

# 8<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report



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## Community Initiatives for Common Understanding

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**Project Title:** Community Initiatives for Common Understanding

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## 1. Introduction

Saferworld, in collaboration with Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) and Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), is implementing a 3-year project entitled ‘Community Initiatives for Common Understanding’ (CICU), funded by USAID. Based on the assumption that constructive interaction and cooperation at the community level for peace and development can bridge political, ethnic and ideological divides, the project aims to contribute to an environment that is shaped by trust and strong social ties between communities, including conflicting groups and local authorities, which makes them resilient to social divides, insecurity and conflict.

The project has three expected results:

- **Result 1:** *Barriers to peaceful dialogue are broken down and mutual understanding and appreciation of grievances between conflicting groups increased.*
- **Result 2:** *Conflicting groups are able and willing to identify activities for development and reconciliation and collaborate toward their implementation.*
- **Result 3:** *State actors at district and national level are better aware of and willing to integrate lessons learnt into conflict sensitive development and rehabilitation programming.*

While the project follows a community-based approach, it mainly focuses on 9,000 hard-to-reach and at-risk young people, including former combatants. Secondary audiences for this project are government stakeholders and decision makers at the district and national level. The project is implemented in five districts of Nepal: Kailali, Surkhet, Banke and Bardiya in the Mid- and Far West; and Sunsari in the East. It targets 3 VDCs in each district.

## 2. Context Update

During the reporting quarter, the Supreme Court (SC) has directed the government to draft laws in favour of sexually harassed women and children on 4 March, 2015. The SC directed the government to enact laws by consulting with concerned stakeholders. Nepal has endorsed Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and various other covenants and conventions.

The Supreme Court issued a mandamus on 9 March in the name of the government to form Madhesi Commission according to Article 154 of the Interim Constitution. This mandamus was issued in response of a petition filed by Sunil Ranjhan Singh. The SC ruled that it is necessary to form Madhesi Commission to implement Article 21 to ensure inclusiveness, and Article 13 to ensure equality.

International Women's Day was observed in different parts of the country with various programmes on 8 March throughout the country. A rally was organized in Kathmandu which was attended by the National Women Commission, NHRC, NGO Federation, INSEC, Shakti Samuha and USAID, among others. The rally began at Bhrikuti Mandap and concluded at Basantpur.

The UCPN-M and the CPN-M objected to the 26 February SC decision on suspension of the clause that provides space to the Commission on Truth and Reconciliation and the Commission on Investigation of Disappeared Persons, which holds the power to recommend amnesties for serious human rights violations committed during the 10-year internal conflict in the country. Both parties jointly issued a press release on 10 March and stated that the decision was against the spirit of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The 30-party alliance led by UCPN-M has declared a month-long agitation, accusing the ruling parties of not taking any concrete step towards finalising the constitution-drafting process. The opposition alliance announced various activities, including boycotting public programmes attended by the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and other ministers, a nation-wide rally, and a general strike.

The government has decided to provide an additional NPR 200,000 to the conflict victims' families. A cabinet meeting on 27 March made the decision, according to which the family members of those killed or disappeared due to the conflict will get the additional money in two instalments.

An earthquake hit Nepal on 25 April 2015 of magnitude 7.9, followed by numerous aftershocks including magnitude 7.3 on 12 May. The earthquake brought severe damage to life, property and infrastructure mainly in central and western regions. The Government of Nepal has declared 14 districts as severely hit areas.

### **Context from working districts**

Last year's flood victims from Banke are still in temporary camps set up in schools and public land. The Government of Nepal has distributed additional relief funds to the victims.

As a result a protest by the local population of Inaruawa, Sunsari against the Government of Nepal's decision to open new service centre in Dharan, the Government decided to withdraw the decision. Seven people died in Sunsari in the 25 April earthquake, due to collapse of a boundary wall in the Sunsari industrial area.

As the rainy season is approaching, flood victims of Surkhet district organized a protest programme in demand of their rehabilitation. A Swine Flu outbreak in Jajarkot was anticipated to extend to the adjoining Surkhet district, thus Surkhet district administration office flagged Ghoreta, Ranibas, Matela and Kaphalkot VDC as being risk.

### **3. Accomplishments**

This progress report covers the eighth quarter (Q8) of the CICU project. During this period, activities under Milestone 27 were completed and progress has been made towards achieving the Milestone. In addition, progress has been made towards achieving Milestones 5, 10, 16 and 24.

The following activities were completed this quarter:

- a) **Milestone 10, Output 10.2: At least 3 orientation/training, based on the localized needs and gaps identified under MS description 10.1, carried out for the actors working on psycho-social support from all 15 VDCs**

Training was delivered on 6-10 April 2015 in Nepagunj in 'Basic Psychosocial Care and Support'. In total, 26 participants participated in the training including Youth Group (YG) members, identified counsellors available in the working VDCs, and CICU District Coordinators. The training transferred the knowledge and skills on basic psychosocial care and support to needy people. Further, the training provided skills and knowledge to the participants on group orientation and counselling, delivering minor psychosocial care and support, and identifying and handling referral cases. During the training, the participants drew together detailed plans for conducting group counselling in their respective VDCs and creating/solidifying referral mechanisms.

Following-up the training, the participants delivered group orientations to their respective VDCs, to be followed by group counselling to identify people with psychosocial problems. Those identified will receive counselling services by a trained counsellor, while complex cases that need additional resources and/or assistance will be referred further.

In order to build the capacity of newly trained counsellor, the project has included fairly experienced counsellor from TPO, WORAC and District Woman and Children office counsellors for the basic training and later to conduct group counselling together with newly trained counsellor and CICU District Coordinators.

**b) Milestone 27, Output 27.1: Quarterly progress reports, quarterly meeting attendance and quarterly events calendars**

In order to achieve Milestone 27, the project has prepared and submitted 4 quarterly reports from Q5 to Q8.

**Work in Progress**

**c) Milestones 5, Output 5.1.1: At least one interaction in each VDC engaging beneficiaries; including the production of at least one short video documentary on a topic related to the conflict and/or conflict resolution**

Work towards achieving Milestone 5 has begun. 'Kathaharu', the selected service provider company to produce the video documentary, has begun taking footage in the working VDCs. A team of three persons including a facilitator, note taker and camera person went to the CICU working districts to collect footage. They have collected footage in Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet and Kailali. While they were in the field to collect video footage, the 25 April earthquake hit Nepal thus they were unable to collect footage in Sunsari district as planned. Sunsari footage collection was pushed back towards the end of June, which has delayed the overall video production schedule.

The main video documentary will be 9-14 minutes. Furthermore, 5 video documentaries will also be developed with a length of 8-9 minutes each from each project working district, which will be combined to develop one video documentary of 40-45 minutes in total. As mentioned above, the footage collection has been affected by the earthquake. As a result, the revised timeline to complete the video documentary is end-July 2015.

d) **Milestone 24, Output 24.1: CWIN and INSEC capacity needs for year 2 addressed** CWIN and INSEC's capacity needs assessment has identified key areas for improvement at the technical and organizational levels. The assessment found capacity gaps in report writing, dialogue facilitation, GESI, research and data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and financial management to be addressed. These trainings were scheduled for the second week of May 2015. However, they have had to be postponed due to earthquake. The training has been rescheduled for 17-24 June 2015. However, the progress has been achieved in preparing training agenda, learning objectives prepared, training designed, and identified facilitator/trainer.

e) **Milestone 16, Output 16.1: Methodology for informal justice mapping update has been refined**

The progress has been made in achieving Milestone 16, Output 16.1. The draft methodology for the justice mapping has been prepared. The draft methodology was designed through brainstorming within the Saferworld team, including consultation with Saferworld's Regional Security and Justice Advisor. The project further consulted with local partners' District Coordinators to refine the methodology, ensuring the inclusion of their local knowledge on the situation, in particular on gaps and needs of the formal and informal justice mechanisms in the working districts.

#### 4. **Challenges and Lessons Learnt**

The main challenge faced during the reporting period was the 25 April earthquake. Although CICU working districts were not affected by earthquake, the tremor was felt strongly all over Nepal and the population has been affected psychologically. The planned activities were interrupted due to fear in the working communities. Saferworld's directly implemented activities were also affected and delayed by the earthquake. The project had to postpone Milestone 24-related activities on partner capacity development until the situation stabilizes. Similarly, the implementation of Milestones 5, 10 and 16 was affected and had to be postponed.

#### 5. **Success Stories**

Saferworld, together with local partners INSEC and CWIN, organized activities to mobilize community men and women to mark the 105<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day in CICU working districts. Project-supported groups including Reconciliation and Development Forums (RDFs) and YGs took the lead in celebrating International Women's Day in coordination and

collaboration with district line agencies, VDCs, political parties, students, and community men and women. The slogan for this year’s International Women’s Day was “*Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it*”. More than 3,000 community men and women were mobilized from five districts through awareness rallies, cultural activities, street drama, a signature campaign on violence and trafficking against women and girls, and interaction programmes on locally-identified gender and security-related issues.

In the aftermath of the earthquake in Nepal in April, RDFs and YGs from Sunsari VDC have mobilized community youth to collect relief to support disaster-affected people in collaboration with VDCs. NPR 21,000 collected by Singhiya RDF and YG from Ram Dhuni Bhasi Municipality was handed over to the Sunsari District Administration Office. Similarly, RDFs and YGs from Bardiya and Banke have collected food stuffs to support earthquake-hit districts.

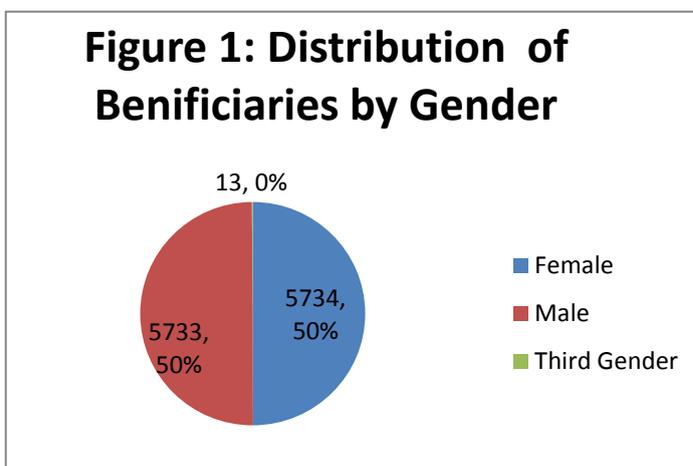
## 6. Quarterly Work Plan

Please see Annex A for a full overview of the Work Plan.

## 7. Monitoring & Evaluation Performance

‘Community Data Boards’ were introduced in the working VDCs of Surkhet in this quarter. Saferworld’s M&E coordinator delivered an orientation to the RDF and YG members in Uttarganga, Hariharpur and Chhhinchu VDCs of Surkhet district on the Community Data Boards. RDFs and YGs will collect the information on the general security situation of their VDCs. The collected information will be displayed on a flex board in the VDC premise and within the Peace Rooms, which will be revised every four months. The aim of collecting and displaying information is to sensitize community members on general security situation of the community as well building the capacity of RDF and YG members in advocacy on gender, peace and security.

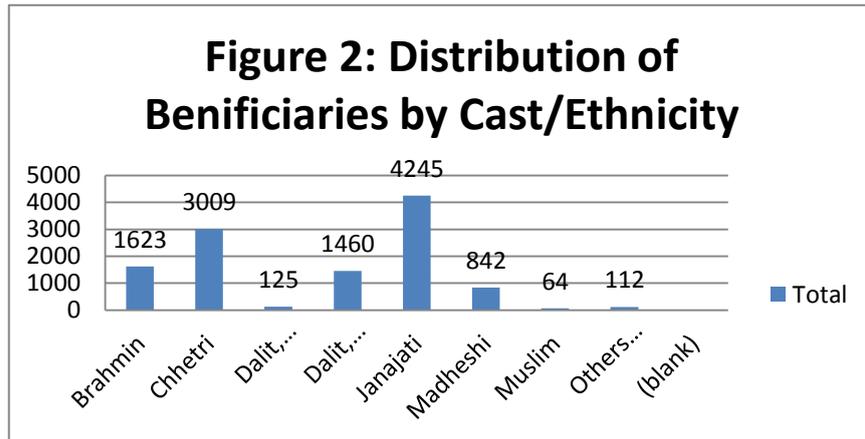
Saferworld, has developed the database sheet to collect information of the project beneficiaries. Project staff members collect and enter the beneficiaries' information into the database. Based on the database MEL coordinator filters and refines to feed into report.



In the second year (June 2014 to May 2015) of the CICU project, a total of 11,480 community

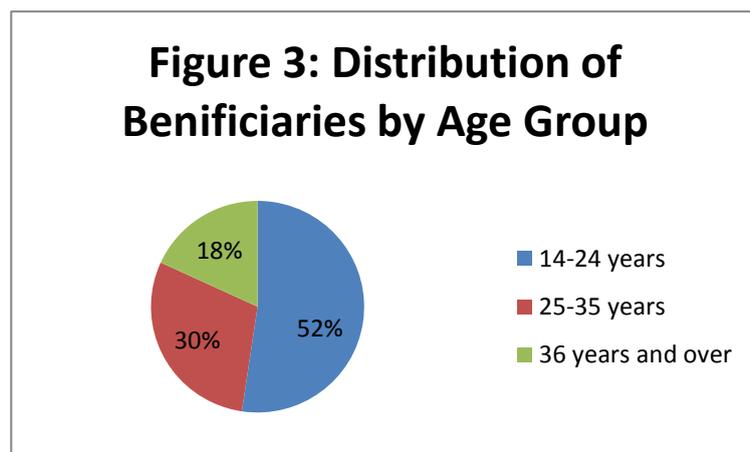
people have been benefitted through training, workshop, meeting, and different activities organized by RDF and YG in the working VDCs.

In terms of participation, about 50 per cent beneficiaries were female and 13 from the third gender



(please see details in figure 1). Similarly, Janajati participation is highest with 4,245 followed by Chhetri (3,009), and Brahmin (1,623), and Pahadi Dalits with 1,460 (please see details in figure 2). Based on the data below, marginalized community people i.e. Janajati, Dalit Madhesi & Pahadi, Madhesi, and Muslim are significantly included in the project activities.

Figure 3 explains the participation in terms of age group. 52 per cent of beneficiaries belonging to 14-24 age group in last four quarter followed by 30 per cent between 25-35 age group and the beneficiaries above 36 years counts 18 per cent.



## 8. List of Annexes

The Annexes included here are the following:

### A) Quarterly Work Plan

#### Annex A – Quarterly Work Plan:

Milestone	Outputs/Activities Planned for this Quarter (March – May 2015)	Planned Timeline	Status ( <i>Completed / On track / Not completed / Not on track</i> )
24. Partners technical and organization capacity needs built for year 2	24.1 CWIN and INSEC capacity needs for year 2 addressed	Q5	Delayed, planned in May but rescheduled for June 2015 due to earthquake
5. Trust and more constructive interaction/dialogue established between hard-to-reach youth and other at-risk groups and individuals	5.1 At least one interaction in each VDC engaging beneficiaries; including the production of at least one short video documentary on a topic related to the conflict and/or conflict resolution	Q7/8	Delayed due to earthquake
10. Psycho-social support mechanism is functional and selected actors have capacity to provide psycho-social	10.1 Psycho-social strategy and directory developed	Q8	Completed, draft report prepared

support in 15 VDCs	10.2 At least 3 orientation/training based on the localized needs and gaps identified under MS description 10.1 carried out from the actors working on psycho-social support from all 15 VDCs	Q8	Completed, report will be submitted in Q9
	10.3 Service providers identified meet with individuals to provide psychosocial support	Q8	Delayed due to earthquake
21. Mid-term progress monitoring conducted	21.1 Mid-term review conducted	Q7	Completed, report submitted in Q8
27. Documentation of project progress in year 2 on quarterly basis	27.1 Quarterly progress reports, quarterly meeting attendance, and quarterly events calendars	Q8	Completed
16. Informal justice mechanism have been identified in each VDC	16.1 Methodology for informal justice mapping update has been refined	Q8	Delayed, due to earthquake
	16.2 capacity building for at least 10 researchers conducted	Q8	Delayed, due to earthquake
	16.3 Field research conducted in all districts, data analyzed and validated to produce draft justice Mapping report	Q8	Delayed, due to earthquake

13. RDFs take lead in implementing action plans to address communities' needs to prevent conflict in 5 communities	13.1 Phase I – Group A (5 communities) security needs identified and discussed in participatory manner, and Community Action Plans developed	Q8	On track, report will be submitted in Q9
<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Output/Activities Planned for Seventh Quarter (March – May 2015)</b>	<b>Planned Timeline</b>	<b>Status (Completed / On track / Not completed / Not on track)</b>
17. RDFs develop Advocacy Plans and are trained via regular policy-oriented advocacy meetings (linked to training provided under Result 2)	17.1 RDFs trained and Advocacy Plans developed with each of the 15 RDFs	Q9	On track
25. Partners technical and organization capacity needs built for year 3	25.1 CWIN and INSEC's capacity needs for year 3 addressed	Q9	On track
24. Partners technical and organization capacity needs built for year 2	24.1 CWIN and INSEC's capacity needs for year 2 addressed	Q6	Delayed, planned in June 2015
16. Informal justice mechanism have been identified in each VDC	16.1 Methodology for informal justice mapping update has been refined	Q8	Delayed due to earthquake, planned in Q9
	16.2 capacity building for at least 10 researchers conducted	Q8	Delayed due to earthquake, planned in Q9
	16.3 Field research conducted in all districts, data analysed and validated to produce draft justice Mapping report	Q8	Delayed due to earthquake, planned in Q9

10. Psycho-social support mechanism is functional and selected actors have capacity to provide psycho-social support in 15 VDCs	10.3 Service providers identified meet with individuals to provide psychosocial support	Q8	Delayed due to earthquake
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