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Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme

Quarterly Progress Report

Third Quarter

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1 Executive Summary

In the Third Quarter, Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme (SCDP) commenced to support the local communities to strengthen social ties through community level engagement. This quarter has been marked with widening the outreach more to the people in the communities to support them address issues related to social cohesion and community security. The programme provided micro grants to the community-based organizations in each programme districts. The 12 micro grants have been awarded to local CBOs/NGOs in select clusters of 6 districts and the grantees are implementing the grant activities.

SCDP enhanced capacity of the community groups and stakeholders to take part in risk identification and risk mitigation process through non-grant activities. It supported local stakeholders to develop and implement community-based social cohesion plan as well as community security plans. SCDP facilitated important district and community level social cohesion events amid deepening ethnic and ideological fissures in order to promote peace and social harmony.

This quarter has been important for SCDP in terms of the support it provided to the local communities which are the important vehicles to implement social cohesion activities at the grassroots. The local community groups and stakeholders have come up as the main sources to communicate social cohesion messages and they have shown up as key actors to identify risks and recommend mitigation measures. The programme has taken initiatives to rapidly address situations of emerging tensions and promote social cohesion through small-grant mechanism. These grants have funded a wide range of activities, tailored to the specific dynamics of situation, that have encouraged communities and groups to identify issues of common concern and work together to address them. These grants have been channeled through local NGOs/CBOs and supported economic, cultural or other activities that foster collaboration and overcome mistrust, encouraging the locals to focus on common good to build and maintain a cohesive society.

This quarter has been marked with a few crucial changes including phase out of “Empowering Women 4 Women: Access to Land for Sustainable Peace in Nepal” (GPIL) and “Localizing Women Peace and Security Agenda in the Central Terai” (GPI-CT); absorption of ‘community security’ component of Armed Violence Reduction and Strengthening Community Security (AVRSCS) programme and substantially downsizing of staff structure.

Overall, the active engagement with the communities through grants and sustained engagement with the government agencies as well as social and political actors through non-grant activities, SCDP was instrumental in identifying and addressing socio-political tensions emerging from the country's transition to federalism and broader implementation of the constitution.

This 2016 Third Quarterly Report provides a snapshot of the results achieved by SCDP and the interventions made to promote social cohesion and equitable participation of vulnerable groups in the programme districts. The report also includes a few success stories to demonstrate the impact of its interventions in fostering social ties and promoting confidence building measures.

2 Context Updates

This quarter 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 the local bodies in the Terai region, has rejected the report of the LLRTAC that proposes 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.

In the reporting period, the socio-political situation in eastern region remained calm. Nonetheless, the LLRTAC faced several political and practical challenges in the eastern hill and Terai districts to hold public consultations aimed at carving out the local units. The LLRTAC from only five districts (Tehrathum, Panchthar, Sunsari, Khotang and Bhojpur) submitted the reports to Local Level Restructuring Commission (LLRC). However, the report submitted from Sunsari has been sent back to district by LLRC citing that the report is beyond the given criteria. The dissent political parties (Limbuwan and Madheshi parties) boycotted the consultations process and have not endorsed the reports in those five districts. The locals in Dhankuta including all political parties and other stakeholders demonstrated against the government's decision to establish a High Court in Biratnagar. The people in Sunsari have also condemned the government's decision. A debate has started among locals of Dhankuta, Itahari/Dharan and Biratnagar regarding the future provincial capital. Similarly, the Hindu fundamentalist groups have reportedly intensified their activities in the eastern region.

Several districts of Central Terai saw impact of protests and strikes from Netra Bikram Chand-led CPN (Maoist), exerting pressure on the government to fulfil their demands. The Federal Alliance of Madhes-based political parties welcomed the government's decision to declare 52 people as martyrs who were killed during Terai-Madhes movement since the Constitutional Assembly promulgated the new constitution on 20 September 2015. However, the Madhes-based parties continued their peaceful protest demanding amendment to the constitution to address their core issues. They marked the first anniversary of the promulgation of constitution as a 'black day' in several Terai districts.

In the reporting period the situation in the Mid-Western region generally remained calm. A clash erupted between the police and pro-monarch supporters in Nepalgunj as the latter installed a statue of late king Birendra Shah at Dhambojhi Chowk. The government's decision to establish a High Court in Tulsipur (Dang) has been perceived as the plan to make Tulsipur the provincial capital which is likely to intensify the protests against the decision in the days to come as the political and civil society forces of Nepalgunj are creating pressure to make Nepalgunj the provincial capital.

The situation in the Far-West Region remained peaceful with some sporadic protests of Tharuwan/Tharuhat Joint Struggle Committee; however, the supporters of both Undivided Far-west and Tharuhat state are firm on their contentious demands. Amid, the District Administration Office in Kailali has taken initiative to address the social tension in the Tikapur area which saw a violent clashes last year. The recurrence of religious tension is observed in Kailai after a police raid of a Children's Home, accusing illegal operation of the organization and its alleged involvement in conversion into Christianity. A large number of Freed Kamaiya/Kamlahari is still waiting for their rehabilitation in Kailali

district. Similarly, 2470 families displaced by extension of Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve Park lack land ownership of their re-settlement and they are planning agitation.

After the promulgation of the new constitution, strengthening social cohesion is a prerequisite for the country's transition to federal restructuring and democratic participation. Confrontational politics, unrest and social tensions of the past many years have created fissures that have the risk of being overplayed during the time of transition to federalism and broader implementation of the new constitution. Bringing back the inter and intra-community cohesion, strengthening it further, rebuilding trust between the citizenry and state are key steps required for the next few years. Programs to support the communities to engage with each other culturally and socially, and for the state representatives such as the police and district development officials to collaborate through community-based activities are going to strengthen the social cohesion, community harmony and community security.

3 Major Achievements of the 3rd Quarter

In the Third Quarter, the SCDP expanded its reach to the communities in the programme districts. The project mapped the CBOs/NGOs which can bring the divided communities together in the selected clusters of the programme districts; provided micro grants to 12 CBOs/NGOs for strengthening social cohesion and enhancing participation of people from marginalized communities. Besides, the SCDP built capacity of key stakeholders on social cohesion and facilitated district and community level social cohesion events to promote peace and social harmony. Under the GPIL, the SCDP contributed to empower women for land ownership as well as address multidimensional issues such as land tenure and ownership, access to property, dignity, self-reliance, economic support, problem faced in the land governance system. Similarly, GPI-CT contributed to enhance knowledge and skills of the staff members of two DDCs (Bara and Parsa), sectoral line agencies, NGOs and women leaders and rights activists on Gender-Responsive Budget (GRB) and Nation Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCRs 1325/1820. The women leaders are now better equipped with knowledge and skills to raise their concerns at the local level on the shared agenda that they developed. Most of their concerns are incorporated in the district annual plan.

Major achievements during the reporting period are follows:

3.1 Eastern Region-Sunsari and Panchthar

- Two NGOs in Sunsari and one in Panchthar have been selected for MCG and they have already initiated implementation of grant activities. In Panchthar, Nepal Janauddhar Association (NJA) is working in Bharapa VDC/cluster for socio-economic empowerment of marginalized groups and inter-community collaboration for improved community security. Similarly, in Sunsari, Community Development Organization (CDO) is working in Narsinghappu VDC for enhancing inter-community trust, interaction and ties through mobilization of youths and artists. Likewise, Sankalpa Community Based Rehabilitation Nepal (Sankalpa CBR) is working in Chadwela VDC of Sunsari for strengthening inter-community mutual understanding and social interactions, through livelihood support.
- Knowledge and skills of 41 (women-15, 37% & men-26, 63%) local social, political leaders, youths and members of marginalized groups of two programme clusters (Chadwela and Narshing VDC) of Sunsari have been enhanced on approaches of promoting social cohesion, and linking local development, participation and accountability initiatives to strengthen social cohesion. Among

them, 5% were Dalit, 32% Janajati, 29% Madheshi other castes, 12% Other Backward Classes (OBC), 7% Muslim and 15 % were Hill Brahman Chhetri.

- Social cohesion promotion mechanism comprising political parties, government officials, CBOs, youth, women and marginalized groups has been formed in all programme clusters of Sunsari and Panchthar. Similarly, community-based social cohesion and community security plans have been formulated in all clusters of both districts, with technical support from UNDP-SCDP.
- A youth focused Community Information Centre has been established in Narshing cluster of Sunsari in collaboration with VDC office and local youth clubs. Collection of reading materials and some electronic instruments, in collaboration with VDC, is under process. The local youths and other people have started to gather and have constructive interactions.
- The street dramas (5 episodes) in local Maithili language have been performed by a group of professional theatre artists on different themes in various places of Narshing VDC of Sunsari. The dramas motivate the audience for fostering inter-community respect, co-existence and recognition of diversity for social cohesion, and to sensitize the local people against age-long practices of dowry, child marriage, caste-based discrimination, violence against women and other criminal activities.
- The selection of women/youths from poor, landless, marginalized communities for livelihood improvement activities has been completed and two separate entrepreneurs' groups comprising Hindu-Muslim and other marginalized groups have been formed. Similarly, two separate trainings for collective commercial mushroom farming and organic off-season vegetable farming including production of organic fertilizers have been completed in Chadwela VDC of Sunsari and the preparation of beginning the enterprise is at the final stage.
- The selection of families from poor and marginalized communities for collective commercial poultry farming, organic off-season vegetable farming and goat/pig rearing has been completed, three entrepreneurs' groups have been formed in Bharapa VDC of Panchthar. The preparation is at the final stage to start the enterprises.

3.2 Central Region-Chitwan, Bara and Parsa

- The SCDP supported all-party alliance in Chitwan played a key role to find options through dialogue between government and community when Chief District Officer (CDO) issued a 35-day ultimatum for the locals to evict Badarjhula area in Madi in July. The area links to Chitwan National Park and locals have been living there for over two decades. The issue took a serious turn but political leaders (esp. CLD graduates) called an all-party meeting immediately to reach a consensus with the CDO and agreed that community will live there till December 2016 and the Government will identify an alternative settlement.
- Supported 30 women political leaders affiliated with Inter Party Women's Alliance (IPWA) and 20 women rights activists affiliated with Unified Alliance of Women Rights Activists / WHRD from Bara and Parsa to enhanced their skills and access to local planning and budgeting process. It created a shared platform to explore the issues related to gender-sensitive governance and effective service delivery and to ensure women's meaningful participation in local development.
- The Local Development Officer (LDO), Superintendent of Police (SP), Head of Women and Children Office, representatives of DAO and Municipalities, VDC secretaries and other

government officials in Bara-Parsa agreed with women activists to continue dialogue process for further follow-up on GRB implementation.

- In collaboration with Kalika Women Community Development Center in Madi, the partner CBO, SCDP oriented 80 women on importance of economic empowerment for social cohesion. Under the initiative more than 300 local women from different ethnicity will be engage in a collective farming.
- In partnership with Nepal Chepang Association, the partner NGO working in the remote areas of Chitwan, SCDP develop capacity of local resource persons. They are working to establish an information center for marginalized Chepang community to enhance their access to public services.
- Social Cohesion Committee Madi has voluntarily developed a robust plan to organize a cultural event represented by diverse ethnic community to promote inter-community social cohesion in the region.

3.3 Mid-Western Region-Banke and Bardiya

- Two NGOs in Banke and one in Bardiya have been selected for the grants and they have already initiated implementation of grant activities. In Banke, Information and Human Rights Research Center (IHRC) is mobilizing youths from different faiths for maintaining religious harmony. Similarly, Bageshwory Asal Sashan Club (BAS) is working VDCs across the Rapti river, one of the most isolated areas of the Banke, to make an integrated development and social cohesion plan.
- In Bardiya, Dalit Feminist Upliftment Organization (DAFUO), is working with Badi communities through income generation activities and supporting to increase girls' education as well as raising awareness against caste-based discrimination.
- Phased out the GPIL project in the region with a concluding workshop with land stakeholders. The project was very successful in ensuring the sustainability of impacts and achievements it has made through the localized initiatives of the stakeholders.
- Supported Nepal Police to reach out to the communities in Bardiya, raising awareness to prevent suicide. The police personnel completed 6 door-to-door campaigns, providing counselling with corrective measures against self-killing.

3.4 Far-Western Region-Kailali and Kanchanpur

- Two each NGOs in Kailali and Kanchanpur have been awarded with grants to promote social cohesion by increasing livelihood opportunities and rebuilding trust among the divided communities.
- After series of consultations and discussions with local stakeholders and members of LPCs in four clusters, the potential risks for destabilizing the social harmony were identified and preventive measures were discussed.
- With support from SCDP a local youth club organized an inter-community *Rakshabandhan* program in Durgauli of Tikapur which saw violent clashes last year. The program was quite effective in terms of re-connecting people from the divided Tharu and Pahadi communities.
- Conducted an orientation on social cohesion and community security to a Youth Committee formed under the umbrella of Tikapur Community Library. Having the members only from Pahadi community, it has been facing criticism from Tharu community.

- A MCG partner in Kanchanpur organized a “Teej song competition” in Baisibichawa VDC on the occasion of Teej festival that aimed at convening people from different ethnic groups in a common forum and symbolize communal harmony. The program observed effective in terms of amplifying messages on social cohesion and community security.
- A MCG partner in Kailali, conducted an orientation on Social Cohesion & Community Security in Bhajani-Trishakti Municipality, where participants representing Local Peace Committee, Ward Citizen Forum (WCF), local police office, community based organizations (CBOs), school management committee, Municipality office, Badghar network, Community Forest Coordination Committee and others were engaged in productive discussion on the potential issues affecting social harmony.

4 Opportunities and Challenges

4.1 Eastern Region-Biratnagar

- UNDP-SCDP has well trusted relationship and strong receptivity among key stakeholders leading to its strong convening power.
- There is growing recognition of MSDF from government agencies and other stakeholders as a problem-solving and grievances redressal mechanism in the district which will help effectively facilitate the process of upholding social cohesion.
- There is increased culture of collaboration and reaching to common understanding among key stakeholders which is supportive for promotion of social cohesion.
- The MSDF, LPC and cluster-level social cohesion promotion mechanisms are in place as key frontline actors to work on promotion of social cohesion.
- Commitment and willingness of key stakeholders for promotion of social cohesion is encouraging.
- Local stakeholders have high expectation from UNDP that causes difficulty in management of limited resources for financial and technical support to implement the action-plan developed with SCDP’s support.
- Institutionalization and independent operation of MSDF and MSLDF is challenging as they expect logistic support from UNDP.

4.2 Central Region-Bharatpur

- The active local stakeholders from Madi (Chitwan) and Bara have been voluntarily engaged in promoting social cohesion initiatives through various activities. They have been formulating some activity-plan in their respective regions. In addition, women rights activists are well-known in Bara and Parsa districts as gender focal person and non-violent advocates. As a result, they get an opportunity to participate in talk shows in local radio concerning those issues. In addition, Social Cohesion Promotion Coordination Committee, Madi as an umbrella body of various stakeholders, initiated and event to promote social cohesion.
- Lengthy administrative procedure in releasing cash advance has caused interruptions in smooth implementation of the planned project activities.

4.3 Mid-Western Region-Nepalgunj

- UNDP-SCDP has trusted relationship with local authorities, security agencies and key stakeholders to support in strengthening social cohesion, democratic participation and good governance during the broader implementation of a new constitution.
- Madhesi, Tharu, Janajati, Dalit and religious minorities' disagreements over the select provisions of the new constitution has diluted commitments to meaningful federalism and posed a challenge in implementing the statute. 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 ties.
- With the award of grants to the local organizations to promote and strengthen social harmony through community security, trust building and people's participation, SCDP has the opportunity to bring the divided communities together to collectively reflect on the development process.
- The challenge however lies in the short duration of grant implementation and the sustainable impact it is expected to have in 3 months.

4.4 Far-Western Region-Dhangadhi

- While the county is moving towards implementation of the constitution, the grant partner organizations have been instrumental to identify potential risks at the local level. Through ongoing interventions aimed to garner support of local key stakeholders it created wider space for discussion to develop measures of mitigating potential risks and stabilize the underlying social tension.
- There are number of challenges that need sincere attention. The deadly Tikapur incident last year further aggravated the ethnic fissure and further polarized the Tharu and Pahadi communities. Given the absence of confidence, bringing people together from both communities needs adequate and precise preparation.

4.5 Operations

This quarter experienced two major changes in staffing structure. First, being downsizing of operations staff from all field offices and second was bringing onboard 4 NIM based project staff from AVRSCS. In the absence of admin staff in field offices, the overall operational activities of the project are being conducted from the programme headquarters. The absorption of NIM based AVRSCS project into SCDP brought about the challenges of assimilating into DIM based aspects of SCDP ranging from HR to finance. Integrating the ongoing activities of Community Security component of AVRSCS in Birgunj, Nepalgunj and Dhangadi into DIM finance and procurement regulations and, likewise, getting the NIM staff members accustomed to DIM regulations were the major challenges of the quarter.

5 Programmatic Best Practices/Lessons Learned

- Frequent bilateral consultations, follow-up meetings and capacity development support found to be effective to make the local level social cohesion promoting mechanisms functional.

- Organizing social cohesion interventions linking with cultural events has been effective to amplify messages to wider community.
- Partnership with the 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 brining the divided communities for collective farming.
- Periodic guidance and orientation to the grant partner organizations help effective implementation of the planned activities by the partners as well as help get them on the same page.

6 GESI considerations

- The participation in each workshop/training/orientation and consultation meetings has been inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
- GESI responsive and promotional contents/issues have been incorporated in the agendas of meetings and workshops.
- Meaningful participation of over 60% women has been ensured in the events related to women's issues, such as GRB, and those dealing with women's access to land.
- GESI approach was adopted while selecting the CBOs/NGOs for the micro grants.
- Special measures for the women representing vulnerable communities were discussed and considered, and response planning was done accordingly.
- GESI lens was used while finalizing the knowledge products and promotional materials.

7 Progress against the planned activities in 3rd Quarter

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Q3 Targets	Progress
Eastern Region		
Support for MSDF and LPC as Strategic Analysis and Scenario-building Platform for analytical risk identification and risk mitigation to promote social cohesion and strengthen community security in select clusters (Sunsari and Panchthar)	2	Completed
Facilitate to establish social cohesion and community security mechanism in programme clusters and develop community-based social cohesion and community security plans	3	2 completed, 1 in progress
Support Police and cluster level social cohesion/community security mechanisms to initiate regular i.e. monthly police-community interaction, and briefing to high-schools students, as part of effective implementation of the 'Police My Friend' campaign of Nepal Police	1	Shifted to Q4
Conduct orientation to VDC secretaries, social mobilizers, WCF members, and local leaders including youth and women of selected clusters on social cohesion and community security measures, incorporation of community security and social cohesion initiatives	1	Completed in Sunsari on 14-15 Sept

in local development plan and social accountability tools for promotion of local participation and accountability		
Support to organize a cultural diversity festival bringing diverse social groups together including youths, women and school students for speech contest, cultural competition, sports activities, in collaboration with grantee NGOs and government agencies to strengthen the community ties and promote social cohesion	1	Shifted to Q4
Micro-Capital Grant proposals collection from prospective NGOs/CBOs for promoting social cohesion and strengthening community security in select clusters of Panchthar and Sunsari, assessment of proposal and selection of grantees and monitoring of MCG activities.	3	Completed
Central Region		
Conduct assessment, recommendation for grantees and support to finalized agreements and other necessary documents.	1	Completed
Cultural Programme to promote social cohesion in Madi, Chitwan by Social Cohesion Promotion Coordination Committee (SCPCC)	1	Shifted to Q4
Organize joint dialogic meetings of women-led mechanisms (IPWA, WHRD/Alliance of WRA, DDC: Women coordination committee etc.) to make them functional and collaborative in Bara and Parsa (Under GPI-CT)		Completed
Conduct 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 in Bara and Parsa (Under GPI-CT)	1	Completed
Conduct interaction programme with select VDC secretaries and Municipality Executive Officers on status of GRB and utilization of targeted block grants (2 activities in Bara and Parsa)	2	Completed
Mid-Western Region		
Exit workshop of W4W project with MSLDF	1	Completed
Inter-regional land workshop	1	Completed
Workshops under N-Peace initiatives	4	Completed
Exit workshop for GPIL (W4W) project	1	Completed
Selection of and orientation to NGOs for micro-grant activities	3	Completed
Installation of surveillance system in Bardiya	1	Completed

Campaign (support Nepal Police) to prevent suicide cases in Banke and Bardiya		In progress
Support to outreach of police my friend campaign		In progress
Far-Western Region		
Risk identification and social cohesion assessment in Kailali and Kanchanpur	2	Completed
Capacity building of newly formed LPC in Ghodaghodi municipality and IPWA-Kaillali to deal with the issues related to community security and social cohesion	2	Incomplete
Risk identification meetings with KYDF, PPDC and Cluster Community Security Committee to discuss local context and develop risk mitigation plan	3	Completed
MCG support to 4 NGOs/CSOs/ CBOs to implement innovative ideas to strengthen social cohesion	4	Completed
CCTV surveillance system installation in Dhangadhi city (Traffic Chowk - DPO) in collaboration with FNCCI-Kailali and other key stakeholders, led by DPO	1	Completed
Conduct Youth Police Activities (YPA) in a public school of Masuriya VDC to bring youth and police together to prevent criminal activities, strengthen community security and promote social cohesion	1	Shifted to Q4
Organize cross-border meeting with Indian and Nepal SSB and security authorities and locals to resolve local level cross-border issues affecting community security and social cohesion	1	In progress
Capacity building of micro-credit grantees for smooth implementation of Micro Credit Grant, and monitoring of implementation of planned interventions	1	Completed
Orientation on social cohesion and community security to cluster level key stakeholders (through grant partners)	5	Completed
Inter-regional Land Dialogue Workshop	1	Completed
GPIL (W4W) Project Exit Workshop	1	Completed

8 Progress towards 2016 Annual Targets as of end of 3rd quarter

Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation

Annual Target	Achieved as of 3rd quarter
At least 400 women, youth and other people from marginalized group capacitated on peacebuilding, dialogue and social cohesion	A total of 250 capacitated of whom 135 females and 115 males.
At least 15 social tensions mitigated to improve social cohesion	Actors are meeting regularly to discuss the emerging issues through MSDF, MSLDF and LPC and under the initiatives of grant partners. More than 350 youth, women, civil society members, journalists and political leaders in the different programme districts involved in promoting of social cohesion through 18 different events.
Key stakeholders made common understanding on land issue	All the regions had a series of dialogues on land issues in the first and second quarter and came up with issues and best practices while at the central level the political leaders reached a 11-point common minimum understanding for the formulation and implementation of land policies.
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 identifying early response measures. 9 community and district level institutions have integrated social cohesion component in their planning.
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 and Nepalgunj on CLD, CS and social cohesion and are applying the skills in their professional works.
At least 4 government institutions continue conflict sensitivity in their training curricula	Not reflected in this quarter
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	Completed in four districts (Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Gorkha and Nuwakot)
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. In addition, social cohesion mechanisms have been formed in Panchthar, Chitwan, Banke and Kailali.
Capacity of at least 4 peace mechanism is strengthen on CLD, CS and EWER	The new concept of SCDP has replaced the CLD, CS, EWER pillars with Risk Identification and Risk Mitigation pillars. Conflict sensitivity has been marked as a cross-cutting theme in both the new pillars.
Technical supported provided to those mechanisms for conducting identifying and mitigating risks	Technical support to the social cohesion mechanisms have been continuously provided in Panchthar, Chitwan, Banke and Kailali.

Annual Target	Achieved as of 3rd quarter
	Besides, 12 civil society organizations in the programme districts are implementing micro grants to strengthen social cohesion and invested in building capacity of stakeholders on social cohesion.

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

Annual Target	Achieved as of 3rd quarter
Gender land concerns are identified	Dialogues on land issues were held in each region and gender-sensitive land concerns were identified. The land stakeholders, including policymakers, came together and reached a 11-point common minimum understanding to formulate gender-responsive land policies.

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

In terms of Operations, this quarter experienced major changes in staffing structure due to downsizing of large number of staff members and absorption of staff from the community security component of the AVRSCS project into SCDP. Ten of the Service Contract staff members' contracts were not extended beyond 30 June 2016 and contracts of 2 staff members were not extended beyond 30 September 2016. Likewise, 4 staff members resigned from their posts in this quarter, of which 2 posts (drivers in Dhangadi and Biratnagar) have been appointed already. 4 staff members from AVRSCS joined SCDP from 20 July 2016 onwards. Accordingly, the HR Plan 2016 has been updated.

Project Financial Delivery Status

As per the proposed SCDP AWP 2016 (Substantive Revision-23) the project has 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\$ 831,235 (including commitments) which is 77% of approved SCDP AWP 2016.

9.1 Project-wise Expenditures

Projects	Budget Allocation 2016	Total Expenditure (Including commitments)	Expenditure (in %)
Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation (SCDP)	1,88,500	101,000	54%
CLD/N-Peace / CS	3,90,381	300,700	77%

Projects	Budget Allocation 2016	Total Expenditure (Including commitments)	Expenditure (in %)
Catalytic Support on Land	84,737	33,643	40%
GPIL	2,48,541	225,135	91%
GPICT	1,73,842	170,757	98%
Total Funded Budget	10,86,001	831,235	77%

9.2 Key operational activities

Human Resource:

- Downsizing of 12 staff members
- Resignation of 4 staff members
- Recruitment of 2 staff members
- Absorption of 4 staff members of AVRSCS into SCDP

Procurement:

- Closure of Field Office in Birgunj.

10 Success Stories

Story 1: RFO-Dhangadhi supported Youth Peace Council to organize an inter-community Rakshabandhan programme in Durgauli of Tikapur in Kailali. The cultural festival of Rakshabandhan brought together the locals from the divided Tharu and Pahadi communities in one place. The people from two communities were alienated after the deadly Tikapur incident last year. In the event, people from both the communities exchanged warm regards to each other while putting Rakshabandhan to each other. The programme was observed effective in terms of inter-community reconciliation and emotion of people from both the communities.

“The bond of protection and respect on the occasion of religious festival among inter-community sister-brother relation shall not be limited to the very day but shall widely spread the message of inter-community ties” a former VDC chairperson of Durgauli VDC said. UNDP’s SCDP programme supported the event as part of its approach to bring the divided communities together and strengthen the social cohesion. Covering the event, the Nagarik Nepali national daily posted a long featured story.

Story 2: The local stakeholders of Chadwela and Narshingtappu VDC in Sunsari district have separately formulated a community-based social cohesion and community security plan aiming to promote social cohesion by minimizing disparities and social exclusion, and strengthening of social relations, interactions and ties among diverse social groups. They collectively identified the issues and risks that

may destabilize the inter-community trust and relations in the VDC and developed the action plan to address them. Additionally, they formed social cohesion promotion mechanism in each VDC to implement the initiatives of promoting social cohesion. As acknowledged by the local stakeholders, the violent communal clashes caused by inter-racial/caste marriages and inter-group fights over local level development activities, strong feeling of intolerance is prevalent, leading to communal tensions. Animosity among different communal and religious groups have been recurrently manifested which are still the risks for upholding social cohesion in those VDCs.

The locals of these two VDCs committed to work together to minimize and gradually wipe out the age-long social malpractices of dowry, child marriage, caste-based discrimination and violence, violence against women that creates an enabling environment of improved community security. Sahadat Miya, a Muslim leader of Narshing VDC said, "Now I am convinced and committed to play a catalytic role for upholding inter-community trust, cordial relation and co-existence for wider prosperity and inclusive development of our society." About three-dozen local political leaders, civil society members, youths, women, government officials and members of marginalized social groups were convened by UNDP's SCDP Programme in Inaruwa of Sunsari to familiarize the stakeholders on the approaches of social cohesion and to discuss on the evolving situation in the programme clusters. Sajanlal Chaudhary, local leader of Chadwela VDC said, "Earlier we were not aware about the wider perspectives and dimensions of social cohesion and community security for which we can do many things on our own."

Story 3: Manju Subedi, a resident of Bara district, has been an active member of Advocacy Network formed under GPI-CT project. Since January 2016, she has been actively involved in advocating the localization of Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) in local planning process. In her leadership, the VDC offices have allocated about NRs 750,000 in response to the advocacy by the network.

Manju was one of the dynamic participants of the Advocacy Strategy Development Training organized by GPI-CT project for the local women leaders on in January 2016. The four-day training helped them sensitize about localization of GRB in local planning process in line with GRB principles, NAP 1325 & 1820. Emerging from the training they formed 11-member Advocacy Network, which rigorously promoted GRB. The network reached out to all working VDCs of Bara and later expanded their advocacy even to non-working VDCs. Manju played a catalytic role to persuade the VDC and Municipality authorities to allocate and implement the budget under GRB principles.

Manju shared that it was a huge challenge for her and for the team as majority of the VDC staff were men. Even the local community leaders, with a wrong perception, criticized them for taking away development budget, the network members continue to organize meetings. Manju said, "We convince them that we were not asking for a separate budget allocation for women nor taking away the development budget. Instead we were asking for women's participation in such an important local development planning process."

11 Specific activities for Q4 2016

EXPECTED OUTPUTS (Please include)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES (List key activities to be undertaken during the year which will contribute to the respective outputs)	Targets	Q1			Responsible Party	GESI Remarks

baseline, associated indicators and annual targets)						
Output 1 (First CPAP output): National actors have collaborated to manage and resolve conflict issues, strengthening peace consolidation.						
Activity Result 1: Effective risk identification systems in place through capacity building, improved participation and networking						
Support the local stakeholders for risk identification and risk mitigation to promote social cohesion and strengthen community security in select cluster of Sunsari	1	X			RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and vulnerable groups.
Facilitate to develop community-based social cohesion and community security plans in programme cluster of Panchthar	1		X		RFO	The plans will be gender-responsive and include concerns of marginalized communities. The participation will be inclusive.
Support for police-community interaction, and briefing to high-schools students, as part of effective implementation of the 'Police My Friend' campaign of Nepal Police; in Sunsari and Panchthar	3		X	X	RFO	The participation will be inclusive and the agenda will include concerns of women and vulnerable communities.
Conduct orientation/workshop for local stakeholders on social cohesion promotion approaches and linkage of local development, participation and accountability initiatives to social cohesion in programme cluster of Panchthar	1		X		RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and vulnerable groups.
Organize a training to develop local volunteers (including women and youth) as social cohesion champions on social cohesion skills, conflict sensitive planning, gender sensitive approach and social inclusion, advocacy and negotiation in Sunsari	1	X			RFO	Selection of participants will ensure involvement of women and representatives of marginalized communities.

Support to organize a cultural diversity festival bringing diverse social groups together including youths, women and school students, in collaboration with grantee NGOs and government agencies in programme cluster of Panchthar	1			X	RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and vulnerable groups.
Support local community FM Radios (one in each Sunsari and Panchthar) for social cohesion promotional media campaign	2		X	X	RFO	The radio programme will be gender sensitive.
Support organizing multi-cultural social cohesion event by diverse ethnic communities in Madi of Chitwan district	1	X			RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and vulnerable groups.
Community visits for monitoring of social cohesion and collection of positive stories by SCDP team and broadcast the stories in Local Radio channels.	1		X			Gender-sensitive approach will be adopted.
Organize cultural diversity festivals to strengthen the community ties and promote social cohesion and community security in Banke	1		X		RFO	The participation will be inclusive ensuring representation of women and vulnerable groups.
Identify and recognize the social cohesion champions and work with them for multiplier effects of SCDP's work in Banke and Bardiya	2		X	X	RFO	Gender-sensitive approach will be adopted and ensure representation of marginalized communities.
Engage journalists in campaigning to promote social cohesion and community security at district and local level in Banke	1		X		RFO	Gender-sensitive approach will be adopted.

Organize lecture series on social cohesion and community security in Bardiya	1		X			RFO	Gender-sensitive approach will be adopted. Participation from women and vulnerable groups will be ensure.
Risk identification meetings with KYDF and PPDCC to discuss local context and develop risk mitigation plan in Kailali	2	X	X			RFO	Gender-sensitive approach will be adopted.
Conduct Youth-Police Activities in Higher Secondary Schools at cluster level with an aim to strengthen community security and to promote social cohesion in Kailali	2		X	X		RFO	The participation will be inclusive and the agenda will include concerns of women and vulnerable communities.
Organize cross border meeting with Indian and Nepal SSB, security authorities and locals to resolve local level cross border issues affecting CS & SC	1		X			RFO	The agenda will include concerns of women and marginalized communities.
School lecture series on Community Security and Social Cohesion in Higher Secondary schools in Kailali and Kanchanpur	2	X	X			RFO	The participation will be inclusive and the agenda will include concerns of women and vulnerable communities.
Activity Result 2: Risk mitigation improved through early response initiatives and micro-grants							
Provide technical support to MCG grantee NGOs in Sunsari and Panchthar as well as monitor the implementation of the grant activities for quality control	3	X	X	X		RFO	Gender-sensitive approach will be adopted.
Organize three public hearing programs on burning issues such as risk of wild animals from national park and related security concerns and support develop prevention strategy with representation from government authorities, Municipality, District Forest Office, National Park etc. in Madi	3	X	X	X		RFO	The participation will be inclusive and the agenda will include concerns of women and vulnerable communities.

	Provide technical support and guidance to the two grant partners in Chitwan as well as monitor activities	2	X	X	X	RFO	Gender-sensitive approach will be adopted.
	Implementation support and monitoring of grant activities in Banke and Bardiya	3	X	X	X		Gender-sensitive approach will be adopted.
	Support VLPC and Cluster Community Security Committee (CCSC) in Kanchanpur and Kailali in identifying issues and develop mitigation measures	2	X	X		RFO	The participation will be inclusive and the agenda will include concerns of women and vulnerable communities.
	Technical assistance to MCG focal persons and monitoring of grant interventions in Kailali and Kanchanpur	4	X	X	X	RFO	Gender-sensitive approach will be adopted.
	Joint review meetings with MCG partners in Nepalgunj (to cover Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur) and Biratnagar (to cover Panchthar, Sunsari, Chitwan) to assess progress, opportunities and areas of further improvement in the programme districts.	2		X	X	RFO/HQ	Gender-sensitive approach will be adopted.
	Event to mark "Declaration of Commitment on Formulation and Implementation of Gender Responsive Land Policies"	1		X		HQ Kathmandu	The participation will be inclusive and the agenda will include concerns of women and vulnerable communities

12 Photos



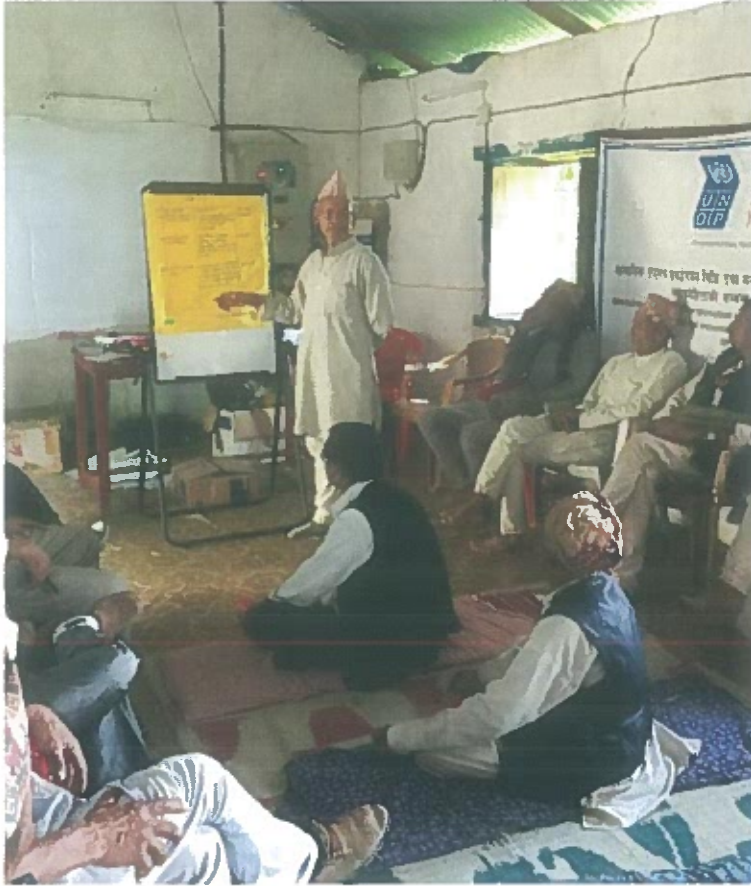
Raksha Bandhan being celebrated in Kailali as a means to promote social cohesion



Divided communities in Masuriya and Chaumala of Kailai come together to expand opportunities for income generation thereby contributing to strengthen social ties



Representatives of key stakeholders from Chadwela and Narshing clusters of Sunsari district attending workshop on approaches to promote social cohesion



In remote Bharapa VDC of Panchthar district, the local stakeholders formed 27-member social cohesion promotion mechanism comprising political parties, community organizations, youths, women, marginalized groups, VDC secretary, local police post in-charge.



MSLDF Chitwan brainstorming on the possible next step to carry forward the activities as their own initiative



Local women leaders sharing their experience of GRB with the LDO from Parsa



Representatives Government authorities addressing local issues related to their departments in an interaction program in Bara