

Newsletter

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Enhancing Citizens' Participation in Sub-National Good Governance

(Local and Provincial Level) in the Context of the
New Federal System in Nepal



'Enhancing Citizens' Participation in Sub-National Good Governance (Local and Provincial Level) in the Context of the New Federal System in Nepal' is a four-year European Commission funded governance project implemented in three districts of Karnali province by a consortium of five organizations. Sahakarmi Samaj (SS) from Kohalpur, Banke is the lead of this consortium project and also the key implementer of the project in Kalikot and Jajarkot districts. Dalit Development Society (DDS) has a key role to implement the project in Salyan district. Center for Dalit Women Nepal (CDWN) has a role to implement the local government capacity building activities in-terms of inclusive planning, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)/gender responsive planning and budgeting, and supporting local government to develop GESI friendly planning, implementing and monitoring guidelines. IM Swedish Development Partner (IM) plays the roles of providing technical support and capacity building to the consortium members on human rights-based approach, GESI and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming, environment mainstreaming and thematic technical support on agriculture and education areas. Tdh have a role to provide technical support and capacity building to the consortium members on WaSH, health and youth related thematic after areas, and Tdh is also the lead in implementing ICT solutions for good governance. In addition, IM and Tdh contributes the project with five per cent co-finance from each of the organizations.

Sahakarmi Samaj

Consortium Coordinator

The lead of this consortium project and a key implementer in Kalikot and Jajarkot districts.

Address : Kohalpur Municipality - 10, Banke
Phone : +977-81-540099/54099
Web : sahakarmi.org.np
Contact : info.kohalpur@sahakarmi.org.np

Center for Dalit Women Nepal

Project co-lead

Local government capacity building activities focusing GESI and Gender responsive planning, budgeting and implementation.

Address : New Baneshwor-10, Kathmandu
Phone : +977-01-4786420
Web : cdwn.org
Contact : info@cdwn.org

Dalit Development Society

Project co-lead

Key role to implement the project in Salyan district.

Address : Sharada Municipality-4 Salyan
Phone : +977-088-520051/520377
Web : ddssalyan.org.np
Contact : ddssalyan@gmail.com

IM Swedish Development Partner

Project co-lead

Provides technical support and capacity building to the consortium members on human rights based approach, GESI, conflict sensitivity and environment mainstreaming with thematic technical support on agriculture and education. IM also provides 5% co-funding.

Address : Bakhundole, Lalitpur
Phone : +977-01-5551419
Web : imsweden.org
Contact : +977-1-555141

Terre des hommes

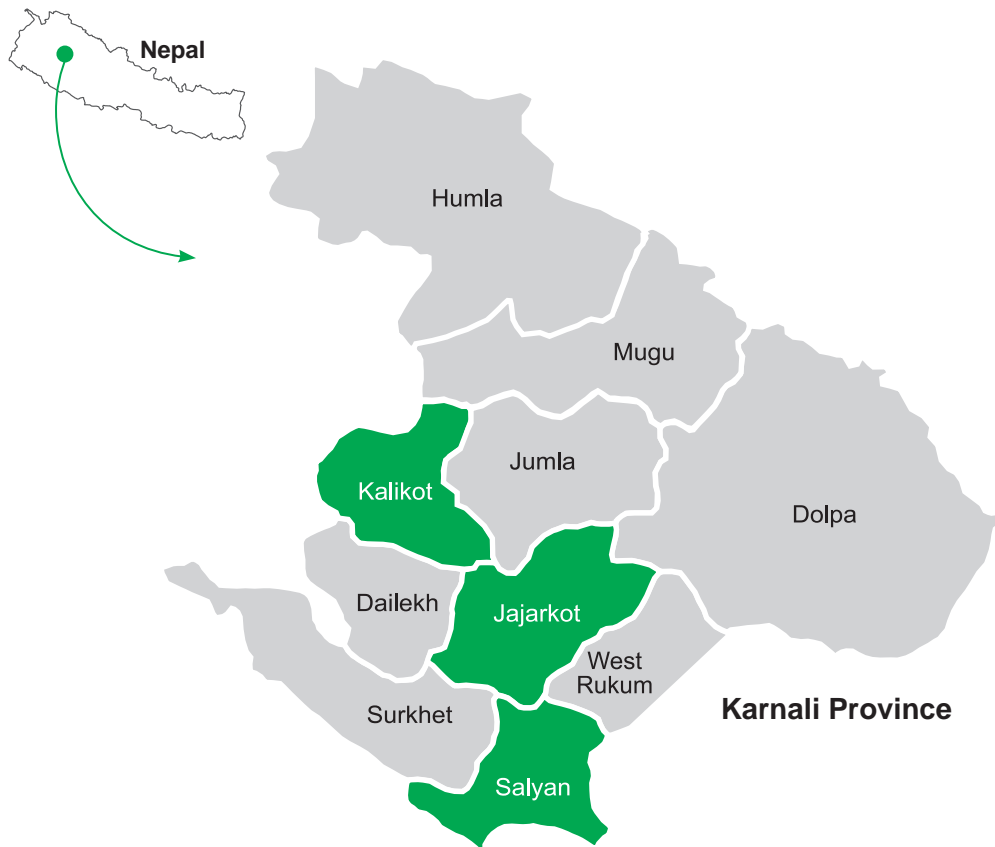
Project co-lead

Provides technical support and capacity building to the consortium members on Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WaSH), health, youth engagement and M&E. Tdh also provides 5% co-funding.

Address : Bluebird/Bluestar Complex, Kathmandu
Phone : +977-01-4100622
Web : tdh.ch/en/our-interventions/nepal
Contact : +977-1-4100622

The Project

Enhancing Citizens' Participation in Sub-National Good Governance (Local and Provincial Level) in the Context of the New Federal System in Nepal



Working in **12** Palikas of **3** districts
of Karnali Province

- Kalikot** : Khadachakra, Narharinath and Sanni Triveni Palikas
- Jajarkot** : Bheri, Shivalaya, Junichande and Chhedgad Palikas
- Salyan** : Siddha Kumakh, Kapurkot, Triveni, Kalimati and Darma Palikas

Adaptability during coronavirus crisis



Project staff visiting community for COVID-19 awareness and mask distribution in coordination with Palika government at Narharinath Gaunpalika.

Community awareness and mobilization on Covid-19 crisis

Sahakarmi Samaj (SS) and Dalit Development Society (DDS) started raising awareness on coronavirus pandemic and safety measures to avoid transmission to the communities since 24th March, the announcement of country wide lockdown by the government. Community Facilitators of SS and DDS are in the regular contact with community group members through phone and home visits and disseminating the information regarding the safety measures and data collection on people's entry into the villages after lockdown, status of quarantines and data of returnee migrant worker and status of livelihood status of poor communities. They collected the data of the poor, vulnerable and needy family and shared with the local government for food relief support. Further, community groups and youth leader and mobilized to spread awareness and to ensure the transparent relief distribution by Palikas. In addition, community groups are also informed about the local government services through phone and home visit. As a result, majority of the community group members have accessed agricultural seeds from the Palikas in this lockdown period.

Community Facilitators call 10-15 members of a group per day in order to sensitize and counsel them on the importance of quarantine, maintaining physical distancing, isolation and hygiene and sanitation practices to prevent the Coronavirus transmission



3067



543 2524

FROM

12

PALIKAS OF

3

**working districts
Kalikot, Jajarkot and
Salyan informed about
preventive measures**



DDS team orienting planning process at Darma Gaunpalika

Partners use telephonic education method to orient on the local governments' planning process

Present Coronavirus situation stalls the local governments' planning process; Sahakarmi Samaj and Dalit Development Society opens up new channels to reach out to people

The local governments or Palikas were under the process of developing its plans and budget for fiscal year 2020-21, which needs to be finalized and announced by 25th June 2020 (10th Asadh 2077). But the changed circumstances of corona crisis, country-wide lockdown and rapidly increasing cases of COVID-19 has impacted participation of the women, Dalit, poor and marginalized in the local government planning process. Coming to their aide, Sahakarmi Samaj and Dalit

Development Society have adapted a telephonic education method to orient the community group members on planning process. The Community Facilitators teach the group members on how to identify and prioritize their needs/problems and how to register their demands in the ward and palika offices. They also collect the immediate needs from the groups and shares it with Ward Chairperson, Mayors, Deputy Mayors and other concerned government officials.

Increased access to government schemes in Karnali Province



School girls raising their voice in the rally organized by a community group against child marriage in Sanni Tribeni R.M., Kalikot

444

lactating mothers and new-born become part of **Karnali government's** nutrition programme social security scheme. Similarly, opened bank account of

311

new born girl child as an effort to **eliminate child marriage** and **encourage girls education**.

As many as 444 lactating mothers received NRS 4,800 per individual as part of the social security incentives under nutrition programme of Karnali Province for year 2019-20. The incentive includes NRS 2,000 for transportation cost for delivery service, NRS 2,000 for nutrition support to the new born and the mother, and NRS 800 for regular pregnancy checkup as per the government protocol.

Similarly, 311 girl child who were born in fiscal year 2019-20 have also been able to open bank accounts named 'Bank Khata Choriko; Surakshya Jivan Bhariko' under the scheme for

protecting the girl child and promoting their education programme in Karnali province. As per this scheme NRS 1,000 will be deposited at the time of opening the bank account and NRS 500 will be deposited in the account of the girl child monthly until they reach the age of 20. They will be eligible to access this fund at the age of 20 only if they continue their education and are not married off. To access this service, Dalit Development Society (DDS) initiated an awareness campaign on the programme within the community groups and oriented on how to access this service.

Tulsi Ramja opens up bank account for her new-born daughter; promises a secure future

Tulsi Oli Ramja gave birth to a daughter Siya in Tribeni Rural Municipality ward no. 2 on 11 September 2019. They had heard about a program launched by the government of Karnali province through radio for opening a bank account in the name of a daughter. However, they didn't know the means and ways to open up an account. Tulsi and her husband were facilitated by Dalit Development Society (DDS) working for good governance project. The parents were oriented about the paper process in the governmental set-up and the place where account needs to be opened. DDS supported the parents on the preparation of the necessary documents like birth certificates, parents' citizenship cards and photographs to avail the benefits of the account. The certificates were submitted in the Rural Municipality ward no 6. Within a span of a few days, Tulsi's daughter Siya was having an operational bank account for her well-being and future security.

The program citizen's participation for good governance is being conducted in Tribeni Rural Municipality for ensuring the right of the people in Tribeni and facilitating the backward society and informing about the services and facilities provided by rural municipality. Various awareness programme are being conducted so that people do not face any problem in accessing government services. Bank accounts for the protection of daughter is regarded as one of the



Tulsi Oli Ramja with her new-born daughter Siya at her home in Sankhapipal village, Tribeni RM.

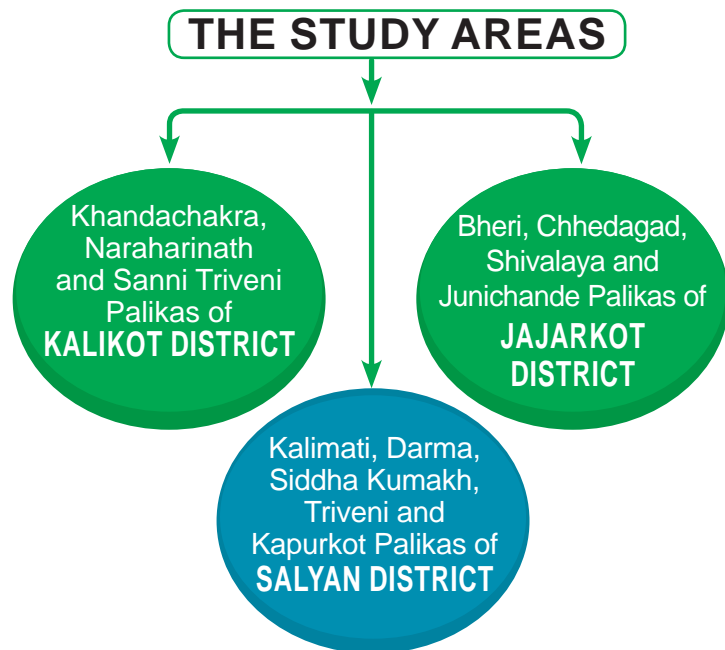
most important subjects and the Tribeni rural municipality has been helping the community group and different organizations to achieve it. In the case of Siya Ramja, DDS facilitated her parents and helped them to open account for their daughter without any problem.



Policy Research on Agriculture, Education, Health and WASH

IM Swedish Development partner conducted a policy research on agriculture, education, health and WASH with objectives of analyzing the existing government policies, assessing implementation status and identifying key gaps between policies and practice at the federal, provincial and local levels with particular focus to Karnali province. The concerned provincial offices in Surkhet and federal government offices in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur were also consulted during the research. A comprehensive policy analysis report and policy brief on federal, provincial and local level agriculture, education, health and WASH have been produced.

The study adopted human rights-based approach (HRBA), gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and civil society perspectives, and primarily qualitative method for in-depth policy analysis.





KEY FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH



EDUCATION



All project working Palikas have enacted at least one policy in education. The Federal Ministries of Education, Science and Technology and Ministry of Social Development of Karnali Province are grappling with the problem for endorsing the federal education acts and the provincial education act respectively which has also affected enforcement of Palika level policies.



Ministry of Social Development in Karnali province has established Social Development Offices at the district level along with Education Development Coordination Units. It was found that both offices are doing similar work in education sector and there is a duplication of financial and human resources.



There was inadequate technical human resource in education units/department at the provincial, district and local levels. For example, Sanni Triveni, Kalimati, Darma, Triveni and Kapurkot Palikas posts were vacant but have now temporarily deployed some secondary school teachers to work as education officers. This situation has hindered quality monitoring and supervision of schools as well as monitoring of the policy implementation.



Majority of stakeholders and rights holders are not aware about the education policies of Palikas and even policy makers accept that implementation is very weak due to lack of monitoring and prolonged delay of enactment of the federal education act.








FGD with students



Mr. Prem Sanjyal in his vegetable farm, Sanni Triveni, Kalikot

AGRICULTURE

-  All the project working Palikas except Sanni Triveni of Kalikot district have enacted at least one agriculture related policy.
-  There is inconsistency and lack of coordination regarding roles and concurrent powers among three tiers of government and centralized policy planning and governance system, especially in policy making and implementation.
-  The Palikas have also initiated some good practices. Such as Palikas of Jajarkot and Salyan districts have started cooperative-led service delivery where different programmes are being implemented through women led cooperatives. Triveni Palika has implemented Farmers' Production and Government Grant programme to provide incentives for farmers and promote commercialization.
-  Naraharinath RM has adopted the concept of community-based extension by adopting Tole-Ward-Palika (bottom up) approach to programme planning. Cooperative Farming and Leasehold Farming are commonly adopted in Kapurkot, Siddha Kumakh, Darma and Kalimati Palikas. 'One Home, one Kitchen Garden' and 'One Settlement, One Organic Farm' programmes are also good initiatives taken by Darma RM.
-  Lack of coordination is observed between almost all Palikas' agriculture section and Agriculture Development Office (ADO) at the district level along with inconsistencies, ambiguities and contradictions in the new institutional set up and no chain of command and clarity in agriculture related agencies was observed in many Palikas.

- There is federal Water and Sanitation Sector Development Plan 2074-2087 (2017-2030) but a separate act on WaSH is yet to be formulated by the Ministry of Water Supply in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population.
- The government of Karnali Province has not yet endorsed a separate Policy and Act on WaSH sector. Health Policy, 2019 and Ministry of Social Development Karnali Province have included some clauses for safe drinking water and sanitation which are not enough.
- The absence of separate WaSH act at the federal and provincial levels has been a constraint for formulation of policies and implementation of existing policies at the local levels.
- The Policy and Programme FY 2019-2020 of the Karnali Province aimed to ensure potable water with quality under the programme “one house one tap, drinking water in school and health institution” in Karnali Province by implementing drinking water safety plan and establishing water treatment and testing laboratory. However, there is absence of drinking water quality testing system and mechanism in all Palikas.
- At the Palika level, there is no separate section and specialized and dedicated staff or focal person for WaSH. Usually, people generalize WaSH as a health service system which is mostly dominated by treatment oriented curative health service.







FGD with community groups in Darma, Salyan



Discussion with health workers
at Dhakadam Health Post,
Darma, Salyan

HEALTH

-  The National Health Strategy on Reaching the Unreached 2016-2030 and National Strategy of Disability Management Services and Action Plan 2016-2025 endorsed at the federal level have not been rolled out at the provincial and local levels.
-  Karnali Province has endorsed Health Policy 2019 integrating critical social issues such as gender based violence, child marriage and menstrual exile.
-  Health acts and regulations endorsed by four Palikas Khadachakra, Narharinath, Bheri and Junichade appear to be generic due to lack of technical inputs from experts during policy formulation process.
-  Gender Based Violence Clinical Protocols 2015 and HFOMC Training Guideline 2018 developed by the federal government are yet to be implemented in Palikas of the project.

Formation and mobilization of youth clubs

Sahakarmi Samaj (SS) and Dalit Development Society (DDS) have been facilitating to form and reform ward-level youth clubs in working Palikas. Formation and reformation have been carried out with the initiation of local ward committee. Sahakarmi Samaj and Dalit Development Society facilitated youths, oriented them about the objective and the role of youth clubs. SS and DDS also ensured the inclusiveness as per the guideline given in youth policy 2072 of Nepal government.

SS and DDS have made an informal youth forum for further mobilization that will be empowered and converted into youth club in the future. A Palika level youth forum/network is already formed in all 12 Palikas. Empowerment and mobilization of the youth will be done jointly with ward level and Palika level youth clubs and forums, and an effective interface will be established to play a vital role to institutionalize governance at local. At present crisis situation of COVID-19, the formed youth clubs are playing different social role for COVID-19 awareness and response work.

OUT OF
107 working
wards

86 ward level youth club
have been formed/
reformed in Kalikot,
Jajarkot and Salyan.

MORE THAN
50% women participation
is ensured in the
youth clubs.



Facilitation for youth club formation and mobilization

YOUTH ORGANISED IN

MALE	FEMALE
626	535



1161

YOUTH IN TOTAL

YOUTH CLUB

- ≡ assisted to build and manage quarantine centres at schools
- ≡ Motivated people to cooperate and follow instructions to help health workers
- ≡ helped to manage water, food and fire wood in quarantine centres
- ≡ informed about the importance of quarantine, following health instructions and how to reduce the risk of infection among the returnee migrant workers and their families



Community members implementing their commitment plan prepared during group meeting on cleaning drinking water source in Sanni Triveni R.M.

Together as a group, community transform their village as a clean and litter free

Sanjayal Tol is a small village with a mix of Dalit and so called upper caste groups. The village streets, walkways, water sources were clogged with garbage and scrap until the cleanliness drive improved the situation

Most of the streets and walkways as well as intakes and water sources used to be filled with rubbish and scrap which made it hard to commute in Sanjayal Tol. After formation of the Ekta Group in facilitation of Sahakarmi Samaj in Sannitribeni -6, the group started discussion using CODE method about the problem of their village. The community identified the problem of people carelessly throwing the garbage and litter anywhere that is making their village, water sources, walkways polluted and affecting their life. After realizing the mistakes and responsibilities to clean their village by themselves, they made an action plan to overcome the situation and gathered with tools and equipments needed for

cleaning the streets and walkways. They were joined by the other members of the community as well. This action has resulted in a clean and accessible street for all.

The cleaning of vicinity of water sources and intakes has made drinking water safe and clean. The members of the community groups have made strict rules regarding the management of rubbish and wastes as well as restriction of disposing them at the vicinity of water sources and intakes. The village looks clean and beautiful now as the community people initiated the action through discussion and collectively working for the problem identified.