Supporting the Transition to a Federal Structure: Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation (SCDP)

Annual Progress Report 2016

Young social cohesion champions of Banke with religious leaders from various faiths

PROJECT PROFILE

About the Project	Geographic coverage of the project
Project Title: Supporting the Transition to a Federal Structure: Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation (SCDP) Award ID: 00060493 Web link: http://np.undp.org/scdp	National level coverage (Yes/No): Yes Number of Regions covered: 5 Number of Districts Covered: 12 Number of Municipalities Covered: NA Number of VDCs Covered: NA

Strategic Results
UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome 5: Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict and lower the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change
UNDP Strategic Plan Output 5.5: Policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms enabled at the national and sub-national levels for the peaceful management of emerging and recurring conflicts and tensions
UNDAF Outcome 8: National institutions have addressed conflict-related violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and the post-conflict needs of victims
UNDAF Outcome 9: National actors and institutions have managed conflict risk and are progressively consolidating the peace
UNDAF/CPAP Output 8.3: An independent and impartial property dispute resolution has been established and implemented in regards to conflict-related property issues **UNDAF/CPAP Output 9.1:** National actors have collaborated to manage and resolve conflict issues, strengthening peace consolidation **UNDAF/CPAP Output 9.2:** National actors implemented National Plans of Action on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820, ILO Convention 169 and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), resulting in increased participation of indigenous people, women and girls and protection of their rights

Project Duration (day/month/year)	Implementing Partner(s)	Implementation Modality
Start Date: September 2015 End Date: Dec 2018	MoPR, MoFALD, MoGA, MoHA, NRA, NASC; sub-national governments, community-based organizations, political parties, civil society groups and media.	DIM

Project Budget (US$)	

UNDP Contribution: US$ 5,439,922
Government Contribution: US$
Other Contributions:
Donor Contributions:
 	
   Donor 1: SIDA   US$ 350,394
 	
   Donor 2: BCPR   US$ 279,651
   Donor 3: UNPFN   US$ 2,264,639
   Donor 4: BPPS   US$ 663,489
   Donor 5: DFID   US$ 50,702
Unfunded:	

Total Project Budget:	NPR. 984,147,161 (US$ 9,048,797)
Total Project Expenditure till 2016:	NPR 977,718,901 (US$ 8,988,993)
Budget 2016:	NPR 118,113,577 (US$ 1,086,002)

Expenditure 2016 (Indicative only):	NPR 111,685,426 (US$ 1,026,898)
Budget Utilization % (2016)	95%

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Project Manager

Date: 16 June 2017

Signature: _____

Name: _____ Sophie Kemkhadze

Executive- Project Board

Date: 16 June 2017

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ABBREVIATION

CPAP	:	Country Program Action Plan
CPP	:	Conflict Prevention Program
CS	:	Conflict Sensitivity
DDC	:	District Development Committee
DNH	:	Do No Harm
EWER	:	Early Warning Early Response
GESI	:	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
IOM	:	International Organization for Migration
LDTA	:	Local Development Training Academy
LPC	:	Local Peace Committee
MoAD	:	Ministry of Agriculture Development
MoFALD	:	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
MoGA	:	Ministry of General Administration
MoHA	:	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoI	:	Ministry of Industries
MoPR	:	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction
MSDF	:	Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Forum
MSLDF		Multi-Stakeholder Land Dialogue Forum
NASC	:	Nepal Administrative Staff College
PPCG	:	Political Party Consultative Group
PRI	:	Political, Resource and Identity
RRF	:	Result and Resource Framework
SCDP	:	Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme
UN Habitat	:	United Nations Human Settlement Program
UN Women	:	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDAF	:	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Program
VDC	:	Village Development Committee

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The focus of the SCDP in 2016 shifted towards pro-actively contributing to strengthening social and democratic participation in the programme districts. Under its Risk Identification pillar the project worked with communities to identify near and medium term issues that potentially were threat to local social cohesion. These issues were addressed through Risk Mitigation tools like assessments and proactively organized dialogue forums. The communities identified to be at risk of conflicts were supported with micro grants to initiate joint income generation activities and cultural exchange events to help solidify social unity and mutual respect.

Guided by its principles of risk identification and risk mitigation, the project continuously interacted with local and regional levels of political, civil society, women, youth and marginalized groups leaders to enhance their knowledge and skills in collaborative leadership, dialogue, conflict sensitivity, gender responsive governance. As a result, 22 VDC clusters were able to develop and implement community security plans which contributed to make communities safer and peaceful. An independent evaluation conducted in Bara and Parsa found that district and cluster-level community security plans were developed in an inclusive, conflict and gender sensitive manners.

Notably, SCDP revived/revitalized existing community security and goodwill committees rather than create new ones. This approach was adapted to avoid duplicating and thus undermining already existing local efforts, and saving time in founding mechanisms from the scratch.

SCDP also stood true to its major cross-cutting approaches of GESI and youth responsive. Its commitment resulted in securing 33% of women's participation in events organized to discuss issues related to social cohesion and community security in general and 70% at events organized exclusively on women's human security issues across its nine project districts. It supported women-led networks like Inter-Party Women's Alliance, Women Human Rights Defenders Alliance etc. in their campaigns for mainstreaming the principles of Gender-Responsive Budgeting and National Action Plan on UNRCS 1325/1820 in local planning and governance. An independent evaluation claims that overall meaningful participation of women in local planning and budgeting process has improved.

Similarly, Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Forums, Local Peace Committees etc. have increasingly included the issues of human security related vulnerabilities, threats and special needs of women and other disadvantaged groups in dialogue processes in Sunsari, Panchthar, Bara, Parsa, Chitwan, Kaski, Baglung, Banke, Bardiya Kailali and Kanchanpur districts.

SCDP was also successful in conduct 10 dialogue initiatives, two under each of the five field offices (one closed after June 2016) led by women, youth and marginalized group leaders were supported so that their concerns regarding their involvement in the planning and governance decisions were addressed. These dialogues led to establishment of mechanisms to promote social cohesion and community security in all project districts which developed community security plans in an inclusive and GESI responsive manners.

Five key results achieved in 2016

1. SCDP was able to bring the key ten political parties, including main opposition, together to formulate a joint 12- point "Common Minimum Understanding", a rare consensus, to implement gender-responsive land policies and to ensure increased access to land that prioritizes land ownership for women, vulnerable people and the landless.
2. The project successfully piloted micro-grant facility for community-based organizations and completed 12 quick impact projects (in 7 program districts) that brought together marginalized groups with history of hostilities and mistrusts for mutually beneficial collective actions such as livelihood activities and facilitating access to government services. Encouraged from this success of engaging communities for social cohesion, the SCDP will upscale the micro-grant facility in 2017.
3. Mechanisms supported by this project contributed for timely and effective community acts to mitigate emerging risks and consolidating social cohesion by moderating and neutralizing inter-religious and inter-ethnic tensions between ethnic and ideological groups. For instance, on the request of Kanchanpur DDC, the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Forum resolved a natural resource based dispute. Locals from Krishnapur and Dekhatbhuli VDCs of Kanchanpur district have been in bitter disagreement regarding the ownership of a pond that touches both the VDCs, which adversely impacted the social harmony. The DDC had passed a five-year contract amounting NRs. 28, 00,000 out of which 40% of the contracted amount was to be spent in the VDC where the pond is located. Since the allocated amount was to be invested in one of the VDCs, both the VDCs strongly wanted it to be capitalized in their own. With technical support of SCDP and after a series of consultation with Government authorities including Land Revenue Office, District Survey Office, Civil Society, District Police and local leaders, the two parties found an amicable solution concerning a resource-based dispute. Similarly, the locals of Madi Municipality in Chitwan district formulated a joint action-plan of all stakeholders (political parties, local peace committee, NGOs, women groups, youth groups, community organizations of marginalized groups, government agencies) to address the collectively identified specific seven issues/challenges of social cohesion and community security, aiming to strengthen social cohesion.
4. Nearly 4000 youths, women, marginalized groups, civil society members, government officials, political leaders and journalists involved in promotion of social cohesion through 81 community level initiatives. More than 2000 people (37% Female and 63% Male), including youth and representatives of excluded groups, acquired basic skills on approaches to promoting social cohesion.
5. SCDP was able to maintain a high degree of women's participation in the events it organized. Women's participation in events organized to discuss issues related to social cohesion and community security was maintained at 33% across the 12 project districts. Similarly, events organized exclusively on women's human security issues and inclusion the participation of women was maintained at 70%.

2. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

After the promulgation of the new constitution in late 2015, Nepal experienced an up soar of discontents and mistrust among communities based on their ethnic identities, political beliefs and regional identities regarding the federal restructuring and democratic participation. This new conflict trigger fuelled unrest and social tensions of the past many years creating fissures that had the risk of being overplayed during the time of transition to federalism and implementation of the new constitution. The much-heralded charter ended years of uncertainty but violent reactions by some ethnic communities and identity-based groups dented the social fabric in early 2016. The unrest and tensions created fissures and polarized the society as the country prepared to implement the constitution and roll out the new federal system.

The provincial boundary, structure of local bodies, selection of provincial capitals and access to natural resources have been contested, and played into political, identity and geographic tensions. It has been further complicated by widespread lack of understanding among the population about the legal realities of federalism, and the existence of multiple myths and misperceptions about its function that fuel mistrust among diverse groups, putting the inter-community harmony at high risks. This could destabilize the political situation, opening the way for renewed political frictions and social tensions – and likely to hinder Nepal's efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

The second half of 2016 saw a row over the undertakings of the Local Level Restructuring Technical Assistance Committees (LLRTAC) especially in the Terai districts and in a few hill districts across the country. The Madhesi Morcha, arguing population should be the sole basis for restructuring on the local bodies in the Tarai region, has rejected the report of the LLRTAC that had initially proposed to form 565 local units in the new federal setup. A lack of clear information and understanding among the district-level stakeholders about local body restructuring was observed which created confusion and misperception about the entire process. Identity-based groups, particularly the Janajatis, and activists have raised concerns regarding the establishment of special autonomous areas for the historically marginalized indigenous communities, as this has not received attention.

SCDP through its grant and non-grant activities contributed, at local levels, to bringing back the inter-and intra-community cohesion, rebuilding trust between the citizenry and state. A socially cohesive society is one of the key dimensions to transition from fragility to resilience. During such a complex period, SCDP supported key stakeholders including government officials, political parties, civil society leaderships, community groups etc. to strengthen the social contract that 'glues' a functional state together.

3. PROJECT SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

Building on the program infrastructure already put in place by the previous project, Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP), and effectively responding to the new political context of Nepal, UNDP Nepal initiated this intervention, Supporting the Transition to a Federal Structure: Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation (SCDP) in September 2015.

The SCDP took off with support from the five field offices spread across the country in the regions where social cohesion was at the most threat. In order to respond to the increasing identity-based social and political tensions the Tarai region, UNDP made a decision to concentrate its efforts in the Tarai districts. Although the Pokhara office was closed in mid-2016 other field offices focused on encouraging proactive and community-based interventions that potentially contributed to strengthen social cohesion and trust.

SCDP's regional teams specialize in monitoring and analysis of socio-political tensions, and supporting local actors to use early warning, early response, collaborative leadership and conflict sensitive tools to prevent their escalation. These offices have been functioning as UNDP's eyes and ears in at community levels contributing not only to the SCDP but other UNDP programs which are informed by socio-political analysis these field offices generate to work more in-depth and sustained manner across all of the new federal provinces, contributing to build a cohesive society.

SCDP's main partner is the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR), but also work in close coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs, as well as the Ministry of General Administration (MoGA), the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), and the Ministry of Industry (MoI).

SCDP's work is mainly divided into two distinct pillars; one focuses on Risk Identification and the other on Risk Mitigation. The Risk Identification pillar consists of an Early Warning initiative with Near-term and Medium/Long-term components. The Risk Mitigation pillar encompasses three distinct initiatives that, taken together, form a comprehensive approach to addressing localized tensions and keep the social fabric intact. Both pillars is shaped by a cross-cutting Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Conflict Sensitivity approaches that ensures that processes are socially inclusive and equipped to navigate the socio-political complexities of local environments.

This project directly responds to UNDAF/CPAP Outcome 9: National actors and institutions have managed conflict risk and are progressively consolidating the peace.

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Theory of Change

The high level impact that SCDP aims to make it to contribute to a stable transition to a federal structure for which the program intents support early and innovative actions and processes to proactively address local tensions to promote social cohesion and democratic participation. The program bases its approaches in conflict sensitive and GESI (gender equality and social inclusion) manners.

If .... (1) An early warning system is set up (2) Divided communities engage to achieve common interests (3) Cross sectorial mechanisms involving government officials, political parties and civil society leaders are established (4) Local governance and development officials are trained to be conflict sensitive (5) Civil society is strengthened to participate in provincial and local governance processes

Then... (1) Government officials, political party leaders and civil society actors will have timely notice of emerging tensions (2) Divided communities develop interdependency and appreciation of each other (3)Government officials, political party leaders and civil society actors will have a forum and tools to address local tensions(4) Governance and Development officials will take decisions that promote social cohesion and avoid exacerbating existing political and identity tensions (5) Public will be satisfied that development and governance decisions reflect their needs and interests. Increased involvement of the population in planning and governance decisions that relate to them and their region

Leading to.... Lower level of social and political tensions related to the implementation of federal arrangements; strengthened social cohesion; enhanced democratic participation in provincial and local governance and development processes

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4. PROGRAMMATIC REVISIONS

In order to respond to the emerging socio-political contexts of Nepal, especially those triggered by promulgation of the new Constitution in late 2015, UNDP shifted its focus toward **Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation**. The project, however, comes in a smaller team with downsizing in number of staff as well as closure of a field office in Kaski. A planning retreat organized in early 2016 prioritized setting up and strengthening mechanisms and institutions which will bring divided communities together; supporting other development program to integrate social cohesion regularly; and partnering with civil society through micro grants for strengthening social cohesion to be the project focus. In a brief, SCDP focused on the following activities in the year 2016;

- Produced periodical socio-political context analysis from the project districts which informed not only this project but also contributed for making other UNDP programs more politically relevant and effective.
- Successfully piloted micro grants facility for community-based and non-governmental organizations to promote social cohesion at the local level. Encouraged by the results of these pilot projects, SCDP will upscale the facility in 2017.
- Although SCDP's focus is no more on conducting dialogues the project continuously built on the existing dialogue infrastructures in the districts to identify the issues related to social cohesion and to find the strategies to address those. Firstly, MSDFs organized an all-party meeting including government authorities to share the public grievances towards the government and find solutions to those grievances. Secondly, dialogues and consultative meetings were organized at district level to discuss on potential challenges that would emerge during the implementation of new constitution and federal structure.
- As a tool to promote social trust and thus social cohesion SCDP also organized multi-cultural events and sports tournaments in consultation with local youth clubs.

5. NARRATIVE ON KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2016

Following table shows the linkage of outcome and output statements of the project:

Table 1: Outcome and Output Statements

Outcome Statement	Output Statement
Outcome 1: Policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms enabled at the national and sub-national levels for the peaceful management of emerging and recurring conflicts and tensions	Output 1.1: Promote social cohesion and strengthen democratic participation by engaging marginalized communities, youth, civil society and political actors in mutually beneficial collective actions and by applying collaborative leadership and dialogue approach (SDG 16)
	Output 1.2: Government and other national institutions including security agencies develop and adopt conflict sensitive policies (ref: SDG 16)
Outcome 2: Communities empowered and security sector institutions enabled for increased citizen safety and reduced levels of armed violence	Output 2.1: Targeted interventions to ensure the voices of the most marginalized gets addressed in the community security planning and implementation processes. (ref: SDG: 16)

5.1 Progress towards the UNDAF/CPAP Outcomes

Table 2: Progress on Outcome Indicators

Outcome statement	Outcome indicator	Baseline	Cumulative Target for 2013 - 2017	Total target achieved till 2015	Milestone for 2016, if any	Achievement 2016	Year for the latest data	Source of data
Outcome 1: **National actors and institutions have managed conflict risk and are progressively consolidating the peace.**	1.1 Promoted social cohesion and strengthened democratic participation by engaging women, youth & marginalized communities in mutually beneficial collective actions	N/A	N/A	N/A	12 communities with histories of hostilities engage in facilitated joint activities to promote social cohesion	Ongoing		Micro grant reports and local media reports
	1.2 Human security concerns of the most marginalized gets addressed in the community security planning and implementation processes	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 Common Minimum Understanding to formulate gender-responsive land policies among major political parties signed	Achieved		Common Minimum Understanding developed by political parties, event reports and meeting notes

Progress towards Outcome 1:

With the focus on promoting social cohesion and community security, SCDP has been strengthening the capacities of political actors, civil society members, women, youth and marginalized group leaders through collaborative leadership and dialogue, conflict sensitivity and gender responsive land governance. Beneficiaries believe that dialogue culture has changed the perception of stakeholders and beneficiaries towards resolving differences non-violently with notable contribution to improve community security (P1). This has notably improved the relationship and cooperation between the community people and the local police as shared by Mr. Dilip Chaudhari, SSP, Nepal Police. SCDP has also focused on reviving/revitalizing the existing dormant community security and goodwill committees rather than creating new ones in the 7 districts. This approach was adapted to avoid duplicating and thus undermining already existing local efforts, and saving time in founding mechanisms from scratch. Independent evaluations claim that these mechanisms have produced and implemented 22 cluster-level community security plans in 2016, which were found to be inclusive, conflict and gender sensitive. Likewise, Inter-Party Women's Alliance, Women Human Rights Defenders Alliance etc. have been leading the advocacy campaigns on mainstreaming the principles of Gender-Responsive Budgeting and National Action Plan on UNRCS 1325/ 1820 in local planning and governance. The same independent evaluation claims that overall meaningful participation of women in local planning and budgeting process has improved. Similarly, Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Forums, Local Peace Committees etc. have increasingly included the issues of human security related vulnerabilities, threats and special needs of women and other disadvantaged groups in dialogue processes in Sunsari, Panchthar, Bara, Parsa, Chitwan, Kaski, Baglung, Banke, Bardiya Kailali and Kanchanpur districts.

5.2 Progress on Project Outputs

Table 3: Progress on Output Indicators

Output statement	Output indicator	Baseline	Cumulative Target for 2013 - 2017	Progress up to 2015	2016 Milestone	2016 Progress	Cumulative progress up to 2016	Means of verification
1.1 Increased knowledge, skills and confidence of key women leaders to mobilize people and resources for sustain collective advocacy for woman's inclusion in all aspects of Peace and security process;	# women, youth and others from marginalized groups capacitated in peace-building, dialogue and social cohesion	NA	NA	NA	400	409	409	Event reports
	# inclusive community security plans developed	NA	NA	NA	12 community security plans developed	12	12	Community security plans Independent evaluation report
1.2 Nepal's leaders develop a share agenda on land property issues and agree on national implementation plan;	# of shared agendas on land issues developed	0 common agenda developed on land issues	1	0	1	12-point common minimum understanding developed by major political parties	12-point common minimum understanding developed by major political parties	Dialogue reports Agenda point documents
1.3 Effective risk identification systems in place through capacity building, improved participation and networking;	Early response initiatives for emerging tensions taken by political parties and other stakeholders in program districts	NA	NA	NA	50 initiatives to promote social cohesion	50 initiatives to promote social cohesion	50 initiatives to promote social cohesion	Completion reports
	Peace structures formed or strengthened for promoting social cohesion	NA	NA	NA	4	4	4	Reports from field offices

		0	4	2	2	2	4	
1.4 Policy makers (male and female) feel confident and committed to implement gender responsive land reform policy	Key political parties develop gender-responsive land position papers							Project completion report and event reports
1.5 Enhance gender responsive planning and budgeting at the local level for better implementation and monitoring of the national action on women, peace and security (UNSCR 1325 and 1820)	Local government units are educated on gender-responsive planning and budgeting	NA	NA	2 districts	2 districts	2 districts	2 districts	Event reports from field offices Final project evaluation
	Women-led mechanisms are able to demand better implementation of	NA	NA	2 districts	2 districts	2 districts	2 districts	Event reports from field offices Final project evaluation

Progress on Outputs:

As planned 10 dialogue initiatives, two under each of the five field offices (one closed after June 2016) led by women, youth and marginalized group leaders were supported so that their concerns regarding their involvement in the planning and governance decisions were addressed. These dialogues led to establishment of mechanisms to promote social cohesion and community security in all project districts which developed community security plans in an inclusive and GESI responsive manners. The project also contributed in strengthening government institutional capacity to localize Gender Responsive Budgeting and monitor the National Action Plan on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820.

Following a series of capacity building activities SCDP facilitated processes where the communities identified potential conflict risks and developed mitigation strategies which are significant to maintain social harmony. The program was also able to support the communities with micro grants so that communities with histories of hostilities and frictions could implement joint social and economic activities to build trust and thus promote social cohesion. Through the four Field Offices SCDP funded 12 micro grant initiatives in Pachthar, Sunsari, Chitwan, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur. Most of these micro initiatives are led by and heavily participated by youth and women from marginalized identity groups.

6. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

The following table shows the output wise indicative budget and expenditure for 2016 and the sources of funds budgeted and utilization.

Table 4: Output wise annual budget and corresponding expenditure

Amount in US$

Output	Annual Budget	Annual Expenditure through project	Annual Expenditure through UNDP	Total Expenditure	Budget Utilization%
Output 1.1	41,040	12,404		12,404	30%
Output 1.2	16,585	16,000		16,000	96%
Output 1.3	188,500	176,198		176,198	93%
Output 1.4	178,740	103769		103,769	58%
Output 1.5	78,168	69,160		69,160	88%
Total	503,033	377,531		377,531	

Table 5: Sources of funds Budget and Utilization of the project period

Amount in US$

Source of Fund	Funding period (Start – End Date)	Total Project Budget (US$)	Expenditure up to 2015	Expenditure in 2016	Total expenditure till 2016	Total Budget utilization %	Budget Balance US$
UNDP	2010-2017	5,439,922	4,941,844	530886	5472730	101%	
Donor 1: SIDA	2011-2013	350,394	350,394	0	350394	100%	
Donor 2: BCPR	2011-2012	279,651	279,651	0	279651	100%	
Donor 3: UNPFN	2011-2013	2,264,639	1,757,519	418585	2176104	96%	

	2011-						
Donor 4: BPPS	2016	663,489	604,374	55,038	659,412	99%	
Donor5 :DFID	2014-2016	50,702	29,013	21,689	50,702	100%	
Total		**9,048,797**	**7,962,795**	**1,026,198**	**8,988,993**		

Table 6: M&E Expenditure: In 2016, Project spend on M&E activities

Total spent on Monitoring ☑ Costs associated with UNDP/project staff, consultants, project partners, supporting national statistical systems in designing project specific data collection methodologies (qualitative and quantitative), monitoring methods including stakeholder surveys and other qualitative methods, collection of data, analysis and dissemination of the findings to inform a project, either with project partners or to fulfill specific UNDP/project requirements (preferably the former).	[Total spent in US$ 51,309)
Total spent on Decentralized Evaluations ☑ Costs associated in designing, implementing and disseminating evaluations for specific projects	[Total spent on commissioning evaluations + total spent on proportional staff]
Combined total spent on M&E	[US$ 51,309]

Narrative on Progress related to Budget and Expenditure

As per the proposed SCDP AWP 2016 (Substantive Revision -23), the project had planned activities equivalent to US$ 10, 86,001 in the year 2016. Total financial delivery (utilization of fund) against Annual Work-Plan 2016 is US$ 1,023,786 (excluding commitments) which is 95% of approved SCDP AWP 2016. The utilization of UNDP TRAC is 101% in the year 2016.

7. CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

In 2016, 433 (out of which at least 200 were women) political leaders, civil society leaders, women leaders and women rights activists have been equipped with knowledge and skills of Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue, conflict sensitivity, gender responsive local development; and conflict sensitive and gender-responsive tools for promoting social cohesion.

There has been an encouraging number of participation of vulnerable groups, women, Dalits and Janajatis in the activities aimed at promoting social cohesion and dialogues aimed at addressing local conflicts. Women's participation in events organized to discuss social cohesion and community security issues was maintained at 33% across the project districts. Notably among the women participation the representation from various ethno-religious identity groups like Dalit, Madhesi, Janjati, Muslims etc. have been encouraging. Similarly, events organized exclusively on women's human security issues the participation of women was maintained at 70%.

Government representatives participated in all the dialogue initiatives. As a result, local government in Bara district agreed to establish a safe house for survivors of SGBV in 2017 with government's budget. Similarly, trained locals in Panchthar and Kanchanpur districts established a dialogue committees that successfully resolved a dispute related with water sources and completed multi-community joint economic undertakings to promote social cohesion in seven project districts.

7.1 Targeting and voice/Participation of Target groups

In order to address the concerns of women, youth and marginalized group leaders regarding their involvement in the planning and governance decisions, 10 dialogue initiatives (2 events at each 5 field offices) have been completed as planned. These dialogues led to the establishment and promotion of social cohesion and community security in 10 districts which developed community security plans in an inclusive and GESI responsive manner. Technical support was provided to form multi stakeholder dialogue forums and to initiate dialogue process on various issues of potential and actual conflict; and budget support was provided to community-based organizations to promote trusts between communities with history of hostilities. These supports have encouraged local level peace consolidation. UNDP contributed in strengthening government institutional capacity to localize Gender Responsive Budgeting and monitor National Action Plan on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 by organizing orientations and dialogues and providing technical assistance. Following a series of capacity building activities, SCDP facilitated processes where 7 social cohesion/ community security mechanisms have been established/ revived/ strengthened at project districts. This has brought together relevant stakeholders to identify emerging potential conflict issues and plan mitigation measures through MSDFs, MSDLFs, LPCs to maintain social harmony. Participation of youth, women, civil society members and government officials have been emphasized. The program was also able to support communities with 12 micro grants worth USD 76,500 in 7 districts so that communities with history of hostilities could implement joint social and economic activities to build trust through joint initiatives and thus, promote social cohesion and equitable participation.

7.2 Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, and Social Inclusion

SCDP identifies GESI to be a major cross-cutting issue alongside conflict sensitivity. GESI considerations have been implemented in all levels of the project especially in capacity-building initiatives, events organized, issues discussed and offering micro-grant projects. Special efforts and considerations were made to ensure that women and representatives of the most vulnerable communities were able to participate in events and their concerns were recognized and addressed in every step of the project including in policy dialogues, policy development, community security plans and initiatives funded to promote social cohesion. By doing so SCDP was able to secure their equitable participation in the project focused on risk identification and risk mitigation.

SCDP views that keys to promoting social cohesion and democratic participation is supporting women, youth and members from traditionally vulnerable groups (e.g. Janajati, Dalit, Madhesi, Tharus, religious minorities). By providing them with technical guidance on relevant administrative and political processes and tools for strengthened advocacy, they will be better equipped to voice their concerns, articulate their needs, and substantively engage with other political and social actors. In 2016, 433 (out of which at least 200 were women) political leaders, civil society leaders, women leaders and women rights activists have been equipped with knowledge and skills of Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue, conflict sensitivity, gender responsive local development; and conflict sensitive and gender responsive tools for promoting social cohesion.

There has been an encouraging number of participation of vulnerable groups, women, Dalits and Janajatis in the activities aimed at promoting social cohesion and dialogues designed to address local conflicts. Women's participation in events organized to discuss social cohesion and community security issues was maintained at 33% across the project districts. Notably among the women participation the representation from various ethno-religious identity groups like Dalit, Madhesi, Janjati, Muslims etc. have been encouraging. Similarly, events organized exclusively on women's human security issues the participation of women was maintained at 70%. Government representatives participated in all the dialogue initiatives as a result local government in Bara district agreed to establish a safe house for survivors of SGBV in 2017 with government's budget. Similarly, trained locals in Panchthar and Kanchanpur districts established a dialogue committees that successfully resolved a dispute related with

water sources. Multi-community joint economic undertakings to promote social cohesion were completed in seven programme districts.

7.3 National Capacity Development

SCDP provided technical support to government's Local Development Training Academy on developing courses and orientation packages in conflict sensitivity which mobilized its own resources to train 190 District Development Committee (DDC) and VDC officials training on in seven of the 14 conflict affected districts. Conflict sensitivity trainings have been conducted through Local Development Training Academy (LDTA) in the 14 earthquake affected districts. In addition, Senior police officials at (Nepal Police Academy) have been sensitized and oriented on Conflict Sensitivity. Similarly, SCDP trained 75 UN hired emergency staff in three earthquake affected districts on conflict sensitivity who worked closely with government officials in rescue and reconstruction efforts.

7.4 Sustainability

The strategy of ensuring ownership of local government bodies and public entities has been adopted to warrant sustainability of the project outcomes. For this participation of government representatives and local potentially catalytic individuals/institutions have been ensured in all levels of identifying, developing and implementing initiatives. Networks like Inter Party Women Alliance that has national, sub-national and local level presence were partnered with to develop strategic plans to ensure that women leaderships are engaged effectively at all levels. Technical support has also been provided to link the project right holders with relevant public mechanisms. As a result, the project outcomes like community based social cohesion and community security plans developed by 22 village clusters are now in the process of integration into village-level annual plans.

7.5 South-South and Triangular Cooperation

- Not applicable

7.6 Partnerships

In the year 2016, this project successfully completed its partnership with UN Habitat and IOM work across the political parties of all political hues to secure their commitment to produce gender responsive land policies.

Similarly, it effectively completed another partnership with UN Woman in making community security plans more GESI sensitive and localize women, peace and security issues.

7.7 Promotion of civic engagement

Despite the policy decision that SCDP would not work with central level political leadership the program methodically engaged with political, civil society and governmental leadership in all nine project districts in the areas of promoting social cohesion, community security and democratic participation. Women and members of marginalized groups were capacitated and encouraged to participate in local initiatives to make government offices accountable to implementing national commitment on women, peace and security issues and localization of National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325/1820. The program supported development of community security plans which were done in the most inclusive manner. This supported accountability of the local government and security forces for community security. In the nine project districts, dialogues forums were conducted at various levels which resulted in ten major national-level political parties reaching common understanding and commitment to develop inclusive and women friendly land policies in the future.

7.8 Expanding opportunities for youth

SCDP prioritized engaging with youth as social cohesion champions both in school and out of school. The youth from diverse social, religious, ethnical and economic backgrounds were trained on skills like social accountability, peacebuilding, collaborative leadership, strengthening community security and promoting inter-community ties at local level. The trained youth are now implementing initiatives to promote social cohesion and resilience and outreaching to other schools, madrasas, religious sites to promote mutual respect and tolerance among students and youth. SCDP have also encouraged schools to show commitments to incorporate the agenda of social cohesion and community security in their annual work plan to engage students, youth.

7.9 Innovation

As an effective way of bringing social cohesion at the most practical level for the most disadvantaged community members SCDP established a micro-grant facility. Twelve initiatives were selected for funding to be implemented by the most disadvantaged communities that had histories of hostilities and the mistrust that existed between these communities had potentials to erupt into social tensions.

These projects ended under four months. Most of those micro projects involved income generation components which was a big connector between communities. Others, especially those being implemented in geographical areas that had multi-cultural inhabitants, had cultural exchanges as the major component. This was a good way of celebrating all sorts of cultural practices co-existing in the area. This is an effective way of promoting social cohesion.

In addition to advertising in local newspapers of availability of the funds, SCDP Field Offices organized orientations for potential community-based organizations to explain objectives of the call for funding. A strict criterion was introduced to ensure that a big NGO already covering large geographical areas did not hijack the funding opportunity. Only those CBOs/NGOs registered in the district where the funding was being offered could apply.

In order to encourage community organizations with no previous experience of mobilizing funds and those which did not have capacities to develop proposals in English the call for applications allowed Nepali language to be used in proposals. In many instances the SCDP field offices extended technical support to develop project proposals once the ideas were selected.

7.10 Knowledge Management and Products

Land Terminology – It contains definitions of land related terms in Nepali lexicon and laws, along with English equivalent. Published to support constructive dialogues on land issues and to help develop a common understanding to iron out the entrenched differences. This book was prepared incorporating suggestions from the political party representatives, land rights activists, land scholars, representatives of the marginalized communities, and civil society representatives who participated in the series of dialogues. It is available as a searchable web-based dictionary on the UNDP website.

Land Flyer – Compilation of briefs with relevant photos, incorporating program's specific activities, series of land dialogues and initiative related to land issues that took place across the country.

Booklet 'Building Blocks of Social Ties' – Compilation of success stories, with relevant photos, from the MCG support which brings hopes and underscores cultural exchange and knowledge transfer among diverse communities in the vulnerable villages and vicinities. It covers an account of the people whose common efforts bring the divided communities together to build and maintain a cohesive society.

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EWER Training Manual - resource document cum training manual on conflict Early Warning Early Response, which provides information about EWER tools that are locally contextual. This document is primarily useful for the training facilitators to transform knowledge and skills on conflict EWER among the district and VDC level stakeholders, particularly the members of LPCs.

8. LESSONS LEARNED

- Livelihood activities are effective means of fostering social cohesion through community interaction with each other. Also, peacebuilding initiatives need to be combined with sustainable livelihood component to sustain interventions by stakeholders.
- Partnerships with local CBOs/NGOs is instrumental in maximizing efforts to expand outreach initiatives to address the issues related to social cohesion and democratic participation such as bringing divided communities for collective income generation activities.
- Mainstreaming the agenda of social cohesion and community security in local government and school annual work plan can have positive impact towards establishing culture of practicing social cohesion in communities.
- Supporting community managed infrastructure is an effective way of mobilizing people for community-driven development (CDD) interventions and strengthening social cohesion.

9. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Managing high expectation of local stakeholders on UNDP was a challenge as the SCDP project faced crunch of financial and human resources following downsizing of the project towards the second half of 2016. This was especially troublesome as the commitment of minorities like Madhesi, Tharu, Janjati, Dalit etc. to meaningful implementation of federalism and rolling out of the new constitution is diluted because of their discontents on selected provisions of the constitution. The volatile socio-political relationships the communities have among themselves, especially those communities which have histories of hostility and mistrust, demand for higher level of investment if social cohesion is to be kept intact and democratic participation is to be promoted.

10. PRIORITIES FOR 2017

- Continued engagement with **religious leaders, youth, and journalists** etc. to strengthen inter-religious harmony and promote community level social cohesion.
- Provide **14 Micro Capital Grants** to local NGOs/CBOs in 10 programme districts to implement the activities for inter-community cohesion
- Support for **periodic risk identification and mitigation meetings of Social Cohesion Promotion Mechanisms**, comprising WCFs, CACs, political parties, CBOs, VDC, police post and civil society organizations at cluster level
- Coordination with UNDP's other projects in the region for **programmatic synergy** and incorporating social cohesion as a cross-cutting agenda
- Support local stakeholders for initiatives of **strengthening community security** in collaboration with the police and other thematic groups
- In collaboration with District Education Office, **incorporate components of social cohesion** in School Improvement Plan

11.A SPECIFIC STORY

Preachers promoting social harmony

"I am under severe pressure from the fundamentalists not to collaborate with Muslim Maulana, Christian pastor and Shikh guru. But I will not leave my team of Inter-Religious Network" stated Mahantha Chandan Nath Yogi, a noted Hindu priest, at an event organized in Neplagunj. "Some extremists dislike our cohesive acts. But I will leave no stone unturned to maintain social cohesion in Banke district," he emphasized.

Banke district is the hub of the hill-migrants of nearly eighteen districts of mid and far western regions. The district is a home to diverse ethnic communities with different religious faiths. Sporadic Hindu-Muslim and Pahadi-Madhesi communal clashes have been reported. For instance, two persons were killed and 14 injured during a religious clash in Matehiya, across Rapti river in Banke in December 2016. These incidents have been a serious risk to the cultural coherence of the society, often threating to destabilize its unity and integrity.

The Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme along with its district partners – Bageshwori Asal Shasan Club and Information and Human Rights Research Centre – have been active in promotion of social cohesion. The religious leaders across various faiths have been mobilized at the community level to promote inter-community cohesion. Responding to the Matehiya incident, for instance, the religious gurus came up with a joint statement to calm down the tension which helped prevent further violence in the area. Apart from this they have been actively engaged with the communities in collectively celebration of religious festivals of various faiths, awareness raising campaigns to foster coexistence, fairness, equal participation of diverse caste, ethnic and religious groups.

Further, with support from SCDP, an Information Centre has been established in the tension-torn Matehiya. It offers information to the people with regards to government services to the vulnerable communities residing the in the isolated territory across the Rapti river. It was first time that the people of Matehiya had an opportunity to participate in a public hearing with the government authorities. It facilitated to improve government services as it was ended up with a five-point declaration. In order to enhance the quality service delivery, an Ilaka Administration Office, which was brought back to Nepalgunj during the insurgency, will now resume service in Matehiya.

12. RISK AND ISSUE LOGS

Table 7: Risk Log Matrix

S.N	Description	Category (financial, political, operational, organizational, environmental, regulatory, security, other)	Likelihood of risk (scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the most likely) A	Impact (scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest impact) B	Risk factor (A x B)	Mitigation measures if risk occurs	Date risk is Identified	Last Updated	Status
1.	Political instability	Political	5	5	25	Outreach and sensitization of GoN counter-parts; dialogue and consultations with GoN and political parties; involvement of Steering Committee to engage political actors and resolve issues of confusion.	Ongoing		
2	Serious deterioration of the security environment	Political Security	3	6	18	Dialogue with GoN to ascertain which activities can continue; continue to work with individuals (Government, political and civil society) trained by CLD; technical and financial support to LPCs to resolve crisis; continue partnerships with CSOs to ensure that some crisis response and dispute resolution work can continue.			

3	Unknown form and implementati on of federal structure	Political	5	5	25	Project activities designed to be flexible enough to adapt focus and scope to address changes in context and institutional mechanisms. Cooperation with UNDP SPCBNsensitizes leaders on options for federalism.		

Table 8: Issue Log Matrix

S.N	Type	Date Identified	Description and Comments	Resolution measures recommended	Status of the issue	Status Change Date
1	Operational	Ongoing	Frequent transfer of the Government officials may affect implementation and cost effectiveness.	Dialogue with GoN to encourage them to retain Government officials responsible for implementation for 2 years or longer. Train all CDOs since they tend to move from one district to another.	Not changed	
2	Political	Ongoing	Absence of elected bodies and VDC Secretaries may adversely affect project implementation at local level.	Programme specific measures and systems to be developed to counterbalance effect of absence of local level elected representatives. Work with CDOs, LDOs and CSOs to encourage conflict-sensitive planning processes.	Not changed	

13. PROGRESS AGAINST ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2016
(Please do not add or delete columns)

UNDAF/CPAP Outcome:

UNDAF Output:

EXPECTED OUTPUTS (Please include baseline, associated indicators and annual targets)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES (List key activities to be undertaken during the year which will contribute to the respective outputs)	Targets for Planned Activities	Annual achievement of Targets	Annual achievement of Targets in %	Donor name	Approved budget (from the AWP)	Amount spent	% of expenditure against the approved budget	Remarks (if targets not fully achieved)
Output 1 (First CPAP output):									
Activity Result 1: Improved participation and networking of the CSOs, youth, groups, women's networks and marginalized communities in promoting social cohesion at national and regional levels	Activity 1.1: Enhanced knowledge and skills of women, youth and marginalized groups leaders on social cohesion, collaborative leadership, social dialogues, inclusive governance	2000 women, youth & marginalized groups leaders are trained	2000 women, youth and marginalized groups	100%					
Annual Targets:	Activity 1.2: # collaborative dialogue events organized	12	12	100%					
Baseline:	Activity 1.3 # social cohesion and community security mechanisms established	12	12	100%					
	Activity 1.4								
Sub Total Activity Result 1									
Activity Result 2: Risk mitigation improved through Early Response Initiatives, Quick Impact Support to Inter-community Cohesion, and local Participation and Accountability Initiatives	Activity 2.1 # risk identification and risk mitigation processes conducted	14	14	100%					
Annual Targets:	Activity 2.2 # joint police-community security initiatives launched	12	12	100%					
Baseline:	Activity 2.3 # quick impact inter-community initiatives launched	12	12	100%					
	Activity 2.4								
Sub Total Activity Result 2									

14. ANNEX
Photo gallery

1. Badi girl children posing after class on girls' education, Bardiya

2. Interaction with Government officials, Chitwan

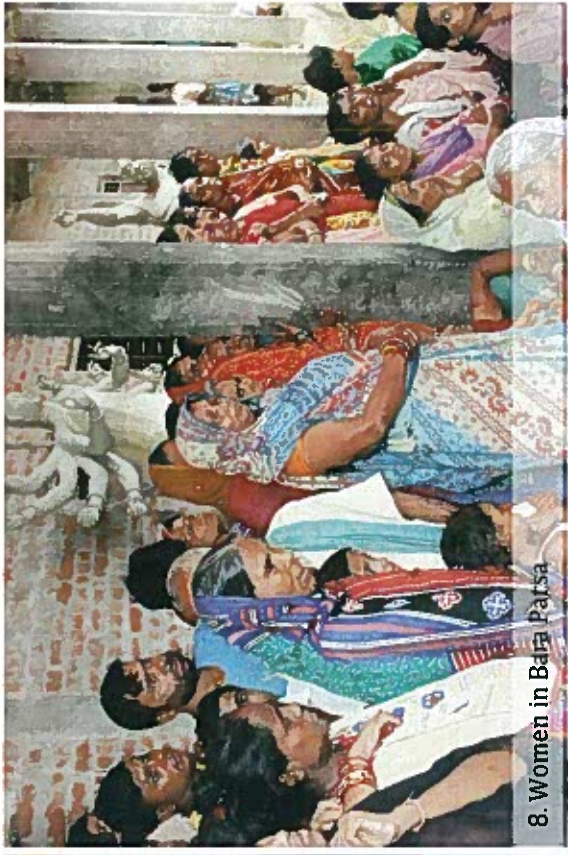3. Inter-cultural festival, Panchthar

4. Collective farming, Kailali

5. Land workshop, Sunsari

6. Land interaction, Kathmandu
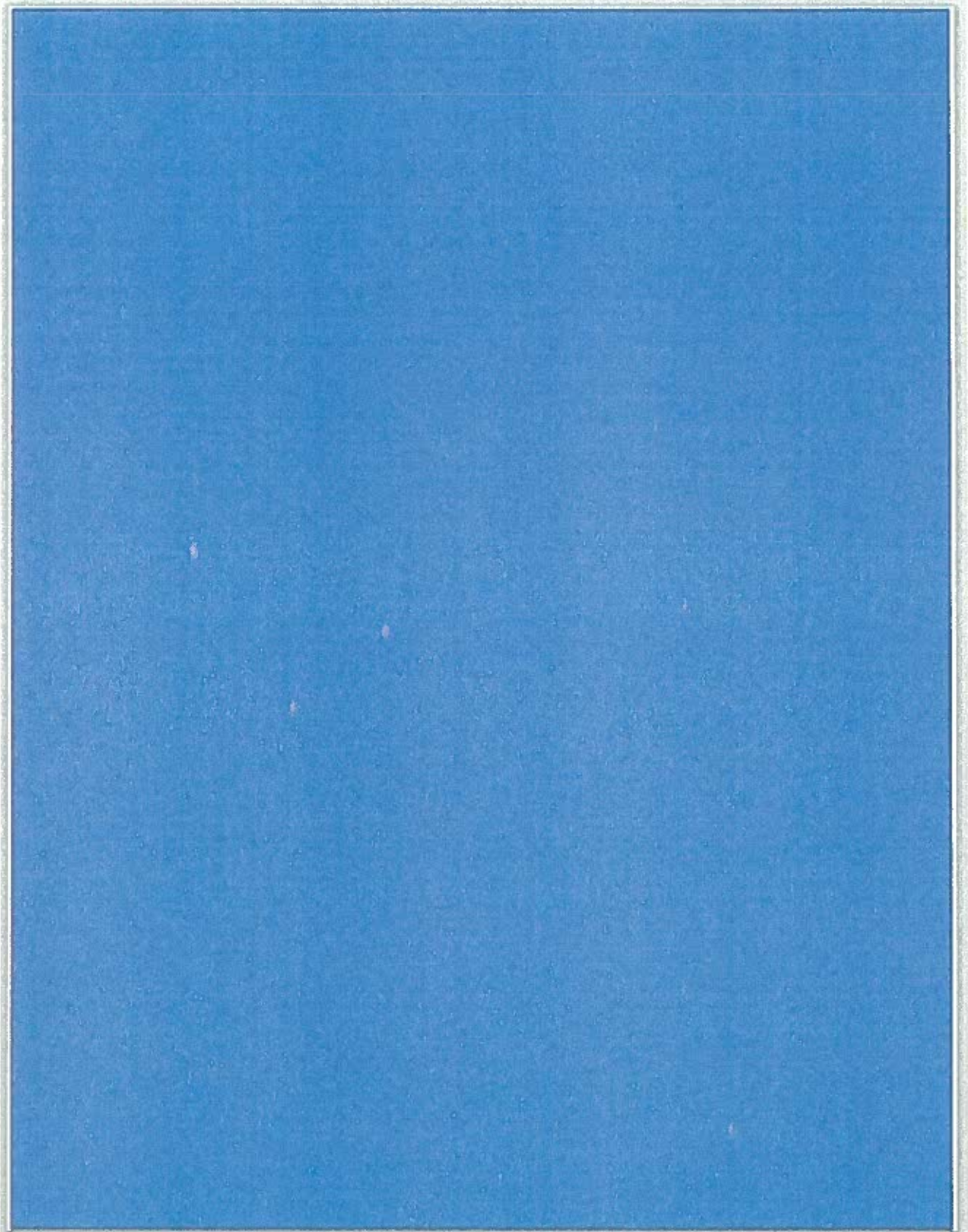
7. Police-Public partnership, Panchthar

8. Women in Bara Patsa

9. Kailali Melmilap Cooperative

10. Land dialogue in Kathmandu, March 2016

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