

# **FINAL REPORT**

*Grant Reference No KAT 076*

## **Democratizing the CPA in the Central Terai: Mahottari and Rautahat**

**(August-October 2007)**

**Submitted to  
Chemonics International Inc., Nepal**

**Submitted By  
Rural Community Development Service Council  
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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>CA</b>	<b>Constituent Assembly</b>
<b>CPA</b>	<b>Comprehensive Peace Agreement</b>
<b>FEDEN</b>	<b>Federation of Democratic NGOs</b>
<b>OTI</b>	<b>Office of Transition International</b>
<b>RCDSC</b>	<b>Rural Community Development and Service Center</b>
<b>RICOD</b>	<b>Rural Institution for Community Development</b>
<b>USAID</b>	<b>United State Aid for International Development</b>
<b>VDC</b>	<b>Village Development Committee</b>

### *Executive Summary*

This is compiled report of progress, achievements and experiences of the project " Democratizing the CPA in the Central Terai: Mahottari and Rautahat", granted by Chemonics International Inc., Nepal for three months (August- October 2007)

The main objectives of the project were; to aware the local people on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, to sensitize the local people on peace building process in Nepal, and to involve by themselves in the sustainable peace building process and upcoming CA election.

Field level activities of the project were managed by RCDSC whereas the resource persons for training/ workshop and IEC materials are provided by Rural Institution for Community Development (RICOD)

Major outcomes of the project are; 94 district level stakeholders including CDO, LDO, district development committee, women development, Red cross, local leaders, journalists, advocates, businessman, local organizations and representatives of NGOs and social organizations were awared on CPA, 700 T-shirts,350 caps, 140 bags, 140 umbrella, 5000 CPA booklets, 5000 flyers, 25000 posters n Nepali and 2500 in Maithili language were distributed, 118 Peace volunteers were trained on CPA, human rights and peace process, 1661 participants including community leaders, women's group, health post staffs, VDC representatives, local NGOs, farmer's user groups, irrigation user groups were awared on CPA and their roles in peace building in local level, 755 school teachers and students were oriented on CPA, 1405 members women saving and credit groups were oriented on the CPA and their roles in peace building, 10 street dramas were staged in different parts of two districts from which approximately 5680 people are supposed to be aware, 2 district level peace rally were organized and more than 600 district level stakeholders were awared from the project.

RCDSC has faced some problems and constraints in implementing the project. Because of the strikes and prevailing violence in the terai region, RCDSC had to make slight modification in TOT program. It lasted a bit longer and a group had to be merged with other groups and there were 5 TOT programs instead of 6. The people of the project area were highly interested to participate in the orientation and training workshops. High demand for participating was raised by local people. However we could provide room for participation only for limited number because of the resource constraints. The violence has not ended in the terai; many arms groups have emerged and there is no peaceful environment to implement the programs.

RCDSC has learnt that the local organizations and mobilization of local people helped a lot to implement the programs successfully even in the conflicting environment. To work in the community, local community members were the good experts because they have known the local environment clearly.

On the basis of learning, it is suggested that to strengthen the peace building process at the local level a massive and integrated programs on sustainable peace building, conflict management, human rights, and comprehensive peace agreement need to continue in the

terai region and people will be aware massively on the present peace process and conflict management .

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## ***PART 1***

### **1. Background**

Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDS) has successfully implemented a project- " Democratizing the CPA in the Central Terai: Mahottari and Rautahat", granted by Chemonics International Inc., Nepal for three months (August- October 2007)

The project area lies in 52 VDCs of two districts (Mahottari and Rautahat) in the Central Development Region of Nepal. Instances of cultural violence, domestic violence, women/child trafficking, caste/class and communal conflict etc cause the communities of the VDCs remaining backwardness. The social structure of project VDCs is based on hierarchical caste and patriarchy system. The VDCs are considered as highly affected VDCs by current movements.

RCDS has been working with the community of project districts in the field of gender awareness, against domestic violence, promoting human rights, peace, and rule of law and promoting participation of excluded groups in democratic process. On the basis of past experiences, RCDS found that it is essential to provide massive awareness on comprehensive peace agreement to the local people.

In this context, RCDS has designed and implemented this project targeting the local people to create awareness on the CPA and the role of citizen.

### **2. The Report**

This is compiled report of progress, achievements and experiences of the project " Democratizing the CPA in the Central Terai: Mahottari and Rautahat", granted by Chemonics International Inc., Nepal for three months (August- October 2007)

The main objectives of the project were to aware the local people on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, to sensitize the local people on peace building process in Nepal and to involve by themselves in the sustainable peace building process and upcoming CA election.

A brief description of planned and achievements of each activity are included in the report. After brief description, major outcomes of the activities, challenges faced during the implementation of the activities and lesson learned is presented in the report. Detail processes of the activities are included in annexes. Similarly, lists of participants of training/workshop/meeting, schedules of training/workshop, some case studies and photographs are included in annexes.

### **3. Salient Features of the Project**

#### **3.1. Project Goal**

The overall goal of this program was to aware the local people on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and peace building process in Nepal.

### 3.2. Objectives

The objectives of the project were;

- to aware the local people on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement
- to sensitize the local people on peace building process in Nepal and
- To involve by themselves in the sustainable peace building process and upcoming CA election.

**3.3. Project Period:** August-October 2007

**3.4. Total Budget of the Project:** NRs- 3,147,105.00

**3.5. Grant Reference No:** KAT 076

**3.6. Project Stakeholders:** Government officials, DDC and VDC representatives, local political leaders, journalists, advocates, students, teachers, women groups, users group, local NGOs, social and community leaders and overall ordinary people of the project area.

### 4. Planned and achievements of each activities of the project

List of planned activities; expected output and immediate achievements are presented in the table below;

S.N.	Activities	Expected outputs	Immediate achievements
1.	District level orientation in two districts (Mahottari and Rautahat)	Two events orientation workshops conducted. Total of 90 participants from different district level organizations participated.	94 participants from different organizations including CDO, LDO, district development committee, women development, Red cross, local leaders, journalists, advocates, businessman, local organizations & representatives of NGOs and social organizations were awared on the CPA
2.	IEC materials dissemination	Distribution of 700 T-shirts, 350 caps, 140 bags, 140 umbrella, 5000 CPA booklets, 5000 flyers, 25000 posters in Nepali and 2500 in Maithili language.	700 T-shirts, 350 caps, 140 bags, 140 umbrella, 5000 CPA booklets, 5000 flyers, 25000 posters in Nepali and 2500 in Maithili language were distributed.

3	TOT for peace volunteers	Six events of 5 days TOT conducted and 120 local facilitators trained.	Five events of 5 days TOT conducted and 118 local facilitators trained on CPA, peace building and CA election process. <i>Three events of TOT had to be merged due general strikes in terai. Two local facilitators remained absent due to their own personal reasons.</i>
4	VDC level orientation	52 events on VDC level orientation in given VDCs of two districts conducted.	From 52 events 1661 participants(1108 male and 553 female) including community leaders, women's group, health post staffs, VDC representatives, local NGOs, farmer's user groups, irrigation user groups were awared on CPA and their roles in peace building in local level
5	Orientation with women's saving and credit groups	60 events on orientation to women saving and credit groups conducted	From the 60 events in Mahottari district, 1405 members women saving and credit groups were oriented on the CPA and their roles in peace building process.
6	School level Orientation	25 events on orientation program with school teachers and students conducted in two districts.	From the 25 events on school level orientation 755 school teachers and students including 482 male and 273 female were oriented on CPA
7	Staging street drama	10 events in different parts of two districts conducted.	10 events of street drama conducted and approximately 5680 people including 2549 male and 3131 female were aware.
8	District level peace rally	Two events in two districts conducted	Two events in two districts conducted and 600 district level stakeholders participated and awared.
9	Post activity reflection meeting	Two events on reflection meetings conducted in two districts	118 peace volunteers participated in the meetings and shared and examined the program.

## **5. Implementation process and strategy of the project**

The project was implemented in coordination with RICOD and local level stakeholders. An orientation workshop for the stakeholders was organized in the beginning of the project. Most of the stakeholders were presented in the workshop and they had been oriented on the aim and objectives of the project. Selection criteria of the beneficiaries (Training participants, peace volunteers) were developed in consultation with the stakeholders as well as the target groups of the people.

Resource persons for training and workshop and overall monitoring of the project are provided by RICOD whereas the field level implementation of the activities is managed by RCDSC.

## **6. Major outcomes:**

The overall outcomes of the project are presented below;

### **Activity 1**

94 participants from different organizations including CDO, LDO, district development committee, women development, Red Cross, local leaders, journalists, advocates, businessman, local organizations & representatives of NGOs and social organizations were aware on the CPA. The participants have been made aware on the subject matter of the peace process in Nepal which had incorporated the 12 point agenda, 25 point code of conduct and 8 point agreement between the government of Nepal and Nepal Communist Party Maoists.

### **Activity 2**

700 T-shirts, 350 caps, 140 bags, 140 umbrella, 5000 CPA booklets, 5000 flyers, 25000 posters in Nepali and 2500 in Maithili language were distributed. The IEC materials were used and distributed by peace volunteers, RCDSC staffs, the local communities, project stakeholders. All the IEC materials were disseminated to the local communities and the stakeholders.

### **Activity 3**

Five events of 5 days TOT conducted and 118 local facilitators trained on CPA, peace building and CA election process. They facilitated the VDC level orientation in their respective VDCs. *(Three events of TOT had to be merged due general strikes in terai. Two local facilitators remained absent due to their own personal reasons)*

#### **Activity 4**

52 VDC level orientation programs were conducted. From 52 events, 1661 participants (1108 male and 553 female) including community leaders, women's group, health post staffs, VDC representatives, local NGOs, farmer's user groups, irrigation user groups were aware of the contents of the CPA, peace process, human rights issues, their roles and responsibilities in the peace building, CA election.

#### **Activity 5**

60 events were conducted with 60 women saving and credit groups in Mahottari district. From the 60 events in Mahottari district, 1405 members women saving and credit groups were oriented on the CPA and their roles in peace building process.

#### **Activity 6**

25 school level orientation programs were conducted in two districts. From the 25 events on school level orientation, 755 school teachers and students including 482 male and 273 female were oriented on CPA, human rights, CA election, and peace building process in Nepal.

#### **Activity 7**

10 events of street drama conducted in two districts and approximately 5680 people including 2549 male and 3131 female were aware. The drama was based on the contents of the CPA; to respect the human rights (citizen, political, economic, cultural etc.), free and fearless working environment for all, not to compel any one to do something illegally, respect the CPA etc. The artists staged the street dramas on these subject matter and core messages.

#### **Activity 8**

Two events organized on district level peace rally in two districts and 600 district level stakeholders participated and aware. The peace volunteers, local leaders, civil society members, representatives of the different government and non government organization, professional organizations and the ordinary people took part in the peace rally. They were shouting the slogans holding the placards and banner clearly expressing to protect and not to violate human rights. Also they demanded the concerned parties to respect the CPA honestly and act accordingly. The placards were read as "we want peace, respect the human rights of the citizens, let's respect the comprehensive peace agreement, let's respect the rule of law, let's help to build up sustainable peace in the country, let's respect the right to life of people, keep on social harmony, let's build the peace and prosperous Nepal.

#### **Activity 9**

118 peace volunteers participated in the meetings and shared and examined the program. They discussed the problems and constraints they faced.

## **7. Challenges Faced**

The following challenges were faced during the implementation of the project;

- Because of the strikes and prevailing violence in the terai region, RCDSC had to make slight modification in TOT program. It lasted a bit longer and a group had to be merged with other groups and there were 5 TOT programs instead of 6.
- The people of the project area were highly interested to participate in the orientation and training workshops. High demand for participating was raised by local people. However we could provide room for participation only for limited number because of the resource constraints.
- The violence has not ended in the terai; many arms groups have emerged and there is no peaceful environment to implement the programs.

## **8. Lesson learned**

From the program, RCDSC has learnt that the local organizations and mobilization of local people helped a lot to implement the programs successfully even in the conflicting environment. To work in the community, local community members were the good experts because they have known the local environment clearly.

## **9. Suggestions**

On the basis of learning, it is suggested that to strengthen the peace building process at the local level a massive and integrated programs on sustainable peace building, conflict management, human rights, and comprehensive peace agreement need to continue in the terai region and people will be aware massively on the present peace process and conflict management .

*Case study*

Yogendra Sahani, a resident of Basantapatti VDC 6, Rauttahaat district, was the VDC chairman of Basantapatti VDC. On Monday morning on 2063/2/8, the Maoists abducted his two sons, Sambhu Sahani of 35 and Shyam Sundar Sahani of 33 years from their home and their house was exploded by bomb. Their mother was injured 4 bullets while they were abducted. The dead body of Shambhu and Shyam Sundar was discovered by police on the riverbank in the buried condition. They were found cut into pieces with the local spade (kodalo). The third son of Yogendra, Birbasan of 28 years, was shot and wounded at his chest on 2064/6/28. No one has taken the responsibility of the incident but Maoist wing YCL is suspected to be involved in the incident. Though his property was all captured, by this year his property has been returned and he started to farm his land. His house is being exploded time and again by Maoists in 2057, 2064 and Birbasan was attacked on 22 Falgun 2063. Still he can not live in his village. But now the local people, by the impact of the peace program, are active to create the favorable environment for his security in his village. They said to start dialogue to the concerned parties. People are committed to build peaceful environment in their VDCs. The impact is quite positive. The project has changed a lot in the local level to strengthen the peace process.



*Participants and guests on District level orientation, Jaleswor August 7 2007*



*A peace volunteers presenting to her colleges in a TOT program in Rauthat*



*Peace Volunteers in group discussion in Mahottari*

