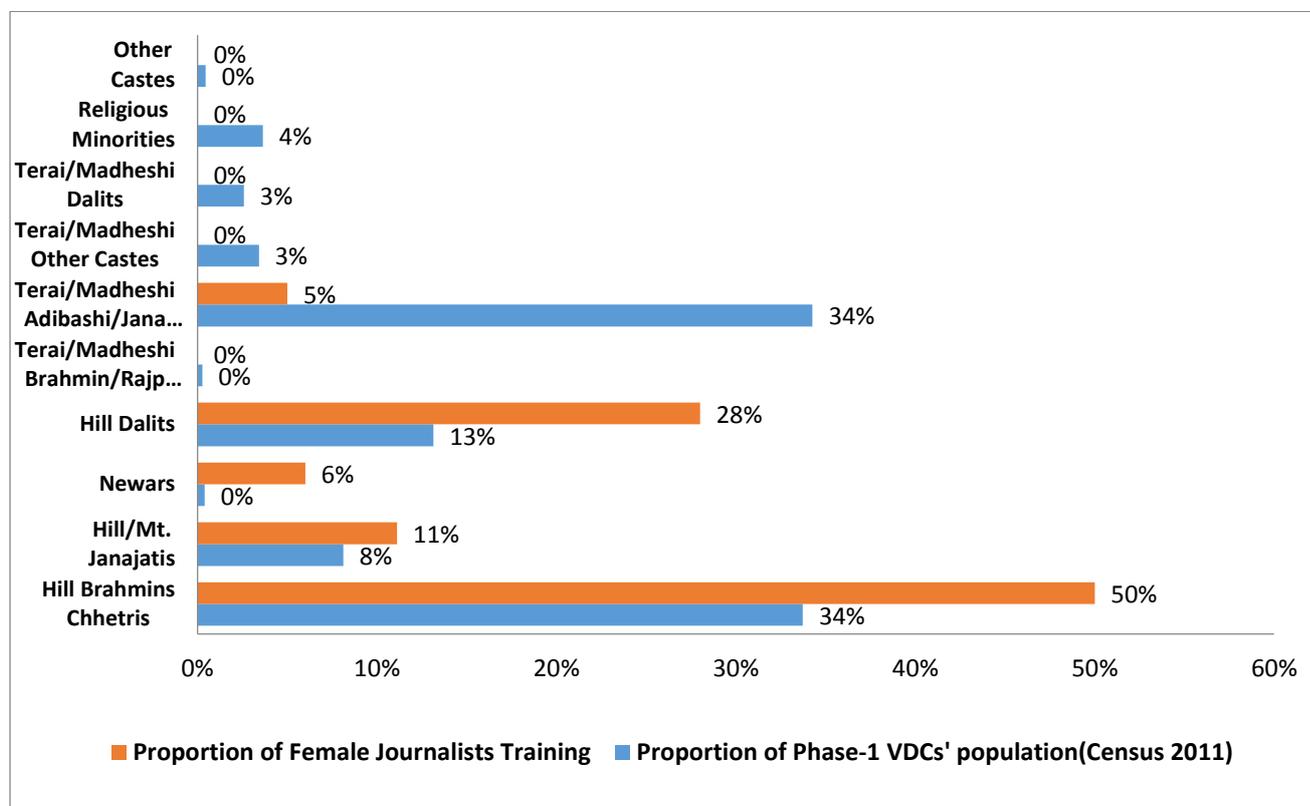


FIGURE 11 ETHNIC/CASTE BREAKDOWN OF COMMUNITY REPORTERS

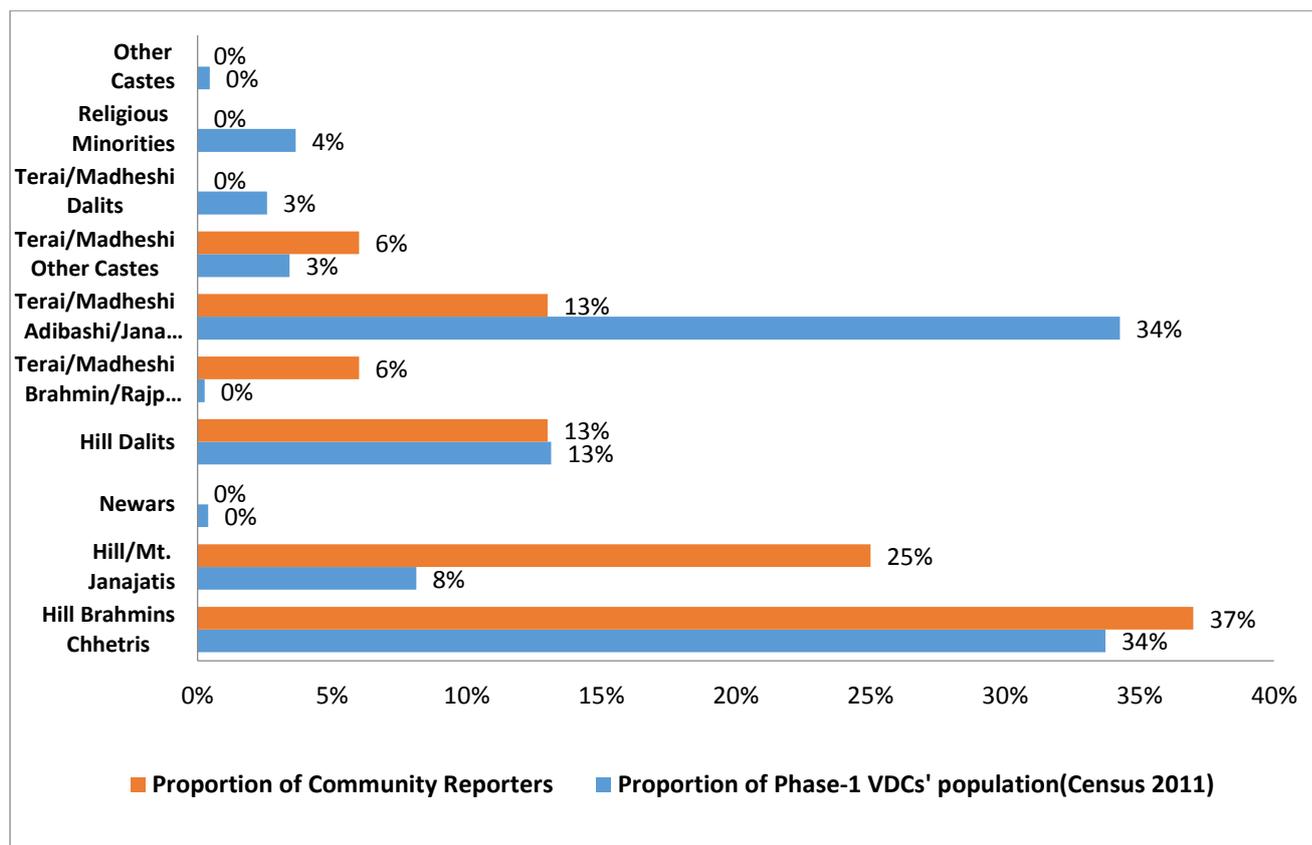


FIGURE 12 ETHNIC/CASTE BREAKDOWN OF WCF MEETINGS

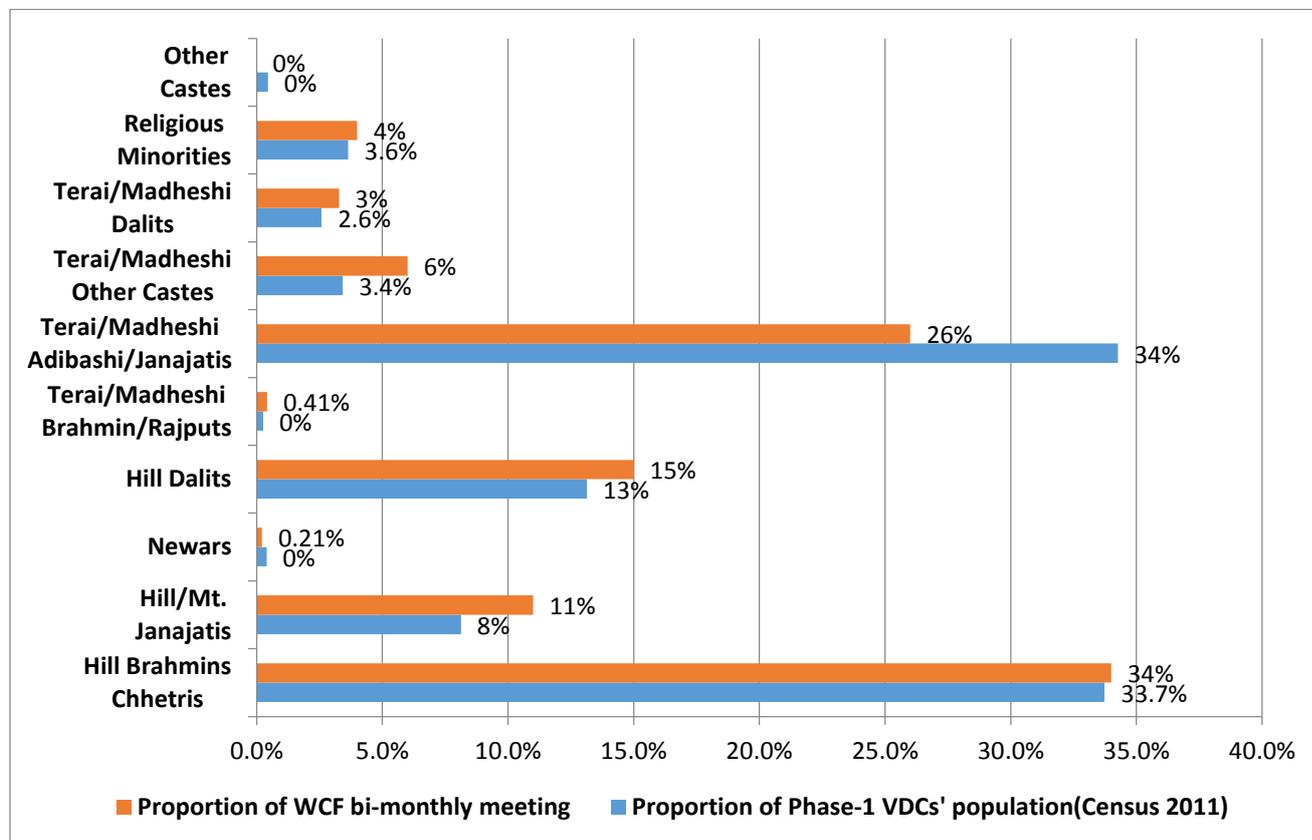


FIGURE 13 F-SKILL TRAININGS PARTICIPANTS

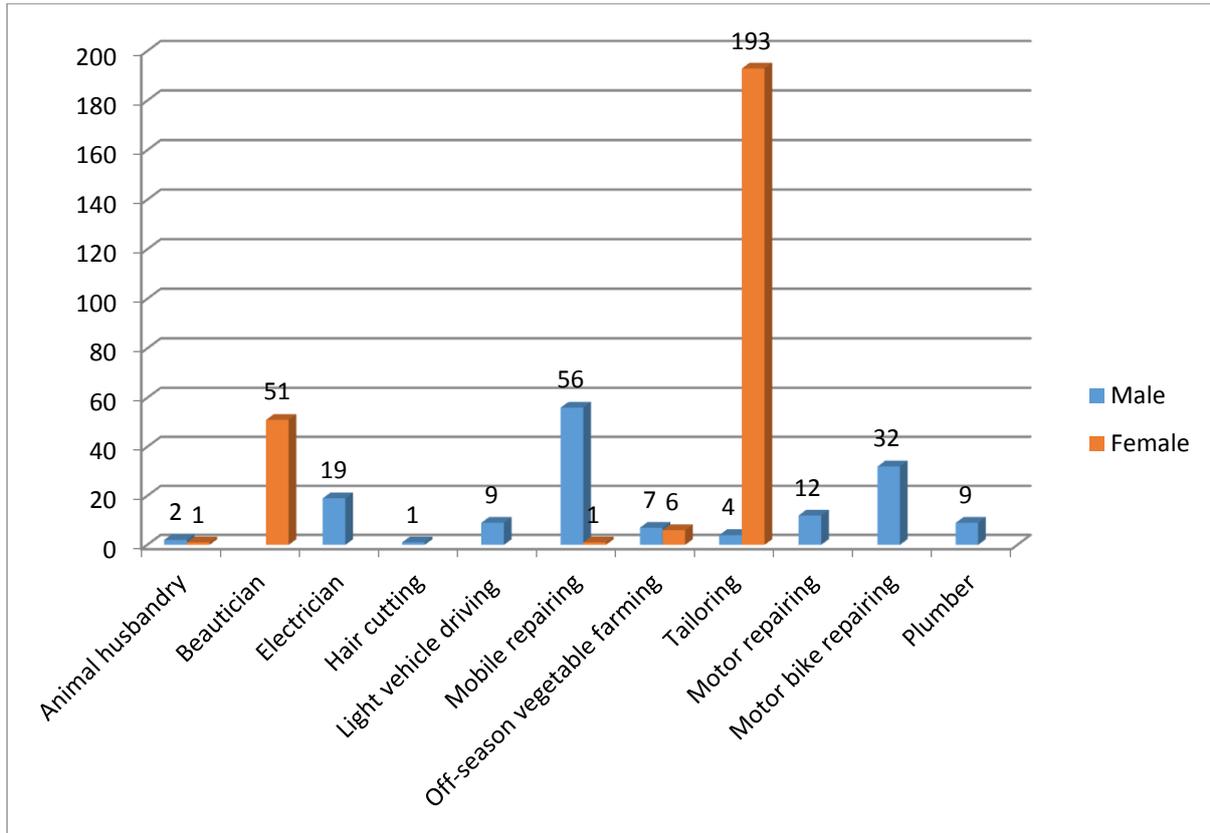


FIGURE 14 ETHNIC/CASTE BREAKDOWN OF SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY TOOLS WORKSHOPS

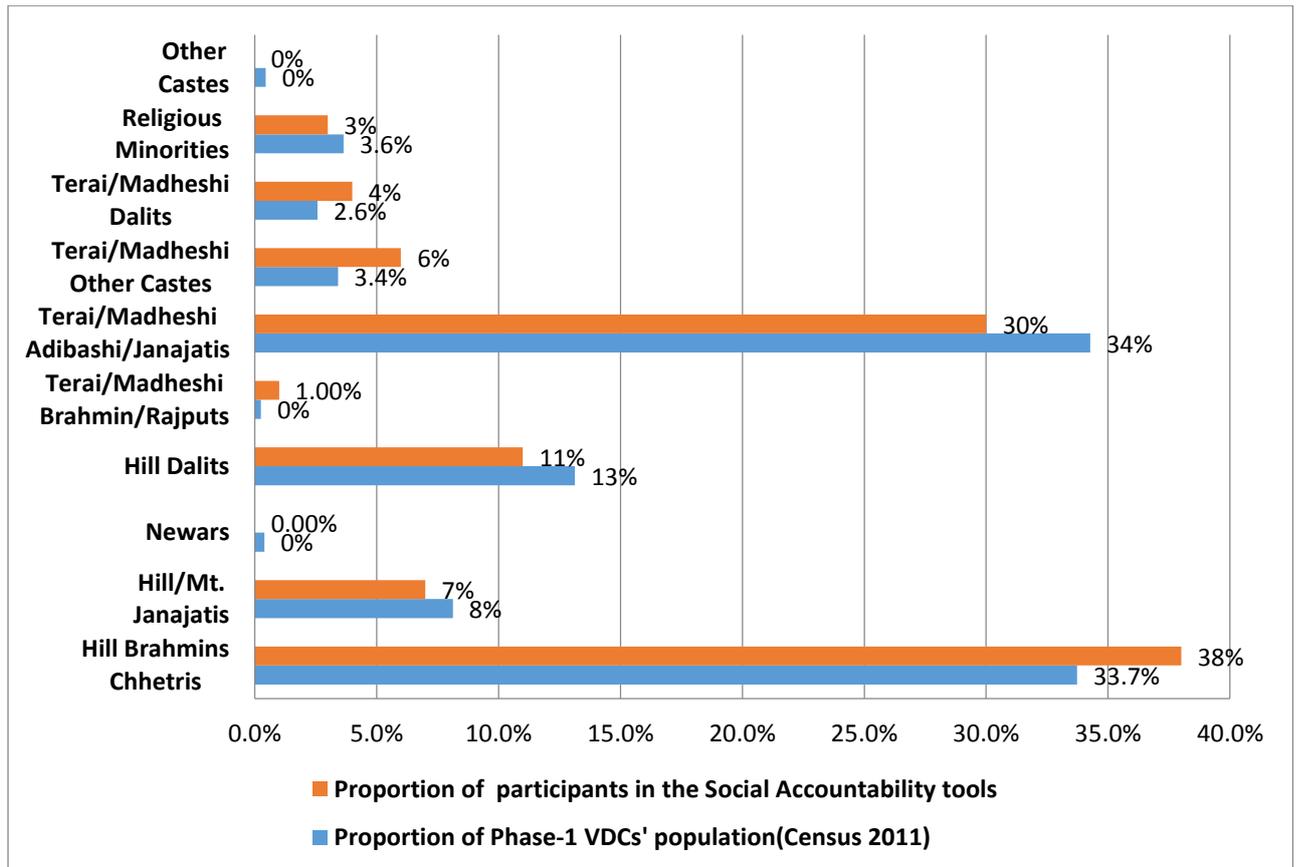


FIGURE 15 ETHNIC/CASTE BREAKDOWN OF PUBLIC HEARING PARTICIPANTS

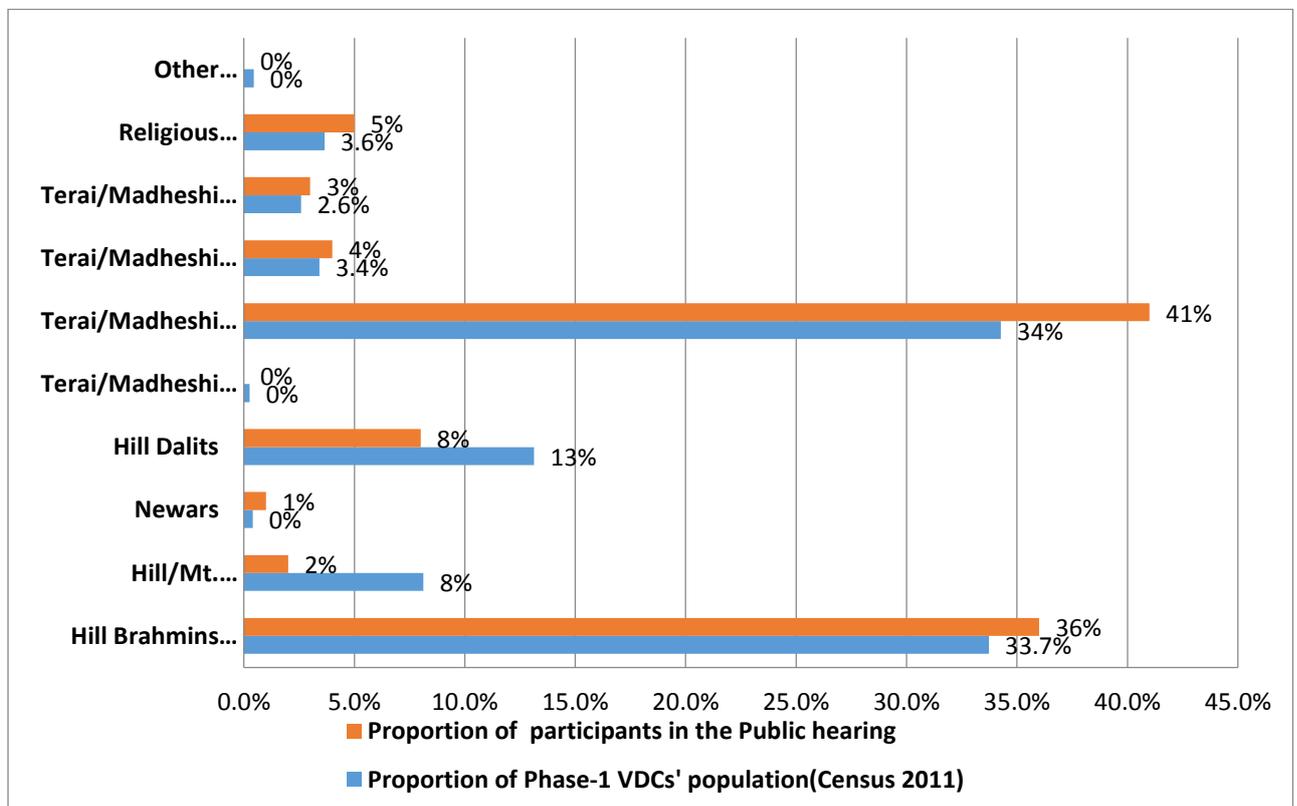
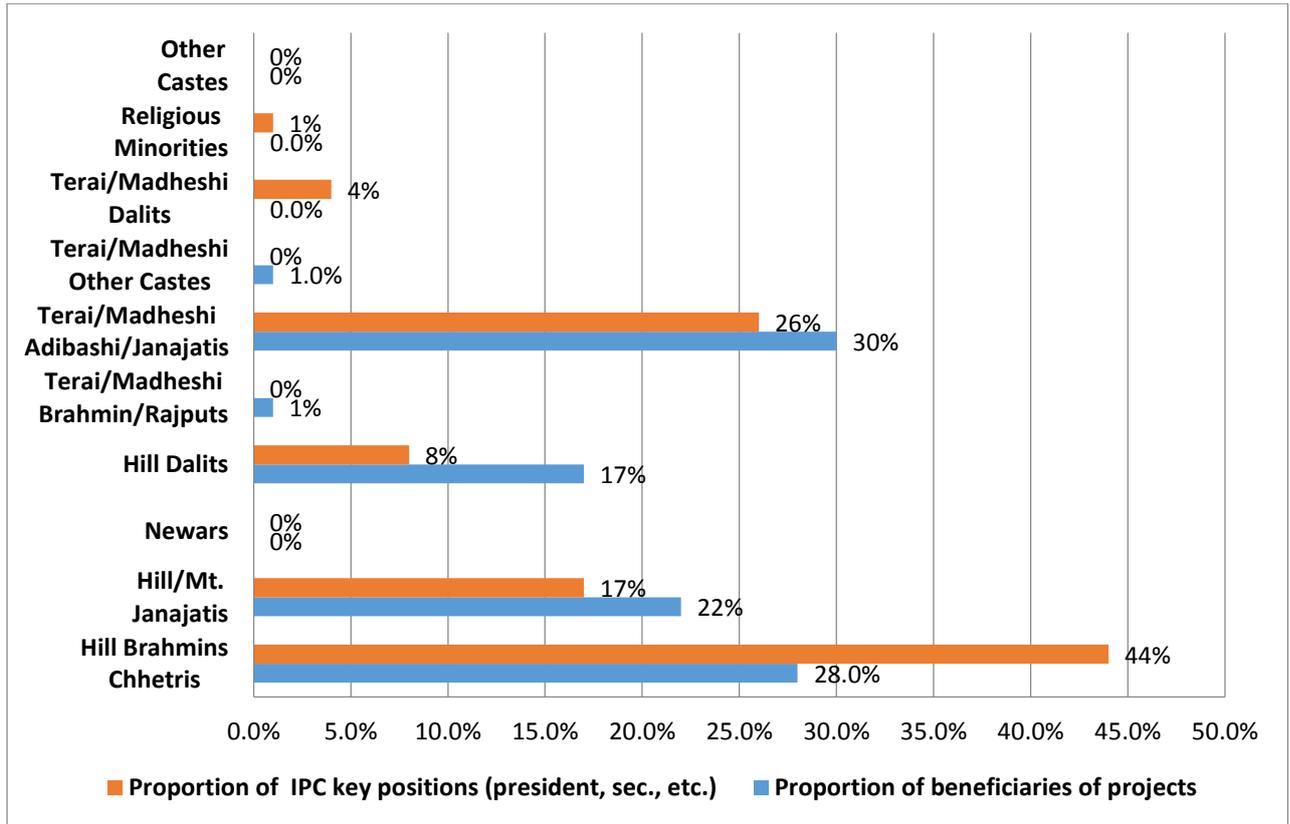


FIGURE 16 ETHNIC/CASTE BREAKDOWN OF IPC KEY POSITIONS



ANNEX 3: SUCCESS STORIES



Building the Skills and Confidence of Women Journalists to Report on issues of Gender Based Violence



Priyanka BK, reporter on gender-based violence (GBV)

After attending two Sajhedari Bikaas trainings conducted by Equal Access, Priyanka BK has gained reporting skills and confidence.

She attended her first training in June 2014 which brought together female journalists to improve their skills around reporting on Gender Based Violence (GBV) issues. The reporters were trained on how to protect themselves while in the community reporting on sensitive issues like GBV, and how to learn about a community's social and cultural environment. Priyanka states that, *"One of the most important things that I learned was how to choose the right issues that really have a direct linkage to society and the communities in which I report."*

At the follow on training "Enhancing the Capacity of Women Journalists to Report on issues of Gender Based Violence" in May 2015, Priyanka was able to see how far she has come. *"My level of confidence as a journalist greatly increased when we learned and practiced leadership and facilitator skills during this training. As a journalist I have a great responsibility and I am a leader,"* says Priyanka. At the training she also learned how to utilize technology and social media to maximize the impact of reporting on GBV issues. *"I now feel that I have more knowledge in how to use social media to raise the voice of my community against GBV and bring attention to issues with a wider-reach,"* Priyanka states proudly.



Radio Listeners Group Takes Ownership of Community Development for Financial and Social Gains



Members of Hamrailgi RLG participating in the mushroom cultivation workshop

Listening weekly to radio broadcasts of Sajhedari the Hamrailgi Radio Listener Group (RLG) of Ganga Paraspur VDC, in Dang became inspired to apply the lessons and messages to their own community. “The radio program often talked about community members taking action and ownership over development in their communities” says the group’s facilitator, Hemanta Pande, “so that is what we set out to do.”

After deliberation, the group primarily made up of youth, applied for and received a micro-grant through Equal Access’ micro-grants initiative to organize a three-day mushroom farming training, facilitated by a local trainer from the Entrepreneurship Multipurpose Cooperative Office in Lamahi. Following the training, the group formed a collective mushroom business and have been successfully producing and selling their products in local markets for several months.

The Hamrailgi RLG’s business has led to more than just financial benefits for its members. Profits from the business were used to organize a rally and street performance for over 150 community members to raise awareness of domestic violence, and celebrate International Women’s Day on 8th March 2015. Pre-marital pregnancy can bring many challenges to women in Nepal, including the inability to secure citizenship for her child. In Nepal a child may be denied citizenship if the father’s name is not present birth certificate.

ANNEX 4: PROGRESS AGAINST WORK PLAN

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Workplan Q3 Monthly Tracker (April-June, 2015)</h2>							Completed	
							Ongoing	
							Postponed	
							On Schedule?	Remarks
Activity	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Lead	Status	On Schedule?	Remarks	
Monitoring and Evaluation								
Conduct RDQA monitoring				Pact	Ongoing	Yes		
Review CDCS and adjust PMP indicators				Pact	Completed	Yes	Revised draft PMEP was submitted to USAID in April and pending review/approval	
Convene quarterly progress review and planning workshops				Pact	Completed	Yes		
Conduct thematic outcome assessments				Pact	Completed	Yes	Reports due Q4	
Orient LNGOs on participatory monitoring (MEAL)				Pact	Postponed	No	Postponed following earthquakes. Will reschedule for Q4.	
Conduct joint monitoring visits with project stakeholders				Pact	Postponed	No	Postponed due to unavailability of government officials following the	

