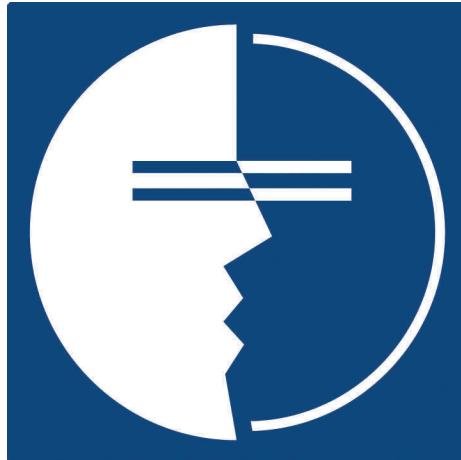


26 years in development





CECI

CHANGES LIVES

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Strategy

CECI focuses on building the development capacity of local and disadvantaged communities. Our programs and projects support communities to become the drivers of their own change by focusing on local ownership, empowerment and partnership with local non-government organizations and community-based organizations. Gender equity, social inclusion, transparency and good governance are at the core of our capacity building activities.



Women from Dhanusha making lac product



Sahakarya project , increasing vegetable production



PRAN budget tracking orientation

Focus Areas

- Rural economic development including agribusiness, agricultural value chain and micro-enterprise
- Democracy and good governance
- Community health, nutrition and hygiene
- Natural resources management, prioritizing the commercialization of non-timber forest resources
- Climate change and disaster risk management



GESI workshop for CECI staff and volunteers

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Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
AGM	Annual General Meeting
ANSAB	Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-resources
ARI	Automated Readability Index
AVID	Australian Volunteers for International Development
CAD	Canadian Dollars
CBO	Community Based Organization
CECI	Centre for International Studies and Cooperation
CFUG	Community Forest Users' Group
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CSC	Community Score Card
DAG	Dalit Alliance Group
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
DMPCU	District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWO	Dalit Welfare Organization
DWS	Drinking Water System
EC	European Commission
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest Users' Nepal
FTG	Fair Trade Group
FY	Fiscal Year
GESI	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
GON	Government of Nepal
HBTL	Himalayan Bio Trade Limited
IDS	Integrated Development Society
IEC	Information Education and Communication
PDRC	Professional Development and Research Centre
PRAN	Program for Accountability in Nepal
SAC	Social Accountability
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SPBF	The State and Peace-building Fund
MDTF-PFM	Multi Donor Trust Fund for Public Financial Management Reform in Nepal
MECD	Micro Enterprise Creation and Development
MEDEP	Micro Enterprise Development Program
MSFP	Multi Stakeholder Forestry Program
MOI	Memorandum of Interest
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-government Organization
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
UN	United Nations
VDC	Village Development Committee
VIDA	Volunteering for International Development from Australia
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank

Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)

The **Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)** is a not-for-profit organization with headquarters in Montreal, Canada. Founded in 1958, CECI was registered as a not-for-profit corporation in Quebec, Canada in 1968, and has been implementing poverty alleviation projects/programs in developing countries since then. CECI's mission is to combat poverty and exclusion. It strengthens the development capacity of disadvantaged communities; supports initiatives for peace, human rights and equity; mobilizes resources; and promotes knowledge exchange.

CECI's core competencies include providing diverse consulting and project management services that address multiple facets of poverty reduction. With an annual operating budget of approximately USD 35 million, CECI manages dozens of contracts for services related to social and economic development, sustainable natural resource management, humanitarian assistance and disaster preparedness and mitigation in 23 countries throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. These projects are financed by CIDA, ADB, IDB, USAID, World Bank, EC, UN agencies and DFID. At the Montreal-based headquarters, CECI has 65 staff, including specialists in local governance and community development, natural resource management, conflict resolution and human rights, humanitarian response and disaster mitigation, gender equality, and monitoring and evaluation.

In Nepal, CECI has been active for over 25-years and has implemented a diverse range of projects covering the area of agriculture, livelihoods, micro-enterprise and business development, governance, disaster risk reduction and climate change. Since its inception in 1987, CECI-Nepal has implemented more than 40 development projects with a value of USD 60 million, covering 50 out of 75 districts of the country. It has delivered technical assistance to ADB, World Bank, CIDA, AusAid and other donors in agriculture, livelihood development and climate change adaptive agriculture. As a result, CECI-Nepal offers solid project management capacities, a highly trained staff and extensive network of consultants and local service providers.

CECI has the strategy of implementing development projects in partnership with Nepali non-government organizations (NGOs) and community based organizations (CBOs) in order to enhance their technical and managerial competence. CECI also mobilizes international and national volunteers with the financial support of CIDA and AusAID/Austraining to support these development initiatives. The volunteers are mostly placed in civil society organizations (CSOs), considering the significant contribution being made by civil society in the socio-economic development of Nepal and to further enhance their institutional capacity. In addition, volunteers are also placed in government agencies to support their planning and programming functions.

CECI works in Nepal under the auspices of an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) initially signed with the Social Welfare Council in 1989 and renewed subsequently.

Message from the Country Representative

It is our pleasure to present the Annual Progress Report for the Fiscal Year 2069/70 (2012-13). During this year CECI undertook projects and activities that were focused on livelihoods improvement, governance, gender and social inclusion, and institutional development of local partners.

The two major projects that focused on income and livelihoods generation, Sahakarya and Sahaastitwa, were successfully completed during this fiscal year. Sahakarya, a bilateral project between the Canadian and Nepalese governments, supported over 67,000 families in five districts of the Mid and Far Western hills to increase agricultural productivity of cash crops and establish market linkages and skills development for enterprise development for enhancing household incomes. Similarly, Sahaastitwa, under the funding support of European Commission, supported in enhancing the production of cultural products (fibers, leather, metal, stones and bamboo) and marketing these in national and international markets. This project was implemented in 20 districts covering all five development regions. Throughout the project, 128 entrepreneurs obtained skills enhancement training, over 880 entrepreneurs benefited from various capacity building activities, and about 4,500 producers benefited from the easy and practical training manual produced and distributed by the project.

The Uniterra Volunteer Cooperation Program, funded by CIDA, has supported community forest user groups (CFUGs) in improving sustainable forest management and developing non-timber forest product (NTFP) enterprises. Over 9,000 men and women have been provided with enterprise development and business development trainings with the support of Uniterra Volunteers to the national partners. Similarly, Uniterra Volunteers have been active in supporting private sector development by supporting the selected patterns in enhancing their institutional capacity building, marketing and publicity in international level.

CECI is part of a consortium of national NGOs for the Multi Stakeholder Forestry Program (MSFP). Included in the consortium are IDS (lead organization), HIMWANTI Nepal and Ashmita Nepal. The consortium acquired MSFP Lot VI funded by DFID/SDC/Finnida. Implemented in five Mid and Far Western hill districts, this project has just begun and aims to improve the livelihoods of poor people through the promotion of forest based enterprises in a sustainable manner.

In governance, CECI is implementing Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN) with the funding support of the World Bank. In this project, grants are provided to CSOs to practice social accountability approaches and tools. PRAN is operating with the firm belief that empowering the citizens for their constructive engagement with service providers is the only way to make service providers accountable. CECI also has a strong focus on gender and social inclusion and supports implementing partners in developing approaches and strategies for improving the participation and representation of women and disadvantaged communities in development initiatives.

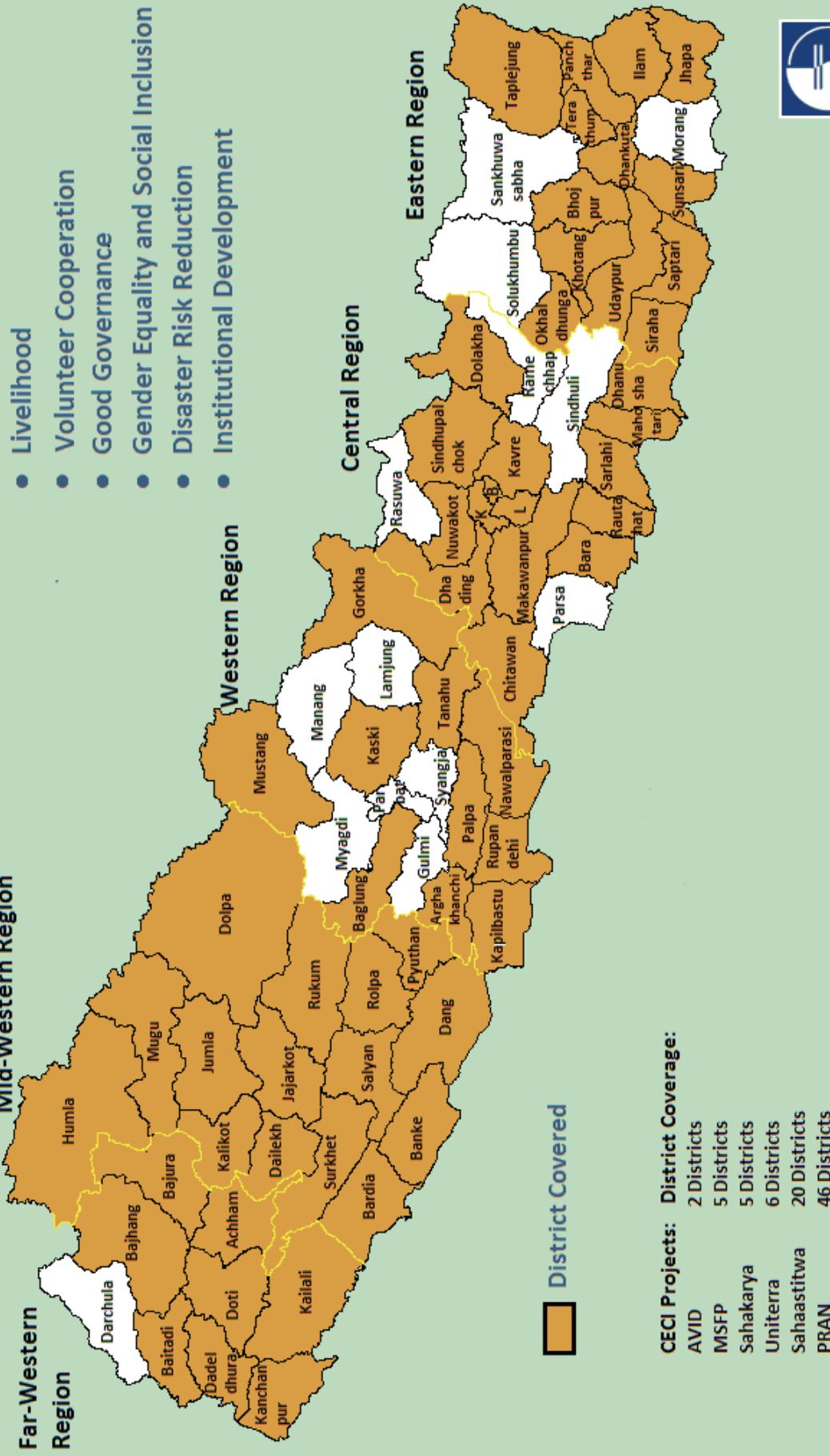
The details on the projects and program activities carried out during this fiscal year can be found in the respective sections. CECI has been supported by CIDA, EC, World Bank, AusAID, DFID, SDC and Finnida to undertake these programs. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to donors for this support. Similarly, our sincere thanks go to our implementing partners both GON and NGOs to successfully accomplish the activities. Finally, I would like to appreciate the leadership role taken by Ms. Mallika Bhattarai, Communication Officer, and for the support from Ms. Vanessa Humphries, Document Advisor, in preparing this annual report.

Keshava Koirala
Country Representative
CECI-Nepal
October 2013

CECI's Program Coverage in Nepal (2012-2013)

Program Thematic Areas:

- Livelihood
- Volunteer Cooperation
- Good Governance
- Gender Equality and Social
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Institutional Development



1. Livelihood Projects

Sahakarya

Sahakarya was a bilateral project (2003-2012) of the Canadian and Nepalese governments and is implemented in five districts (Jumla, Dailekh, and Surkhet in the Mid West; Dadeldhura and Baitadi in the Far West). The project had a budget of CAD 9.6 million.

The project's overall objective was to contribute to poverty reduction in the Mid and Far Western hills of Nepal. Its purpose was to improve the socio-economic conditions working through community-based organizations in hill communities of Nepal.

Sahakarya was an integrated multidisciplinary community development model implementing community health development, economic development, institutional development and local governance. It provided support in the following areas:

Community health development

- Construction of 207 drinking water systems (DWS) and 10,607 pit latrines in the project districts. It organized 1,360 DWS sessions for communities and provided training to 133 local promoters
- Distributed 5,313 improved cook stoves, organized 893 ARI sessions, and trained 134 local promoters
- Organized 1,985 sessions on safe motherhood, 333 nutrition education and rehabilitation programs using the positive deviance approach, where 5,388 malnourished children were rehabilitated

- Promoted 18 health CBOs to undertake health promotion at local level and conducted 468 health literacy classes

Economic development

- Supported the construction of 330 micro-irrigation schemes, 12 collection centers, 42 cooperative office buildings, 435 plastic tunnels/houses, and 594 bee hives.
- Undertook 350 business literacy classes, developed 44 MECD promoters, created and strengthened 2,616 micro-enterprises
- Capacity building support to 235 Cooperatives, 486 CFUGs and 704 producer groups
- Organized 1,160 technical training on production and marketing, 38 management trainings, 14 GESI trainings

Local governance

- 143 supply side capacity enhancement trainings and workshops, 138 demand side capacity enhancement trainings
- Published 56 IEC materials on the Sahakarya experience for enhancing demand and supply sides of the public goods and services
- Simplified 20 types of LGCDP related documents and guidelines

1. Planned irrigation system developed in Dailekh

2. Capacity enhancement training

3. Women in the Surkhet district



Major project achievements

Sahakarya reached over 67,000 families in the five project districts. The five districts have an ethnically diverse population, including Brahmin/Chhetri (67%), Dalits (24%), Janajatis (7%) and others (2%). The Sahakarya project was able to reach all of the groups in the districts, serving Brahmin/Chhetri (53%), Dalits (33%), Janajatis (12%) and others (2%). With a gender equality approach, women represented over 60% in technical trainings, over 50% in CBO general membership and 40% in CBO executive bodies.

Sahakarya made remarkable progress, especially in:

- Raising awareness levels of communities on health and hygiene issues
- Decreasing the incidence of ARI and child and maternal mortality rates
- Increased production and marketing of high value agricultural products
- Increased participation of women in agricultural marketing
- Increased family consumption of vegetables, fruits and milk
- Increased access of women and Dalits to financial services
- Improved practices among CBOs of producing audit reports and passing it by the Annual General Meeting
- Women's confidence for raising their overall status, increased representation of Dalits in executive committee of CBO through their expanded social space
- Declined seasonal out-migration as a result of micro-enterprise creation and development
- Increased knowledge amongst village development community (VDC) secretaries about the planning process of starting a Local Government Community Development Program
- Active participation of target group in

planning process right from Ward Citizen Forum to VDC/DDC level

- Increased participation of women in the VDC council meetings
- Written proposals being submitted to VDC councils and budget allocation by local bodies for the target groups
- Enhanced capacity of local government staff through the publication and use of information, education and communication materials in Nepal

Ms. Rewati Bohara from the Baitadi district relates her experience: "Our women's group attended an orientation meeting organized by Sahakarya. In the training we were taught how to prepare and submit a proposal to the VDC. Accordingly, we submitted our proposal to the VDC and were granted an amount of NPR 100,000. We are going to use this money for women's projects."



Women participation in the orientation program for proposal development

Quantitative Achievements of Sahakarya Project:

Indicator	Target	Achievement	
Number of households covered	38,000 households	67,746 households	
Number of community based organizations (CBOs) worked-with	1,000 CBOs	1,393 CBOs	
Incidence of diarrhea in children under 5 years (baseline 33%)	29%	26.1%	
Incidence of ARI in children under 5 years (baseline 19%)	15%	14.5%	
Percentage of malnourished children under 5 years (baseline 41.3%)	35%	32.8%	
Income per household increased (baseline NPR 42,199)	NPR 46,670	NPR 65,137	
Values of average sales per household increased from a baseline figure of:	Vegetables NPR 305/HH	NPR 610	NPR 6,260
	Spices NPR 284/HH	NPR 454	NPR 3,361
	Fruits NPR 1,222/ HH	NPR 1,466	NPR 1979
	Milk NPR 1320/HH	NPR 4,000	NPR 4,682
	NTFPs NPR 1,000/ HH	NPR 1,500	NPR 5,688
Percentage of women involved in marketing	30%	36%	
Good governance practices of CBOs (board meeting and annual general meeting) (baseline 73%)	80%	BM 100%, AGM 86%	
Number of local government and line agency officials trained	186 officials	241 officials	
CBOs that participate in village development committee (VDC) planning process (percentage)	50%	88%	
CBOs that have a link with the VDCs and accessed resource at least for one project	1,000 CBOs	1,352 CBOs	
VDCs that have a data collection format and a demand collection and analysis format	4 VDCs	4 VDCs	
Participation of women and marginalized groups in project activities increased above their percentage representation in the population	Women	50%	51%
	Jana-jatis	7%	12%
	Dalits	24%	33%

As a result of Sahakarya's community awareness raising on local governance and fund allocation for local development projects, many targeted groups were able to access funding from VDCs. Ms. Dambari Devi Oli President of the Women Awareness-raising Network said, "I now understand the mechanism of funding from VDC. I am now closely following the allocation process and monitor how local governments distribute funds to women and other target groups."

Sahaastitwa: Strengthening Local Cultures to Build in Nepal

Sahaastitwa was a European Commission funded project and was implemented in 20 districts of Nepal in partnership with Worldview Nepal, a local NGO.

The objective of Sahaastitwa was to contribute to social harmony and reduce intercultural tensions by strengthening the culture of minority and indigenous cultural/ethnic groups and to promote and market cultural products to support the livelihood of local cultural producers in Nepal. The project duration was from 2010 – 2012, with a budget of EUR 0.86 million. The districts covered were: Taplejung, Panchthar, Bhojpur and Siraha in the Eastern Region; Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Kathmandu, Chitwan and Dhanusha in the Central Region; Kaski, Kapilvastu and Rupadehi in the Western Region; Surkhet, Dailekh, Dang and Banke in the Mid-Western Region and Baitadi, Dadeldhura and Kanchanpur in the Far- Western Region.

CECI was responsible for the economic development activities of the project, using a combination of traditional skills, cultural heritage and commercial enterprises to enhance the value of cultural products. Selected cultural producers were provided with skills development training for improving the product quality based on market demands. Linkages were established with regional and national market operators. With this intervention, the producers were able to diversify their products, improve quality and access markets, including export markets. This project proved a significant driving force for livelihood development especially for poor, marginalized and women producers. Above all, this project demonstrated a fundamental relevancy in its contribution to peace building and cultural harmony at the grassroots level and at a time of transition in Nepal's development.

1. *Stone carving training participants*
2. *Fiber based cultural products*
3. *Senior Cultural Expert Satya Mohan Joshi interacting with cultural producers at the fair*
4. *Group work discussion at Stakeholders' Workshop*





2

Sahaastitwa Project Highlights:

- 128 entrepreneurs trained skill enhancement training and 53.5% reported continuing their businesses.
- 884 entrepreneurs directly benefited through 33 different events on capacity building—80% of them committed to expand their business
- At least three people are trained by each trained entrepreneur/producer
- Increased enterprise registration from 5% to 50%, and an additional 27% are in the process.
- Production items increased by 37%
- Cardamom fiber was introduced as a sub sector
- Cultural products based enterprise created employment for a minimum of three people on average
- Business transactions increased by four times
- The production in 13 sub-sectors increased by 58%
- Increase in supply of cultural products from districts from 13% to 65% in the beginning
- Local markets of cultural products increased up to 37%
- Producers developed confidence and get reorganization in the family and society
- A practical training manual developed and distributed for production and marketing of cultural products, benefiting 4,500 cultural producers

1. *Cultural fair, Kathmandu*
2. *Surya Bahadur Chepang at Kathmandu cultural fair*
3. *Cultural producers in Taplejung District*



3



"The Sahastitwa project has given me the opportunity to sell and exhibit my skill and product in different events, which has increased the demand and marketing network of cultural products."

-Pramila Phago, Panchthar



Shrilal Shilpkar, member of Patthar Kattha community from Kapilvastu, was one of the participants of the Sahaastitwa modern stone products development training. Referring to the training, he said, "This was the first time the Patthar Kattha community has ever experienced this kind of support". In the picture he is holding the statue of Ganesh that he learned how to make from the training. He explained that the statue holds more value and is in more demand than the grinders that he previously made and sold, "From this training I am learning different things - it will contribute to reducing my poverty."



Multi Stakeholder Forestry Program (MSFP)

MSFP Lot VI is being implemented by a consortium of NGOs composed of IDS, CECI, Himawanti Nepal and Ashmita Nepal and is being delivered in five districts of the Mid and Far West regions – Jajarkot, Dailekh, Achham, Kalikot and Bajhang. The national NGO IDS leads the consortium. The project started in March 2013 for a two-year period with funding support of DFID, SDC and FINNIDA. MSFP Lot VI has a budget of NPR 207 million.

MSFP aims to improve forest management and provide forest based benefits to local communities with more emphasis on poor, DAG members and women so that their resilience will be improved with better livelihoods opportunities. Working in close collaboration with the government's District Forest Offices, the project will be managing forests, watershed, and biodiversity hotspots with the active participation of local communities.

The project has completed its initial preparatory and planning phase and is now gaining momentum in implementing its planned activities.

The main role of CECI in MSFP is to provide technical support in project management, especially in the area of livelihoods development. CECI also supports IDS, the lead organization of the consortium, in the preparation of progress reports, designing and organizing technical trainings and formulating capacity building plans.



1. *A scene of forest in Dailekh.*
2. *MSFP staff educate CFUG members about climate change in Dailekh.*
3. *Members of CFUG at the training session .*

2. Good Governance

Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN)

Five Components of PRAN:

1. Capacity Development and Awareness Raising
2. Grant Making for Action Learning
3. Knowledge-sharing and Networking
4. Research, Evaluation and Learning
5. Leadership and Administration Program

PRAN Priority Areas:

1. Public Financial Management
2. Municipal Governance
3. Public Service Delivery

CECI manages the grant making component of the Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN), a program to promote the demand for good governance in Nepal, funded by World Bank. The project duration is September 2010 – June 2014, with a budget of USD 2.2 million. Civil society organizations (CSOs) from 46 districts have received grants under this component.

The program improves governance and institutional performance in Nepal by promoting more accountable, honest, transparent and responsive government agencies to deliver quality services. Using social accountability (SAc) approaches and tools, PRAN aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations for constructive engagement with the government. The program is financed by two Trust Funds at the World Bank: the State and Peace-building Fund (SPBF) and the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Public Financial Management Reform in Nepal (MDTF-PFM). PRAN is being implemented in agreement with the Government of Nepal until 2014.

CECI is responsible for executing an independent 'Grant Making for Action Learning Component' to strengthen CSOs use of SAc approaches and tools. CECI makes grants through two grant windows: a) large grants of up to USD 50,000 for piloting SAc initiatives and, b) small grants of up to USD 15,000 for undertaking action research development and testing of SAc tools.

In 2012-13, CECI awarded 29 sub-grants (10 large grants and 19 small grants) to CSOs from 25 districts representing all the development regions and geographic belts of Nepal, and implemented grant-funded activities on SAc in as many as 32 districts. Of the 29 CSOs, as many as 26 CSOs come from outside the Kathmandu Valley.



Contract signing between CECI and AIM Susari

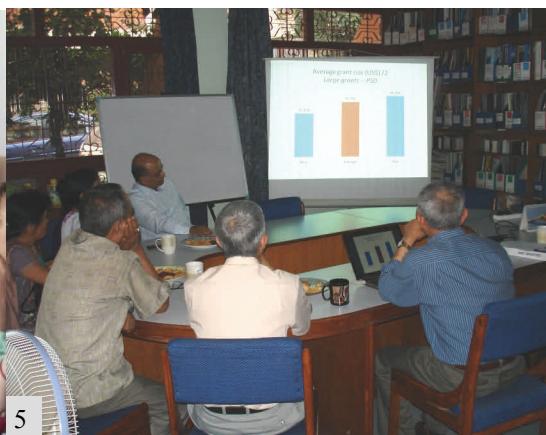


Sub-grantee CSOs initiated 14 different SAc tools including the citizen charter, citizen report card, public expenditure tracking survey, community score card, participatory budgeting/planning, and citizen jury. This has resulted in behavioral changes in service providers, empowered community members and institutionalization of SAc tools.

In 2013, CECI was awarded an additional grant to expand the program to reach a larger number of beneficiaries. It has awarded a total of 74 grants. The majority of the sub-grantees come from outside of the Kathmandu valley, working across the Terai, Hills and Mountain regions of Nepal. The new sub-grantees will practice tools such as right to information, budget demystification, gender and pro-poor budgeting, and public procurement monitoring.

Local organizations use these grants to implement pilot projects fostering good governance and for action research and development of new tools to guide future projects down the same path. With time and sustained efforts, the hope is that the example set by CSOs will be emulated by authorities that will then become increasingly accountable, transparent, and aware of good governance issues. Sometimes the most efficient way to bring about change is to demonstrate by example the benefits and importance of that change.

1. Stakeholder meeting about citizen charter in Mugu
2. Representative from WB addressing at the Review Meeting
3. Pro-civic facilitating community score card in Dhading
4. Meeting with stakeholders on participatory budget analysis in Shanku VDC in Kathmandu
5. GMC members at the proposal briefing meeting at CECI office



Success story

Across Nepal there was widespread confusion and frustration about public service delivery mechanisms, as service providers did not adequately explain government processes to service receivers. To help tackle these issues, RRDC installed Citizen Charters in the four district level government offices and in 24 Village Development Committees (VDCs) of the Mugu district. The Citizen Charter clarifies government processes, including outlining service charges, contact persons, and days to receive services. They have helped resolve much confusion and frustration and have been received positively by both government and citizenry.

“When residents came to the VDC office in the past, we had to inquire with a technical assistant on questions. Now the Citizen’s Charter has guided me on how much I have to pay for my marriage registration without asking anybody — it is very helpful.”

- Binod Rijal (Service recipient using the citizen charter at the VDC office in Mugu district)



Citizen Charter installation program at VDC Office in Mugu

Success story

Salyantar Higher Secondary School has faced many obstacles since it was established 61 years ago. The school recently upgraded to the secondary level (2008), but despite its record in achieving good School Leaving Certificate (SLC) results, there were a number of accountability-based complaints by guardians and students. These complaints included poor quality in education, bad behavior of teachers, limited transparency in information flow, irregular teacher attendance, and hesitation of students and guardians to raise their complaints to the school.

To address these concerns, Pro Civic, who had been trained through PRAN in social accountability and had received funding for implementing programs, conducted a Community Score Card (CSC) that evaluated and tracked performance at the school. Significant outcomes were achieved during the three-month period of the program (May-July 2012). These included a thorough inspection of the school by the District Education Officer, a one-year Teaching Improvement Plan, placement of an anonymous complain/suggestion box, and improved behavior and attendance from teachers.

The program demonstrated that the CSC is a beneficial and cost-effective tool to improve the quality of education in community schools and illustrated the positive response of the public and civil society to social accountability campaigns.

“I found the program to be very effective. This plays a key role to establish good governance and transparency in the school. It also encourages teachers to be accountable to the students and guardians, ultimately improving the quality of education at the school” Dipendra Subedi (District Education Officer, Dhading)



Complain box has been kept after CSC conduct-



Teaching Improvement Planning

3. Volunteer Cooperation

A key part of CECI is its volunteer cooperation program. More than 400 volunteers have served in Nepal since the program started in 1987. The focus of the volunteer program is to build the capacity of partner organizations through the transfer of skills and knowledge. Volunteers from Canada, Australia and Nepal provide technical expertise on a wide range of areas, supporting numerous CECI partners in their projects

and programs. Subsequently, when volunteers return to their respective countries, they support public engagement and educate the general public on development issues.

CECI manages two volunteer programs – Uniterra, funded by CIDA and Australian Volunteers in Development (AVID), funded by AusAID.



CECI staff and volunteers in the GESI field visit

Uniterra Program

Uniterra is a Canadian volunteer cooperation and international development program that has been active in Nepal since 2004. This program is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and is set up as a joint initiative of CECI and World University Service of Canada (WUSC). Through this program, CECI/Uniterra has supported over 17 partner organizations across the country, working and building capacity in various areas including networking, gender and social inclusion, organizational development, program implementation, policy dialogue and communication.

During 2012-13, 64 Volunteers were mobilized involving both Canadian and national volunteers. The focus of the current program is sustainable forest management (SFM), agro-food (AF) and private sector development (PSD). Gender and social inclusion is the cross cutting theme of the project. The partner organizations supported were Fed-

eration of Community Forest Users' Nepal (FECOFUN), Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-resources (ANSAB), Integrated Development Society Nepal (IDS), Himalayan Bio Trade Ltd., Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO), Prerana, Professional Development and Research Center (PDRC), Center for Microfinance (CMF), Fair Trade Group (FTG), Himalayan Bio Trade Limited (HBTL), District Milk Producers' Cooperatives (DMPCUs) of Lalitpur and Makwanpur. Volunteer support was also provided to Siddi Memorial Hospital, Adharbhut Prasuti Sewa and Man Mohan community hospital.

Volunteer Type	2012-2013			
	AF	SFM	PSD	Total
Long term	5	4	5	14
L4C	7	5	6	18
Intern	3	6	15	24
National	3	2	1	6
Total	20	17	27	64

Volunteer Type and Duration of Mandate:

Long term (national/intl): 6 months - 2 years

Short term (intern/intl): 1 - 6months

Leave for change (L4C): 2-3 weeks

Uniterra Highlights 2012-13

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

CECI provided volunteer resources, both national and international, to its partners to support CFUGs in sustainable forest management. Support is provided in designing programs and plans for more inclusive and sustainable forest management practices, developing NTFP enterprises, certify CFUGs, business development and marketing training and strategic direction on policy dialogue.

Key achievements:

- 4,366 men and 4,642 women members of CFUGs have received trainings on enterprise development, business development, certification and marketing.
- 13 new CFUGs, who have applied for FSC certification, have been assessed by Rain Forest Alliance and have received positive feedback.
- 7,916 men and 7,821 women will directly benefit from the certified forest's potential expansion of revenues while ensuring top-quality sustainable forest management practices.
- Partners have introduced more than 10 new services and 10 new products to their members.
- More than 70 consultations have been done by the partners on different issues in the area of policy dialogue, improving conditions of CFUGs at the national level.
- The number of forest based community-level enterprises have increased and the benefits from these enterprises have also increased. There is a high increase in the production of hand-made paper (42%), essential oils (33%), handicrafts and bio-briquettes (457%). Similarly the organizations' sales figures have increased ranging from 33% to 978%.
- Several new networks or social economy enterprises have emerged and partners are able to find new buyers. The number of people engaged in forest based enterprises has increased. With the increase in membership, sales figures, the price of products, and the purchasing power of families have also increased by 50%-70%.



Community forest farmer, Lalitpur District

Agro-Food Sub-Sector Development

The agro-food sub-sector partners are working to improve the socio-economic conditions of small farmers and rural populations. Significant changes have taken place in this sub-sector with Uniterra support. Cooperatives that previously provided very limited services in integrated pesticide management, organic farming, market study and linkage, succeeded to introduce three new products and offer 31 new services to their members.

Over a four-year period, 1,964 men and 1,817 women were trained in increasing and improving production, productivity, animal health and management, marketing, business plans and cooperative management. It also built up the capacities of the organizations in policy dialogue, organizational management, program implementation and knowledge sharing. Most of the partners now have functional tools and a methodology for operational communication and documentation.

Linkages with local government, line agencies, and other service providers for joint planning and resource mobilization has been considerably strengthened. The LDMPCU helped one women-only cooperative to tap resources from the government and now they are raising 200 buffalo calves- 50% of which was contributed by government and 50% by farmers.

Production of agro-foods has substantially increased - milk production by 45%, vegetable production by 53% and seed production by 148%. Organizations sales figure have increased from 40-65% in this sub sector. The number of cooperatives and its members have increased, and the member's purchasing power has increased up to 150% in dairy sector. More than 50% of farmers have reported better access to health and education facilities.



Uniterra Animal Health Advisor volunteers on farm visit, Sankhu village

Private Sector Development

Uniterra private sector development partners are working in the field of fair trade, microfinance and gender and social inclusion. Uniterra volunteers work with CECI partners to enhance their effectiveness through business development, institutional capacity building, marketing and publicity at the international level.

Volunteers helped partners to develop and/or update various tools. A total of 428 tools were developed or updated, which mostly include the product designs and the organizations promotional materials. Volunteers not only developed the tools but also trained staff members of partner organizations so that they can update/manage or reproduce those tools/products themselves.

Accomplishments

- 2692 men and 3035 women members of cooperatives, CBOs or microfinance institutions received enterprise development, business development, marketing, and leadership development trainings.
- Over the last two and a half years, the group of partners also introduced more than 100 new fair trade products and developed 18 new services.
- The Center for Micro Finance, an organization created by CECI in 1996, organized the 3rd microfinance summit in 2013, where 850 people from national and international organizations participated.



Participants taking photograph after a proposal and report writing training

The Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) Program

CECI is managing AVID in partnership with Austraining International (AI) to provide in-country management (ICMs) for the implementation of the program in Nepal. Australian Volunteers work with local people to reduce poverty by sharing knowledge, developing sustainable skills and building the capacity of individuals, organizations and communities in line with partner governments and Australian Government development priorities, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

There are two streams of the Australian Volunteers program which have been designed to provide the best fit for each assignment. The first stream is the youth stream, also called the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD), where volunteers are of 18 to 30 years of age with one to three years of professional experience. The second stream Volunteering for International Development from Australia (VIDA) is more experienced volunteers of over 18-years of age and more than three-years of professional experience. VIDA is a program which recruits, prepares and supports Australians of all ages to volunteer in developing countries. VIDA volunteers share valuable knowledge and skills, contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable development in the communities in which they work.

AYAD is a program initiated by the Australian Government aimed at strengthening mutual un-



derstanding between Australia and countries of the Asia-Pacific region. It also aims to make a positive contribution to development by placing skilled young Australians on short term assignments in eligible countries.

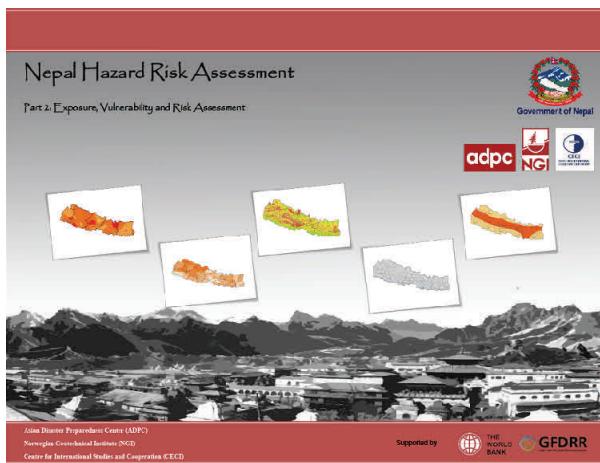
In the fiscal year 2012-2013, 38 Australian Volunteers worked for the development of Nepal. The volunteers worked in sectors that are consistent with the country program priorities, including education, health, economic development, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and humanitarian needs. Currently there are 15 Australian volunteers in Nepal. Six are working in the health sector, three in economic development, three in WASH, one in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and two in governance.

Gemma Brett, worked as an Australian Volunteer at Public Health Concern Trust (PHECT-Nepal) more widely known as the Model Hospital from April 2012 to April 2013. Gemma has double Masters in the fields of Genetic counseling and Molecular Bioscience in Development Biology. Although she was very highly qualified, Gemma chose to come and work as a volunteer in Nepal as a Health Research Officer and managed to do the following during her time in Nepal:

- Designed policies and procedures for an institutional ethics committee to review proposed biomedical research involving humans to be conducted at Phect-NEPAL
- Gained accreditation of the Phect-NEPAL institutional ethics committee from the national body, the Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), who notified that this was the most organised ethics committee of the 18 now established in Nepal
- Cultivated connections between phect-NEPAL and other health institutes in Nepal
- Established Phect-NEPAL as a provider of training on biomedical research methodologies, ethics and evidence based practice by providing workshops to health professionals from a number of institutes in Kathmandu Valley.

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4. Disaster Risk Reduction Projects



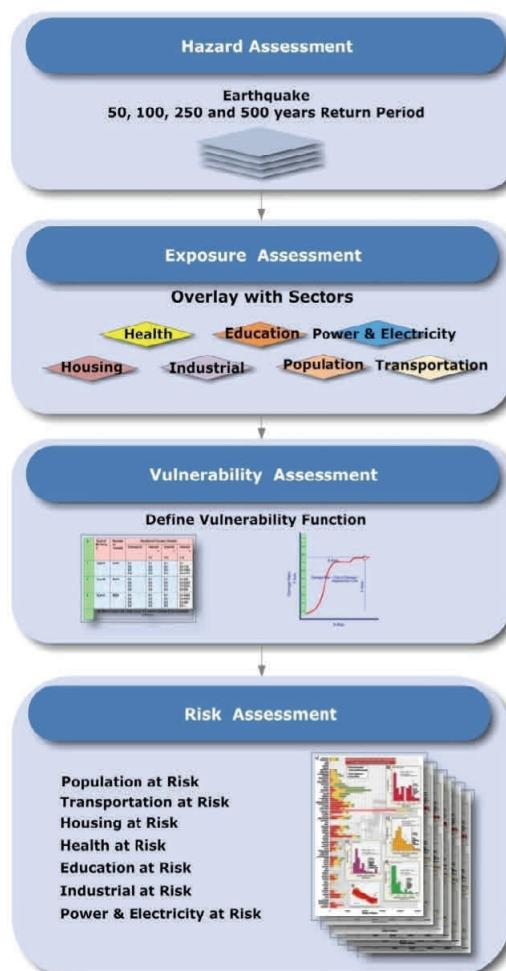
CECI implemented “Strengthening Institutional and Legislative Systems for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal” in partnership with Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) under the Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management of Nepal. The project ran from Dec 2011 – Aug 2012 and the budget for CECI’s Technical assistance was USD 35,000.

The project aimed at strengthening the capacity of selected ministries of Government of Nepal in mainstreaming disaster risk management (DRM) and climate risk management (CRM).

CECI was responsible for assessing three ministries – the Ministry of Irrigation, the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and the Ministry of Environment. To understand existing legal and policy frameworks, CECI reviewed legislations, policies, planning procedures supporting disaster and climate risk management in the irrigation sector of Nepal. CECI then identified key areas of improvement, concrete recommendations and specific action points for mainstreaming disaster and climate risk management.

Major work accomplished:

- Identification and analysis of existing gaps at policy and implementation levels.
- Prepared a mainstreaming framework.
- Prepared a capacity building plan, incorporating a training curriculum and training plan.
- Facilitated a three day training workshop on DRM/CRM mainstreaming for senior policy and management personnel.



Methodology of Earthquake Exposure, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment , Nepal Hazard Risk Assessment

5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Projects

CECI is committed to giving a voice to socially excluded groups through inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. By mainstreaming a gender and inclusive perspective into policies, procedures and practices at both the organizational and project level, CECI is helping to transform centuries of inequalities and exclusion preventing Dalits, Janajatis and women from every caste and ethnic group to access education, jobs opportunities and power.

Every project designed, implemented and monitored by CECI includes a GESI strategy and uses participatory methods to empower women and socially excluded groups. Moreover, all CECI staff and partners regularly take part in GESI trainings. A training kit on GESI has been developed to support our partners in promoting these approaches and methodologies within their organizations and in their programs.

Highlights of GESI Support this Year

Establishment of a women-only dairy cooperative and Dalit women-only dairy cooperative



Dalit women entrepreneurs



GESI training for LDMPCU members



Gender and social inclusion in cultural product best practice sharing workshop

CECI's gender advisors played a key role in promoting the equitable distribution of labor between men and women in the dairy-sector by increasing women's representation and participation in the membership, trainings, meetings and executive committees of dairy cooperatives. CECI is working in partnership with the Lalitpur District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union (DMPCU), Makwanpur District Milk Producers' Cooperative Union (MDMPCU) and the Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO).

CECI provided women the opportunity of meetings with experienced producers, exposure visits and ongoing technical support in the areas of production, marketing, cooperative education and animal health. The result has been seen in increased income for women and significantly evolved attitudes towards women's and disadvantaged groups' role in the dairy sector.



GESI training for Dairy Cooperative executives

Opening Doors for Dalit Youth

CECI launched the Innovative Internship Program financed by the CECI Uniterra Program, and delivered by the Professional Development and Research Center (PDRC). The initiative, which provided training to seven Dalit interns in professional skills and a placement at a local NGO to gain practical work experience, is helping to break the cycle of discrimination against Dalits by enhancing their eligibility for employment. The six-month pilot program, de-

signed for new graduates of the Dalit community, comprised of intensive trainings in the English language, computer essentials, administration skills and an internship with CECI's partners working in the sustainable forest management sector. They worked alongside Canadian interns from Students Without Borders, fostering exchange of ideas and transfer of skills among the youth from different cultural backgrounds. Seven Dalit interns participated, two female interns have secured government jobs and two others are employed in the organizations where they did their internships.



Anita Bhusal interviewing carpenter during training period

“I have changed. Before I didn't know office work or administration tasks and I didn't speak much English. Now I can talk to foreigners and talk in front of large groups of people”

- Anita Bhusal, Dalit intern, a project beneficiary in Dolakha with FECOFUN

Celebrating 103rd International Women's Day



Uniterra Senior Program Officer speaking at the International Women's Day program

CECI/Uniterra hosted an event to celebrate the 103rd International Women's Day on 11 March 2013 at the Shanker Hotel in Kathmandu. Focusing on the theme of sustainable economic growth among disadvantaged women and youth, the event drew Uniterra partners, volunteers, international and national NGOs, and private sector and government representatives. Through networking,

discussion and idea sharing, the forum demonstrated how skills training and small businesses are leading development approaches to build self-reliant, prosperous communities. The program included guest speakers from Helvetas, MEDEP, Prerana, Ministry of Youth and Sports and CECI who presented papers and shared approaches and strategies towards overall women's development



Uniterra volunteers during the International Women's Day program

Knowledge Sharing Workshops

CECI commits to mobilizing its personnel, volunteers and partners to promote equality between women and men by creating opportunities for discussion on gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) related issues. In collaboration with our partner Integrated Development Society Nepal (IDS) we organized a workshop on Climate Change and Gender Perspectives for our partner organisations.

The workshop engaged representatives in agro-food, forestry, advocacy and fair trade on climate change concepts from a gender perspective and gave them tools to integrate the concepts in their organisations' projects and programs. Similarly, CECI regularly facilitates networking, discussion and idea sharing forums for International Women's Day and

mainstreaming GESI in projects and programmes



Uniterra national volunteer Santosh Pandey leading a workshop in Makwanpur district

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Sahaastitwa	Jennifer Lee Clary and Mallika Bhattarai
MSFP	Keweb Park
PRAN	Manna Sainju, Mallika Bhattarai and CBOs
Volunteer	Jennifer Lee Clary, Lakshya, Mallika Bhattarai, Vanessa Humphries and CBOs
GESI	Dr. Suryalaxmi Bajracharya, Santosh Pandey and CBOs