

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) Nepal





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Photo Credits

Mallika Bhattarai, Susasan Project,
Punarnirman Project, Uniterria and AVP Programs

VISION

Through sharing and respect, CECI works for equality between men and women, both within its own organization and in society at large. It helps to combat poverty and exclusion by building bridges within its international network of partners through intercultural interaction and international cooperation.

STRATEGY

CECI focuses on building the development capacity of local and disadvantaged communities. Its programs and projects support communities in becoming their own drivers for change by focusing on local ownership, empowerment and partnership with local non-government organizations and community-based organizations. Gender transparency and good governance are at the core of our capacity building activities.

MISSION

CECI's mission is to combat poverty and exclusion

FOCUS AREAS

To enhance the quality of lives, CECI Nepal concentrates its actions in five areas of expertise:

- Economic development & livelihoods
- Agriculture and food security
- Local governance and accountability
- Human safety and emergency response
- Gender equality and social inclusion
- Disaster Risk Reduction

ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFU	Agriculture and Forest University
AVP	Australian Volunteers Program
CCS	Coast Capital Savings Federal Credit Union
CCUL	Coffee Cooperative Union Lalitpur
CDCAN	Central Dairy Cooperative Association Limited Nepal
CDCR	Community Disaster and Climate Resilient
CECI	Centre for International Studies and Cooperation
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTEVT	Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DCSOs	District Civil Society Organizations
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GON	Government of Nepal
LDMPCU	Lalitpur District Milk Producers Cooperative Union
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprise
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWC	Social Welfare Council
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCA	Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
WECCSL	Women Entrepreneur Consumer Cooperation Limited
WUSC	World University Service of Canada
WMG	Women and Marginalized Groups

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ABOUT

Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)



The Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) is a Canadian non-profit organization founded in 1958 and registered in 1968. Since then, CECI has grabbed every opportunity to grow, reinvent itself and stay at the forefront of international cooperation, never losing sight of its main mission to combat poverty and exclusion. Now more than ever, the organization is innovating and adapting to a changing world, building on its achievements and continuously working to combat poverty and exclusion by strengthening the development capacity of disadvantaged communities,

supporting initiatives for peace, human rights, gender, nonviolence, disaster risk reduction, food security, resilience and adapting to climate change, mobilizing resources and promoting the exchange of know-how.

CECI has over 60 years of experience in development cooperation with more than 25 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. In the last 60 years, CECI has played a part in improving the living conditions of more than 30 million people and has managed a large number of volunteers from Canada and



Message from the Country Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the CECI Nepal's Annual Report 2018-2019!

I am delighted to present you CECI Nepal's Annual Report. This report presents you with a glimpse of our major activities and achievements carried out in the year 2018-2019.

This year, CECI has successfully completed Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake affected Population in Nepal — Punarnirman project funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada (GAC) to improve sustainable livelihoods of the rural population in three districts, who were badly affected by the mega earthquakes of 2015.

The most exciting part of Punarnirman project is the local governments' willingness to continue and support beyond the project period by linking beneficiaries with the local institutions.

We are in the mid of implementation of four year project Susasan. Susasan project is funded by the Government of Canada through GAC and is working with governments and citizens, particularly women and marginalized groups of 12 Municipalities in Province Three and Sudurpaschim Province. The project works to promote technology, co-creation and

innovation to enhance the equitable and inclusive participation of the public in the democratic decision-making process, especially by WMGs, through the use of technology.

This year, we managed 75 volunteers from two different volunteer cooperation programs: the Canadian Volunteer Cooperation Program: Uniterra (a program of World University Service Candana WUSC and CECI) and the Australian Government's Australian Volunteers Program. Both volunteer cooperation programs support various governmental and non-governmental organizations within the country following the government's proprieties.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all our donors and implementing partners, Government of Nepal, Government of Canada and Government of Australia and civil society organizations for their continued cooperation and invaluable work with us.

I would also like to thank CECI Nepal team and volunteers for their support and dedication in implementing various projects and programs.

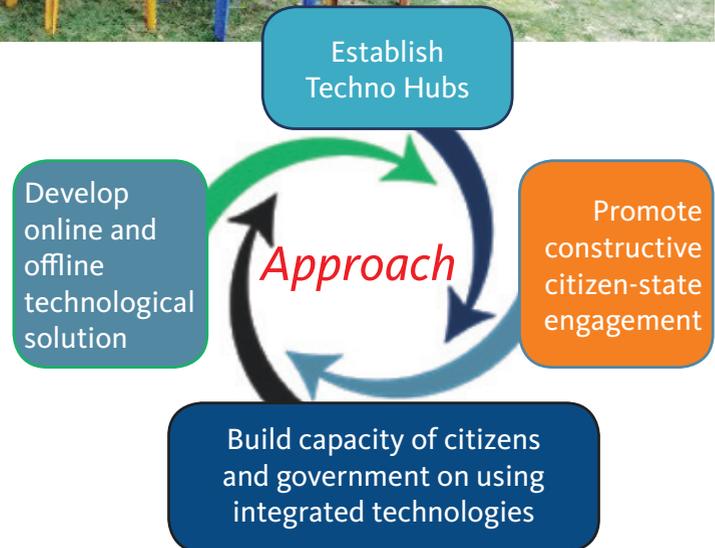
Sita Ram Bhatta
Country Director,
CECI Nepal

ONGOING Projects



Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal - Susasan

Susasan is a four year project funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada (GAC). It is in its third year of implementation. It works closely with local governments to improve citizen engagement in democratic decision





Technology Platform

System:

- Group Messaging System
- Audio Broadcasting System
- Infrastructure Management System
- Grievance Redressal Management System

Tools:

- Point of Interest
- Interactive Voice Response
- Municipal Mobile Application
- Exit Poll
- Citizen Report Card
- Electronic Citizen Charter

Platforms:

Municipal Open Data Portal, That Includes:

- E-profile
- Decisions, Policies, Plan and Budget
- Data Hub and Document Library
- Municipal Voice, Tax and Other Relevant Information

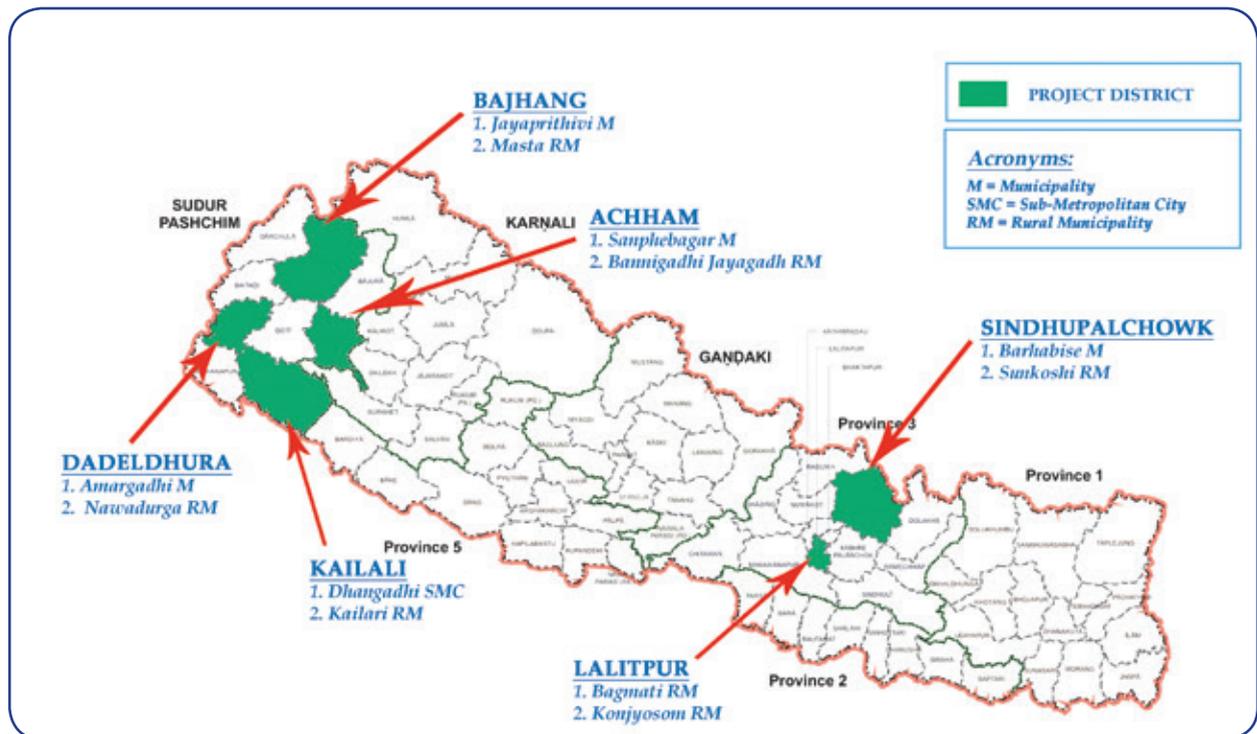
making processes through the use of integrated technologies, with special focus on women and marginalized groups (WMGs). The project has been working mainly in four themes: (1) Open Data; (2) Budget Transparency; (3) Citizen Reporting and (4) Grievance Reporting to reach particular marginalized groups, defined through gender (i.e. Women), youth, so called lower caste (i.e. Dalit), vulnerability (i.e. Persons with disabilities), indigenous and ethnic minorities and geographically excluded and extremely poor communities. The project is being implemented in six districts, including four districts (Achham, Bajhang, Dadeldhura, Kailali) in Sudur Pachim with a Regional Office in Dhangadhi, and two

districts (Sindhupalchowk and Lalitpur) in Province No. 3. Freedom Forum and Young Innovations are national partners and six district level CSOs (DCSOs) are the implementing partners of the project.

The project has been complementing the government’s on-going initiatives and programs on local governance and social accountability. Susasan is aligned with the priority, the need and demand of local governments for better governance and accountability. The project has been contributing in the reduction of existing gaps between demand from communities, particularly WMGs, and supply of government

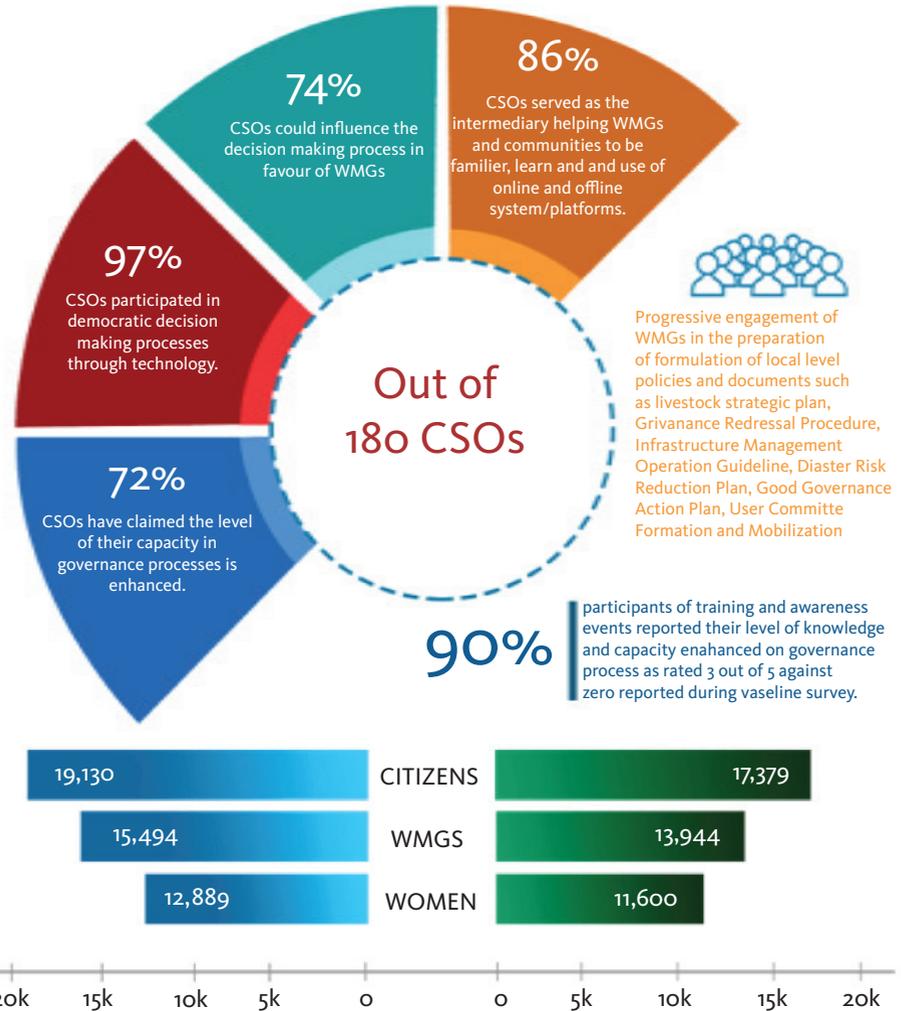
services using online and offline technology-based solutions for citizen state engagement. The Susasan project helps local governments take advantage of the rapid spread of digital technologies to enhance digital governance and accountability processes through the introduction of new technology-based tools, platforms and mechanisms. The project team works in close coordination with local government structures, making them more responsive to the diverse needs and rights of citizens. So far, the project has directly reached 57,730 people, which is more than half of the target of 120,000 people. Among them, 38,534 (67%) are women, 46,319 (80%) are WMG, and 32,028 (55%) are youth.

Susasan Working Areas



Highlights of Achievements in 2018-19

The project has made some contributions in creating citizen state engagement opportunity for the target communities, supporting the establishment of an effective and efficient system of government service delivery. It has facilitated to increase access to government services and has supported to improve governance and accountability of local governments.



19,310 Citizens, 80% (15,494) WMGs, and of which 83% (12,889) women found using the integrated technologies to track government services, their entitlements and participations and their level of satisfaction increased.

17,379 Citizens, among them 13,944 WMGs and of which 11,600 women reported their involvement in the local governance process and level of satisfaction increased to hold local government accountable. Five accountability and four information gathering

Volunteer Cooperation Program

Since its establishment in Nepal, CECI's core program is volunteer management in Nepal. Currently, CECI is managing two volunteer cooperation programs in Nepal: the Uniterra program, funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada, and the Australian Government's Australian Volunteers Program. CECI Nepal has managed more than 700 volunteers since the program started in 1987. The volunteer program matches a broad range of skilled professionals with partner

organizations to support them in achieving their own development goals. The volunteers are placed in government and non-government organizations, where they provide technical support in development projects and programs, building their partner's capacity through the transfer of skills and knowledge. Subsequently, when they return to their respective countries, they use their experiences to take part in public engagement and education programs for the general public on development issues.



Australian Volunteers Program (AVP)



The Australian Volunteers Program supports partner organizations in 26 countries across the Indo-Pacific region to achieve their developmental objectives.

at a judicial academy and one at a community technical school.

In Nepal, the Australian Volunteers Program supported 25 assignments, (of which 17 assignments that commenced last fiscal year) at 20 Partner Organizations. Of these assignments:

- 20 were in Province No. 3, and five were in Province No. 4 (or in Gandaki Province).
- Seven were in support of municipal governments, four at University faculties, one

The assignments supported sectors where human resources in Nepal are acutely lacking: urban planning, nursing coordination, midwife education, agro-enterprise development, veterinary sciences, tourism development, environment and sanitation, geometric and structural engineering, e-governance, speech therapy and disability research.

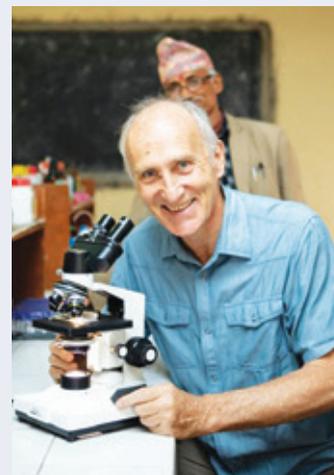
CASE STUDY

Improving veterinary practices in Chitwan

An example of a successful recent assignment was a veterinary clinician who supported the team at the Agriculture and Forest University (AFU) at Rampur, Chitwan.

Feedback from AFU was highly positive: the Australian volunteer managed to make a tangible difference during his 12 month assignment, and his contribution was well above expectations. Students told the volunteer that they have been inspired to do well in the future. In the course of his assignment, the volunteer provided students with practical clinical veterinary experience and visited local farmers in conjunction with the students. Although AFU had modern diagnostic equipment, this was not being utilized due to lack of knowledge on its correct use. The volunteer taught staff and students how to use the equipment and prepared guidebooks and videos so that the equipment could continue to be used in the future.

The volunteer also prepared a database of websites for e-learning so that students and faculty could continue their veterinary education, and convinced universities in Australia and other countries to share online resources for free with students at AFU.





UNITERRA: Canadian Volunteer Cooperation Program



Uniterra is a leading Canadian Volunteer Cooperation and International Development program that is jointly operated by CECI and WUSC. Each year, 600 volunteers contribute their time and experience to positive and lasting change towards a more equitable world by dedicating a few weeks to two years of their lives to international volunteer work. The Uniterra program has been active in Nepal since 2004. Currently, it is in its third phase. The program builds capacities of partner organizations by mobilizing both Canadian and national volunteers. Volunteers provide technical capacity building to partner organisations in the agro-enterprise development sector, including in dairy,

high-value crops, non-timber forest products and handicrafts. This program also provides opportunities for Canadians to be involved and play an active role in combatting poverty. From July 2018 to July 2019, Uniterra Nepal hosted 50 volunteers (36 women and 14 men)

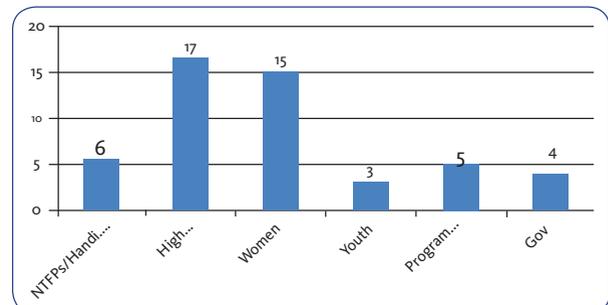


Figure 1: Number of volunteers in different priority sectors of Uniterra

HIGHLIGHTS of the achievements during 2018-2019:

Between 2018-19, 2050 entrepreneurs (1037 women and 1013 men) benefitted from 58 trainings and workshops conducted with the support from volunteers. The trainings were focused in agro-enterprise development, gender, information technology, business/strategic planning, marketing and communication, financial literacy, youth counselling, basic animal health, livestock feeding, heat detection, herd management, production of clean and hygienic milk, and cow comfort related trainings.

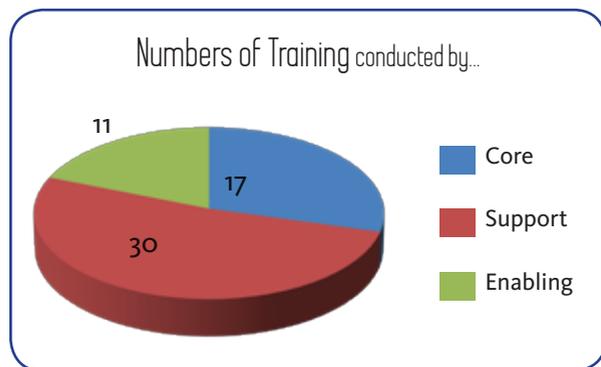


Figure 2: Numbers of training conducted by volunteers

SUPPORT in sustainability of women led cooperative

For the first time in the history of CECI, a group of six volunteers from Coast Capital Savings Federal Credit Union (CCS), one of the largest credit unions in Canada, came to Nepal as a group to support Women Entrepreneur



Consumer Cooperative Ltd. (WECCSL), a Uniterra partner in Nepal. WECCSL is a women led cooperative with a network of 105 organisations (around 60,000 members) and 72 individual entrepreneur members since 2011. These expert volunteers conducted training for 106 members of WECCSL on IT, marketing, financial literacy, and strategic planning and business plan development. A five year strategic plan (2019-2023) was drafted and consulted with other stakeholders. One of the biggest milestones for WECCSL was the financial commitment from CCS for the sustainability of WECCSL.

FOSTERING Institutional Partnership

Uniterra/CECI Nepal facilitated a partnership between Central Dairy Cooperative Association Nepal (CDCAN) and Premier Insurance Company to work together for the "Livestock Insurance" Project. Both parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to improve Premier's access to rural farmers and CDCAN's access to resources to provide more services to its members. Nepal's Government has taken two different paths to ensure the security of livestock

farmers. It provides subsidies to cooperatives to run “Pashu Dhan Surkhcha” program, which in the case of mass destruction in the events such as natural calamities, disease epidemic, is not sufficient to recover investments. On the other hand, the government has also contracted private insurance companies to insure livestock. However, the farmers and cooperative members did not have trust in insurance companies, and the companies did not have access to farmers living in remote areas of Nepal. In order to address this issue, Uniterra played a crucial role by initiating various workshops, including one by a volunteer with the objective to highlight the importance of insurance policy for the dairy sector.

Uniterra helped establish a partnership between CDCAN and Premier, which continuing into the future will be win/win situation for farmers, CDCAN and Premier.

LAUNCH of Pilot Project in Sarlahi

With support from Uniterra, Prerana, a partner organization, assessed the potential enterprising opportunities available for the women members of 7 cooperatives and signed MoU with Prerana and Elam-Helvetas to

- i. mobilize the resources collected by six women’s cooperatives in Kaudena, Godaita and Chakraghatta Municipalities in Sarlahi district.
- ii. develop entrepreneurship skills of at least 110 women in various enterprises
- iii. develop 6 service providers (one each in 6 cooperatives)
- iv. start 110 new enterprises in the project area

DAIRY Sector Support

A four day exposure visit was organized for 38 farmers and board members of Lalitpur District Milk Producers Cooperative Union (LDMPCU). The main purpose of the visit was to share and learn new technologies in the dairy sector. Farmers and board members of LDMPCU learned new techniques on how to increase milk production and improve the quality of their products.

SUPPORT for Drip Irrigation

Uniterra supported Coffee Cooperative Union Lalitpur (CCUL) in launching a pilot project for drip irrigation in Thuladurlung, a remote area in Lalitpur with high potential for coffee production. 28 farmers (including 11 women farmers) were trained in the installation of drip irrigation pipelines.

FACILITATION to Conduct Various Events

Uniterra facilitated and supported partners in conducting various national and international level events including International Women’s Day, International Women Entrepreneur’s Exhibition, Asia Fair Trade Summit Conference on Youth and the Sustainable Development Goals in Province 2. These events provided a platform for youth and women entrepreneurs to scale up their businesses and capacity.

COMPLETED PROJECT

Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal: Punarnirman

This year CECI successfully completed the Livelihood Promotion of Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal Punarnirman Project. The project began in January 2017 for a period of 33 months with financial support from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada (GAC). The project was designed to improve the livelihood of earthquake-affected

communities, particularly the most vulnerable populations of Sindhupalchok, Kavrepalanchok and Lalitpur districts. The project was a continuation of the achievements that CECI had made through the previous phases of earthquake emergency response and recovery support projects after the April 2015 Earthquake in Nepal.

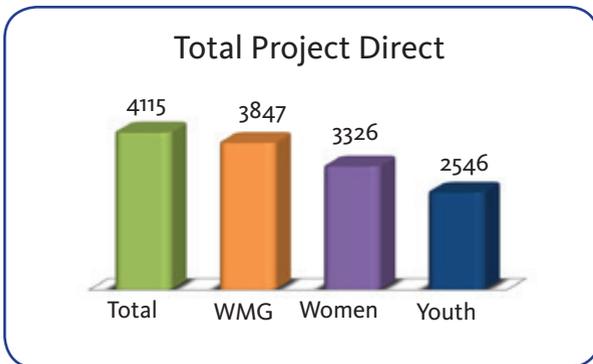
With the integration of three components, namely agriculture-based livelihoods; enterprise development and vocational skill development for employability targeting for earthquake affected populations, the project had a target to support gender sensitive and environment friendly long term economic recovery of 18,000 people (4,000 families), which accounts for 70% of the population in the working areas of the targeted three districts. The project was successful in building the capacities of the community, and addressing existing gaps on both demand and supply sides in different sectors of economic





activity, with a specific focus on vulnerable women and marginalized groups.

The project was successful in promoting environment friendly and gender sensitive agricultural and dairy production techniques; facilitating the development of micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSME) led by women and vulnerable groups; and increasing the employability of working-age adults, especially women and youth, through market-oriented skills training courses. The project used Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) approach and included activities such as an analysis of cultural barriers faced by women, and the development of achievement indicators relating to women and marginalized groups' participation in livelihoods activities.



Project achievements include:

- 165 producer groups were formed, trained, and equipped for agriculture and livestock production and marketing. They are engaging in income generating on-farm activities such as seasonal and off-seasonal fresh vegetable production, vegetable seed production, and meat and milk production and processing, with a special focus on increasing productivity and improving quality of the product to increase income. It is indicated from the evaluation that incomes of farmers increased from the baseline by 40%, from NPR 27,511 to NPR 38,616.
- 4,115 households' economic capacities have been increased through the improved management of their business (expansion and marketing of the products). Among them 81% (3,326) are women, 93% (3,847) are Women and Marginalized Groups (WMG) and 62% (2,546) are youth.
- 3,446 households received training in agricultural production and animal husbandry, exceeding project's original goal of 3,000 households. They are engaging in more diversified and sustainable agriculture and livestock-based economic activities.
- Farming culture changed from traditional (survival) methods to modern commercial farming techniques, including the use of time and labour saving tools, technologies and concepts. The project supported the construction of 2,096 small infrastructures. These structures include: buffalo-shed improvement, micro-irrigation, canal irrigation rehabilitation, and collection centers.

- Nine inclusive Community Disaster and Climate Resilient (CDCR) Committees formed to minimize the adverse impact of disasters on livestock and agriculture. CDCR committees started conducting vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) with a constructive CDCR plan which was also approved by local governments. This plan promoted preparedness and early warning systems for producer groups, to inform farmers earlier of weather and disease outbreaks.
- Increased ability of communities to minimize the adverse impact of disasters on their well-being and livelihood through training and awareness raising at the wider community level.
- 363 micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) (90%, led by women) were restored or established. Some enterprises were damaged by the earthquake. The project support for small grant, skill enhancement training, market linkages with private and public business organizations.
- 18 Group MSMEs were restored with the support of the project. The established group MSMEs are earning and providing services through viable enterprises.
- 75 youth were trained in various vocational skills and qualified by the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training's (CTEVT) skill test. 98% opined that they are gainfully employed. Such vocational skills included: culinary art, early childhood development (teacher), beautician, electrician, plumbing and aluminium fabrication. The same participants have also received training in soft skills, such as CV writing, interviewing, communication skills and continuous learning training.



SUCCESS STORIES
of Punarnirman Project



STORY 1. A Beautiful Dream

After the devastating earthquake of 2015, 27 years old Sunita Parajuli's dream of becoming a beautician and providing for her family was left in debris just like her house in Maneshwora of Barabise Municipality. Since early teenage

days, she wanted to become a beautician and own a parlour. However, her family's economic condition did not allow her to undertake training in Kathmandu. Hence, after completing her high school education, she started to teach in a local school. With a modest pay as a local school teacher and the need to support her family, Sunita could not save to afford fees for beautician training course. Fortunately, in response to the earthquake, through GAC the Government of Canada funded project Punarnirman was implemented in her locality (Barabise Municipality, Sindhupalchowk) that instilled hopes to fulfill her much forgotten dream. After careful assessment by the project team, Sunita was selected as a beneficiary for skill based employment training of the project for earthquake-affected youth and women. With the completion of three months training, she passed Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) exam (a government authorized and approved institution) and qualified as Assistant Beautician. Sunita started working and saved enough to be able to afford for advance course. She is now certified Beautician. With an investment of NPR 175,000, she proudly owns a parlour and earns a minimum of NPR 25,000 in a month. Sunita now dreams to start an academy of her own in her village to impart skills she has gained to help other girls and women realize their dreams of becoming economically self-reliant.



STORY 2. A Trip to Remember



Mega earthquake of 2015 not only took away all belongings and some of family members of 40 years old Kewal Prasad Timilsina, it also took away his hopes of providing better future to his family. Had it not been support of through GAC, Government of Canada funded Punarnirman project, he would have left his ancestral home in Bhattedanda, Lalitpur for better opportunity elsewhere. The project was implemented with an objective of contributing to economic recovery of the earthquake-affected people through skill based employment training. As part of the training, Kewal was selected to participate in a five-day Farmers' Exposure Visit to Chitwan and Gorkha where commercial farming has been successful. The visit was an eye-opener for Kewal as he witnessed how commercial farming has transformed lives of farmers for betterment. It

was his first hand experience on how use of modern farming techniques could yield maximum return with minimum investment. The trip was a turning point in his life. Soon after he returned, he started commercial farming in his 1.88 acre land. With continuous technical support from the project team and local partners, he gradually started to experience

transformation that commercial farming brought in his life. Vegetable production from his farm increased significantly and so did his income. Last month alone he earned NPR 90,000 which he regards an achievement. Kewal now is well-known name in commercial farming in his locality.

Kewal plans to switch to organic farming in the near future. "I am someone who suffered from severe disease. Hence, I know and realize that health is important. So, I am planning to take up organic farming so that I am able to contribute in improving health of others," he says. Kewal knows that organic farming is not easier said than done. But he is determined. "It is possible and I will make it possible. But, of course, it won't happen overnight", says optimistic Kewal.

STORY 3. A switch from Chemical to Organic Farming

The training to make organic fertilizer became a milestone for Ambika Dahal's family of Bethanchowk, Kavrepalanchowk, transforming their farming culture from chemical-based to organic-based. Despite knowing the benefits of organic farming, Ambika and her family were using chemicals in their vegetable farm because



they didn't have any other option, as they didn't know how to make organic fertilizer. When Ambika knew that the Punarnirman project would provide training in making organic fertilizer, her happiness was beyond bounds. She participated in the training with a lot of enthusiasm. In the training she learned how to make organic fertilizer using locally available plants and herbs.

The Dahal couple has now made proper arrangements for making organic fertilizer on their farm. They have installed a pipe in their shed. The urine of the cow and buffalos passes out through the pipe which is then collected in a pot. They use the urine of their five cows and buffalo to make the fertilizer. Nowadays they use organic fertilizers in their vegetable farm. "This has increased the productivity as well", says Harikrishna, Ambika's husband. "The training opened up our minds. It was a simple method and could be made at no cost, but without knowledge we were investing money in chemicals and feeding poisons to family members and others. Now, I don't have to worry about our health. We can eat uncooked vegetables as well." Says Ambika Dahal. They usually grow cauliflower, cabbage, radish, cucumber, tomato and peas on their farm.

Witnessing the success of the use of organic fertilizer by the Dahal family, other farmers in their neighbourhood have learned to make organic fertilizer from the Dahal couple, and have also started using it.





Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) Nepal

135 Naya Basti Marg, Baluwatar

G.P.O. Box 2959

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977 1 4414430/4426791

Email: cecinepal@ceci.ca

www.ceci.ca