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# **Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme**

## **Quarterly Progress Report**

### **First Quarter**

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## 1 Executive Summary

The Conflict Prevention Programme (CPP) has transformed to be Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation (SCDP) since late 2015 considering the pragmatic programme requirements in the changed context following the promulgation of the new constitution. SCDP has commenced to support key stakeholders to strengthen the social contract that glues a functional state together and help create mechanisms to address tensions that will likely emerge with this change.

This quarter has been crucial to employ support to the Government, as well as social and political actors, in addressing socio-political tensions emerging from the transition to federalism. As the protests by Madhesi and Tharu groups across the southern Tarai plains continued, SCDP was uniquely well placed to mount an effective and sophisticated approach to address these tensions with the stakeholders with whom SCDP had sustained engagement through CPP. The protests had deep support in ethnic Madhesi Tarai communities, reflecting a profoundly increasing sense of alienation from the state and it would have been otherwise really challenging to engage with the agitating parties without the foundation that SCDP had.

SCDP engaged with Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Forums (MSDF) and Thematic Dialogue Forums (TDF) through which district-level officials, political party representatives and civil society leaders discussed emerging sources of tensions emanating from the differing views on the new Constitution. This distinctive engagement with key stakeholders during the crisis helped stop polarization and abate violent confrontations in the programme districts. Also, MSDFs and TDFs being inclusive platforms for dialogue; it ensured equitable civic participation to manage contentious issues. Additionally, SCDP's engagement with the Government was instrumental in promoting conflict sensitive approaches within Government institutions.

As an onset to social cohesion, in this quarter, the project identified contentious clusters in the programme districts where social fragmentation and discord are rampant and carefully mapped mechanisms and institutions which can bring divided communities together in those clusters. SCDP is preparing to provide seed grants to strengthen social cohesion conjointly with civil societies and invested in building the capacity of stakeholders on social cohesion. SCDP facilitated important district and community level social cohesion events amid deepened ethnic and ideological fissures in order to promote peace and social harmony.

This 2016 First Quarterly Report provides a snapshot of the results achieved by SCDP and the interventions made to promote social cohesion in the country. The report also marks a few success stories to demonstrate the impact of its interventions in promoting social cohesion in Nepal.

## 2 Context Updates

Political wrangling continued in the aftermath of the promulgation of the constitution. The political parties opposing the constitution continued its protests and strikes mainly in Tarai districts. Due to blockage at India-Nepal borders scarcity of daily consumables increased and resulted into the growth in black markets for fuel, cooking gas and other essential goods. In February 2016, when Nepal-India Border of Birgunj-Raxaul was opened and supplies from India eased, the protest programs of Madhes based political parties also lessened in all the Tarai districts and life became normal. However, in some districts like Chitwan, the supply and distribution of particularly petrol and LP Gas has not resume to normal yet. As cited by the government authorities in those districts, the supply of petrol and LPG is still less than the demand and the consumers tend to keep stock of fuel in anticipation of future shortages.

There is general suspicion amongst the general population of Tarai/Madhes that if the Madhes based parties resume the protest programs, life of the general public will be difficult. The UDMF decided to change the mode of protest and continue with other protest programmes. Nevertheless, effective protest programme and mass mobilization has not been observed except for a few sporadic rallies of youth cadres in district headquarters. According to local interlocutors, subsequent to the postponement of Madhesh movement, the activities such as militia orientations to Madhesi youths have increased in some Tarai districts by the C.K Raut led Free Madhesh Alliance. It seems that the Central Tarai districts will grapple with a particularly complex set of conflicts for extended period over the issues of provincial delineation as raised by Madhesi parties.

During the reporting period some resource based and identity based conflicts were reported in Eastern and Western regions. A hydropower project in Panchthar, named "Hewa A", had a dispute with the local population as the locals demanded job guarantee and subsidized electricity for them. Some identity-based organizations in Kaski and Baglung started venting their discontent over contents of the new constitution, utilized social functions organized during Lhosar (Tamu and Sonam) and Maghe Sankranti (Annual festival of Magar community) for mobilizing mass against the new constitution's provisions. Especially Magar community leaders and some leaders affiliated with SSF continued internal preparations for another political movement after observing the state's response to Madhes movement. Ethnic groups in Pokhara supported locals' protest against the deployment of Nepal Army personnel in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve and linked it to broader issue of Adibasi-Janajati right over natural resources under ILO-169

Political leaders of Nepali Congress, UCPN-M, and CPN-UML continued their visits in the Tarai region and reiterated that the new constitution is the best one. About the boundary of the federal structures the leaders suggested that it can be resolved through dialogue and consensus. NC during selection of representatives for 13th General Convention, UCPN-M as part of orientation and CPN-UML under "a Campaign for Implementation of Constitution and Consolidation of Nationalism" reached out to grassroots level cadres. Elated by news of Nepal-China agreement signed during Prime Minister KP Oli's China visit for construction of international airport in Pokhara and 37th SAARC Ministerial Meeting held in Pokhara, business communities in the region started a series of discussions on development priorities and economic opportunities of Province No 4.

Tharuhat/Tharuwan Joint Struggle Committee (TJSC) continued protest programmes including strikes and mass meetings in Kailali and Kanchapur. TJSC has been opposing the constitution with demands of revision of boundary of province no-7. Padma Ratna Tuladhar-led Adivasi Janjati Rastriya Andolan

(AJRA) joined forces with TJSC to intensify indigenous movement. However, there was minimal impact of the strike. Continued arrests of Tharu people in connection to the Tikapur incident has created alarming situation that has affected public lives in multiple ways. Cadres of Biplab-led CPN Maoist intensified their activities in FWR and vowed to take action against those who are involved in corruption and irregularities.

### 3 Major Achievements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

As a kick start towards social cohesion, in this quarter, the project identified contentious clusters in the programme districts where distrust, social fragmentation and discord are prevalent; mapped the mechanisms and institutions which can bring divided communities together in those clusters; planning to provide seed grants for strengthening social cohesion in partnerships with civil societies; built the capacity of stakeholders on social cohesion; and facilitated district and community level social cohesion events to promote peace and social harmony. Kailali and Panchthar were selected as the model districts to implement integrated social cohesion programme and similar activities are also replicated in other districts where SCDP is working with existing community and district level structures. Major achievements during the reporting period are follows:

- 12 communities/clusters are selected for community-level social cohesion work. It was an expansion of programme from national and district levels to the community level. These clusters were identified in consultation with political parties, media, civil society, Government authorities and security personnel.
- More than 250 key stakeholders were orientated and capacitated on social cohesion through various trainings, orientations and workshops. The Regional Offices organized trainings to existing and newly identified structures of their respective programme districts on Social Cohesion.
- More than 350 youth, women, civil society members, journalists and political leaders in the different programme districts involved in the promotion of social cohesion through 18 different events. Folk music and sports tournaments in the district were also organized for bringing people and communities together. After the promulgation of the constitution, youth divided by their ethnicity and caste, came together to give the message of solidarity and peace through these events.
- 14 community and district level institutions have integrated social cohesion in their planning. Regional offices have provided support to district and community level structures like LPC, MSDF, Youth Networks, WSPG, MSLDF, and other thematic networks to undertake the actual dialogue processes on localized issues related to the implementation of the new constitution and democratic transition into federal arrangements and to develop shared understanding to keep the social fabric intact and strengthen social cohesion by addressing existing social and political tensions and preventing it from exacerbating further.
- 2 Seed Grants are planned to catalyze the social cohesion initiatives in the districts. For example in Kailali, with the help of the seed grant, Multi stakeholders Dialogue Forum is planning to build a Sadbhav Griha (Social Cohesion House). The aim is to bring Tharu and

Pahadi communities together during the construction of the building and to institutionalize dialogue as a tool to promote social cohesion in the future. Local stakeholders are generating additional fund to develop a social cohesion resource center within the house.

- Second tier political leaders of all major political parties and editors of national newspapers/magazine developed a shared understanding about the challenges on the implementation of the new constitution and agreed to create conducive environment for more productive dialogues to address those challenges in coming days.

The Regional Offices also organized regional/district level inter-thematic meetings to map-out the emerging situation and possible strategies to strengthen social cohesion and enhance democratic participation of vulnerable groups in provincial/local governance and development processes. They have been working closely with media personnel to promote social cohesion in their respective regions. The region specific achievements are as follows:

### **3.1 Eastern Region-Sunsari and Panchthar**

- Muslim youth leaders engaged with different stakeholders to maintain social cohesion in Sunsari district.
- Capacity of women leaders and land rights activists enhanced on social cohesion, as a result, the women leaders and land rights activists have led dialogues on land ownership for women and vulnerable groups in the region.
- MSDF Panchthar and LPC Panchthar continued their collaboration and dialogue on localized conflicts in the district. A number of local disputes and disputes related with hydro-power projects were addressed by the MSDF members in the district.
- LPC Panchthar has identified two clusters for integrated SCDP work through a consultative meeting.
- Women leaders in Morang agreed to visit VDCs that witnessed violence during protests in Morang and talk with the victims to promote social cohesion in the district.
- Nepal Police, CDO and political leaders in Morang agreed to activate a mechanism in Morang district to end caste based discrimination.

### **3.2 Central Region-Chitwan, Bara and Parsa**

- Six community issues related to social cohesion have been collectively identified by local stakeholders in Madi Municipality of Chitwan and a common action plan has been developed to address the social tensions and to strengthen community security and promote social cohesion.
- A 21-member Social Cohesion Promotion Coordination Committee has been formed as an umbrella body of various stakeholders in Madi, Chitwan.
- Enhanced knowledge and skills of 43 local political leaders, civil society members and members of marginalized groups on social cohesion, collaborative leadership, dialogue and conflict sensitivity (63 %, men & 37% women: 5% Dalit, 28% Janajati, 2% Madheshi and 65 % BC) including two disable persons.
- 35 members of MSDF, Chitwan (DFC) including political leaders and 41 leading journalists of Chitwan separately oriented on the concept of social cohesion.

- MSDF, Chitwan (DFC) and FNJ, Chitwan have agreed to streamline their role in promoting social cohesion.
- Enhanced capacity of 26 women leaders, women rights activists and conflict affected women (CAW) affiliated with IPWA, representatives of Dalit Women Association, LPC and Alliance of Women Rights Activists in Bara district on CLD skills.
- Improved knowledge and understanding of 24 women leaders including CAWs from Bara and Parsa affiliated with IPWA, LPC and Network of Women Rights Activists on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820, effective advocacy and leadership skills, GRB and local development planning process.
- Enhanced knowledge/understanding of 41 district-level women leaders and right activists of Bara on key principles of GRB, NAP 1325/1820 and local planning and budgeting process.
- IPWA in both districts have been re-activated and is fully functional and Alliance of Women Rights Activists is active in Bara district.
- Women leaders and women rights activists have developed a set of nine-point shared agendas (common goals) of women regarding gender responsive planning and budgeting and addressing gender disparity, violence against women and other challenges faced by women in Bara district.
- A socially inclusive Regional level Multi Stakeholders Land Dialogue Forum has been established and functional.
- A regional level dialogue was held having dedicated sessions on gender-related land issues where the stakeholders made commitment for constructive advocacy and resource mobilization in order to increase women's access to land ownership through enhancing women's participation in key land related policy discussions and making the land institutions and processes gender-sensitive.

### **3.3 Western Region-Kaski and Baglung**

- Two comprehensive dialogues involving political party leaders, civil society activists and government authorities, one each in Kaski and Baglung, were held to assess the state of social cohesion, foresee local impacts of implementation of new constitution on social cohesion and preparations for meeting key challenges that may occur during implementation of the new constitution.
- LPCs were sensitized on social cohesion. Their composition and history of demonstrating highest degree of political neutrality. LPCs in both the districts have been planning to go to clusters of rural VDCs to hold interactions, sensitize VLPCs on their role as promoters of cohesion at community level.
- Some chronic problems faced by two vulnerable minority communities in Baglung Bazaar were given priority by dominant local communities and mainstream political parties:
  - Local Muslim Community which has been settling in the margins of Baglung bazaar for generations has been facing shortage of land to bury dead bodies of the community. A small portion allotted long ago has already been used up and getting additional land has been difficult for them. A team of local political leaders was formed to start exploring alternatives and convincing forest users' group was formed during SCDP-facilitated dialogue. The team has already started exploring options.
  - 14 households of vulnerable fishermen's community has been settling near a sports field near Baglung Bazaar since they were displaced during construction of highway two decades ago. Road construction made them landless and a plan to resettle them has been pending for two decades. A panel of adjoining community was reactivated during SCDP's dialogue and all

mainstream parties agreed to give priority to allocate budget from the municipality for resettling the community near a public land and a plot of land purchased by municipality. Now, facilitation panel's head KB Rana informed RFO- Pokhara that NRs. 12 Million was recently earmarked for developing infrastructure and building houses for the displaced people.

- Multi-stakeholder dialogues in both the districts pointed out some of the tasks political and civil leaders should immediately heed to:
  - Manage political wrangling that occurs during restructuring of VDCs into new Gaupalikas and Nagarpalikas through merger of several VDCs. Struggle for water resources, forest resources and extractable resources from river banks will be key issues of inter-village conflict.
  - Vote-bank politics, conflict for forming clusters of homogenous ethnic groups and center of administration for the new Gaupalikas will be another source of conflict.
  - Civil society leaders in Kaski started meeting regularly to analyze local conflict situation and thrash out intervention strategies. Following two rounds of meetings with them, civic leaders have prioritized promotion of social cohesion as one of their top priorities.
- Youth leaders of major political parties have demonstrated their enthusiasm to collaborate at local levels to float a concept: 'politics for development and cohesion, not for conflict'. In Baglung and Kaski, a refresher workshop is needed to crystalize the concept and thrash out strategy of implementing the concept.
- Landless squatters in Kaski changed their approach of dealing with Pokhara Valley Urban Development Committee, Pokhara sub-metropolitan city and local administration to resolve four-decade-old problem related to the encroachment of land allotted for Pokhara Bus Park. They have started coming with different options of resettlements and shown readiness to vacate the public land once alternative lands were provided in the vicinity of the city.

### **3.4 Mid-Western Region-Banke and Bardiya**

In the backdrop of the Madhesi agitation in Banke that led to violence and caused public hardships because of interruptions of supplies coming from India, there were anti-India and anti-Madhes sentiments among the hill people, stoked by high-pitched political propaganda. The newest change in the Madhesi movement in Banke district was the initiation of Madhesi youths in politics. Most of the youths started opposing their own leaders, let alone the constitution. A political wave among the youths in the age group 20-30 was observed, which carried the potential of escalating violence in the district. In order to prevent localized tensions, understand the current political undercurrents and to help manage these frustrations at the district and local levels, RFO Nepalgunj conducted a dialogue (on January 25) on the role of youths in strengthening social cohesion in Nepalgunj. This was a part of the series of dialogues led by SCDP at the regional level to maintain social harmony in the region.

- 31 influential change makers were brought together on January 27, to hold a dialogue on livelihood concerns of Dalits with an emphasis on land issues. The dialogue focused on social exclusion and power relations vis-à-vis Dalits in the district while concentrating on their livelihood and access to land.
- 150 prominent political and civil society leaders, representatives from various government agencies together with religious gurus were brought together by SCDP in collaboration with the Inter-Religious and Social Goodwill Committee and Local Peace Committee in Banke to convey the



message of social harmony and mutual respect on the eve of Holi in Nepalgunj on March 22. The event honored the religious Gurus (of Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christianity and Buddhism faiths), CDO, SP and selected civil society leaders for their outstanding contribution in promoting peace and harmony in times of crisis in Nepalgunj. The religious, government and social leaders urged the communities to inculcate feeling of humility and collaboration amongst themselves, and foster interdependence that can benefit from an inter-religious symbiotic relationship.

- 31 members from the regional Multi Stakeholder Land Dialogue Forum (MSLDF) with members from Banke, Bardiya, Dang and Surkhet districts representing women's organizations, land rights fora and government agencies actively participated in a dialogue on Women's Access to Land on March 14 in Nepalgunj. The members stressed that women's access to land ownership is key to a life with dignity and a basis for entitlements which can ensure economic independence and therefore, personal empowerment.
- SCDP together with an inclusive group of civil society organizations celebrated International Women's Day in Nepalgunj on March 1 by holding a broad-based interaction among key stakeholders in Banke district. About 50 participants including women's rights activists, media, human rights organizations, women's political organizations, government authorities and political parties partook in the programme. The programme celebrated the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women in the district by honoring the lives, grit and determination of four distinguished women personalities who have remarkably contributed in advancing women's rights. Two discussion papers were presented in the programme to gauge the legal and policy gaps in creating conditions for the elimination of discrimination against women and for their full and equal participation in promoting social cohesion and ensuring social development. The programme was particularly successful in generating realizations among the political parties and other stakeholders that there should be more women in public leadership roles, and that women can be drivers of social cohesion in the transition Nepal is currently going through.
- 49 political and civil society leaders, more than 85% of which were women, came together for a social cohesion event in Bardiya on March 17 to recognize and encourage the role of women in promoting social cohesion. The event was organized in coordination with women's groups and civil society organizations. As a result of the decade long conflict and subsequent disappearances and deaths in Bardiya district, the gender roles at household, community and district level have changed remarkably; and women have significantly contributed to promoting community level goodwill and peace. Women have also been a major player in the recent Madhes movement in Bardiya.

RFO-Nepalgunj also conducted an orientation about SCDP to UNDP projects in the region, and held discussion on development challenges with reference to social cohesion and discussed on the possible areas of collaboration amongst the UNDP projects.

### **3.5 Far-Western Region-Kailali and Kanchanpur**

- After a series of consultative meetings with local stakeholders in different constituencies in Kailali, Government authorities and security personnel agreed that some areas in Kailali are severely affected by the impact of the Tikapur incident. Based on discussions with the stakeholders, SCDP finalized four clusters (Tikapur, Sukhad, Masuriya, Bhajani) to concentrate interventions to promote Social Cohesion and Democratic participation.

- While meeting with Area Administrative Office and other stakeholders in Tikapur, they urged SCDP to intervene in order to bring people from both communities together. SCDP agreed to organize a "Friendly Volley Ball tournament" in Tikapur.
- Participating in a workshop, LPC members and political party leaders realized their role for promoting social cohesion and agreed to organize a one-day interaction programme, bringing political and traditional leaders from Tharu and Hill origin community from Masuriya cluster.
- LPC-Basisbichawa, continued EWER related activities through regular meetings, collaboration and dialogue on localized conflicts in the VDC.
- A regional level Dialogue Forum was formed where 33 people participated (17 female & 16 male) from different districts of FWR including land right activists, women advocates, human rights defenders, representatives of Land Survey Office, Forest Office, Land Right Forums, NGOs working on rehabilitation of Haliyas & Kamaiyas, landless population and two N-peace awardees.
- Capacity of women leaders and land rights activists enhanced on dialogue & collaboration and they have continued dialogue on land ownership for women and vulnerable groups in the region.

Women leaders in Kanchanpur organized an event to mark International Women's Day and directed the discussion on challenges of women's ownership over land. During the event, they pointed out that the majority of domestic violence cases have left women landless. They agreed to visit the violence affected VDCs in the district and talk with the violence victims and perpetrators to promote social harmony in the family and at the community level.

### **3.6 W4W**

- Identified land issues from a gender perspective through a conference held on March 10 to celebrate women's day. For the first time in the SCDP's land project event, women's concerns and issues on land was discussed intensively. The dialogue attended by policy makers, government officials, civil society member etc. stressed that inadequate legal frameworks, socio-cultural barriers and awareness gap have been impeding women's rights to land and property. The participants highlighted the need for gender-friendly land governance and administrative system. The issues in itself is a threat for social cohesion, thus if it was helpful for the stakeholders to explore a way out.
- Developed a concept note comprising content and agenda of capacity enhancement workshop of Multi-Stakeholders Land Dialogue Forum (MSLDF) and piloted it in the Eastern Region. The concept note was revised incorporating lessons learned from pilot workshop and it has been useful to conduct similar workshop in the rest of the regions.
- Bilateral meetings with resource persons, land stakeholders, partner agencies and timely communications including visits to some RFOs helped to form MSLDF and successful completion of capacity enhancement workshop for MSLDF of the regions. After formation and having enhanced capacity on gender responsive governance and conflict sensitivity the participants are envisioned to engage in gender and conflict sensitive land dialogues.

## 4 Opportunities and Challenges

### 4.1 Eastern Region-Biratnagar

- Promulgation of the constitution has created an opportunity for SCDP to intensify its engagement with the political leaders to implement it. The dialogue forums with the active participation of political leaders in the district have been crucial to bring the leaders of different sectors at one place and to find a way out through shared understandings. Their skills for dialogue and collaboration have visibly increased.
- However, uncertainty of LPC's future and uncertainty of the SCDP project's timeline creates suspicion among the actors for its sustainability as the structures are in initial phase. Political disturbances from the dissenting political groups are still a challenge for the implementation of the constitution.

### 4.2 Central Region-Bharatpur

- SCDP RFO-Bharatpur has provided briefing to district-level political leaders, civil society leaders, government officials and representatives of marginalized groups about the changed programmatic context of former CPP and the concept of social cohesion in Chitwan, Bara and Parsa districts. Madi municipality of Chitwan district has been selected to implement the social cohesion module programme. The local stakeholders in Madi seem to be interested to work together to promote social cohesion. They have formulated a joint action-plan of all stakeholders (political parties, LPC, NGOs, women groups, youth groups, community organizations of marginalized groups, CBOs and other social organizations) to address the collectively identified specific seven issues and challenges of social cohesion and community security, aiming to implement in collaboration with concerned stakeholders, to strengthen social cohesion. In addition, they have formed a 21-member Social Cohesion Promotion Coordination Committee as an umbrella body of various stakeholders for coordination of implementation and monitoring of the joint action-plan and to take necessary initiatives for promoting social cohesion at the local level.
- At the district level, the MSDF, Chitwan has agreed to play a constructive role in promotion of social cohesion and enhancing democratic participation of marginalized communities through dialogue, social interactions and other collaborative efforts among the key stakeholders. Similarly, Federation of Nepalese Journalists, Chitwan Chapter along with leading journalists have made a commitment to play a constructive role in promotion of social cohesion and enhancing democratic participation of marginalized communities by revealing the existing and emerging risks for social cohesion and the positive initiatives taken to strengthening social cohesion, through research-based and conflict sensitive journalism, and enhanced media out-reach. Additionally, they agreed to streamline their role in facilitating the social interactions among different social groups and issue focused feature reporting to promote social cohesion.
- The Dalit Janajati Dialogue Forum, Chitwan; Multi Stakeholders Land Dialogue Forum for Central Region, IPWA of Bara and Para, Unified Alliance of Women Rights Activists, Bara, LPC of Chitwan and Parsa have been engaged in social cohesion promotional initiatives through enhancing social interactions, dialogues on specific conflict issues, raising awareness and inclusive public discussions and capacity development of marginalized groups.

- Management of resources for financial and technical support seems to be a challenge to implement the action-plan developed with SCDP's support for promotion of social cohesion, as expected by the stakeholders and managing the expectation of local level stakeholders from UNDP for their capacity building.
- Administrative delays in making vendor payments and releasing cash advance have caused interruptions in the smooth execution of the project activities.

### 4.3 Western Region-Pokhara

- A sense of nationalism or patriotism generated by Indian blockades brought about significant change in inter-community relations as India was projected as 'the evil state' by ordinary citizens in the region. For most social and political activists except some ethnic community leaders affiliated with Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum, there was no alternative to unity among patriotic Nepalis than to resist Indian hegemony collectively. This feeling still exists in majority of the politically-active populace, laying foundations for building a cohesive society through implementation of positive aspects of the new constitution.
- Unlike in other provinces, dominant ethnic and race groups don't have a deep sense of betrayal by the issuance of the new constitution. All the districts with significant Gurung populations are included in a single province giving little space for Gurung community to carry out massive protest rallies like in the past. However, Magar population in eastern Palpa, Myagdi, western Baglung, southern Tanahun and Syangja have a certain degree of dissatisfaction over the federal model provided by the constitution. Once the parliament considers revising the current 7-province model, Magar community in the region will definitely rise again with demand of separate Magarant.
- MSDF, LPCs, Civil society groups, youth groups, IPWA and other women leaders' networks and journalists are always positive towards UNDP activities. It is a good opportunity for the SCDP to attain its goals. However, making a match between their demands and SCDP programmatic objectives is a challenging job, especially while prioritizing the activities. Ruling parties nowadays are focused on soliciting public support for the constitution and want SCDP to carry out activities accordingly but some radical Maoist factions and SSF do not like to touch upon the issue of implementation of the constitution.
- The term social cohesion itself has been perceived by different parties in different ways. This term refers to avoidance of activities aimed at disrupting social orders for the ruling parties and dominant higher caste in the society but Janajati groups and Dalits perceive the word in terms of social justice that enables them to build a new social relation with upper castes based in equal footings. Making the stakeholders perceive the term in same line has become one of the major challenges despite a standard definition of the terms developed by the UN.
- Building relations with government officials after every transfer has become major challenge in the field. In Baglung three CDOs have changed over the past one year. In Kaski, a new CDO has taken charge of office, a new Regional Administrator has assumed office in Pokhara. Police chief in Pokhara has changed thrice in a year. Frequent transfer of key officials we need to engage with makes our work somehow difficult as the new ones need briefing about our initiatives from the beginning.

#### **4.4 Mid- Western Region- Nepalgunj**

- SCDP has had the opportunity in the region to support local authorities, and key stakeholders to strengthen social cohesion, democratic participation and good governance during the initial roll-out of a new federal system and broader implementation of a new constitution.
- The implementation of the new constitution and shift from a unitary state to a federal model seem to be the most challenging aspect of the current phase of Nepal's transition. There are multiple administrative, logistical and financial challenges that lie ahead. These are likely to be accompanied by a complex set of political and social dynamics that will play out at the central, provincial and local levels.
- Madhesi, Tharu, Janajati, Dalit, religious minorities and women's groups' disagreements over the new statute and the process by which it was rushed through has diluted commitments to meaningful federalism. There is a deficit of respect, trust and political will. While this is another major challenge, it is also an opportunity for SCDP to work closely with stakeholders and help promote social cohesion and democratic participation.

#### **4.5 Far-Western Region-Dhangadhi**

- The polarization of political actors after the promulgation of the constitution has created space for engagement with the political leaders to bring them together for dialogue and collaboration. The Tikapur incident has created a rift between Tharu and Hill origin communities and it has destabilized social harmony. The dialogue forums in participation of political leaders as well as student leaders are can play important role to bring the leaders from both communities together and to find a way out through shared understandings.
- National level politics directly impacts at subnational level and local leaders are not decisive on the issues related to federalism, which is a major conflicting issue in FWR. Political disturbances from the dissenting political groups are a major challenge in the implementation of the constitution.

#### **4.6 W4W**

- Due to the promulgation of constitution and post disaster scenario, a number of land related legal frameworks are in verse of revision.
- Some major political parties including Madhes based political parties have expressed their interest to have UNDP's technical support on developing guideline for their Gender Responsive Land Position Paper.
- Decision of the Executive Committee for no cost extension of the project for three months has provided opportunity to accomplishment of planned activities.
- Uncertainty of blockade and strikes, fear of Tarai unrest and movement led by unsatisfied group on demarcation and boundaries of federal state.
- Accomplishment of number of planned activities in a conflict sensitive manner (particularly while supporting for development of land position paper of 4/5 political parties as the same time).
- Continuation of micro capital grant for the phase- II intervention by Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue (COLARP) as an opportunity to maintain monthly discussion forums on land issues from gender perspective; continue field research; develop discussion papers;

publish/disseminate knowledge product on land and gender issue and maintain existing visual library for data storage and IT services

- Limited human resource to conduct activities and coordinate with land stakeholders at central level as well as to coordinate with RFOs.

## 5 Programmatic Best Practices/Lessons Learned

MSDF and other thematic dialogue forums have been actively engaging with the concerned actors to resolve localized conflicts.

A number of local issues have already been dealt by MSDF in Pachthar district. Similarly, there has been improved relation between the government agencies and the political leaders in terms of collaboration for maintaining peace and security as well as for development works. The government actors and other stakeholders recognize the MSDF as an important dialogue forum led by political actors in the district. Frequent bilateral consultations and follow-up meetings are recognized to be effective in order to make the local level social cohesion promoting mechanisms functional.

In Kaski, informal ways of carrying out programme activities has enhanced convening power of the SCDP to discuss all the local issues ranging from political issues associated with identity and federalism to conflict over sharing of local resources. From the inception of the CPP, stakeholders were given an impression that UNDP was not coming to the district with a project to achieve certain development goals but was coming as a facilitator in fostering dialogue on burning local issues. So neither CPP nor SCDP was introduced to the stakeholders as a "project" but an "initiative" aimed at supporting leaders to navigate current transition.

Multi Stakeholder Dialogue Forums have been active as loose forums for discussing burning issues on needs basis. Use of different forums have proved effective in dealing with different types of conflicts and stakeholders. Some local initiatives need to be strengthened through small budgetary supports but our financial constraints cannot be easily conveyed to stakeholders. It was hard to find gender relation in some of the dialogue initiatives such as dialogues to address landless squatters' problem in Kaski.

Engagement with media was an excellent practice in the region but media personnel have been accustomed to avoid writing on CPP activities following our request in the past. When visibility became our priority, orienting media to start writing needed extra efforts, and orienting them on what to write and what not has taken time.

In Nepalgunj, government authorities, political parties, religious gurus and civil society leaders meet up regularly to discuss challenges of social cohesion and agree on collaborative ways to address them. It has proved to be excellent in order to improve social cohesion and community trust. Similarly, improved relation between MSDF and government agencies has been effective in terms engaging with the concerned actors to resolve localized conflicts in Dhangadhi.

For W4W project, mobilizing SCDP's in-house team members to facilitate sessions on CLD and CS was not only cost effective but it also helped to impart tailor-made knowledge and skills to the participants. The sessions on land and gender followed by CLD and CS made good linkage during the workshop of Gender Responsive Land Governance for Social Cohesion.



## 6 GESI considerations

### ▪ Eastern Region

- Overall 25% women participation ensured in the dialogue events.
- In dialogue related to women's issues and women's access to land, more than 70% women were active participants.
- Issues of women in the community, their vulnerability, special needs were discussed in the dialogue forums.
- Issues of special measures to be taken for the women of vulnerable community were discussed and the planning was done accordingly.

### ▪ Central Region

- The participation in each dialogue, workshop/training and consultation meeting has been inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
- GESI responsive and promotional contents/issues have been incorporated in the agendas of dialogues and workshops.
- The participation of women has been inclusive ensuring representation of excluded groups in the activities related with GPI-CT and W4W projects.

### ▪ Western Region

- In Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Forums in Kaski and Baglung, RFO-Pokhara was able to bring in 58% and 73% representatives from women, Janajati and Dalit groups. 40% and 30% respectively was the ratio of representation of women in these two districts.
- In land-related dialogue in Baglung, 67% of the participants were from marginalized Muslim, Majhi and Dalit communities and 25% of them were women.
- In journalists training on social cohesion from Baglung, 8 of 32 (25%) of the participants were women while over 90% of the participants in youth leaders dialogue on promoting politics of tolerance in Kaski were youths and 40% of them were from vulnerable groups.
- Besides these representative figures, there have been remarkable progress made towards making these representations meaningful i.e. through enhancement of capacity of these groups in influencing policies For example:
  - Women leaders in Baglung are playing a decisive role in LPC activities. Until Mid-March, a conflict victim woman was chairing the LPC in Baglung and most of the secretariat members are women.
  - Land meetings in Baglung were dominated by representatives of vulnerable Majhi, Muslim and Dalit group as well as women.
  - Civil Society group collaborating with UNDP in promotion of social cohesion is a woman lawyer.
  - Janajati and Dalit leaders have been playing key role in land-related dialogues in Pokhara.
  - About 10 women leaders who have been constantly engaged by UNDP are in their party's central committees and can influence local politics easily.



- Women leaders selected by SCDP have won leadership role in their respective fields. A women leader from Dalit community became Feminist Dalit Organization's Central Vice-Chair, a journalist became Regional Chairperson of Sancharika Samuha, a lawyer won District Bar Association seat and has started working as paid lawyer at Appellate Court, and a Gurung community leader can influence all Tamu Dheen activities.

- **Mid-West**

- Overall 35-40% women participation has been ensured in all dialogue events and meetings.
- Meaningful participation of over 50-60% women has been ensured in dialogues related to women's issues and those dealing with women's access to land.
- One of the prime agenda in dialogue forums have been the issues facing women in the community, their vulnerabilities, threats, and special needs.
- Special measures for the women representing vulnerable communities were discussed and considered, and response planning was done accordingly.

- **Far-West**

- During an interaction on "Challenges of Women's ownership over land", more than 75% were women and they actively expressed their views.
- While conducting events for VDC level LPC, some key members of IPWA of the respective VDCs also participated. The joint participation has helped establish coordination and get support from each other.

- **W4W**

- Considered gender related topic for the conference titled "Land Issues: Gender Perspective in Changing Context".
- Gave extra effort to hire female consultant for the preparation of discussion paper during the conference. In the ToR of consultant clearly mentioned to consider social and ethnic diversity of women.
- Warranted increased participation of women including participation of female policy makers and women from marginalized community in the conference. For example, there was a participation of 52% of women along with 15 Janajati, 3 Dalit and 7 Madhesi.
- Ensured the participation of women and members from vulnerable groups as per the guidelines while formation of MSLDF in the regions.
- Coordinated with RFOs to select the dialogue topic under GESI theme

## 7 Progress against the planned activities in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Q1 Targets	Progress
Facilitate and provide logistic support to hold inclusive meeting of LPC, Panchthar to collate and analyze EW information on localized conflict dynamics and undertake early response initiatives to strengthen social cohesion at local level	2	Completed
Organize training for MSDF members of Sunsari and Panchthar on undertaking participatory conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity and conflict management techniques to take initiatives for smooth transition to federal arrangement promoting social cohesion and democratic participation.	2	In progress
Provide facilitation and logistic support to the MSDFs, and other thematic dialogue forums (i.e. youth, women, vulnerable groups etc.) in priority districts and other districts as well for dialogue initiatives (consultations, dialogue planning/preparatory meetings and issue focused dialogues) for strengthening social cohesion, promoting community level goodwill and local participation and accountability in order to preempt the escalation of localized tensions in course of implementation of new constitution by bringing communities together for dialogue on divisive issues.	2	Completed
Support the stakeholders (community, community interlocutors and government agencies etc.) at community/local level through LPC, MSDF and other thematic networks to undertake the actual dialogue processes on localized issues concerning to implementation of new constitution and democratic transition into federal arrangements. Support to develop shared understanding to keep the social fabric intact and strengthen social cohesion by avoiding exacerbating existing social and political tensions.	2	In progress
Organize regional/district level inter-thematic (i.e. political leadership, government authorities, civil society, identity groups, political analysts/intellectuals etc.) interaction/consultation meeting to visualize/map-out the emerging situation and possible strategies for strengthening social cohesion and enhancing democratic participation of vulnerable groups in provincial/local governance and development processes.	1	In progress
Organize consultation programmers with media persons to promote informed discussion on diverse topics such as the challenges related to the implementation of federalism and related challenges to social cohesion and democratic participation at regional/district level, and promote more nuanced and conflict sensitive approaches of reporting on evolving situations.	1	In progress
Carry out consultation meetings (bilateral and group) with multiple actors (ethnic groups, thematic groups, concerned institutions and individuals, development partners including UN agencies/programmes to take stock of the emerging situation and explore the application of CLD skills to concrete issues and challenges.	1	In progress
Provide training to Land Dialogue Forum on collaborative leadership and dialogue tools at regional level.	1	completed
Organize dialogues among the members of Land Dialogue Forum and other stakeholders on gender-related land issues	1	Completed
Hold bilateral/ small group meetings and discussions with key stakeholders to identify challenges and opportunity to address gender related land issues	1	Completed
Support the N-peace mobilizers to manage the grant and provide technical support to organize regional-level dialogue, including preparation and follow-up, on women's peace and security as well as broader transition related issues.		In Progress
Provide support to LPC Chitwan to analyze EW information on localized conflict dynamics and undertake ER initiatives to strengthen social cohesion at local level.	1	Completed
Support/accompany Madi MLPC to hold meeting to analyze EW information on local conflict dynamics and undertake ER initiative to promote social harmony.	1	Completed

Support MSDF (DFC) to organize inclusive dialogue among the political parties, Civil society, LPC, and government agencies to analyze the emerging issues of social cohesion and take early response initiatives, at district level.	1	Completed
Organize consultative meeting with journalists to promote social cohesion through journalism.		Completed
Support Indigenous Janajati Dalit Dialogue Forum Chitwan (IJDDFC) for an initiative for strengthening social cohesion and democratic participation.	1	Incomplete
Carry out field assessment to identify existing Social Cohesion mechanism, networks/organizations of marginalized groups and the issues affecting social cohesion in Madi: SCDP module, in collaboration with LPC, Madi.	1	Completed
Consultation meeting with MLPC and representatives of youth, women, other marginalized social groups, IPWA, local political leaders, CBOs, etc. to discuss about the social cohesion initiatives, issues of social cohesion and potential actions to promote SCDP at local level.	1	Completed
Organize interactive workshop on collaboration, dialogue, conflict sensitivity and social cohesion for local stakeholders in Madi, Chitwan.	1	Completed
Carry out consultation meetings (bilateral and group) with multiple actors to take stock of the emerging situation and explore the windows of collaboration for promoting social cohesion and democratic participation.	1	In progress
Organize consultation meeting among the land issues related stakeholders to form a regional level Multi-Stakeholders land Dialogue Forum in central region	1	Completed
Organize a regional dialogue on women's access and ownership to land.	1	Completed
Organize training on advocacy and leadership skill for GRB for women leaders from Bara and Parsa.	1	Completed
CLD workshop with women leaders of Parsa on collaborative leadership and dialogue skills.	1	Incomplete
Support to women led dialogue/initiative for enhancing their voice and agency (Interaction between political leaders and women leaders/right activists in Bara and Parsa)	1	Completed
Accompaniment and support to women's group and network leaders through consultative meetings and coaching in Bara/Parsa.	1	Completed
Support to Micro grant recipient organizations for project proposal preparation, revision and necessary documentation.	1	Completed
Assessment to identify Social Cohesion mechanism 2 contentious community/clusters of Baglung (Burtibang and Galkot)		Partially completed
Orientation to local youth leaders, women leaders and members of vulnerable communities as well as select officials of FNJ, LPC and women leaders' network on tools for promoting social cohesion	1	In Progress
Youth-focused cultural activities accompanied by dialogue on ways to promote social cohesion and enhance youth, women and other vulnerable groups' participation in future democratic processes	1	Incomplete
Women leader-led dialogues: Preparing for future political responsibilities and enhancing participation in local decision-making processes	1	Incomplete
.Bilateral/small group meetings to identify challenges and opportunity to address social cohesion challenges	1	Completed
Orientation to VLPCs on their role in promoting social cohesion	1	In progress
Youths for harmony and tolerance: dialogue on future ways of politics	1	Completed
Provide technical and logistical support to Banke LPC and two pilot EWER VDCs to hold meetings to collate and analyze EW information on local conflict dynamics so as to plan and implement responses (ER)	1	Completed
Provide facilitation and logistic support to the LPC/ MSDFs, and other thematic forums (such as youth, women, vulnerable groups) in Banke and Bardiya to strengthen social cohesion, promoting community level goodwill in order to preempt the escalation of localized tensions in course of	1	Completed

implementation of new constitution by bringing communities together for dialogue on divisive issues.		
Carry out consultation meetings with media persons to promote informed discussions on the challenges related to the implementation of federalism and related challenges to social cohesion and democratic participation at regional/district level, and promote more nuanced and conflict sensitive approaches of reporting on evolving situations.	1	Completed
Consultation meetings (bilateral and group) with multiple actors (ethnic groups, thematic groups, concerned institutions and individuals, development partners including UN agencies/programmes working on transitional issues at regional and district level) to take stock of the emerging situation and explore the application of CLD skills to concrete issues and challenges in consultation with relevant actors.		Completed
Produce informed analysis on events and political developments in the region.	1	Completed
Organize dialogues among the members of Land Dialogue Forum and other stakeholders on gender-related land issues.		Completed
Support the N-peace mobilizers to manage the micro capital grant to sustain the collective advocacy for women's human rights and women's inclusion in peace and security (5 in all regions).	5	In progress
Assessment to identify Social Cohesion mechanism in 4 contentious clusters of Kailali District.	1	Completed
Facilitate and provide logistic support to EWER implementing LPCs in two VDCs in Kanchanpur to conduct meetings and analyze local context.	2	Completed
Consultative meeting/support to women youth and traditional leaders	2	Completed
CLD workshop to LPC and IPWA with focus on Role of LPC in promoting Social Cohesion in four clusters	1	Completed
Facilitate and provide logistic support to LPC Kailali for formation of Municipal level LPC in Sukhad	1	Completed
Organize consultation programmes with media persons to promote informed discussion on diverse topics such as the challenges related to the implementation of federalism and related challenges	1	Completed
Formation of Regional Land Dialogue Forum Provide and training to them on collaborative leadership and dialogue	1	completed
Organize dialogues among the members of Land Dialogue Forum and other stakeholders on gender-related land issues	1	Completed
Hold a series of bilateral meetings and discussions	19	Completed
Under take dialogue based on identified issues of land	1	Completed
Organize CLD and CS training to parliamentarians	1	In progress
Coordinate in forming Multi-stakeholder Land Dialogue Forum in all regions and to provide training for them	5	In progress
Convene inter-regional Workshops with the member of MSLDF from different regions	2	In progress
Develop theme base discussion papers	1	In Progress
Send the five senior mobilizers to attend the N-Peace TOT in BKK.	1	Incomplete
Organize reinforcement training (2 workshops x 12 participants x 4 days):	2	Incomplete
Develop EWER Training package for training facilitators	1	Completed
Conduct "Senior Editors' Dialogue with Second-tier Political Party Leaders"	1	Completed
Research to provide overall technical inputs on the development and roll out of a national conflict EWER system	1	Completed
Translation of N-Peace training of mobilizers	1	Incomplete

## 8 Progress towards 2016 Annual Targets as of end of 1st quarter

### Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation

Annual Target	Achieved as of 1st quarter
At least 400 women, youth and other people from marginalized group capacitated on peacebuilding, dialogue and social cohesion	A total of 132 capacitated of whom 78 female and 53 male.
At least 15 social tensions mitigated to improve social cohesion	Actors are meeting regularly to discuss the emerging issues through MSDF,MSLDF and LPC
Key stakeholders made common understanding on land issue	All the regions had dialogues on land issues in the first quarter which helped to make common understanding on land issues
Early response initiatives for emerging tensions taken by political parties and other stakeholders of programme districts	Consultations held so far and the actors have agreed to meet regularly for early response initiatives.
Political parties, Journalists and government agencies applied CLD and CS skills in their work	Political parties already applying these skills through MSDF, MSLDF and LPC. Journalist capacitated in Chitwan on CLD, CS and social cohesion but yet to be seen the application
At least four government institutions continue conflict sensitivity in their training curricula.	LDTA has incorporated CS in their training curricula
At least 4 government institutions reflect CS principles in their institutional policies/directives.	Not reflected in this quarter
At least 8 EQ affected district development actors trained on CS approaches	This is already initiated and in progress
At least 4 peace structures formed or strengthened for promoting social cohesion	All the regions have peace structures in place and have been strengthened in this quarter
Capacity of at least 4 peace mechanism is strengthen on CLD, CS and EWER	VLPC in Madi has been provided with the skills CLD,CS and EWER
Technical supported provided to those mechanisms for conducting identifying and mitigating risks	Technical support to the peace mechanisms was continuously provided in this quarter

### Empowering Women 4 Women: Access to Land for Sustainable Peace in Nepal

Annual Target	Achieved as of 1st quarter
Gender land concerns are identified	Dialogues on land issues were held in each region and gender land concerns were identified

## 9 Operations: Human Resources / Procurement/Finance

**Output:** Strong Administrative and Financial systems in place to support the timely implementation of the three programmatic pillars of CPP

The First Quarter of 2016 for CPP Operations has rounded up smoothly. Contracts of 29 staff members have been extended. Likewise, this quarter, CS Team Leader, Ms. Sadhana Ghimire resigned from February 2016. Thus, the HR Plan has been updated with these changes.

In the past few months three professional staff have left CPP programme headquarters in Kathmandu, which has resulted into smaller staff capacity in HQ. Hence, considering the project's strategic approach to minimize staff in the Regional Field Offices due to limitation on funding, and in order to meet the staff gap in HQ, especially on monitoring and evaluation, report writing, GESI and other general project activities, the project has processed for transfer of Regional Dialogue Coordinator of Nepalgunj office, Ms. Shubham Amatya, to Kathmandu office effective from 15 April 2016.

This quarter still experienced difficulty due to fuel shortage. Due to ongoing fuel crises, though less effective, power transmission in office through generator has not come back to its normal schedules.

### Project Financial Delivery Status

As per the proposed CPP AWP 2016 (Substantive Revision -21) the project has planned activities equivalent to US\$ 10, 52,267 in the year 2016. Total financial delivery (utilization of fund) against Annual Work-Plan 2016 is US\$ 222,866(including commitments) which is 21 % of approved CPP AWP 2016. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter delivery of the year 2016 against approved 1<sup>st</sup> quarter budget is 115%.

### 9.1 Project-wise Expenditures:

Project	Budget Allocation 2016	Total Expenditure (Including commitments)	Expenditure in %
Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation (SCDP)	400,000	41,551	10%
Early Warning Early Response (EWER)	65,000	8,425	13%
Catalytic Support on Land	84,737	15,222	18%
DFID - EPST	21,689	0.00	0%
GPIL	248,541	119,291	48%
GPICT	98,842	32,557	33%
N-Peace	133,458	5,820	4%
<b>Total Funded Budget</b>	<b>1,052,267</b>	<b>222,866</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Total Unfunded Budget</b>	<b>747,840</b>		

### 9.2 Key operational activities

#### Human Resource:

- Resignation of CS Team Leader and Capacity Building Officer for CS.

- Processing for transfer of Regional Dialogue Coordinator of Nepalgunj to Programme Headquarters in Kathmandu.
- Completion of hiring process of Finance Officer. The FO joined CPP HQ from 01 April 2016. Likewise, phase out of Admin/Finance Associate of HQ.

### Information Technology:

- LTA signed for two years for internet and intranet services through competitive bidding process of UNDP, which has led to reduction of cost by 45% than the previous cost.

## 10 Success Stories:

**Story 1:** “Because of the regular dialogue among the political leaders in the district we have been able to resolve local conflicts and the long-standing dispute of Small Town Drinking Water Supply project in Panchthar through MSDF led dialogue and by now the construction phase of project has been completed” – noted the district chairperson of Nepali Congress Panchthar district Mr. Naredra Kerung. Panchthar, a far eastern hilly district is full of natural beauty and wealthy of natural resources like possibility of hydro power projects, cash crops, herbal plants, touristic attraction among others. However, the district has been badly affected during the armed conflict and later by inter-ethnic tensions. Local leaders and people have maintained cordial relation even in much tensed situation in the district maintains almost all the political leaders in the district. However, at some point due to the political line of political parties chances of ethnic tensions were high. **Political parties claiming Limbuwan** provinces claimed Phiddim, the HQ of Panchthar district to be the capital of Limbuwan province and that created a fearful atmosphere for the other community residing in the district. Due to political bickering according to their party line, many of the development projects also suffered from lack of implementation. Leaders advocating for Indigenous rights based on ILO Convention 169 alleged that government agencies were not interested to follow the ILO 169 provisions while implementing some Hydro power projects and due to that, local indigenous population were suffering badly. Similarly, due to the dispute on name and demarcation of federalism there were chances of confrontation between political parties as well as ethnic organizations. In this backdrop, in 2014, with the technical support and continuous engagement of UNDP/CPP the political leaders of Panchthar agreed to form an All Party Dialogue mechanism used hereinafter as Multi Stakeholders Dialogue Forum (MSDF). This forum is inclusive of all active political parties in the district, women leadership, civil society members, journalists and youth leaderships. As and when required, the political leadership conducts dialogue with various stakeholders including government agencies on the crucial subjects on the district. To avoid any internal conflict in the dialogue forum, the political leaders have developed a code of conduct for themselves. A prominent civil society leader in the district pointed that due to lack of such strong political forum, the bureaucracies in the district were playing to undermine the political parties and were misusing their power by misguiding some of the political leaders. But after the political collaboration and unity among the political parties in the district, the behaviors of government authorities have drastically changed. They request MSDFs to play a lead role in managing the local level conflicts and developing consensus around the issues of development and security. During the Limbuwan movement after promulgation of constitution, MSDF played a constructive role to maintain peace and restraint. Now, the MSDF has been a platform to resolve the issues of common concerns through dialogue among the concerned actors and its role has been recognized by government authorities and civil society – noted RPP district chairperson Mr.

Mandev Kerung. Not only the political leaders and civil society members, but even the government agencies acknowledge the importance of such a mechanism. The acting/assistant CDO of the district Mr. Keshav Prasad Rijal noted that the MSDF has brought all the political leaders in one platform and a cordial relation and sentiment of collaboration on common issues is observed among them. The mechanism has helped a lot to the local administration to develop consensus on the issues of security, political protests and other issues of governance/service delivery. The political parties identify the issue to hold dialogue on and organize the dialogue among the stakeholders which has been instrumental for DAO to operate in a coordinated and consultative manner. The role played by MSDF during recent political protests concerning to federalism is highly appreciated and the stakeholders express that it helped maintain peaceful protests and restraint from all actors. After the promulgation of the Constitution from the Constituent Assembly a chapter of the peace process has been completed. However, challenges remain robust for smooth implementation of the constitution as contentious issues like demarcation of federal boundaries, name of federal provinces, and capital of federal states are still to be resolved. In this situation such dialogues forums are quiet a need of the time to prevent violence and confrontation and promote social cohesion and collaboration.

**Story 2:** Masuriya is one of the most conflict affected VDCs in Kailali with numerous incidents of killings, disappearance, abduction, extortion during the Maoist insurgency. Masuriya and its adjoining VDCs are composed with Tharu and hill migrant communities and there is intensive polarization between the both communities over the issue of federal boundary. Recently, RFO-Dhangadhi conducted a one and half day non-residential workshop with members of LPC, IPWA and some social activists in Masuriya. The workshop dealt with topics of co-existence, social cohesion and democratic participation. After the session, participants were engaged in analyzing context of Masuriya from the lens of Social Cohesion and Democratic participation. Going through group works, participants realized that the social harmony has weakened after the Tikapur incident. With this realization, participants suspected that the disgruntled Tharu leaders might disrupt the upcoming VDC project implementation, as they perceive that the implementation of projects would again be dominated by Hill origin people. Considering the situation, the participants from both Tharu and Hill origin communities came up with an idea to organize a dialogue among prominent political and traditional leaders from both sides. They anticipate that the workshop will create a space for open discussion with the view to take the Tharu people in confidence with assurance of their meaningful participation in upcoming VDC project implementation. Finally, they agreed to organize the dialogue on April 29 on Inclusive & Democratic Participation in VDC project implementation. LPC-Masuriya will be the organizer of the event, where SCDP will provide technical role in facilitating the event.

**Story 3:** The stakeholders of Madi Municipality in Chitwan district have formulated a joint action-plan of all stakeholders (political parties, Local Peace Committee, NGOs, women groups, youth groups, community organizations of marginalized groups, community-based organizations, government agencies and other social organizations) to address the collectively identified specific seven issues/challenges of social cohesion and community security, aiming to strengthen social cohesion. Additionally, they formed a 21-member Social Cohesion Promotion Coordination Committee as an umbrella body of various stakeholders for coordination of implementation and monitoring of the joint action-plan and to take necessary initiatives for promoting social cohesion at local level. The former member of parliament and local intellectual Mr. Tirtha Bhushal has been unanimously chosen as the coordinator of the committee. The 42 political leaders, civil society members, youths, women, government officials and members of marginalized social groups including 15 women developed the integrated action-plan and its implementation mechanism to promote social cohesion after the two-



day workshop on collaboration, dialogue and social cohesion, organized by UNDP's Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme in Madi of Chitwan. The action-plan has envisioned to address the issues i.e. gender based violence, discrimination and prevalence of other harmful social norms/practices, challenges of local community security and inter-communal tensions, lack of trust and cooperation between government agencies and the local people, no spaces of social interactions for marginalized communities, practices of social exclusion and marginalization and the issues associated with Chitwan National Park.

**Story 4:** The women political leaders and women rights activists of Bara district have collectively developed a set of nine-points shared agendas concerning to gender responsive planning and budgeting which aims to address the challenges faced by women in the district. The leading women activists affiliated with Inter-Party Women Alliance and Unified Alliance of Women Rights Activists, agreed to act together for the first time so as to institutionalize gender responsive budgeting system; to increase the women's representation by 30% within a year in district level executive committee of political parties and social organizations; to ensure at least one-third representation of women in upcoming local bodies' election; to reduce the incidences of dowry practices and domestic violence against women by 25% across the district, to declare three VDCs as witchcraft incidents free and to declare 'Kolhawi Municipality' as alcoholism free zone in a year, among others. About three dozen women leaders from 11 political parties and 23 women-led social organizations were participating in a dialogue organized by UNDP's SCDP Programme in Kalaiya of Bara. Babita Jaiswal, Coordinator of Unified Alliance of Women Rights Activists said, " we have to formulate specific actions to attain our common goals and I am very glad that the political women leaders and NGO workers have joined hands to act collectively for gender equality which will demonstrate a role model for others". After formulating the shared agendas, former State Minister for Land Reform, CA member and central member of UCPN-M Jwala Shah said, "the leading women activists of Bara have identified the common issues and goal for the first time for women's empowerment and gender equality. I will actively lead and mobilize the political front to translate our shared agendas into actions." Similarly, Kishmati Ram, a Madhehsi Dalit activist said, " I will mobilize the most backward Dalit communities through the network of FEDO to implement our shared agendas particularly ending child marriage, 'witchcraft' system and caste based untouchability".

**Story 5:** The key stakeholders related with land issues have formed a central regional level Multi-Stakeholders Land Dialogue Forum (MSLDF) representing women political leaders, civil society members, land rights activists, representatives of marginalized communities and land related government service providers. The MSLDF is inclusive and its members represent the six districts of Central Region namely Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Bara, Parsa, Rautahat and Dhanusha. After the formation of MSLDF, the members of MSLDF and the land related government service provider agencies have developed an understanding and consensus to espouse women sensitive processes and procedure of land registration so as to enhance women's ownership to land. The representatives of political parties, NGOs working on Land issues and women's rights, marginalized social groups, National Land Rights Forums; and District Land Revenue Office and Land Survey Office from Bara, Parsa, Chitwan and Nawalparasi districts collectively analyzed the specific logistic, institutional and cultural barriers and practices that have created obstacles for women to get access to land registration and to exercise their rights over land. They were participating in an interactive dialogue facilitated by UNDP's Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme (SCDP) in Bharatpur. The participants stressed the need of assessing the impact of government's initiatives of men-women joint ownership of land and concession on land registration revenue in the name of women. In the dialogue, coordinator of MSLDF

and former State Minister for Land Reform and CA member Jwala Shah stated, "on behalf of the MSLDF, I want to make a commitment for constructive advocacy and resource mobilization in order to increase women's access to land ownership for economic independence and social empowerment, through enhancing women's participation in key land related policy discussions and making the land institutions and processes gender-sensitive". Likewise, Tank Prasad Upadhyaya Chief of District Land Revenue Office, Chitwan said, "the women's land ownership level has been significantly increased in recent years compared to the past following the implementation of government's policy for joint ownership and concession on land registration revenue in the name of women. We are committed to support for enhancing women's access to land through gender sensitive service delivery." Additionally, Shobha Dhakal- deputy head of Women and Children Office, Chitwan said, "the MSLDF can work through the women's networks developed by Women and Children Office at community level to sensitize the rural women for their land related rights and importance of access to land, we will officially support the MSLDF for this". On behalf of the political parties, Saraswati Bista, CPN-UML said, "this event is also an awareness campaign for women's access on land. We will support the MSLDF to initiate similar dialogue in other parts of the region that will contribute to increase women's participation in land related discussion and mechanism".

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	Q1			Responsible Party	GESI Remarks
			April	May	June		
<b>Output 1 (First CPAP output): National actors have collaborated to manage and resolve conflict issues, strengthening peace consolidation.</b>							
<b>Activity Result 1:</b>							
Social Cohesion Promotion Module	Support for regular meeting of Social Cohesion Promotion Coordination Committee, Madi	2		1	1	RFO	The committee as such is an inclusive.
	Capacity building of LPC members in Both Kaski and Baglung districts and VLPC members in select clusters so as to make them able to carry out activities aimed at strengthening social cohesion. (CS)	2	1	1		RFO	At least 30% women participants will be from women and other vulnerable and marginalized communities
	Assessment of state of social relations and identification of Social Cohesion mechanisms in two rural areas each in Kaski and Baglung districts. (CS)	1	1			RFO	GESI strategy will be given due consideration
	Consultative meeting with MSDF/LPC and government authorities to identify burning issues of conflict and response mechanism, 1in Biratnagar, 1in Dhangadhi, 1 in Pokhara	3	2		1	BRF O	MSDF structure is already inclusive.
	Orientation to local youth leaders, women leaders and members of vulnerable communities as well as select officials of FNJ, LPC and women leaders' network on tools for promoting social cohesion. (CS)	6	1	3	2	LPC/ RFO	At least 30% women participants will be from women and other vulnerable and marginalized communities
	Social Cohesion starts from school: Support to LPC to reach out to Conflict Affected Children (CACs) in a school that hosts nearly 300 CACs.(CS)	1			1	PRF O	Discussion with women and vulnerable community will be held.
	Support to IPWA to carry out dialogue with government agencies on gender responsive budget (CS)	1		1		PRF O	More than 90 % of the participants will be from women, dalit, janajatis and other vulnerable communities
	Strengthen the Inter-religious Council through improved engagement in Banke	2		1	1		Women will be consulted during the process
	Promote social cohesion through active participation and sustained engagement of youths from Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Buddhist communities by organizing religious and	2		1	1	NRF O	Women's participation will be ensured

social events						
Small group meetings to identify challenges and opportunities of social cohesion and to develop innovative ways to address them (e.g., film screening, story telling etc.)	3	1	1	1		33% participation will be ensured Women's will be
Provide fellowship to FNJ Banke to cover stories on social cohesion and SCDP (Concept note has been shared with Kathmandu)	1		1			
Seed grant support to CSOs for Quick Impact initiatives to strengthen social cohesion	1		1		DRF O	Women led CSOs will be prioritized
Review meeting with CSOs and stakeholders to collect the best practices	1		1		DRF O	33% participation will be ensured Women's will be
CLD workshop to LPC and IPWA with focus on their Role in promoting Social Cohesion in four clusters	4	1	2	1	DRF O	These structures are already inclusive
Fellowship to FNJ to promote media coverage on SCDP's work, 2 in NPJ, 1 in Dhangadhi	3	1	1	1	RFO	Women journalists will be prioritized
Capacity building (EWER/CS/CLD) for the VLPC members of the selected VDCs to promote social cohesion in the district by addressing particular issues of local conflict, 2 in Biratnagar, 3 in Dhangadhi.	5	3	1	1	BRF O	At least 33% women participation will be ensured
Support to organize social interaction among the representatives of marginalized communities and other caste/ethnic communities to increase understanding about their socio-cultural issues, livelihood challenges and reduce the prevalence of negative perceptions and stereotyping.	1		1		CRF O	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
Conflict Sensitivity Workshop for Local Development actors in Baglung (Conflict Sensitivity)					PRO	GESI strategy will be given due consideration
Orientation about SCDP's work and achievements to UNDP projects in the region, and discussion on development challenges with reference to social cohesion	2		1	1		
Support to organize Social Cohesion Promotional Inter-community Cultural Programme in Madi, Chitwan.	1		1		RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.

Support to organize interactive dialogue with Municipality, political parties and CBOs to ensure increased participation of women, youths and marginalized groups in local development planning, and utilization of the targeted programme and budget for their empowerment and wellbeing.	1			1	CRF O	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
Support DLPC/MSDF to reach out to the VDCs and organize dialogue to address a resource based conflict in the VDC.	2		1	1	LPC/ DRF O	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
Support the local groups to carry out public awareness raising campaign against gender based discrimination, violence against women and prevalence of other harmful social norms/practices through setting up hoarding boards in the public places.	10		5	5	CRF O	GESI responsive and promotional contents/issues will be incorporated.
Support LPC Tikapur to organize a Social Cohesion promotional activities in coordination with local administration, PPDC and KYDF	1		1		RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
Support to college level YPCs in Sukhad for extracurricular activities for strengthening Social Cohesion	2		1	1	RFO	Discussion with women and vulnerable community will be held.
Coordination meeting with UNDP project implementing agencies for mainstreaming Social Cohesion and Conflict Sensitivity in UNDP program	2		1		RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
Support to organize interaction between youth groups, women groups and other CBOs and Police representatives to promote collaborative efforts, Police-public trust and cooperation to address the issues of crime and violence and other community security and social cohesion issues.	1			1	CRF O	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
Broadcast jingles to promote social cohesion and democratic participation through local FM radio.					CRF O	GESI responsive and promotional contents/issues will be incorporated.
Training for journalists on to promote social cohesion through media reporting./Fellowship to selected journalist to promote reporting on social cohesion.	1		1	1	BRF O	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
Mainstreaming Social Cohesion and Conflict Sensitivity in UNDP program- Meeting with UNDP project implementing agencies.	1		1		RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
Training for journalists to promote social cohesion through media reporting/ feature-writing fellowship to select journalist to promote	4	1	2	1	RFO	GESI strategy will be given due consideration

	reporting social cohesion. (CS), 1 in Pokhara and 2 in Chitwan						
	Inter Community cultural program to promote social cohesion.	1			1	BRFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
	Youth focused cultural activities accompanied by dialogue on ways to promote social cohesion and enhance youth, women and other vulnerable groups' participation in future democratic processes. (CS)	1		1		PRFO	At least 30% women participants will be from women and other vulnerable and marginalized communities
	Review meeting with CSOs and stakeholders to collect the best practices	1			1	BRFO	Discussion with women and vulnerable community will be held.
	Conflict Sensitivity Workshop with Local Development actors, 1 in Chitwan, 1 in Dhangadhi	2		2		BRFO	Available women representation from the governmental development agencies will be ensured.
	Knowledge product development	3	1	1	1	NRFO	
	Support Dalit Janajati Dialogue Forum; Chitwan to organize Social Cohesion Promotional Endangered Indigenous Cultural Demonstration at district level.	1			1	RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
	Support the DFC, MSDF to organize inclusive meeting among the political parties, civil society, LPC and government agencies to analyze the emerging issues of social cohesion and take early response initiatives, 6 in BRFO and CRFO.	7	2	3	2	RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
	Organize capacity development workshop with LPC, Chitwan on conflict sensitive dialogue skills for promotion of social cohesion.	1		1		RFO	LPC is itself inclusive to some extent as per its standard ToR which can be changed.
	Carry out consultative meeting with political parties, LPC and journalists in Parsa, Rautahat and Dhanusha to explore their role in promotion of social cohesion.	3	2	1		RFO	The representatives of marginalized groups and women will be consulted.
<b>Sub Total Activity Result 2</b>							
GPI-CT	District level orientation to women rights activists and women political leaders on key principles of GRB, NAP 1325/1820 and local planning and budgeting process (Parsa).	1		1		RFO	The participation of women will be inclusive ensuring representation of excluded groups.
	Joint dialogic meetings of women-led mechanisms (IPWA, WHRD/Alliance of WRA, DDC: Women coordination committee etc.) to make them functional and collaborative (Bara/Parsa).	1		1		RFO	The participation of women will be inclusive ensuring representation of excluded groups.
	Dialogues among women leaders and rights activists (women-led mechanisms) to develop gender responsive local planning and budgeting	1		1		RFO	The participation of women will be inclusive ensuring representation

	related shared agendas (Parsa).							of excluded groups.
	Capacity development workshop for IPWA members and other women leaders of Parsa district on collaborative leadership, dialogue, advocacy skills and GRB tools.	1	1				RFO	The participation of women will be inclusive ensuring representation of excluded groups.
	Women led dialogue with DDC and other district line agencies on gender responsive planning and budgeting and service delivery status in Bara.	1				1	RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
	Interaction with select VDC secretaries and Municipality Executive Officers on status of GRB and utilization of targeted block grants (Bara).	1				1	RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
	Public awareness raising campaign activities to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through meaningful participation of women in gender responsive local planning and budgeting process (Bara and Parsa)						RFO	GESI responsive and promotional contents/issues will be incorporated.
<b>Sub Total Activity Result 3</b>								
<b>W4W</b>	Organize capacity development workshop on Conflict Sensitive and Gender Responsive Land Dialogue for Promoting Social Cohesion, for Multi stakeholder Land Dialogue Forum.	1	1				CRFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
	Series of bilateral meetings and discussions	15	5	5	5			Consultation will be tried to make as inclusive as possible.
	Regional Level Land Dialogue on Land Use Policy and Women's Ownership over land, 2 in Biratnagar, 2 in Dhangadhi.	4		2	2		RFO	80% women participation will be ensured included with vulnerable and marginalized community.
	Dialogue based on identified issues of land	1		1				Consultation will be tried to make as inclusive as possible.
	Gender and CS training to parliamentarians	1	1					Consultation will be tried to make as inclusive as possible.
	Conduct dialogue on land issues to promote social cohesion	2		1	1			
	Intra party/ group consultation or dialogue	3	1	1	1			There will be at least 33% of participation of women leaders
	Regional dialogue on Land Use Policy and Women's ownership over land. (W4W)	2		1	1		PRFO	80% women participation will be ensured included with vulnerable and marginalized community.

	Study on thematic issues of land						
	Grant support to upgrade external resource center						
	Support in development of land position papers of the political parties	2	1	1			
	Organize dialogue with dedicated sessions on gender related land issues among land related stakeholders to collective discuss on the discussion papers presented by local expert on various thematic areas.	2		1	1	CRFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
	Dialogues on 2 burning land issues in Pokhara and Baglung (CS+W4W)	1		1		PRFO	At least 40% participants will be from women and other vulnerable and marginalized communities
	District level dialogue on Women's ownership over land in Kailali and Kanchanpur	2		1	1		Participation of women and vulnerable groups will be ensured.
	Bilateral and group meetings with the stakeholders related with Land dialogue, 1 in Biratnagar, 1 in Dhangadhi.	2		2		RFO	Women participation is ensured.
	Carry out bilateral consultations with key land stakeholders.	2	1	1		RFO	The representatives of marginalized groups and women will be consulted.
<b>N-Peace</b>	Support the Micro-Grant recipient organization to implement/monitor the activities as outlined in the project proposal, BRFO, CRFO					RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
	District level Workshop on Women, Peace and Community Security for social cohesion in Sunsari and Panchthar district.	2		1	1	BRFO	Participation of women and vulnerable groups ensured.
	Awareness campaign for eliminating violence against women through rural women's participation in community-level dialogues (N-Peace)	2		1	1		80% women participation will be ensured included with vulnerable and marginalized community.
	Orientation to N-Peace Mobilizers on measures to strengthen social cohesion during activities under Micro-Grant					PRFO	80% women participation will be ensured included with vulnerable and marginalized community.
	Send the five senior mobilizers to attend the TOT in BKK.	1		1			All participants will be female



Organize reinforcement training (2 workshops x 12 participants x 4 days):	2	1	1	All participants will be female
Translation of N-Peace training of mobilizers	1		1	
Facilitate to send the senior N-peace mobilizer in the training to be organized in Bangkok, BRFO, CRFO.		1		RFO

## 12 Photos



*Dialogue with stakeholders to improve Social Cohesion in Chitwan*



*Dialogue with stakeholders to identify emerging issues in Biratnagar*



*Policy makers, government officials, political party leaders and the civil society representatives come together in Kathmandu to interact on women's rights to land*



*Second-tier leaders of all major political parties and senior editors in an interactive workshop to discuss about the opportunities and challenges on the implementation of the new constitution*



*Muslim leaders in Sunsari come together to interact on the ways to maintain social cohesion*



*Community leaders in Kailali engaged in assessment to identify Social Cohesion mechanism in 4 contentious clusters of the District*