Dear Readers,

Welcome to Search for Common Ground (SFCG) Nepal’s quarterly Design, Monitoring and Evaluation (DM&E) bulletin. The bulletin provides our staff, partners, donors and other relevant stakeholders with the monitoring and evaluation highlights of our projects from the last quarter. We hope that the bulletin will not only provide information about what we do, but also inspire our work as individuals and as organizations.

The highlights of this issue are as follows:

- **Internal final review of ‘Promoting Women Rights, Protection and Participation’**: A 15-months long UNWOMEN funded project with the objective of promoting women rights, protection and participation in the post conflict situation in six target districts. An internal review of the project was conducted during the month of July and August 2014. The main objective of the review was to assess the achievements of the capacity development and technical support provided to the members of the District Coordination Committee (DCC), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Local Peace Committee (LPC) to strengthen their understanding and knowledge on National Action Plan (NAP) on United Nations Security Council Resolutions UNSCRs 1325 and 1820.

  **Key results:**

  **Capacity development training:**

  SFCG organized training programs for the DCC, LPC members and conflict affected women that were conducted separately for each group. The training was designed to build participants knowledge on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820, concepts of violence and conflict and the role of key stakeholders for the meaningful implementation of the NAP. The highlights of the monitoring results are as follows:

  - 82 percent of the DCC members indicated an increase in understanding of the implementation and monitoring of the NAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820.
  - Out of the 11 participants (DCC) who were interviewed during the review, 10 participants were able to clearly articulate the implementation process of NAP.
  - A drastic increase in the level of understanding of NAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 was witnessed amongst the conflict affected women and girls. During the pre-test only three percent indicated basic knowledge on NAP, which increased to 78 percent during the post-test.
  - 78 percent of the LPC members reported having clarity related to their role in the implementation of NAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 after the...
Public Civil Service Examinations (PCSE): ‘The role of women in the decision making process is very bleak’, this statement is pedestaled by the report of the National Women’s commission of Nepal (June 2011). The report indicates a low enrollment of women in senior level civil service positions. Out of 417 men, only 14 women candidates are working in the senior level posts. In order to encourage and increase interest among women especially the conflict affected women and girls, SFCG conducted a coaching class on Public Civil Service Examinations (PCSE) for 262 women candidates from the project districts.

- 72 percent participants reported an increase in knowledge related to the PCSE which had only been 47 percent before the coaching class. 58 percent of the participating women secured at least 60 percent marks in the post-coaching test modules of PCSE. The average mark of all the participants who appeared for the test was 53.4 percent.

- 52 percent of the total respondents reported that the peace memorial motivated them to promote the role of women in local peacebuilding initiatives.
- Out of the total respondents from the 6 VDCs in 160 communities, 36 percent reported that they were motivated to promote peace and harmony in their communities after listening to the radio testimonies.

**Peace memorials and Radio testimonies:** In order to promote the concept of community healing as well as to encourage people to champion the message of peace, SFCG supported the construction of peace memorials in each project district. Radio testimonials of people involved and affected by conflict were also produced and disseminated through the local FM stations of the project districts.

- A mini-survey was conducted to understand the pre-conceived notions of community related to conflict and the change in perception and behavior in target audiences after listening to the radio testimonies and after visiting the peace memorials. The survey was conducted in 102 local communities of the project districts.

- Out of the total respondents (aged 15 years and above) of the six districts² were surveyed, which constituted 59 percent male and 41 percent female respondents. The survey was designed to understand the experiences of the public on services and facilities provided by the Government of Nepal (GoN), people’s perception on their rights and participation in development work, knowledge on national and local government, and on leadership.

**Key results:**

**On Knowledge related to Citizen’s Charter (display of information regarding the process of accessing government services):** Citizen’s Charter in the government offices is important not only to assist people in getting services, but also aware them about their rights. However, not many people are familiar with the concept of citizen charter or its content.

Judging from a social lens, the mobility of women is very low compared to men which contributes in gender disparity in knowledge related to the citizen’s charter. The survey indicates that 85 percent of male respondents regularly visit the government offices, whereas only 69 percent of female respondents indicated visiting any government office. This data proves the disparity in knowledge among male and female respondents. 14 percent of male respondents and 40 percent of women respondents indicated having no knowledge about the citizen charter or its content.
On importance of Public Participation in Local government’s decision-making process: Survey findings suggest that respondents are aware of their participation in local decision making process, but they were also sceptical of their role being acknowledged. While 46 percent of the respondents reported that their participation was needed, 14 percent stated their participation is important, but it would not make any difference. (Refer to figure 1: How important is your participation in local government decision making processes?)

The survey finding reflects striking disparity in terms of caste and gender on respondent’s knowledge of their role in local level decision making process.

Figure 1: How important is your participation in local government decision making processes.

- 56 percent female and 44 percent male respondents indicated that they didn’t participate in local decision making process in the last one year.
- 48 percent Brahmin/Chhetri, 45 percent Tharu and 37 percent Muslim and a striking 62 percent Janajati respondent reported of not participating in the local decision making process.

With regard to the question related to ‘rule of law’, 42 percent respondents believed it to be ‘good governance’, whereas, 42 percent respondents understood it to be ‘absence of corruption’. On the question related to civic engagement, a majority of respondents believed civic engagement as ‘working together for the benefit of the society’. (Refer to figure 2: What do you understand by civic engagement?)

On Leaders, Leadership and female Prime Minister: ‘Honesty’ is regarded by 73 percent respondents as the most sought after attribute in a leader, followed by 41 percent active listening and respect for others and 39 percent belief in equality.

In terms of leadership, 66 percent respondents were of the opinion that both men and women were equally capable of leadership role. A change of guard in perception regarding leadership was also witnessed in the survey. High level of acceptance towards having a female Prime Minister was indicated by 82 percent of the respondents, followed by 16 percent who were not sure about the change of guard and 3 percent who believed that the society was not open for such change.

Nepal Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding

The Global Partnership for Child and Youth in Peacebuilding is a community of practice that brings together international and national NGOs, child or youth led organizations; scholars and champions who believe in the key role young people play in peacebuilding processes around the world. The Global Partnership initiated the multi-agency, multi-country, multi-donor (3M) evaluation. The Nepal Partnership for Children and Youth is a national organ of the Global Partnership. To implement the initiative in Nepal, a consortium involving: Alliance for Peace, Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal, Save the Children, Search for Common Ground, World Vision International Nepal and Youth Network for Peace and Development Mahottari was established. The consortium aims to conduct participatory evaluation involving children and youth as local evaluators in four districts of Nepal: Doti, Mahottari, Nawalparasi, and Rolpa.

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Manpur tapara, Bardia: Shiva Tharu, 36, is one of many women in Nepal who have faced the heavy causality of conflict. Her eyes moisten with the thought of her husband, who disappeared during the armed conflict. With no news of her husband and with the burden of running a family on her own, Shiva was on the verge of losing hope. But things changed for good when she took part in the ‘Capacity Development Training’ conducted by Search for Common Ground (SFCG) Nepal. The training program funded by UNWOMEN, under the ‘Promoting Women Rights, Protection and Participation’ project provided training to 30 conflict affected women, including Shiva.

The participants of the training were provided with knowledge regarding NAP on UNSCRs 1325/1820 and financial support based on their the absence of my husband, I took charge of my family. The grocery shop has been doing well and I have even started saving money,” she narrates. Shiva feels empowered after the training and believes that with the right support and encouragement, women can realize their potential as change agents. With a smile she shares, “I have even enrolled my daughters in school. Out of my five daughters, three of them are studying with scholarship.”

With the income generated from the shop, Shiva not only took care of her family’s need, but also saved enough money to start a new venture. “I started saving 300 to 500 rupees every day and have started selling stationaries and clothing in my shop,” shares the proud entrepreneur with a smile.

The wounds of conflict are still fresh in her mind, but she realizes the importance to live in the present. “It’s hard to live all by yourself, but after receiving the seed grant, my life has changed drastically. I feel that with the right support and encouragement women can indeed be leaders” shares Shiva. Her evolution of a conflict affected woman, to a confident entrepreneur has inspired many women like her. Many conflict affected women and girls want to be like Shiva and have shared with her their plans to start their own business if they are provided with similar support and guidance. Shiva dreams of building her business and providing a better future for her girls. “I credit my success to the training and support I was provided. If I had not been a part of the training, then life would not have been a smooth sail,” concludes Shiva.

Highlights of our upcoming DM&E bulletin:

Major findings from the evaluation conducted under the ‘Nepal partnership for children and youth in peacebuilding’ project, findings from the listenership survey of maithali radio drama series Sangor and radio drama Gaun Gaun Ma Singha Durbar (Singha Durbar in every village) will be highlighted in our next DM&E bulletin.

Participants and facilitators during the National Capacity Building Workshop in Kathmandu under the ‘Nepal Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding project.’