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Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme

Quarterly Progress Report
Fourth Quarter

October-December

2016

Signature: _____

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1   Executive Summary

In the Fourth Quarter, the SCDP supported community-based mechanisms and institutions, government agencies and civil society organizations for effective risk identification and mitigation, bringing divided communities together to strengthen social ties and ensure equitable participation. This was coupled with integration of components of social cohesion in the local development plan and programme.

With SCDP's support under Micro-capital Grant, 12 local level civil society organizations in seven programme districts brought together diverse social groups including women, youth and marginalized communities, which has histories of hostilities, to mutually beneficial collective actions for risks mitigation. Additionally, SCDP built capacity of nearly 400 members of key stakeholders on approached of promoting social cohesion. Through various local level initiatives, a wide range of youths, women, marginalized groups, civil society members, government officials, political leaders and journalists in the different programme districts were involved in the promotion of social cohesion.

This quarter has been important for SCDP in terms of the support it provided to the local communities who are the important vehicles to implement activities related to social cohesion. 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 harmony 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 concerns and work together to address them.

This 2016 Fourth Quarterly Report provides a snapshot of the results achieved by SCDP and the interventions made to promote social cohesion and inclusive participation of vulnerable groups in local level decision-making processes in the programme districts. The report also includes a few success stories to demonstrate the impact of its interventions in fostering social ties and confidence-building measures.

2   Context Updates

During this quarter, the socio-political situation across the regions generally remained calm. Nonetheless, in most of the districts, the local stakeholders, including political parties, protested against the proposed structures of the local units in accordance with the revised criteria. The Madhesh-based parties and other identity-based groups boycotted the local level restructuring process in Tarai districts and eastern hill districts respectively.

Opposing the current provincial delineation, Federal Limbuwan Party-Nepal (FLP) enforced a-day Limbuwan bandh on 15 December in the Eastern Region, demanding Limbuwan autonomous state comprising 9 eastern districts. While the government, ruling parties and the United Democratic Madheshi Front (UDMF) are preparing to amend the constitution, the main opposition CPN-UML is agitating against it, claiming that the amendment proposal is against the broader interest of the people and the nation. Rather, UML has been conducting a four-month nation-wide campaign for 'people's mobilization for constitution implementation'. The cadres of Madhesh-based parties reportedly protested against the mass meetings organized by UML in a few Tarai districts. A minor clash between cadres of UML and Madhesh-based parties was reported in Lahan (Siraha) on 23 December where visiting senior UML leaders were scheduled to address the mass gathering. Similarly, in the Central Tarai districts, Madhesh-based parties protested against the visits and mass meetings organized by the main opposition CPN-UML. Such intra-party confrontations are likely to see an

upsurge in the days to come due to conflicting views on the amendment to the constitution and federal boundaries.

2 people dies and 14 injured in the violent scuffling ensued between local youths in Matehiya VDC of Banke district while celebrating Mohammed Day. CPN-UML imposed general strike in Banke protesting against the proposed revision of boundary of province No-5 in constitution amendment bill. A district level youth leader of UML has been seriously injured in an attack by unidentified group in Kohalpur (Banke).

The last year's deadly Tikapur incident has left behind a complicated situation with lack of confidence between rival Tharu and Pahadi communities. The families of detainees in connection with the Tikapur incident continued protest including rally and sit-in protests at the District Administration Office in Dhangadhi. They have been demanding release of their family members and have alleged the local administration of suppressing the Tharus. They argued that the Tikapur incident should be dealt as a political incident rather than a criminal act. The Hindu groups in Kailali expressed serious concerned over the incident of Godawari where 25 cows were found dead in the religious forest area. They termed it a mass cow slaughtering and imposed Kailali bandh on 25 December alleging the local administration for not being serious on the issue. Many interlocutors believe it to be a symbolic move by the Hindu groups indicating likelihood of religious tensions in the days to come. Likewise, the CPN Maoist (Biplab) has intensified donation drive in FWR for organizing party's district convention.

Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) has intensified a campaign in Jhapa, Kailali, Kanchanpur and other districts to restore Nepal as a Hindu state, claiming secularism was forcefully declared by the major political parties without taking people's mandate into consideration. The mass gatherings organized in various locations were attended by a significant number of people which indicates the increased mobilization for pro-Hindu cadres.

3 Major Achievements of the 4th Quarter

In the Fourth Quarter, the SCDP supported government agencies, civil society organizations and community-based mechanisms and institutions for effective risk identification and mitigation, bringing divided communities together to strengthen social ties and ensure equitable participation as well as for integration of components of social cohesion in the local development plan and programme.

With SCDP's support, 12 local level civil society organizations in 7 programme districts brought together the diverse social groups including women, youth and marginalized communities, which has histories of hostilities, to mutually beneficial collective actions for risks mitigation. Additionally, SCDP built capacity of the key stakeholders on social cohesion promoting approaches. Through various local level initiatives, a wide range of youths, women, marginalized groups, civil society members, government officials, political leaders and journalists in the different programme districts were involved in the promotion of social cohesion.

Major achievements during the reporting period are as follows:

3.1 Eastern Region - Sunsari and Panchthar

- 39 (male-17 and female-22) local youths of Sunsari and a total of 39 (male-25 and female-14) local youths of Panchthar acquired basic skills on approaches to promote social cohesion and GESI responsive and conflict sensitive advocacy and negotiation skills for social cohesion. They formed a district level network of social cohesion champions and have formulated a work-plan aiming to foster collaboration among the youths.
- 30 members (male-27, female-3) of social cohesion promoting mechanism of Sunsari and Panchthar district (political and civil society leaders) have been capacitated on skills of identifying and mitigating risks and promoting social cohesion.

- Increased the understanding of more than 390 young students of Panchthar and Sunsari about the legal provisions and process to deal with various crimes, and role of students for prevention of community crimes. Also contributed to expand outreach of Nepal Police's "Police My Friend Campaign" in rural areas.
- A total of 25 single/helpless women were oriented on the security measures to be safe from violence against women in Panchthar.
- A common understanding has been made between government agencies and local representatives to resolve a dispute over integrated property tax and to deter associated risk in Panchthar.
- A youth focused Community Information Centre has been established in Narsingh VDC of Sunsari, in collaboration with VDC office and local youth clubs, having facilities of public library, internet connectivity and computer. A youth study circle comprising youths from Hindu, Muslim and various social groups emerged. Consequently, the local youths and other people have started to gather and have constructive interactions.
- Organized a social cohesion promotional cultural diversity festival in the remote hills of Jorpokhari in Panchthar in collaboration with Panchthar DDC, 4 VDCs, Mechi Hill Tourism Promotion Committee, which helped foster inter-community respect, co-existence and recognition of diversity for social cohesion. Attending the festival, the Peace Minister made a commitment to provide government's support for establishing a cultural diversity museum in Jorpokhari area of Panchthar to promote social cohesion and tourism.
- A multi-cultural festival held in Narshing VDC of Sunsari improved social interactions and relation among diverse communities and increased positive attitude to ethnic/cultural diversity among the local citizens. The festival was inaugurated by State Minister for Physical Planning and Construction.
- In Bharapa VDC of Panchthar, as part of socio-economic empowerment of marginalized communities (Tamang, Limbu, Majhi, Dalit), 7 poor families have been engaged in commercial poultry farming, 7 families in organic off-season vegetable farming and 7 Majhi families in pig farming enterprises.
- With matching fund from 2 VDCs and kind contribution of locals, a partially damaged building of local Police Post in Jorpokhari of Panchthar has been renovated under grant activity. The initiative brought the locals and the Police together that led to inter-community collaboration for improved community security.
- In Chadwela VDC of Sunsari, 20 poor and landless marginalized communities -Tharu, Rishidev and Uraw - are engaged in collective commercial mushroom farming and 20 poor Muslim, Tharu, Khatwe families are involved in organic off-season vegetable farming including production of organic fertilizers. Two separate entrepreneur groups have been formed that has helped strengthening inter-community mutual understanding and social interactions.
- The friendly cricket match was held among 4 teams of mixed inter-community youths in Narshing VDC of Sunsari which helped promote collaboration and build trust among the youths from different social and religious groups. It also provided a common platform for Muslim, Hindus, and other religious and ethnic groups for social interactions.

3.2 Central Region - Chitwan

- Chepang Information Center, established with SCDP's grant support, facilitated to increase Chepang's access to health and agriculture related government services. 110 Chepang community members (average 15 per month) from Korak and Lothar VDCs of Chitwan have received services so far. Facilitated by the information center, the Chepang Women Committee in Korak VDC has been able to receive funding from the District Agriculture Office and in Shaktikhor VDC, Chepang community attained drinking water supply program from the District Water Supply and Sanitation Office.

- The relation between government authorities and local people has been improved through public hearing programme held in Madi (Chitwan) which has also enhanced the collaboration among the public institutions and social groups and relation among the diverse communities.
- Group farming in Madi has brought the inter-community women together for socio-economic empowerment while strengthening social ties.
- Following a proposal writing training provided under SCDP grant, Kalika Community Women Development Center in Madi (Chitwan) submitted project proposals to Madi Municipality and TEWA, a national level NGO, for further funding support to group farming.
- Highly marginalized Chepang community has been established with government agencies, political parties and civil society through various initiatives carried out by them under SCDP's grant support

3.3 Mid-Western Region-Banke and Bardiya

- 5 schools in Banke and Bardiya have incorporated the agenda of social cohesion and community security in the School Improvement Plan. In addition, the District Education Offices urged the resource persons to enable schools to take this agenda forward
- With support from and advocacy of SCDP, the inter-religious council took initiatives to prevent religious tensions during celebrations of religious festivals and discouraging any crime in name of religion.
- Lecture series organized in the schools and colleges have initiated the discussion of social cohesion among youths. Following the lecture series, the schools and colleges have been encouraged to form a group of students to promote social cohesion.
- Under SCDP grant, a resource center has been established in Matehiya VDC in Banke to promote social cohesion. The center is a hub for the locals to discuss issues related to social cohesion and community security.

3.4 Far-Western Region-Kailali and Kanchanpur

- Enhanced knowledge and skills of 97 (33 women and 64 men) members of LPCs, WCFs, CACs, School Management Committees, Parents-Teachers Associations; IPWA and others, on Risk Identification and Early Response. As a result, community-based social cohesion and community security plans have been formulated in all clusters in Kailali and Kanchanpur, with technical support from SCDP.
- 243 (women-95, 40% & men-148, 60%) community and political leaders, youth and women in Kailali and Kanchanpur have been sensitized on approaches of promoting social cohesion. Altogether 24 community level initiatives have been formulated by different youth, women and civil society networks proactively in four programme clusters.
- An Information and Service Facilitation Centre, established in Dodhara-Chandani Municipality in Kanchanpur, has kicked off its operation offering services to the public.
- The Information Center management committee has brought the representatives of six district level government agencies in the center to make them aware about the grievances of local people in terms of inadequate access to government service delivery. Subsequently, the government officials provided the center with Citizen Charters, forms and formats to apply for services in line with directives.
- As part of SCDP's livelihood support interventions under MCG, eight groups having separate members from Tharu and Pahadi communities, have merged in to four mixed groups and working in a cohesive manner. The members have planted hybrid vegetable crops in 18 hectare land 185 HHs and now it is ready to yield. The merged groups have created a ground for intercommunity interactions, skill transfer and cultural exchange.
- Managed by a cooperative, vegetable collection center, renovated under MCG support has brought people from Tharu and Pahadi communities together for vegetable collection and

selling. The collection center has benefited to 228 HHs of small farmers in order to collect vegetables and send them to big markets to get high selling price.

- A solar drier support to a spices processing and packaging industry run by family members of Tikapur incident victims, has been one of their interventions to cope up with the challenges posed by the deadly incident.
- Two goodwill gardens (*Sadbhaw Batika*), established in Baisibichawa and Chandani-Dodhara clusters of Kanchanpur, have been a symbolic place for social cohesion where people from different communities come together and discuss on their social concerns. A Code of Conduct prepared and endorsed by the community people has been a directive to maintain the cohesive society.
- 40 members of the Community Forest User Committee, after participating in an orientation on inclusive resource mobilization, reviewed the composition of their executive board from GESI lens. The intervention has encouraged the committee members to exercise an inclusive resource mobilization. Subsequently, three CFUGs reshuffled their executive board to make them inclusive.
- 37 local journalists from local and national newspapers and TVs, in a workshop on 'role of media in promoting social cohesion', agreed to play positive role towards maintaining social harmony through balanced and conflict sensitive reporting.
- Through an orientation on SDGs and Social Cohesion 26 (10 female & 16 male) students of Bachelor level from five local colleges have prepared a plan for engagement in amplifying information on SDGs and social harmony to their peers and communities.
- As a result of a civil society dialogue, attended by prominent civil society members, government authorities, and right activists in Kailali, the CDO pledged to make immediate efforts to collaborate with SCDP for various intervention aimed at maintaining and promoting social cohesion especially in Tikapur area.

4 Opportunities and Challenges

4.1 Eastern Region-Biratnagar

- Local level social cohesion promotion mechanisms are in place as the key front-line actors to work on promotion of social cohesion and there is growing recognition of local level social cohesion mechanisms as a problem-solving and grievances redressal mechanism.
- Commitment and willingness of key stakeholders for promotion of social cohesion leading to favorable operational space.
- The cluster-level key actors are equipped with skills of risk identification and mitigation, conflict sensitivity, GESI, and concept/approaches of social cohesion.
- Weak engagement with government authorities in strengthening local authorities and networks for early warning initiative.
- Setting up a functional early warning system at local level, is a challenge.
- Difficulty in supporting media to promote improved public understanding of federalism and role of provincial and local governments.
- Administrative difficulty to provide support for implementation of community-based social cohesion plan in rural areas.
- Lack of technical competency with partner NGOs for result-based reporting.
- Managing political sensitivity in implementation of project activities.
- Very limited geographic areas coverage in programme districts.

4.2 Central Region-Bharatpur

- Bridging the gaps between service providers and highly marginalized grassroots communities in remote villages where marginalized ethnic groups can equally take initiatives and ownership.
- Difficulty in providing continual support to make a functional shared platform for social harmony and reduction of social exclusion.
- Highly politicized local context.
- Lengthy and challenging vender payment procedures.

4.3 Mid-Western Region-Nepalgunj

- Social cohesion is high on demand in divided society. As the civil society actors are highly polarized, many thinks social cohesion is inevitable and but have less idea of leading such an important approach. Thus engaging schools and colleges have much potential in the sustainable establishment of the social cohesion and strengthening community security in the community.
- The proactive way of groups' formation in schools to promote social cohesion has widened the scope that youths are encouraged to volunteer for social cohesion.
- The expectation with UNDP to continue convening stakeholders pose a challenge which may result in lack of local ownership.

4.4 Far-Western Region-Dhangadhi

- The collaboration with different line agencies in order to implement MCG interventions has widened the scope of SCDP for its further engagement for promoting social cohesion and accountability.
- The recent engagement with farmer groups, cooperatives, civil society groups, community forest user groups, community security coordination committee, and youth networks has opened many windows of opportunity towards mobilizing them for bridging gap between communities in the fractured society.
- There is growing recognition of SCDP supported local mechanisms from government agencies and local stakeholders towards making proactive efforts for enhancing social interactions.
- The continued political polarization has implication in every level of society.
- District Police Office in Kailali and Kanchanpur still has expectation from UNDP, as they perceive SCDP as continuation of AVRSCS.

4.5 Operations

In the first quarter 2017, SCDP's Finance Officer (FO) will leave the project. Therefore, handover process of the FO's responsibilities to the Regional Project Assistant based in Kathmandu has started in the fourth quarter 2016. This will bring down the number of operations staff to 2. With this change there will be a major challenge of operations to serve five offices and its staff members during the beginning of 2017. Likewise, programme staff at field offices are slowly getting acquainted with the minor and preliminary operational procedures of running a field office and fulfilling the operational requirements for any vendor procurement at field.

5   Programmatic Best Practices/Lessons Learned

- Mobilization of the CBOs, political parties, government agencies, youths, women and marginalized groups for strengthening social relations and interactions and enhancing inclusive decision-making process ensure the full ownership to the project activities among the local stakeholders.

- The establishment of social cohesion promotion mechanism at local level in ownership of VDC and formulation of community-based social cohesion plan helps for integration of social cohesion components in VDC's annual plan and budget.
- The partnership with local NGOs under micro grants results in integration of the social cohesion components in other programmes of the NGOs.
- Peacebuilding initiatives need to be combined with sustainable livelihoods activities to sustain interventions by stakeholders themselves.
- Gender and social inclusion process should continue to be mandatory to combat against inequality, exclusion and elite domination.
- An attempt to mainstreaming the agenda of social cohesion and community security in the government and schools work plan can have an impact on establishing culture of practicing social cohesion and community security in the society.
- Livelihood activities are an effective means of cohesion towards strengthening inter-community interactions.
- Support to community managed infrastructure is an effective way to mobilize community people for community-driven development (CDD) interventions and strengthening social cohesion.
- Working with existing groups and networks is effective to acquire specified result within a short span of time in a sustainable manner.

6   GESI considerations

- The participation in each workshop/training and consultation meeting has been inclusive ensuring representation of women and excluded groups.
- Set a specific GESI targets in the Annual Work Plan 2017.
- GESI responsive and promotional contents/issues have been incorporated in the agendas of meetings and workshops.
- The needs and voices of women and socially excluded groups have been reflected in the community-based social cohesion plan.
- The social cohesion promoting mechanisms established in programme clusters have been inclusive in terms of representation of women and excluded social groups.
- The Micro-grants were provided to inclusive NGOs/CBOs and they were encouraged to enhance the inclusive participation of marginalized groups in each activities/initiatives.
- Some interventions were especially aimed at increasing representation of women and vulnerable communities in various mechanisms such as executive board of Community Forest User Committees.

7   Progress against the planned activities in 4th Quarter

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Q4 Targets	Progress
Eastern Region		
Support the local stakeholders for risk identification and risk mitigation to promote social cohesion and strengthen community security in select clusters (Panchthar)	1	Completed
Facilitate to develop community-based social cohesion and community security plans in programme cluster of Panchthar	1	Completed

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	Completed
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	Completed
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	Completed
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	Completed
Support local community FM Radios (one in each programme district) for social cohesion promotional media campaign	2	Completed (1 local FM radio station in each programme district has been contracted and the PSAs are being aired)
Provide technical support to MCG grantee NGOs and monitor the implementation of grant activities for quality control.	3	Completed
Context analysis and planning workshop among the key stakeholders of Sunsari and Panchthar	2	Completed
Workshop with youths to promote them as social cohesion champions in Panchthar.	1	Completed
Joint training for members of local level social cohesion promoting mechanisms (political and civil society leaders) of Panchthar and Sunsari on identification and mitigation of risks for social cohesion.	1	Completed
Production and broadcasting of social cohesion promotional video PSA through local television channel	1	Completed (Biratnagar based Makalu Television has been contracted for production and broadcasting of video PSA, the production work is underway).

Central Region		
Multi-cultural social cohesion event by social cohesion committee Madi.	1	Canceled by the community
Organize public hearing programs on burning issues such as risk of wild animals from national park and prevention strategy provided by government authorities, public services from government offices from Municipality, forest office, National Park etc. in Madi.	1	Completed
Community visits or monitoring of social cohesion and collection of positive story by Social Cohesion Team and broadcast the story in Local Radio in Madi.	1	Shifted for next quarter
Provide technical support and monitor for two grantee organizations in Chitwan (provided technical supports on eight field level activities in Madi, Lothar and Korak VDCs).	1	Completed
Mid-Western Region		
Strengthening inter religious council to promote social cohesion	1	Completed
Organize youth-police activities by engaging district education office, school management committees to incorporate agenda of social cohesion and community security in the School Improvement Plan (SIP)	5	Completed
Engage journalists/media house in campaigning to promote social cohesion and community security at district and local level a. Interaction with media persons on the key issues of social cohesion in Banke b. Production and dissemination of video PSA to promote social cohesion	2	1 Completed 1 Video PSA under production
Support to strengthen Community Security Committees for sustainable functioning	2	Completed
Identify and recognize the social cohesion champions and work with them for multiplier effects of SCDP's work	2	Completed
Organize cultural diversity festivals to strengthen the community ties and promote social cohesion and community security	1	Completed
Organize lecture series at schools and colleges to promote social cohesion	6	Completed
Far-Western Region		

Support to VLPC and Cluster Community Security Committee (CCSC) in Kanchanpur and Kailali to identify contemporary issues and develop mitigation measures	2	Completed.
Risk identification meeting with KYDF and PPDCC to discuss local context and develop risk mitigation plan	2	Completed.
Technical assistance to MCG focal persons and monitoring of micro grant interventions		Completed
Conduct Youth-Police activities in higher secondary schools at cluster level with an aim to strengthen community security and promote social cohesion	1	Completed
Lecture series on community security and social cohesion in higher secondary schools	1	Completed
Review meeting with MCG partners to assess progress, opportunities and areas of further improvement	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 409 representative members of key stakeholders capacitated of whom 153 females (37%) and 256 males (63%)
At least 15 social tensions mitigated to improve social cohesion	The local level mechanisms are meeting regularly to discuss the emerging issues through MSDF, MSLDF and LPC and under the initiatives of grant partners. 1 risk of social tension related to integrated property tax in Panchthar and 1 related to religious tension in Banke were mitigated by local stakeholders with SCDP's support. Nearly 1500 youth, women, civil society members, journalists and political leaders in the different programme districts engaged in the promotion of social cohesion through more than 50 different initiatives.
Key stakeholders made common understanding on land issue	All the regions had dialogues on land issues in the first and second quarter and came up with issues while at the central level the political leaders reached a 12-point common minimum understanding for the formulation and implementation of land policies.

Annual Target	Achieved as of 3rd quarter
Early response initiatives for emerging tensions taken by political parties and other stakeholders of programme districts	The local level mechanisms/institutions have identified the risks, formulated the community-based social cohesion and community security plans in all 12 programme clusters for risks mitigation.
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. Journalists capacitated in Chitwan, Panchthar, Sunsari, Banke and Kailai on CLD, CS and social cohesion and are applying the skills in their professional works.
At least four 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	Not reflected in this quarter
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 at cluster/VDC level in Panchthar, Sunsari, 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 support provided to those mechanisms for conducting identifying and mitigating risks	Technical support to the social cohesion mechanisms have been continuously provided in Panchthar, Sunsari, Chitwan, Banke and Kailali.

A capacity building training has been provided to members of social cohesion promoting mechanisms of Panchthar and Sunsari on risk identification and mitigation.

Besides, 12 civil society organizations in the programme districts successfully implemented micro grants to strengthen social cohesion and inclusive participation of marginalized groups. |

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

Fourth quarter was quiet on the operational front except for the year-end financial closing and planning for 2017. Contracts of 2 staff members (previously AVRSCS staff) of Birgunj field office were

not extended beyond 31 October 2016, and so the field office at Birgunj has been closed down. Vendor payments for 2016 went smoothly adding up to 95% of financial delivery for FY 2016.

Project Financial Delivery Status

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

9.1   Project-wise Expenditures

Projects	Budget Allocation 2016	Total Expenditure (Including commitments)	Expenditure (in %)
Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation (SCDP)	1,88,500	1,90,500	101%
CLD/N-Peace / CS	3,90,381	374,487	95%
Catalytic Support on Land	84,737	36,088	42% *
GPIL	248,541	249,611	100%
GPICT	1,73,842	173,100	99%
Total Funded Budget	**1,086,001**	**1,023,786**	**95%**

* The project "Catalytic Support on Land" was operationally closed in the year 2015. The above budget allocation was made to cover the un-liquated POs and pending expenses related to this project of 2015. Therefore, the delivery under this project is seen to be minimal.

9.2   Key operational activities

Human Resource:

- End of contract of 3 staff members.
- Contract extension of 13 staff members.

Procurement (in Quarter 1 of 2017):

- Closure of Field Office in Bharatpur, which is on lease inside UNICEF complex.
- Exploring new office building in Birgunj.
- Exploring low cost renting of field offices in Biratnagar, Nepalgunj and Dhangadi.
- Physical observation of 4 field offices by operations team in order to quickly respond to operational requests from field offices and for asset verification.
- Procurement of digital radios for 4 staff members and for 1 vehicle from Kathmandu office.

Story 1: Maya Jogi from Masuriya looks physically frail but she is hale and hearty and extrovert in nature. Frank Maya can candidly talk to the visitors in the village. A victim of gender-based violence-turned-warrior Maya is now known as a mediator and a model farmer in Misuriya of Kailali. It is located 51 km west from Tikapur where the locals mostly Tharu – indigenous people and police officers were

killed during a Tharuhat protest in August 2015. In the aftermath of the Tikapur incident, some Tharu-owned houses were reportedly set on fire and false charges were filed against them. It triggered the Pahade-Tharu tension not only in Masuriya but the southern plain of Nepal as the situation was unexpectedly worse.

In view of the situation SCDP through a local partner – Mukta Kamaiya Samaj – closely work together with the local community in Misuriya in order to enhance their effort to maintain social ties community harmony. It is incredibly remarkable as the people affected by the deadly communal violence have been found to be actively working in peacebuilding process at the community level. Kamala Joshi shared, "It was in the marriage ceremony of my brother Siddha Raj Joshi where all Chaudhari (Tharus origin) women helped my mom and family in cooking. We sang, danced and enjoyed together." Chandra Devi said, "We taught them Deuda" (a popular folk song in the far western hill region).

Maya frankly shared: "I used to recommend my Tharu folks when opportunities knocked our doors in the past, now I bring in, my Pahade friends too. It is good for everyone. It made us feel very good working together". Maya Jogi highlighted, "We received cauliflower seeds last September, our kitchen-garden are great now, and we can harvest them soon; cauliflowers approximately worth 2, 24,000 for 32 members". "Our friends from the hill had no idea of seedbed plant production, now they are busy in vegetable farming too, we taught them vegetable farming and we learnt cow-milking skills from them," Maya added. In Misauriya, SCDP-supported collective farming with social cohesion at its core, not only helps in bringing all together in one place but it contributes in transferring knowledge to each other.

Story 2: Security personnel from both Nepal and India in the Dodhara-Chandani stretch of Kanchanpur district have reiterated their commitment to addressing cross-border crimes and ensuring

the security of communities in the area. The commitment was made during the latest periodic cross-border coordination meeting that saw the participation of security personnel from the two countries, as well as of local political party leaders, and representatives of civil society and the business community. The meeting had been organized by the Dodhara-Chandani Cluster Community Security Committee with the support of UNDP's Social Cohesion and Democratic Participation Programme (SCDP). The committee itself was formed by locals under UNDP's technical assistance

According to Inspector Birendra BK, the Area Police In-Charge in Dodhara-Chandani, encroachment of land along the border, peddling of drugs, human trafficking, robbery and smuggling of goods are some of the major points of concern in the area. Just a month ago, for instance, an incident involving the abuse of a woman had triggered heightened tensions that had put the safety of residents of villages on both sides of the border at risk and obstructed their day-to-day movements. But the meetings have been "instrumental" in engendering collaboration between Nepali and Indian personnel and their capacity to deal with such issues, Inspector BK explained. Indeed, both sides noted that there had been a decline in criminal cases in areas along the border following the initiation of the periodic coordination meetings and joint patrolling activities.

Story 3: The youths from the rural areas of Narshing and Chadwela VDC of Sunsari district have started

working together as social cohesion campaigners. Considering the racialized positions of political and social groups leading to violent communal tensions; fractured social relations between different communities and age-old social malpractices as the barriers for upholding the inter-community ties and inclusive development, they formed a group of social cohesion champions to overcome such barriers.

About three-dozen youths from across various castes and ethnic groups, religions and political lines, were convened by SCDP to build their capacity for promoting social cohesion at the local level. They formulated a work-plan aiming to foster collaboration and mutual solidarity among the youths. Additionally, they agreed to form Youth Network for Social Cohesion incorporating all youth clubs of the VDC representing various social and religious groups. Similarly, they have planned to establish youth vigilance groups in every ward of the VDC for timely risk mitigation, enhancing police-youth collaboration to prevent community crimes and nurture communal harmony. Emerging from the orientation programme, coordinator of the Youth Network Mukesh Mahato said, "We are committed to reach out and build friendships across ethnic and religious groups, as social cohesion champions. With a deeper understanding of each other's cultures and beliefs, and by speaking out in one voice against racial and religious intolerance, we will strengthen our unity and resilience in the face of any adversities."

Story 4: Janakala Chepang, who belongs to one of the highly marginalized indigenous communities, lives in remote Dhanbang village of Lothar VDC in Chitwan. She recently had an opportunity to participate in a SCDP supported community level interaction with government officials on public services. In the interaction, Rammani Silwal, in-charge of Yauralitar Health Post, informed the community that there is a provision the government provides free of cost essential medicines available at public health facilities.

The under privileged members of the Chepang community were not aware about this provision. Reportedly the free medicines were illegally sold by the local health post employees. Emerging from the interaction Janakala went to the health post and demanded medicines provide by the government for free to charge and she got them. Now a days Janakala is sharing her experience with

her community people and encouraging them to enjoy the government facility of free medicines. In partnership with Nepal Chepang Association, SCDP has been able to strengthen the relation between the local community and the government agencies.

11 Specific activities for Q1 2017

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Targets	Q1 January	Q1 February	Q1 March	Remarks
Result statement 1: **Risk identification systems contribute to shape local responses to potential or actual issues that may affect social cohesion** **Indicator 1:** # local risk identification mechanisms that report to have discussed potential or actual issues that may affect social cohesion **Target 1:** At least 12 risk identification mechanisms	1.1 Organize social cohesion promotion (risk identification/context analysis) workshop in programme districts with key stakeholders including government agencies	8	2	2	2	
	1.2 Continued engagement to strengthen inter-religious council in district and in local level to promote social cohesion	1			1	
	1.3 Support for periodic risk identification and mitigation meetings of Social Cohesion Promotion Mechanisms that comprises WCFs, CACs, political parties, CBOs, VDC, Police post, cooperatives and civil society at cluster level (1 meeting in every 2 months)	5		3	2	
	1.4 Logistic support to FNJ- Kanchanpur to organize 1-day workshop for situation analysis and developing a common understanding on role of media for maintaining/promoting Social Cohesion	1		1		
	1.5 Support to Youth Networks and peace volunteers group through different capacity building trainings and establishment of 1 youth peace center for promotion of social cohesion, strengthening community security and make them accountable towards the social responsibilities	2		1	1	
	1.6 Engage with youths from divergent areas of engagements and collaborate to promote youth as social cohesion champions	2		1	1	
	1.7 Organize coordination meeting with UNDP's projects active in the region aiming to programmatic synergy and incorporating social cohesion as a cross-cutting agenda in each project's interventions, in collaboration with UNDP FO	1		1		
Result statement 2: **Risk mitigation improved through Early Response Initiative, Quick Impact Support to Inter-Community Cohesion** **Indicator 1:** # of initiatives taken for mitigating social cohesion related risks at local level **Target 1:** 60 initiatives	2.1 Provide Micro Capital Grants to local NGOs/CBOs in programme districts to implement the activities for inter-community cohesion.	14			14	
	2.2 Broadcast the social cohesion promotional audio PSAs through local FM station in locally spoken language (Sunsari, Panchthar, Chitwan, Bara, Parsa, Bakey, Bardiya, Kailali & Kanchanpur)	5		4	1	
	2.3 Broadcast the social cohesion promotional video PSA through a local Television station based in Biratnagar, Dhangadi and Nepalgunj, having wider coverage	3	1	2		
	2.4 Monthly field *Kachahari* Program in community to discussion local context and explore the local level ideas to promote social cohesion and broadcast motivation story at the FM radio	3		2	1	

	2.5 Carry out media engagement by organizing on-site interaction between media and local communities regarding social cohesion issues	2		2	1	
	2.6 Develop and print a training manual for 'Social Cohesion' capacity building initiative	1		1		
	2.7 Training to local Media persons on social cohesion and conflict-sensitive journalism	1			1	
	2.8 Provide media fellowships to selected journalists for exploring the stories/issues of social cohesion from communities	3			3	
	2.9 Incorporate the components of social cohesion in School Improvement Plan in collaboration with District Education Office	1			1	
	2.10 Organize programme for experience sharing on the traditional/cultural/ethnic practices and informal system/institutions for social interaction and communal ties, and recognizing the contribution of social cohesion champions.	2		1	1	
	2.11 Organize lecture series on social cohesion and democratic participation including SDGs in schools/colleges through mobilization of trained youth champions	9		5	4	
	2.12 Provide support to organize a multicultural festival and sports tournaments to promote social cohesion among communities and combat racial discrimination in grass root level.	1			1	
	2.13 Public awareness raising campaign to promote social cohesion and democratic participation through street drama in cluster level (Bara and Parsa).	6		3	3	
	2.14 Organize the series of activities to promote social cohesion through poetry	1		1		
	2.15 Develop a video documentary to explore the factors of promoting social cohesion	1			1	
Result statement 3: **Community leaders (male and female), CBOs, youth organizations, marginalized groups lead actions and/or processes to make public institutions accountable**	3.1 Analyze the status of social inclusion and representation of marginalized social groups in the existing local level decision-making structures and process (at cluster level).	3		1	2	
	3.2 Organize capacity building training/workshop for selected local level stakeholders on social cohesion, inclusive participation and accountability including RTI.	2			2	
Indicator 1: Increase in % of women, youth and marginalized groups participate in local level decision-making processes	3.3 Organize interaction among local stakeholders to analyze the existing status of inclusive participation and accountability and to plan for further strategies to promote social and gender inclusion.	1			1	
Indicator 2: # of initiatives taken by CBOs, women, youth and marginalized groups to enhance accountability	3.4 Engagement with RTI and youth networks for promoting transparent and accountable Community development interventions	2			2	
Indicator 3: # initiatives taken by local stakeholders for strengthening community security	3.5 Support to local stakeholders for initiatives of strengthening community security in collaboration with Police and other thematic groups.	1		1		
Target 1: 20%						

| **Target 2:** 30 initiatives | | | | | | |
| **Target 3:** 12 | | | | | | |

12 Photos

Jorpokhari (Panchthar) Police Post building before and after renovation

Multi-cultural performances for social cohesion in Sunsari and Panchthar

Inter-community youths showing collaboration during friendly cricket match in Sunsari

Women engaged in group farming in seasonal vegetables site in Madi (Chitwan)

Community level interaction between the Chepangs and the representatives of government agencies in remote Korak VDC of Chitwan district

A renowned Hindu priest in Banke reaches out to Muslim community to interact on social cohesion

Lecture series in a school in Banke

Women from Tharu and Pahadi communities joining hands for collective farming in Kailali

Communities are gathering at the 'Goodwill Gardens' in two VDCs of to discuss social issues of their concern