SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND (SFCG)

PROGRAMMATIC EVALUATION

THE PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVE (TPI)

SFCG NEPAL (2011-2013)

Submitted by

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<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>AFN</td>
<td>Antenna Foundation Nepal</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Constituent Assembly</td>
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<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
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<td>CD</td>
<td>Chakar Dharti</td>
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<td>CAP</td>
<td>Conflict Affected People</td>
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<td>CG</td>
<td>Common Ground</td>
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<td>DDC</td>
<td>District Development Committee</td>
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<td>DM&amp;E</td>
<td>Design, Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<td>DYCN</td>
<td>District Youth Club Network</td>
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<td>FD</td>
<td>Farakilo Dharti</td>
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<td>KD</td>
<td>Khula Dharti</td>
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<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focused Group Discussion</td>
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<td>FM</td>
<td>Frequency Modulation</td>
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<td>FMDC</td>
<td>Far Western Media Development Centre</td>
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<td>KII</td>
<td>Key Informant Interview</td>
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<td>LDM</td>
<td>Local Decision Makers</td>
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<td>LPCs</td>
<td>Local Peace Committees</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<td>NW</td>
<td>New World</td>
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<td>PB</td>
<td>Peacebuilding</td>
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<td>PWL</td>
<td>Peace Writ Large</td>
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<td>R4PB</td>
<td>Radio for Peacebuilding</td>
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<td>SB</td>
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<td>Verified Minors and Late Recruits</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A) Introduction

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) implemented a two-year project entitled “The peacebuilding Initiative” (TPI) in Nepal from June 2011 with financial support from the Embassy of Denmark. The focus of this project was to actively engage and build capacity of key peacebuilding actors - youth, radio professionals and local decision makers to play a constructive role in implementing the peace process in their own communities. The project targeted six conflict affected districts in the east and ten districts in the mid and far west Nepal for community peacebuilding and all districts of Nepal for its media programs.

The overall goal of TPI was to support an inclusive peace process from the local to national level and sought to meet the following objectives:

- Develop capacity of key stakeholders groups to engage constructively in the peace process in non-adversarial ways;
- Foster solution oriented dialogue on key elements of CPA and peace process at district, regional and national levels; and
- Foster constructive engagement of youth and local decision makers in peace process at the local level.

B) The evaluation process

The main scope of the evaluation was to:

- Understand and measure SFCG’s overall contribution to the peace process through its engagement with youth, local decision makers, NGOs and radio stations in the past four years.
- Evaluate the intermediate changes or outcomes in knowledge, attitude, skills and behavior of the target groups.
- Assess the overall results of the implemented program.
- Identify the intended and unintended consequences of the program and broader lessons learned.
- Inform the program leadership and staff to make decision on how to shape the programmatic approach of SFCG on youth and women in the future.

The evaluation sought to relate key peace building outcomes from program implementation with changes in skills, knowledge, behavior, attitude, values, and acceptance of local people as measured against the indicators given in the TPI log-frame.

The report reflects key findings and conclusions drawn by Scott Wilson Nepal (SW) following its visits to selected project districts of Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa in the east and Banke, Bardiya and Dang in the west. The evaluation included a series of interactions with different field level stakeholders - youth, radio professionals and listeners, LDMs, local partners and DDC/VDC
officials during the course of the evaluation. This was complemented with a range of meetings with SFCG officials in Kathmandu. A structured survey was carried out for quantitative analysis of the progress made by TPI during its two years period. This evaluation is based on the standard SFCG evaluation policy, covering OECDDAC criteria.

C) Key findings

An overarching approach TPI is founded on is that if communities work together, inclusive of all their participants, and have mechanisms for working and communicating with different stakeholders including the local government institutions, then they will have the tools to resolve grievances peacefully and will be more resistant to drivers of conflict.

Accordingly, TPI worked on to achieve synergy in its radio program and community works in fostering resiliency and building peace at the community level. The radio programs reflect real and widely felt conflict issues affecting the general public, and have consequently succeeded in creating an understanding for peace and harmony among the general public across the dividing lines within the community.

Capacity development of the radio professionals and local level stakeholders has motivated action to mainstream the peacebuilding lens into their regular programs, and instilled essential skills among mobilizing youth, LDMs and radio professionals to engage them in the peace process.

There were changes observed in attitudes and behavior of the target groups. Increased professional capacity of the radio professionals has enabled production of popular radio dramas and dialogue programs that have encouraged youth’s participation in peacebuilding processes. Constructive engagement of youth in peacebuilding process through local partner organizations has created energetic peace advocates, “the youth”, in the community within the project VDCs.

Improved participation of youth groups (including women) in VDC meetings and resource distribution processes and the support they have received from their family and local political party representatives, has helped youth to increase their level of confidence and engage themselves in resolving disputes at the community level. More youth through their clubs are seen working for community benefits.

The cooperatives (agriculture, poultry and meat shop) activities through youth mobilization were initiated at the latter part of the project. However, these cooperatives are weakly linked with VDC level service providing organizations such as banks, lending agencies, technical backstopping organizations etc. Therefore, it is unlikely that such programs will sustain if coordination with local government institutions is not properly maintained.

Significant women participation found within the clubs and more family members have started to allow their female members to participate in community development and peacebuilding processes. However, very few youth clubs were inclusive and more youth groups were homogeneous from geographical (Madesh-Pahad) and ethnic (dalits) perspectives.
The LDM training succeeded in providing practical information to LDMs on dissemination of positive perceptions among youth and women and the importance of their participation in decision making processes and resource mobilization.

Increased numbers of youth are getting support from VDCs after the initiation of coordinated approach. TPI programs being approved by the respective District Council, the scope for having program level coordination with DDC are high, but needs to go with a strong functional monitoring and evaluation system.

There were a number of other I/NGOs engaged in community development activities in TPI supported VDCs. However, no program level coordination was observed among these organizations. The economic activities under youth initiation also had poor coordination with VDC/DDC level public sector service providing institutions.

D) Recommendations

Based on the observations made during the evaluation, following are the recommendations:

- Organize refresher training for radio professionals to enable better understanding on the changed context of conflict dynamics.
- Recommence new phase of highly popular and effective Sangor to educate youth until the new constitution is promulgated and the federal system is institutionalized.
- Mobilize the trainees under R4PB to disseminate lesson learnt from good and replicable peacebuilding practices taking place elsewhere in the country.
- Explore the feasibility of producing television serial (similar to Hamro Team) based on Sangor story to support in disseminating positive messages all over the country.
- Restart radio dialogue programs as it was deemed to be very popular and effective in developing social harmony in the past.
- Provide support to youth groups to enable them to run street dramas covering the peacebuilding topics to bring the behavior change of the youth within the community.
- Support additional training to enable youth to deal with community disputes and mediation. Provide them additional skills of grievances handling.
- Extend LDM training to VDC secretaries working all over the project districts.
- Provide knowledge to youth on VDC resource distribution guidelines and enhance their capacity to have access to public and other NGO funds allocated for their development.
- Provide small scale professional development training to youth groups for securing seed fund activities into successful cooperatives.
- Consider widening the vertical section of the “T” approach in order to bring some tangible impact of the program at the district and national level.
- Maintain strong linkages between the radio program and youth mobilization programs.
- Ensure participation of youth from marginalized groups (ethnicity, caste, religion, ex-combatants, CAP, VMLR) and gender in each activity and program.
- Continue to support youth mobilization program at least until new constitution is adopted and the federal structures of the state are established.
• Provide orientation to local partner organizations for outsourcing of youth initiative programs.
• Mobilize district based partner organizations to explore wider collaboration among other external and local development partners engaged with similar purposes.
• Continue engaging youth to deepen their approach to peacebuilding and link them with local government officials and community-based decision making bodies to further strengthen and elevate their role in the peace process and abilities to participate effectively in democratization.
• Design program which could involve youth directly in negotiation and mediation. For instance, program could be jointly carried out with LPC which are already engaged in local dispute settlement.
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) has been working in Nepal since early 2006 in support of the peace process. SFCG works with a broad range of stakeholders, including its partner organizations, local government, youth and civil society groups, the media, and educational institutions to support peace, good governance, and solution-oriented approaches to resolving conflict at local, regional and national levels. SFCG implemented a two-year project called "The Peacebuilding Initiative" (TPI) with funding from the Embassy of Denmark in 2011. TPI project focused on (i) capacity building for peacebuilding (ii) dialogue and consensus building and (iii) cooperative actions between youth and LDMs in peace process. TPI has been providing skills to radio and television professionals to foster dialogue and cooperation towards a constructive role in the peace process through their solution oriented dialogue programs. The radio talk shows were produced and broadcasted in Nepali, Maithili and Tharu languages to facilitate dialogue between and among marginalized groups and local decision makers and mass leaders around district level conflicts. Conducting locally driven radio programs would engage conflicting parties in dialogue on contentious issues and contribute to enhancing harmony, leading to peaceful co-existence and overall peacebuilding. SFCG has been working directly with the youth to build their capacity in conflict transformation and peacebuilding, leadership, collaborative approaches and dialogue around contentious issues and mobilize them through number of activities including small grants to initiate and implement community development/peacebuilding projects.

1.2 PROJECT SUMMARY

The Embassy of Denmark provided grant to SFCG to implement the project ‘The Peacebuilding Initiative (TPI)’ that worked with the media, local decision makers and youth as catalysts for positive change. The project sought to promote consensus-building among local stakeholders through dialogue, community actions and locally-produced radio programs. The community peacebuilding component of the project was implemented in six districts of eastern region out of which the component was implemented in partnership with a local NGO Samagra Jan-Uthhan Kendra(Samagra hereinafter) in four districts and in ten districts of the mid and far-western region in partnership with District Youth Networks (DYNs) and Youth Initiative. Furthermore, the key objective of the youth and peacebuilding program implemented by SFCG was to build capacities of youth on leadership and peacebuilding through their capacity enhancement followed by mobilization at the community level. They are supported in implementing various projects that transcend ethnic, linguistic and religious divisions and bring diverse groups of stakeholders together at a single platform promoting, peace, reconciliation, leadership, consensus-building, and democracy.

The overall goal of the project was to support an inclusive peace process from the local to the national level.

The specific objectives the project is:
1. To develop the capacity of key stakeholder groups to engage constructively in the peace process in non-adversarial ways.
2. To foster solution-oriented dialogue on key elements of the CPA and peace process; at district, regional and national levels; and
3. To foster constructive engagement of youth and local decision makers in the peace process at the local level.

1.2.1 Key activities in TPI

The following were the activities implemented:

1. Building local capacity for peace
   i. Training on Radio and Television for Peacebuilding (R4PB) including follow-up coaching and concluding training.
   ii. Training on Leadership and consensus building for leaders and decision makers.
   iii. Training on Youth leadership and peacebuilding.

2. Dialogue and Consensus Building
   i. Radio dialogues – talk-show ‘Farakilo Dharti’ / Khulla Dharti/Chakar Dharti (Wider Earth)
   ii. Dialogue and consensus building forum

3. Cooperative Actions of Youth and Local Decision Makers in the Peace Process
   i. Radio Dramas - ‘Sangor’ and ‘Naya Bato Naya Paila’ (New Path New Footprints)
   ii. Youth and peacebuilding through youth mobilization and seed grants activities
   iii. Leadership and consensus-building training for leaders

1.2.2 Strategic Objectives

The SFCG activities in Nepal have overall mandate to foster hope, leadership and accountability for positive peace in Nepal. Under this overall goal, SFCG has identified six broad strategic objectives that influence its program proposals, log-frames, and form the basis for SFCG priorities in the domains, target groups and sectors in which they work. To achieve the goals and objectives, SFCG’s programs are currently built up on five thematic program pillars: youth, gender, media, governance and education.

It also distinguishes between leaders and leadership – leaders being those in position of power and influence (through either official positions or personal credibility) and leadership – the quality that can be embodied by anyone in any sphere of influence. The strategic objectives are to:

1. Promote leadership, collaboration and accountability for peacebuilding, governance and development at multiple levels of society.  (Leadership)
2. Transform the way institutions and structures deal with conflict, towards a more inclusive, participatory and visionary approach and practice.  (Structural conflict transformation)
3. Develop capacity and mechanisms for transforming conflicts through dialogue and non-adversarial, collaborative approaches. (common ground approach)

4. Strengthen relationships and promote reconciliation across caste, ethnic, political, gender and geographic differences. (Social cohesion)

5. Foster responsible, collaborative and visionary leaders for the common good. (Leaders)

6. Nurture hope and inspiration for the possibilities of being Nepali and for Nepal. (Hope)


1.2.3 The implicit Theories of Change that guide SFCG programs

SFCG, in an effort to set its vision for peace and achieving the desired aspects of Peace Writ Large, is guided by the following theory of change.

- Transformation of knowledge, attitudes, skills and behaviors of youth will create a critical mass of youth who will actively engage in breaking dividing lines and building peace in the community and the country.
- Bridging the existing gap among various groups will significantly contribute in promoting good governance and meaningful and inclusive participation at decision making at local level.
- Equipping and mobilizing radio as a common media to promote messages of cooperation and find common ground will build greater tolerance and unity in society.
- Sensitization among local decision makers that women’s role in peacebuilding will be increased receptiveness, cooperation and support from them to include women in decision making processes.
- Building capacity of local youth on youth leadership and peacebuilding will initiate PB activities at local level.


1.2.4 Program and target groups

The Peacebuilding Initiative (TPI) used media and community peacebuilding as two pillars of the program. These two pillars have mutually reinforced with the community work feeding to the content of the media programs and the media magnifying the work on the ground. Both program streams are implemented in an integrated manner, using what is known as the “T” approach. The horizontal line of the “T” refers to the media programming which reaches across the country covering larger section of the population of the country as its audience. The vertical line of the “T” refers to targeted community peacebuilding activities through which SFCG is working with 10 local and national NGOs and youth networks, local government officials, and civil society members. SFCG (TPI) has produced 585 episodes of national and local radio shows reaching out to millions of people with the objective of influencing their knowledge, attitude and behavior.

(Source Listenership survey report 2012)

The primary target groups of the projects with whom SFCG and its partners work directly are:
The secondary target groups or beneficiaries include:
- Youth: 15 to 35 years old who are vulnerable to exploitation as well as have the potential to contribute to local level peace initiatives and local level youth clubs
- General public (audience of the radio programs)
- Journalists and media professionals (who analyze the local context, create the plot based on realistic local situation and prepare radio programs)
- Local institutions responsible for the peace process, which comprise local power brokers and decision makers including political parties, CA members, DDC and VDC authorities, LPC members and other social organizations, and
- People from marginalized communities especially women and Dalits.

1.3 EVALUATION GOAL

SFCG Nepal is institutionally committed to undertaking programmatic evaluation on a two-year basis in order to maximize the effectiveness of its programs and engage in continuous improvement and learning within programs and across the organization.

1.4 PROGRAM EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

The evaluation was conducted to assess the results of the programs implemented. The outcomes from the evaluation process will serve to inform the program leadership and staff to make decision on how to shape the programmatic approach of SFCG on youth and women in the future both in terms of programmatic objectives and in overall methodologies.

The overall objective of the evaluation was to understand and measure SFCG’s (TPI) overall contribution to the peace process in Nepal through its engagement with youth, local decision makers, NGOs and radio stations in the past four years.

The evaluation referred to the baseline survey conducted in September 2011 for the project (TPI) and the indicators in the TPI log-frame as the general basis.

The objectives of TPI stated in section 1.2 are assigned as specific project outputs and outcomes as given in TPI Logical Framework that form a basis for evaluation work and identify the particularities where SFCG has been able to contribute the most. The evaluation is based on the project outcomes and the findings from the field survey.

The assessment focuses on monitoring and evaluating the intermediate changes or ‘outcomes’ in knowledge, attitudes, skills and behaviors of its target groups while also exploring any intended and unintended changes observed during the review process.
1.5 METHODOLOGY

1.5.1 Desk review

With the objective of obtaining more understanding of the project, a desk review was done which included review of project documents, progress reports, partner’s reports, TPI log-frame, previous evaluation reports, baseline survey report, listenership survey reports, quarterly reports and training manuals.

1.5.2 Consultative meetings

The team carried out consultations with the staff members of SFCG in Kathmandu, partner organizations, relevant stakeholders and those involved in project implementation in the districts. A checklist/semi-structured questionnaire was used for this purpose.

1.5.3 Preparatory works for field visit (checklist, questionnaires etc.)

Based on the background information and interaction with stakeholders at the central level, following activities were conducted:

- Developed of key actor matrix (for meetings, consultations etc)
- Identification of indicators for evaluation, broadly based on the indicative questions in the ToR.
- Developed detailed checklist/questionnaire based on the indicators

The evaluation tools and methodology were finalized in consultation with the SFCG program staff and DM&E team before undertaking field visits. Please refer to Annex 2 & 3 for the checklist and questionnaires.

1.5.4 Field visits

As indicated in the ToR, the evaluation team, in consultation with the SFCG DM&E team, visited seven districts in total, four in the east (Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa, Mahottari) and three in mid-west (Banke, Dang and Bardiya). The Bardiya visit was limited to observation of ChakarDharti radio talk show program being broadcasted by Gurbaba FM.

Information and data from the field visit was generated using the following tools:

- **Observation** of major activities and outputs at the field level
- **Key informant semi structured interviews (KII)** were carried out with local power brokers, SFCG and partner organisation staff, community leaders, government officials and other relevant stakeholders including LPC members. The discussions took place using semi-structured questionnaires
- **Focus group discussions (FGD)** were carried out with SFCG partner organizations, key target youth clubs and youth network members, local decision makers, beneficiaries of
seed grant and community members and other project stakeholders. FGD were carried out using checklists (see Annex 3).

- The field quantitative survey data received from SFCG office was used to analyze the findings (see annex 4 for survey tools).

### 1.5.5 Analysis of findings

Detailed analysis was carried out on the basis of observations from the field visits, documents reviewed and consultations. Conclusions were drawn from the analysis of the qualitative and quantitative findings. The qualitative information was collected from the field visits and the quantitative information was provided by SFCG. A structured questionnaire was used to conduct the survey by SFCG. The conclusions were compared with the project outcomes to develop a set of practical recommendations for future actions.

### 1.6 Limitation of the Study

Some of the limitations during the review process were:

- The evaluation primarily covers information obtained from field visit to seven out of 14 working districts of SFCG (TPI). Therefore, it is likely that some key findings in remaining districts are missed out. The evaluation primarily covered information obtained from the field visits to seven working districts of SFCG out of the fourteen under the TPI project.
- The key TPI activities were evaluated based on the information received from KII and FGD undertaken by the review team with the field level stakeholders. The quantitative information was obtained from the survey conducted during the field visit by the SFCG team.
- For a number of reasons beyond the control of the review team, central level meeting in Kathmandu with other SFCG partner organizations could not be conducted. Consequently, the observations and conclusions cited in the report are solely based on the field observations in seven districts and interaction with SFCG official. In Bardiya, the assessment was limited to review of radio program of Gurbaba FM due to time constraints.
- The evaluation was not able to collect information from other districts where SFCG activity is limited to media programs.
CHAPTER 2: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

2.1 NATIONAL PEACEBUILDING CONTEXT

Nepal entered a new chapter in its political history with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) between the Government of Nepal (GoN) and the then Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) in November 2006. Following the CPA, series of programs were implemented to prevent conflict, foster resilience and build peace in the country.

Inequality in Nepalese society has been contributing to growing sense of dissatisfaction that was capitalized to fuel political instability in the past. Formal and informal rules and structures also have created dividing lines among various groups and restricted them from equitable access to resources. Youth who are particularly vulnerable to mobilization by armed rebel groups are having little opportunity to jobs, incomes and empowerment. Youth who have given up arms are more vulnerable to re-join the armed groups emerging across the country, especially in the Eastern Hills and Terai (if their problems are not addressed on time). Some sporadic fighting among the youth groups for various reasons (eg. political, ethnic, access to resources etc.) is still taking place in different parts of the country. These are more critical factors that need attention to restore peace in addition to the political agreement made among major political parties at the centre.

CPA has made provisions for socio-economic transformation agenda that speaks about equity, inclusion, and structural arrangements for good governance, addressing impunity, gender and social inequality and restructuring of the state. However, failure to draft new constitution and institutionalize state restructuring through federalism in the country and dissolution of Constitution Assembly (CA) has further created a state of confusion and has placed the country at the verge of potential violence.

2.2 PROJECT JUSTIFICATION UNDER EXISTING SITUATION

At the juncture of increasing frustration, programs designed to engage people, particularly the youth is essential. SFCG designed activities that aimed at promoting consensus-building among local stakeholders through dialogue, community actions and locally-produced radio programs, resulting in ‘TPI’ program that engaged with the media and youth who were appropriately considered as catalysts for positive change.

Youth are usually the most vulnerable group who can easily be tempted for quicker outcomes. If constructively engaged, in employment as well as in social transformation tasks, youth can easily act as catalyst to promote social harmony and peace in the community and the country.

In view of the existing conflict situation of the country, SFCG intervened to increase the participation of a range of key stakeholders from the local to national levels to resolve the differences that are likely to arise in non-adversarial manners. Hence the project, since its inception, has been focusing on the promotion of dialogue culture among and between the
communities and to increase communication for bridging the existing information gaps among them. Dialogue is also considered as an important tool for negotiation and consensus building which otherwise may lead to violent confrontations, particularly in a volatile situation where people feel less secure. To maximize its program impact and to reach the people at the community level, media was used as an important tool for peacebuilding. The concept of the program was that the radio program accompanied by interventions in communities, with leaders, and decision makers from local to national level would support to create an enabling environment for conflict transformation and peacebuilding from national to local level.

Realizing the importance of the role of youths in PB processes and their vulnerability to rejoin the armed underground groups, SFCG from the very beginning has been working with youth leaders whose transformation leads to the transformation of many others. Empowering youth and engaging them in addressing their development needs and building alliances between the adult-led and youth-led civil society organizations have been the basic approach of the program to restore communal harmony and peace under TPI.

2.3 OVERARCHING CONCEPT OF SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND

SFCG programming methodology is guided by a number of different principles and approaches. Its overarching concept and approach drives the design and implementation of the organization’s projects. In broader terms, the underlying concept and approaches used by SFCG comprises the following:

2.3.1 The Common Ground (CG) Approach

SFCG’s common ground approach is to shift the conflict situation from adversarial condition to cooperative solutions. Principals of the CG Approach that SFCG has adopted are:

- Conflict is normal and natural, but it can be solved in non-adversarial ways;
- Bring people together from across dividing lines to work together;
- Humanize the ‘other’ – build relationships across dividing lines and transform the perception of traditional adversaries;
- Use solution-oriented dialogue – focus on what joint solutions could be, rather than focus on the differences through dialogue, move to cooperative actions that build cooperation and strengthen relationships among people who may ordinarily be adversaries.

This CG approach has been used successfully around the world. SFCG has developed resources to apply the common ground under different situations and target groups such as the radio, youth and peacebuilding and good governance. The CG Approach focuses on the following changes at different levels:

- **Change perception of self** – from disempowered, victimized subject to an active citizen; from a fearful refugee to an integrated member of society; from a perpetrator of violence to a peace- and bridge-builder.
- **Change perception of "the other"** – challenging stereotypes and prejudices by giving people an opportunity to hear each other's stories and see one another's humanity.
• **Change perception of the issues** – helping parties focus on the source of the conflict by increasing their knowledge and understanding of the issues.
• **Transform the process** – model and demonstrate inclusive, participatory processes; train people to participate in them; and support the creation of new, more collaborative institutions at the community, national, regional and international level.


### 2.3.2 Integrated approach

This approach combines the use of media with different tools such as dialogue, capacity building in the form of training/workshops, one to one coaching, and community action activities. These components compliment each other, reinforcing the same objectives and messages, with media being used as a tool to reach wider audiences, and the leadership and community peacebuilding work having deeper impact on selected key participants. Working with decision makers – whether at the district or national levels, aims to create an enabling environment for conflict transformation and peacebuilding- from both top down to bottom up.

### 2.3.3 Working with youth approach

SFCG’s approach to work with youth is guided by the following key principles.

• **Work with influential youth leaders** ([multiplier youth]) – working with those who play leadership roles among their peers and whose transformation leads to the transformation of many others.
• **Create five-degree shifts** – through working with youth who are involved in violence or negative activities, not by "turning them around", but helping them to direct their energies and resources to positive activities.
• **Work directly with youth organizations** - (formal and informal that young people have created themselves to address their developmental needs). Working within those structures to empower them and to help them develop the skills needed to deliver effective programs.
• **Replace the power of the gun** – by developing programs that addresses the needs and motivations of youth.
• **Foster adult-youth partnerships** – building alliances between youth-led and adult-led civil society organizations.


### 2.3.4 The “T” approach
SFCG has conceptualized media and community peacebuilding programs as two mutually reinforcing streams of its program implementation. Both these program streams are implemented in an integrated manner, using what has come to be known as the “T” approach. The top of the “T” refers to the media programming which reaches across the country and large segment of the population of the country as its audience. SFCG has been producing 21 national and local radio shows reaching millions of people and influencing their knowledge and attitudes. The vertical axis of the “T” refers to targeted community PB activities through which SFCG is working with 10 local and national NGOs and youth networks, local government officials, and civil society in 16 districts.

(Sources: Programmatic Evaluation Report-TR Nepal and et.al. and TPI Project Proposal SFCG March 2011)

2.4 SFCG STRATEGIES

2.4.1 Gender strategy

As both young men and women have been involved in political and armed groups, SFCG targets both men and women as important actors in peacebuilding who have equal potentials to be either spoilers or facilitators of the peace process. SFCG has been making an effort to balance the participation of men and women in all programs such as training, workshops and dialogues. To ensure that the role of women is recognized, enhanced, and not undermined by the proposed initiative, gender analysis was included in the project design, and it played a major role in implementation, evaluation, and documentation, as well as training programs, staffing decisions, and program operations. This strategy was also applied in the process of hiring staff for SFCG activities at all levels- center to VDC.

SFCG expects to have the following gender specific outputs:

- A comprehensive understanding of gender analysis, and its relevance to all program activities;
- Reflection of gender analysis and gender considerations in the design and implementation of all media and training initiatives;
- Disaggregated data and indicators by gender, where appropriate;
- Gender specific outputs of the project’s media ‘products, including storylines and topics targeted at fostering gender equality and reducing gender based violence; and
- Gender consideration while selecting the participants for training and designing the content of training program.

(Source: TPI Project Proposal SFCG, March 2011)

2.4.2 Social inclusion strategy

Expectations from the peace process and the dividends that a new constitution will bring are soaring, especially among members of traditionally marginalized communities. Therefore, SFCG in its programs has been working with various marginalized communities to engage them in national peace process. This has included traditionally marginalized especially ethnic minority
groups, Madhesis and Dalits. SFCG also has considered rural youth as largely marginalized group and therefore they are also one of the target beneficiaries of the project.

The radio programs and community dialogues also have been providing a platform for marginalized groups to participate in solution oriented dialogue with local decision-makers and power brokers. The objective is to increase access of the marginalized communities to the membership of local institutions that are key actors in the peace process.

SFCG expects the following social inclusion-specific outputs:

- All program staff will have a comprehensive understanding of social inclusion, and its relevance to all program activities;
- Collected data and indicators will be disaggregated by caste and ethnicity, where appropriate;
- The media "products" will include specific outputs on bringing the voices of the marginalized and fostering interactions between members of marginalized communities and local power brokers;
- The radio drama will include storylines on caste discrimination;
- Specific outreach programs will be developed to target the members from the marginalized communities; and
- SFCG’s training programs will consider social inclusion both in participant selection and in the content of training program.

(Source: TPI Project Proposal SFCG, March 2011)
CHAPTER 3: STATUS AND ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 EVALUATION OF PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

SFCG’s initiative to look into its contribution to peacebuilding in Nepal is covered in three major strategic objectives and associated outcomes. These strategic outcomes form the basis for assessing SFCG contribution to peacebuilding. This evaluation is based on the standard SFCG evaluation policy, covering OECDDAC criteria.

3.2 IMPACT

Radio for Peacebuilding (R4PB) a capacity-building program for radio producers and presenters was designed to impart skills to produce radio talk shows in a way that contributes proactively and constructively in engaging key leaders to promote peacebuilding using the “Common Ground Approach.” The capacity building approach of radio producers was designed in three stages, 5-day residential training with two days of follow-up coaching sessions and concluding training of three days. It was designed as a learning by doing process adopted for increased training effectiveness.

R4PB and script writing training has helped in building the capacity of radio producers to have an in-depth analysis of different aspects of conflict in a more practical way. Considering the sensitivity of the issues to be addressed by the program, the trained producers and writers were found to be appropriately sensitive while selecting the plots, developing the content and presenting the issues. The training also enabled them to relate current issues in the surroundings with conflict and analyze them how they get out of hand if not addressed on time. The participants also learned how to create a win - win situation while undertaking conflict resolution exercises. Because of the training and understanding of the sensitivity of the issue, the topics covered by the radio programs did not encounter controversy and it became increasingly popular (Sangor in particular) even after the program closed. (Based on discussion with the participants)

"The 5-day training that I participated in at “Bhedetar” helped me to understand different stages of conflict and tools for analyzing them. I learnt how effectively media can bring people together to a common platform for a dialogue.”
Prem Bastola, Executive Director, New World

Initially R4PB training was provided to 56 radio professionals. The training helped the radio producers to be competent and to produce and broadcast talk show programs such as (FD/KD/CD). These producers were actively engaged in promoting solution oriented dialogues and facilitating the resolution of the local disputes in Siraha (Samagra FM), Dhanusa (Radio Madhesh FM) Bardiya (Gurbaba FM) and in Dang (Naya Yug FM). The training also enabled local
media producers to address conflict as cross cutting issues while developing additional media programs.

The quantitative findings show that nearly 84% of radio listeners trust partially/fully on the information they receive from radio programs (refer annex 1; fig. 6.3). This is attributed mainly to the improved quality of program produced and broadcasted from radio by trained radio producers. Those who trusted the radio a lot for information were 29% at the baseline and 37% in the endline, followed by those who trusted the newspaper were 27% in the baseline which increased to 36% at the endline. Those who trusted the online media for information were 2% in the baseline and 15% in the endline. (7.3)

The radio dialogue (talk-show) has developed a common platform for initiating discussion among people from across dividing lines. It was observed during the field visit that the impact of radio dialogue in resolving local disputes and bringing the conflicting party together was recognized by many youth at the community level. The popularity of radio talk show enhanced credibility of the radio programs in general and the information disseminated. A 7% increase (from 21% to 28%) was noted in public perception that radio plays an important role in increasing community awareness. (See Annex 1) It was found that those who said they got information on peacebuilding and conflict management from the radio were 33% in the baseline and 40% in the endline and those who received information from the newspaper were 24% at the baseline and 20% in the endline. (7.2)

The evaluation observed that consensus building and leadership training provided to local leaders (LPC members, VDC secretaries and local political leaders in particular) contributed in imparting positive attitude towards communal harmony in their constituencies.

SFCG training has provided me an opportunity to understand how it addresses the local level conflict and its implications at the national level conflict resolution process. SAMAGRA has been contributing to engage youth in peacebuilding process; however they need to extend the VDC coverage for realizing its impact at the district level. Coverage of four out of 116 VDCs cannot represent the larger picture of the district. We are also not aware of the VDCs selection criteria. In my understanding, there are more villages in the south of the district where SFCG programs should intervene. The programs should focus on awareness raising as well as educating citizens on moral education and entrepreneurship development. Such programs could help youth and locals to have significant influence on the conflict dynamics and reinforce positive factors in the community.

SAMAGRA program is incorporated in annual district plan and approved by district council. There is no formal monitoring and reporting system developed so far. Involvement of DDC in monitoring and evaluation of SAMAGRA program may help DDC to support such program or to run through its own fund in the future. We have good understanding about the project that needs to change to maintain functional relation.”

Arun Sha, Program Officer, DDC Siraha
One of the strengths of TPI project was that it supported in building capacities of the intermediary institutions and the local decision makers that are directly or indirectly involved in peacebuilding processes at the local level. The project intended to complement its radio program with community activities and change the perception of local leaders and decision makers to look at different parameters of conflict and foster their constructive engagement in the peace process at the local level. Major changes brought about by training local authorities are reinforced during the conversation with VDC secretaries and DDC officials.

“We learned new skills and knowledge which supported us at the local level. The LDM training has enhanced my capacity to deal with the local issues and mobilize youth for development activities.”

Jaya Ram Chaudhari, Bankatti VDC Secretary, Banke.

“After the training I was able to convince myself and the local political leaders that the role of youth clubs can be a catalyst in the process of local decision making.”

Bal Krishna Chaudhari, Kamdi VDC Secretary, Banke

“I started orienting youth clubs once I had the chance to participate in the LDM training. This helped me to mobilize youth in the VDC activities. This was impossible for me to handle numbers of projects that comes to VDC secretariat. The collaborative work on ‘Open Toilet Free Zone’ has been a great success. Until now, 78% of households have already made toilets within a year. It would have been impossible for me to implement this project along with other projects in the community, if I had not got the help of youth.”

Shambhu Ram Rauniyar, Bela VDC Secretary, Dang

From the endline survey it was seen that those who had not participated in such training/activities were 69%. Those who had applied the learned skills and knowledge into practice were 65% while there were 20% of the respondents who had not put into practice the skills and knowledge acquired from the training. 15% of the respondents reported not being able to say.

The positive attitude of DDC officials towards peacebuilding activities were noted in Siraha and Banke districts. Their willingness to support what they call SAMAGRA or DYCN program, to a large extent, to incorporate SFCG programs within DDC Annual Plan was a strong evidence of institutionalization and therefore sustainability of SFCG initiated programs. This environment is the result of exposure training provided to the concerned government officials of the district based concerned sectoral agencies including DDC planning officers and WDO officials. There is also possibility of further incorporating SFCG initiated peacebuilding activities with the regular DDC program. This needs to be supported with a proper communication, monitoring and evaluation system and joint working modality among the partner organizations and DDC officials.
The changes observed in working modality of the trained VDC secretaries and attitudinal changes in the LPC members and DDC officials toward PB processes were visible and encouraging. Unlike in the past, more participatory processes were used in decision making processes of the VDC. Youth are being mobilized by VDC to implement its regular programs at the community level.

According to the baseline and endline survey results, those who reported being invited to the VDC level meeting were 49% at the baseline and 54% at the endline. While there were 51% of the respondents who reported not being invited to the VDC level meetings, the number decreased to 46% at the endline. In terms of responses from those between the ages of 16-29, the respondents who reported being invited to VDC level meetings at the baseline was 49% and at the endline 70%. Those who reported not being invited to such meetings were 30% at the endline while there were 51% at the baseline. (4.2.3) In terms of participation in the meetings held in their community, a total of 49% had not participated in the baseline and at the endline the number decreased to 45%. Those who reported having participated were 55% at the endline and 51% at the baseline.

The LDM training provided practical information to local leaders on developing trust over youth and women and the importance of their participation in decision making processes and resource mobilization. Though LDMs have developed positive attitude towards peacebuilding processes, initiation of any activity to complement peacebuilding through youth mobilization has been limited to the VDCs. The DDC, LPC or government line offices are yet to organize themselves to focus their activities for PB.

"Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue program organized by DYCN has exposed district level stakeholders to the different parameters of conflict and imparted knowledge on how it can be resolved through dialogue. In fact DYCN is supporting LPC by organizing such awareness programs for peacebuilding at the district and local levels."

Tara Khatri, Office Secretary, LPC, Banke

The endline survey showed slight increase (22% to 33%) in the level of satisfaction of the community members over the commitment and implementation of DDC/ VDC activities. Similarly, during this period community satisfaction about LPC activities that promote peace has also gone up from 1% to 7% (refer annex 1; fig.2.5 for detail). The baseline and endline comparison result show the level of satisfaction over the activities carried out by the VDC/DDC was 2.84 in the baseline and in the endline the mean value increased to 3.17. (Mean value: 1 not satisfied to 5 very satisfied)

There was a significant increase in the awareness and confidence level of women engaged in group activities through SFCG program. Their initiatives are being recognized more by the community induced by increased freedom of women expression (refer annex 1; fig 4.3) across the dividing lines. The survey reveals that women collaboration in community activities have increased from 11% to 19% after project interventions (refer annex 1; fig.4.2). The baseline and endline survey results also show that those who reported women to have insignificant or no participation increased from 16% at the baseline to 22% in the endline. Those who said that there
is collaboration on women initiative and results also increased from 11% in the baseline to 19% in the endline. (5.2)

The training provided to local political party representatives helped them to improve their personal relation with community youth and adults as there was an increase in collaboration between the local political leaders and the community people during the project period. During the survey, 22% of youth mentioned that leaders of different political parties have good relation with them, work in partnership and are positive to decision making (See Annex 1).

The program impact is distinctly visible with increased level of trust of community youth and adults towards LDMs and collaborative activities that are taking place at the local level. Improved understanding of youth on peacebuilding measures and their interest to participate in development activities through local level institutions (VDC, DYCN) has contributed to improving harmony and peace within the community.

3.3 LEVEL OF CHANGES OBSERVED

The theories of change of SFCG programs are normally assessed from the changes occurred at the four levels of conflict transformation: personal, relational, structural and cultural.

The impact of the project was assessed at different levels of changes among the project participants- the youth, LDMs and radio producers. The programmatic evaluation made by SFCG in 2010 showed some impact made by the project at the personal level. Progress is observed in relational level and to some extent at the structural level.

The following observations were made on the level of changes observed.

Changes at personal level: It relates with the changes brought by project intervention in the attitude and behavior of the target groups. Though in small pocket areas, changes were observed among SFCG actors on their working attitude on peacebuilding events. Personal capacity of radio producers was increased and they played important roles in producing radio programs that appealed to the listeners to a large extent. Mediation capacity of youth in dealing with local conflict and resolving family conflicts at the community level has increased.

The endline and baseline survey findings show that there were 22% of respondents who reported that disputes were resolved in the baseline, the number of respondents who agreed with the same increased to 26%. Those who reported that disputes were not resolved decreased from 6% to 3%. (3.7) when asked about their role in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, 62% of the respondents reported on having their active participation in the endline while there were 35% of the respondents who agreed with the same in the baseline. If there were 13% of the respondents who said that their participation did not matter, in the endline the number of respondents who reported the same reduced to 9%.

The attitude and behavior of LDMs towards youth activities in the community has changed as more youth activities were recognized by authorities at the local level. The survey
findings indicates that 46% of youth have easy approach to concerned VDC and DDC authorities and 74% of trained LDMs showed increase in knowledge, skill and understanding on peacebuilding processes. The baseline and endline survey results show that 39% of the respondents in the baseline reported they are able to meet the local administrative officers only after many efforts, the number of those who reported the same decreased to 15% in the endline. Those who reported that they can meet the local administrative officer very often increased from 18% in the baseline to 30% in the endline. Those who reported of difficulty in meeting the officers despite having permission were 16% in the baseline and 14% in the endline. More collaborative interactions for peace promotion advocacy are taking place between the local institutions and the youth networks. Survey showed that 70% of youth were invited to attend VDC meetings (source TPI updated logical framework: SFCG).

When asked about the role of the local leaders in peacebuilding, if in the baseline 33% of the respondents said that leaders only talk, those who said the same decreased to 27% at the endline. 20% in the baseline and 22% at the endline said that leaders have important role and have done something. However, those who said that leaders have not done anything increased from 19% in the baseline to 25% in the endline. It’s also interesting to note that those who said that leaders have done as per their commitment increased from 1% at the baseline to 15% in the endline

I. **Changes at relational level:** It refers to the contact among and between the actors who are interlinked in achieving the objective of peacebuilding process. Active participation of youth groups in VDC meetings and resource distribution processes without any objections from local political party representatives was a notable progress. Elder’s acceptance over youth activities and their involvement in local conflict mediation and the recognition of their verdict by the community is gaining momentum. Some local projects have started to link their activities with SFCG youth groups. Increased trust of family over their female members and changed perception are evident as more women have started to participate in community development activities. Adults who believe that cooperation with youth is important for the peace process has gone up from 4% in the past to 25%. Around 68% of youth across the dividing lines reported that they have participated in local decision making meetings and events held by various organizations in their community. (source TPI updated logical framework: 2012)

II. **Changes at structural level:** It covers the change in systems and structures. The projects contributed to some structural changes in aligning youth groups with VDC institutions, and this manifested in regular coordination and meetings between members of these institutions. Apart from this, no other notable structural level change was observed.

The cooperative activities for income generation of youth may support in meeting their basic needs and maximize youth participation in decisions that affect them. From the field visits, it was assessed that most of the structures of these cooperatives were weakly linked with VDC level support organizations such as banks, lending agencies, technical backstopping organizations etc. Structural level changes could be achieved through the
promotion of such income generating cooperative groups. There are 19 seed grant activities (*TPI Updated logical framework 2012*) in eastern and central Madhes that still need coordination with other service providing organizations to sustain their activities.

III. **Changes at cultural level:** It refers to the changes in cultural pattern of the community that occurs during peace and conflict situation. Increased women participation in community level decision making process was the key achievement of the project.

The survey revealed that 38% female of youth category reported that they have participated in training and other activities such as community dialogue, seed grant and other youth targeted activities organized by SFCG and its partner organizations *(source: *TPI Logical framework updated 2012)*

The youth groups formed to work across the dividing lines is noted to be weak at the implementation level. No heterogeneous youth groups were observed in majority of the villages. The dividing feelings of Madhesh – Pahad still prevails. Inclusive groups with *dalits* and non-*dalit* sarerare.

The project succeeded in bringing about some changes at personal and relational levels, whereas only limited changes were observed at structural level. The project needs to sustain its initiatives to impart changes at the cultural level.

### 3.4 RELEVANCE/ APPROPRIATENESS

After signing the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) between Unified Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist (UCPN-M) and the then Government of Nepal in November 2006, the country entered into a new chapter in its political history. Following this historic event, SFCG/Nepal has implemented several programs that aimed at contributing to building peace and fostering resiliency at the community level. The TPI was initiated with focus on two key target groups; the radio professionals and the local community including youth, local decision makers and political leaders.

TPI initiatives in peacebuilding sought to promote consensus building among local communities through dialogue, community actions and radio programs. Radio programs accompanied by community works were expected to maximize impact on developing social harmony and maintaining peace at different levels-national to local. The quality of radio drama and the dialogue programs has been very effective to change the perception of local youth, leaders and decision makers towards developing and initiating collaborative actions to maintain peace at the local level. The Radio Soap Opera Listenership Survey 2012 indicates that 64% of the youth perceived that the radio drama has helped to prevent and resolve interpersonal and social conflict, though their degree of perception varies- moderately (33%), well (23%) and very well (8%). Similarly, 65% (33% moderate, 23% well & 9% Very well) of youth reported increase in youth awareness against social evil and other youth related problems, while 44% agree (19% moderately, 19% well and 6% very well) that youth involved with underground groups have returned back to the society.
radio programs which covered ground reality of the conflict issues have helped to create understanding among the confused youth who were influenced from the underground activities.

Capacity enhancement activities have changed the perception of youth, women, people from excluded communities and other concerned stakeholders (LDMs, political party representatives and civil society leaders) and enabled them to develop environment for conflict transformation and peacebuilding – from both top down to bottom up. According to a survey, 76% of respondents reported that youth collaborate with other diverse groups of youth across the dividing line (political, caste, geographical, economical, gender, religion) having different interest, views and ideas (TPI Logframe, 2012). The baseline and endline survey show that the number of respondents who reported that the youth from their community worked in collaboration with other youth who held different views and ideas than theirs increased from 59% to 76%. (3.8)

Capacity development of the radio professionals and local partner organizations has produced constructive impact on mobilizing youth, LDMs and radio professionals to engage them in the peace process and to participate in other components of the program. Youth are now more engaged in resolving local conflicting issues as compared to the past and the community has started listening to the youth more.

Support from trained local partner organizations for youth initiation has succeeded in providing conflict-sensitive and socially inclusive development activities. Such activities provided opportunities for the marginalized to participate in peacebuilding processes.

Social exclusion has been referred to by project both as the root cause of the conflict in the Terai and as a symptom of poor governance and weak national level support for marginalized groups. Implementation of community youth driven programs through local youth clubs have demonstrated how community themselves can respond to the immediate needs of the citizen through resolving local conflict.

LDM training provided to local authorities (VDC secretaries, DDC officials) encouraged them to provide access to youth and women groups over government resources. Youth and women groups have started receiving grant fund from VDC to implement their programs and their participation in VDC decision making processes has increased. Similarly, the program under seed grant fund has helped the youth, women and marginalized people to be more confident.

“The radio drama ‘Sangor’ was able to capture the sentiments of listeners who had hard times from Madhesh Andolan. The topics of the radio drama covered ground realities obtained through research at the community level. As a writer, I was aware about the need to balance both political and social issues while developing the plot into drama. ‘Sangor’ is still popular among people. I have found that people are quite interested to continue to listen to it. To maintain its popularity and help support the peace process, such drama should be re-produced to address the changed conflict context of Terai.”

Anita Chaudhari, Sangor, Radio Drama Writer, Siraha
Moreover, the level of trust of elders and local leaders on youth and women has increased due to their engagement in community development activities, and it has helped to build dialogue culture within the community.

### 3.5 EFFECTIVENESS

Considering the sensitivity of the issues to be addressed by the radio program, the trained radio professionals under R4PB showed quality not only in selecting the plot for presentation but also succeeded in presenting the issues in an interesting way with the use of appropriate language and without being an offense to any community, ethnic groups or those engaged in armed conflicts. The radio programs, particularly Sangor was popular among the youth because of its structure and presentation. These radio programs have also been successful in motivating the youth to participate in the peacebuilding processes independent of their ideology or groups. 70% of the youth population from eastern and central terai reported that they listened to Sangor radio drama (Listenership Survey 2012)

Similarly, radio dialogue program under TPI (KD/FD/CD) covered diverse topics ranging from conflict resolution to information dissemination as part of peacebuilding process.

The evaluation found that the Solution oriented Radio-talk show is applying the ‘common ground approach’. SFCG has also been supporting the production and broadcasting of 17 local and regional level radio talk shows. The locally-driven programs such as youth training for peacebuilding have been successful in getting key people to publicly engage in dialogue on contentious issues and, in many instances, have directly contributed in reducing violence and finding solutions to the conflict. SFCG’s training program under R4PB provided tools to radio professionals on fostering dialogue and cooperation and playing a constructive role in peacebuilding processes through radio programs. No social or political controversy over the SFCG initiated radio programs was noted in the community. It confirms the effectiveness of the design and approach of the radio program.

"There are good evidences of how Khulla Dharti has been a catalyst in promoting peace in the community. For instance, in Lahan there was a conflict between property owners and Road Division Office on the expansion of roads and the compensation the owners expected to get. Though the community (except for owners) was supportive of the road widening, but with the backup from local leaders the owners were against it. Khulla Dharti raised the issue and invited the conflicting groups for a dialogue. Due to the pressure from the community, the property owners agreed to expand the road with appropriate compensation for their houses as agreed by Road Division Office, Lahan. The consensus was made following the common ground approach."

Baidhya Nath Yadav, Khulla Dharti Program Producer, Siraha
Khulla Dharti (KD) has provided opportunity for people to initiate dialogue on resolving practical issues that appeared across different social, ethnic and political lines. It has helped to resolve mistrust and misunderstanding on different local issues and has developed a culture of cooperation. For example, a local club in Janakpur started constructing its office in the premises of Dhanus Sagar—a public natural pond in front of Ram Mandir. It was opposed by the local community. Realizing the gravity of the situation KD brought authority of the club and representative of the opposition group for a dialogue. Finally, the club withdrew the construction on religious grounds and the issue was resolved in consensus of both the parties. The possibility of violence was averted.”

Bipti Mandal, Listener, Khulla Dharti, Radio Madesh, Dhanusa

The R4PB training has also enabled the radio producers to assess conflict situation at the local level and relate them to the existing political, social and economic issues at the community level. The radio producers have developed their capacity to understand the underlying factors of conflict and swiftly respond to them through solution oriented dialogues, while facilitating local ownership and understanding of the local issues. In many cases the radio dialogue programs have succeeded to nip the conflict before it could spread its root.

"Once there was an issue about celebrating the memorial of a communist leader in two different places under the leadership of two district leaders-Mr. Ram Chandra Mandal and Roshan Jankpuri both from the UCPM-Maoist political party. They were not at good terms and refused to reconcile even when the party was not divided. The radio training had provided me knowledge about how local unattended issues can blow up to violent conflict. So, I decided to invite both of them to join the radio dialogue program without telling them about their counterparts. Initially, I was concerned that they may not turn up, but they did. Before the dialogue program, I had also collected voices of the community who wanted to organize the memorial program at one place. The radio dialogue between two leaders supported to resolve the issue and both leaders agreed to organize the memorial program at a common place respecting the community’s voice. The voice of common people in this case, to my understanding, is the common ground that succeeded to bring two leaders of different opinion but following same political ideology together.”

Ghanashyam K. Mishra ; Radio Producer, Madhes FM, Janakpur

The LDM training provided to various local level stakeholders enabled them to see the conflicting issues through different perspectives. The idea behind improving the skills of the decision makers and leaders at district and national levels was to create an enabling environment for conflict transformation and peacebuilding- from both top down to bottom up. The capacity building component under consensus building and common ground approach focused on bringing changes on the attitude and behavior of the leaders and local decision makers, including youth, in order to engage them constructively in the peacebuilding process. The field survey findings indicate that the percentage of youth who think LDM have important role in speeding up development programs if they work in collaboration with youth has gone up to 39% from 21% (TPI logical framework updated 2012).
New World, SFCG regional partner, began producing the radio drama “Sangor” in Maithili language in 2009. This radio program was aimed at promoting constructive youth involvement in the peace process at the local level. The drama covered topics to prevent youth involvement in violence by motivating them to give up arms and join the mainstream process of community development. The radio drama appeared to be helpful in reinforcing the youth learning and peacebuilding capacity. This program concluded after broadcasting 165 episodes in three years period (2009-2012).

"Once I got the chance to participate in the training provided by SFCG in partnership with Samagra. This training helped to increase my understanding on different issues and also my family and neighbors began to trust my work. Nowadays, my family members allow me to participate in programs organized by MahilaJagaran Kendra. I am happy that I have been able to gain the trust and convince the male members of my own family. Their attitude towards me has changed.”

Kalpana Adhikary, Mahila Jagaran Kendra, Mahuli, Saptari

The popularity of the Sangor drama among the youth was evidently very high. Though funding for broadcasting of this drama was made available only to 13 FMs, 20 FM radios of eastern and central Nepal broadcasted it. According to the listenership survey report 2012 (SFCG), 68% of youth in eastern region of the country listened to the Sangor program and out of them 57% were regular listeners. Similarly, out of 70% of the youth who were NBNP listeners, 37% were regular listeners (Source: The Radio Soap Opera listenership survey, SFCG 2012)

The Sangor listeners who were interviewed were not happy over its closure and have requested its producers to continue the program. According to the New World Director Prem Bastola, listeners having been sending requests to continue the program. Considering the requests from the listeners, radio Madhesh FM of Janakpur is rebroadcasting the old episodes of the program.

It was evident that the short term training provided has helped the youth particularly the women, to improve the level of interaction with different stakeholders within the community. The endline survey results indicate that the youth participation in community meetings has increased by a small margin (from 51% to 55%) during the project period

The peacebuilding training provided to youth on leadership and peacebuilding enabled them to participate in resolving local conflict through local mediation centres situated in their VDC. For example, Bishnu Bhattarai of Vadiya VDC of Siraha and Devaka Adhikari in Mahauli VDC of Saptari informed about their participation in conflict resolution through a mediation centre.

Exposing stakeholders on a different range of skills such as collaborative leadership and dialogue, understanding of consensus building process, dispute resolution and local governance are noted to be effective. About 62% compared to 35% in baseline have now realized the importance of their participation in PB processes. The training has benefitted women more as their activities are being recognized by their family members. Distinct differences can be observed between the trained and non-trained youth within the community. Such differences, though in lesser degree, is observed within the members of the organized groups as well. With more exposure to PB
processes, the youth have started demanding more skill improving training in new areas such as grievance handling and negotiation etc. along with refresher trainings.

A training was organized for the decision makers to enhance their capacity of bringing consensus among diverse stakeholders, building leadership skills for peacebuilding and engaging youth in decision making processes. The objective was to expose them to International (UN) and national youth policies. It was aimed at initiating a joint working culture between the government and CBOs. More youth activities were incorporated in the VDC annual plan after initiation of constructive involvement of youth in PB processes.

The baseline/endline surveys indicate that the financial support from the VDCs for youth activities have increased by 13%. There was a decrease in the number of respondents who reported that budget has not been sanctioned for the youth in the community from 40% in the baseline to 26% in the endline.

There is interaction among various dividing lines, gender in particular in the project VDCs, this shows that the confidence level of women has increased along with their improved capacity of understanding, analyzing and resolving conflict at the local settings. The endline survey shows that the capacity of women in resolving dispute has increased from 17% to 24%

Increased confidence among local women encouraged them to initiate local enterprises and use the short term entrepreneurship training provided by SFCG. Such effort of linking youth PB activities with their local entrepreneurship is likely to succeed in sustaining such activities for longer period. The success of enterprise is expected to improve the status of youth in the community. More effort is required to include marginalized groups in PB processes.

"After receiving LDM training I have realized the importance of youth participation in VDC decision making processes, particularly in VDC resource distribution. As a local decision maker, I have learnt how to make collective decision." Jaya Ram Chaudhari; Bankatti VDC Secretary Banke

Mrs. Radhika Lama a widow of BishnupurKatti VDC lost her only son who was studying in Kathmandu. Her married daughter was living with her husband in another VDC quite far from her mother. One of her close relatives (daughter-in law in relation), living next door, blamed her that she lost her son because she is a witch craft practitioner and now she fears that the witch may even kill her husband. The old widow who was already shattered from the death of her son was shocked to hear such an accusation. Her daughter came to defend the mother and conflict between two close relatives began to heighten. The women group members mediated and succeeded to convince the women who blamed the old lady that there is no science of witchcraft as such and did not look nice to blame the lady who is already in trouble. The group succeeded and there are no women suffering from such harassment in the village.”

Asani K. Lama, Member of Suna Gava Youth Club; BishnupurKatti, Siraha
“Our role in the mediation has improved and even the formal organizations have started asking for our assistance in resolving the local issues that appears in the society. Recently, a Chaudhari boy from Dhanusa, who used to work in Jhapa, and local Bhattarai girl from Jhapa eloped. The girls’ parents lodged the complaint in Jhapa police station. They were stopped by the police at Mahauli as both of them were heading to Dhanusa. The Mahuli police brought the girl to our office in midnight and asked us to convince the girl. After having interview with the boy we were convinced that he had some other intention rather than marrying the girl. We succeeded in convincing the girl and she decided to go back to her parents. Next day, she was handed to her father who came to Mahuli from Jhapa to receive his daughter.”

Devaka Adhikari, Mahila Jagaran Kendra. Mahauli, Saptari

Women members engaged in group activities are noted to have sound knowledge on the existing conflict scenario and threats surrounding them. They have gained knowledge on how to resolve such issues which may escalate to higher degree of conflict if not resolved immediately. Many incidences of injustice meted out to women such as false accusation of witchcraft have been resolved by these groups. The survey report indicates that women involvement in PB processes is increasing. Around 62% women believed that they should participate in peacebuilding and conflict resolution activities

Under its youth mobilization activities, SFCG organized dialogue sessions in various colleges in Banke and Bardiya. These programs were initiated to develop dialogue culture among the college teachers, administrators and the students. According to DYCN members in Banke, these programs helped to break the ice between the teachers, students and the college administration. The beneficiaries perceive that such dialogue has helped to build better relationship, increase political tolerance, promote a non-adversarial culture of conflict management and enhance the leadership qualities among the students.

The mutual trust between youth and elders is generally weak. Radio programs under SFCG have succeeded in changing the negative perceptions of the elders towards their juniors and vice-versa. However, no differences were observed in the situation of marginalized people, dalits in particular, as no heterogeneous youth groups formation were noted with engagement of dalits and non-dalits.

Additionally, at family level, there is increased level of trust of elders (female and male) towards their female members (daughters, sisters and in-laws) resulting in increase in quality of participation. The girls have started to share the issues raised during the meeting with their parents/guardians for advice and suggestions. This has been very helpful for having multiplier effect of the process within the community as more families have started to trust their sisters and daughters and in-laws.

As a result of youth mobilization and LDM training provided to VDC secretaries, VDCs are inviting youth to participate in its regular meetings and are providing support to conduct youth programs through youth clubs. Participation of youth that used to be on average 6 events has now gone up to 8 events. Increment of 38% is observed. (source: TPI logical framework 2012)
The grant fund was made available to the successful groups through their youth clubs. Comparatively, this was a new initiation under SFCG, where registered cooperatives under youth activities are providing good examples for youth, women in particular. In Bhadaiya VDC of Siraha, two youth clubs (women and men) have initiated joint cooperative farming through TPI grant fund program. The farming is at the initial stage, and is observed that such activities under seed grant fund is hard to survive unless a mechanism for continuous support (technical and services) for few more years is developed. The saving and credit cooperatives in Mahauli, Saptari are investing their fund on economic promotion activities and some others are utilizing it in small scale industry like poultry, trade (vegetable and other agriculture products) and in cooperative agriculture farming.

The R4PB participants from Samagra FM began “Nayako Khoji” (Looking for Justice) radio program that intends to address the issues around violence against women. Similarly, Radio Madhesh FM in Janakpur is taking initiative to conduct radio dialogue program for resolving local conflict and disseminating peacebuilding information through its radio dialogue program- KD.

### 3.6 IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

SFCG implemented the TPI program in collaboration with national partner (AFN), regional partners New World, Far Western Media Development Centre (FMDC) and local partners (district based NGOs e.g. Samagra in the east and four local youth clubs in four western districts) who were identified as capable organizations to bring in leadership, knowledge and expertise in the peacebuilding areas.

During the field visit, positive change was observed in the perception of youth and other TPI stakeholders towards peace process. The project also succeeded in creating a culture of listening among youth for resolving local conflict. It has also helped them to analyze the situation before arriving at any conclusions. Similarly, the project also encouraged youth to work through existing local institutions for carrying out development activities and maintaining social harmony. This indicates that the project activities have modeled the Common Ground Approach.

SFCG adopted a reflective Design Monitoring and Evaluation (DM&E) system to identify concrete changes emerging from the project. A comprehensive monitoring data base was developed for producing timely and disaggregated data as and when required. An effective system was developed to provide information to the project implementation team for further improvement of the project activities to ensure maximum possible benefit to the target community and the population.

During the first six months of the project, SFCG carried out a comprehensive baseline survey that aimed at assessing people’s perception on the role of different key actors including the youth, women, leaders, media and education sector in PB process and level and type of their participation in decision making processes. The initial logframe of TPI activities was updated during its implementation period.

SFCG formulated a detailed mechanism to monitor TPI activities and provided support to its partner organizations to enhance their M&E capacity and also conducted listenership surveys of
the radio programs NBNP, Sangor and radio dialogue programs. SFCG provided support to enhance the capacity of its partners to conduct district level pre/post evaluation. A regular monitoring system of youth activities have been established in Samagra in the east and YCN and DYCN in the west. Regular reporting system was established in the partner organizations at the district level.

Periodic listener’s surveys were conducted both by SFCG and the partner organizations producing radio programs to monitor their quality of production and broadcasting. Listenership survey for radio programs like Sangor, NBNP and dialogue programs were also conducted to assess their impact on peacebuilding processes.

The periodic monitoring and evaluation system developed by the project has made the program more flexible at the implementation level and adjust the program in local environment for achieving the project objectives. The mechanism developed by the project for quality monitoring of the project activities and constant follow up has supported the project to be more result oriented.

The project made evaluation provision of the ongoing activities every six months. This helped to understand the status, implementation process, role played by partner organizations achievements made, constraints etc. established strong feedback mechanism has supported to create an environment of trust between the stakeholders and project authorities.

It was observed during the field visit that the TPI activities were commenced on time except for the second phase of the seed grant fund which was provided to youth groups in the last phase of the project. However, most of the organized youth groups still need additional professional development training and coordination mechanism with existing district/village level service providing institution.

3.7 SUSTAINABILITY

The three specific objectives of SFCG are (i) to develop the capacity of key stakeholders (media person, LDM and youth) to engage them constructively in PB process (ii) to foster solution oriented dialogue on key elements of CPA and peace process at various levels and (iii) to foster constructive engagement of youth and LDM in peace process at local level.

It is understood that presence of SFCG in Nepal is for longer term, as its commitment to support and empower key stakeholder groups in the ongoing peace process. TPI has strong capacity building component that has contributed in building the capacity of a range of key stakeholders including the media, youth and the national and local decision makers. The project also aims to foster dialogue and facilitate connections between youth, LDMs and local politicians. The relationships established during the project period are expected to help in continuity of the cooperation and collaboration between youth and the local governmental agencies even beyond the project period.

The radio program, dialogue in particular, was designed specifically for the transition period to address the contentious issues related to the implementation of the CPA. However, in view of the effectiveness of the radio dialogue programs in resolving conflict of all magnitudes, youth expect to continue such dialogue programs, even after the closure of TPI. Due to the cost involved in
producing quality dialogue programs, the local FMs are hesitant to use trained producers. However, the project has made significant contribution to develop the capacity of the local radio producers to use common ground approach in radio programs.

SFCG has used radio programs (drama and dialogue) with the objective of motivating local youth and encourage them to participate in peacebuilding processes. The radio programs in terms of their popularity and impact are found to have succeeded in achieving their objectives. However termination of popular radio programs like Sangor, NBNP and radio dialogue like KD/FD/CD has created a gap that no other local FMs have succeeded to fill. The high cost of production of SFCG radio programs (Sangor, NBNP) has made it difficult for other radio stations to replicate the programs. Local youth are missing such research oriented quality radio programs that used to provide multi-pronged peace message in an appealing way.

Discontinuation of many radio programs under SFCG has limited the use of trained producers in using their skills they have received. Retaining these trained people to engage in peacebuilding radio programs now appears as a challenge to sustain quality radio program for peacebuilding.

Some multiplier effect is also noted as SAMAGRA FM has started “Nayako Khoji” radio program that intends to address the issues of “Violence against women” based on the skill the producers received from R4PB training program. Other FMs have not taken any initiatives to conduct radio dialogue in the western program districts.

Changes brought about by training to local authorities were observed among VDC secretaries and DDC planning officers. The positive attitude of DDC officials towards peacebuilding activities were noted both in Siraha and Banke. Their willingness to support SAMAGRA or DYCNI program to a larger extent to incorporate SFCG program within DDC annual plan is a strong evidence of institutionalization and therefore sustainability of SFCG initiated programs. This environment is the result of exposure training provided to the concerned government officials of the district based sectoral agencies including DDC planning officers and WDO officials in addition to some VDC secretaries. There is also possibility of incorporating SFCG initiated peacebuilding activities with the regular DDC program if a proper communication, monitoring and evaluation system and working modality are developed among the partner organizations and DDC officials.

VDC secretaries interviewed in Siraha and Lamahi reported that political party representatives are insecure over youth involvement in resource distribution and annual plan formulation of VDC as more youth (increment by 30%) are aware of the resource distribution criteria of VDC (See annex 1). LDM training to VDC secretaries have been very fruitful to support youth to reflect their voices in VDC proceedings. More VDC resources are being used for youth activities (See annex 1). Transfer of VDC secretaries within and outside the district is observed as the major hindrance to sustain the process of youth involvement in VDC resource allocation and encourage their participation in decision making.

The constructive engagement of youth in PB process has just started to gain momentum. The short term trainings provided to youth groups have increased the confidence among them however, they need further support to establish recognition of their activities (social and economic)
Presently initiated economic activities of these groups (cooperative farming, poultry, meat marketing) may not sustain for long as they are not further capacitated and linked their activities with district/village based public sector service providing institutions.

Effort to integrate peacebuilding activities under TPI with local institutions is a landmark for sustaining youth mobilization to engage them for community development. However, it has been observed that unless there are some income generating activities, no such activities can sustain on its own. Initiation of economic activities through cooperatives is at a very early stage and its sustainability without further support (technical and financial) and maintaining of links with local service providing institutions is difficult to ensure.

### 3.8 COORDINATION

The LDM training objective was to focus on emphasizing collaborative effort among different stakeholders for encouraging youth, women and LDMs to work together for peacebuilding and community development activities.

The training was successful in providing practical information to LDMs (DDC, VDC officials, local representatives of different political parties, youth and local elites) on prioritizing positive perception towards youth and women and the importance of their participation in decision making processes and resource mobilization. The coordinated approach in decision making and youth mobilization developed by VDC at the local level is noteworthy. More youth have started getting support from VDCs after the initiation of coordinated approach (See Annex 1). TPI programs being approved by the respective district council, their chances of having program level coordination with DDC are high provided a functional monitoring and evaluation system is developed.

SFCG district based working partners maintained coordination with district and village level local institutions. SFCG district programs are incorporated with annual district development plan of DDC. However the functional link is weak.

There are a number of other I/NGOs engaged in community development activities in TPI supported VDCs. In Bishnupurkatti VDC of Siraha, NGOs like INSEC, WOREC, and RRN are working in the field of human rights, health, violence against women, rural infrastructure development etc. Functional coordination of the project has not been observed with programs under other organizations. It was also observed that the same women group in Bishnupurkatti VDC is using seed money both from SFCG (TPI) and RRN (for toilet construction).

DYCN being district based partner organization of SFCG, the activities under youth clubs in the west are better coordinated with district level youth promotion activities organized under various flags. DYCN is also maintaining linkages with other local level decision makers (LPC) for exchanging knowledge and is implementing peace advocacy programs jointly. Samagra, the partner organization, was assigned to implement program in four districts with its head office in Lahan. It is observed that level of coordination and communication with district level stakeholders
(DDC in particular) is not in the same footings. A difference in the level of coordination among four DDCs of the eastern cluster has been observed.

Some gaps in institutional linkages at the local level was found. The poultry farm established under YI seed grant program in Chaulahi VDC of Dang (poultry), Gadawa VDC (meat shop) and the agriculture cooperative (vegetable farming) of Bishnupurkatti are enterprises with no proper institutional linkage with the VDC level government agriculture offices. No services of JT/JTA are available or searched for required technical support. The partner organizations are presently supporting to manage these enterprises with no technical backstopping. Success of such activities under youth clubs will require support from local government institutions to sustain their activities.
CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 FINDINGS

The findings are based on the field visits carried out in the four program districts in the east (Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari) and three in the west (Banke, Bardiya and Dang). The findings reflect those from the observations as well as discussions (FGD, KII) made with various SFCG partners, NGOs, Youth groups, media persons and professionals and officials of DDC and VDCs. The qualitative data are supplemented by the findings of the endline survey done by SFCG.

4.1.1 Radio Programs

a) Sangor

- Sangor, Maithili radio drama, came to an end after broadcasting 165 episodes in three years. Sangor covered Maithili speaking young listeners (aged 15 to 40 years) in eastern and central Terai of Nepal, along with the Maithili programs listeners from Kathmandu.

- The popularity of the drama among the youth was very high, and this resulted in its broadcasting taking place by 22 FM radios stations while the funding was limited to only 13 FMIs.

- The radio program is found to have supported youth to
  ▪ Encourage them to give up arms and join the peacebuilding process,
  ▪ Bridge the existing intergeneration gaps in the society and
  ▪ Encourage youth to organize them for social transformation.

- The radio program “Sangor’ was popular among the youth, mainly due to:
  ▪ Local language and dialect used in the drama made the program more popular among the common Maithili speaking people as well as others, youth in particular.
  ▪ The content of the drama was thought-provoking for its peacebuilding presentation that reflected local environment and the incidents that has happened or likely to happen in their surroundings in a pleasant and interesting way.
  ▪ Presentation was made dramatic by professional and trained actors and was attractive by including comedy between the dramas.
  ▪ The theme was to reintegrate youths involved in armed conflict. The message was delivered in a lesson learning approach.
  ▪ The program covered familiar incidents of social events and covered issues of existing social taboos and sought local solutions.

However, local Sangor listeners are not happy over its closure and are requesting its producers to continue the program in future. Considering such high demand of the drama, Madhesh FM of Janakpur is rebroadcasting the old episodes of the program.
b) KD / FD/CD

- KD radio dialogue program produced and broadcasted by Radio Samagra FM, in eastern part of the country, covers around 12 districts including some mountain districts (Sindhuli and Khotang). However, due to increased numbers of local FMs in the locality, its reach to hills is decreasing as the weak signal is overshadowed by the signals of the nearby FMs.

- The first phase of the radio dialogue program (under Samagra) covered wide ranges of conflict sensitive issues that existed in the society. The dialogue program has created a platform to bring conflicting parties together and find an amicable solution for resolving the conflict. There are number of examples where radio programs were able to avert local conflict.

- The second phase of the radio talk programs mostly covered issues concerning CA election. The guest speakers were mostly representatives from local political parties and elites from civil society. Except for CD (which is a program conducted in local Tharu language) the other talk program (FD and KD) which focused on CA election and discussed in Maithili/Nepali languages was not very effective in reaching listeners in the rural areas. KD producer in Janakpur has been initiating dialogue to address some of the pressing local conflict issues and advocating for its solution through media.

- NBNP, a national level radio program, was broadcasted through a total of 45 local radio stations from 7:00 - 7:30 PM, every Thursday. The program was popular as more than 20 additional radio stations voluntarily aired the program.

- The training provided to program producers enabled them to produce and conduct such radio talk program effectively. However, the time available for the program is deemed to be inadequate to cover the issues, analyze them and come out with a solution.

- The production cost of research oriented radio-program like Sangor, NBNP, KD/FD/CD are high, and the program producers consider that it is not economically viable for a FM to replicate such quality program on their own despite its popularity.

- There were demands that FM programs should focus more on dissemination of successful case studies of youth initiated peacebuilding activities in order to transfer the best practices being adopted by a group in one part of the country to other.

- Youth engaged in peacebuilding process and SFCG partner organizations consider street dramas to be a powerful medium to bring about behavioral change in people.

- Talk program organized by CD in Tharu language was very effective following its success in resolving the national level conflict that appeared in Bardiya district.
The radio dialogue program has given platform to bring together the conflicting parties to have dialogue in changing people’s mindset.

- SFCG radio programs in many cases has worked as a catalyst of change to engage youth at the community level in peacebuilding process. The solution oriented dialogues and dramas produced and aired by SFCG partner organizations have succeeded in resolving many conflicts arising at local levels.

4.1.2 Local capacity Building for Peace

a) Radio and Television for Peacebuilding (R4PB) Training

- Skills were provided to radio programme producer, writers and the actors under R4PB. These skills have capacitated them to carry out in-depth analysis of different aspects of conflict in a more practical manner.

- Considering the sensitivity of the issues to be addressed by the radio program, the trained producer, writers and actors are found quite sensitive in selecting the plots, language and their presentation.

- The training has enabled the producers to relate existing social issues with conflict and visualize the consequences of inaction.

- The radio producers have developed their skill to lead solution oriented dialogues, while facilitating local ownership and understanding of the issues.

b) Leadership and consensus building training for leaders and decision makers

- Leadership training to the youth and members of the women groups has been an effective tool to engage local youth in peace building process.

- The youth training program has helped in creating conflict mediators at the community level and number of cases have been recorded of their successful intervention in avoiding local conflict including family feuds.

- The well-structured two-day VDC level training to youth and women enhanced the capacity of the trainees to understand and analyze the conflict situation, mediate between the conflicting parties and provide leadership. It has also enabled the participants to understand about the local governance system and its resource distribution processes.

- Trainings were provided to women on leadership (two days), cooperative development (three days for 30 participants) and TOT (to selected VDC level women youth leader). These trainings were effective and have helped community women to open up in the
society and participate in peacebuilding process through positive intervention at the local conflict. It also helped to improve their confidence level.

- Short term trainings were also provided to local decision makers (government officials, local community leaders, political party’s representatives and other civil society members from the local community). Such training helped create a common platform for the service providers and the receivers to understand the nature of conflict and identify solutions. It has supported mutual communication.

- The income generating training (cooperative) of short duration helped members of women groups maintain meeting minute, collect savings and maintain accounts. There is a demand for short term skill development training on cooperative (accounting, banking, record keeping etc).

**c) Youth and Peacebuilding through youth mobilization and seed grants activities**

- Number of local institutions at various levels(such as local youth clubs, youth groups and youth network at the community/ VDC and district levels) are created by SFCG. Youth engaged in peacebuilding processes have succeeded in spreading their access to various district level peace promoting organizations (LPC) as well as the district and village level service providing formal organizations.

- SFCG concept of bringing youth activities and media together for promoting social harmony and peace has been a new approach and community in project VDCs have recognized the process as effective means of using youth in peacebuilding process.

- Considering the effectiveness of the program, there is a demand to extend the broadcast to more VDCs in the east in particular (presently it covers 20 VDCS in four eastern districts where there are more than 400 VDCs). Civil society members appreciate SFCG approach but consider it having very little contribution in the district in mobilizing youth in peacebuilding process. Except for radio, the impact of youth programs at the district level is rarely visible.

- Unlike in the east, the coverage area of Youth Network and Youth Initiative in the west is comparatively better and its impact is recognized even at the district level.

- SFCG’s effort in building capacity of local decision makers and youth and facilitating their engagement under common ground approach has contributed to collaborative working of service providers and receivers.

- Youth’s involvement in SFCG activities has improved their recognition in the community. Elders have now started to recognize the voice of the youth and their level of participation in local decision making processes have improved.
- LDM training provided to VDC secretaries of SFCG VDCs has been effective. Involvement of youth in VDC decision making process has enabled rational and smooth decision making at local level.

- Radio programs address conflicts by understanding local situation and it has been an effective media to induce change, cooperation and understanding among community people and resolve conflict.

- Involvement of youth in local decision making processes has reduced unnecessary political pressure to VDC secretaries. It has helped youth to get recognition from their elders as well.

- Institutionally, SFCG programs are linked well with local government institutions (DDC/VDC) as its annual program is endorsed by district and village councils.

### 4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings during the field visits, the following recommendations are made for future strategy of SFCG.

**a) Radio programs**

- Provide refresher courses to radio producers, editors and presenters to enable better understanding of the impact of media on conflict dynamics and provide accurate, credible, balanced and useful information to the populations they serve.

- In view of the popularity of radio soap opera program in Maithili language among the youth of eastern Madhes, recommence new version of Sangor, to educate the youth, at least, until the new constitution of the country is promulgated and the federal system of governance is institutionalized.

- Mobilize the trainees (writers, producers and actors) under R4PB to produce informative radio programs that support to broadcast lesson learnt from good and replicable peacebuilding processes taking place elsewhere in the country that matches with SFCG concept and approaches.

- Explore the feasibility of producing television serial (similar to Hamro Team) based on Sangor story to disseminate positive messages all over the country.

- Support to restart FD/KD/CD radio programs focusing on conflict sensitive issues at the community level which was very popular and effective in the past.
b) Leadership and consensus building training for leaders and decision makers

- Continue to train members of the youth clubs and prepare local trainers within the youth networks through the provision of TOT to selected capable youth who already have received SFCG training.
- Provide more training on leadership and conflict resolution to enable youth to deal with community disputes and mediation. Provide them additional skills of grievances handling.
- Extend LDM training to VDC secretaries working all over the project districts.
- Provide knowledge to youth on VDC resource distribution guidelines and enhance their capacity to have access to public and other NGO funds allocated for their development.
- Provide additional training to youth groups so that they can benefit from the seed money such as book keeping, banking and for secured investment to transform the present group activities under seed fund into successful cooperatives.
- Develop a suitable exit strategy and design future program accordingly.
- Provide business entrepreneurship development training in specific field to youth groups who have already initiated enterprises.

c) Youth and peacebuilding through youth mobilization and seed grants activities

- Consider widening the vertical section of the “T” in order to bring some tangible impact of the program at the district level.
- Timely performance evaluation of partner organizations should be conducted. In view of the intensity of youth mobilization programs, SFCG should try to avoid hiring one partner for multiple districts.
- Try to maintain a strong link between the radio program and youth mobilization programs by addressing issues of local youth and their activities in peacebuilding process and by disseminating good lessons through media.
- Encourage youth to form more heterogeneous groups to make the program more inclusive.

- Continue to ensure participation of youth from marginalized groups (ethnicity, caste, religion, ex-combatants, CAP, VMLR) and gender in each activity and program.

- Enhance the capacity of local partners so that they can utilize funds through different organizations to achieve the goal set by SFCG in building peace at the community level.

- Continue to support youth mobilization program at least for the period that new constitution is adopted and the federal structures of the state are established.

- Provide orientation to local partner organizations for outsourcing of youth initiative programs.

- Mobilize district based partner organizations to look for more collaborative actions with other external and local development partners with similar purposes.

- Continue engaging with the youth to deepen their approach to peacebuilding and to link them with local government officials and community-based decision making bodies to further strengthen and elevate their role in the peace process and abilities to participate effectively in democratization.

- Continue expanding seed money activity and link it with capacity development programs to engage youth in effective income generating activities. Explore other agencies for more IG program that needs to be launched in order to get better result.

- Design program which could involve youth directly in negotiation and mediation. For instance, program could be jointly carried out with LPC which are already engaged in local conflict resolution.

- Provide more capacity building training to selected youth who are already engaged in settling disputes and organize exposure visits for them within the country.

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