

UPDATE  
Jan-Mar  
2010



# Search for Common Ground

Search for Common Ground ([www.sfcg.org](http://www.sfcg.org)) began full operation in Nepal in February 2006. The mission of SFCG is to transform the way world deals with conflict – away from adversarial towards cooperative solutions. In Nepal, our overall mandate is to support the peace process. We engage with a range of key stakeholders including the young people, media and civil society . Our strategic objectives of its programs are:

- To increase ownership over and local participation in the transition to peace and democracy;
- To involve multiple stakeholders, particularly those traditionally marginalized, in democratic processes at local and national levels;
- To strengthen inter-communal relationships across caste, ethnic, political and geographic lines; and
- To promote reconciliation to reweave the fabric of society that has been torn apart by war.



SFCG works in 20 countries across five continents with over 400 staff worldwide engaging in a long-term process of incremental transformation. In 2008, SFCG was the proud recipient of the Benjamin Franklin Award for Public Diplomacy from the U.S. Department of State, its highest honor for a non-profit organization.

## PROGRAMS

In Nepal, SFCG has a multi-pronged program consisting of media and community peacebuilding. Through the production of radio and television programs and the training of media professionals, SFCG can reach across the entire country, including into remote areas. Community peacebuilding work targets specific key stakeholder groups to bring people together from across dividing lines, create opportunities for people to work together, and get directly involved in building peace. These two pillars of the program are mutually reinforcing with the community work feeding the content of the media programs and the media magnifying the work on the ground.

## MEDIA PROGRAMS

Using methodologies that have been tried and tested in conflict zones throughout the world, SFCG uses media programs to encourage solution oriented dialogues, cooperative problem solving, and foster new models of participation and leadership. In partnership with



# Nepal

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media production partners - Antenna Foundation Nepal, New World, Far Western Media Development Centre and FM stations across the country, we support the production of original radio dramas, talk shows, radio magazine programs and television drama. Our programs include Naya Baato, Naya Paila (New Path, New Footprints), a radio soap opera broadcast nationally about the role of youth in peacebuilding; Sangor (Team), a regional soap opera in Maithili language also about the role of youth in peacebuilding; Sunau Bolau (Let's Listen, Let's Talk), a program produced by children from diverse backgrounds and designed to give children a voice; Farakilo Dharti (Wider Earth), a franchised radio talk show with both regional and local versions, which aims to strengthen interethnic cooperation and dialogue on issues of concern to people in marginalized communities; and Sajhedari (Partnership), a radio magazine focusing on improving relations between local government and citizens. In 2010 SFCG will also see the launch of a TV drama entitled 'The Team' that uses football to promote good governance, cooperation and inclusive leadership.



### **MEDIA FOR PEACEBUILDING NEPAL**

Building on the importance of the role journalists play in reducing violence and promoting peace in times of transition and conflict, SFCG runs Radio for Peacebuilding Nepal, a comprehensive training and coaching program that equips radio producers, presenters and journalists across the country with skills to produce programs or articles that promote non-violent problem solving. Over the years, SFCG has trained more than 155 radio professionals across radio stations in Nepal in using radio for peacebuilding and promoting solution-oriented dialogues.

### **COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING**

SFCG Nepal is working with a range of key stakeholders at the community level, including leadership development of youth, capacity building of civil society and non-governmental organizations in facilitating the participation of youth in peacebuilding. The community programs compliment and reinforce the messages from our media programs, and include Youth Leadership Development for Community Peacebuilding, an initiative which identifies "multiplier youth" from diverse communities, brings them into a dialogue and leadership development process, and provides support for youth-led organizations to implement peacebuilding activities at the local level. For example, "Pathways to Peace", a civic education engagement program for youth run in coalition with several local partners, consists of civic leadership schools, workshops for youth to provide input into the creation of the constitution, facilitated dialogues among youth led organizations, and the publication of Y! magazine. Another program, "Youth Engagement in Nepal's Democratization Process" is focused on youth in the volatile Eastern Terai region, and works to strengthen their role in the democratization process at the local level through a process of engaging youth groups and local officials in dialogue, and eventually facilitating them to work cooperatively to address root causes of conflict in their communities.

