







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

Annex VI

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2019 to 2022



Submitted to: The Delegation of European Union in Nepal Lazimpat, Kathmandu

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EUROPEAN UNION <2018/403-276>

< 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2022>

List of Acronyms

CBNO	Community Based Network Organization
CDWN	Centre for Dalit Women Nepal
CF	Community Facilitator
CG	Community Group
CSC	Community Score Card
DDS	Dalit Development Society
DPAC	District Program Advisory Committee
FEST	Facilitation and Empowerment for Social Transformation
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GRB	Gender Responsive Budget
HFOMCs	Health Facility Operation and Management Committee
HRBA	Human Right Based Approach
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IM	IM Swedish Development Partner
LGs	Local Governments
L-PAC	Local Project Advisory Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
OCMCM	Office of the Chief Minister and Cabinet of Ministers
PGs	Provincial Governments
PGC	Provincial Governance Centre
PLGSP	Provincial and Local Governance Support Program
PTAs	Parent Teacher Associations
SAT	Social Accountability Tools
SMC	School Management Committee
SS	Saharkarmi Samaj
Tdh	Terre des hommes Foundation
TLO	Tole Lane Organization
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASHCC	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committe









1. Description

1.1 Name of <u>Coordinator of the grant contract</u>:

1.2 Name and title of the <u>contact Person</u>:

Sahakarmi Samaj (SS)

Mr. Ammar Bahadur Air, Executive Director

1.3 Name of <u>beneficiaries and affiliated entities</u> in the Action:

1. Sahakarmi Samaj

2. IM Swedish Development Partner (IM)

3. Terre des hommes Foundation (Tdh)

4. Dalit Development Society (DDS)

5. Centre for Dalit Women Nepal (CDWN)

<u>1.4 Title</u> of the Action: Enhancing Citizens Participation in Sub-National Good Governance in Nepal

<u>1.5 Contract number:</u>	2018/403-276
1.6 Start date and end date of the Action:	1 st January 2019 to 31 st December 2021
1.7 Target <u>country(ies)</u> or <u>region(s)</u> :	Karnali Province, Nepal

<u>1.8 Final beneficiaries</u> &/or target groups ¹(if different) (including numbers of women and men):

Target groups:

3,150 rights holders from grassroots organisations of 12 working palikas from Salyan, Kalikot and Jajarkot with a focus on women, youth and children, marginalized groups and minorities 557 members from CSOs

3,873 elected representatives of palikas, and government institutions and government established committees

Final beneficiaries:

274,563 right holders from the targeted 12 palikas, more broadly the 548,409 citizens of the targeted 3 districts, with a focus on women & children and indirectly the entire 1.57 million citizens of Karnali province.

¹ "'Target groups" are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and "final beneficiaries" are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.



1.9 Country (ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7): - NA

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1 Executive summary of the Action

The consortium of Sahakarmi Samaj, Dalit Development Society, Center for Dalit Women Nepal, Terre des hommes Foundation and IM Swedish Development Partner carried out the European Union-funded project "Enhancing Citizens' Participation in Sub-National Good Governance in the Context of Nepal's New Federal System" in 12 local units, widely known as palika, of three districts of Karnali Province from January 2019 to December 2022. The project's design and execution were based on the following six methodologies: Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA), Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation (FEST), Youth Engagement for Governance, ICT for Good Governance, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), and Conflict Sensitivity.

Overall, the project has been a success in many ways, paving the way for improved governance and increased engagement between citizens and local governments. The project's emphasis on community capacity building, empowerment, and civic awareness was critical as enablers for better local government functioning and the promotion of good governance. In this regard, the project has been timely and extremely relevant in the current national context of the need to promote good governance and shift to a federal system of governance. The relevance of this project, according to elected representatives and government officials, lies in meeting the need of raising awareness and educating local communities about changes in governance structure, available services and resources, and citizen roles and responsibilities, as well as receiving technical inputs in strengthening governance mechanisms. opportunities.

During the project period, 206 community groups (CGs) were formed constituting of 5,465 citizens across the 105 wards in the 12 municipalities with the application of the Facilitation and Empowerment for Social Transformation (FEST) methodology which is a process-oriented approach to community development. Of the total number of members, 4612 were women, 1599 were Dalit, 1925 were youths and 24 members were people with disabilities. The community members find value and benefit in participating in the community groups. They have internalized the importance of being organized and regard the CGs as a space for discussing social issues affecting them and findings potential solutions.

It's worthwhile to mention that these 206 community groups implemented a total of 1874 plans utilising internal and external resources over the last four years. They were able to tap external resources worth NRs. 176,330,878 for various community development initiatives. This remarkable initiative thus has been a real testament to the increased cooperation between local governments and CSOs.

In addition, efforts were made to establish an environment for cooperation and interaction amongst local governments and Karnali province government. The project assisted to create informal and formal spaces for the LGs, province government, and CSOs to engage with one another, listen to issues and concerns, exchange ideas, and develop shared understanding of the challenges related to ensuring good governance in a political environment of confusion about









the role of the provincial government. This was accomplished through the project's organisation of many dialogue forums, learning/sharing programmes, and the establishment of a good governance network at the provincial level.

It was observed that the project was instrumental in building trust and confidence of the province and LGs in the people centred and process-oriented approach of FEST, which was evidenced by the provincial government and other LG representatives approaching Sahakarmi Samaj, to replicate the FEST approach to facilitate and strengthen community participation in various government led initiatives.

The institutional development and quality of facilitation inside the CGs provide a significant opportunity and risk for the project's sustainability. The formation of CGs, in collaboration with CBNOs, provides the institutional framework and mechanism for continuing citizen participation in local governance. However, given the power dynamics and politics at the local level, there is a risk that the CGs will be co-opted by local governments and used as extensions of the government to conduct and support local level development activities and service delivery in absence of skilled facilitation.

The impact of COVID in the second and third year of the project operation led to delay of implementation of several activities, and that had implications for the process of change.

2.2 Results and Activities

A. RESULTS

Overall objective: An enhanced participation among citizens in sub-national (local & provincial) good governance in the new federal system in Nepal

While marginalised communities were previously underrepresented in policy formulation, planning, and implementation, their participation in the planning process has now significantly increased. In comparison to the baseline value of 31.6%, the end line survey found that 75% of CSO/CG/CBO members were involved in decision-making and local-level planning.

FEST methodology was used as a community-led participatory approach to facilitate the community groups becoming more organised and empowered. This gave them the opportunity to bring up community concerns during group meetings, identify the underlying causes, come up with solutions through brainstorming, and then put their plans into action by making the best use of the local resources and collaborating with the local governments and other stakeholders.

CBNOs have been present and operating effectively in each of the 12 working palikas. Some of them hold ad hoc status, some have been registered by the palikas, and some are in the process of doing so. Their main duty is to flag citizen concerns and exert pressure on local governments to take action. Paschim Jajarkot Bikas Samaj, a CBNO, has received funding from Shibalaya Rural Municipality, Jajarkot, to carry out social development activities for women, children, people with disabilities, and senior citizens. Similar to this, the Kapurkot RM of the Salyan district has assigned a CBNO to implement the Community Score Card (CSC) across all the wards.



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Youngest elected representative of Bheri Municipality

Hira Prasad Sharma of Bheri Municipality-9 is the youngest elected representative of Bheri Municipality and has been playing quite an active role for easing services provided to the people and in the decisions taken by the municipality. 29-year-old Sharma was born in a low middle-class family and feels that his journey of becoming a ward chairperson became possible due to the affiliation with this project.



He assumed the chairperson role of Bheri Youth Forum formed in 2020 and started becoming active in social activities and understanding the issues of the communities, which later contributed to his political ambition. He participated in report and proposal writing, leadership development and entrepreneurship development related training and seminar. "As a social worker, I got the opportunity to understand social issues and actively contribute to resolving it, which later contributed to me becoming the ward chairperson," he recalls. He reiterates that the project's focus on how to resolve local issues and create a conducive environment in the society not only helped him gain political power but also contributed to provide effective services to the people. I have been promoting participation in the decision-making process. 250 people participated in the ward level planning process and the ward office allocated NPR. 500,000 (approx. USD 3,846) for youths and also allocated budget for awareness raising initiatives. The ward office has also allocated a budget for education, drinking water and health as these are the priorities for the general public. Sharma further added that he is working to ensure meaningful participation of people in the decision-making process and run programmes for deprived communities including persons with disabilities, Dalits and women among others and also strengthen the monitoring mechanism by the people.

Community groups mobilized their internal resources worth NRs. 28,757,164 while securing external resources of NRs. 1,76,330,878 in various community development initiatives such as availing water resources, construction of school buildings, water and sanitation facilities, playground, road construction, kitchen garden, community house, agriculture vocations, health insurances, plantation, irrigation, enterprise development training, health facilities reconstruction etc.

Districts	No. of CGs	No. of Plan implemented by CGs	Internal resources in NPR.	External resources in NPR.
Kalikot	51	450	2,457,640	56,967,500
Jajarkot	95	839	13,844,290	53,798,500
Salyan	60	585	12,455,234	65,570,878
Total	206	1874	28,757,164	176,330,878









There are youth governance forums in each of the 12 palikas. They have been voicing out about issues involving governance, income-generating activities, enterprise development. They take part in committees like the school management committee and the user's committee.

In most of the local structures such as SMC, HFOMC etc. the project has contributed to ensure inclusive representation of members from target groups as provisioned by the laws and policies. Besides, they have been influential in the decision-making process.

At province level, a CSO Network (Province Good Governance Network) has been raising citizen's issues at province level. They have held dialogues and consultations with the Province Government, Provincial Governance Centre and stakeholders and advocate for the governance issues esp. accountability and transparency.

However, because of the prolonged COVID pandemic and travel restrictions in 2020 and 2021, we could not conduct/facilitate several important activities such as discussions with CGs and LGs on planning process, participatory policy formulation and effective implementation. LGs also could not hold settlement level assembly and ward level assembly to hear people's voices.

Outcome 1: Enhanced participatory and cooperative relationships between citizens and local governments, by strengthening public governance, accountability, and transparency.

Several local governments introduced a new practice of strengthening relationships with communities by reaching out to the community groups during their meetings. On the other hand, they placed citizen charter boards with vital information about the types of services the LGs deliver and the requirements for obtaining those services. They employed social accountability tools such as public hearing, satisfaction surveys, exit polls etc. to collect citizen's feedback on the quality of service delivery.

The end-line survey results show that

- 100% (12 Palika have used at least four or more different social accountability tools.)
- Palikas used scorecard tools at least once, followed by a satisfaction survey and public audit (91%), and an exit poll (100%). Palikas perform 58% of the GESI audit.
- 12 working palikas (100%) have drafted the GESI policy.
- Most of the palika (9) representatives stated that women, Dalits, people with disability, youth, and minorities actively participated in developing the strategic plan.
- On an average 75% citizens were involved in the consultation for decision-making and local planning process.

However, the local governments were relatively found to be less interested in adopting ICT tools- mobile apps and websites in terms of engaging with the citizens despite continuous support from the project.









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Palikas	Number of social accountability tools they used							
	Community score card	Public audit	Social audit	Satisfaction survey	GESI audit	Exit poll	# Tools used	
Darma	1	0	0	2	3	1	4	
Kalimati	1	1	2	1	2	1	6	
Kapurkot	1	1	1	1	2	1	6	
Siddha Kumakh	1	2	2	2	2	1	6	
Tribeni	1	2	0	2	2	1	5	
Khadachakra	2	1	1	1	0	1	5	
Naraharinath	3	1	1	1	0	1	5	
Sanni Triveni	2	1	1	1	1	1	6	
Bheri	1	1	1	2	0	1	5	
Chhedagad	2	1	1	1	0	2	5	
Junichande	2	1	1	0	0	2	4	
Shibalaya	1	1	1	1	1	2	6	
%	100%	91%	83%	91%	58%	100%		

Source: End line report 2022









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Outcome 2 Cooperation and dialogue among local governments, between local and provincial governments and ministries to improve overall local service delivery and ensure reflection of local needs in programmes and policies is established.

In Karnali province, there was no practice of holding dialogues between LGs and PG to discuss formal and thematic issues. The project facilitated the start of holding meetings between LGs and PGs through a provincial governance conference every year in collaboration with Province Governance Centre, under the Office of Chief Minister.

Karnali provincial government, under the Intergovernmental Relation Act (2020) formed the Provincial Coordination Council in February 2019. The council meets on a semi-annual basis. The council consists of 15 members ensuring the social inclusion of one-third women's participation. A few key agenda discussed, and decisions made in the council meetings were:

- 1. To play effective roles in making the coordination and cooperation between LGs and PG more effective
- 2. To ensure mutual coordination while formulating plans, during implementation and monitoring
- 3. When PG develops its plan, it should give priority to the plans provided by the LGs. PG and LGs should develop their plans in line with the province's periodic plan and those of the LGs.

This project conducted three meetings (2 in district and 1 in province level). The participants included community citizens, local elected leaders, parliamentarian and provincial ministers. Such forums provided an opportunity to the citizens to listen to their governments and express their feedback and concerns to them.

Provincial good governance network has raised voices on inclusive budgeting, cooperation and collaboration. Karnali PG assigned this network to draft the SAT implementation procedure in 2021 which was presented to all the cabinet secretaries. It's now in the process of endorsement. There is an article which has mandated this network to facilitate the events related to social accountability across the province.

These efforts contributed in generating meaningful agendas for the discourse of the province council to make effective decisions. Grass root level agendas, CSO's interest/concerns were brought up to the notice of the province. It influenced ministries to incorporate such concerns in their fiscal plans and budgets. This also helped to create a common forum by bringing together all legislatives/executives/representatives of LGs and citizens together and exchange their learnings/practices/concerns.

The project did a comprehensive policy review study and held dialogues with the provincial government.

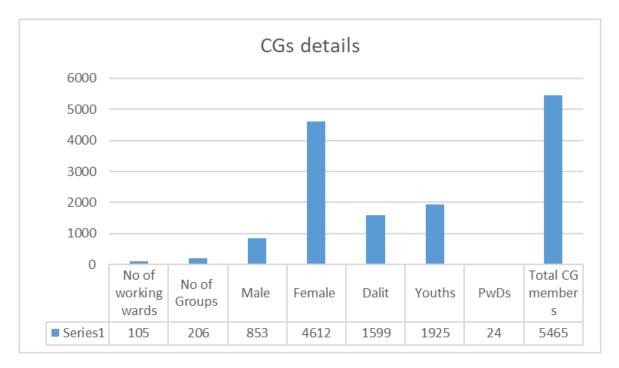
Project's assumption of influencing the ministry's level agenda became out of the sphere of control. This turned out to be different than what we had assumed. Political instability directly affected the province's government's tenure thus the Karnali Province ministries saw a frequent turnover of the ministers. COVID also added woes to the misery so we could not organise events as initially planned every year.



It was assumed that the mechanism between LGs and PGs would be established. We could hold dialogues and meetings with them, but we couldn't do much given it was beyond the sphere of project's control.

iOc1: 3,150 citizens from about 600 grassroots organisations including women, Dalit & marginalised people are represented, empowered & mobilised to ensure inclusive, participatory & accountable local governance.

To increase the local government's accountability, a total of 5465 members of 206 community groups were mobilised. These groups were formed through the selection of representatives from 591 pre-existing community-based organisations, networks, and groups. Collaboration between LGs and CSOs fostered from regular interactions with local elected representatives, thematic representatives of education, health, drinking water and sanitation, agriculture, social development, learning exchange workshops and capacity building training. As a result, it has improved the relationship between the citizens and the local governments.











District	Total no. of HFOMC	Tot mem		Da	lit	Yo	outh	Pv	vDs	Wo me n- led	Youth Led
		Μ	F	Μ	F	Μ	F	М	F		
Salyan	37	182	168	13	29	24	58	5	0	38	26
Kalikot	29	12	17	5	8	1	1	0	0	0	1
Jajarkot	19	2	17	1	8	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	85	196	202	19	45	25	59	6	0	38	27
Percentage		49	51	5	11	6	15	2	0	45	32

There exist government structures such as HFOMC, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Coordination Committee. The representation of women in the HFOMC, i.e. 51% is observed to be very encouraging as this exceeds the minimum requirement of 42% set by the GoN. The end line data shows 64 Dalit representatives (i.e. 16%) in the 85 HFOMC. Not all HFOMCs had people with disabilities as their members. Out of the total HFOMCs in Salyan, only three HFOMCs had one person with disability member in their committee whereas Jajarkot had only one HFOMC with a member with disability. Kalikot does not have any members with disability in its committees.

There is a presence of Dalit representatives in all WASH-CCs. However, their presence is equal to or less than 20% in all palikas. The presence of Dalit members in the WASHCC is very low. Of the total WASHCC members, people with disabilities are only 1%. District-wise end line data shows one in Salyan and five in Jajarkot.

As per the government guideline, 33% female representation should be ensured while forming the SMC committee. Similarly, there should be at least one member from people with disability, and at least two members from the Dalit community. In all the districts women representation was found to be encouraging. In total, all the SMCs had more than 33% female representation. Likewise, most of the palikas SMCs had more than 10% Dalit representation.









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Op 1.1. CSO/CG/CBO members have stronger knowledge, capacities, tools and feel empowered to play their role as active citizens in local governance and participatory & inclusive decision-making systems, processes / mechanisms, structure and access to government services.

By assessing the needs of the community and facilitating the formation and strengthening of CGs/CSOs/CBOs, the project ensured that these groups became socially inclusive, independent, and sustainable, and the marginalised people were able to work together towards real social change and to realise themselves as active citizens. Participatory tools and group work are used to orient civil servants and local representatives towards transparent, responsive, and accountable governance and to enable better communication with constituents. The following steps were applied to form and strengthen CGs/CSOs/CBNOs:

I. **FEST foundation training:** FEST approach enables communities to transform their problem into solutions by mobilising local, government and other resources and to contribute to institutionalise good governance at local. The FEST foundation is a basic and major event to achieve the goal.

The consortium lead Sahakarmi Samaj organised a 12 days in-house FEST foundation training to all community facilitators, field officers, coordinators in 2020. This is the basic foundational training which provides all the knowledge, skills and tools to transform the communities to unite, reflect and lead the transformation process by their own through continuous facilitation and mobilisation.

II. **Issue identification through listening and observation**: The Community Facilitators (CFs) worked with marginalized and vulnerable people letting them set the agenda and increasing their capacity to change their participation, engagement, livelihood, and influence others. This process helped CFs to identify and prioritise the community concerns. Through this process, marginalized and vulnerable communities from all 105 working wards were selected to form the community groups with the coordination of ward and Palikas representatives.

III. **Community group formation and reformation**: During this stage, after screening the communities, their concern, local context and need; project decided to form a common platform in the community to come, discuss and work collaboratively in all the issues and concerns of the whole community at one place as "Community Group (CG)" by involving all the household representatives, other existing structures/ groups of the communities such as mothers groups, HFOMCs, user committees, forest groups, agriculture groups, SMC/PTA etc. Through this process, A total of 734 CBOs/CSOs/CGs (12 CBNOs, 105 Youth clubs, 12 Youth Forum for Governance, 337 Mother's groups, 5 R/MWASH CCs, 7 WWASHCCs, 250 HCFVs were formed/reformed and strengthened by forming 206 common and representative discussion group in the community as 'Community Group' ensuring two in each ward.









IV. **Cycles of planning, action, and reflection**: In this stage, a total of CFs facilitated the empowerment of citizens to make their own decisions. The CGs members were encouraged to think through the problem, identify its root causes (the 'root problems') and come up with their own solutions. Primarily, CFs encouraged CGs/CSOs to address small-scale problems, using locally available skills and resources. Each CF facilitated every CGs meeting every month and helped them to prioritise their issues, discuss and identify the main causes, find solutions, make a plan of actions, implement it and review and reflect the whole process.

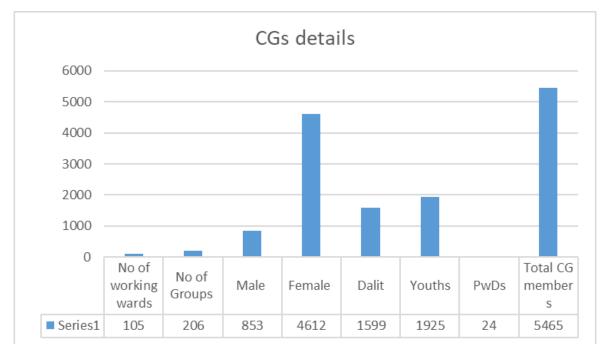
The CFs further helped the group to determine objectives for the chosen project and then assisted the group to formulate an action plan and action reflection cycle. The action and reflection cycle went on as a regular schedule of the community. Based on the community concerns, CFs facilitated the local government related plans, programs, and services of local government. Local government representatives and concerned staff were also invited in the CGs meetings to share the information regarding the laws, policies, program and services and encourage the citizens to participate in the plan and policy formulation process of the government.

V. **The organisational development of CGs:** In this stage, leadership training was provided to group members for the organizational development of CGs. These trainings were conducted in group work; participation; decision making; roles and responsibilities; development theories; facilitation skills; leadership and meeting management; planning; record-keeping and financial management; group network formation; resource acquisition; and liaison with external agencies. Similarly, through these training CGs developed linkages with government and non-government offices and agencies to secure appropriate resources and to advocate for necessary change. In total, 80 such community facilitators, group strengthening, and group leadership training were given to all the CGs. After this training, 105 ward level group network (main committees) and 12 Palika level network (CBNOs/Community Based Network Organizations) were formed in each working Palika which will continue through the community facilitation and mobilization process in close coordination and collaboration of Palika and other development agencies at local level.

VI. **Strengthening Coordination with Local Governments**: On the supply side, the project facilitated various workshops amongst local representatives and government officials to strengthen the accountability and transparency at local level in all thematic areas (Education, Health, WASH and Agriculture). Similarly, interaction and dialogue workshops between local government and the CGs were also conducted to strengthen the effective service delivery process of the government.



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Note:

Furthermore, other needful training on group leadership, community facilitation, advocacy plan and strategy development, proposal and report writing, civic engagement, seven step planning process, youth mobilisation, enterprise development etc. were also provided to enhance their technical and institutional capacity to ensure their participation, engagement, and mobilisation in the governance process.

Op 1.2. Issues and initiatives raised by CSO/CG/CBOs are implemented & their members (including significant number of disadvantaged group members) are represented in planning, decision-making, implementation & monitoring of LGs operations especially Health, WASH, Education & Agriculture sectors.

Various activities were conducted to facilitate initiatives such as resources mapping and linkage with palikas, sectorial (WASH, Health, Education, Agriculture) plan and policies, practices of social accountability tools etc. CGs have started mapping the available resources at local level and submitted proposals asking LGs to provide resources to address the identified issues. In 2022, a total of 885 plans were proposed by different community groups in all thematic sectors in the local level planning process. 409 (46%) of them were addressed by LGs. Similarly, in the health sector 28.26% plans were addressed, in Agriculture 39.24% plans were addressed, in WASH sector 43.18% and in Education 25% plans were addressed by the Palika proposed by community groups. This is a good progress that the project has contributed to achieve.



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Person with disability Jhupi an inspiration for all



Jhupi Rawat of Shibalaya Rural Municipality-3 is a person with disability and her life was filled with tragic incidents but her strong commitment and support from this project has empowered Jhupi to be an inspiration for all. Jhupi's life seems like scenes of a tragic movie as she fell from a balcony of her house when

she was seven years old, her mother passed away at the age of 9, she became a widow at the age of 19 and her father passed away at the age of 22. However, she continued to move ahead and take care of seven members of her family challenging her impairment. She used to participate in different activities like orientation about human rights, rights of persons with disabilities and social mobilization among others, which boosted her confidence. She actively participated in Local Level Disability Network and became a member of Malika Disability Network. She became confident after she received training on proposal and report writing, leadership development and advocacy related training which helped to develop her leadership skills. She got the opportunity to participate in the seven-step planning process organized by the project "Enhancing Citizen's Participation for Good Governance" funded by the European Union where she learned about the importance of participation of all stakeholders in the planning process. "During the orientation process the group members got the opportunity to interact with the representatives of Local Government and knew how to demand rights of different groups like single women and persons with disabilities with the local government. As a result, I have been able to raise our issues not only at the ward level but also Municipality and Provincial level and easily discuss our issues with the members of parliament," share Jhupi with confidence on her face. Jhupi feels that even though the government provides an allowance to persons with disabilities, it should also provide skills related training so that they would be able to spend dignified life with confidence. Jhupi is proud to mention that they got the support due to the advocacy done by her group. Project taught us advocacy skills and motivated us to demand and claim our rights, which I have been transferring to others as well. This year we have submitted a proposal for report and proposal development training as I have attended such training from Sahakarmi Samaj, and this is quite helpful. I am also demanding to recruit staff with disability so that they can provide effective service to target groups," shares Jhupi.





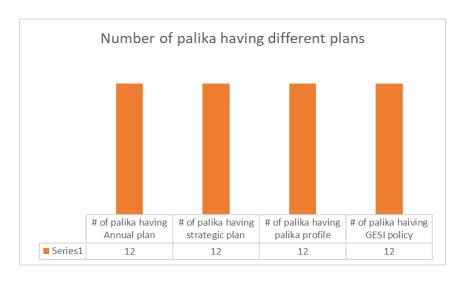




Plan pro	Plan proposed by CGs and Addressed by Palika in 2022									
	Plan Proposed	Plan Addressed	Health		Agricu	ılture	WASH		Education	
	by CGs	Gs by Palika	Prop osed	Addr essed	Prop osed	Address ed	Propos ed	Addre ssed	Proposed	Addressed
Total	885	409	138	39	158	62	220	95	180	45
In %		46.21%		28.26 %		39.24%		43.18 %		25%

iOc2: Local Governments (LGs) in 12 municipalities are equipped to design and develop inclusive plans, Policies and ensure their implementation, with the active participation of Community Groups (CGs) and CSOs.

All 12 palikas are equipped with the tools and techniques to develop guidelines for planning, implementing and monitoring the effective implementation of programs. The project supported six of them to develop their five-year's strategic sectoral periodic plans in the area of Agriculture, Education and Health. Furthermore, the project assisted all 12 palikas in developing GESI policy in close collaboration with various stakeholders. It is worth noting that the three local governments—Bheri Municipality, Junichande Rural Municipality, and Sanni Tribeni Rural Municipality—provided matching funds while formulating education and the agriculture periodic plan, demonstrating their ownership and commitment towards improving



the quality of education and agriculture.

LG representatives received at least one or more training sessions on various themes and topics. According to reports, the majority of the palika's representatives were trained in GESI and gender-responsive policy-making, planning and budgeting. All the Palikas representatives

found the training to be very effective in assisting them in developing an inclusive plan and policies that take into account the needs of the community.









Training/Workshop Provided	Number of Training	No of people participated
Workshop with elected representatives (Ward and Municipality chairperson, Deputy-Chairperson, Dalit representatives) on inclusive planning	28	1189
Interaction with local government to reinforce GESI/GRB	35	874
Leadership Training to women, ethnic and Dalit Representatives	24	720
Training/orientation to local governments' officials on tools of social accountability	24	757
Workshop on 'People-Centred Development Approach' (including Appreciative Inquiry)	12	436
Conduct meetings on participatory policy formulation between LGs and CSOs	24	982
Policy research on thematic areas (WASH/Health/Education/Agriculture	1	
Support to develop/revise periodic or strategic plan of LGs on thematic areas	6	6
ICT solution support for E-governance (mobile app, website strengthening, training and system strengthening)	6	6

Op 2.1. LG representatives including thematic committee members and staff have gained increased knowledge and skills and adequate tools and methods on inclusive local governance e.g. GESI responsive policy making and planning, participatory and transparent planning, decision-making and budgeting, implementation and monitoring process etc.

Skills and knowledge of 771 individuals (362 women and 409 men) including 547 locally elected representatives and 180 government officials were enhanced through Gender Responsive Budget training. The capacities are being translated in their respective rural municipalities for ensuring gender equality and social inclusion. The concerns of Dalit and marginalized communities are addressed in the local planning process and execution of plans at local level as well.









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12 local governments of three districts are equipped with necessary tools and techniques such as inclusive planning process, GESI and Gender Responsive Budgeting along with effective leadership skills by the various capacity development training and workshops provided by the project each year. They have been designing, executing and monitoring the local plan and budget with due consideration on GESI applying the tools of GRB in order to address the demands for the upliftment of the backwards and marginalized community.

Likewise, the LGs were supported to develop guidelines on planning, implementation and monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the program. Similarly, as per the need of the local governments, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion policies were drafted in consultation with local governments and relevant stakeholders and handed over to the local governments.

Op 2.2. Mechanisms (e.g. tools, budget and human resources including ICT for governance) are in place in at least 6 Palikas for formulating inclusive and transparent policy, plans, strategies and budgets, implementation

The project has equipped six local units with ICT tools (mobile apps and websites) which were designed through a human-centred approach in close collaboration with LGs and representatives of CSOs for enhancing local governments' engagement with their citizens. In addition, the project raised awareness of CSOs and CBOs for the increased use of these tools particularly for lodging their individual or collective concerns and grievances.

Despite all efforts-including direct assistance to the IT Officers and ongoing monitoringthe LGs showed little interest in rolling out these tools citing factors such as a shortage of human resource, particularly in the IT unit and lack of interdepartmental coordination.

On the other hand, the number of smartphone users in communities was low. There is also a problem with the internet infrastructure and the culture of concern raising via mobile apps was yet to be developed.

Likewise, the project assisted six local units in developing sectoral periodic plans through a participatory approach. It is interesting that the palikas have projected budgets for the activities over the next five years based on priority, but we cannot monitor whether they would plan and allocate thematic activities in line with the periodic plans given the end of the project duration.

Bheri Municipality promoting accountability in the education sector through Mobile Application



The district is now taking the lead for doing some exemplary work on providing efficient services to the people using information technology. and Bheri Municipality of the district with support from Sahakarmi Samaj is developing a mobile application for providing effective service to its citizens. Chief of the

Information and Technology Unit of the Municipality, Engineer Surva Prasad









Lamsal, informed that the municipality is developing a mobile application for providing effective services to the citizens. "The application also has a portal where we can upload all the information from the office," Lamsal shares. He further informed that the application is almost complete, and the municipality is in the process of uploading previous information and decisions so that people can easily access all the services provided by the Local Government. The municipality is planning to raise awareness about how people can access service through the application. "Once the application is rolled out, we plan to teach people on how they can use it and hope it is easy and accessible," he shares. The municipality is serious about increasing access of marginalized communities in mobile application and vows to initiate appropriate action for ensuring representation of poor and marginalized communities. "We are thinking at the least, a person uses a mobile, so we are looking how we can mobilize them for disseminating messages to the wider communities," Lamsal added. He feels that the application will be rolled out soon and it will contribute to increasing accountability in the education sector. "As education is the main foundation for overall development of the municipality, the municipality has prioritized education in its action," shares CP Gharti Mayor of Bheri Municipality. He further shares that the application shall be useful for ensuring participation of citizens in the education sector and also make relevant stakeholders accountable by improving quality of education and allocating necessary resources.

iOc3: Province & 12 Palika-level Government (PG) work constructively and collaboratively in promoting local good governance.

The provincial government has been conducting its coordination council meeting regularly where provincial and local government representatives come and discuss governance issues and make action points jointly for the resolution. Likewise, the Provincial government has been supporting local government through the PLGSP program especially in capacity building to ensure inclusive and accountable local governance. Similarly, our project also has been providing a wider platform for multi-level governance stakeholders to have such kind of dialogue and discussion between provincial governments, local governments, civil society representatives, and other stakeholders from the community level to the province. Despite many challenges such as Covid-19 restrictions, the general election of all leading political parties, etc. In this reporting period, a province-level good governance network of CSOs has been formed and mobilized, learning sharing meetings between LGs, CSOs and province, dialogue between local and provincial government and engagement with parliamentarians has been done.

Despite some challenges in the implementation of the decisions, the provincial authorities have taken up the agendas and issues from the coordination meeting and supported the LGs to the extent possible. Six of the agendas supported so far include the following:

- effective coordination between provincial and local governments
- Technical support from PGs to LGs regarding budget planning and execution









- Monitoring mechanism of PGs
- Capacitated Human Resources at LGs
- Implementation of plan and budgets allocated for disadvantaged groups
- Support the Palikas to formulate and implement context specific plans and policies.

Op 3.1. Coordination and dialogue mechanisms are established and functioning between Provincial and municipal authorities and between municipalities as foreseen by constitution and upcoming laws of provincial government.

In collaboration with the provincial governance centre, under the province government, the project conducted various activities to facilitate and promote the coordination and dialogues between provincial and local governments. Some significant formal or informal mechanisms and practices are established and operationalized through these actions, and they are as follows:

Provincial council: Nepal government has enacted an inter-government relations act in august 2020 to manage coordination and inter-government relations between Federal, Province and Local Level and is functioning with its regular meeting twice a year. The project facilitated to make the agendas of this meeting more inclusive and people centric. As a result, this mechanism has created a platform for provincial and local governments to sit together, discuss the issues, challenges, share the good practices and come up with solutions. This has helped to resolve many miscommunication and misunderstandings between local and provincial governments.

Provincial Good Governance Network: A provincial level CSO network has been established with the inclusive representatives of CSOs working particularly in the good governance from all 10 districts of Karnali Province. This network has been raising the local and provincial issues to the policy makers and executives at palika and province level at the same time it has been working collaboratively with the local government units and provincial governance center in the effective implementation of social accountability tools and other good governance practices.

Provincial good governance conference: The project conducted a provincial level good governance conference each year with the collaboration of province governance centre including various sessions, interactions, dialogues and paper presentation on the sub-national good governance practices in Karnali province involving all the government and non-government governance stakeholders. This platform has played a significant role in advocating to address the citizens' issues from grassroot level to provincial level through various advocacy, lobby and engagements.

Op 3.2. Best practices on local good governance are documented and disseminated to other sub-national governments, development partners in the province and country-wide.

Local, district and province level learning and sharing workshops with multi-stakeholders have been conducted every year involving local and provincial elected representatives, officials, community group members, journalists, line agencies and development partners. In these workshops project publication and reports were discussed and disseminated. Policy briefs, periodic newsletters, organisational reports, and visibility materials, success stories are some publications which were shared frequently during the implementation period. Similarly, at the









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end of the project a video documentary and success stories collection were done and published in both Nepali and English languages which was shared in the learning and sharing workshop organized at the provincial and federal level to all the government and non-government stakeholders working for good governance.

B. ACTIVITIES

ER 1. Op 1.1. CSO/CG/CBO members have stronger knowledge, capacities, tools and feel empowered to play their role as active citizens in local governance and participatory & inclusive decision-making systems, processes / mechanisms, structure and access to government services.

Activity 1.1.1.: Formation and Strengthening of CBOs /CSOs

1.1.1.1: Formation, strengthening and mobilisation of Community Groups (CGs), **Community Based Organizations (CBOs)**

A total of 734 CBOs/CSOs/CGs (12 CBNOs, 105 Youth clubs, 12 Youth Forum for Governance, 337 Mother's groups, 5 R/MWASH CCs, 7 WWASHCCs, 250 HCFVs have been formed/reformed and strengthened through 206 common and representative group discussions in the community as 'Community Group' two in each ward.

They have been facilitated and mobilised through the FEST approach regularly. Amid the lockdown they were facilitated in a distance approach to inform the safety measures declared by WHO and Nepal government. The facilitation has led CGs towards their mobility and engagement in the social actions as their own action and reflection cycle of the FEST facilitation approach was applied. As a result, in the 12 working palikas, 4415 members were associated with 156 CGs in 2020.

Reason for delay/cancelation/postponement/modification of the activities:

During the lockdown, community gatherings and visits were postponed, but coordination and distant communication continued.

1.1.1.2 Support local CSOs and CBNOs to develop/strengthen institutional capacity (Budget 5.7.1)

For the institutional development of CBNOs the project has provided various materials and capacity development training based on their needs and demands. CBNOs were formed in the last years only in the project implemented areas. In Salyan ward level networks were also provided such training and other input supports and at Palika level CBNOs were provided input supports in all 12 working palikas. In total 44 such events were done involving 1431 peoples where 947 were women, 321 were Dalits and 326 were Janajatis.

Reason for delay/cancelation/postponement/modification of the activities:

Three events were shifted to next year as the vendor could not supply CBNO demanded materials in the given timeline.









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1.1.1.3 Training on proposal development and report writing (Budget 5.7.2)

With the objective to capacitate the community group members to assess and tap resources at local level, five trainings on proposal development and report writing were organized. Participants developed their skills on the areas and expressed their excitement commitments to utilize the skills especially for tapping resources at local level for bringing changes in the community..

A two days refresher training for community group members was conducted in each of the working Palikas of all three districts to enhance their knowledge and skills on proposal and report writing especially for the local level planning process. In total 32 such training were provided to 906 community group members among these 621 were women, 175 dalits and 166 were Janajatis.

Reason for delay/cancelation/postponement/modification of the activities:

Few events were shifted to another quarter and year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

1.1.1.4. Advocacy skill and leadership development training (Budget 5.7.3)

The project has aimed to equip and empower community people with adequate knowledge, skills and techniques so that they can raise their voices for themselves and the community in need. For this, advocacy and leadership skills training were provided to CG members. Training events were facilitated by adopting a participatory approach which made them internalise the importance and became aware about the procedure of identifying community issues, its causes and effects and developing a proper advocacy plan. 680 community group members from all working communities were trained with such skills through 24 events. Out of 680, 452 were women, 156 were Dalits and 120 were Janajatis.

Reason for delay/cancelation/postponement/modification of the activities:

Few events were shifted to another quarter and year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

1.1.1.5 Community Facilitator and Group Leadership Training to Community Groups (CGs) (Budget 5.7.36)

With an objective of assuring the sustainability and self-reliant community groups the project provides group leadership, group strengthening and community facilitator training to community group members so that they can learn those knowledge and skills to self-sustaining the group activities. These Leadership training were provided to group members for the organizational development of such groups. These trainings were conducted in group work; participation; decision making; roles and responsibilities; development theories; facilitation skills; leadership and meeting management; planning; record-keeping and financial management; group network formation; resource acquisition; and liaison with external agencies so that CGs can develop linkages with government and non-government offices and agencies to secure appropriate resources and to advocate for necessary change. In total 88 such trainings were conducted in all working wards involving 1947 community group members in which 1605 were women, 226 were Dalits and 554 were Janaiatis.

Reason for delay/cancelation/postponement/modification of the activities:

Due to covid-19 restrictions 30 events were postponed and shifted to another year.



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Activity 1.1.2: Capacity Development Initiatives on Governance and Advocacy 1.1.2.1 Training on Civic space to CSOs/networks (Budget 5.7.4)

With the aim of providing information on international and national context, and constitutional and legal provisions related to civic space, training on civic space to CGs was conducted in all working Palikas twice in the whole working period. 657 community group members were trained on the knowledge and skills of civic space. The training had helped the groups to understand the legal aspects as well as rights and responsibilities of citizens to ensure and institutionalise governance. Out of 657, 445 were women, 80 were Dalits and 141 were Janajatis.

Activity 1.1.2.2 Training & refresher to partners on HRBA, Governance, Accountability & GESI (5.7.5)

In the first year of the project, IM organised 1 event of 5 days training on HRBA, governance, accountability and GESI to the consortium members and their project team. The training was focused on building common understanding, knowledge, and confidence of consortium members on HRBA, governance, accountability and GESI, and its interrelation. It also aimed to build knowledge, clarity and confidence of consortium members including community facilitators to practise governance and accountability tools at the field level. The affirmative laws, policies, provisions, and mechanism to promote governance was provided to the participants in the training. The training was participatory and practical and brought conceptual clarity and understanding in the participants. Different techniques were applied such as Powerpoint presentations led question answers, brainstorming and discussions, group work and simulation exercises on accountability tools.

Again in 2021, IM organised 7 days refresher training on HRBA, human right based approach, governance, accountability and GESI to 31 participants from all five consortium partners to build knowledge and understanding on the concerned areas. The participants built their skills and capacity on using accountability tools like social map, service mapping, resource mapping, community score card, gender responsive budgeting tools, GESI audit tools, satisfaction survey tool for WASH and exit poll tool for health. Similarly, participants built their clear understanding on logframe, its indicators, target and its linkage with human rights-based approach. The consortium partners SS and DDS used the community score card tool for health to measure the accountability of the service providers.

Reason for delay/cancelation/postponement/modification of the activities:

NA

1.1.2.3 Capacity building support to partners on developing advocacy plans/strategies

Three days training on Advocacy was carried out in 2019 by IM for the consortium and the project team members. The training focused on building conceptual understanding, knowledge, capacity, and skills of consortium members' project staff on advocacy, advocacy tools and skills to develop the advocacy strategies and plans.

Three units of half-day events were organised on advocacy training through ZOOM for Sahakarmi Samaj (SS), Center for Dalit Women Nepal (CDWN) and Dalit Development









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Society (DDS) to provide technical support to finalise their advocacy strategies. The advocacy training was provided in the first year to the consortium members and after the advocacy training SS, DDS and CDWN developed organisation wise advocacy strategies incorporating the issues from the community. Before organising the digital meeting, the draft strategy was reviewed by the resource person and IM. In the meeting, a thorough review of the draft strategy was done by a resource person together with the SS, DDS and CDWN team and detailed inputs and comments on different sections of the strategy were given to rework on it. For example; in the sections of specifying the advocacy issue, goal, objective, stakeholder analysis, advocacy position, advocacy strategy, challenges, programme and budget, financial and human resource management and learning documentation. After the digital meeting, SS, DDS and CDWN shared the revised strategy incorporating the inputs and comments from the meeting. The resource person and IM did a further review and written inputs on the revised strategy and then three advocacy strategy of i) SS on drinking water issue of Khadachakra Municipality, Kalikot, ii) DDS on health issues of Tribeni Rural Municipality, Salyan and iii) CDWN on proportional representation of women, Dalit and marginalized in the planning process of local government and addressing their issues was finalised.

Reason for delay/cancelation/postponement/modification of the activities:

There has been modification on the modality of providing technical support to the organizations. Originally, it was planned to visit each organization. However, considering the Covid-19 restrictions, an alternative method was adopted using digital means.

1.1.2.4 Support CGs, CBOs and CBNOs to develop advocacy strategy and implementation (Budget 5.7.7)

To provide the additional technical support to the CGs on the advocacy plan they have developed after getting the training on it, this one-day event was organized as a follow-up and support training in all working palikas.

Reason for delay/postponement/Modification:

Due to the pandemic it could not accomplish the advocacy training in the first half of the year. We did it in the last quarter and for the follow up training it requires a gap of at least 6 months for the better implementation; that is why this event is done to those groups only who have already got the advocacy training last year and others are postponed for next year.

1.1.2.5 Orientation to CGs/CBNOs on 7 steps planning, implementation and monitoring (Budget 5.7.8)

To aware and empower the CGs members for the local level planning process, orientation on 7 steps planning, implementation and monitoring was done in all the Palikas of Kalikot, Jajarkot and Salvan. It was amidst lockdown, but the activity was conducted through phone communication and other distance alternatives so that community participation could be ensured, and their issues and voices could be addressed.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification:

Due to a lockdown, we could not make it physically as planned. Thus, the activity plan is postponed for next year.









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1.1.2.6 Basic Community Development Training (BCDT) (Budget 5.7.35)

With an aim of instilling conceptual clarity on FEST and basic community development process and techniques; 11-day Basic Community Development Training (FEST Foundation) for project staff was organised in Surkhet in 2020. The training was facilitated on participatory, reflective, practical and real experience-based methodologies which made participants engage actively to learn, share and get new tools and techniques on facilitation. The training was able to provide a six steps facilitation tool for the facilitators which is an internationally recognized tool of community mobilization designed by Sahakarmi Samaj.

A five-day refresher workshop was organized for the field level staff in 2021. In this workshop FEST, facilitation tools and skills provided in 2020 were reviewed and reflected. Based on reflection further skills and tools were provided on development principles and 5 criteria of development, thematic-based strategic analysis, and facilitation plan followed by community facilitation skills.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification:

Because of the lockdown imposed by the government to contain covid-19 pandemic, the event was shifted and implemented from March to August in 2021 with limited participants.

Activity 1.1.3: Youth empowerment and mobilization for governance 1.1.3.1 Mobilization of youth Forums for governance (Budget 5.7.9)

Project has facilitated and supported the formation and mobilization of the Youth Governance Forum in each working Palikas and for their actions related to governance. They were to conduct their regular meetings at Palika levels, facilitating their participation supported in the community level meetings and other events. Furthermore, youth were supported to celebrate different relevant national and international days such as; Youth Day, Day Against Corruption, National and International Children's Day, etc. In such events and meetings, 3891 youths were involved, among them 2480 were female, 646 were Dalit and 553 were Janajatis.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification:

Quarterly meetings, research and day celebration were postponed and shifted in another quarter during to Covid-19 restrictions.

1.1.3.2 Enterprise development training and input support to youths and women (for their active engagement in ensuring civic participation) (Budget 5.7.10)

With an aim of engage and retain local unemployed youths to enhance their active role in civic participation; a 6-day Entrepreneurship and Business Plan Development Training was provided to 25 members in each rural municipality. The women and youths were selected based on their interest to involve in enterprise and social sector. During the training, they were trained on preparing business plan and identify viable business opportunities. Out of the total 300 youths trained 75 (25 participants from each project districts) were provided with input support like the tools, seeds and other equipment to start their venture which they identified during the training. Selection criteria for participants was ensured as per the project documents which is as follows:

the criteria for selecting these entities and giving the financial support:









- Person should be regular group member,
- Person should be most marginalized family within the working area.
- Person having less opportunity of income generation activities.
- Person having interest in starting up small scale of entrepreneurship.
- Unemployed youth or women who want to contribute in the governance issue as well.

In 2021 3 day follow up training was also provided to those who have already initiated their enterprise and were seeking some additional skills and knowledge to make their business better. In such training in total 452 youths got trained on such skills and knowledge among them 292 were female, 55 were dalit and 92 were janajaties.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification:

Input support was delayed and delivered in the last quarter due to Covid-19 restriction and rainy season.

Activity 1.2.1: Resource mapping and linkage with LGs 1.2.1.1 Resource mapping and linkage with LGs for accessing resources (Budget 5.7.11)

To make the citizens responsible and uphold rights and meaningful engagement with LGs, SS and DDS conducted 29 events in Kalikot Jajarkot and Salyan districts throughout the implementation period. Events were aimed at linking citizens with local governments with line agencies to map available resources. In total 696 CG members and respective LG officials participated in interaction; among them 358 were female, 120 were Dalits and 76 were Janajatis. Facilitation was focused to have a reflection on available resources, gaps and discussion on process delivering service to right holders in proper way through group work, interaction and presentation methods. Program was concluded with action points noted and shared by participants.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification:

Few events could not be conducted due to Covid-19 restrictions.

1.2.1.2 Workshop on sectoral (WASH, Health, Education & Agriculture) plan & policies (Budget 5.7.12)

To enhance the citizen's participation, access, and linkage to the policy and plan at the local level, 21 events were conducted in total in 12 working Palikas of Kalikot, Jajarkot and Salyan. In total, 421 participants from a community group, local representatives and officials participated, where 208 were Female, 71 were Dalits, and 49 were Janajatis. The workshop was focused on the process and procedures followed by Palika during policy and plan formulation, the status of people's participation, and its effectiveness. Firstly, Palikas officials had presented about the existing plan and policies in each thematic area and open interaction was facilitated to reflect the good practices and gaps in the process further.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification:

There was a delay in implementation than the original plan and shifted to last quarter due to Covid-19 restriction.









1.2.1.3 Regular meeting of networks for coordination and advocacy (No cost)

Regular meetings of CBNOs, youth governance forum and main committees has happened for the coordination, advocacy and strategies.

Activity 1.2.2: Advocacy and Lobby for inclusion and improve the quality (No cost)

Community groups and youth governance forums visit and discuss with elected representatives and LGs staff to raise the community level issues in service delivery and for the inclusive formation of local level structure. Community members and youth governance forums have been continuously advocating with the local government to get the participation of the citizens in the policies and programs.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification: NA

1.2.2.1 Support CGs to monitor services of LGs and lobby to improve the quality (No cost)

In the CGs they have a practice of making thematic sub-committee to be responsible for monitoring local services, raising voices against gap seen and make advocacy and lobby plans accordingly.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification:

NA

1.2.2.2 Advocacy and lobby visits for inclusive decision making (No cost)

CGs/CSOs/CBNOs and youth forum representatives at the local level have made frequent advocacy and lobby visits to the local government agencies and community structures (HFOMC, SMC/PTA, WASHCC, user committees etc) to ensure the inclusive representation and decision-making process. Similarly, to ensure inclusive and participatory practices in the local level planning process, community group representatives frequently meet local level representatives and thematic units.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification: NA

Activity 1.2.3: Improving Governance and Accountability 1.2.3.1 Conduct community Score card (CSC), satisfaction survey, exit poll, GESI audit and other accountability tools (Budget 5.7.14)

With an aim of ensuring accountable and transparent local governance, 40 events of social accountability tools were implemented in the communities of all 12 working Palikas throughout the implementation period. For this youth forums were mobilised to collect the data of a specific sector (Education, health, agriculture and livestock and WASH) through a questionnaire survey. After this survey the collected data was analysed and presented to concerned stakeholders through a public hearing program at local. This event not only enhances the scope of social accountability tools but also aware citizens about the power of it for governance. Similarly, after observing the events facilitated, local level representatives and









officials also accept that utilising such social accountability tools in a proper manner will improve the transparency and accountability at local level. In such events, 1591 people were involved, where 996 were women, 253 Dalits and 211 were Janajatis.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification:

Most of the events were shifted to last quarter due to Covid-19 restrictions and few events could not be implemented.

ER 2. Op 2.1. LG representatives including thematic committee members and staff have gained increased knowledge and skills and adequate tools and methods on inclusive local governance e.g. GESI responsive policy making and planning, participatory and transparent planning, decision-making and budgeting, implementation and monitoring process etc.

Activity 2.1.1: Networking and collaboration with LGs

2.1.1.1 Interaction with local government to reinforce GESI/GRB

28 events of interaction with local governments to reinforce GESI/GRB were organized in 12 municipalities during the year with an objective to encourage participants to relate Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) to their personal experiences and understand its relevance to promoting gender equality in local governance. Further, a detailed discussion on what is GRB and GESI was held linking it with the current fiscal year budget of every municipality and ways to ensure GESI in the seven-step planning process at local level. The interaction was held among the ward chairperson, ward members (Dalit and women), ward secretaries and executive members of every municipality.

Altogether 771 (362 women and 409 men) including locally elected representatives, executive members of municipalities and government officials, local leaders and journalists were present in the interaction. The interaction was helpful in critically rethinking about the budget through GESI/GRB lens and rethink to ensure the concept during the formulation of plans and policies and budget of the municipalities. But with the end of the project, there will not be opportunity for follow ups or monitoring to check if the GRB is implemented in planning and budgeting.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification: NA

2.1.1.2 Interaction between local government and stakeholders on participatory planning (5.7.15)

With an aim of promoting participatory and inclusive practices in the local level planning process, SS and DDS conducted interaction meetings in all working Palikas each year. These interactions were facilitated between Palikas executive committee and concerned stakeholders at local level and discussed on the process followed by the Palika for the planning process. This interaction was helpful to analyse the gaps seen at the local level in participatory and inclusive practices and make joint improvement plans further. In total 35 interactions were done involving 1358 peoples, among these 600 were women, 143 dalits and 283 were janajatis.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification:

Few events were shifted to the last quarter due to covid-19 restriction before and one event could not be done due to the time unavailability of the local executive committee.









2.1.1.3 Workshop with elected representatives (Ward and Municipality chairperson, Deputy-Chairperson, Dalit representatives) on inclusive planning (5.7.16)

A total of 49 workshops with elected representatives on Inclusive Planning were organised in 12 working palikas of 3 districts in presence of 674 (Female 291 and Male 383) elected representatives including 215 from Dalit community including Chairperson, Vice- chairperson, Ward Chairpersons, chief of thematic committees, Planning committee and ward secretaries. They were oriented towards elected representatives on an inclusive planning process to encourage their effective role in promoting inclusive local governance. The content of the workshop was the concept of Sex and Gender, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, need of GESI Policy and Program, plan and provisions related to or promoting gender equality and social inclusion as well as international instruments. It was organized for one day.

The participants are considering the GRB and inclusion while budgeting and planning at local level and monitoring the existing plan and policies using the tools and influence the budget formulation team to develop gender and Dalit/marginalised friendly budgets and plans.

The trained locally elected representatives are playing vital roles in addressing the concerns and voices as well as ensuring the participation of Dalit, women and other marginalized communities as the local planning process is going on.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation: NA

2.1.1.4 Support LGs to develop guidelines and organize orientation on participatory planning implementation and monitoring

All planned activities were completed this year i.e 100% of activities conducted in 12 palikas. A total of 311 (202 Male and 109 Female) locally elected women representatives, government officials and heads of different thematic departments were oriented on development of guidelines on participatory planning, implementation and monitoring at palikas level. Out of 311, 63 belonged to Dalit community and 24 were Janajatis.

Firstly, the discussion among the participants were held about the different plans and policies drafted by the municipalities and further discussion about the need of planning, implementation and monitoring guidelines for the smooth planning and execution of the palikas programs.

At the end of the program, the participants realised the need for guidelines and agreed to form a working group (task group) in coordination of Vice-Chairperson/Deputy Mayor including thematic head and locally elected representatives and set a timeline to draft the guideline as per their convenience.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation: NA









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Activity 2.1.2: Training and orientation to LGs 2.1.2.1 Leadership training to women, ethnic and Dalit representatives (5.7.18)

Knowledge of 551 (179 Male and 412 Female) locally elected representatives of local governments of 12 municipalities were enhanced through three days leadership Development training and 2 days refresher training. The training was focused on what is leadership, what are the leadership skills, quality and types, power relation, access to resources, advocacy and leadership development, communication skills and importance of effective communication along with plans and provisions related to Dalit and marginalized enshrined in constitution. Out of 551, 237 were from Dalit community.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification: NA

2.1.2.2 Training/orientation to local governments' officials on tools of social accountability (Budget 5.7.19)

With an objective of providing orientation about the provisions of social accountability that local government operation act has provided, local government officials and community group leaders were provided a one-day refresher/ orientation in 12 working Palikas of Jajarkot, Kalikot and Salyan twice within the project period. In this session, participants were facilitated in both theoretical and practical ways. In the theoretical part, the legal provision was oriented and in practice, many social accountability tools were practised with the participants. 757 people were involved in all 24 events where 259 were female, 85 were dalit and 129 Janajati.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification:

NA

2.1.2.3 Workshop on 'Civic Centred Development Approach' (including Appreciative Inquiry) (Budget 5.7.20)

To create a mutual learning forum and build cordial relationship, review existing development practices, sustainable development process, creating strategic vision of Palikas, people-centred development trend and approach, and role of civil society, HRBA and GESI related knowledge a 3-day workshop was organised for the Palikas executive body in each Palika. In 12 such workshops, 436 people including Mayor/Chairperson, D-mayor/Vice-Chair, ward chairs, other members, Chief Administrative officers and other officials working under Palikas. Among these, 182 were women, 78 Dalits and 67 Janajatis.

Reason for delay/postponement/cancellation/modification:

Few events had to be shifted to next quarter or year due to Covid-19 complications.

Activity 2.1.3: Media mobilisation and Advocacy (no cost) 2.1.3.1 Media engagement to raise awareness on local planning and implementation process (no cost)

Media mobilisation was ensured throughout the project implementation period especially during local level planning process, dialogues between citizens and local government and local and provincial governments to raise awareness in wider coverage.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:









In 2020 and 2021, Covid-19 effect was on the top during the time of local level planning process which affects the engagement.

2.1.3.2 Evidence-based advocacy (no cost)

CGs, CBNOs, Youth Forums were facilitated to develop and implement their advocacy plans and strategies on the basis of evidence. Collecting data and information on respective thematic areas, plan and policies and practices, make advocacy plans and strategies accordingly and implement it was a process we facilitated through the project.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification: NA

Activity 2.2.1: Support to LGs for system strengthening

2.2.1.1 ICT solution support for E-governance (mobile app, website strengthening, training and system strengthening)

The project has equipped six local units with the ICT tools (mobile applications and websites) which were designed through a human-centred approach facilitating a co-creation model. Representatives from Civil Society Organizations and the local governments participated throughout the tools development process. These tools were built in such a way that they provide citizens with municipal level sectoral information on health, education, agriculture and drinking water. Besides, they provide information on the fiscal programme, budget, policies, as well as the e-citizen charter. In addition, it raised awareness of the CSOs and CBOs for the increased use of these tools particularly for accessing public services, lodging their reactions and grievances to their respective LGs in the form of text or audio taking illiterate populations in to account.

As the LGs have not fully implemented these tools in day to day operation, we are not in a position to report at outcome level. However, this has opened avenues for LGs to adopt ICT tools to engage with their citizens. The use of these tools is expected promote citizen-LG engagement in addressing governance concerns, gaining transparent access to services, and resolving complaints, all of which contribute to inclusive local governance and transparency.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification: NA

2.2.1.2 Establish citizen charter board in strategic places

Project has facilitated various meetings, interactions, dialogue and advocacy campaigns to promote accountability and transparency at local level through the mobilization of CGs and Youth governance forums in each Palikas and wards. In many places the project itself has supported to put citizen charter boards in strategic places and facilitated Palikas and its units to establish on their own.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification: NA









2.2.1.3 Support LGs to reinforce social accountability tools

Project provided training on social accountability tools to project staff and consortium members. Through project staff it was further provided to the Palika representatives and officials and CGs leaders. It was facilitated to practice various tools such as satisfaction survey, exit poll, community score card, public hearing etc in the field. After seeing the positive impact of such events, Palikas adopt and continue such practices further on their own.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification: NA

2.2.1.4 Support to develop/revise periodic or strategic plan of LGs on thematic areas

The development of sectoral periodic plans and GESI guidelines have established a base for local govts to strategically allocate and channelize their resources towards improving the current situations of health, WASH, education and agriculture. The project assisted six LGs to develop five-year sectoral periodic plans.

Districts	Local units	Sector
Jajarkot	Bheri Municipality	Education
	Junichande Rural Municipality	Education
	Chhedagad Municipality	Health
Kalikot	Sanni Tribeni Rural Municipality	Agriculture
Salyan	Kalimti Rural Municipality	Agriculture
	Darma Rural Municipality	Education

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

Tdh grappled a lot in planning and rolling out municipal sectoral strategic plans formulation as it was difficult to secure a written commitment from local units for co-funding. The project had allocated two hundred thousand rupees as a technical support cost, so the remaining cost had to be managed by the local units. But they showed little interest, readiness and thus did not put this activity in programmes and budget priority causing a state of uncertainty. As a result, Tdh









approached the consortium lead with a request for additional budget to implement the proposed activity on its own without relying on the local units. With approval from the consortium lead, Tdh accomplished the given assignment.

Activity 2.2.2: Research and advocacy on policies and schemes

2.2.2.1 Research on mapping policies, government schemes, its implementation and gaps

Activity 2.2.2.1 Research on mapping policies, govt. schemes, its implementation & gaps (6.1.14)

The in-depth policy research was carried out from 15-29 November 2019 in working Palikas of Kalikot, Jajarkot and Salyan districts and with concerned government ministries, departments, and offices of Karnali Province. The research was also conducted at the federal level with key relevant line ministries, departments, and offices. The policy research focused on detailed research and analysis of the existing government policies/schemes and its implementation status, key gaps/issues and best practices from Human Rights-based and GESI perspective (economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of poor, vulnerable and marginalised groups) at Palika/Provincial/Federal level with particular focus on thematic sectors i) WASH ii) Health iii) Right to Education and iv) Agriculture. A comprehensive report was developed based on the in-depth study. The report provides an analysis of the policies enacted by the federal, provincial and local governments on WASH, Health, Education, and Agriculture sectors in the federal setup from a human rights-based approach. The report gives invaluable insights into the issues and challenges for the implementation of those policies and the gaps between policies and practices on the ground. The report provided key recommendations to all levels of government for needed improvement in the participatory policy formulation, ensuring fundamental rights of the citizens in policy documents and for effective implementation of the policies and suggested active civic engagement in the processes. The research findings and the gaps identified were used to develop the policy brief for advocacy purposes. The finding and policy briefs were shared widely by printing the copies of the policy briefs and through emails.

Policy briefs on agriculture, education, health and WASH were translated into Nepali and published and disseminated to the wider stakeholders including government stakeholders, CSOs, and rights holders.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

2.2.2.2 Prepare policy briefs in WASH, Health, Education and Agriculture

Based on the policy research four separate policy briefs of the Health, Wash, Education and Agriculture sector were developed. The policy brief highlighted the key findings of the research on policy agendas, implementations gaps and policy gaps with key recommendation to all level government and CSOs. The policy briefs were also translated in Nepali and disseminated widely to local government bodies and the right holders and other stakeholders.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification: NA



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2.2.2.3 Conduct meetings on participatory policy formulation between LGs and CSOs

In terms of making the local-level policy making process more participatory and people centric, a one-day interaction meeting was organized in all the 12 working Palikas in first and 3rd year. In this meeting the Mayor/Chair and responsible members of Palikas executive committee were invited to interact with the representatives of community groups. This event was helpful to make policymakers realize the grass-root level issues which are needed to be reflected in the plan and policies and encourage them to establish such kind of formal mechanisms.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

Few events were shifted to another quarter during Covid-19 restrictions.

Activity 3.1.1: Facilitate coordination between Palikas and Province 3.1.1.1 Facilitate coordination & dialogue between Palika and provincial governments

A total of five dialogues were organized during the project implementation period to discuss and share the concurrent issues of Local governments and provincial government in order to strengthen the coordination among the LGs and PG. The provincial dialogues able to draw the attention of the provincial, local governments and other stakeholders on promoting good governance, budget utilization and effective monitoring mechanism, GESI friendly plan and policies and need of cooperation and monitoring

There was a presence of 128 (90 men and 38 women) participants which included ministers, parliamentarians, locally elected representatives of working palikas, and representatives from provincial and local governance support programs, human rights activists, social leaders, journalists and social leaders.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

3.1.1.2 Conduct learning sharing workshop among LGs, CBNOs and province

With an aim to connect with each other's, share the experiences, learnings and challenges and make collaboratives action plans to strengthen good governance practices in province and local levels, a learning sharing workshop between CSOs, CBOs and province were organized every year jointly with other similar activities as provincial good governance conference in Birendranagar, Surkhet. With the representative participation of CGs, Youth forums, CBOs at local level, CSOs at District and provincial governance network, Palikas representatives and provincial government the workshop has been conducted. In total 4 such workshops were conducted throughout the project period where 225 peoples participated among them 73 were female, 36 were Dalits and 32 were Janajatis.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:This event was organized jointly with other similar events as Provincial good governance conference to avail the time of elected leaders, and due to Covid-19 restrictions.



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3.1.1.3 Engagement with Province parliamentarians

To discuss the ways of formulating pro-centric laws, allocation of budget for women and other disadvantaged groups and address the issues of rights-holders a provincial level good governance conference was organized each year involving Provincial Parliamentarians on various dialogue, interaction and panel discussions with stakeholders in Birendranagar. Representation of participants from CGs/CBOs/CSOs, media, good governance network, NGO federations, local governments was also ensured. 2 such events were organized where 104 people participated out of these, 37 were women, 8 Dalits and 12 Janajatis.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

Due to Covid-19 restriction and time unavailability of parliamentarians, provincial level events were organized jointly as conference and field visits could not be conducted.

3.1.2.1 Province level Good Governance network formation / participation

With an aim of discussing citizen participation in the governance, role of CSOs in ensuring people's rights, and good governance related issues in the sub-national governance practices project facilitated and supported to form and mobilize the provincial level good governance network.

An ad hoc committee was formed in the year 2020 and it was upgraded as a formal network by its first convention in April 2021 with the collaboration of Sahakarmi Samaj and Nepal government's Provincial and Local Governance Support Program (PLGSP) as "Good Governance Network Convention. A 16 member's provincial good governance committee was formed with an inclusive representation of people from all 10 districts of Karnali Province. After this, meetings and discussion were conducted periodically every year as per the need. 3 such meetings were facilitated where 86 peoples participated out of which 37 were female, 13 were Dalits and 9 Janajatis.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

Regular meetings were couldn't be organized due to Covid-19 restrictions.

<u>ER3: Op 3.2.</u> Best practices on local good governance are documented and disseminated to other sub-national governments, development partners in the province and country-wide

Activity 3.2.1: Documentation and dissemination of results for replication 3.2.1.1 Identify, document and disseminate the best practices for replication

Project published e-newsletters six times throughout the implementation period and disseminated to the consortium members and the wider communities of the project area. Likewise, at the end of the project, success stories were published in both Nepali and English language and disseminated to wider stakeholders and beneficiaries. A video documentary was also made and shared to the wider network. Similarly, a game book was published and











disseminated to all the community group members and CBNOs for the replication and continuation of the group facilitation process.

3.2.1.2 Publish newsletter and disseminate to stakeholders

Altogether, 6 issues of the E-newsletters were published and disseminated to the consortium members and the wider communities. The first newsletter for the project was published and disseminated to the consortium members and wider stakeholders in December 2019. Case stories from the implementing consortium members were collected from the field, reviewed and selected for publication. Photos and information were collected from Sahakarmi Samaj, Dalit Development Society and CDWN team. The quarterly reports of the project submitted by each organization also provided information for the newsletter. The consortium members were also engaged while designing the newsletter. The newsletter covered the information about the project, its consortium members, working areas, target groups, expected outcomes and the major activities and achievements. In 2022, video documentation on the best practices of the project was done covering stories from the 3 working districts of Salyan, Jajarkot and Kalikot. Three smaller versions of the video were also developed for sharing in social media.

Six e-newsletters for the project were published and disseminated on a half-yearly basis to the consortium members and wider stakeholders in June and December 2021. Several rounds of consultations have been done with the consortium members to collect information from the field. Photos and contents were collected from SS, and DDS. Tdh and CDWN team. During the designing phase also the consortium members were consulted for their inputs and comments. The newsletter has covered information about the project, its consortium members, working areas, target groups, expected outcomes and the major activities conducted along with their success stories.

3.2.2.1 Conduct coordination meeting/workshop among LGs of working Palikas

With an aim of creating a platform for coordination, exchange and replication between Palikas, a joint event was organised at the Provincial level in Surkhet every year from 2020 in which representatives from all 12 working Palikas were invited and discussed on the governance status especially on participation, transparency and accountability. This event was jointly organized with the provincial conference and representatives from the provincial government, civil society leaders and other stakeholders also participated in the event and shared their experiences in the subject. In total, 25 events were organized in the project period where 439 people participated in this workshop among those 146 were female, 76 Dalits and 66 were Janajatis.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

During covid-19 restrictions in 2020 and 2021, and elections in 2022 few events were shifted to December and organized jointly with other similar events.

3.2.2.2 Conduct sharing meeting/workshop among LGs of working districts

District-level learning sharing workshops were organised in Kalikot, Jajarkot and Salyan each year in the presence of the district coordination committee (DCC) and other like-minded stakeholders in the district. This event has helped to create a platform to share the experiences, best practices, issues and way forward with each other and enable the conducive environment to work collaboratively. In the meeting, each participant including elected representatives and government officials shared their experiences on good practices, learnings and challenges faced









in their field. The meeting has been concluded with some action points to play a progressive, collaborative, and reflective action from each stakeholder for the future.

In total 8 events were conducted where 214 people participated. Among those, 78 were female, 28 were Dalits and 26 were Janajatis.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

In the year 2019, this event was not conducted. During covid-19 restrictions in 2020 and 2021, and elections in 2022 few events were implemented later that its original plan.

Project Cycle Management (PCM) Activities:

Project Cycle Management (PCM) Activities:

Activity 0.01 Project Launching programme at the provincial level (5.7.28)

The project launching ceremony was held on 5th June 2019 at Surkhet, Karnali Province under the leadership of Sahakarmi Samaj. The IM programme team provided technical support to Sahakarmi Samaj to design and prepare the launching workshop. IM supported SS in preparing the invitation card, programme schedule and press release for the launch. IM's Country Director also participated in the ceremony to support the preparation and conduct the programme. The launching ceremony was focused on disseminating the information about the project, its objectives, working areas, donor, time duration, budget and activities to the key stakeholders like provincial and local government, CSOs and journalists. The programme was conducted in the presence of Chief Minister Mahendra Shahi of Karnali Province.

Reason for delay/cancelation/postponement of the activities:

The launching program was delayed because both the Chief Minister of Karnali Province and the EU Ambassador were interested to participate, however fixing a suitable time for both was difficult.

Activity 0.02 Inception workshop and procurement and financial management training (5.7.28)

A five-day inception workshop was carried out from 5-9 April 2019 in Birendranagar, Surkhet for the consortium members and their project team. The main objective was to build shared understandings of the project objectives, deliverables, key concepts, methodologies, donor compliance, visibility and communication compliance, project terms & conditions, and procurement and financial management system. The workshop developed a detailed operational plan, M&E plan, monitoring & reporting system, coordination, and communication mechanism for the project. As a technical partner, the IM programme and finance team were involved in designing and finalising the programme schedule and facilitated the inception workshop and the Procurement and Financial Management training. The workshop discussed areas such as project methodologies, HRBA, GESI, FEST, youth engagement for governance, ICT for Governance and clarity for the formation of community level 600 groups, CSOs and









CBNOs. The workshop also brought clarity on project management structures, communication structure and development of detailed operational plans of project activities with budget.

Activity 0.04 Supporting partners on donor's compliance management (finance, procurement, communication and visibility)

IM finance Officer visited Sahakarmi Samaj (SS), Dalit Development Society (DDS), Terre des hommes (Tdh) and Center for Dalit Women Nepal (CDWN) office on quarterly basis for assessment of their organisational and financial system, monitoring the project financial management system and to provide technical support and guidance to manage the EU compliance on procurement and finance.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, IM finance Officer continued coaching and guiding the finance team of Sahakarmi Samaj (SS), Dalit Development Society (DDS), Terre des hommes (Tdh) and Center for Dalit Women Nepal (CDWN) in a regular basis using digital means. In 2020, IM conducted the EU compliance and financial management training for the consortium members.

IM Communication Officer developed the communication and visibility (C&V) plan for the project in coordination and consultation with the consortium members. The Communication and Visibility plan guided the overall communication and visibility activities of the project ensuring the quality and compliance, identifying the target audience, visibility material needs and the dissemination plan. It supported to create higher visibility of the project work to larger mass of rights holders and stakeholders. It also assured that beneficiaries and partners complied with the European Union's visibility requirements. IM also conducted case story collection and photography training to the consortium members to enhance the quality of communication and visibility materials. And as per the plan IM produced and disseminated the E-newsletter of the project bi-annually. One issue each was produced during the first and last year of the project.

Activity 0.01 Project Launching programme at the provincial level

The project launching ceremony was organized by Sahakarmi Samaj on 5th June 2019 in Surkhet, Karnali Province with technical support from consortium partners for designing and preparation including preparing invitation cards, programme schedule and press release. The launching ceremony was focused on disseminating the information about the project, its objective, working areas, donor, time duration, budget and activities to the key stakeholders like provincial and local government, CSOs and journalists. The programme was conducted in the presence of Social Development Minister Mr. Dal Rawal of Karnali Province.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

There was a delay in organizing the launching ceremony due to difficulties in managing time of the Chief Minister of Karnali province and EU Ambassador at the same time as both of them showed their interest to participate in the programme.

Activity 0.02 Inception workshop and procurement and financial management training (5.7.28)

A five days inception workshop was carried out from 5-9 April 2019 in Birendranagar, Surkhet for the consortium members and the project team. The main objective was to build shared understandings of the project objectives, deliverables, key concepts, methodologies, donor









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compliance, visibility and communication compliance, project terms & conditions, and procurement and financial management system. The workshop also aimed to develop a detailed operational plan, M & E plan, monitoring & reporting system, coordination and communication mechanism of the project. The major discussion points were; project methodologies on HRBA, GESI, FEST, youth engagement for governance, ICT for Governance and clarity on formation of community level 600 groups, CSOs and CBNOs. The workshop also brought clarity on project management structure, communication structure and development of a detailed operational plan of project activities with budget.

03 Project orientations at Palika level (5.7.29)

With an objective of sharing the overall goal, objectives, methodologies and approaches of the project to stakeholders at local levels, SS and DDS conducted project orientation at each working Palikas of Kalikot, Jajarkot and Salyan during the period of May to August 2019. Local government representatives, government officials, social and political leaders, CBOs/CSOs and other stakeholders were oriented about the project. Similarly, After the 2nd local level election in 2022, another orientation and learning sharing meetings were conducted in all 12 working Palikas to share about the project, its objectives, methodologies, activities and results to the newly elected representatives and other officials

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

In 2022, after the local level election an additional orientation session was given to all newly elected representatives of all working palikas.

04 Supporting partners on donor's compliance management (finance, procurement, communication and visibility) 5.7.30

Within the consortium members it was frequently ensured to visit and support as per the need. Sahakarmi Samaj with the technical support of IM Swedish Development Partner has continued to support the project partners on finance, procurement, communication and visibility and to maintain the overall donor's compliance management to ensure the quality of the project by frequent visits, assessment, feedback and consultation among consortium members.

Communication and visibility plan of the project was developed in coordination and consultation with the consortium members. The main objective for developing it was to inform the general public and stakeholders about the project and its impact for better understanding and cooperation. The Communication and Visibility plan guided the overall communication and visibility activities of the project ensuring the quality and compliance. It also supported in creating higher visibility of the project work to a larger mass of rights holders and stakeholders. It also assured that beneficiaries and implementing agencies comply with the European Union's visibility requirements.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

During Covid-19 some visits were postponed, and virtual support and consultation was provided.









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05 Annual and Semi-Annual Review and Planning meetings (5.7.31)

To review, reflect and make further plans, the project conducted annual and semi-annual review and planning meetings each year among all project staff, management team and board representatives of all consortium partners.

In this workshop, project implementation status was reviewed in detail followed by a discussion of learnings, challenges and further plan and strategies. This review and planning meeting has helped project team and consortium partners to operate the projects effectively by creating the synergy and providing the platform for learning and sharing from each other. Throughout the project period, intotal 8 such meetings were conducted.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

During covid-19 effects virtual meetings were conducted.

06 Lesson learned and Result dissemination workshop at the Provincial Level

Lessons learned and results were shared and disseminated with the wider stakeholders at Provincial and Federal level. Preliminary findings of final evaluation, learnings, case stories, challenges etc. were shared and discussed in the workshop. In the provincial workshop social development minister of Karnali Province Mr. Yagya Bahadur Budha was invited as the chief guest and other peoples from local governments, provincial governments, community groups, local and provincial CSOs, other development agencies and concerned stakeholders were invited in the workshop. In both the workshops, 106 people participated out of them 32 were female, 13 were Dalits and 16 were Janajatis.

Ref Methodology Section 2.1.2.3 Social Audit of the Project at the RM level (Budget 5.7.32)

As a major tool of social accountability, the project conducted the social audit in each working Palikas of Kalikot, Jajarkot and Salyan. In two Palikas Bheri and Khadachakra the event was implemented jointly with DPAC. In such way, in total 48 such events were conducted.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification: NA

Methodology section 2.1.2.3 Partner's level monthly review and planning staff meeting (all partners) (Ref 5.7.33)

Partner level monthly staff meetings have been done by each partner to review and plan the monthly activities at field level. Such meetings have been conducted in a participatory approach where community facilitators and district team leaders sit together and discuss implementation status, progress, learning, challenges and further plan and strategies. This regular meeting has been an important platform for the project team to review, reflect and forecast the project activities effectively.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

During Covid-19 restriction, it was done virtually or through phone communication.



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2.1.2.3 Exposure visit of board/staff for learning best practices and replication (Ref Methodology section 5.7.34)

Exposure visit of board and staff of the implementing partners was conducted during the implementation period for the learning sharing and replication. In 2021 SS and DDS went for an exposure visit in the different places of Nepal including their board and staff members. Similarly, in 2022 SS conducted a visit to India including board and staffs of consortium partner to learn about the sustainability of an organization, local resource mobilization, team spirit and social enterprise initiatives.

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

Due to COVID-19 restriction, the exposure visit was postponed and shifted to another year.

Ref Methodology 2.1.2.4 The procedures for follow up and internal/external evaluation. Development of Project Monitoring Framework:

Each annual and semi-annual meeting has included M&E interaction sessions on the project logframe. Project facilitators are always encouraged to learn about the various levels of indicators and how our activities contribute to the outcome level indicators during the discussion. During the review meetings, the "River of Life" tool was used to learn about the various types of activities done in the field and to map the outcome level indicators. Internal data collection tools have been developed and quarterly data is shared by the consortium partners, and it is compiled.

5.4.1 SWC Evaluation (midterm and final)

Social Welfare Council conducted the project's final evaluation, please see the detailed report in the annex-1

Reason for delay/ postponement/cancellation/Modification:

Due to COVID-19 restriction, mid-term evaluation was postponed by the SWC.

Activity 5.4.2 DPAC/RMPAC meeting (Budget 2.1.2.4)

As a part of the government compliance, SS and DDS have conducted DPAC, MPAC and RMPAC of the project in working areas. In total, 8 such meetings were conducted in all working districts insuring the representative participation of LGs of working Palikas, thematic agencies at District in the presence of district coordination committee and CDO office. At Palika level, Palika representatives, thematic unit representatives, Palika level other stakeholders and community group members were participated in the meeting. In these meeting project activities, implementation status, progress, challenges and learnings were presented, discussed and analysed. Project has utilized this meeting as a platform to learn and share the best practices with district and palika level stakeholders and get their feedback for the betterment of further plan and implementation.

5.4.3 Final Project Evaluation

Final evaluation report has been attached in the annex-2.









2.3 Describe if the Action will continue after the support from the European Union has ended. Are there any follow up activities envisaged? What will ensure the sustainability of the Action?

There are no direct follow up activities envisaged as such. However, the community groups and CBNOs will continue to exist and carry out their regular activities. They are expected to meet every month and discuss social issues affecting them and identify potential solutions towards resolving those issues.

The consortium members worked in close coordination with the local government, federal government and likeminded stakeholders working in the good governance sector. SS, DDS, CDWN and Tdh coordinated and collaborated with the local government for establishing a governance system through ICT support and the local government are interested in taking it forward in future. Likewise, the project has formed the provincial level good governance network in coordination with the local and provincial government and likeminded CSOs. The project has established its coordination with Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme (PLGSP) to promote and continue the good governance network. On the other hand, at the community level, the project has empowered the community groups to claim their rights to participation, inclusion, access to quality public services and we have observed people exercise their rights. Further, some of the right holders have even participated and have been elected in the local elections, thus, we are hopeful this will continue. The community-based organisations formed during the implementation of the project are in line with the village improvement committees envisaged by the local government therefore it is certain that these organisations and their network will sustain even after the project and without the support of external funding.

2.4 Submit an updated Log frame matrix, highlighting the changes. When the planning has included milestones (intermediary target values), the updated log frame matrix should allow to compare the achievements at the date of the reporting with the corresponding values in earlier reports (when relevant) and with the corresponding milestones and final target.

Please see annex 3 for the updated log frame matrix.

2.5. Explain how the Action has mainstreamed cross-cutting issues such as promotion of human rights, gender equality, democracy, good governance, children's rights and indigenous Civics, environmental sustainability² and combating HIV/AIDS (if there is a strong prevalence in the target country/region).³

The project is based on Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) as its overarching guiding principle. The project put the women, youth, children, marginalised and minorities at the core of its work and enhanced their effective participation in the good governance system. The

² Guidelines for environmental integration are available at: <u>https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/economic-growth/environment-and-green-economy/climate-change-and-environment_en</u>

³ Please refer to EC Guidelines on gender equality, disabilities, etc.









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project promoted gender equality and social inclusion by empowering the women and youth from the marginalised groups to increase their participation in decision making and planning processes. Similarly, the project worked on capaciting the local government authorities on gender responsive planning and budgeting, capacity building of the rights holders in the planning process as well as works on leadership development of the elected women representatives. To promote and mainstream HRBA and GESI in all our project work, project teams from the consortium were provided with training on HRBA, governance, accountability, GESI and advocacy. Further, policy research was carried out to conduct a strategic policy advocacy with local and provincial governments identifying gaps in policies and practices, and its impact on the rightsholders. To ensure the cross-cutting themes are mainstreamed in future, the local policies and sectoral plans were developed based on the gaps identified. To promote environmental sustainability, the project team used cloth or disposable paper banners to the optimum level and contributed to the "Go Green" mission by reducing the use of mineral water bottles, plastic plates, and cups during programme events.

2.6 How and by whom have the activities been monitored/evaluated? Please summarise the results of the feedback received from the beneficiaries and others.

Tdh had a lead role in M&E on this project. As a result, the Tdh's M&E officer carried out the monitoring as needed. However, during the project, the majority of the members visited the project site and contributed to the monitoring, as well as providing feedback, lessons learned, and suggestions for improvement. The project created its own project database to track project activity data, which is compiled quarterly, and provided feedback accordingly. The consultant completed the project baseline study, while the midline survey was conducted internally by the M&E officer and the end line survey was completed by the external consultants, allowing the baseline data to be compared. In addition, the Social Welfare Council and a consulting firm conducted two units of external final evaluations of the project and final evaluation was conducted by the external consultants.

Summary of the results of the feedback received from the beneficiaries and other

- Sharmila Nepali "We have submitted various proposals like hand-operated ۲ trailer and tailoring and learned that the ward allocated NPR 300,000 (approx. USD 2,308) for tailoring, She feels quite confident that they can now put forward their issues and take necessary support from the Local Government"
- Members are satisfied with the role they have been playing for the development • of the society as they have been participating in the annual programme and budget preparation of the Local Government and monitoring the activities conducted.
- This project has been organizing regular interaction with people's representatives and its orientation programme are helpful for strengthening the capacity of local government, so I am quite impressed with the work done by this project - Narendra Kumar Shahi, Formal Chairperson, Shibalaya Rural Municipality, Jajarkot
- The group members realized that the proposal and report writing training provided by the project is very helpful to prepare proposals for Local and Provincial Government









and they have been accessing resources from these government bodies. "We were not aware about the process of demanding budget with the Local and Provincial Government but have realized it would be easier for accessing resources if you demand it systematically. - Pragatishil group, Kalikot

• 2.7 What has your organisation or any actor involved in the Action learned from the Action and how has this learning been utilised and disseminated?

The learnings of the project mainly on developing advocacy strategies, practicing gender responsive budgeting advocacy during the planning process, and using accountability tools to make the local government accountable is shared to the Sida funded regular partner of IM. The learnings of this project are also used on building other project proposals to EU and other donors. Apart from it, we are also enhancing our learning by increasing our technical support to the implementing partners on process and contents for policy advocacy activities that contribute to draw the expected results of the project. The good practices are also shared with the partners of other projects and different networks to replicate the learnings and actions. The actions learned from the interventions have been very useful for IM to integrate some of the best practices into its regular program. The stories are shared and discussed in the organization's meetings. IM is also thinking of replicating the FEST approach in its program interventions in the coming days.

2.8 Please list all materials (and number of copies) produced during the Action on whatever format (please enclose a copy of each item, except if you have already done so in the past).

The project produced brochure, E-card (invitation), notebook, pen, bag, stickers and Enewsletter to promote visibility of the project. List of the produced items and how its dissemination process is given in the table below.









List of materials	Quantity/times	Distribution process
Project launching event invitation e- card	1 time	The invitation card was sent to the invitees and participants of the project launching workshop through email. The invitees include Donors, Provincial and local Government stakeholders, INGOs, NGO federation, like minded CSOs and Journalists.
Project brochure	100 copies	The project brochure was distributed to introduce the project to the donor, provincial and local Government stakeholders, INGOs, CSOs and rights holders during meetings, workshops, visits to the stakeholder's office and in the community by the consortium members.
Notebook	650 copies	Notebook was distributed to the consortium members for their regular use and during organising meetings and workshops with the government stakeholders to promote greater visibility of the project.
Pen	500 copies	Together with the notebook, pen was distributed to the consortium members for their regular use and during organising meetings and workshops with the government stakeholders to promote greater visibility of the project.
Bag	147 Pieces	Pen was distributed to the consortium members for their regular use to promote greater visibility of the project.
Stickers	800 pieces	Stickers were disseminated to the consortium members to be sticked in the equipment, furniture and inventories of the project.











E-newsletter	6 times	E-newsletters were disseminated via email to the relevant government stakeholders, donors, INGOs, NGOs and likeminded CSOs to inform about the project work.
Policy research report	100 copies	The policy research report was distributed to the consortium members, local and provincial government stakeholders, CSOs and donors during meetings, workshops and visits. It was used as a tool for evidence-based advocacy and to develop local level sector plans.
Policy briefs	800 copies	200 copies of each policy brief on health, WASH, agriculture and education were published and distributed to the consortium members, local and provincial government stakeholders, CSOs, donors and rights holders during meeting, workshops and field visits.
Policy briefs	2000 copies	500 copies of each Nepali translated policy brief on health, WASH, agriculture and education were published and distributed to the consortium members, local and provincial government stakeholders, CSOs, donors and rights holders during meeting, workshops and field visits.
Pen-drive	100 copies	Pen-drive was distributed to the consortium members for their regular use and for government stakeholders to promote greater visibility of the project.
T-shirt	100 Pieces	T-shirts were distributed to the consortium members for their regular use to promote greater visibility of the project.
Jackets	50 Pieces	50 pieces of winter jacket with logos of the consortium members were printed and distributed to the staff of the project for visibility purposes.









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Video documentary with 3 shorter versions	1 time	a 9 minutes long video with 3 shorter versions on best practices of the project were developed and shared with relevant stakeholders to share the learning of the project.
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2.9 Please list all contracts (works, supplies, services) above € 60 000 awarded for the implementation of the Action since the last interim report if any or during the reporting period, giving for each contract the amount, the name of the contractor and a brief description on how the contractor was selected. NA

3. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other Cooperation

3.1 How do you assess the relationship between the beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this grant contract (i.e. those having signed the mandate for the Coordinator or the affiliated entity statement)? Please provide specific information for each beneficiary/affiliated entity.

There is a healthy and collaborative relationship among the beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this grant contract. SS has taken responsibility for synergising the overall project objective through consistent interactions, meetings and observations. Furthermore, as an implementing partner and technical expert of community mobilisation in the team, SS have been playing a vital role to install the project at community level.

As a technical expert in financial compliances, Education, Agriculture and livestock, Human right, GESI, C&V etc.; IM Swedish have played a very supportive and remarkable role in the project to ensure the quality delivery in such thematic areas. Similarly, Tdh has been effectively playing its part and providing technical support related to Health, WASH, ICT, Youth mobilisation and M&E effectively. CDWN has a strong role to implement the project activities to ensure the GESI approach in the governance by conducting various training to the local government on GRB and capacity development etc.

DDS is sincerely implementing its part in the Salyan district. As a local organisation it has been a very supportive and coordinating role specially to implement activities in Salyan. The combination of partners with specific expertise in acquired project methodologies has been making the implementation process more efficient. Within the consortium it has been a means of capacity enhancement by exchanging the learning among each other as per the need.



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3.2 Is the above agreement between the signatories to the grant contract to continue? If so, how? If not, why?

The agreement between the consortium members ended in December 2022, but it will continue until the final report is submitted to the European Commission. However, the relationship established during the project life will be continued and areas for collaboration will also be sought in other upcoming projects.

3.3 How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?

Collaborative, cooperative, and compatible relations were maintained between Sahakarmi Samaj and local and provincial state authorities. Having years long experience of working in community mobilisation and governance through a proven tool (FEST), SS has been able to establish its good will in the working Palikas and Province. Regular communication and collaboration with the governance reform and coordination division at the Chief minister's office, Karnali Province and PLGSP has been ensured in the reporting period.

Similarly, during community and Palika level intervention, coordination, and collaboration with each working palika including other line agencies at district level has been strengthened. As a result, replicating our approach, 3 working Palikas of Jajarkot (Junichade, Chhedagad and Shibalaya) have allocated 13 lakhs rupees (5 lakhs, 3 lakhs, 5 lakhs) in thier plan and budget to **enhance the citizens participation in the governance process** in the remaining needful communities and has requested Sahakarmi Samaj for the implementation.

Dalit Development Society was established in 2058 B.S. From its establishment this organization is working with coordination and collaboration with many other governmental as well as non-governmental organisations. This organization is also coordinating with local level government, federal government and central government. LGs are also taking this project positively and involving the organization in different programs and the organization is also involving LGs in its programs that has also made the relation between two bodies relatively strong. This program Peoples participation in good governance is running by the authorization of Social Welfare Council and Local Government that's why this program is rated to be running positively.

Likewise, Tdh attended various workshops/meetings related to governance in Kathmandu and shared its learning and useful information with partners related to the project. Tdh also visited three Rural Municipalities in Salyan and Jajarkot and discussed project objectives, their impression towards the project.

Similarly, CDWN has a good impression with the government authorities as a Dalit women led organization which has helped to coordinate with national, provincial and local representatives. There was a good collaboration with the provincial government, provincial









planning commission and local governments. We had jointly organized a provincial subnational governance conference in Surkhet with Nepal governments' Provincial and Local Governance Support Program (PLGSP) Karnali Province.

There has been a smooth relationship between the relevant state authorities and IM despite our HRBA and advocacy based working approach. In the 2nd year also IM coordinated with all three-tiers of governments during accomplishing policy research. Dalit Development Society, since its establishment has been working with the close coordination and collaboration with many other governmental as well as non-governmental organization. Overall, there is a good relationship established between all the consortiums and state authorities in the country. This has helped for the smooth implementation of the project.

3.4 Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:

- Associate(s) (if any) NA
- Contractor(s) (if any) NA
- Final Beneficiaries and Target groups
- Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc.)

Final Beneficiaries and Target groups

In this reporting year, institutional capacity of the CGs/CSOs/CBNOs was strengthened by providing group strengthening training, community facilitation training and office materials support. Ensuring FEST approach principle, CGs/CSOs/CBNOs have facilitated, capacitated, and mentored to lead them to be a self-sustained network organization at local and all the needful knowledge and skills has been provided. In the coming year they will be further facilitated to make their network organization with the Palikas and become an institutional partner organization of the Sahakarmi Samaj and Palika. Thus, as a continuation of its core approach, SS has been maintaining proper relationships with final beneficiaries and target groups.

Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc.)

There was a close and detailed coordination and interaction with other I/NGOs, AIN, CBOs, CSOs, Palikas executives, provincial thematic units, provincial governance report and coordination division, PLGSP and other stakeholders. As a governance project we had several coordination meetings, interactions and workshops to enhance the subnational good governance with all the concerned stakeholders working in governance in Karnali Province. In that way the project has scaled up the healthy and meaningful relation with other parties in the working area.









In coordination with the System Strengthening for Better Health (SSBH) for the health sector component, services were provided to the citizens of the health sector and a citizen's charter board for 35 types of medicines. Our Project working area of DDS Salyan and 5 Palika contribute to SSBH.

In coordination with the RTI International organization, work was done with the education units and schools of all the 10 municipalities to support in the preparation of our project in education plan and curriculum development in Darma rural municipality and in other rural municipalities support to RTI International. Similarly, in coordination with the SUAAHARA-II Program sectoral discussion and planning was done in all working Palikas of Salyan district.

Project team has established a good relationship with governance reform and local government (Mayor, Deputy Mayors and elected women representatives of working palikas) through learning, sharing initiatives and interactions we conducted collaboratively. Apart from that, a four-day governance conference was organised jointly with Nepal government's Provincial and Local Governance Support Program (PLGSP) with the close coordination of likeminded organisations which had successfully formed a provincial good governance network as an organized forum with the inclusive representation of province level CSOs from each district. This is a very new initiative in the province which will coordinate, collaborate and advocate the governance issues in the province.

3.5 Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.

Hello Chief Minister, Karnali Province: - The Karnali Provincial Government has developed a comprehensive digital mechanism providing a platform for citizens to register their concerns against services they are receiving from government or other providers. The OCMCM Karnali and UNDP gave the responsibility of citizens participation in this mechanism to Sahakarmi Samaj as they were satisfied with the approach SS has applied for the community empowerment and mobilization. Sahakarmi Samaj conducted a series of orientation and sensitization events along with the province level good governance network in Karnali, the engagement from public increased from 20 to 500 calls.

Formation and Mobilization of TLOs: As Sahakarmi has been following its FEST approach to facilitate the communities for their effective and sustainable mobilization. Many local governments have approached Sahakarmi to facilitate to apply that approach to form and mobilize Tole Lane Organizations (TLOs) which is a government owned community structure for the community empowerment and mobilization. Bheri Municipality of Jajarkot has allocated specified budget for this action and made an agreement with Sahakarmi since last 3 years and convered all the community groups into the TLOs and register them in the Palika. This initiative was inspired by other many Palikas and has been approaching SS for the further process.









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3.6 If your organisation has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants).

This action has been able to build complement to the previous grant that we were accomplished as a co-applicant. As this grant was related to the "Right to Earn" in which we facilitate community people for enterprise development initiatives and has create an impact in the life of marginalized communities. Now through this project also we could able to provide such enterprise development initiatives to youths and their families and help to support their livelihood and enable them to work against the governance related issues at local level. Similarly, this action has helped to enhance our organizational capacity in terms of finance controlling system, compliance and project management.

3.7 How do you evaluate cooperation with the services of the Contracting Authority?

We are glad that the representatives from EU managed time to visit the project sites and provided us feedback for improvement. The consortium is glad with the adaptive project management approach of the EU because of which we could revise the logframe rectifying the errors from the baseline survey. In addition, we got the opportunity to learn about the EU's priorities/practices through our participation in the partner's forum held in Kathmandu in November 2022.

4 Visibility

IM and all consortium members followed the communication and visibility guidelines of European Commission in every event of the project and related work and wherever possible. Logo of the EC has been used in following events and items;

- At workshops/ trainings/ orientations/ interactions programme at field, district, provincial and national level wherever possible with the consent of the target groups
- In brochure, notebook, pen, invitation e-card, e-newsletter & stickers published
- In Bags produced
- Reports, financial vouchers, monthly timesheet, PowerPoint presentations
- On t-shirts, jackets and pen drives produced
- Video documentary (<u>Promoting Digital Governance at Local Level.mp4</u>, <u>Women Started</u> <u>Tailoring Enterprise After Traini...</u>, <u>Youths Engagement in Local Governance.mp4</u>, <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/14Mf6SVf9zWPD11MKWAfahxubH4RYTNFK/view?usp=sharing</u>











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The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state your objections here.

It will be our pleasure to share the results of the action through the EuropeAid website. We have no objection. Please see annex-4 for project related photos.

5. Location of records, accounting and supporting documents

Please indicate in a table the location of records, accounting and supporting documents for each Beneficiary and affiliated entity entitled to incur costs.

Suraj Sir's Input

List of annexes;

Annex 1: Final Evaluation Report (SWC)

- Annex 2: Final Evaluation Report (External consultant)
- Annex 3: Project Log Frame
- Annex 4: Project Related Photos
- Annex 5: Media Coverage
- Annex 6: Endline Report
- Annex 7: Stories of Transformation (both Nepali and English)
- Annex 8: Game Book
- Annex 9: Newsletter (6th Volume)

Name of the contact person for the Action: Ammar Bahadur Air

Signature:

Date report due:

Date report sent: