

**Equal Access
Sundar Shanta Bishal/ Naya Nepal
Peacebuilding Radio Program**

ANNUAL REPORT



*Peace! You bring if you can,
Which all aspire;
Pen and pencil, not the bomb and dynamite,
To carry, children desire;*

*Horror of human it is-
To live every day with fear of death,
Tears may blight upon, of thy old Mother!
Curse may fall upon, of thy own sister!*

*If you can-
Bring smile on lips, not tears in eyes,
Ensure children's rights
Make peace-zone to thy school,
In heart, keep zest and zeal.*

Translated poem submitted to the program from:
Kamala Bantawa Rai, Bopung-1, Khotang, Sagarmatha

Submitted: November 14, 2006

Table of Contents

1. Background	3
2. Overview	3
3. Headlines	4
4. Progress Against Goals (October 2005- June 30, 2006)	4-9
5. Progress Against Goals (July – September 30, 2006)	9-11
6. Challenges	11-12
7. Cumulative Monitoring & Evaluation Data	12-18
8. Financial Information	19
9. Management Issues Information	19
10. Anticipated Future Problems	19-21
11. Security Information	21
12. Project Expansion Information	22
13. Lessons Learned	22
14. Success Stories	23-25
Attachments:	26

1. Background:

In October 2005, Equal Access began implementation of “Sundar Shanta Bishal” (SSB), *Beautiful Peaceful Diverse Land*, with the predominant aim of utilizing radio and outreach to raise awareness across Nepal of the rising human cost of the conflict, through a combination of real ‘voices from the field’ and dramatized accounts of Nepali and international nonviolent movements conveyed via a dynamic serial drama. Initial program design and implementation took place against a backdrop of strict media censorship. Following the crackdown on the media in the wake of the King’s takeover in February 2005, and with news prohibited from broadcast, *Beautiful Peaceful Diverse Land* (Sundar Shanta Bishal - SSB) was designed to empower rural Nepalis affected by the conflict with a range of nonviolent tools to make their voices heard.

Following the Janaadolan’s transformation of the on-ground environment in Nepal from an openly hostile conflict with a deteriorating time sensitive ceasefire, to one in which a continued ceasefire balanced against a progressing peace process which has finally yielded a comprehensive agreement, today’s Nepali political and media landscapes are significantly different from those prior to April 2006.

Its human nature that a man thinks that he is all right until and unless his own parents are in trouble. The city dwellers who are scared even with the sound of firings are not intensely interested to restore peace. Why? It is simple that they do not have to experience the horrors of war. They have not seen their relatives being shot in front of them and they have not faced the bullets and grenades falling on them...

- Reflections of SSB field trainer in Hetauda following a terrifying experience where he and his family were caught in violent crossfire for very long and scary hours in February 2005.

One of Equal Access’ key program and organization strengths is our ability to feed back and incorporate input and recommendations from program beneficiaries, quickly and efficiently into new radio programming and trainings. Accordingly, the transformative events in Nepal throughout 2006 have not hampered project implementation; the changed on ground realities of the conflict have allowed the program to address many questions for rural and urban Nepalese that were precisely restricted, such as discussions of democracy and corruption. As Nepal moves forward in this peace process, SSB has shifted too to better react to the changing on the ground situation, a daily reality where there is hope for a brighter future. In this vein, project stakeholders have agreed amongst themselves to convey this hope for a brighter future by changing SSB’s name to “Naya Nepal”, *New Nepal*, showing the heartfelt optimism of a people truly wanting peace.

2. Overview:

The following report includes a brief account of project activities relating to the SSB project (#367-A-00-05-00176-00) during the previous four quarters. For reference, the periods of activity detailed in this report are:

- ❖ 1st Quarter of Activities, October –December 2005
- ❖ 2nd Quarter of Activities, January- March 2006
- ❖ 3rd Quarter of Activities, April - June 2006

❖ 4th Quarter of Activities, July –September, 2006

3. Headlines

No cost extension approved: Equal Access' request for a no cost extension was approved on August 3, 2006. The revised project completion date is February 28, 2007. Equal Access' submitted revised Workplan was approved by USAID conveying the acceleration of project implementation and adjustment of content focuses in light of political situational changes in the country.

Project expansion and linkages: As detailed in below in Section 12, Project Expansion Information, partnerships were formed with NDI, Search for Common Ground, Joan Kroc Institute and a series of local partners.

SSB radio program commenced broadcasting and outreach activities are underway: Program broadcasts began on May 31, 2006 including training of reporters, site training and local program versions.

Feedback Received: Initial program and outreach feedback is being received and fed back into further programming. Please see the compilation of feedback in Section 14.

Radio Program Name Change: SSB's title was changed to *Naya Nepal/ New Nepal* as of episode 37 to better reflect the changing dynamics of the peace process in Nepal.

4. Progress against Goals (October 2005 – June 30, 2006)

Please refer to submitted quarterly reports for this period.

In the 1st quarter of activities, (October- December 2005) initial program design activities were completed leading up to the Stakeholders Workshop I. A large number of training and program design materials were produced. Radio Nepal was kept well briefed on the program development, and we were therefore able to broadcast the program without or with minimum censorship.

In the 2nd quarter of activities, (January- March 2006) initial Stakeholder and FM Reporter Workshops and Trainings were convened, outreach partnerships were negotiated, radio program design and formatting continued forward, satellite radio equipment was cleared from customs and made available for distribution, and initial monitoring and evaluation activities were conducted.

Previously provided documentation:

- FM radio stations Training documents, Gaidakot, Nawalparasi -January 2006;
- Stakeholder's Workshop I documents, Kathmandu- February 14, 2006;
- Content Advisory Group (CAG) meeting minutes; and
- Initial radio program content documents.

In the 3rd quarter of activities, project implementation moved forward at an exciting pace; negotiations with sub-award grantees were finalized and partner outreach contracts were issued.

Network Outreach Partners			
Serial Number	Name of Organization	Co-ordination Sector	Co-coordinating Radio Station
01	Nepal Red-Cross Society	Eastern region	Sapta-Koshi FM
02	SOLVE Nepal	Eastern region: Bhojpur, Dhankuta	Sapta-Koshi FM
03	Solukhumbu Sahithik Manch	Solukhumbu, Okhaldhunja, Khotang	Samudayik Radio solu FM
04	General welfare Prasthan	Makwanpur, Chitwan, Dang, Nepaljung	Bijaya FM, Swargadwari FM, Radio Veri Awaj
05	Child welfare Scheme	Pokhara	Machhapuchhre FM
06	Karnali <i>Ekikrit bikas</i> and <i>Anusandhan Kendra</i> (Kirdak)	All district of Karnali <i>Anchal</i>	Radio Karnali
07	<i>Sthaniya Bikash Munch</i> , Kanchanpur	District of Mid and Far Western region	Ghodaghodi FM, Saipal FM

The Content Advisory Group (CAG) began meeting regularly; a key Reporter Training and a Focused Stakeholder Workshop II were successfully convened to further train and build capacity in local partners to promote project impact; satellite radio equipment was distributed to outreach sites; and rebroadcasting contracts were signed with Radio Nepal and 24 FM radio stations.

Radio Stations with SSB Networks				
Serial No	Name of Station	Address	Sector/Region	
01	Kanchanjanjha FM	Birtamod Jhapa	Eastern Region	Disseminator
02	Saptakoshi FM	Itahari Sunsari	Eastern Region	Local material producer/ Disseminator
03	Samudaik Radio Solu FM	Salleri- Solukhumbu	Eastern Region	Local material producer/ Disseminator
04	Radio Birjung	Birjung-Parsa	Central Region	Disseminator
05	Radio Palung	Paglung- Makwanpur	Central Region	Disseminator
06	ACR FM	Kathmandu	Central Region	Disseminator
07	Kalika FM	Bharatpur-Chitwan	Central Region	Disseminator
08	Sinarji FM	Bharatpur-Chitwan	Central Region	Disseminator

09	Bijaya FM	Gaindakot-Nawalparasi	Western -Region	Local material producer/ Disseminator
10	Machapuchhre FM	Pokhara-Kaski	Western -Region	Local material producer/ Disseminator
11	Dhawalagiri FM	Baglung	Western -Region	Disseminator
12	Srinagar Radio	Tansen Palpa	Western -Region	Disseminator
13	Radio Madan Pokhara	Madan Pokhara-Palpa	Western -Region	Local material producer/ Disseminator
14	Tinayu FM	Butwal-Rupandehi	Western -Region	Disseminator
15	Radio Lumbini	Manigram-Rupandehi	Western -Region	Local material producer/ Disseminator
16	Rupandehi FM	Bhairawaha-Rupandehi	Western -Region	Disseminator
17	Radio Swargadwari	Ghorai-dang	Mid-Western Region	Local material producer/ Disseminator
18	Tulsipur FM	Tulsipur-Dang	Mid-Western Region	Disseminator
19	Radio Veri Awaj	Nepaljung-Banke	Mid-Western Region	Local material producer/ Disseminator
20	Bageshwari FM	Nepaljung-Banke	Mid-Western Region	Disseminator
21	Radio Bheri	Birendranagar-Surkhet	Mid-Western Region	Local material producer/ Disseminator
22	Radio Karnali	Jumla	Mid-Western Region	Local material producer/ Disseminator
23	Radio Ghodaghodi	Attria-Kailaili	Far-Western region	Disseminator
24	Saipal Radio	Chainpur-Bajhang	Far-Western region	Disseminator
25	Radio Nepal		National	

Importantly, SSB commenced broadcasts on May 31, 2006. Local versions of SSB programs have begun. In these local versions radio content is being produced in four languages in addition to Nepali: Tharu, Dotyal, Maithili and Awadhi to better reach marginalized individuals and ethnic minority groups with information. Saptikoshi FM station for instance has recently submitted a report detailing the eleven local productions they have completed and broadcast this far. Local program topics have included: expressing the voices of rural people from Udayapur and Khotang; raising awareness of the effects of the conflict on local school teachers and students; and awareness raising about community individuals like Radhadevi Madal who were previously ostracized from their communities and called witches, but who now enjoy respected community status as they are seen as social workers. For full details of these local productions please see {Attachment A}, Shaptikoshi FM station Report as well as the table below.

“Sundar Shanta Bishal” Broadcast Schedule

								Local episodes average 15 minutes in length, 9 FM stations 287 episodes total of local SSB programming projected 4035 minutes total of local SSB programming projected				
SSB 'A' - Fresh I												
SSB 'B' - Fresh II												
World Space												
SN	Channel	Episode	Day	Time	Repeat			Remarks				
01	World Space	Fresh	Wednesday	7:30 AM	Wednesday	12:30 PM	5:30 PM					
02	World Space	Fresh	Saturday	7:30 AM	Saturday	12:30 PM	5:30 PM					
Radio Nepal Central Broadcasting (MW)												
SN	Station	Episode	Day	Time	Episode	Day	Time	Location				
01	Radio Nepal	SSB A	Thursday	3:30 PM	SSB B	Saturday	7:30 AM	Kathmandu				
FM Broadcast Schedule												
SN	Station	Episode	Day	Time	Episode	Day	Time	Location	Local Production: 5/31/06- 9/15/06	Projected Production: 9/15/06- 2/15/07	Total	Remarks
01	Solu FM	SSB A	Wednesday	7:30 AM	SSB B	Saturday	7:30 AM	Solukhumbu	17 x 30 min.	17	34	L
02	Shreenagar FM	SSB A	Wednesday	9:35 AM	SSB B	Saturday	6:30 PM	Palpa, Tansen				
03	Dhaulagiri FM	SSB A	Wednesday	4:00 PM	SSB B	Monday	7:00 AM	Baglung				
04	Tinau FM	SSB A	Wednesday	9:00 AM	SSB B	Saturday	5:30 PM	Butwal				
05	Radio Lumbini	SSB A	Wednesday	5:30 PM	SSB B	Saturday	5:30 PM	Manigram	9 x 15 min.	9	18	L, 1 x FM only
06	Radio Madanpokhara	SSB A	Wednesday	5:30 PM	SSB B	Saturday	7:30 AM	Palpa	12 x 5 min.	12	24	L, 1 x FM only
07	HBC 94 FM	SSB A	Friday	6:30 PM	SSB B	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Kathmandu				
08	Swargadwari FM	SSB A	Wednesday	8:00 AM	SSB B	Saturday	8:00 PM	Ghorahi Dang	5 x 15 min.	5	10	L
09	Kanchanjagha FM	SSB A	Wednesday	4:00 PM	SSB B	Saturday	3:30 PM	Birtamode				
10	Saptakoshi FM	SSB A	Wednesday	6:30 PM	SSB B	Saturday	6:30 PM	Itahari	11 x 15 min.	11	22	L
11	Radio Birgunj FM	SSB A	Thursday	7:30 AM	SSB B	Monday	7:30 AM	Birgunj				
12	Radio Palung	SSB A	Wednesday	7:30 AM	SSB B	Saturday	7:30 AM	Palung				
13	Kalika FM	SSB A	Wednesday	8:30 AM	SSB B	Sunday	8:30 AM	Bharatpur				
14	Synargy FM	SSB A	Wednesday	7:30 PM	SSB B	Saturday	7:30 PM	Bharatpur				
15	Vijaya FM	SSB A	Wednesday	8:30 AM	SSB B	Saturday	8:30 AM	Gaidakot	10 x 15 min.	10	20	L
16	Machapuchre FM	SSB A	Thursday	3:30 PM	SSB B	Yuesday	3:30 PM	Pokhara	8 x 15 min.	8	16	L, 1 x FM only
17	Rupandehi FM	SSB A	Wednesday	7:30 AM	SSB B	Saturday	7:30 AM	Bhairawa				
18	Radio Bheri Aawaj	SSB A	Wednesday	7:30 AM	SSB B	Saturday	7:30 AM	Nepalgunj	4 x 15 min.	4	8	L

19	Radio Bheri FM	SSB A	Thursday	7:30 AM	SSB B	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Surkhet	11 x 15 min.	11	22	L, 1 x FM only
20	Ghodaghodi FM	SSB A	Wednesday	6:00 PM	SSB B	Saturday	6:00 PM	Attaiya				
21	Saipal Radio	SSB A	Wednesday	7:30 AM	SSB B	Saturday	7:30 AM	Bhajang				
22	Radio Karnali	SSB A	Thursday	8:00 PM	SSB B	Saturday	8:00 AM	Jumla				
23	Hetauda FM	SSB A	Wednesday	6:00 PM	SSB B	Saturday	8:30 PM	Kathmandu				
24	Muktinath Radio	SSB A	Wednesday	9:15 AM	SSB B							
25	Himchuli FM	SSB A	Wednesday	7:30 AM								

SSB PROGRAM DETAILS	Components:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse local field audio from 10 different units • Drama • Journalistic elements • Central interview with experts & people in authority • Creative interview (with singer, lyricist, vocal artist, poet, film/documentary maker, writer, columnist etc) • Regular feedback from audience, songs etc.
	Collaborative Partner stations in production:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 collaborative partners in different regions produce local SSB episodes of 15 minutes duration (local content). • 287 episodes of local content are projected to be produced by Feb 28, 2007
	Broadcast:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesdays and Saturdays- on Aphnai Mato Aphnai Bato satellite radio service • Mondays at 15:30 hrs & Thursdays at 08:30 hrs on Radio Nepal • Tuesdays and Fridays on HBC 94 FM at 18:30 hrs • 24 FM stations out of Kathmandu broadcast on their preferred time

Previously provided documentation:

- Training Materials Documents for Reporter Training in Gaidakot April 1-10, 2006;
- Reporter Training Report following major 9-day Training in Gaidakot April 1-10; 2006
- List of Outreach Sites;
- Stakeholders Workshop II Agenda, Minutes and Report;
- SSB Broadcast Schedule;
- Full English text translation of the 8th Episode of SSB and an English voice-over translation version of the program. This program focuses on rehabilitation of internally displaced people with an extended story on the return of displaced people from Surket to Jumla. The drama segment includes the story of the return of the school teacher Hari to a village following his absence for four years due to the conflict and focusing on internally displaced people. The episode is translated by various Equal Access staff including Executive Producer, Upendra Aryal and Producers Binaya Guragain and Bidhya Chapagain; and
- CAG Minutes from meetings 1-3.

5. Progress against Goals (July 1- September 30, 2006)

In the 4th quarter of activities, episodes of SSB focused on a range of themes including: “Conflict” in a changing situation, awareness of human rights, the ceasefire, children and mine risk, women and the changing role of women in society and caste discrimination, with 33 episodes of the radio program broadcast as of September 30, 2006. Additionally in the 3rd quarter of activities, three CAG Meetings were held, monitoring and outreach activities were conducted; and a 3 day

“The interest of people for radio program is increasing. They hope such a program may bring social change in the field of awareness and education.”

- Recent report from Outreach Partner, KIRDARC

Reporter Follow-up “Refresher” Training and 2 day National FM Partners Meeting was convened in Pokhara. Feedback from the training evaluations indicated 96% of participants rated the training quality as good or excellent.

Also in the 4th quarter of activities, outreach partners began to report feedback from outreach sites. For instance, KIRDARC reports that,

“SSB is popular among listeners of Karnali. People make discussions on programs after listening programs in groups. They are expecting more such programs through satellite radio. They wish to listen of their burning social issues of Karnali through the programs. Programs are [seen as] beneficial and others from remote villages are also demanding satellite radio who have no access in certain centers.”

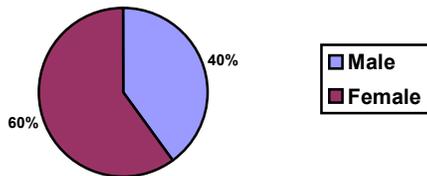
Additionally, KIRDARC has noted that people have been very interested to listen to more programs through the radio saying, “In the beginning it was difficult to get listeners views and output in community behaviors. People were especially attracted towards the entertaining side of radio because for many of them it was new thing in the village. Now they tune in for practical aspects of programs. They have started to discuss issues and implement knowledge and awareness learnt through the radio in their daily life.” For more information on the Karnali Zone please refer to **{Attachment B}**, Karnali Zone Overview. For more information on KIRDARC’s initial monitoring feedback, please see **{Attachment C}**, KIRDARC’s SSB 1st Monitoring Report.

Additionally, Project Coordinator, Saraswati Thapa, conducted field visits to Eastern Nepal between 25-30th July 2006, where she met with and solicited feedback on SSB from FM partners, outreach partners, listening groups and community reporters. Positively, early feedback from reporters and communities showed that many communities have heard and are enjoying the SSB broadcasts. Importantly, Mrs. Thapa received feedback about an increased need to better circulate the SSB broadcast schedule to all outreach partners as well as a number of requests from listeners regarding broadcast timing. Please see Section 13, Lessons Learned, for details and **{Attachment D}** Outreach Field Report: Eastern Nepal, July 25-30, 2006.

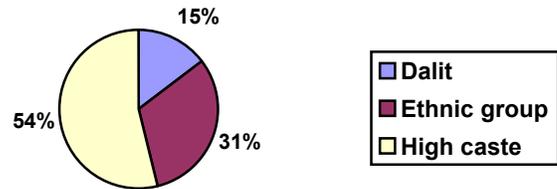
Field trips by Equal Access staff are yielding valuable statistical information on listening group beneficiary reach numbers as well as specific input and feedback on the program, both positive and negative. For instance on a recent M&E field trip to a the Eastern Development Region (Shrot BikasKendra Nepal) SAP Nepal , EA monitoring staff catalogued that there are currently 10 active listener clubs in the region, five in Morang, four in Sansari and one in Jhapa.

Evaluation feedback forms and discussions note that the number of members per group in this region varies between 15 and 25 active participants. In total, there are 217 members amongst the listener clubs, of which 130 are women, Dalit-32, and ethnic –68 listeners, representing a mix of both male and female participants- as well as a range of castes. Please see the figure below.

Member of listener club by sex



Member of listener club by caste



Please see attached:

- **{Attachment E}** CAG Minutes 4-7;
- **{Attachment F}** Points for Refresher Training;
- **{Attachment G}** “Conflict” Reading Material for the Reporters;
- **{Attachment H}** Community Reporters Refresher Training Evaluation Form;
- **{Attachment I}** Analysis of Community Reporters Refresher Training Evaluations; and
- **{Attachment J}** Updated approved Work Plan showing activities completed

The ongoing peace process in Nepal has transformed the on the ground political and social environments. Accordingly, SSB’s program design and focus is also undergoing a transformation of sorts. Whereas early SSB episodes focused on the root causes of the conflict including landlessness, dowry, caste discrimination, agricultural issues, porters, inequalities between males and females, unequal distribution of resources, unemployment etc., *Naya Nepal’s* focus will instead begin to weave in themes relating to the peace process itself such as codes of conduct, basic operating guidelines and the constituent assembly. Accordingly, a Content Plan for episodes 37-53 has been drafted and includes themes relating to Nepal’s Interim Constitution, the reconstruction of physical infrastructure and facilities, and the condition of rehabilitated IDPs, reflecting recent in country developments and incorporated feedback from outreach efforts and field trips, letters from listeners, the Content Advisory Group and the multiple trainings that have been convened. Additionally, CAG meetings continue to be held, including the most recent which was convened on October 13, 2006. At this meeting, the program brought in representatives from the UN and USAID to provide guidance on incorporating material about the BOGs and CoC into the program.

Please see attached:

- Content Plan for October and November episodes 37-53, **{Attachment K}**
- 8th CAG Meeting Minutes, **{Attachment L}**

6. Challenges: reasons for any delays etc

In the 1st quarter of activities, progress was slow on a number of Work Plan goals which were delayed (particularly regarding the hiring of a full complement of project team members and establishing the producers at the FM stations). The continuing difficult travel, communications and security situation throughout the quarter did not assist with these tasks. Since this time, however, hiring of a full complement of project team members has taken place. Additionally, the significant disruptions in Kathmandu Valley and throughout Nepal following the end of the ceasefire posed a general challenge to a range of project related activities; however, it was our assessment that the elections and resurgence of Maoist violence had taken some of the pressure off the media sector during this time as the government's attention was drawn to more pressing concerns.

In the 3rd quarter of activities, the delay in the return of trainees from the training in Gaidakot due to security (as detailed below in Section 9.) further delayed the launch of initial broadcasts to May 31, however, with the improved political situation in the country there is optimism that we will suffer no further delays of this type.

In the 4th quarter of activities, there have been no major challenges. The program momentum has been maintained. The audience and feedback are building and all project activities are proceeding. Funding utilization has caught up and we are on track to fully expend the grant by Feb 28, 2007.

7. Cumulative Monitoring & Evaluation Data

Monthly ongoing Monitoring & Evaluation has been taking place regularly throughout the four quarters of activities. Initial feedback has been quite positive and Equal Access staff are working diligently to overcome any challenges being faced (please see below).

In the 3rd quarter of activities, AC Nielsen completed the M&E Baseline*, the initial data collection for the 4,000 respondent national Broadcast Audience Survey, which is a baseline for the audience evaluation. In the survey we asked some attitudinal questions regarding the conflict. Selected data is presented below:

- 91.5% of respondents said that the conflict situation should be discussed on radio;
- When asked about what type of information about the conflict the respondent would like to hear on the radio the most selected preference (66.2%) was peacebuilding information.
- 49.9% of respondents reported that they had played a role in calling for peace in Nepal. Of those, 70.2% walked in the peace movement and 25.3% went to a peace rally.
- When asked about what are the two main problems that affect the community of the respondent, an overwhelming majority of respondents selected unemployment and lack of financial resources with only 4.8% selecting problems directly related to the conflict.

Below please find the status of Monitoring & Evaluation activities under SSB, reflected against the approved Monitoring & Evaluation Work Plan (table follows):

* A full report will be produced by AC Nielsen and Equal Access and provided to USAID in mid-November

Indicator	Data Source	Data Collection	Baseline	Target (2006)	Limitations	Annual Report Progress
Outputs					<i>*Generally as of Sept 30</i>	
Radio Program Production including input from Content Advisory group	Broadcast schedules	Weekly program broadcast	N/A	72 x 30 minute episodes	None	37 x 30 minute episodes produced
Supporting the Radio for Development network of FM stations	FM Network meetings	2 national meetings during project	Currently 10 FM stations are provided support.	Support 18 FM stations with airtime, computer and technical assistance.	None	Meeting held in Pokhara and attended by 25 FMs in Sept 2006
Broadcast of the Sundar Shanta, Bishal (SSB) program to a mass audience of radio listeners	Radio Nepal & FM Station Schedules	Certification of broadcast, station schedules and broadcast monitoring.	N/A	Broadcast to 60% of Nepalese population via Radio Nepal and 18 FM stations	Broadcast monitoring may be difficult in remote areas	Broadcasts commenced on May 31, 2006. 33 programs broadcast via satellite radio and rebroadcast on 25 FM stations and Radio Nepal
Training of FM station reporters and community reporters	Training reports	Formal training sessions and on-going field training support	Currently 8 community reporters are working with Equal Access	Training 10 FM Reporters and 20 community reporters	None	2 Trainings have been convened: April and September 2006
Production and broadcast of local versions of SSB at FM stations	FM Station Managers and FM reporters	Receipt and review of CDs with sample programs. FM Station Schedules	N/A	Production of local versions of SSB at 10 FM Stations	Broadcast monitoring will be done during field travel by project staff.	Progressing well. For details on one partners local programs please see Section 4- 87 local episodes produced at 9 FMs, 1560 minutes of local programming

						produced
Formation and active input from stakeholders committee	Stakeholder committee minutes	Four meetings during project	N/A	Four meetings. Clear indication of where input from stakeholders committee has been used to guide programs	None	2 Stakeholder Workshops have been convened thus far: Feb and May 2006
Training of community grass roots leaders	Training reports NGO partner reports	Two trainings during project	Up to 80 grassroots leaders are already working with Equal Access in some way.	Fully training 160 grass roots leaders.	None.	1 st Training of 160 Community Leaders completed March 2006
Facilitation of community based activities in communities with trained grass roots leaders present	Community leader feedback NGO reports	Monthly reports	Some activities are occurring in communities already.	Several activities determined to have occurred in all 160 sites as a result of the project	Feedback from community leaders is often rudimentary given the rural locations.	Inadequate data collection to date
Providing rural communities with satellite receivers	Distribution report NGO partner reports	Following receiver distribution	Approx. 600 satellite receivers are currently placed in rural communities in Nepal	Distribution of 160 satellite receivers to achieve a total number of 800 satellite receivers in Nepalese communities.	Re-visiting of sites to ensure receivers are properly functioning will improve quality of data collected.	Further training and site visits conducted Oct-Nov 2006
Indicator	Data Source	Data Collection	Baseline*	Target (2006)*	Limitations	Annual Report Progress
Outcomes						
Increased knowledge of methods of peaceful action	Audience survey, Focus group discussions, Letters from	Survey results, FGD reports (monthly), Letters from listeners	Currently there is little knowledge in rural Nepal of stories of peaceful action	To increase knowledge of a range of methods of peaceful action	A full time-bound national level knowledge	Jan/Feb data collection for quantitative data.

	listeners, Feedback from reporters	(monthly letters database report), Reporter feedback (regular and at trainings)	beyond Gandhi. Rural vigilantism and sit in protests at DDC HQs demonstrate a limited range of options available to rural communities. (Eg. NDI national attitude survey conducted in 2005 showed rural Nepalese had little knowledge of countries outside India, China, UK, US)	drawing from the stories of peace-makers from around the world and success stories from within Nepal. Numerous examples of community members becoming aware of new methods of peaceful action should be able to be demonstrated.	survey is not being conducted. Qualitative data and smaller time-bound quantitative surveys will be used.	
Increased community discussions and mutual support centered on methods of coping with the conflict	Audience survey, Focus group discussions, Letters from listeners, Feedback from reporters, Reports from NGOs, Reports from community leaders	Survey results, FGD reports (monthly), Letters from listeners (monthly letters database report), Reporter feedback (regular and at trainings), Monthly reports from NGOs and community leaders	In 160 communities selected (where grass-roots community leaders are present) there will generally be no existing facilitated discussions on the conflict.	To demonstrate regular discussions around conflict issues in at least 70% of 160 target communities.	Quality of reports from grass roots community leaders.	Feedback from discussion groups indicates regular discussions are occurring in the majority of groups. Additional self formed groups have been established.
Increased awareness of the effect of the conflict on everyday lives and in particular women and children as a result of radio reportage	Audience survey, Focus group discussions, Letters from listeners, Feedback from reporters, Reports from NGOs, Reports	Survey results, FGD reports (monthly), Letters from listeners (monthly letters database report), Reporter feedback (regular and at	Rural audiences understand that the conflict affects the entire country. However, there is little real awareness that the level of suffering and impact	Increased demand for peace based on the realization that levels of community suffering are significant throughout the	Limited time-bound attitudinal surveying – Qualitative data collected from in-depth community	Numerous community groups are calling for concrete steps to improve their local situations – for example, the

	from community leaders	trainings), Monthly reports from NGOs and community leaders	in their own community is mirrored in many thousands of other communities throughout Nepal.	country. Evidenced by changes in attitude and urgency expressed by rural Nepalese when questioned about the need to take action to end the conflict.	study and analysis of letters from rural audience will be used.	return of VDC chair persons so that local government activities can be re-established.
Increased national awareness of local conflict in each region	Audience survey, Letters from listeners, Feedback from stakeholders committee	Survey results, Letters from listeners (monthly letters database report), Minutes and reports from stakeholders committee	Reports of the conflict in regional areas are often limited to military engagements and the occasional feature story in print.	By giving local people the ability to tell their story of the conflict in the region we create a powerful means of amplifying regional voices and bring issues of regional conflict to the national agenda. Evidence of impact would include media stories in Kathmandu generated from stories contained in our program and demonstrated awareness of stories contained in our program by government and political parties.	None.	Feedback from areas without a strong voice in the national debate (such as Karnali zone or Far West) indicates that the inclusion of problems on air from those zones is welcomed.
Greater awareness of human rights	Audience survey,	Survey results,	In the past two years	We will	Due to	Numerous

violations	Focus group discussions, Letters from listeners,	FGD reports (monthly), Letters from listeners (monthly letters database report)	the print media particularly has improved its detailed reporting of human rights violations. However, a void still remains for rural and illiterate audiences.	demonstrate reporting of human rights violations and the basis on which torture, rape and other violence is unacceptable. We hope to determine that there is significant positive impact in rural audiences from hearing stories of the conflict from other parts of the country.	restrictions on reporting specific human rights transgressions on the radio, we will be limited to reporting impact and stories where the perpetrators are not identified.	examples of local actions taken in response to specific stories featured in the radio program.
Increased community mobilization to protect community members	Focus group discussions, Letters from listeners, Feedback from reporters, Reports from NGOs, Reports from community leaders	FGD reports (monthly), Letters from listeners (monthly letters database report), Reporter feedback (regular and at trainings), Monthly reports from NGOs and community leaders	Currently communities exhibit a variety of levels of cohesion in response to the conflict. In some communities groups – such as women – band together to resist practices such as the taking of one man from every household. In other communities, the conflict is used as an opportunity to settle old scores or gain advantage in land disputes.	Based on observed impact we expect to see significant increases in collective action at the community level to solve disputes without violence and take action against destructive practices linked to conflict – such as rape by armed forces. We expect impact to be greatest in communities where a trained	We will use feedback from community leaders to collect a series of impact stories.	Increasing examples of this type are being received through site feedback and letters. One example: In a community where the footbridge across the river was destroyed in the conflict, community members worked together to build a replacement bridge – stating that the radio program had

				hgrass-roots community leader is present.		motivated them to work collectively.
Increased understanding of and use of media by local organizations	Reports from NGOs, Feedback from stakeholders committee	Monthly reports from NGOs and Minutes and reports from stakeholders committee	Local NGOs and Human Rights Organizations use of the media ranges from the adept to non-existent. We will make an assessment of the use of media by each partner organization at the start of the project.	We will produce a report that details changes in the use/understanding of media in each partner organization together with examples of increased media interaction arising from the project.	None.	Examples include KIRDAC and FOLD who are both increasing their utilization of media through this initiative.

8. Financial Information: (info on the status of finances, including expenditure data)

In the 1st quarter of activities (October –December 2005), in line with the slower than expected project roll out, financial expenditures have been slower as a result. We expected to liquidate a significant amount of project funding via contracts to partners in Feb-March 2006 following the disruptive period of the elections.

In the 2nd quarter of activities (January – March 2006), in line with the slower than expected project roll out, financial expenditures have been slower as a result. We expected to liquidate a significant amount of project funding in the April-June quarter as indicated in the quarterly accrual projection. We have been awaiting a revision to the CA to allow us to access funding for the project via our account in PMS. As we have not received this document to date, we have not drawn down any funds from the project, although our project expenditures to date exceed \$100,000.

In the 3rd quarter of activities (April- June 2006), in line with the increased project implementation following the events of April, financial expenditures have significantly increased and we are on track to liquidate project funding within the extended project period of February 2007. As of the end of August 2006, we expect to have drawn down more than 60% of available funds.

In line with the increased project implementation following the events of April, financial expenditures have significantly increased and we are on track to liquidate project funding within the extended project period of February 2007. As of the end of September 30, 2006 (SF269) \$372,240.77 out of \$525,030.00 has been obligated.

9. Management Issue Information:

While not a problem, we do want to highlight, of particular note has been the additional impact from Ms. Gemma Quilt (a consultant working with Equal Access from the BBC) and Mr. Binaya Guragain (the recently hired SSB producer) on the program design. A strong scriptwriter Mr. Binaya Kasaju has been hired.

10. Anticipated future problems or delays that may adversely affect project impact

While initial feedback regarding the radio program has for the most part been positive, Equal Access is working to address feedback regarding a number of challenges some rural radio reporters are facing. These challenges fit into the following categories:

Current Challenges EA is working to Address <i>(Drawn from feedback provided in Pokhara training, Sept 2006 and other feedback)</i>		
Technical Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 5 of the FMs are having difficulty receiving the broadcasts via satellite due to antenna problems ❖ Deleting the recorded voice from MD ❖ Maintenance of receivers ❖ Due to financial constraint not able to record proper voice ❖ Sound quality is not great at all times (ie. not clear in Letang, Morang and Biratnagar (two Saptakoshi in Biratnagar and Itahari the Itahai program is not relay by Biratnagar station and the frequency of Saptakoshi in Biratnagar is not good) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ We are providing the programs to these FMs while the satellite reception problems are fixed (in one case a neighboring FM is providing the program) ❖ Refresher Trainings schedules were revised and have included sessions on technical issues regarding the MDs ❖ We have addressed this through the addition of new FM stations to reach further remote areas.
Program Broadcast Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Broadcast time of SSB not most appropriate to the community people as it is the evening during the Kantipur FM (6:30 pm) news time, a popular program; ❖ Inability to broadcast the voice of rebel in SSB creates challenges for getting peoples voices heard ❖ Inability to record interviews of very remote people due to their remoteness ❖ Lack of local content coverage and broadcast from FM stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ We have staggered broadcast times between satellite, FM and Radio Nepal, focusing on popular times such as the early evening. ❖ The rule prohibiting the broadcast of Maoist voices has been discussed with the CTO and will be maintained. ❖ Additional resources for remote area field visits have been allocated (eg. Jumla) ❖ 9 out of 10 local SSB partners are producing and broadcasting their programs.

Outreach Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lack of trust by the community people for the media persons ❖ No identity card ❖ Due to lack of technical knowledge not able to produce quality radio program ❖ People silent in social problems ❖ Language difficulty while going in the villages ❖ Unclear role and responsibility of FM and CR reporters ❖ People immediate expectation while taking interviews ❖ Lack of feedback for the local radio SSB radio program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Additional reporter training on interview techniques has been given. Reporters are displaying greater perseverance. ❖ Broadcasts in four languages beyond Nepali are addressing local language needs. ❖ The training in Pokhara concentrated on greater linkages between FM and Community Reporters. ❖ Equal Access is issuing identity cards to all reporters.
---------------------	--	--

11. Security Information:

In the 1st quarter of activities (October –December 2005), despite the difficult circumstances, field travel and activities were able to be undertaken as the ceasefire remained in effect.

In the 2nd quarter of activities (January – March 2006), there were a series of changes in the political situation in Nepal. There were many examples where communities made their voice heard through peaceful protest – such as the women who lead protests in Chitwan. These activities and community involvement in them are being examined throughout the series in connection with the various program themes. In addition, we feel we have a unique opportunity for rural communities to feel that the Sundar Shanta Bishal radio program can amplify their voices as part of the political process taking place in Nepal.

In the 3rd quarter of activities, (April – June 2006), the return of our staff and trainees from Gaidakot (9 day Reporter Training) was significantly delayed due to the unrest in the country and in particular the protests at Narayanghat which made travel in that area unadvisable. Some trainees from the far west, Solukhumbu and other areas were not able to return home until last week. We would like to acknowledge our training manager, Mr. Surya Poudel, who remained at the training centre in Gaidakot with the remaining trainees throughout the unrest and also to thank our partners at the VDRC training centre for ensuring the safety and comfort of our staff and trainees during this difficult time.

The current security situation is satisfactory. No significant security issues are being encountered.

12. Project Expansion Information:

We are mindful of other parallel peace-building initiatives and through the Stakeholders Workshop I, the Stakeholders Workshop II and other coordination activities- we have formed working partnerships with Search for Common Ground, the Institute for Peace and Justice (Joan Kroc) and NDI.

Additionally, we have been responsive to emerging issues in the programming including incorporating some initial material about the Basic Operating Guidelines and also addressing the 33% reservations for women and the new law allowing citizenship in a mother's name. Attached is an episode theme plan for episodes 37-53 listing the themes covered and the focus of the field audio component **{Attachments K}**.

In the 3rd quarter of activities, Equal Access formed a partnership with Institute for Peace and Justice and SAP Nepal. The partnership with IPJ has presented us with an opportunity to add eight episodes to the already anticipated seventy two SSB episodes being completed for this project. As part of this partnership, Equal Access staff attended a three day conference organized by IPJ and convened in Kathmandu at the end of July where EA staff collected voice recordings of participants and experts for inclusion in the new episodes which will focus on: women who are 'Making Peace Work'; civil society building and emerging leaders building sustainable peace and democracy. As a result we were able to produce an additional six episodes covering the summit and interviews with attendees. This meant that the proceedings of the summit were able to reach a broad rural audience, well beyond the limited number of attendees.

4th Quarter Expansion Activities

Supplemental funding for related activities under USAID NAMASTE and INSPIRE initiatives and from UNDEF, was secured to support the program 2006/07.

13. Lessons Learned:

- Increased need to better circulate introduction information and broadcast details about programs prior to launch.
- Need to ensure
 - program broadcast time is most appropriate for local communities and does not interfere with local FM station news broadcast time slots.
 - Community Reporters are adequately trained in the technical issues of the mini-disc recorders.
 - That Community Leaders are adequately trained in the technical issues of the satellite receivers.
 - Appropriate monitoring and evaluation questions are in evaluation forms. Please see **{Attachment M}**, Listener Letters Response Categories, which is currently being fine tuned based on feedback.

14. Success Stories:

Although it is too early in the program to be able to report substantive tangible impact resulting from SSB/New Nepal, various success stories and anecdotal evidence can be found in the +eighty feedback letters received from listeners and recorded interviews with rural villages across Nepal. For additional Success Stories, please see {**Attachment K**}, Translated Case Studies from Listeners and Partners.

“The interest of people for radio program is increasing. They hope such a program may bring social change in the field of awareness and education.”

- Report from Outreach Partner, KIRDARC



“Interviewing” Field Trip photo from Dhankuta, July 2006

Continued...

"Through this program or national songs or radio play, SSB has made its aspiration for the stable peace audible at every nook and corner of Nepal."

–Letter from female Advisory member Yanglijung Womens' Radio Listeners Group



"Its human nature that a man thinks that he is all right until and unless his own parents are in trouble. The city dwellers who are scared even with the sound of firings are not intensely interested to restore peace. Why? It is simple that they do not have to experience the horrors of war. They have not seen their relatives being shot in front of them and they have not faced the bullets and grenades falling on them..."

- Reflections of SSB field trainer in Hetauda following a terrifying experience where he and his family were caught in violent crossfire overnight in February 2005.

In the beginning it was difficult to get listeners views and output in community behaviors. People were especially attracted towards the entertaining side of radio because for many of them it was new thing in the village. Now they tune in for practical aspects of programs. They have started to discuss issues and implement knowledge and awareness learnt through the radio in their daily life."

- Report from Outreach Partner, KIRDARC

Dear brother and sister,

Namaskar- I love this program so much, therefore, I never miss this program. And I would like to respond this program in few words. I wish ever success of this program because it has contributed a lot to remove many ill practices prevalent in our society. In addition to that it would be, I think, better if this program publishes newspapers as well and supply them to the remote areas of the hilly region. I would like to apologize for the mistakes! I have included a short poem, too, in this letter.

*Peace! You bring if you can,
Which all aspire;
Pen and pencil, not the bomb and dynamite,
To carry, children desire;*

*Horror of human it is-
To live every day with fear of death,
Tears may blight upon, of thy old Mother!
Curse may fall upon, of thy own sister!*

*If you can-
Bring smile on lips, not tears in eyes,
Ensure children's rights
Make peace-zone to thy school,
In heart, keep zest and zeal.*

Translated Letter and poem submitted to the program from: Kamala Bantawa Rai, Bopung-1, Khotang, Saqarmatha

Dear brother, Pawan and sister, Manju

Namaskar, We listen to this program regularly. When we listened about the effect of conflict in rural areas from radio, we wish there would never be conflict. The conflict had badly affected our village too but now we are hopeful for the peace. When we hear about the events of other villages, we wished you had come in our village too and make program on issues of our village. So, if time favors you please come to our village too. We will be hoping to see you. Thank you.

Translated Letter from: Saligram Regmi and Friends,
Siddithumka VDC, Ward No. 4, Ilam, Mechi



"Interviewing" Field Trip photo from Jumla, October 2006



Field Trip photo from Dang, October 2006

"I am pleased to express my views being a part of this radio program, SSB. I am also a regular listener of it. To me, this program has played important role to cause the situation move towards peace at the time of transitional phase..."

Jagadish Oli, Chairman, Civil Society expert, Itahari giving feedback on SSB and Shaptikoshi FMs local SSB programs.

"This program has vividly presented the picture of how the single women (widows) are badly mistreated and suppressed in our society, and it has also encouraged them to face this injustice by discarding white clothes and working together with men in red clothes."

-Letter from female Advisory member Yanglijung
Womens' Radio Listeners Group



"Interviewing" Field Trip photo from Dang, October 2006



"Interviewing" Field Trip photo from Nepalgunj, October 2006

"Sundar Santa Bisal is popular among listeners of Karnali. People make discussions on programs after listening programs in groups. They are expecting more such programs through satellite radio. They wish to listen of their burning social issues of Karnali through the programs. Programs are [seen as] beneficial and others from remote villages are also demanding satellite radio who have no access in certain centers."

- Report from Outreach Partner, KIRDARC

Attachments

- Attachment A: Shaptikoshi FM station Report
- Attachment B: Karnali Zone Overview
- Attachment C: KIRDARC's 1st SSB Monitoring Report
- Attachment D: Outreach Field Report: Eastern Nepal, July 25-30, 2006
- Attachment E: CAG Minutes
 - July 11, 2006- 4th Content Advisory Group Meeting
 - July 31, 2006- 5th Content Advisory Group Meeting
 - August 18, 2006- 6th and 7th Content Advisory Group Meeting
- Attachment F: Points for Refresher Training
- Attachment G: "Conflict" Reading Material for the Reporters
- Attachment H: Community Reporters Refresher Training Evaluation Form
- Attachment I: Analysis of Community Reporters Refresher Training Evaluations
- Attachment J: Updated approved Work Plan showing activities completed
- Attachment K: Content Plan Episodes 37-53
- Attachment L: CAG Minutes
 - October 13, 2006- 8th Content Advisory Group Meeting
- Attachment M: Listeners Letters Response Categories
- Attachment N: Translated Case Studies from Listeners and Partners

Joint Presentation of Shaptikoshi F.M. and Equal Access Nepal
Sundar Shanta Bishal
(Radio Program)

Program Reports
2062/63

Prepared by:
Pawan Neupane
Program Producer

Radio Program “Sundar Shanta Bishal”
By Equal Access Nepal in Collaboration with Shaptakoshi F.M.

A decade-long armed conflict troubled Nepal and Nepali a lot. Equal Access Nepal has been running a radio program in collaboration with other FM stations outside the valley to minimize and to restore the stable peace in the country. The Shaptakoshi FM is proud to be associated in the joint venture and contribute a little in the campaign.

Obviously, Shaptakoshi FM is also one among the 22 FM stations, which has been producing and transmitting the radio program ***Sundar Shanta bishal*** in collaboration with Equal Access Nepal.

The Shaptakoshi FM has been transmitting the central edition of the radio program since 17th Jestha, 2063, at 6:30 in the evening on every Wednesday and Saturday. Similarly, since 19th Ashar 2063 this station has begun its own production and has been transmitting as local edition of ***Sundar Shanta Bishal***.

Along with the commitment of various FM stations, copartner organizations, and out-rich partners of making radio program for the stable peace in the country expressed in the program held in course of making an episode of ***Sundar Shanta Bishal*** at Gaindakot; Nepal underwent a great political transformation, which restored democracy in the country. In fact, this transformation brought such environment in which the armed rebels also interested to join into the mainstream politics. To which, the government responded positively. As a result, the country is now at the state of ceasefire and peace talk.

We were perplexed in the beginning to make a regular program on a certain issue at the state of political change. We thought how to raise the selected issues in the changed context. We were at great dilemma to adjust and present the selected timely issues.

However, experiences of as a radio journalist for a few years, support and regular advices of dear sir Upendra Aryal, Saraswati Thapa, and especially Binaya Guragain and Bidhya Chapagain from Equal Access in fact opened the way to make program opportune.

When the state is at the transitional phase we, the journalists have more significant and vital role to play, realizing this fact we began the work.

We realized the possibility that at this transitional phase if we happen to lose our temper/patience it would frost all the process of ceasefire, peace talk and stable peace. Therefore, we worked with additional care and positive attitude for the stable peace rather than causes and effect of the conflict. Over the past few months, the feedback that we received in course of presenting program proves that we have been successful to some extent.

In the last three months period, 29 episodes/editions of central edition and 11 local episodes have been transmitted so far. Similarly, Saptakoshi FM has already made and broadcast 11 episodes in the local level in partnership/ joint venture with its copartners SOLVE Dhankuta and REDCROSS Taplejung. The format and the reports are as follows:

Format of the program:

S.N.	Subjects	Particulars in detail	Responsibility/work division	Duration
1.	Signature tune of the program	Melodious and soothing tune	Equal Access Kathmandu	30 Sec.
2.	Welcome and purpose of the program	Who has transmitted the program and why? In addition, what is the objective of it?	Saptakoshi FM	1 min.
3.	Main body of the program	Information on the subject matter that is to present today.	Producer and conductor of the program	30 sec.
4.	Report/ Profile	Report on existing conflict in society and effort for the peace	Saptakoshi FM	3 min.
5.	Voxpop/monologue	People's views on conflict and the effort made for its solution	Saptakoshi FM	2 min.
6.	Interview	Conflict, its effect and the talk with different experts on peace effort	Saptakoshi FM	5 min.
7.	Letter/Listeners Response and peace song	Listeners suggestions and peace-song about the program	Saptakoshi FM	2 min.
8.	End of the program/conclusion	Address of the program and good bye	Saptakoshi FM	1 min.

Similarly, Shaptakoshi FM has made and transmitted 10 episodes in the local level with the help of co-partners SOLVE Dhankuta and REDCROSS Taplejung. The report of the entire programs given below:

S.N.	Date of Transmission	Major issues/matters	People's view	Next issue/matter
1.	July 3, 2006	An item that included introduction of <i>Sundar Shanta Bishal</i> and its objectives; a report including the views of people from Dhankuta about the effect of a	What should now the parties on conflict do for the peace?	A talk with Bimal Karki, film coordinator of WOREC on reason of conflict, its effect and how

		decade-long conflict in the rural area and how much hopeful they are for the peace		everyone needs to stand together for the stable peace
2.	July 10, 2006	Tulasha Guragain's tragic experience, when the parties on conflict entered into her domestic misunderstanding/problem	What are people's aspirations at the changed political situation?	A report that included views of people from Udayapur and Khotang regarding the hopes for peace of rural people at the changed situation
3.	July 17, 2006	How have the public taken the new situation after the restoration of democracy in Nepal? Views of people from Panchayati VDC, war-affected area in Udayapur	Views of Inhabitants of Udayapur on the impact of transformed political situation in village	A talk with Jagadish Prasad Oli, chairman of Civil Society Itahari, about the role of civil society for stable peace in the context of developing peace process
4.	July 24, 2006	A report on public views about the question: How much the public are aware of their rights and duties?	Public views on how the public themselves should go forward for their rights.	A talk with Dr. Om Gurung, professor of Sociology TU on: What sort of provision is needed in the upcoming constitution to ensure equal rights of dalits, women, ethnics and madheshi who were marginalized by the state for centuries?
5.	July 31, 2006	The process of peace talk accelerated after the ceasefire between	How the arms of both Maoists and Nepal Army should	A talk with Somraj Thapa, co-coordinator

		government of SPA and Maoists, which has made the people of war-affected region optimistic: Views of the rural people from Udayapur and Khotang.	be managed for the stable peace in Nepal? Peoples views on it	(INSEC) for EDR about how the internally displaced people can be restored at this moment of ceasefire
6.	Aug. 7, 2006	Radio records on Hira Karki's, form Panchayati VDC, Udayapur, horrible experience of mental torture after the rebels abducted her.		A talk with Pradeep Jha, protection solicitor NHrs, Biratnagar, on the subject of efforts to find the whereabouts of abducted and disappeared people at the time of ceasefire.
7.	Aug. 14, 2006	A report prepared on the views of teachers and students, about the effect of conflict on education and school.	What should we do to save school from conflict? People's views	A talk program with Bishal Shrestha, program director of CEWIN helpline, regarding the effect of conflict on children; and idea of its possible solution
8.	Aug. 21, 2006	People of Panchayati VDC, Udayapur still live with horror of crossfire that occurred on the very day of TEEJ about three years ago.	Peoples views on how women this time celebrating TEEJ	News on social message conveyed by songs of TEEJ
9.	Aug. 28, 2006	"Why the VDC secretaries whom the conflict has displaced internally and taking a refuge at the headquarters cannot go back to villages?" Report prepared on views of VDC secretaries and public on the issue	What do the people of rural areas in Dhankuta aspire? Reports on their views	Reports on the difficulty faced by the people of backwaters in Taplejung in absence of VDC secretary
10.	Sept. 4, 2006	Reports on how once	Peoples views on	A talk with

		blamed with witchcraft, Radhadevi Mandal, now has become a respected social worker in her society	how to punish those who blame women as witch and maltreat inhumanly	Siyaraj Rajbanshi, who has been practicing job of shamans for the past 15 years, noted that witch exists/does not exist
11.	Sept. 11, 2006	The handicapped shunned by the society have been victim of indifference of the state too.	How should we treat the handicapped people?	Views of Dipkala Rai, treasurer of <u>Child Disabled Woman's Society Nepal</u> , about the problems of women disabled.

Likewise, Saptakoshi FM has been regularly providing the items of its responsibility for the central program working together with co-organizations. The items prepared in collaboration with REDCROSS and SOLVE and sent so far to Equal Access are as follows:

Program: Sundar Shanta Bishal
Sent items:

Date	Subject	Collected by-
Jestha-2063	Daily life of the people from hilly backwaters of Udayapur and Khotang in the changed situation after the ceasefire	Pawan Neupane
Ashar-2063	Report prepared including the views of other women regarding red dress for widows	Pawan Neupane
Ashar-2063	Profile of Nagendra Sigdel, a successful young peasant from Sundarpur VDC, Morang	Pawan Neupane
Jestha-2063	A talk program with Ganesh Lamsal along with the items on untouchables sent from Dhankuta	Pawan Neupane
Jestha-2063	Campaign for entering into temple by the untouchables;	Narendra Rai

	and other items on the same issue	
Jeasth-2063	Items on handicapped sent from Dhankuta	Nagrendra Rai
Shrwan-2063	Reports on views of locals from Okhaldhunga regarding their difficulty in absence of VDC secretary	Pawan Neupane
Shrawan-2063	Views of people of Taplejung about their difficulty in absence of VDC secretary in Taplejung	Laxmi Prasad Bhattarai, Red cross Taplejung
Shrawan-2063	A talk program with Mr. Ramkumar Limbu, teacher of Ganesh H. S. School Taplejung concerning the problem that emerged after the school transferred to the community without proper planning	Laxmi Prasad Bhattari, Red Cross Taplejung
Shrawan-2063	A talk program with Parbati Bhattraia local from Phulbari-6, Taplejung about the problem of the local people after the Maoists cut off the bridge over Tammar river at Khatwe	Laxmi Prasad Bhattarai, Red Cross, Taplejung
Bhadra-2063	Condition of landless people and their movement for the right of land in Sunsari district	Pawan Neupane

Thus, Saptakoshi FM would like to share its pleasure with all that it is happy to make the voice audible of the voiceless visiting the conflict-stricken areas and transmit it for the stable peace in the country. Moreover, our presence in the rural areas, positive support and comments of the locals of course inspired us to make qualitative program in future.

The lessons that we learned from the past programs:

- We liked the entire packaging of Sundar Shanta Bishal made by Equal Access and started our program following that format.
- We have followed the system to select and play the song, which suits the theme of the program.
- We have broadcast another radio play seeing the popularity of radio plays in Sundar Shanta Bishal.

- We learned, from the central edition, that not only the negative aspect of the conflict but also the positive things, to present at the same time.

Experience while producing the radio program:

We gathered both pleasant and bitter experiences in course of making radio program, Sundar Shanta Bishal.

- To collect the data/materials of program when we reached in several VDC of Udayapur, the war-affected area, we found the locals scared of talking to us, getting away from us and looked suspicious toward us.
- In the next trip to Udayapur, the locals expressed their happiness of getting to listen to the views of locals from radio.
- The political parties and their local leaders showed more interest after they listened to the program about reinstating the internally displaced people.
- The local representatives had made commitment to create an atmosphere to call the V. D. C. secretary back to the village after we broadcast the program based on the problem of people of Dhankuta and Okhaldhunga district in absence of them(VDC Secretary).
- Though there was great risk to go to the village for reporting program on conflict we did not face major sort of difficulty.
- We had hard times as well when there was communication gap with copartner organizations; and when we could not receive the matters for the fixed program.
- We sometimes had a hard time to collect matters when they asked us to make necessary change in the items and send them at once for the central edition.
- When we reached Durbesa, Morang to record the voices of an afflicted woman she had denied at first but she presented herself comfortably after we convinced her.
- In course of collecting materials for the central edition, we had to go twice to record the voice of a young peasant from Sundarpur, Morang Mr. Nagengra Sigdel that the first time the recorder had failed to record.
- We have received positive responses that the local listeners, civil society and the intellectuals liked our radio program even in a short span of time.

Responses from the intellectuals of Civil Society about our radio program:

.....I am pleased to express my views being a part of this radio program, Shundar Shanta Bishal. I am also a regular listener of it. To me, this program has played important role to cause the situation move towards peace at the time of transitional phase.....

Jagadish Oli
Chairman, Civil Society, Itahari

.....program has helped identify the problems of the internally displaced people and create the atmosphere for their reinstatement. The songs on peace have made it interesting. And it is very positive thing to bring the voice of the rural people.....

Somraj Thapa
Coordinator, EDR (INSEC)

.....what I have thought is “The issues this program has raised indeed represent the pain and fate of those who have been marginalized, suppressed, dominated and exploited over the centuries”.....

Prof. Dr. OM Gurung
Indigenous and Nationalities expert

..... the effort of this radio program, Shundaqr Shanta Bishal for stable peace, political stability, progress and justice for the conflict-stricken people is praiseworthy.....

Bishal Shrestha
Program director, CEWIN helpline, Biratnagar

Samples of listeners' response about the radio program:

.....we heard the issues of our village in the program, Shundar Shanta Bishal and felt happy
.All of us listened to it; and we often listen to it these days. Moreover, it would be better if it
broadcast the experience of the war-stricken people like us.....

Rambahadur Magar, public
Murkuchi, Rauta, Udayapur

...we regularly listen to the program Shundar Shanta Bishal. The items about the effect of the
conflict, which this program presents is very good. But this time table of 6:30pm is not suitable
for us, if it were after 7:00 in the morning or evening everyone could listen to it.....

Subid Pokhrel, public
Durbesha, Morang

..... I love so much... this radio program, Shundar Shanta Bishal broadcast from
Saptakoshi FM. I had also talked in this program about the effect of conflict in school. When I
listened to that and some other programs, I felt that we ourselves have to do something for the
peace.

Khadga Bahadur Thapa
Headmaster of school, Murkuchi, Raita, Udayapur

....the program is nice. I had heard programs made on youths, employmentI liked them. But,
time might not be right?

Samjhana Gautam
Collage student, Biratnagar

Some samples of letters for program received from the listeners:

1.

Dear brother and sister
Namaskar

I love this program so much, therefore, I never miss this program. And I would like to respond this program in few words. I wish ever success of this program because it has contributed a lot to remove many ill practices prevalent in our society. In addition to that it would be, I think, better if this program publishes newspapers as well and supply them to the remote areas of the hilly region. I would like to apologize for the mistakes! I have included a short poem, too, in this letter.

Peace! You bring if you can,
Which all aspire;
Pen and pencil, not the bomb and dynamite,
To carry, children desire;

Horror of human it is-
To live every day with fear of death,
Tears may blight upon, of thy old Mother!
Curse may fall upon, of thy own sister!

If you can-
Bring smile on lips, not tears in eyes,
Ensure children's rights
Make peace-zone to thy school,
In heart, keep zest and zeal.

From:
Kamala Bantawa Rai
Bopung-1, khotang
Sagarmatha

2.

Radio program
Shundar Shanta Bishal
Saptakoshi FM, Itahari-4
Po.Box No. 123

Dear brother, Pawan and sister, Manju
Namaskar,

We listen to this program regularly. When we listened about the effect of conflict in rural areas from radio, we wish there would never be conflict. The conflict had badly affected our village too but now we are hopeful for the peace. When we hear about the events of other villages, we wished you had come in our village too and make program on issues of our village. So, if time favors you please come to our village too. We will be hoping to see you.

Thank you.

From:
Saligram Regmi and Friends
Siddithumka VDC, Ward No. 4
Ilam, Mechi

Sample of the form filled up by the listeners commenting on the program:

Radio program: Shundar Shanta Bishal
Copartner organization: Equal Access Nepal
Transmission: Every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 6:30 pm on Shaptakoshi FM

Name: Binod Sigdel

Address: Tankisiniwary-4, Morang

How did you feel after you listened to this program?

.....well it was great. I liked it because it broadcast the voices about the effect of armed conflict in the rural areas and unwanted pressure to demonstrate the power to the public.

Which are the issues, raised in the programs that really moved you?

Programs made on -Tulasa Guragain from Durbesa, Morang who was bound to suffer due to the domestic conflict/misunderstanding and condition of Udayapur, Khotang and Dhankuta after the ceasefire- touched me badly.

What did you learn after you listened to the program?

After listening to it, I realized that we, all needs to put effort for the peace, and it changed in my concept that it is not necessary to fly abroad for money.

How did you apply the things that you learned from the program?

I tried to apply the things as we ought to toil and sweat in our own land instead of going abroad, the widows should not wear the white clothes etc .in my own village.

What do you want to listen in this program?

I think it would be better if it makes programs on the positive aspects of conflict and measures of conflict management.

What are your favorite aspects of the program?

The effect of conflict especially in rural areas; radio play, and songs on peace- are the important aspects of the program for me.

Which aspect of the program you did not like?

Actually, there is no such thing, which is bad in the program; however, I felt there are very less programs made on possible measures for conflict management.

Which aspects of the program need to be improved?

The present timetable of the program is not suitable. If you could change it after 7:00 in the morning or evening then every one could listen to it.

Do you have any suggestion?

The duration of the program on Monday is too short; it gets over too fast. Therefore, we will be grateful if you increase the time of the program.

2063/04/16

Radio Program: Shundar Shanta Bishal

Tune in to Saptakoshi FM on every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 6:30 in the Evening

Positive aspects of the program:

- It focuses on the measures of conflict rather than the effect of it.
- The sources of the issues in the program we collect from the rural areas that were never heard voices for many people. Therefore, it is very effective.
- Listeners loved the signature tune, according to the study; some listeners were dying just to listen to it.
- The radio play conveyed the grave message to every listener along with entertainment.
- The program has indeed pushed every one for the stable peace.

Major aspects to be improved in the Program:

- All the copartners should participate responsibly in every local episode so that we could include the problems and voices from everywhere.
- The local program would be very successful if we mobilize the listeners clubs of Equal Access, Kathmandu available in our region.
- It would be easier and effective if the central station does not demand the matters changing the fixed subject and report in a short time.
- The best listeners should be awarded with prizes conducting quiz contest in the program.

In conclusion,

Shundar Shanta Bishal is being broadcast from both frequencies of Saptakoshi FM ie 90mhz, Itahari and 105.6 mhz, Biratnagar since last Bhadra, 2063. We are hopeful that it will increase the coverage of the program in future. In addition to that, Saptakoshi FM is going to erect a tower very soon at Bhedetar in order to increase the transmitting capacity in the region. Except this, we do believe that we will try to collect equally the issues from everywhere and present only after adequate discussion to enhance the standard of the program.

.....
Lilaraj Bhattra
Program Director

.....
Pawan Neupane
Program Producer

GOVERNANCE IN THE KARNALI: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center, Jumla,
August 2002

Back page write-up

The Karnali Zone is the most poverty-stricken area of Nepal. The five districts that make up this zone – Dolpa, Humla, Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu -- all come at the bottom of Nepal's district-wise human development index. The Karnali people suffer from widespread hunger, illiteracy, poor health, unemployment, and very low incomes.

This report presents the findings of a study by the Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center into the causes of the Karnali's poverty and underdevelopment. The study focused on looking at the state of governance in the area and found that poor governance is a major cause of the area's plight. The area is almost totally excluded from the national mainstream of development. The government has failed to govern in the Karnali as shown by the very poor performance of the HMG line agencies and the long delays in completing the roads and airports that are desperately needed to link the area to the rest of the country.

This report is directed at informing those involved with policy making in Nepal about the situation in the Karnali and the need for urgent action. It is based on first hand interviews with Karnali people and gives voice both to their frustrations and to their suggestions for what needs to be done.

OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE (PREFACE)

The Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center (KIRDARC) is an NGO that has been working for the last three years to develop the Karnali region. It has given priority treatment to human development and mobilising the area's human resources. For the last two years it has been conducting an advocacy campaign in all five Karnali districts (Humla, Mugu, Jumla, Dolpa, and Kalikot) to highlight the role the people should have in development.

The UK Department for International Development's Enabling State Programme funded this study to review the status of governance in Karnali. The two major outputs have been a documentary film and this report. The report was first published in Nepali in April 2002 and was entitled *Karnalima Sushasan* (Good Governance in Karnali). This document is an edited translation of *Karnalima Sushasan*. We have taken this opportunity to re-edit, change and update some parts of the original text.

This study would not have been possible without ESP's assistance and the motivation and valuable suggestions provided by the ESP staff. We are grateful to ESP Programme Manager Mr Michael E Lowe, National Consultant Dr Shailendra D Sigdel, and other ESP staff for their constant encouragement and guidance. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of them.

We are also grateful to Professor Bishwo Keshar Maskey for his valuable suggestions, to the MPs from the Karnali Zone, Karnali based officials, the chiefs of the Karnali district government offices, and finally to Karnali's civil society. We thank everybody who contributed valuable information to this study.

Thanks are also due to study team members Raghu Nath Adhikari 'Nilam Shekhar', Sushil Mainali, Bashu Dev Banskota, and Ratna Bahadur Shahi, who all made untiring efforts to bring the final report to its present shape. We would like to give our special thanks to Rabinendra Bhattarai and Stephen Keeling for editing this report. We also owe gratitude to friends and well wishers and KIRDARC's staff members.

This study report is an attempt to present the status of governance in Karnali through the lens of a non-governmental organisation. Opinions will naturally vary on the issues and comments raised here. What is important is that we have made an attempt to analyse the situation on the ground by visiting the area and talking with the local people. We hope that it will provide fresh perspectives on Karnali's situation to help those involved in the development of the region.

We would like to humbly request our readers to review and analyse the report and see if the suggestions and recommendations can be put into practice. We heartily welcome any feedback, suggestions and comments.

Thank you.

Min Bahadur Shahi

Chairman

Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center

SUMMARY

This report is the outcome of a field study by Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center, Jumla with the assistance of the Enabling State Programme (ESP). The study sought to identify the problems of the Karnali Zone, western Nepal which is made up of the five districts of Humla, Mugu, Jumla, Dolpa and Kalikot. Very few studies have been made of this region's problems.

A five member team carried out the study by visiting selected areas of the Karnali Zone and by taking into account the perspectives of previous studies. This publication reports the study's findings. It describes the main governance issues in the Karnali and identifies the main areas that need addressing to resolve the many problems. These particularly involve measures to promote pro-poor good governance.

Karnali is isolated from the mainstream of development. It is the only zone in Nepal which is not linked with the rest of the country by a road. According to the UN's Human Development Report, the Karnali Zone is the least developed area in Nepal with very low indicators of human development. It is characterised by a growing population, environmental degradation, low productivity, annual disease epidemics and famines, a weak educational system, negligible employment opportunities, and growing out-migration in search of work. Together these represent the dire poverty suffered by the Karnali Zone's inhabitants.

Some development initiatives such as establishing the Karnali Technical School and an agriculture research centre in the zonal capital Jumla have gone ahead. But the region still lags way behind most of the rest of the country in terms of transport facilities, access to technology, and industrialisation. The whole of the Karnali Zone continues to depend on traditional technologies and there is no infrastructure for industrial development.

The completion date of the under-construction Surkhet to Jumla highway keeps on being delayed. At the current rate it will take more than 20 years for this 220 km long road to be completed. Air transport is a very important mode of transport but flights are unreliable and are often cancelled. The airports that are being built in Mugu and Kalikot are unfinished more than 20 years after they began to be built. A major hindrance for those travelling on foot is the lack of footbridges to cross the areas' many rivers.

Radio is the most important source of news about the outside world for the Karnali people, but many of them do not have a radio set. Although a television transmitter was installed in Jumla in 2002, regular transmission has yet to happen. Newspapers are not easily available, and those that are available are usually well out of date before they reach the area. The telephone service is very limited and the postal service unreliable.

Food crises are common. A disease epidemic and famine daimed hundreds of lives in 1997 and 1998. One of the major causes of this has been the central government's inefficient system for distributing subsidised rice to the Karnali.

Although elections have sent MPs from Karnali to sit in the national parliament, the Karnali still suffers from a lack of proper representation and access to policy making and central government. The central government is responsible for planning the area's development, but has failed to properly carry out this task. The people of Karnali have yet to see real democracy. It is money, and the influence of friends and relatives that decides voters' choices. Anyway, once elected many of the representatives move their homes away from the Karnali either to a town in the Terai or to Kathmandu.

The legal system also has little to offer the local people. They have little trust in the official justice system and people from the northern Karnali tend to settle their disputes locally. The

main problems are the very few lawyers who practise in Karnali, the courts being bogged down with unsettled verdicts, and the inadequacy of the few qualified lawyers.

Transparency is completely lacking in the way that government and non-government organisations operate in Karnali. This is due to the officials' self-centredness, the lack of public awareness about development issues, and the lack of any effective monitoring and evaluation. The corrupt behaviour of the people's representatives and government employees is a serious problem. Corruption and mismanagement are widely recognised as the factors most responsible for the delays in executing the long-standing incomplete infrastructure projects.

Local government has been made largely ineffective by a host of factors. There is a lack of efficiency and accountability whilst favouritism, nepotism and corruption unduly influence decision making. The representatives lack the required knowledge and often pose as members of the elite rather than working to serve the masses. The system is also undermined by the absence of autonomy, and the lack of monitoring and evaluation.

The Karnali-based civil servants are not motivated to deliver services to the people and hardly any of the government's local development staff ever visit the villages. There is no clear system to manage, monitor and evaluate the delivery of public services in Karnali.

The Karnali people are proud to be Nepali and point out that the Nepali language originated in their area. The Nepali language played a crucial role in the unification of Nepal. In spite of this they feel great bitterness that the central government in Singha Durbar, Kathmandu has always neglected them. This has fuelled a strong sense of regionalism.

The Karnali Zone has very little access to and participation in the services provided by national and international organisations. Local citizens have struggled to carry out development activities through their own initiatives, but these efforts have met with little success due to a severe lack of resources.

Agriculture, animal husbandry, and cottage industries – all of which depend on local natural resources -- make up virtually all of Karnali's economy. The traditional technology, the often obsolete means of production, the growing population, and the increasing attraction of modern lifestyles have all adversely affected the standard of living in Karnali.

Valuable medicinal and herbal plants such as yarchagumba, gucche mushroom, panchaunle, and jatamashi are found in Karnali. But, this resource has not been properly exploited. They are often not collected, stored or marketed properly and little attention has been given to increasing their production.

The Karnali people have been deprived of access to a good relevant education. The difficult geographical terrain means that some students have to walk two hours a day to reach their nearest school. The teachers in government schools often remain absent from their posts. Anyway the pressure of work at home prevents many students from attending classes regularly.

The main health problems in the Karnali are malnutrition, the lack of awareness about hygiene, smoking and drinking (alcohol), and the neglect of women's health. Health care provision is very poor with most facilities lacking medicines and doctors.

Women in Karnali are neglected and discriminated against from birth. Women are forced to stay in cowsheds or caves whilst they are menstruating and whilst delivering babies. Girls are often married off before they reach puberty. The root causes of this neglect are the superstitious traditional beliefs and parents' poverty and illiteracy. The locals are guided by

conservative beliefs and believe whatever the local preachers say about the influence of the gods and evil spirits. These superstitious beliefs influence many aspects of everyday life.

The Karnali people are mostly ignorant about Nepal's constitution and laws whilst the Karnali based government and non-government organisations fail to uphold and monitor whether or not local people's human rights are respected.

This report makes a number of suggestions to improve the Karnali people's living standards. These range from the overall reorientation of governance in Karnali to detailed sectoral recommendations in employment, transport, health, education.

First of all it is crucial to bring the region into the mainstream of national development. Initiatives to develop the Karnali should build on the strengths and advantages of the area's remote geography. It is crucial to institute a system of government that works to develop the area by empowering local people. Policy makers, politicians, donors, advisory boards, and local bodies must recognise the need to initiate programmes which – unlike so many undertaken so far – improve things and protect the people of the Karnali from yet more suffering.

The sectoral needs extend across the board and so work to transform the region should start by establishing a major adequately funded integrated development programme for the whole of the Karnali Zone. All government employees who work in Karnali should be given the opportunity to enhance their skills to make them better able to serve the local people and carry out their work in an honest and accountable way. The strategy of implementing government policies and programmes also needs improving.

Critical measures to develop the region include: improving coordination and cooperation between ordinary citizens, civil society organisations, and government officials; running campaigns *against* domestic violence, gender and racial discrimination and *for* child rights; and encouraging NGOs to act as watchdogs for good governance.

Programmes should be launched to improve local people's access to food, information, and health and sanitation facilities. This includes raising awareness about legal matters and about the damaging effects of alcohol, and tobacco consumption. Programmes are also urgently needed to make agriculture more scientific and productive, to initiate cottage industries, and to provide training to local people to start up small and medium size businesses. More practical knowledge, new technological facilities, and technical assistance are needed to improve agriculture.

The area urgently needs a decent network of well maintained roads and footpaths. The hazardous *tuin* ropeway river crossings should be replaced with bridges and the air links made regular and affordable. At the least, the on-going road and airport construction projects need to be completed.

The health awareness of the local people urgently needs increasing. One of the main ways of doing this is to ensure that doctors and other health personnel are permanently based in the area. The impact of education can be improved by making it more practical and people-oriented and by giving more attention to non-formal education, women's education, human rights education and vocational training.

CONTENTS

A Few Words		
Our Sincere Gratitude		
Summary		
Table of Contents		
List of Tables		
List of Boxes		
Map of the Karnali Zone		
PART ONE	Introduction	10
1.1	Bringing the Karnali into the national mainstream	10
1.2	Some Information about Karnali	10
1.3	About this Report	12
PART TWO	Analysis of Governance in the Karnali Zone	13
2.1	Infrastructure	13
2.2	Food supply	18
2.3	Government	19
2.4	Transparency, Anti-corruption and Accountability	22
2.5	Poverty Alleviation	24
PART THREE	Political Process and Public Life	25
3.1	Sovereignty, Nationalism and Politics	25
3.2	Constitutional and Legal Practices and Respect for Human Rights	26
3.3	Democracy	28
3.4	Government Services	29
3.5	Civil Society	30
PART FOUR	Economic Social and Cultural Conditions	31
4.1	Economy and Employment	31
4.2	Education	32
4.3	Health, Sanitation and Drinking Water:	33
4.4	Caste, Indigenous People and Community Life	35
4.5	Victims of Innocence: Women and Children	35
4.6	Unemployment	36
4.7	Social Psychology, Values, Norms and Superstitions	37
PART FIVE	Conclusion and Recommendations	38
5.1	Major findings	38
5.2	Recommendations to Promote Good Governance in Karnali	38

Executive summary

According to agreement between Equal access Nepal and Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center a total of 40 satellite Radios are distributed to community groups of Karnali. Along with 25 solar panels are also provided to the groups where electricity was not available. Groups are formed by social inclusion process among deprived community where means of communication was not accessible. Two community-based reporters are recruited in Jumla supporting for Radio program Sundar Santa Bishal. Now people get together at center in particular broadcasting time of Sundar Santa Bisal and they discuss on issues raised in program. Chairperson of listening groups facilitates for discussion on issues after listening the programs. Now they are being more pro-active for human rights activities. Radio management committee formed among human rights groups of KIRDARC manages to listen radio equally to all listeners in center. KIRDARC branches in district makes monthly monitoring visits to center. Evaluating overall surrounding and way of listening radio programs provides suggestions and feedback. 15 listeners clubs of Radio Karnali in Jumla facilitates there for understanding program issues and follows in community living.

Background

Karnali is a remote region of nation with economically and socially deprived people where as no accessible communication and regular transport available. The only way to reach the karnali region is by foot or by air transport. Road access is not available in the in the whole Karnali region. Condition of health, education, social awareness and economy is miserable. In the field of information and communication many villages are totally depended on traditional means of communications.

It is expected that this radio project of Sundar Santa Bisal may help to build awareness and increase level of understanding of community people. In Jumla community Radio Karnali is providing service of community awareness and education sectors but the service is accessible within only 18 VDCs of Jumla. Rest of districts of Karnali compelled to listen Radio Nepal, which is not clearly heard there. This outreach concept of Equal Access keeping close to community through satellite broadcasting is one of the exemplary deeds for remote community. To some extent this program may create new vision and concepts that the development process of social awareness and education is better through Media.

Project goals

- Inform the rural population of Nepal about various aspects of conflict management, mitigation and reconciliation via a tailored radio program featuring the stories of rural people and the stories of well-known peace builders from around the world.
- Increase awareness about root cause of the conflict such as land, caste and lack of economic opportunity. Train and built a network of peace building grassroots community leaders around the radio program, local media activities and training.

- Improve the use/integration of media in the activities of peace building organizations.
- Create change (a demand for peace) through increased awareness, changes in behavior attributable to program outputs and radio program impact.

Activities details

Identified 40 community sites and satellite radios are distributed. For 25 community sites where no electricity and other alternative energy were available, 25 solar panels are also distributed.

Radio management committees are formed among members of peace groups of KIRDARC that are already formed for human rights awareness and monitoring events. Satellite radios are distributed to privileged community site. KIRDARC identified needs of the information and awareness through the media in remote community. In all five districts of Karnali, KIRDARC already has Human rights and peace groups among them some radio management committees are formed. Satellites radios are distributed among these groups under observation of the committee. Groups are formed by social inclusion process were as Dalit, Women, Children and conflict affected people are participated. Technician Mr. Ram Jan Hamal fixed satellite Radios and solar panels, in desired place. KIRDARC gave well orientation of operating system before providing solar panel and satellite radio to members of community sites.

The table bellow shows name of community sites, their address and numbers of distributed satellite Radio and solar panel. Following table presents district wise details of distribution.

Humla

In Humla 6 sites are identified among human rights and peace groups of 3 VDC. 6 Radios and 6 solar are distributess to the groups.

S.N.	Name of Community sites	Address	Distributed Descriptions	
			Satellite Radio	Solar Panel
1.	Radio Management Committee (RMC)	Chhipra, VDC 1 to 6 ward	1	1
2.	Radio Management Committee	Chhipra, 7 to 9	1	1
3.	RMC	Raya VDC- 4, 6, 7, 9	1	1
4.	RMC	Raya 1, 2, 3, 5, 8	1	1
5.	RMC	Lali VDC 1 to 6	1	1
6.	RMC	Laali- 7 to 9	1	1
Total		3 VDCs	6	6

Mugu

13 satellite radios and 7 solar panels are distributed to the human rights and peace groups of 5 VDCs in Mugu district.

S.N.	Name of Community sites	Address	Distributed Descriptions	
			Satellite Radio	Solar Panel
1.	Human rights and Peace groups	Lumsa, Rowa VDC	1	1
2.	Human rights and Peace groups	Rowa, Rowa VDC	1	1
3.	Human rights and Peace groups	Gilada, Rara VDC	1	
4.	Human rights and Peace groups	Murma, Rara VDC	1	1
5.	Human rights and Peace groups	Pina, Pina VDC	1	
6.	Human rights and Peace groups	Balai, Pina VDC	1	
7.	Human rights and Peace groups	Topla, Pina VDC	1	1
8.	Human rights and Peace groups	Bhambada, Karkibada VDC	1	
9.	Human rights and Peace groups	Karkibada, Karkibada VDC	1	
10.	Human rights and Peace groups	Tuma, Karkibada VDC	1	1
11.	Human rights and Peace groups	Gamgadi, Shrinagar VDC	1	
12.	Human rights and Peace groups	Chhatyalbada, Shrinagar VDC	1	1
13.	Human rights and Peace groups	Chaina, Shrinagar VDC	1	
Total		5 VDCs	13	7

Dolpa

In 3 VDCs of Dolpa district 6 satellite radios and 2 solar panels are distributed among human rights and peace groups.

S.N	Community Sites	Address	Distributed Descriptions	
			Satellite Radio	Solar
1.	Human rights and peace groups	Raha, Raha VDC	1	1
2.	Human rights and peace groups	Parila, Rraha VDC	1	1
3.	Human rights and peace groups	Locha, Dunai VDC	1	
4.	Human rights and peace groups	Thala, Dunai VDC	1	
5.	Human rights and peace groups	Juphal, Juphal VDC	1	
6.	Human rights and peace groups	Dangibada, Juphal VDC	1	
Total		3 VDCs	6	2

Kalikot

7 satellite Radios and 4 solar panels are delivered to Kalikot. Among them 5 satellite radios are distributed to community sites with 4 solar panel to the required sites.

1 radio is kept under Rural Information Center at Headquarter where people get together and hear program regularly. But one Radio could not be delivered to the sites because no way out of alternative energy to run the Radio.

S.N	Community Sites	Address	Distributed Descriptions	
			Satellite Radio	Solar
1.	Human rights and peace groups	Pili DVC	1	1
2.	Human rights and peace groups	Daha VDC	1	1
3.	Human rights and peace groups	Varta VDC	1	1
4.	Human rights and peace groups	Manma VDC	1	1
5.	Human rights and peace groups	Tadi, Manma VDC	1	
6.	Rural Information Center	Khadachakra, Manma	1	
7.	1 satellite Radio is stoke in office			
Total		4 VDCs	6	4

Jumla

Two community reports are recruited in Jumla district who support to produce Sundar Santa Bisal Radio program from Karnali FM.

They are **Mr. Bakhat Dangi** from Nuwaghar-5, Lamra VDC and **Mr. Devi Krishna Upadhyaya** from Gautamwada-1 Hanku VDC.

Among 8 distributed satellite radios 2 are kept in Radio Karnali and other six are distributed community sites where broadcasting service of Radio Karnali could not reach. Two has been given to Radio listeners clubs, 3 to People forum and 1 to human rights and peace groups. Six solar panels are also delivered to required sites.

These groups are formed in remote community who are active in development and awareness programs. They manage system of listening program to all community people in center where radios are fixed.

S.N	Community Sites	Address	Distributed Descriptions	
			Satellite Radio	Solar
1.	Karnali Radio Listener Club	Jatimid, Talium VDC	1	1
2.	Karnali Radio Listener Club	Nuwaghar-5, Lamra VDC	1	1
3.	People Forum	Kholigaun-8, Kudari VDC	1	1
4.	People Forum	Fohi, Phohimahadev VDC	1	1
5.	People Forum	Ranka-3, Tatopani VDC	1	1
6.	Human rights and Peace groups	Gautamwada, Hanku VDC	1	1
7.	Radio Karnali	Bijaya Nagar Mahat VDCs	2	
Total		7 VDCs	8	6

Learning and challenges

- The program that informs the people along with the entertainment is more effective than mere talk and informative programs.
- Frequent field visit, coordination and community interaction build close relationship and will support the program.
- Will and desire need to be complimented equally the knowledge learnt through radio program.
- People should be empowered conducting radio program in community.
- Women participation in public gathering, meeting and other decision-making program is increased after listening programs through satellite Radio.

- People are interested toward media so media activities should be increased, awareness and educational program should bring in community through media.
- Peace and development only can possible if media can independently work for society.

Monitoring and evaluation

In every district KIRDARC makes monitoring visit to community sites every month. They are more interested in listing more programs through Radio. In the beginning it was difficult to get listeners views and out put in community behaviors. They were especially attracted towards entertaining side of radio because many of them it was new thing in village. Now they have turned for practical aspect of programs listing programs they have started to discuss on issues and implement knowledge and awareness learnt through Radio in daily life. Now form of questionnaires for evaluation listing are available so it also makes easy to get precise what is the influence of programs. Details of evaluating form will send.

Conclusion

Sundar Santa Bisal is being popular among listeners of Karnali. They make discussion on programs after listening programs in groups. They are expecting more such programs through satellite. They wish to listen of their burning social issues of Karnali through the programs. Programs are beneficial but others from remote villages are also demanding satellite radio who have no excess in certain centers. Interest of people for radio program is increasing. Hope such program may bring social change in the field of awareness and education.

Our financial details of first deliverables will be sent within week.

Field Visit Report
Saraswati Thapa
25-30th July 2006

25 July

Kathmandu to Bhadrapur Fly and contact FM partners, outreach partners and community reporters and made field plans through telephone contacts.

26th July

Meeting with NRCS, District Chairperson, discussions with the NRCS listeners group facilitators of Kechana VDC and with the community reporter.

Mr. Rewati Raman Nepal- chairperson NRCS
Hari Maya Adhikari (listener's group facilitator)
Parijaat women's saving and credit group
Ward No-9, Jhoda tole, Khechana
Listners- 26

Umawati Ganesh
Nari shakti mahila savings and credit group
Ward no-4, Katmari tole , Kechana
Listners -25

Laxmi Rajbansi- community reporter

The group facilitators informed that due to the unavailability of radio to the listeners group they were not able to conduct the group listening sessions. Also due to the lack of information about the broadcast time from local FM and radio Nepal, they were not aware about the SSB broadcast and had not heard the program.

Laxmi Rajbansi- Community reporter. She was sent to the community reporters training in substitute to her sister who was ill during the training period. To my visit date she was unaware about her roles and responsibility and was not been appointed as community reporter from NRCS. As she was unclear about her duties and her responsible organization she was observed passive. She was also unclear about claiming her expenses for travel and recording.

27th July

Meeting with 4 community reporters and field visit to 2 solve listeners groups

Meeting with 4 community reporters

1. Pawan Neupane (Saptakoshi FM) ,
Have heard SSB broadcast
Have received verbal positive feedback about the SSB program
Have not received any letters or emails from listeners

Have been producing local ssb content with the help of mainly two community reporters from SOLVE, Dhankuta
Is in regular contact with NRCS, Taplejung community reporter and have received one vox pop for the program
Have not been able to contact with NRCS, Jhapa , community reporter after the training

2. Laxmi Rajbansi(NRCS, Jhapa)
have been contact twice with the SSB central production team
have not been in contact with the ssb local production team
not listened to SSB and have no broadcast schedule
unclear about the roles and responsibility
not appointed as community reporters from NRCS, Jhapa
unclear about claiming her travel and recording expences

3. Narendra Rai(Solve, Dhankuta)
Regular in touch with the local content production team and central production team
Visiting the listeners group sites for local voice collection
Intact with the outreach partner
Have not listened to ssb (local/ central)

4. Nain Ruchal(Solve Dhankuta)
Regular in touch with the local content production team and central production team
Visiting the listeners group sites for local voice collection
Intact with the outreach partner
Have not heard ssb (local/ central)

Meeting with SOLVE Nepal's program staffs
Satellite radios at 24 out of 25 sites have been distributed.
Out of the 24 listeners group only 10 sites have radio listening session being conducted.
Others have not done group listening due to battery and electricity problem.
Feedbacks have been started receiving from the groups.
Groups have confusion regarding the broadcast time of SSB from satellite channel, radio Nepal and FM stations.
Saptakoshi FM is heard properly and liked by audiences
SSB broadcast from Saptakoshi is overlapped by the Kantipur News at 6:30 PM and audience does not want to miss the news so the broadcast time is not appropriate for the broadcast of SSB
Individual listeners preferred to listen to the radio program in the morning from 6:30 onwards to 8:00 AM and 7:00 – 8:30 in the evening time.
The groups lack the broadcast schedule

28th July

Field visit to Phikkal, Illam Bazaar and Pashupati Nagar to know the reach and program reaction from individual listeners
Saptakoshi and Kanchanjunga broadcast heard
Tuned to both the FM to listen to entertainment program
Unaware about the SSB broadcast
Have not heard the SSB promo
3:30 day time not appropriate broadcast from kanchanjung FM for individual listeners
Chinofano, sodhikhoji, asalsasan and Sathi sanga man ka kura popular among the audiences
jiban ko jimmebari, sudar shanta Bishal , ghati heri haad nilau have same time duration and the audience get confused about the program

29th July

At Jhapa meeting with Kanchanjunga FM and broadcast agreement
meeting with program director – Deependra khadka
not much feedback received
made an agreement with the SSB broadcast
learned that the FM has new management , Deependra Khadka newly appointed as program director
promised to be in regular communication

30th july

Return to Kathmandu

Summary

Saptakoshi FM was found popular in Dhankuta, Illam and Jhapa District
Rainbow FM from Siliguri, West Bengal was popular among the non nepali speaking groups in Jhapa and Illam.
Rainbow frequency and wave was high it disturbed kanchanjunga FM .
Kanchanjunga FM program director informed that they are planning to upgrade the transmission of the FM.
Saptakoshi FM has plan to install another relay station as Bhedetar to make wider reach within three months time.
SSB program broadcast from Saptakoshi at 6:30 evening was parallel to Kantipur News at 6:30 and the audience have requested to reset time of SSB broadcast in the morning 6:00- 8 :00 AM or 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM from Saptakoshi and Kanchanjunga.
Circulate the broadcast schedule to all outreach partners. Satellite and FM broadcast time 2 central content and one local content broadcast of SSB has made radio group listeners difficult for group listening.
satellite radio and satellite to be disturbed and ensure that every group has group listening.



4th Content Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Project:	Sundar Shanta Bishal (SSB)																																																																		
Date:	11 July, 2006, Hotel Summit, Kopundole Time- 15:00- 17:00 Hours																																																																		
In Attendance:	<p>Rajendra Mulmi, renowned Youth Leader in Nepal (He is also a Youth Program Coordinator in Search For Common Ground Nepal Subash Darnal, Chairperson of Jagaran Media Center Gemma Quilt Equal Access Binita Shrestha and Devendra Lal Shrestha from SSMK were new participants in the meeting.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SN</th> <th>Name</th> <th>Organization</th> <th>Email</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>01</td> <td>Govinda Bdr. Shreshtha</td> <td>SAP- Nepal</td> <td>govindb@sapnepal.org.np</td> </tr> <tr> <td>02</td> <td>Gemma Quilt</td> <td>Equal Access</td> <td>gquilt@equalaccess.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>03</td> <td>Rajendra Mulmi</td> <td>Youth Initiatives</td> <td>rmulmi@sfcg.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>04</td> <td>subhash Darnal</td> <td>Jagaran Media Center</td> <td>dalitrighs@gmail.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>05</td> <td>Murari Prasad Kharel</td> <td>National Human Right Commission (NHRC)</td> <td>murari.kharel@nhrcnepal.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>06</td> <td>Khagendra Subba</td> <td>Equal Access</td> <td>ksubba@equalaccess.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>07</td> <td>Vinaya K Kasajoo</td> <td>Script writer-SSB</td> <td>vinaya@wlink.com.np</td> </tr> <tr> <td>08</td> <td>Binita Shreshtha</td> <td>SSMK</td> <td>bshreshtha@equalaccess.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09</td> <td>Uendra Aryal</td> <td>Equal Access</td> <td>uaryal@equalaccess.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>Saraswati Thapa</td> <td>"</td> <td>sthapa@equalaccess.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>Devendra Lal Shreshtha</td> <td>"</td> <td>dshreshtha@equalaccess.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>Binaya Guragain</td> <td>"</td> <td>bguragain@equalaccess.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>Bidya Chapagain</td> <td>"</td> <td>bchapagain@equalaccess.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>Kripa Tiwari</td> <td>"</td> <td>ktiwari@equalaccess.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>Shankar Khagi</td> <td>USAID</td> <td>skhagi@usaid.gov</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			SN	Name	Organization	Email	01	Govinda Bdr. Shreshtha	SAP- Nepal	govindb@sapnepal.org.np	02	Gemma Quilt	Equal Access	gquilt@equalaccess.org	03	Rajendra Mulmi	Youth Initiatives	rmulmi@sfcg.org	04	subhash Darnal	Jagaran Media Center	dalitrighs@gmail.com	05	Murari Prasad Kharel	National Human Right Commission (NHRC)	murari.kharel@nhrcnepal.org	06	Khagendra Subba	Equal Access	ksubba@equalaccess.org	07	Vinaya K Kasajoo	Script writer-SSB	vinaya@wlink.com.np	08	Binita Shreshtha	SSMK	bshreshtha@equalaccess.org	09	Uendra Aryal	Equal Access	uaryal@equalaccess.org	10	Saraswati Thapa	"	sthapa@equalaccess.org	11	Devendra Lal Shreshtha	"	dshreshtha@equalaccess.org	12	Binaya Guragain	"	bguragain@equalaccess.org	13	Bidya Chapagain	"	bchapagain@equalaccess.org	14	Kripa Tiwari	"	ktiwari@equalaccess.org	15	Shankar Khagi	USAID	skhagi@usaid.gov
SN	Name	Organization	Email																																																																
01	Govinda Bdr. Shreshtha	SAP- Nepal	govindb@sapnepal.org.np																																																																
02	Gemma Quilt	Equal Access	gquilt@equalaccess.org																																																																
03	Rajendra Mulmi	Youth Initiatives	rmulmi@sfcg.org																																																																
04	subhash Darnal	Jagaran Media Center	dalitrighs@gmail.com																																																																
05	Murari Prasad Kharel	National Human Right Commission (NHRC)	murari.kharel@nhrcnepal.org																																																																
06	Khagendra Subba	Equal Access	ksubba@equalaccess.org																																																																
07	Vinaya K Kasajoo	Script writer-SSB	vinaya@wlink.com.np																																																																
08	Binita Shreshtha	SSMK	bshreshtha@equalaccess.org																																																																
09	Uendra Aryal	Equal Access	uaryal@equalaccess.org																																																																
10	Saraswati Thapa	"	sthapa@equalaccess.org																																																																
11	Devendra Lal Shreshtha	"	dshreshtha@equalaccess.org																																																																
12	Binaya Guragain	"	bguragain@equalaccess.org																																																																
13	Bidya Chapagain	"	bchapagain@equalaccess.org																																																																
14	Kripa Tiwari	"	ktiwari@equalaccess.org																																																																
15	Shankar Khagi	USAID	skhagi@usaid.gov																																																																
Not in Attendance:																																																																			
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and objectives 2. Listening program 3. Issues presentation and prioritization 4. Wrap up and Thanks 5. Participants 																																																																		
Meeting Details:	<p>1. Welcome and objectives Fourth Content Advisory Meeting (CAG) was held in 11 July 2006 at Hotel Summit Kopundole at 15:00 to 17:00 hours. Rajendra Mulmi, renowned Youth Leader in Nepal (He is also a Youth Program Coordinator in Search For Common Ground Nepal, Subash Darnal, Chairperson of Jagaran Media Center, Gemma Quilt Equal Access. Binita Shreshtha and Devendra Lal Shreshtha from SSMK were new participants in the meeting.</p> <p>Uendra Aryal, therefore, as in the previous meeting, did a presentation about Sundar Shanta Bishal radio program. Then introduction program has taken a place as usual.</p>																																																																		

2. Listening program

That was Tenth episode. An issue was land mine risk education. Field audio was collected from Radio Lumbini, Central interview was done with Tarak Dhital, Chairperson of steering committee, Children as a Zone of Peace (CZOP) and Kamala Shreshtha, General Secretary of Ban Landmine Campaign Nepal. Second interview was with Rubin Gandharva, a child artist who had played a vital role during the Jana Aandolan 2 as singing different songs in the street of Kathmandu to inspire people.

Overall message of the episode was to provide information to children, their parents, school teachers and all community people how to save children from the land mine risk.

Feedback sharing

After having heard the episode, Rajendra Mulmi, Govinda Shreshtha and Murari Kharel has presented their view regarding program are drawn up as;

A Rajendra Mulmi, Chairman, Association of Youth Organizations (AYON) Nepal

- a. *Mixing or packaging of the program is very good and that attracts to audience to listen whole program.*
- b. *Bridge music is too short.*
- c. *However, language used in the program is simple, speed of presentation is fast. This should be the challenge to make sense to those people who couldn't speak or understand Nepali easily.*

B Murari Kharel; Representative of National Human Right Commission of Nepal

- a. *I heard whole program carefully and found very good packaging. It has a message what could create awareness to the listener about risk of land mine. Though, all ingredients included in the episode has strong message and information, it should be better if we have provided a message to those conflicting party to manage the risk of land mine soon.*

C Govinda Shreshtha- SAP Nepal

- a. *I found that program is strong not only for the rural community but also to those people who are working in GOs, NGOs or CBOs because all information regarding land mine and it's risk are complied here very well. I got some information which were very useful to me.*

D. Binita Shreshtha- Team Leader SSMK

- a. *I found that an effective and excellent packaging has done in this episode; however it is not easy to pay attention because of speed of presentation. Likewise, I felt hard to capture the message in the mind. I imagine our target audience couldn't pay their concentration to listen whole program. So it should be better if we use a short break in between the program.*

E Khagendra Subba- Equal Access

- a. *Whole program is good to listen and excellent compiling of message, however, it should be better if we make presentation slow than. In someplace in the community where people couldn't speak or understand Nepali language easily they couldn't capture the message of program.*

3. Issues presentation and prioritization

As usual, participants provided inputs on listened program then discussion was held on in line with the themes selected for the upcoming episodes as follows;

1	Role of youth in social Transformation-	Episode 16
2	Youth and Employment-	Episode 17
3	Caste Discrimination-	Episode 18 and 19

The discussions and suggestions

A. Role of Youth in Social Transformation

Youth participation in decision level is the debate taking place in Nepal in different sector nowadays. Why the role of youth is so important into the decision making body? What are the expectations or imaginations of youth to build up a country? To do this what kinds of barriers they are facing? Sharing such information through the program is the objective of this episode.

Rajendra Mulmi's presentation

Rajendra Mulmi is the renowned youth leader in Nepal currently involving in different youth organizations. He has just joined Search for Common Ground as youth program coordinator in it's Nepal office. Proposed script was forwarded to him and at first based on the script he did his presentation as follows;

YOUTH GENERATION is not a right terminology to represent youth. We can say YOUTH only to address them.

The government had formed a high level commission in 2052 to recommend to the government about youth policy under the chairmanship of Dr. Kedar Bhakta Mathema. In Nepal government has not prepared yet Youth Policy.

In ninth fifth year plan government has first time put down youth and sport chapter.

Youth ministry has formed to solve the youth problem in 2052 but it was dissolved in 2057.

Tenth fifth planed didn't continue the program what has announced in ninth plan.

In Nepal youth are defined as 15-29 of age group however it is still underway of making a proper definition who is youth.

Suggestions

Program has to focus on important of youth policy and their participation in the decision making level. What government is doing for the youth policy that should better to investigate. In addition to informing the importance of youth policy or program through the radio program it should be better to provide message of role of youth in development process. We have to encourage to youth for their active participation on development activities. Similarly it is required to ask for the government or other society based organizations to implement youth friend activity.

B Youth and Employment.

From Nepal many youth are going for the foreign employment nowadays. We have not enough sources of employment within the country is the main cause of going to the foreign country. But we have enough examples of youth in the community who had created a job by oneself and now they are doing well. So, showing some examples of self employed youth then we could ask for other youth to do something for self-employment or livelihood is the main objective of this episode.

Discussion

In Nepal unemployment is not problem but most of the youth are facing underemployment problem. Employment is global problem. Most of the Nepali youth are going for the foreign employment but this is not a permanent solution of employment. So government and private sector has to start up big source of employment to attract youth. So we could think about this area and give message to the community, government or non-government sector for the creation of massive source of employment.

Suggestion

Our efforts will be focused on to find out the way to job seekers to be job creators. Providing some good examples of job creators from within the community is better than saying data of unemployed people.

C. Caste Discrimination

	<p>However, in Nepal many times government had announced popular proclamation to control over caste discrimination, still there is in the community Dalit are facing different problems due to the caste system. This time too, reinstated house of representative had declared that Nepal is as a free zone of caste discrimination and untouchability. Informing about how the situation is changed after this popular proclamation is the objective of program.</p> <p>Subahs Darnal's presentation Subash is an active media worker, actively involved since many years back particularly he is dedicated to advocating the right of Dalit Community through media. Proposed script was forwarded to him before a day and he firstly made on a correction that was a term 'DALIT'. We have included a word 'so called dalit' in a script but he said that DALIT is the acceptable word they like to use in mass media. Then he provided some information about current situation. His points are noted down as;</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Government proclamation is not so far different with Muluki Ain 2020. Discrimination is not only the problem of DALIT. Poverty, lack of education, lack of access in the sources, etc are problems but this proclamation only focuses the cast system.</i></p> <p>Suggestion In addition to informing about the government proclamation, dalit community has to be informed about the cycle of how they are in back. Radio program will be focused on the root causes. It should be the strong message to the community if we presents an example of the people who has been working for the Dalit Right although being a citizen of out of dalit community. Dalit community itself is the root cause of armed conflict in Nepal and the country will not be safe and peaceful if we don't address the real issues of dalit.</p> <p>4. Wrap up and Thanks Then Saraswati Thapa, project manager of SSB gave thanks to all members and participants for their active participation.</p> <p>5. Participants</p>
Results (Decisions Made):	



5th Content Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Project:	Sundar Shanta Bishal (SSB)		
Date:	31 July, 2006, Hotel Summit, Kathmandu. Time- 15:00- 16:30 Hours		
In Attendance:	SN	Name	Organization
	01	Govinda Bdr. Shreshtha	SAP- Nepal
	02	Gemma Quilt	Equal Access
	03	Murari Prasad Kharel	National Human Right Commission (NHRC)
	04	Khagendra Subba	Equal Access
	07	Binita Shreshtha	SSMK
	08	Upendra Aryal	Equal Access
	09	Saraswati Thapa	"
	10	Binaya Guragain	"
	11	Bidya Chapagain	"
		Email	
		govindb@sapnepal.org.np	
		gquilt@equalaccess.org	
		murari.kharel@nhrcnepal.org	
		ksubba@equalaccess.org	
		bshreshtha@equalaccess.org	
		uaryal@equalaccess.org	
		sthapa@equalaccess.org	
		bguragain@equalaccess.org	
		bchapagain@equalaccess.org	
Not in Attendance:	SN	Name	Organization
	01	Vinaya Kasajoo	Script Writer
	Email		
		vinaya@wlink.com.np	
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome/Introduction 2. Reshuffled proposed issues and Inclusion of IPJ/SAP series 3. Script Presentation 4. Program listening 5. Wrap up and Thanks 		
Meeting Details:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome/Introduction by Upendra Aryal- Content Coordinator Fifth Content Advisory Meeting (CAG) was held in 31 July 2006, Monday at Hotel Summit Kopundole at 15:00 hours. At first Upendra Aryal gave a short welcome speech as usual in the previous meeting. Main discussion points had in the meeting are drawn up as; 2. Reshuffled proposed issues and Inclusion of IPJ/SAP Nepal series As an agreement between Equal Access Nepal and Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) in assistance with its Nepali partner NGO SAP Nepal, EA Nepal is going to produce six special audio packages within in August for IPJ/SAP Nepal. According as agreement IPJ/SAP will give EA the theme and issues guidelines for the productions and EA will produce 30 minutes 		

radio series. IPJ has organized three days peace summit in Kathmandu on 25, 26 & 27 of July and Upendra and Bidya had taken a part in the summit on behalf of Equal Access. They have collected required voices including participants and expert from different respect as based on production guideline in the summit for proposed six programs.

So meeting allowed assembling IPJ series in SSB timeline of August month. A part from this, meeting authorized to reshuffle some pre-proposed issues and timeline of SSB (*Please See detail in August/September plan*).

3. Script presentation

Binaya Guragain, Content producer read out a script which was 20th script. The issue of 20th is traditional thoughts or beliefs. An identified objective of this episode is to inform audience negative impacts of traditional thoughts or beliefs and to aware them how effectively they can work against this in the society. Proposed formats are; monologue of a women who was claimed to be witch and beaten by the society in eastern part Nepal and an interview with witchdoctor from same area he said in interview that there is no witch or no one have magic power and these are products of traditional thoughts or belief.

Suggestions

Program has to focus on negative impact of traditional thoughts or beliefs. Example of cases seem to be effective, however language of script has to be simple, short and easy to understand. Message will be strong if we give legal provision against witch and other kinds of violence. Though, there are different kinds of blind-thoughts in each caste, regions or in society this program only focuses on negative impact of witch. Therefore if the program will provide short information about overall traditional thoughts or beliefs in script should be better.

4. Program listening

It was 17th episode. Issue of this episode is Youth & Employment. Audio formats of program are; a radio feature about the youth of Palpa, those are interested in go for foreign employment and profile of youth who already back from the Arab country and now doing well in his own land. He has his own poultry farm; he earns thousands of rupees annually by this profession. Now his status in the community is measurable.

When the listening was over, participants in the meeting gave their views. They are as follows;

Message of the program: Good (This is because of comparison between both cases; in one case study youth are interested in going for foreign employment as saying that there is not enough sources of employment in the county whereas case two says that if we do something here in Nepal by taking own initiatives we can do best. So the example of number two case about that youth has strong message.)

Mixing or packaging:	Effective
Technical quality:	good
Language;	Improved than before.
Local audio quality:	Good
Local content quality:	good and meaningful.



6th & 7th Content Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Project:	Sundar Santa Bishal (SSB)		
Date:	18 August, 2006, Hotel Summit, Kathmandu		
	Time- 15:00- 18:30 Hours		
In Attendance:	SN	Name	Organization
	01	Govinda Bdr. Shreshtha	SAP- Nepal
	02	Jyoti Lal Ban	GRINSO Nepal
	03	Nirmal Prasad Pandey	Ex Member National Planning Commission
	04	Bhimsen Thapa	Porters Progress Nepal
	05	Bam Bdr. Thapa	Radio Nepal
	06	Vinaya Kasajoo	Script Writer
	06	Nirmal Psd Rijal	Equal Access
	07	Upendra Aryal	Equal Access
	08	Binaya Guragain	"
09	Bidya Chapagain	"	
Not in Attendance:	SN	Name	Organization
	01	Saraswati Thapa	Equal Access
	02	Sudhamsu Dhala	"
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening the session 2. Program listening 3. Issues presentation 4. Wrap up and Thanks 		
Meeting Details:	<p>As we know about that Sixth and Seventh Content Advisory meeting were separately planned for 18 of August and First of September respectively. However, due to the workloads such as production at least 8 episodes for back up before the CR training starts, preparation for FM meeting, CR training and other general meeting in and outside, we (SSB team) decided to merge. That is held on 18 of August 2006 in the same venue as it was held previously.</p> <p>1. Opening</p> <p>The meeting started at proposed time and as usual Upendra Aryal welcomed all participants. Some participants were taking part for the first time in the meeting. They were Mr. Nirmal Psd Pandey, ex member of National Planning Commission, Jyotilal Ban, Grinso Nepal. Apart from them, Mr. Bhimsen Thapa he belongs to the Porters Progress Nepal and Bam Bdr. Thapa, senior program officer Radio Nepal were come to the meeting. Mr Aryal gave a short background of Sundar Shanta Bishal Radio Project and its operations modalities. Then he put forward issues for discussion. They are as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Lack of elected representatives in local body (II) Porters (III) Subsidy cut on agriculture (iv) Land Right movement and land reform program in Nepal (V) Freed Kamaiya : Land and Rehabilitation 		

(VI) Budget: Distribution and Implementation
(VII) PRSP: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

2. Program listening

As a rule, in order to collect inputs or feedback from participants, we hear an episode in every CAG meeting and this time the episode we had played was 24. It was produced as based on an agreement between Institute of Peace and Justice (IPJ) and its Nepali partner NGO South Asia Partnership (SAP) Nepal. The issue in this episode was *Women: Making Peace Work*. Some inputs or thoughts have been provided by participants are as follows;

Program language is simple to understand.

Monologues of two young girls as they are conflict affected though they both are doing their best to rehabilitate themselves as well as other girls would give a positive sense for understanding the way of rehabilitation.

Interview with *Sashi Sharma* Chairperson of MEET Nepal, an NGO that has been working for rehabilitation of women who are victimized by conflict and other violence and meanwhile it is leading the women voices or concerns to the peace process has given effective impression. Having heard this voice, women who are seeking the way of rehabilitation can with join her organization and would get different alternatives for livelihood.

'Lahure Daiko Chiya Pasal (Tea shop of Lahure)' seems to be very effective setting for saying message. Batuli's role in this episode pointed out an example of women who wanted to be empowered.

While the program play back was over, Upendra Aryal told the way how this program was made, How field audios were collected and how this program has packaged. Then he gave the floor to Binaya Guragain to start up discussion based on issues as he (Aryal) had presented before the program listened.

Discussion

(I) Lack of elected representatives in local body

The Second local election in Nepal was held in 1997. There were elected representatives in Village Development Committee, Municipality and District Development Committee until 2001. When the timeframe of elected representative was quit in 2001 since then government had started to manage local body by implementing different alternatives such as: management by government personnel, nominated people etc. However, all modalities weren't seemed to be effective as it was expected. Service of local body was affected and in the mean time Maoist had started to form local *Janasarkar (Government)*

During the last 5 or 6 years of massive conflict there were not only elected representatives but also government representatives or administrators in VDC too left the village and either they lived in secured place or in district headquarter. Still the case of almost VDCs is the same as it was before.

So identified objective of this episode is to show the current situation and seek the answer what the current government is doing to solve this challenge.

Suggestion

This episode should focus on the challenges of community how and what they had to be faced whether they couldn't get regular service an easy manner during this period.

(II) Porters

People who carry tons of consuming goods, commercial products or industrial materials in a huge basket (In Nepali, it is called DOKO or DHAKAR) are called Porters (Bhariya). However, this job is not safe due to the geographical structure, food, clothing, shelter, medicine, insurance etc. Usually, they carry goods from market particularly from Terai area to different places of Mountains or hills area. According as reports or articles published in different newspapers, Nepal has around 50 thousand porters. They don't have access of education and lack of health care activities in their community. Almost of them belongs to poor economic background. They have to cope with different challenges to make alive themselves and their family. They don't have their unified group or organization. During the work what they have to do, either they have to be satisfied with what they have been given or give up the job if they are not satisfied with. They aren't much aware of their rights. They have raised some demands such as insurance, medical and clothing facilities by trekking company.

Some organizations are working for them. They are based on town or in Kathmandu. Almost of this kinds of organizations are giving their priority to the porters who carry goods for tourist only. So main objective of this episode is to tell the porters the way how they could get minimum facilities for their livelihood as being a porter.

Suggestion

In this episode, it should be better to include some voices of those who give the porters this job. We could ask them if they are aware of to fulfill minimum standards of porters or not. National and International laws in this regards should better be covered.

(III) Subsidy cut on agriculture

In Nepal more than 70% people are totally depended on agriculture. Lack of fertilizer and irrigation facilities are common challenges of farmers. Besides these, farmers are facing other challenges such as; subsidy, loan facility etc. When government has started implementing an Agricultural Appraisal Plan (APP) since then, it is commenced reducing on subsidy that has been giving in bio gas, small irrigation project, fertilizer or other welfare program to the farmers.

Therefore, objective of this episode is to show the impact to the farmers after the subsidy cut system has started. In addition to this how the farmers in Terai region are facing different challenges and what government is doing help to solve these difficulties will be covered in this program.

Suggestion

This program could provide message to audience how farmers could get more profit even if they will do the market oriented farming. Program also could inform them about technological farming method. Market oriented or technological farming is better than doing conventional farming system. So to create motivation to do this should be also an objective of this program.

(IV) Land Right Movement and Land Reform program

According to UNDP HDR 2004 & CBS 2001,

- 5 percent people hold 37 percent and 47% people hold only 15% arable land in Nepal
- 1 million agriculture workers are deprived of ownership and access to land resources,
- A total 339,689 tenant families are tilling the landlords' land.
- There are 300,000 Haliyas (some from of bonded labor), mostly in the Mid and Far western regions alienated from land resources but still engaged as agricultural workers.
- A total of 217,675 families are totally landless, they even don't have land to put up a shelter
- The Dalits, 70% in Terai and 22% in the hills, are landless.
- A total of 20 percent of arable land is fallow,
- Only 10 percent of women have ownership of land.

These are some facts and figures that describe how the land situation in country is. This is the time land right movement is growing massively through out the country. Land is the big issues; it has been in the ground since 1990 when the democracy had reinstated. As we know that many former government had formed different commission in order to getting suggestions for reforming the land distribution system because the system itself isn't good as it should be and it's a main cause of beginning the conflict. When we talked about the references or suggestions to reform land situation, a report given by Mr Keshav Badals' commission is still known as useful. It was formed in around 2052. However, none previous government had implemented it. Still land right activists or some political parties use Badals' report as a reference when they talk about land reform program. But all political parties aren't in united about what the best way to the land reform program is. Newly appointed government also has said that it is very serious to solve the land problem as soon as possible.

So, we have chosen this topic to present the situation of land right activities because it is known as a major factor of conflict. An identified objective of this episode is to show the way how the conflict between landlord, landless and government will be reduced and land less would get land.

Suggestion

In this topic voices of landless people could play vital role to show the real challenges or difficulties. Similarly it is better to say audience some alternatives way of living rather than saying land is most important to have.

(IV) Freed Kamaiya: Land and Rehabilitation

Some facts and figures;

- Kamaiya (Bonded labor) were freed in 2000.
- Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchapur are the districts where at ex kamaiya are lived.
- There are 35,721 freed kamaiya and among them more than half or 19,700 are landless.
- They have started again their demonstration as stating the demand that they have to be given land since July 2006.

- Then government has formed a commission in order to submit a report as giving suggestion of some effective way to rehabilitate them by December 2006.
- Then they stopped doing the protest.

Freed Kamaiya (ex bonded labor), when they were being freed in 2000 July, they'd been told that they would have been given the land. However, this year it crossed six years of their being freed still they are claiming the same demand as it was promised by government before many times. In order to make theme at home in different ways for livelihood many non-governmental organizations are working in their community, but the result is not good as it is expected. Due to lack of education and other technical knowledge or experiences they couldn't be doing other activities rather than doing traditional farming and repeatedly raising the demand of land.

So, main objective of this episode is designed saying the message how this issues will be settled down in effective manner.

Suggestion

This would be good if we look for the condition of land bank program that was announced particularly for the Kamaiya by previous government even in filed and policy level. In addition to that encouraging Kamaiya for doing different alternates for income generating program should be better rather than giving more importance to have a land.

(V) Budget: Distribution and Implementation

According to the freelance consultant, there is only 30 percent budget is utilized in every program in Nepal. 70% budget is returned or wasted without utilization. Budget distribution is not a problem but complication is in implementation.

So identified objective of this episode is to find out the root causes why budget will not be utilized properly.

Suggestion

Showing some good or bad examples of project what will help audience to know the causes how distributed budget would be back to government.

(VII) PRSP: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

At the end of fiscal year 061/062 the 10th plan was over. Due to the current political situation in country, there is no active body have appointed yet in National Planning Commission. So it is getting late to commence 11th plan. It is nearly 50 years planning system had started in country. Today, we are talking about poverty alleviation or poverty reduction programs but if we go back on to the planning history the poverty reduction programs were started since Eighth plan. Since then, government has been give high priority to it. During the starting phase of Ninth plan government decided a goal of reducing poverty by the end 12th plan. According as National Planning Commission only 10 percent people will remain in below the poverty line by the end of 12th plan. This long term plan is known as Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

So identified objective of this episode is to analyze the result of 10th plan as well as find out the cause how Nepali are going to be poor day by day.

Suggestion

Presentation of some example of poor and rich people is better way to show the situation how Nepali is poor and rich. In addition to that short analysis based on succeeds and failures of through out planning process also help audience to know the cause of being poor and Nepal is as under developed country.

Wrap up and Thanks

It was quite long discussion than previous. However, it was useful. All participants from their areas have good standard of knowledge on proposed theme or issues. They were very happy on giving some inputs or suggestions for the program. So, Upendra Aryal, on behalf of Equal Access gave thanks to all and meeting was over.

Community Reporters Refresher Training

8 -12 Sept 2006

Hotel Phewa Prince, Pokhara

The objectives of the training are:

- To share experiences working in the SSB radio production project.
- To build common understanding among the SSB production team (central and field).
- To identify the issues of the remaining SSB

8 Sept. 2006, Friday, (Day one)

9:00- 9:15- Participant's registration and stationary distribution –

9 AM- 11 AM (morning session)

Welcome & introduction (UA)

Informal inauguration of the refresher training and giving welcome speech

A quick introduction and sharing personal experience working in SSB as reporter since last five months

Training norms setting (BC)

Logistic, evaluation and reporter identification for the 5 training days and discuss about the key points to be done by them.

Tea Break (15 Mins)

11:15- 1:00

Concerns of Reporters (UA & ST)

List out the issues faced by the reporters in the field (management, technical, broadcast etc...)

Lunch Break (1 hour)

2:00- 5:00(Afternoon Session)

Changed political scenario and role of media (Shiva Goule)

Wrap up of the day

9 Sept. 2006, Saturday, (Day two)

9:00- 1:00 (Morning session)

Technical review in the SSB program (BG+ BC)

Issues of SSB in production (technical) – use of cool edit, using microphone, leveling, background noise (BG+ BC coordinate with community reporters and ask them to bring local version of SSB). Take 3 local ssb – one excellent technically, one moderate, one ok and discuss about the issues

Practical exercise and demonstration (BG+ BC)

Tea Break (15 mins)

ContinueTechnical review in the SSB program

Lunch Break (1 hour)

2:00- 5:00 (Afternoon session)

Content review of the SSB program (UA+ BG)

Issues of SSB in production (local content) – issues identification, narration, link, pre interview research, interview. (BG+ BC coordinate with community reporters and ask them to bring local version of SSB). Take 3 local SSB – one excellent content wise, one moderate, one ok and discuss about the issues

Wrap Up

10 Sept. 2006, Sunday, (Day three)

9:00- 11:00 (Morning session)

Understanding Basic Operating Guideline (Expert)

Basic elements, its use and what the community should be informed about it, some concrete examples uses of BOGs

Tea Break (15 mins)

11:00- 1:00 (Morning session)

Understanding International Humanitarian Law (Expert)

Basic elements, its use and what the community should be informed about it, some concrete examples uses of IHL

Lunch Break (1 hour)

2:00- 5:00 (Afternoon session)

Role of media in peace building process - Francis Rolt

Identifying cases for the radio program (ideas for issues) , monitoring the effects of the program in the community, working together with conflicting parties and making a good radio program in peace building

Wrap up

11 Sept. 2006, Monday (Day Four)

9:00- 1:00 (Morning session)

Identifying 36 new episodes SSB issues – (BG+ BC)

Review of SSB broadcast episode and plan for 36 new episodes of SSB (central), group work and list out issues; share the task among the community reporters.

And make common understanding of local content production and broadcast.

Tea Break (15 Mins)

Ideas for issues that could

Continue Identifying 36 new episodes

Lunch Break (1 Hour)

2:00- 5:00 (Afternoon session) ,

Common issues with media coverage of peace building- Francis Rolt

Issues of overcoming intractable conflict, leadership and specific success stories

Continue Make a final list of issues to be broadcast for the SSB program and plan the work among the CR reporters.

Wrap up

12 Sept. 2006, Tuesday (Day Five)

9:00- 1:00 (Morning session)

Ethnographic Action Research and its use for monitoring the program- (SD)

Introduction to EAR, objective, introduction to EAR and M & E activities

Lunch Break (1 Hour)

2:00- 4:00 (Afternoon session)

EAR Continue Tools for reporting, exercise on EAR tools (individual and group exercise), discussions and recap.

4:00- 5:00 (Closing session)

Final evaluation

Certificate distribution and closing

Materials required for the training

Required Equipments and Human resources

Camera

Blank CD

Computer

Recording Equipment

Banner

Batteries

Vehicle

SSB programs

Audio and Video tapes(women peace makers, the state of fear)

Participants

30 Community Reporters

Program members

External Experts

IHL and BOG expert

Social and Political analyst

Simultaneous translator for F. Rolt

Reporter

Coordinator

In house trainer

FM representatives

NRCS representatives

GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF CONFLICT

1. WHAT IS CONFLICT?

Conflict is a universal social process. Political and economic differences and inequality polarize people into different interest groups giving rise to conflict. Most individuals or societies are divided into various dichotomous groups: capitalists-labourers, landowners-peasants, masters-workers, high caste-low caste, rich-poor, religious-secular, powerful-powerless and so on. In societies where there is ruling class, their hegemonic power creates inequality and inequity in society which can lead to conflict (Marx: 1959). Religion and culture further divide society into factions (Weber 1930). All of these different groups or factions within society have different needs, interests and wills. Conflict arises in society due to different will of its members.

Social problems occur when the majority of people within a society are dissatisfied or feel disadvantaged. However, the matter is not so simple. The same situation may be detrimental to one, and at the same time, beneficial to another. This is possible, because as noted above, different people have different wills. Therefore, it can be said that social problem exists when significant number of people believe that certain situation is in fact a problem (Colman & Cressey 1999).

Society is formed by interactive relationship between its members. All members of society are responsible for maintaining law and order and harmonious relationships. In order to solve problems and to maintain law and order, societies have developed different socio- cultural and legal practices and mechanisms. These are the subject matter of legal anthropology. Conflict generally occurs due to scarcity of resources, racial, ethnic, economic and gender differences, age, inequality, religion and political antagonism. Almost all people/society of this world recognise this and wish to find a solution.

Some Definitions

In all society, there are two groups of people who always stand in constant opposition to one another and struggle directly or indirectly. (Material fact or resources/economy of an area determines socio-cultural and political structure of society) (Marx 1959)

Conflict has been used to include struggles that are over resources, ideas, values, wishes and deep-seated needs (Burton 1996)

Conflict means perceived divergence of interest or belief that the individuals or parties' current aspiration cannot be achieved simultaneously (Pruitt and Rubin 1986)

In everyday use "conflict" can be described as surface disturbances of social life. I think it is more than that, because conflict disturbs social structure very badly. In view, there are various English words which carry different meanings. For surface disturbances of social life, depending on their nature, we can use competition, dispute, argument, quarrel, strife, dissension, contention, fight, etc. I like to reserve "struggle" for events with deeper and more fundamental roots, and "conflict" for discrepancies at the heart of the system. But I reserve "conflict" as the relation between discrepancies that sets in therein processes which produce alternations in the personnel of social positions, but not alterations in the pattern of positions (Gluckman 1971).

Conclusion

Conflict generally occurs due to scarcity of resources, racial, ethnic, economic and gender differences, age inequality, religion and political antagonism and so on. Interest of an individual or group is the prime cause which leads the individual or group towards conflict.

2. GENESIS OF CONFLICT

As mentioned above conflict is not a phenomenon that occurs suddenly in a society rather is a universal social process that exists in all society at all time. However, the following situation inspires the phenomenon to be explicit/disclose.

- Differences in understanding
- Differences in doing things
- Differences in norms, values and practices

- Differences in ideology
- Differences in interest

3. PROCESS OF CONFLICT

- One thinks the other totally incorrect or wrong;
- Each gets angry with the other
- One tries to make failure to the other and
- Different understandings (socio-cultural, economic and educational)

4. CAUSES OF CONFLICT

It is not easier to state clearly the causes of conflict. In one place "A" can be very explicit cause of a conflict but in the same case the cause can be implicit in another conflict in another place. So it is difficult to say universal causes of conflict. However, scholars agreed that the following can be the simple and explicit causes of conflict:

1. **Religion and Culture:** custom, rituals, beliefs, understanding or attitude, etc. of the concerned individuals or groups.
2. **Economy:** loss and benefit, transaction, temptation, stealing, etc
3. **Power/politics:** status and role, feeling of domination, minority, identity, etc.
4. **Discrimination:** issue of equality and equity, etc.
5. **Resource allocation:** equal and equitable access to resources, issue of boundary, etc.
6. **Misunderstanding:** wrong understanding due to improper or lack of communication.
7. **Others:** Property rights, credit, etc.

5. DIMENSIONS/ASPECTS OF CONFLICT

In general, there are some considerable dimensions or aspects of conflict which leads the situation towards hostility and crisis. Such dimensions can be categorised as follows:

- **Political/Ideological** : Political interest/ideology or philosophy
- **Socio-cultural** : Ethnicity/caste, fatalism, feeling of own-ness (we and they)
- **Economic** : Poverty, unequal distribution of resources, development intervention, unequal life chances.

- **Religion** : Between different religion, religious and secular, within religion among different sects, state religious policies and people's interest.
- **Human** : The following are the main human dimensions:
 1. I / We do not want war
 2. The other side is solely responsible for the war
 3. The enemy has the face of the evil
 4. It is a noble cause that we defend and not particular interest
 5. The enemy commits atrocities knowingly but we make unfortunate mistake
 6. The enemy uses unauthorised weapons
 7. We suffer very few losses, while the losses of the enemy are enormous
 8. Artists and intellectuals support our cause
 9. Our cause has a sacred nature
 10. Those who question our statements are terrorists

6. FORMS OF CONFLCIT

We can describe forms of conflict according to its nature of destruction in social structure.

The following are the forms of conflict.

- A. Competition** : Competition means a kind of feeling to be better than others. It is a primary form of conflict.
- B. Quarrel** : Complaint or refusal to accept something by violent disagreement, angry argument.
- C. Dispute** : Disagreement of individuals, groups and nations occurs through expressions, behaviors and action in daily life.
- D. Fight** : Fight denotes a kind of force to use against his enemy to get something.
- E. Conflict** : Disagreement due to various reasons occurs more violently as fight, struggle or war. Normally two opposition groups fight violently.
- F. War** : Armed fighting between two or more groups or countries.

7. TYPES OF CONFLCIT

On the basis of the disturbance in social structure one can divide conflict into different types. It is not easier to distinguish forms and types of conflict. However, types of conflict can be described according to its characteristics:

On the basis of level

- Intra-group conflict (individual)
- Inter-group conflict (group)
- Regional conflict
- National conflict (within nation)
- International conflict (between nations)

On the basis of issue

- Political conflict
- Economic conflict
- Socio-cultural conflict (ethnic conflict)
- Religious conflict
- Others

On the basis of nature

- Competition/Contradiction
- Revolution/Insurgency and Struggle
- War/Conflict

Social scientist Moore categories conflict as follows

- Structural conflict** : Conflict in the established structure of society/society.
- Theoretical Conflict** : Conflict over the established ideology/concepts/ perspective.
- Conflict in Interest** : Conflict on interest of individuals, groups and institutions.
- Conflict in facts** : Conflict on land boundary, election results, etc.
- Conflict on Relations** : Relation of individuals/groups due to nature of one

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF CONFLICT IN NEPAL

Nepal, birth place of Gautam Buddha and residence of peaceful people, has been burning day and night for the last decade due to the political conflict between the state and the Maoist. One can easily identify the issue of conflict i.e. Maoist are the people inspired by communist ideology and fighting to establish a republic state but it is very difficult to pursue how such peaceful people with harmonise relationship are inspired to get involved in revolution.

A revolution does not occur suddenly rather people join a revolutionary group unexpectedly. Therefore, it is essential to find out such causes of Nepali conflict minutely. General causes of the Nepali conflict can be categorized as the following:

Causes of Conflict in Nepal

- ❖ **Economic disparity** : Access to resource occupancy and basic needs
- ❖ **Social Disparity** : Unequal relationship and network
- ❖ **Political disparity** : Game of power
- ❖ **Caste discrimination** : Vertical division of society
- ❖ **Gender discrimination** : Male domination in each sphere of life
- ❖ **Fatalism** : Prevalent discriminatory belief among the people
- ❖ **Sycophancy** : No work anywhere without a network
- ❖ **Development** : Unequal distribution of development
- ❖ **Poverty** : Better to fight with enemy than hunger
- ❖ **Hinduism** : Domination of Hinduism to non-Hindus
- ❖ **Failure policies of State** : Welfare and development activities
- ❖ **Unemployment** : Widespread unemployment
- ❖ **Lack of Vocational Education** : Educated unemployment
- ❖ **Patriarchy** : Violation against women everywhere
- ❖ **Power Domination Culture** : Blind worship of power
- ❖ **Centre and Periphery** : Discriminatory state policies
- ❖ **Rigid social and political Structure** : Nobody is ready to hear other's voice
- ❖ **Illiteracy** : Male 35% and Female 58% are illiterate
- ❖ **Gap between rich and poor and city and rural dwellers**

Consequences of conflict

Consequences of conflict can also be discussed into two ways: positive and negative. Lets discuss positive and negative consequences of Nepali conflict one by one.

Positive consequences

- Start thinking from equity and equality perspective in all spheres of socio-economic lives
- Recognised people's force/power
- Raised political consciousness among civilians – remote/rural people also
- Raised excluded issue - women and Janajatis
- Start addressing some of the issue by state too - recruited women in RNA
- Studied various spheres of Nepali socio-cultural and economic life
- Increase awareness among people about the nation - if the situation remains the same country will be collapsed– says everyone)
- Raise issue of representation - inclusive democracy - majority holder party is not solely responsible to use power, etc.
- Increase demand of constitutional assembly
- Others

Negative Consequences

- Killed 12865 adult people (S:8283 & M: 4582 , Nov 05)
- Killed 341 children (S:173 & M:169, Nov 05)
- Abducted people by the Maoist: 46718
- About 100000 people displaced
- About 2000 disappeared
- Damaged physical infrastructure
- Decreased trust among the people
- Education system disturbed
- Political instability increased
- Massive violation of human rights
- Weapons of both sides are out of the control
- Economic losses
- Misuse of power
- Others

Challenges of Peace Process in Nepal

- Problem of trust
- Not compromising claims
- Socio-political and economic disparities
- Social structure - feudal dominated society (domination of power, religion and fatalism)
- Beneficiary of the situation do not want to settle the problem
- Interest of foreign countries (training centre of India provides training to Maoist and Security forces of Nepal)
- Not very effective roles of civil society
- Gap between rich and poor
- Disparities due to development and modernisation (economy, education, infrastructure, opportunity, salary, etc.)
- Rigidity of traditional institutions, and
- Others, add if any

CONFLCIT ANALYSIS, CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND BEST PRACTICES OF CONFLCIT MANAGEMENT

1. Conflict Analysis: Various methods or tools existed and used in the field of conflict analysis. Major tools are given below:

- 1. Problem tree analysis:** Conflict can be analysed minutely as tree. For example roots of a tree as causes, trunk of a tree as main problem and branches of a tree as effect of the conflict.
- 2. Time line:** A conflict analyser has to understand each event one by one according to time.
- 3. Pyramid of concerned stakeholders of conflict:** A conflict along with the causes, problems and effects existed as pyramid.
- 4. Conflict mapping:** Map a conflict as it is like taking a photograph of something.
- 5. Onion method:** Causes of a conflict can be analysed as like onion.

2. Conflict Transformation

As mentioned above conflict is a universal process of society. It remains in society all the time but it changes its shape time and again. Therefore, it is essential to understand the stages or phases of conflict; how it shapes its stage at different times. The following is the description of the stages:

- 1. Different opinion and thinking** : Starting differential in opinion and thinking
- 2. Debate/arguments** : Starts debate and arguments openly
- 3. Serious debate and problem** : Debate creates problem due to demands and claims.
- 4. Violation** : Heats the conflict violently.
- 5. War** : Use of weapons become common after break of the violation.
- 6. Ceasefire** : Time of peace.
- 7. Agreement** : Conflicting parties agree for negotiation.
- 8. Reconstruction** : Start reconstructing of destroyed infrastructure and relations.
- 9. Rehabilitation** : Genesis socio-cultural, economic and psychological rehabilitation.
- 10. Reunion/reintegration** : Reunite conflicting parties from all aspects of life and behaviours.

3. Practices of Conflict Management

There are different mechanisms and practices of conflict/dispute management in different societies/states. Mainly, there are two types of conflict management mechanism and practices well accepted by all societies and states of the world which are as follows:

1. Informal: Informal dispute resolution mechanism and practices means those which existed outside formal forums or formal processes: such practices existed from grass roots level to international level. These practices varied in different communities, situation, caste/ethnic groups, etc. Everything from the beginning i.e. registering complaint to dispute settlement nothing is formal and special.

2. Formal: All sorts of mechanisms and practices existed within formal setting of the state or international agencies. All formal mechanisms and practices follow similar working style and practices. Normally, educated and habitual people are interested to go to formal forums because of its rigid formal processes like formal complaint letter, witness, fees, time, bench of jury and so on.

4. Perspectives of Conflict Management/Resolution

Nowadays, there is a debate about the terminologies used in the discourse of conflict. Hence, according to the perspectives, people of different disciplines used different terminologies with same motives (solve the problem) and claim that their own perspective is the best one. The following are the perspectives:

- a. Conflict Prevention** : **Sociology/Social Service, Peace Workers**
- b. Conflict Management** : **Law/Legal Perspective**
- c. Conflict Resolution** : **Authority**
- d. Conflict Transformation** : **Anthropology/ Social Service and Development**

Conflict Prevention: Conflict prevention is a tough job. However, sociologists try their best to control conflict by reminding conflicting parties about their future. They also try to recognise socio-cultural values and requirement of a friend. In fact, sociologists have to understand the demand of both parties of a dispute and search for its solution which prevents the on going conflict.

Conflict Management: Normally, disputants go to court or formal forums for justice when they felt hurt by the opposition. In this situation, a judge or conflict manager has to find out causes of conflict for its solution. The major problem of the formal forum is that they are unable to find out root cause of a dispute and they won't have time and mechanism to conduct a visit to observe the real situation of the dispute or the disputing parties. Rather, such

forums, most of the time, are based on facts provided by witnesses and reliability of the such fact given by the witnesses is very less.

Conflict Resolution: Conflict Resolution is a difficult job and it is almost impossible. However, anthropologist or the people who are involved in conflict resolution are practicing it since very long ago. They try to understand the real causes of conflict and also want to use informal process of dispute resolution. These people describe the present and future situation of conflict and other possible damages of conflict and inspire disputant to resolve their dispute themselves or by their people.

Conflict Transformation: Conflict transformation is not an easy task. However, development workers involved in conflict try their best to transform conflicting situation into a peaceful one through various processes. Reconstruction, development and reunion are the main means or processes of conflict transformation.

5. Best Practices of Conflict Management

There are various best practices of conflict management existed in the world. In fact, all processes are best because all of them have been developed to settle disputes. However, some of them are known as best as compared to others. The best practices are as follows:

- **Negotiation**
- **Mediation, and**
- **Intervention**

Consequences of Conflict Management

- **Win - Win :** Constructive and beneficial
- **Win - Loss:** Destructive and forceful
- **Loss - Loss:** Lost by both parties and arises conflict again

NEGOTIATION

Negotiation is the process whereby interested parties resolve disputes, agree upon courses of action, bargain for individual or collective advantage, and/or attempt to craft outcomes which serve their mutual interests. It is usually regarded as a form of alternative dispute resolution. In a negotiation, normally, disputants sit together and discuss to settle their cases.

- Negotiation is an Art.
- Negotiation is a process, not a single skill.
- Negotiation is a process of exploring and focusing on common interest.
- Negotiation becomes an indication or a direction to decision making
- Negotiation always happens between conflicting parties

A) Why and when to negotiate?

- Don't negotiate unless you have to – or unless you can obtain some direct or indirect advantage by doing so.
- Negotiation seems to be necessary when there is an involvement of parties with different interest

B) Negotiation Strategies

- **Win-Win Deal:** In a successful negotiation, everyone wins. The objective should be agreement, not victory. Therefore:
 - Focus on commonalities.
 - Address interest of all parties.
 - Invent options to mutual gain.

C) Negotiation Skills

(1) Knowledge of

- Negotiation Principle
- The Context
- The detail subject matter

(2) Skills in

- Analysing the issue
- Personal interactions and
- Communication

(3) Attitudes towards

- The negotiating parties
- The details of each negotiation and
- One's own role

(1: Show negotiation interest of the government with other political parties by shaking hands from the back, 2: Give time to each group with a case for negotiation)

MEDIATION

Mediation is the process of resolving a dispute between two or more individuals, groups or parties. In mediation a neutral third party is involved who facilitates to resolve disputes. Mediators generally do not impose their ideas on the disputing parties. Instead, they encourage them to meet and participate in a dialogue, identify their concerns, explore solutions and ultimately reach to an agreement.

In other words mediation is a process of dispute settlement, also known as "assisted negotiation", by which disputing parties are encouraged to explore and resolve their differences with the help of a neutral third party.

- Fair, bias-less and volunteer involvement of mediators

- Involvement of a neutral third party
- Mediators do not impose their idea rather facilitates for agreement
- Show possible consequences of agreeable options
- Facilitate for finding out the best solution

1. Characteristics of mediators

- Neutrality
- Volunteer
- Fair and bias-less
- Knowledgeable
- Active listener and Effective communicator
- Accepted by both parties
- Polite
- Open
- Clear
- Capable to understand the disputants' interest, feeling and claim
- Able to change an uncomfortable situation
- Able to play leading role and so on

2. Process of mediation

- Information about conflict
- Contact both parties and collect background information
- Analyse conflict and fixed date, venue and time of mediation session
- Conduct mediation session
 - Welcome
 - Introduction
 - Oath taking by mediators for their neutrality and confidentiality
 - Ground rule setting
 - Problem presentation by both conflicting parties
 - Identification of main issue
 - Facilitation for option seeking
 - Describe possible results for options (based on HR, Law and social norms and values)
 - Facilitate for finding an agreeable issue for both parties
 - Identify terms and conditions for implementation of agreement
 - Prepare agreement paper and take signature of both parties
 - Reintegration according to social/prevalent laws

3. Consequence of Mediation

- **Win - Win Situation:** Result of mediation is always occurring win - win.

(Exercise of mediation on the basis of a case)

3) Intervention

An intervention is a kind of forceful process or intervention by the UN in a critical conflicting situation. The United Nations has the right to intervene any country that is has conflict. It is

forceful conflict resolution practice though it is accepted as the best practice because UN has been accepted as the best and last hope of the people. Cambodia, Afghanistan, etc. are the example where UN has intervened to bring back peace. As like UN intervention at international level, state authority can also settle cases between two parties or groups within a nation.

HOW TO WORK IN CONFLCIT

How to work in conflict is a difficult question to solve. However, it is essential and one has to work in conflict if the situation comes. As mentioned above, conflict is a universal social process and it appears anytime in any society. Therefore, each has to be prepared to work in conflicting situation. A development worker has to analyse the risk and prepare to face the situation.

1. Nine principle of Risk Management

- I. THERE IS NO RETURN WITHOUT RISK: Rewards go to those who take risks**
- II. BE TRANSPARENT: Risk should be fully understood**
- III. SEEK EXPERIENCE : Risk is measured and managed by people, not mathematical models**
- IV. KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW: Question the assumptions you make**
- V. COMMUNICATE: Risk should be discussed openly**
- VI. DIVERSIFY: Multiple risks will produce more consistent rewards**
- VII. SHOW DISCIPLINE: A consistent and rigorous approach will beat a constantly changing strategy**
- VIII. USE COMMON SENSE: It is better to be approximately right, than to be precisely wrong**
- IX. RETURN IS ONLY HALF THE EQUATION: Decisions should be made only by considering the risk and return of possibilities**

Some principles regarding how to work in conflicting zones especially to the aid workers or development workers are developed. The principles are as follows:

2. DO NO HARM PRINCIPLE

Tensions creators or dividers or capacity for war (one has to minimise)

- Systems and Institutions : not free and fair (Gorkha and Kantipur)
- Attitudes and Actions : variation in attitudes and actions

- Values and differences in interest : variation in interest and values
- Differences of Experiences, and : different identity
- Symbols and occasions : divide people into groups

Connectors or local capacities for peace (one has to maximise)

- **System and Institutions:** Market, infrastructures, communication like BBC, Irrigation, Medical institute, School, temple - Defence studies at Barrack.
- **Attitudes and Actions:** Some of the people are always worried that the war escalated due to them - whom the aid workers have to catch and work with them for maintaining peace and harmony.
- **Shared Values and Interests:** Some of the people share common values - love for children. Red-cross is allowed to go to both sides of conflicting parties. Human rights activist, health workers and food providers are also allowed to work for both sides.
- **Common experiences:** Shared experiences of people - war is bad and harmful. Women's experience on family matters and about their status in society. War victims of both sides can be together and work jointly for peace and harmony.
- **Symbols and occasions:** National arts, music, literatures, monuments, ceremonies and so on.

What capacity of aid/development workers required?

- Aid workers have to look at the connectors and dividers of war seriously;
- Aid workers have to analyse the connectors and dividers of war and help to enhance connectors;
- Aid workers have to recognise supportive and non-supportive people of peace;
- Aid workers have to forward their hands with supportive people of peace and work for changing the mind of non-supportive people for peace process;

3. PRINCIPLE OF IMPARTIALITY

- **Work needs to be impartial from the beginning till the end.**

4. PRINCIPLE OF ACCURACY

- **Be accurate at all times (do not change voice, fact and issues at all time and provide accurate information being a neutral forever)**

Sundar Shanta Bishal
Community Reporters Refresher Training
Training Evaluation

Name:

District:

Partner organization name:

1. Were you involved in any other radio program before joining the SSB?
2. How long have you been working in the field of radio program making?
3. Please, write down three important non technical lessons learnt from the training?
4. Please, write down three important technical lessons learnt from the training?
5. Efforts made internationally and nationally for peace building learnt in the training
6. Name three important lessons learn from F. Rolts session
7. Which part of the training you liked most in this training?
8. What the areas of improvement in the training in future?
9. Name three lessons learnt in the training which can help to improve the working capacity in the FM and community?
10. What are the challenges faced while working as SSB community reporter?
11. How did you find this training
 - (a) Excellent
 - (b) Good
 - (c) Fair
 - (d) Bad
12. which is the most useful lesson in the training
13. which is the weak lesson in the training

**Community Reporters refresher training evaluation analysis
8-13th Sept 2006, Pokhara**

28 evaluation forms were received from the participants. The training participants were asked to write three most important non technical related lessons that they have learned from the training. In this question the participant's response are that they learned KAB in radio program production 75%, similarly 65% about Ethnographic action research and 28% on effective radio program making. The table below shows in detail the lessons learned during the training in non technical sessions.

Table: 1

S.No	Lessons learnt	Out of 28
1.	KAB	17
2.	EAR	21
3.	Interview technique	3
4.	Radio drama	3
5.	Effective Radio program making	9
6.	Feature making	7
7.	Identification of issues & subject matter	5
8.	Change in SSB content	3
9.	Reporting	4

Regarding the three most important lesson learnt in the technical sessions. Out of 28 evaluation forms submitted by the participants 25 learned about cool edit, 16 on noise reduction and 12 on setting sonic stage in computer. The other lesson learnt from the training is in the table no 2

Table: 2

S.No	Lessons learnt	Out of 28
1	About cool edit	25
2	Setting sonic stage se in computer	12
3	Fade in and out	3
4	Use of MD and microphone	6
5	Noise reduction	16
6	Transferring MD data to computer	4

7	Mixing and packaging	4
8	Program installing and delete	4
	Non technical related	3

Out of 28 training participants 22 have learned KA, 9 ethics while making radio program and 7/ 7 on international experiences working in a conflict countries and elements of behavior change. This shows that the session of F. Rolt has been successful in delivering the KAB session.

The challenges that the reporters have faced while working in SSB radio project are:-

- Deleting the recorded voice from MD
- Broadcast time of SSB not appropriate to the community people
- Maintenance of receivers
- Not able to broadcast the voice of rebel in the SSB
- Not able to record interviews of very remote people
- People silent in social problems
- Language difficulty while going in the villages
- Lack of trust by the community people for the media persons
- No identity card
- Due to lack of technical knowledge not able to produce quality radio program
- Unclear role and responsibility of FM and CR reporters
- Lack of local content coverage and broad cast from FM stations
- People immediate expectation while taking interviews
- Lack of feedback for the local radio SSB radio program
- Due to financial constraint not able to record proper voice

Sundar Shanta Bishal (Naya Nepal)

Content Calendar

October 04 to 28, 2006

Episode	Issues	Field Audio	Contributor	Broadcast Date	Remarks
Thirty Seven	Review of contents broadcast on SSB from May 31 to September 30	Different voice clips from different radio formats	Vidya Chapagain Binaya Guragain Upendra Aryal	October 4 Wednesday	
Thirty Eight	Secularism	Field audio from Manigram Lumbini- The birth place of Buddha.	Deewakar Panthee Radio Lumbine	October 7 Saturday	
Thirty Nine	Transition period management- I General strike in everywhere	General strike and its impacts to general public What people have to do to manage transition period	Vijay FM- Nawalparasi GWP- Chitawan	October 11 Wednesday	
Forty	Transition period management-II Dacoits, robbery in rural areas	Case about an impact of robbery in Palpa and community initiatives to control it.	Radio Madanpokhara Palpa	October 14 Saturday	
Forty One	Ceasefire Code of Conduct and its monitoring process	Field audio on how both parties have been following ceasefire Code of Conduct they have signed. Interview with spokesman of Ceasefire Monitoring Committee of Code of Conduct	Radio Bheri Surkhet Central Production Team	October 18 Wednesday	

Forty Two	Transition period management-III Road block and strike after road accident	A radio feature on why did increase number of accident in October? Is this a right time to call the activities like general strike, road block after the road accident? What can be done by transportation workers and general public? Vox pop	FOLD- Kanchanpur Central production team	October 21 Saturday	Planned for BOG-I, however, due to not receive the field audio on time it is fixed
Forty Three	Transition period management-IV Strikes by Trade union organizations in industry zone	How is Biratnagar Jute mill? a radio feature. What is the importance of Trade union to workers? Is this a right time to call the bandh industries demanding different demands etc.? Interview with Trade union leader.	Saptakoshi FM Ithari? GWP- Hetauda Central Team	October 25, Wednesday	Planned for BOG-II, But 8th content advisory suggested synchronizing some related issue so it has done.
Forty Four	Basic Operating Guidelines – I	How people are getting benefited by the support of different NGOs in Banke district- radio feature. What is BOGs and Why did they release? – Interview with Govinda Neupane, program manager DFID, Nepalgunj. Introduction of 14 points BOGs.	GWP and Radio Bheri Aawaj Banke Central team	October 28 Saturday	

Naya Nepal

Content Calendar

November 01 to 29, 2006

Episode	Issues	Field Audio	Contributor	Broadcast Date	Remarks
Forty Five	Basic Operating Guidelines-II	Interview with woman benefited by support of local NGO in Sunsari, Interview with Keshav Dahal central member of NGO Federation Nepal on the theme why support or assistance is necessary for the community? Necessity of International Support in Nepal- an interview with Sangeeta Khadka, UNDP	Saptakoshi FM Itahari Central Team	November 1 Wednesday	No Drama
Forty Six	Interim Constitution	Field voice from Dang. An interview with Laxman Aryal to know how IC etc.	Swargadwari FM Dang and Central team.	November 4 Saturday	Drama
Forty Seven	Reconstruction of physical infrastructure and facilities – I	How is the situation of physical infrastructure in Solukhumbu and Taplejung? Radio feature and vox pop.	Solu FM and Nepal Red Cross Society Taplejung	November 11 Saturday	
Forty Eight	Reconstruction of physical infrastructure and facilities-II	Field audio from Karnali Zone.	Radio Karnali- Kirdarc Jumla.	November 8 Wednesday	Drama
Forty	Injured people during the armed	Monologues of injured people in	GWP Chitwan and	November 15	Recently Maoist

Nine	conflict	Madi Chitwan where Maoist had bombed on a passengers bus one and half year ago.	Vijaya FM- Gaidakot	Wednesday	top leaders had visited there and said that they were positive for providing support.
Fifty	Injured people during the armed conflict	Status of family members of the people who were killed in Kotbada Kaillai by Security Forces before 7 years. Interview with Mohan Mainali who has made the documentary on the same case.	Ktm...Binaya, Bidhya and Upendra	November 18 Saturday	Planned for one day vixit to Jogimara. Drama
Fifty One	Injured people during Janaandolan in April and rehabilitation.	Monologues of injured people from Pokhara	Machhapuchhre FM Pokhara	November 22 Wednesday	As 8th CAG suggested
Fifty Two	Injured people during Janaandolan in April and their Present Condition.	Feature on the injured people of Ktm	Central Team	November 25 Saturday	
Fifty Two	Victims of recent natural disaster and relief	Monologues or radio feature on this.	GWP- Nepalgunj and Radio Bheri Aawaj Banke.	November 29 Wednesday	
Fifty Three	Condition of Rehabilitated IDPs	Monologues or radio feature on already rehabilitated IDPs	Karnali and Solve Dhankura(Eastern Nepal)	December 2 Saturday	



8th Content Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Project:	Sundar Shanta Bishal (<i>Naya Nepal</i>)		
Date:	13 October, 2006, Hotel Summit, Kathmandu		
	Time- 14:00- 17:00 Hours		
In Attendance:	SN	Name	Organization
	01	Mera Thompson	USAID- Nepal
	02	Adam Kaplan	"
	03	Macarena aquilam	UNDP
	04	Lisa Hiller	UNDP
	05	Michael Shipler	SFCG
	06	Madhav Sharma	KIRDARC
	07	Prakash Dahal	NMCC
	08	Rajeev Kunwar	Social Welfare Council
	09	Tripti Gupta	LACC
	10	Jyotshna Shreshtha	CEDPA
	11	Indra Adhikari	NRCS
	12	Indu Tuladhar	UJYALO
	13	Devendra Lal Shreshtha	SSMK
	14	Sudhanshu Dahal	Equal Access
	15	Upendra Aryal	Equal Access
	16	Binaya Guragain	"
	17	Bidya Chapagain	"
Not in Attendance:			
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and Introduction 2. Status of SSB 3. Evolution of Naya (New) Nepal 4. Proposed contents and format of <i>Naya Nepal</i> and issues prioritizing. 5. Discussion on CoC, BOGs, Trade Union, Road Accident, block, strike agitation etc) 6. Listening radio format. 7. Wrap up, Thanks and Snacks. 		
Meeting Details:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and Introduction <p>The 8th Content Advisory Group meeting aimed to review of EA's peacebuilding radio project, as well as to share the new action plans for the radio program with donors and other institutions working in the field.</p> <p>The meeting started at 14:00 hrs in Hotel Summit, Lalitpur. There was a somewhat larger attendance than at the previous meeting. In addition to Michael Shipler, Director youth radio program in Search for Common Ground (SFCG), Devendral Lal Shreshtha from SSMK and the key production team from the project, other participants took part for the first time in the meeting. Mr Upendra Aryal, Content Coordinator Equal Access gave a short welcome speech and led the meeting according as agendas planned for the day. Agendas and discussion are as follows;</p>		

2. Status of SSB

Total 72 episode radio program on conflict transformation and peacebuilding, 30 minutes bi- weekly radio magazine, broadcast from RN/ 23 FM and Aphnai Mato Aphnai Bato satellite channel with the support of USAID

Progress to date

Broadcast commencement: May 31, 06

Broadcast: 36 episodes

Components: Diverse local field audio from 10 different units, drama, journalistic elements, central interview with experts & people in authority, creative interview (with singer, lyricist, vocal artist, poet, film/documentary maker, writer, columnist etc), regular feedback from audience, songs etc.

Collaborative Partner stations in production

10 in different regions produced 15 minutes local content.

Broadcast

Every Wed & Sat over World Space radio

Every Mon 15:30 hrs & Thu at 08:30 hrs over Radio Nepal.

Every Tues & Fri over HBC 94 FM at 18:30 hrs.

24 FM stations out of Kathmandu broadcast on their preferred time

Outreach Partners

Far Western Region - FOLD Kanchanpur

Mid-Western and Central Region – GWP Nepal, Karnali Zone- KIRDARC

Eastern Region – SOLVE Nepal and Nepal Red Cross Society

160 Outreach sites.

Events

Two Stakeholder meetings (February & May) in Kathmandu.

Radio content production training (Basic & Refresher) for 30 community reporters

120 facilitators trained on group facilitation (Basic & Refresher)

Two FM meetings in Kathmandu and Pokhara.

Content Advisory Meeting in each 15 days (till now eight)

Consultation/Collaboration

UJYALO, SAP Nepal/IPJ, HRPLSE, CZOP;

3 Evolution of *Naya Nepal*

After the presentation of the status of Sundar Shanta Bishal peacebuilding radio program Upendra Aryal told to the participants how the name *Naya Nepal* has discovered for this existing radio program. Points of his presentation are as follows;

- ✓ When Sundar Shanta Bisha started getting popular within a short period of broadcasting we received more verbal and written comment demanding that the program had to incorporate some current and broad bigger issues in order that it could play vital role in peace building process in nation. Even each participant in every CAG meeting suggested to incorporate new and ongoing issues related conflict mitigation and sustainable peace. We were also thinking of incorporating new and broad bigger issues such as Constituent Assembly, Arms Management, Code of Conduct, Basic Operating Guidelines etc soon after the first phase of the project is over. Then we decided to share our plan in FM managers meeting and our community reporters in Pokhara. They agreed with us and we formally reached to the conclusion to change our existing peacebuilding radio program Sundar Shanta Bishal's name to *Naya Nepal*.
- ✓ In Sundar Shanta Bisha we mostly covered the root causes of conflict because armed conflict is known as a result of misdealing with its root causes. For example, in Nepal many people are landless, government has been saying that it has been doing best for the land reform program however, there was no result we can see significant change in land reform program. So hundreds of landless people joined in rebellion group. So, SSB in its first half of broadcast incorporated issues like agriculture, porter, inequality between male and female, unequal

distribution of resources, unemployment etc and we have developed more than five special radio packages related to women.

- ✓ *Naya Nepal* would incorporate new national agendas or Pathways to Peace issues. Some area of issues what could be covering in it has been indemnified in Content Refresher Training that was held in Pokhara from 8th to 13th of September 2006.
- ✓ And finally we started announcing to this radio magazine *Naya Nepal* from its 37 episode.

Discussion

Indra Adhikari from the Nepal Red Cross Society said that the name *Naya Nepal* was relevant and timely. And other participants supported his thoughts.

4. Proposed contents and format of *Naya Nepal* and issues prioritizing.

When the reviewing of SSB was over, Upendra presented some proposed contents for *Naya Nepal*. He asked participants for the listing out some prioritized issues for coming 10 episodes. He also clarified about change program format. Proposed content are as follows;

- ✓ Secularism
- ✓ Role of public during transition
- ✓ Code of Conduct
- ✓ Basic Operating Guidelines
- ✓ Trade Union
- ✓ Road accident and role of transport worker and civilian
- ✓ Interim Constitution
- ✓ Reconstruction of physical infrastructure & facilities
- ✓ International humanitarian law
- ✓ Injured people in armed conflict period
- ✓ Injured people in Janaandolan - II
- ✓ Natural disaster and relief
- ✓ Issues of Karnali Zone
- ✓ Constituent Assembly
- ✓ Referendum
- ✓ Indigenous people
- ✓ Ethnicity
- ✓ Decentralization
- ✓ Resource mobilization
- ✓ Right of information
- ✓ Citizenship in mother's name
- ✓ Citizenship for Terai people
- ✓ Remittance and its effective use
- ✓ Equal Right for all
- ✓ Status of missing citizens
- ✓ Good governance
- ✓ Corruption
- ✓ Service delivery in effective manner
- ✓ IDPs rehabilitation
- ✓ Land reform program
- ✓ Health, education, tourism, Community forest etc,
- ✓ Arms management
- ✓ Interim government
- ✓ Election of constituent assembly etc;

Discussion

At first Mera Thompson from USAID raised a question that she wanted to know the relation of conflict mitigation or peacebuilding with Road accident, Trade union, disaster management and relief. Others also gave their support in her favor. Bishnu Rimal vice president of one of the noted trade union group named GFONT also questioned to the production team what messages the issue trade union would identified and why. Indu Tuladhar from Save the Children US- UJYALO project also asked to clarify the relation between conflict mitigation and peacebuilding.

After that, Binaya Guragain said that they were all proposed contents for *Naya Nepal* so the production team would like to collect the inputs and the CAG could prioritize what issues are more relevant in addressing through radio program in order that the program could achieve what it want to get achieved. Binaya asked to participants to give their inputs on whether the proposed content is timely enough or not to incorporate in radio program. Then, participants suggested producing some radio programs under the theme of *transition management*. The theme of *transition management* is broad so it could be broken into many sub-themes like *roadblocks, agitations, demonstration of transport workers, factory closed by trade union etc.* Then it would easier to disseminate messages.

With regards to the issue of *Disaster Management and Relief*, a representative from UNDP, Macarena clarified that the issue seemed not to be related with conflict mitigation and peacebuilding process directly, however, the issues relate to International Humanitarian Law (IHL). She said that it could be related with peacebuilding and conflict mitigation process, for instant during the flood in Western Nepal in August, how Security personnel and rebellions were working together to provide their support to the victims could be an issue for the program.

We also connected this to the *Basic Operating Guidelines* (BOGs) because the principle of the BOGs says we all have to allow providing humanitarian assistance to the people who are helpless and not involved in conflict. Incorporating this in a radio program could help to build up trust between Maoist and local people and Maoist and Government security forces and it could be helpful to seek the way for sustainable peace in the nation. So a radio program could encourage doing this in any other place throughout the nation. Indra Adhikari from Nepal Red Cross Society supported Macarena's thought. Then floor prioritized some issues for coming ten episodes. They are as follows,

- ✓ Interim constitution
- ✓ Reconstruction of infrastructure
- ✓ Injured people during the armed conflict.
- ✓ Injured during the JanaAandolan II
- ✓ Natural disaster and relief
- ✓ Status of Missing People
- ✓ Condition of Rehabilitated people
- ✓ Constituent Assembly
- ✓ Inclusion : under this theme;
 - Issues of Karanali Zone
 - Citizenships for Terai's People
 - Indigenous people and ethnicity

In addition to that, participants suggested to program production team to incorporate some others issues like;

- peace accord;
- social inclusion;
- example of conflict mediation in local level;
- discriminations; and
- the roles of ngos in delivering their services in effective way etc.

4. Code of Conduct and Basic Operation Guidelines

During the discussion under "Proposed contents and format of *Naya Nepal* and issues prioritizing", Indu Tuladhar from Save the Children US, UJYALO project urged to focus the discussion towards Constituent Assembly. She said because this was a good time to start discussion in this regards rather than paying more attention for Code of Conduct and BOGs. Binaya clarified that they were both already fixed issues for the broadcast and the program team had to tell their reporter to send field audio before Tihar vacation starts.

Then representative from National Monitoring Committee of Ceasefire (NMCC) gave his short speech about Code of Conduct. They are as follows;

- ✓ NMCC was very much interested in for the collaboration with Equal Access on program production part in this subject. They were very positive with an attempt what had done previously in assistance of USAID for the collaboration.

- ✓ If we collaborated for program production it needs to meet some formal process and NMCC has full right to check out the content and script before broadcasting.
- ✓ In regards to following 25 points Code of Conduct (CoC) both parties are saying that they were very much sincere, however, there are many cases are filing in NMCC stating that both are not sincere as what they are saying publicly.
- ✓ It would better be incorporating positive case stories instead of reporting negative cases.
- ✓ Still most of the people in remoter area need to know what CoC is and what they would do for it.
- ✓ If you need any kinds of information you could visit our office at Babarmahal as well as get connected at www.nmcc.org.np.org

When his presentation about Code of Conduct was over, Macarena from UNDP told some important points regarding Basic Operating Guidelines. They are drawn up below;

- ✓ United Nation and associated agencies as well as other bilateral donor agencies have signed in Basic Operating Guidelines. They have seems to be separated, however, they have prepared on the basis of international humanitarian, human rights, refugee law and other conventions and resolutions adopted by the member states of United Nations.
- ✓ United Nations Nepal has prepared 9 points Basic Operating Guidelines for use by UN Agency staff and associated personnel in Nepal. They derive directly from the general principles and, consequently, are based on the same internationally recognized laws conventions and resolutions.
- ✓ United Nations Agencies are mandated to provide development and humanitarian assistance in time of peace and international as well as non-international armed conflict to civilian populations including but not limited to such vulnerable groups as women, children, the elderly, physically or mentally disabled people, persons living with HIV/AIDS, internally displaced persons, refugee plus persons otherwise socially or economically disadvantaged or excluded.
- ✓ Under the UN Agencies guiding principles and Basic Operating Guidelines, UN Agencies are to conduct their work in conformity with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, accountability and transparency, and in manner that respects, preserves and promotes the dignity and humanity of the people they seek to assist.
- ✓ Since 1996, Nepal has suffered from a Maoist insurgency creating a conflict situation with a tendency to becoming more violent. In view of the resumption of armed hostilities and the break-down of the ceasefire on 27 August 2003, the European Commission together with other bilateral donor agencies adopted a set of **Basic Operating Guidelines (BOGs)** to emphasize the importance and responsibility of all parties to the conflict to **maintain development space and provide access to beneficiaries in Nepal**. The BOGs rely strongly on internationally recognized Humanitarian Law principles and reflect the specific conflict situation in Nepal.
- ✓ There are 14 points Basic Operating Guidelines which have signed by different bilateral donor agencies including European Commission, DFID and GTZ etc.

5. Listening radio format.

We used to listen an entire program in the Content Advisory but in this meeting we played each formats of program including signature music, bridge or bed music, promo and other segments like radio feature, creative interview, tea shop drama etc. The feature we had chosen was on the theme of how the local community in Bandi Pokhara VDC of Palpa district was leading the action to control over the regular thefts or dacoits without getting support from security forces.

Soon after listening was over, Indra Adhikari from Nepal Red Cross Society said that the reporter had to be clear on what they would like to say through program.

After that Upendra Aryal said something about creative interview and short part of creative interview had been played. It was with Bhairav Rishal a senior journalist in Nepal working in development communication field since more than two decades ago. He is leading an ambitious solar energy project for the people in Humla, one of the remote district at Karnali zone.

6. Wrap up, Thanks and Snacks.

It was a bigger CAG meeting than previous. Some of participants were taking part for the first time however, they were all happy on getting to participate in the meeting. They gave valuable and timely

	inputs and suggestions for the program. To conclude, Upendra Aryal, on behalf of Equal Access gave many thanks to all and then the meeting was over. After, participants were asked to join in a tea and snacks session.

LISTENERS LETTERS RESPONSE CATAGORIZATION

1. Listeners Club
2. Response to the program
 - Positive
 - Suggestions
 1. Narration
 2. Drama
 3. Language
 4. Time
3. Impact of radio program (after listening to the radio program, if any actions or changes done by an individual or group in the community or oneself)
4. Rights Awareness
 1. Child
 2. Women right
 3. Land right
 4. Right to information
 5. Others
5. Technical (any information related to radio function, listening channel, power or electricity)
 1. Broadcast time
 2. Radio function
 3. Power supply
 4. Quality of broadcast
 5. Other
6. Effects of conflict (victim of conflict, any positive or negative influence of conflict and related to conflict)
 1. Positive
 2. Negative
7. Information sharing (group discussion after listening to the program or transferring the message heard in the program)
8. Awareness rising
9. Liked to hear radio program on suggestions
10. Other comments about the radio program

Group discussion to eliminate the superstition in rural areas

“I have a *dalit* (*untouchable* cast in Hindu religion) friend. I frequently invite her at my home, dine and sleep together. We were intimate friends. I have heard so many things about caste discrimination from different radio programs. I was informed by a *Sunar* (a *dalit* cast) women from Dhankuta that in the ***Sundar Shanta Bishal Radio Program*** also raised the issues of *dalit*. Even though I do not discriminate her in any sense, she has not changed. I feel that she feels humiliated thinking that she belongs to a member of untouchable caste and inferior to other people. My mother and father loves her and do not show any kind of reservation regarding the cast. But I am in dilemma and not able to convince her that no man is superior and inferior simply because of caste. I wish there would be radio program even about these issues.”

This is the statement made by Anju Rana from Padampokhari VDC Ward no. 5, Milan Chouk, Makawanpur(a village development committee of Nepal) . Anju writes that she has shared this story to all her friends as well. It is not only Anju but everyone whoever listens to this radio program do express, by heart, their opinion. They meet once in a month and discuss such matters.

In Padampokhari VDC, the Tamang (an ethnic caste)community is in majority, so there is less racial discrimination. But it does not mean not at all. Anupa Pudasaini, chairperson of the group, has the experience that when they began to work in a group, and listen to the radio together then, slowly and gradually such concept of discrimination is getting reduced. After she heard a radio play on “witch” from radio program *Sundar Shanta Bishal*, she is anxious about how to sway the people who have accused a woman of witchcraft in her own village. She has discussed this problem in their meeting.

“The other members of the group, Juna, Manju, Lalumaya and Urmila conceived a new idea to solve Anupa’s problem. According to their plan, they agreed to know, at first, why the woman was blamed as witch, and then to sway all the family members and the society that the witch will not exist at all, it is simply a superstition. If it was not solved even after that, they decided to write to the radio program for its solution. Everyone agreed to this final plan, and Anju and Urmila were charged for the same.”

Still, they are not happy with some of the programs broadcast on radio. Sunita Thing, one of the members of the group, is of the opinion that such program sounds like political one. “She feels that the terms such as constituent assembly, interim constitution, inclusive democracy etc. used in the radio program might be the political ones.” Rekha and Rina do not like the over repetition of Lahure’s Tea-Shop in the program. Similarly, sometimes they fail to understand language of the radio hosts because of their speed. This radio program is very popular among people, so, they often tune in to Hetauda FM, Kalika FM, and Birgunj FM except the satellite radio in order to listen to this program. They have equally regarded the technical aspect of the radio. Anju, the facilitator, says that they contact the General Welfare Center time to time and check her radio regularly .In the end of the discussion, they expressed happiness for being together with the group from Equal Access and for listening to them; they thanked the team saying that this sort of discussion should be held regularly.

We, and the Conflict

I was suddenly frightened to death at night, on 24th Magh, 2062 (6 Feb., 2005). I woke up with the sound of firings Bang! Bang! Bang! I had not checked my watch by then. There was a big sound “Bang”, which made me completely awake. I slowly checked my wrist watch, it was 11:50 pm, and opened the window. Again, there began firings, then I thought it was crossfire. I looked on my watch, it was exactly 11:57pm. After that, there was continuous sound of firings...Bang! Bang! Bang!.....

I heard great hue and cry after sometime. Everyone started shouting in the house. Someone was saying “It’s crossfire.” I heard people shouting across the village. I doubted it as crossfire and began to record on my own. It turned worse still around midnight. Telephone started ringing. I picked up the receiver at sixes and sevens. It was my friend who had dialed to know about the incident. He also speculated to have been crossfire.

The spot of the battle was about 600 mts. away from my house. The whole night, we heard sound of bomb and firings, and people screaming in terror. My parents and my brothers and sisters were too scared, so I called them in my room without switching the light on. There was silence for a while and again firing began. This time we thought our house was blown away by the blast. I sensed that the bullet passing by my ears. It went bright for sometime like that of sun shine, perhaps it was the Very light. I slowly open the window pane a little wider. It has been about an hour, but the firing and the bombing are increasing rather than decreasing. I think now it will come down. I hear no dog barking, may be they are also scared. I cannot sleep. I just get up and sit down in darkness. Wherever I turn I feel firing. The cassette player has already stopped when I remembered that I had put a blank cassette for recording.

Perhaps half an hour later, some people come making noise and switching the street lights off. Now we are more scared. I thought they were the people who were firing and bombing thirty minutes earlier. The night passes in course of thinking this event. We are confused when to go out or not at the dawn. Around 5 am we hear again the sound of firing and bombing. Again, we switch the light off and sit together in a room. Everywhere, we hear, firing and bombing.....We feel that we will not survive. But luckily it stops after about 15 minutes. We make a guess of great loss of life and property.

In the morning, it was already 7 am I made phone calls but everyone said that they had not known the details about the incident. I disconnected my telephone as I was fed off answering the phone calls about the incident. My guess turned out to be correct when I telephoned near the Pashupatinagar police post, where the Maoists rebels had attacked at night. There had been massive attack in other places as well but there was no any information about casualties so far. It was conformed that a Maoist commander was killed in the crossfire, but the security personnel did not allow anybody to visit the site.

This is, written unwillingly, only a simple memoir. Actually many such memoirs which could be more exciting and moving to read and to hear came into the mind of inhabitants of Hetauda that night. Perhaps they remained awake the whole night. In fact, why are we so shocked today? Why could not we realize the agony of Rukum and Rolpa on time?

Although Makawanpur was conflict-stricken district, there had not been any such deadly battle between rebels and security forces. In fact, even the senior army officer to the powerful Maoists leader has been killed in the district. Eventhough , direct effect of conflict was not felt there. People had belief that both the rebels and security forces were not aggressive to each other in the district.

We could never try to understand the impact of Phaparbari incident. Such inhuman and deadly incident could not move even Hetauda which is only 50 meters away from Phaparbari, let alone the capital city Kathmandu. The news paper gave plenty of space for the clash which occurred in the second week of Magh between rebels and the security forces. But it could not touch the urban people. This event became only the subject of gossiping over tea and people made number of speculations in vain. Nobody understood the effect of war though a baby of 4 years old to man of 75 years was being killed day by day. Nobody understood the sufferings of a woman who had to leave her newly born baby of 8 hours old to save her life. It seems as though the city dwellers were not affected by the war.

Actually what is left unaffected by the war? The event of 24th Magh night not only disturbed sleep of people but also became a dreadful experience which people kept on telling whoever they encountered for a week. It was not as horrible as that of Phaparbari's one but why people were so desperate in Hetauda as if it had had happened only there of all places.

Its human nature that he thinks he is alright until and unless his own parents and relatives are in trouble. The city dwellers who are scared even with the sound of firings are not intensely interested to restore peace why? It is simple that they do not have to experience the horrors of war. They have not seen yet their relatives being shot in front of them, and they have not faced the bullets and grenades falling on them.

The government that scared with a minor incident of Thankot does not look for solution of conflict in Rukum and Rolpa. Why? Why it undermines the rebels while clash taking place in Rukum and Rolpa, and the city dwellers cry saying they want no more wars! Why was Kathmandu silent till now? Answer to all these questions is the huge gap that exists between rural and the urban life. Because Hetauda was never shocked by the incident of Phaparbari and Kathmandu was never traumatized by the horrors of wars in Rukum and Rolpa. So the problem is that, as long as the city dwellers are not directly affected by the war, the conflict in Nepal will never end.

Reported by : Jeeban Sharma
SSB field trainer
Hetauda

Translated Listeners Response

To,
The Manager
Equal Access Nepal
Pulchowk, Lalitpur
Nepal

Subject: Reports on the Satellite Radio

Dear Sir,

It's my pleasure to write that I have been listening to the satellite radio program from sixth to the eighteen episodes regularly since 2063-03-03, Saturday. However, the tower is not clear of this transmission. We can not listen to this program, *Shunder Shanta Bishal* at loud volume. We get clear tower at low volume but when we increase the volume transmission is obstructed. The transmission can be heard loud in other frequencies. [The Equal Access radio programs can be heard four hours per day at Afnai Mato Afnai Bato satellite channel.](#) Similarly, radio program *Shundar Shanta Bishal* can be heard every Wednesday and Saturday at 7:30 to 8:00 in the morning, 12:30 to 1:00 at day and 5:30 to 6:00 in the evening. I often listen to all these programs regularly. I am impressed with the program because almost all the programs are about the pathetic story of the conflict-stricken people, and also about the possible management of their security. I heard the program on the theme how the children can be saved from landmines and scattered socket bombs left by the rebels and security forces after the clash. The patriotic songs, embedded with aspirations of stable peace, composed as result of conflict were really heartbreaking. This radio program *Shundar Shanta Bishal* has contributed a lot for the stable peace in country. Through this program or national songs or radio play, *Shundar Shanta Bishal* has made its aspiration for the stable peace audible at every nook and corners of Nepal. In fact, this radio program has given more priority to women and presented various programs on them. As far as the issue of women is concerned, the parliament has recently declared 33% of seats to be reserved to promote equal status of men and women in every sector of state. Now a son or daughter can receive citizenship from the name of mother, according to the new provision in law.

The songs wishing for the stable peace we often hear in this program. For example, the song "*Phoolko ankhanma phoolai Sansara, Kandanda ko Ankhanma kandai Sansara....*" By Aanii Chhoyung in fact embodies the deep sentiment of people for the peace. "It is not only a song but also a morning pray" Aanii said. "This song is, for her, a medium to express our wishes for a good day that May the almighty fulfill our wishes, let there be peace and nobody has to suffer" This song wishes for the peace as that of Lord Gautam Buddha desires. She emphasized that the women should be active in various walks of life such as music, politics etc. including household chores.

The pathetic story of a woman who lost her husband in the armed conflict rocks everyone's heart. The program highlights this issue and wishes no one in Nepal had to live in the agony like that of the woman. Majority of the women pray to God fasting for speedy recovery and longevity of their husbands. But the God is indifferent; they are

destined to live alone in memory of their husbands. Such widows, from Nepalgunj, who lost their husband in the armed conflict, are earning their livelihood by sewing clothes under the support of various organizations. Maushami Malla, one of the famous Nepali heroines, who divorced her husband following their misunderstandings, is also a single woman. Actually she is one of the first women to voice that a child should receive citizenship from mother as well. The single women in the society, who are widows, are bound to suffer a lot. They are blamed of witchcraft; they can become easy victim of adultery and are morally more vulnerable in society. Moreover, their appearance in the holy rituals is considered as sign of bad omen. Thus, this program has vividly presented the picture of how the single women (widows) are badly mistreated and suppressed in our society, and it has also encouraged them to face this injustice by discarding white clothes and working together with men in red clothes.

The youths have been leaving for foreign countries to find job due to unemployment and poverty. Some of them leave the job of low payment in Nepal and fly to abroad to earn more money. We wish no youths had to leave own country just for earning. We ought to work in our own country. The youths ought to lead the country in the path of peace, progress and prosperity to construct a new Nepal. The discussio“Want for New Nepal, Wish for Peace” and “Role and Judgment of Youths in the Decision making Process” has n program under the topics desperately appealed the aspiration for the peace which Nepalese could not have experienced for ten years.

Like the statement “One who can – Do!” Everywhere there is opportunity for those who worship his/her own work. Nagendra Sigdel, an inhabitant of Sundarpur V.D.C., Morang can be an exemplary to other Nepali youths who think of going abroad to earn money. Mr. Sigdel opened a poultry farm selling his only buffalo and now he is happily living with his family.

The radio program run by **Equal Access** has explored the society and exposed the deeply rooted evil practice of untouchability and slavery system. Although this democratic government has ruled out the practice of untouchability it is not in effect practically yet. To dine together with so called *Dalit* might be inconvenient for the people of old generation but the young generation does not mind it, which is the positive indication. In totality, this radio program ***Shundar Shanta Bishal*** which presents varieties of programs related to social, cultural, political and also of health sectors through songs, radio play etc is really praiseworthy. For example, radio play on the issue of HIV and Aids, rights of women; aspirations of stable peace through songs are really impressive. So, this radio program is very good to the listeners. As the advisory member of Yanglijung Women Peasants Group (Yanglijung Women Radio Listeners Group) I would like to wish for the ever success of the *Shundar Shanta Bishal* radio program supported by Equal Access Nepal.

Thank you.

Arjun Karki
Advisory Member
Of
Yanglijung Women Radio Listeners’ Group

Phungling-3, Yanglijung
Taplejung.

Sundar Shanta Bishal -: Local content reporting

After the successful completion of the training program of *Shundar Shanta Bishal* at Gaindakot we returned to Palpa and involved in the democratic movement. A few months later, we went to interview the representatives of, for the preparation of the central edition, Palpa Community Based Radio, District Education Office Palpa and Women Development Center Palpa to analyze the strength and weakness of their support provided to the handicapped people in the district. Among the interviewees, Tilakram Ghimire, of Madan Pokhara FM, was inquired about the program launched by his organization to support the disabled people. Then, we asked Chamelidevi Shrestha, executive director of Women Development Center about how many identity cards they distributed to the handicapped people and their present situation is in the district. She informed that there are about 1200 handicapped people in Palpa at the present. Thus, we collected these materials and sent to the central office after necessary editing. Then, we engaged in preparation of the calendar for the local edition. After we prepared the calendar, we planned that Jeeban Sharma of Equal Access will arrive Palpa on 3rd of Ashar and make a program discussing with the members of C.M.C. We all got into the work. We also expressed our commitment to discuss Cag Group and to report about that. According to our plan, we met Gunakar Aryal, the station manager and Rajes Kumar Aryal, the Station in Charge and we formed a Cag Group after a short discussion. The Cag Group includes-

Station Manager	Gunakar aryal
Station- in- Charge	Rajesh Kumar Aryal
Coordinator C.M.C. Tansen	Maheshratna Shakya
Representative of Civil Society and Human rights	Bashudev Aryal
Female Representative	Durga Bhandary
Representative from Children	Rudra Mashrangi

First Edition

According to the calendar of local edition of the radio program *Sunder Shanta Bishal* the first edition of the program was decided to be presented on 9th Ashar 2063. "*What is conflict?*" was the first subject for this edition. So, we got ready to make a radio program on the effect of ten year-long conflict and the effort made for the peace in Palpa. For that we planned to interview the chairman of the Consumers Committee/Users group regarding 35 km. long Randi-Rampur motor able road which was left incomplete due to the conflict in Palpa; but we could not meet the chairman, therefore, we talked to Mr. Ananta Silwal, a member of the committee. According to him, the budget of Rs.70,00,000.00 (seventy lakhs rupees) had been allocated then for the road construction but when Maoists interrupted the construction the budget was withdrawn to the fund. The Consumers Committee tried its best not to let it go but in vain. The fruits and vegetables produced in this area could not get proper market for lack of the motor able road, which has badly stricken the farmers. Similarly, many people are living hard life there because of the same cause. After that, I went to the office of V.D.C. and talked to Amrit Shrestha, civil engineer of the V.D.C. about the budget. Mr. Shrestha said the budget of Rs.40,

00,000.00 allocated for V.D.C. has been withheld and now it is only Rs.3, 00,000.00 has been released for the V.D.C.

We prepared a report on the basis of that information. For public opinion, we attended a program in Tansen and asked the public “What kind of role for the restoration of stable peace should be at the present?” Majority of the public opined that the public have done a lot from their side and now it’s turn of the political leaders to act according to the sentiment of Peoples’ Movement-2 and hold the election of Constituent Assembly without a delay. This first edition also included interview of Mr. Subodhraj Pyakurel, president of Informal Service Sector (INSEC). Answering our question, he said it is necessary to analyze conflict from four angles on the basis of its both positive and negative influences. The program, at the end of the day, informed the listeners about what role they can play for the peace process at the local level, and also how to see the conflict in the new context.

Second Edition

The Second Edition was prepared on the changed new circumstance and form of the conflict. We decided to make a report on any theme of conflict - stricken area. We picked up an incident of Magh- 18, on that night Maoists rebels had devastated the Tansen Durbar. We chose “Reconstruction of Tansen Durbar” as subject of our program and went to talk to Mr. Rambahadur Raut, president of Tansen Reconstruction Committee. We questioned him of the future structure of Tansen Durbar. He looked optimistic and said that devastation of Tansen Durbar should be taken as an opportunity and it ought to be reconstructed in modern way. Along with it we included the previously taken interview of two shopkeepers who had lost their stalls during the attack, and made a report. Similarly, to know public opinion about the ten- year- long conflict and life of a Nepalese, we included views of eleven people in the report. Then, I interviewed, Mr. Jhapendra Bahadur G.C., the chairman of D.D.C. Palpa about the problem in Palpa created by the ten-year long conflict and the works that can be launched to solve it. According to him, the conflict can be of both positive and negative, and further he argued that Maoists’ Peoples' War has brought a solution to the existing problems rather than a problem in itself. Thus, using these materials we prepared the second edition and transmitted on 16th Ashar, 2063, at quarter to 9 am. At the end of this radio program, the listeners came to know some analytical pictures of the effect of the ten-year long conflict and also the possible solutions.

Third Edition

As the theme of our report in the third edition, we took how the local community has taken the changed/ transitional state and the new form of conflict, and what they in fact want to happen now. We selected Aryabhanjyang Bajar, as a field for that, located about 15 km north to Tansen, headquarter of Palpa. It is the market where people from around three dozen V.D.C. of eastern Palpa sell their agricultural products. After we reached there, we talked to Mr. Mohan Thapa, Naresh Shrestha and other workers of hotel. They said it was really an important trade center especially for the agricultural products of the area but the ten year-long conflict heavily affected it. However, the business and crowd of people in the market and bus station is slowly getting better. Similarly, we gathered the public opinion of 11 locals from Bhairabsthan and Aryabhanjyang about what the rural

people are doing at the moment of change. Most of the people said that they are feeling relief after the cease-fire. But, some of them did not like to express their views. To know about the pressure on the locals to join rally, mass gathering against their will, we talked to Mr. Nurraj Bashyal, a political analyst of the district. He opined that it is quite natural to hold mass rally and gathering at this transitional period but unnecessary pressure on the public against their will is not good, which the Maoists do sometimes. He added that the mass gatherings being organized now are for Constituent Assembly so that people can understand about it. Thus, we made third episode and transmitted it on 23rd Ashar, 2063. After listening to this radio program, the listeners came to know the daily life of locals at the moment of change in the political scenario.

Fourth Edition

For the fourth edition we made program on the theme of Rights and Awareness. For this we targeted the people who remain silent even after their human rights are severely violated. We were moved by the story of Geeta Thadrai, from Mashyamaugaun V.D.C. Palpa, who was raped and made pregnant. She told nobody about the incident, she just gave birth to a baby and buried killing it with her own hands. She reported herself and was arrested. I went to meet her at the police station but the D.S.P. did not allow me to see her. So we made a report on it including the interview of the girl previously taken by my friend, Rajesh. Then we collected public opinion under the question “What is right?” Most of them said that right is the innate need of human beings. Likewise we included the talk with Mr. Subodhraj Pyakurel, president of Informal Service Sector (INSEC). The talk included what types of rights should be guaranteed for the long-term peace and stability in the country. Then we broadcast the program on 30th Ashad, 2063, at quarter to 9 am through which the listeners came to know their human rights as well as they got encouraged to fight against the case of human rights violation.

Fifth Edition

For the fifth edition we decided to set program under the theme of **Ceasefire and Peace Talk** including the condition of rural life after the ceasefire. We went to Kushumkhola V.D.C. located 15 km west to Palpa district to interview some intellectuals of the area. Among them were the ex-chairman of the V.D.C., Madhav Acharya, Mr. Bedimadhav Acharya, chairman of Bhawani H.S. School Management Committee, Mr. Dhanlal Acharya, chief of the sub-health post, Mr. Jitbahadur Saru, an intellectual of the V.D.C., and a 75 years old local man, Mr. Govinda Sharu. We talked to them about the then situation and the present situation of the V.D.C. According to them, there has not been great change but the locals are taking the breath of relief at present. And they are very much assured for the stable peace. Similarly, we had asked other 15 local people to give suggestion to the ruling seven party alliances and the Maoists for the success of the peace talk. Majority of them said that the leaders should make a firm decision as soon as possible on behalf of people and not to linger in the name of talk/summit talk. Meanwhile, we had telephone interview with Mr. Shanker Pokhrel, central member of CPNUML about the codes that should be followed by the both parties for stable peace. In the interview, he emphasized that the 25-point codes of conduct made by both parties should be followed honestly. In this way, this program was transmitted on 5th Shrawan,

2063. This program has in fact tried to explore the hopes of the public during the war and the possibility emerged after the war as well.

Note: We are sorry to say that we are not able to involve Community Multi-communication Center (CMC) as the members of this club did not have audio recorder to make program for the local edition produced by Community Radio Madanpokhara, Palpa, though they had helped a lot in making of it .We are grateful for their help.

Sagar Ghimire
Community Reporter (SSB)
Community Radio Madanpokhara