

# Filed Visit Report

## UNDP CPD Outcome 5 and 6 Evaluation Mission

Districts: Kaski (Pokhara), Palpa (Tansen) and Bhairahawa (Rupendehi) 9- 11 August, 2016

### 1. TEAM COMPOSITION

Outcome evaluation team members:

- Mr. Peter Blunt, Team Leader
- Mr. Sushil Jung B. Rana, National Consultant
- Mr. Surendra Raj Bhandari, National Consultant

UNDP:

Mr. Yam Nath Sharma, ACD, Governance and Rule of Law unit

Ms. Pragma Bashyal, Programme Analyst, Governance and Rule of Law Unit

### 2. OBJECTIVE OF THE FIELD VISIT

- To facilitate CPD Outcome 5 and 6 Evaluation Mission's meetings and interviews with local government authorities, beneficiaries and project teams in Kaski, Palpa and Bhairahawa districts.

The Outcome Evaluation Mission field visit was organized with three fold objectives:

- To get first-hand information on UNDP's contributions to UNDAF\ CPD outcomes particularly outcome 5
- To gain insight into local context in which UNDP project and programmes are operating
- To identify local development and governance issues and challenges and potential areas where UNDP could provide assistance

### 3. METHODOLOGY

- Mission's meetings were held with senior government officials, particularly CDO, Executive Officers of municipalities, LDOs and Regional Election Officer.
- The Mission also had interactions with project teams of LGCDP and ESP. They visited Regional Election office where the ESP is co-located. They also visited Regional Coordination Unit of LGCDP in Pokhara.
- Focused group Interactions were held with the Community Awareness Center in Jagatradevi VDC, Ward No. 2, Syangja. The Mission also observed the mobile voter registration at old age home in Pokhara.

### 4. KEY FINDINGS

- The local government authorities described the following as the key development and governance related challenges at local level:

Kaski: Migration has created constraint on availability of skilled and unskilled labors in the market, lack of political stability, frequent transfer of government officials hampers efficient service delivery ( in 26 years , 36 CDOs had been appointed) , civil servants know their responsibilities but often it's not translated into action, local bodies are delegated responsibilities by the Local Restructuring Commission to come up with organizational structure, where 7 VDCs are merged to make municipal

council, then accessibility might be a challenge as local people may have to travel a long distance to seek basic services, which was convenient at current local set-up as those services were made available at VDCs, procedures are not in place for the future local elections, lack of adequate local infrastructure ( roads, street lamps ), waste management, lack of tourism infrastructure, lack of consolidated master plan at the municipality level- only annual plan is available.

**Palpa:** Geographical challenges, particularly accessibility, due to which construction is expensive; insufficient technical human resources (engineers and sub-engineers)- one of the main challenges is minimum incentive provided to staff who are willing to go and work in remote parts of the district; procurement and oversight of construction- there is a practice of sub-contracting projects by vendors, due to which they are not able to maintain the quality and timely delivery; health posts are not fully equipped, for example majority of health facilities do not have birthing centers and electricity; lack of agricultural productivity; migration; VDC offices are not well equipped with staff and are not in a good condition to facilitate service delivery- out of 59 VDCs , only one VDC has Secretary ; drinking water- 85% of the population do not have access to clean drinking water; large number of schools were damaged during 2015 earthquakes and remaining ones are not adequately equipped

**Bhairahawa:** Due to an open boarder with India, human trafficking is one of the key problems in the district; drug use is another emerging problem; lack of elected representatives has create a vacuum at local level in strengthening democracy; role of DDC is not clear in the new constitution- all the authorities that are currently being exercised by DDC will be vested upon village and municipal councils, for example, land registration, citizenship distribution, issuance of passport, health, education etc; role of VDCs and municipalities will be key in the federal context as they will have power to make laws; legislative, executive and judiciary should be strengthened and should be the priority of UNDP for future assistance

#### **4. INTERACTION WITH COMMUNITY AWARENESS CENTER AND WARD CITIZEN FORUM**

Around 40 members of the CAC and WCF gathered for an interaction with the Mission. The group was divided into sub-groups and each sub group led by different Mission members. Some of the key points highlighted by CAC and WCF members are the following:

- WCF is an inclusive community based forum which comprised 25-27 members from different sphere of society. Whereas CAC is focused for most deprived and very poor community within VDC with a total of 25 members. Social mobilizer of LGCDP is a member-secretary of the CAC and facilitates meetings.
- The main role of WCF is facilitating 14 steps planning process. They facilitate the process of identifying local needs, prioritize them and develop them into small projects and advocate with the VDC to provide grants for implementation of the projects. WCFs also facilitate monitoring of those projects
- Members of the political parties are not directly involved in WCF.
- CAC members are selected in a participatory manner. Communities in the leadership of the VDC Secretary gather and select the most disadvantaged households from the VDC through social and economic mapping.
- CAC submit proposals to VDC to have access to block grants

#### **5. INTERACTION WITH REGIONAL ELECTION OFFICER , VISIT TO EEIC AND MOBILE VOTER REGISTRATION AT OLD AGED HOMES**

- Meeting of Evaluation team was held with Regional Election Officer, Western Development Region
- The Evaluation Team also observed mobile EEIC and interacted with school children who were visiting the center.

- As part of the mobile voter registration , and in order to reach out to vulnerable communities and citizens, ESP had organized a mobile voter registration to register old people residing at old aged home , so they could exercise their basic fundamental right of voting

