



RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE COUNCIL (RCDS)

...working for social change and development



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Message from the Chairperson

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to bring out the Annual Report of Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC) for the year 2010-11 with a view to provide information about our organisation and the efforts we have embarked in Nepal.

The year 2010/11 saw Nepalese society being marred by multiple crises such as food, energy, financial, climate and politics with deleterious impacts on the lives and livelihoods of the people. Such crises do mean significant hardships and disappointment for the already frustrated people, who have been desperately waiting for a 'peace dividend'. Even after the establishment of a republic state following the end of the armed conflict that took place mainly because of the socio-economic frustrations on the part of the people as well as abolition of the monarchy, the country continued to face frequent civil unrest and rampant human rights violation owing to the political instability and fallibility on the part of the State. The presence of the government could be felt only partially that too in the capital and urban centres, and it has not yet been able to take the comprehensive peace process to a logical conclusion. The State, despite its obligations, has not been able to deliver even the basic social and economic services to hundreds and thousands of Nepal's most vulnerable and historically excluded people.

Even in the fragile political situation of the country, RCDSC launched various development and advocacy missions much in line with its credo to give the resource poor and marginalised people a sense of development attention in an effort to healing up their mental traumas caused by their long wait for a peace dividend, while also making them aware of their social, economic and cultural rights and right to development. This year, RCDSC focused most of its development and advocacy interventions on 'livelihood' and 'good governance', be it at community or national or international level with the strong belief that peace building process and development efforts should go hand-in-hand for each other's happening. Obviously, RCDSC embraced 'rehabilitation', 'reconstruction' and 'reconciliation' as key foundation for implementing its development projects and programmes. It is also pertinent to mention here that gender equality and social inclusion has been at the heart of all our interventions so as to provide direct benefit to the poor and vulnerable mass of women, excluded, and the conflict affected persons.

I would like to acknowledge and recognise the generous support of our partners, well wishers, the hard work of our own staffs and volunteers, and most importantly, the contribution of the communities we work with for successfully accomplishing RCDSC's development and advocacy missions.

I believe that you would find this report edifying. I also welcome your comments and suggestions for our future undertakings. In the end, I hope that the coming year will be socially, economically and politically more conducive for all of us to live on this earth peacefully and prosperously.

Thank you,

Ram Adhar Kapar
Chairperson

PART I

Introduction

1.1 About Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC)

Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC) has successfully completed 14 years from the end of the fiscal year 2010/11. The organization has been in a journey of innovations, partnerships, expansion of both geographical and community (population) outreach. This year RCDSC confronted both; challenges and encouragements. The primary challenge owes to the continued political instability and violence/conflict in the Terai region, particularly in the Mahottari, Dhanusha and Sarlahi districts. Though it was not bottleneck for the progress of RCDSC it hampered our endeavor to bringing transformation as expected in the civil society and delivering key services in health, income generation, small farmer's irrigation, safe drinking water, sanitation and other livelihoods improvement of the poor and excluded people.

It is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) working in the mid-terai region of Nepal for promoting the rights of socially, culturally and politically excluded groups/communities through the intervention of several program and activities. The focus of this year is on democracy and promoting citizen participation on peace process by working in Mahottari, Dhanusha, Sarlahi and Rautahat districts. This not only increased our geographical outreach but also provided an opportunity to enhance the organizational capacity of performing a facilitative and advocacy role to contribute in constitution drafting process of new Nepal. Likewise, RCDSC has initiated to promote participation of youth in promoting peace in Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Rautathat districts, and has worked for establishing good governance at community level. Similarly, RCDSC has initiated strategies of interventions to overcome the challenges of social changes in the issues of human rights and democracy.

In this Annual Report of F/Y 2010-11, a glimpse of the progress of the different projects is mentioned. During the year projects like Poverty alleviation, Water and Sanitation, Livelihood Recovery for Peace (LRP) Project, Micro-Enterprise Development Program, Saving & Credit Cooperative, Youth Focused Constitution Dialogues in Small Town of Nepal, Youth Partnership program on Agriculture Management, Promoting Peace and Demarcation Process in Terai Madesh and Reproductive health and some others were implemented. These projects proved to be of substantial support for the poor and excluded community people. Economically groups are self reliance by the saving credit program supported from World Neighbor. Similarly, Community FM program also has effectively generated awareness by broadcasting information and news of national/international and local issues. RCDSC has established its own cooperatives to help the poor community of Mahottari district for generating access over the finance to the landless and socially excluded people. The theme that runs across this report is the issue of maintaining coherence in our perspective and programs as we undertake many different interventions with support received from many different donors at different locations and sites.

The primary principle of RCDSC is to provide support that empowers people and help them reach their full potential through the use of local resources and technology rather than external ones. Strongly believing that local communities can identify their problems as well as their corresponding solutions and respecting the value of self-determination, RCDSC builds on community's strength and promotes self-reliance, which creates lasting solutions rather than short term fixes.

1.1.1 Geographical Coverage of RCDSC

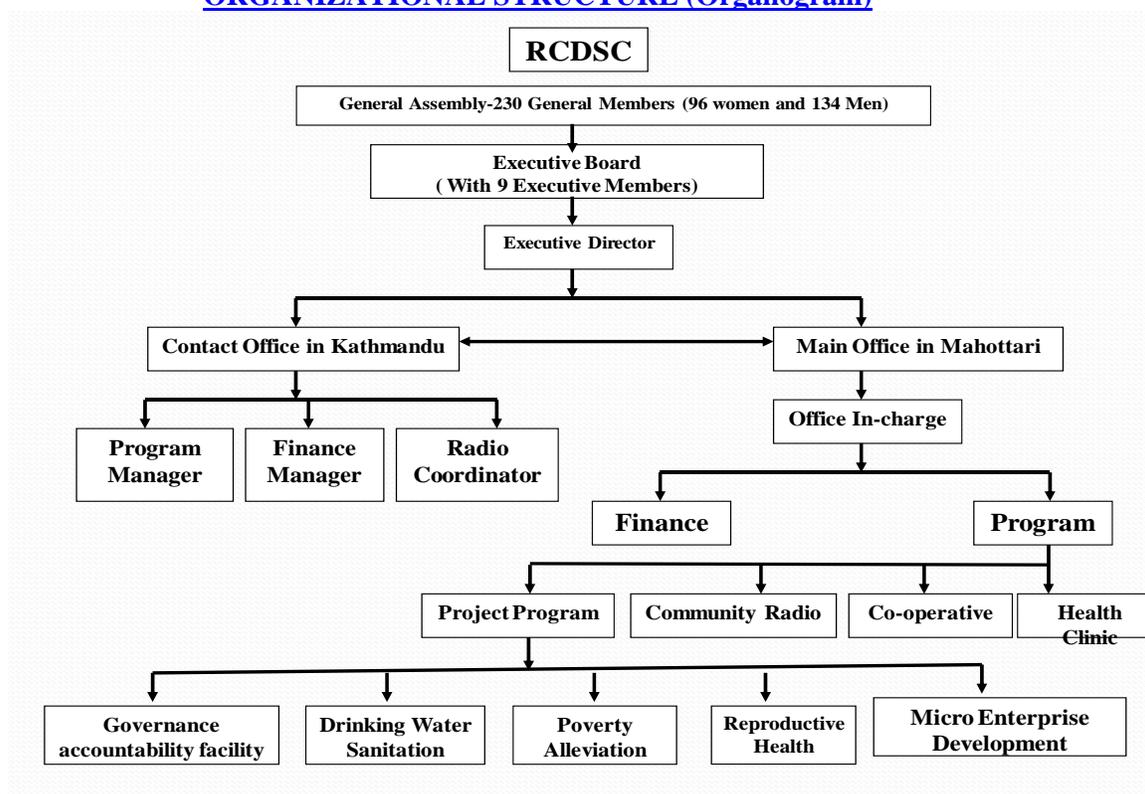
With the objective of achieving positive impacts on the lives of poor and marginalised people in the rural area, RCDSC has established multipurpose resource centres in Mahottari district in Jaleswar-5. Furthermore, since its establishments in 1997 RCDSC has already expanded its geographical horizon from entire VDCs of Mahottari district to other 15 different districts of Nepal as shown in the map. It has worked in the churia region (Surkhet district) and Hilly region of Sunsari district (Dharan Municipality) as well.

1.1.2 Organizational Structure

An executive board comprises of 9 members consisting of a President, one Vice President, one Secretary, one Treasurer 5 Executive members. Out of 9 board members, 4 (44%) are female, and 2 (22%) dalits with Vice-President Female. There are 230 (Women 96, Men 134) general members in RCDSC. Out of total members, there are specialized two separate committees (i) Gender committee and (ii) Dalit committee that are responsible to oversee gender and Dalit issues.

There is a small team of administrative staff for smooth functioning of office and the program based in Kathmandu (as contact office) and Mahottari district, as program district. Besides, there are 63 staff that are hired and mobilized as per the needs of different project, implemented by RCDSC. Out of the total staff, 32 staff are female and 12 staff are dalits . In addition, all the staff have been oriented and trained on gender and dalit issues.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE (Organogram)



1.1.3 Source of Funding

As RCDSC is a non-profit organization, a larger number of funding comes from donors and International NGOs. Besides, RCDSC has mobilized its internal resource to generate its own fund. Membership contribution, rent from training equipments and hall, overhead from mobilizing different projects, and cooperatives and radio programs are other sources of internal funding are the income source of the organization.

1.2 Organizational Features

1.2.1 The General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA) of RCDSC is the highest governing entity. The GA meets annually and provides overall institutional policy framework. It reviews and approves strategies, programs and plans, and ensures that RCDSC is operating within the overall policy framework towards its organizational vision, mission and objectives.

1.2.2 The Executive Committee

The RCDSC's Executive Committee (EC), under the General Assembly, is the organization's governing body which subsequently receives suggestions, recommendations and implementation measures from Dalit Committee, and Gender equality & social inclusion committee. The EC ensures effective and efficient implementation of policy direction and guidance within the overall policy framework defined by the GA. The EC also reviews overall progress and plans, and budgets annually, and adjusts the RCDSC's operational structure to commensurate with the annual plan and programs.

The EC is a mission for reviews and evaluations of overall as well as specific programs and operations of RCDSC whenever such exercises are deemed necessary. The EC arranges for annual audit of RCDSC's financial transactions. The EC also manages the human resources necessary for the smooth operation of programs and projects. The EC members are elected at an interval of five years from among the members of the organization during its General Assembly.

1.2.3 The Management System

1.2.3.1 The Executive Director

The Executive Director (ED) provides overall administrative leadership to RCDSC for its institutional growth and development toward its vision, mission and objectives. The ED also has the general responsibility for operating the day-to-day management functions and overall

supervision of the programs and operations.

The ED ensures that RCDSC, as a non-government development organization, establishes its institutional niche within the macro arena of sustainable rural development in the country, with a particular focus on elimination of rural poverty, vulnerability and discrimination. The ED works within the RCDSC's statute and the scope of the overall policy framework devised by the General Assembly. The ED conforms that RCDSC operates in a decentralized and participatory manner with a set of efficient management systems, standards and procedures that demonstrate human dignity and growth, utilize human potentials, and develop and execute programs to achieve the organizational purposes.

1.2.3.2 Central Program Management Team

The central management team plays an advisory role and supports the ED on the matters related to overall organizational growth and development, as well as policy decisions pertaining to operation and management of the program. RCDSC has its District Office in Jaleswar-5, Mahottari to promote and operate the organization's programs/projects, administrative and financial matters.

1.2.3.3 Centre for Development Studies and Policy Team (CDSP)

The Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy team, based in Kathmandu, is responsible for policy research, alliance building, and campaign and policy advocacy. It undertakes wide-ranging research activities related to the impact of globalization, discrimination based on casteism and gender, poverty and other issues of unequal power and sociopolitical relations that affect the lives of the rural poor, women, children and ethnic minority groups including Dalit, Janajati and Madhesi of Terai region of Nepal. The findings of such research are incorporated into the designing of RCDSC's development programs and policy advocacy works.

Other major tasks of CDSP are to engage the organization RCDSC in different networks, fundraising initiatives, alliances, campaigns, seminars and workshops for policy advocacy at local, national, regional and global levels. Under this Centre, there are five major functional Units to share the responsibilities. They are:

- Policy Research, Advocacy and Lobbying
- Human Rights,
- Social Inclusion and Gender Equality,
- Good Governance Development at local level, and
- Networking and Alliance Building for fund raising

Furthermore, CDSP promotes action oriented research within the development projects and supports other research initiatives that have social, economic, environmental and political implications. The other responsibility includes management information system, documentation, publication, and media development for wider communication. It is also responsible for raising funds necessary for the program activities of the organization.

1.2.3.4 Monitoring and Evaluation Section

The Monitoring and Evaluation Section (5 members) comprises of Executive Director, District Manager, representative from executive committee, Dalit committee and Gender Equality & Social Inclusion Committee members and is responsible mainly for designing

monitoring and evaluating strategies and guidelines for undertaking overall monitoring and evaluation of the organization and the project activities including the financial matters. It, in turn, provides feedback to the executive committee for policy decisions, and to the programs/projects for further necessary improvements. This section is also responsible for strengthening the monitoring and evaluation capacity of the staff and the organization. The Section that shares the responsibilities of this Division includes:

- Monitoring & Evaluation,
- Information Management and
- Institutional Coordination

1.2.3.5 Finance and General Administration Section

The Finance and General Administration Section is responsible for the organization's management of financial resources and general administration, including the micro-finance related development projects. This section prepares budget plans for the projects, supports the field offices with necessary logistical arrangements and ensures maintenance of the accounts and inventory of the physical assets. It also prepares budget report for the organization and funding agencies, and arranges for the organization's internal and external audit. The Section is also responsible for the recruitment of staff and volunteers.

1.3 Approach and Strategy

In order to realize the objectives, RCDSO embraces the following strategic development approaches for its programme implementation:

1.3.1 Rights Based

Rights based approach of pro-poor development is founded on the conviction that each and every human being is a holder of rights. A right entails an obligation on the part of the government to respect, promote, protect, and fulfil it. The legal and normative character of human rights and the associated government obligations are based on the international human rights treaties and the national laws. Thus, a rights-based approach involves not charity or simple economic growth, but a process of changing systems, actions and priorities to enable and empower people to claim and realise their economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights including the right to development.

1.3.2 Inclusive

Inclusive approach of development is the process of ensuring that all marginalised/excluded groups from diverse geographical areas are deliberately included in the development process by releasing them from the socio-psychological, cultural and institutional barriers with a view to provide them with the benefits of development programs.

1.3.3 Sustainability

If development is related to improving the quality of life of people, sustainability is about more than just quality of life. Sustainability is about understanding and achieving balance among the social, economic, and environmental aspects of a community and providing a healthy, productive, meaningful life for all community residents not only in the present time but also in future.

1.3.4 Participatory

Genuine participation of the stakeholders is to provide them, most importantly the community beneficiaries, with ownership over the development programme as well as the benefits, while maintaining transparency and accountability in the implementation of development projects and policies.

1.3.5 Bottom-up Approach

Development from below approach intends to engage those who are or have been made 'last' in development process. More often than not, the development actors intentionally or unintentionally fail to bring them within the framework of the development agenda. Consequently, the 'last' are further pushed towards the extreme periphery of the development boundary.

Chapter 2

2. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

RCDSC focuses all its development programs on the fourfold approach of marginalised community support as the foundation upon which its programme and project activities are based. The focus lies on the following four key building blocks:

- **Advocacy for Rights through Raising Sensitization and Awareness** - to combat illiteracy, and provide exposure to the outside world, peace dividend
- **Livelihood** - to fight poverty and hunger
- **Health** - to prevent disease, and promote rights to health
- **Self-Government** - to overcome civic inertia through institutional development leading to self-reliance

Since the past 13 years, Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC) has been extensively engaging itself in implementing various community development programs and projects across the country. During this period, it has worked with over 160,000 community people through the formation and strengthening of hundreds of self-governing local institutions. RCDSC's interventions basically included creating an enabling environment conducive to making the people aware of their economic social and cultural rights and right to development, besides capacitating them to claim such rights and feel a sense of ownership over the local development programs in their own areas, rather than delivering the social and economic services. In doing so, RCDSC realises that, as an NGO, it has not only fulfilled its obligation of contributing to the mainstream development process of the country but also to mobilising the potential actors responsible for framing policies and intervening development programs at all levels. While designing the development projects, RCDSC always considers the pro-poor people national policies as well as the internationally agreed development goals, commitments, targets and declarations that came out of different Summits, Conferences and Assemblies. Similarly, during the implementation RCDSC consciously thinks of making the projects work for the people by genuinely channelling the resources from diverse sources to cater the basic needs of the people who are at the bottom of current social as well as economic structures of the society. In this sense, to a greater extent, RCDSC has been able to

facilitate the process of giving clout to the powerless for amplifying their voices to be heard by those who are in the position of decision making process.

2.1 Implementation Strategy

In order to enable meaningful implementation of RCDSC's community development programs and projects, it considered

- (i) The poverty stricken and remote areas inhabited by the poor and vulnerable people who had no or minimal access to the mainstream development opportunities,
- (ii) Genuine participation of the target beneficiaries through their self-help groups,
- (iii) Partnership with potential stakeholders,
- (iv) Community's demand followed by informed choice, and
- (v) Inclusive and democratic governance, human rights and rights to development as mandatory.

2.2 Projects Implemented

Taking these distressed situations as development challenge, we have pursued a variety of development projects aimed at providing sustainable impacts on the community beneficiaries by meeting their immediate needs of infrastructure and income generation, and creating an enabling environment for their social protection and reducing the potential for conflict and supporting peace building by strengthening their own organisations so that the most vulnerable communities of the society can assure their basic human rights and right to development. Some of these projects are short-term in nature, and are ongoing ones, while others are recently launched or as an extension of the earlier projects. Each project is characterised by its own objectives, components, and the target population to be served. A glimpse of RCDSC's development programs and projects of the year-2010/2011 has been tabled below as:

S/N	Projects	Implementation Districts	Time Frame	Funding Partner (s)
1	Nepal Integrated Development Program	14 VDCs of Mahottari	1 July 2010- 30 December 2011	World Neighbours (WN)
2	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program	7 VDCs of Mahottari	June 2010- July 2011	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board (Fund Board)
3	Poverty Alleviation Program	5 VDCs of Mahottari	June 2010- July 2011	Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF)
4	Youth and Women Focused Constitutional Dialogues in Small Towns of Nepal	10 Districts (Sunsari, Saptari, Sirah, Udayapur, Sindhuli, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Sarlahi, Rautahat and Bara)	December 2010- Nov 30 2011	The Asia Foundation/USAID
5	Promoting Peace and Democratization	Morang, Sunsari, Sarlahi, Dhanusha, Mahottari and Parsa	15 March 2010- 14 March 2011	CCO Nepa/SAP Nepal

	Process in Terai Madhesh Program	districts		
6	Multi-Sectoral Gender Based Violence	Mahottari, Kapilvastu, Surkhet and Kanchanpur	15 December 2010 – 14 January 2011	UN Women/UNICEF/UNFPA
7	Livelihood Recovery for Peace	Mahottari	Dec 10, 2009 to January 2011	UNDP
8	Public Hearing and Compliance Monitoring	Mahottari	June 2011- December 2011	Local Governance Accountability Facility (LGAF)
9	Community Based Monitoring of Local Government and Goods	Mahottari	June 2011- March 2012	Local Governance Accountability Facility (LGAF)
10	Ambulance Support	Mahottari	Since May 2005	Embassy of India

Among the above projects, projects as mentioned in S/N 5, 6, 7 have phased out, while the remaining ones mentioned in S/N 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 have the possibilities of running in FY 2011/12 as well.

2.2.1 Nepal Integrated Development Program

The Context and Rationale

Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDS) has been implementing Nepal Integrated Development Program since 2001 with the support from World Neighbors (WN). With the successful completion of continuous 10 annual programs, it is currently in the 11th years of continuous partnership with WN. The project was developed and launched in the crucial time when several settlements of Mahottari district were unaware of organic farming, agricultural promotion, women and children health issues, importance of natural resource management, gender equity and saving from the meagre household use. The goal of the project is to promote and improve the quality of lives of the local communities by helping them adapt to hygienic, healthy and self-sustainable lifestyles through provision of regular water supply, latrines, community education, income generation initiatives, networking and lobbying, especially for marginalised women, dalits and ethnic minorities.

In the project area, the lack of food and employment opportunities at the local level has forced many male household members to migrate to elsewhere within the country as well as in India. The seasonal migration is continuing as the traditional trend of the people of these areas of Mahottari district. Absence of male members in the household has increased the workload of women members. The children and women of the project area are highly vulnerable to nutritional deficiency due to poverty and ignorance. In the past, almost all of the targeted beneficiaries were running their livelihoods through traditional agriculture related activities, firewood collection and selling, and wage labours.

Objectives

- Enable sustainable improvements in livelihood status of poor community through promoting organic farming practices in agriculture
- Educate the community to conserve and develop natural resources,
- Ensure that poor and marginalised women have adequate knowledge and access to general and reproductive health services,

- Creating gender equity such that skills and capacities of both men and women are fully utilized to achieve the core objectives (cross-cutting issues),
- Ensure that the project beneficiaries especially, women gain adequate knowledge and skills that ensures self-reliance and program sustainability
- Improve people's livelihood and enhance the food security through on farm and off-farm activities and create access to saving and credit scheme, and
- Develop and strengthen network for raising awareness, advocacy and campaign related to food security and livelihoods issues

Components

- Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Livelihood (SARL)
- Community-based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM)
- Community and Reproductive Health (C & RH)
- Gender Equity
- Capacity Building
- Saving and Credit Groups and Cooperatives

Location

- Matihani, Simardahi, Suga, Parsa Pataili, Dhirapur, Majhaurabisanpur, Ekrahiya, Mahottari, Nainhi, Ankar, Halkhori, Padaul, Gonarpura, and SiswaKataiya VDCs of Mahottari district

Beneficiaries

- Total number: 1712 households (Men: 230, Women: 1482)
- Ethnic categories: Dalit, Janajati, women and others

Achievements

There are 106 total groups of which 76 women groups, 2 men groups and 28 mixed groups with 2302 members in 14 VDCs of Mahottari district. So far total saving amount of all 106 groups is NRs.3,904,681. They are using this amount for small income generation activities such as buffalo and cow rearing, poultry raising vegetable farming and small shop for emergency need for their group members. Interest rate of group members is less than non group members. Women groups also have skill of Mithila Art. They prepare such arts as per request inside and outside country. It is traditional art based on Mithila Kingdom in ancient history.

2 Women Groups and 1 Mixed group are empowered to independent level. Therefore, these 3 groups do not require additional and regular back-up. The same level of independence is envisioned with the rest of the groups as well.

The group members used to get loan from local money lender at a high interest but the saving and credit has created easy loan receiving. By this women are capable to develop their institution to raise voice for their right.

1 Health Clinic is operated in Bardaha Chowk of Dhirapur VDC and the service is provided 24 hours. One CMA and two ANMs are recruited for service delivery. NRs. 600,000 is provided as seed money to each women saving Credit Group. Mobile clinics are organized in 12 VDCs on monthly basis. Total 20 women and 24 men got training about maintenance of Pit Latrines and Hand Pumps.

2.2.2 Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program

The Context and Rationale

In most parts of Mahottari district, there is often lack of hygienic drinking water and sanitation facilities. The quantity and quality of water available in some areas is also inadequate. The existing sources of water are polluted; located at distance; the women, who traditionally shoulder the responsibility of fetching water, have to wait for long time to fetch the water. This situation has caused a real drudgery for the women who would spend almost a day for fetching water from the source. Consequently, the women in rural remote areas would not be able to engage themselves in the productive activities thus getting relegated to lower social and economic statuses. Besides, the communities are also encountering with the health hazards such as waterborne diseases (skin disease, dysentery, diarrhoea, etc.) and environmental hygiene problems arising from the contaminated water. Therefore, the community people from different ethnic groups came to demand for their access to quality water. In the mean time, they also showed their preparedness to contribute labour (skilled/unskilled), technical skill and assist in the project activities to be undertaken. They have a strong feeling that if the water supply and sanitation problem are solved, they will be in a better position to improve their life style and engage in other development activities to their benefit. With the experience of successful implementation of the earlier similar batches of projects, RCDSC has been implementing Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme in 7 VDCs of Mahottari district since 2007. RCDSC has been working together with women, Dalit, Janajati, through the process of facilitation, social mobilisation, empowerment, and self-organisation. The scheme, which aims at promoting sustainable and cost effective demand-led rural water supply and sanitation service, is funded by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board, Nepal.

Objectives

- Enhance access to drinking water,
- Improve health and sanitation of the community,
- Reduce drudgery of women,
- Develop social capital in the community among members belonging to various social caste and ethnic groups

Components

- Social mobilisation for rural drinking water and sanitation
- Training on health and sanitation education to mothers and children, health and sanitation for teachers and students , and
- Maintenance and service training for sustainability of the scheme
- Leadership development and future plan for users groups

Location

- Harinmari and Sitapur BhangahaVDCs of Mahottari district

Key achievements

The project provided support for the construction of community latrines for the households and schools by combining this activity with the drinking water schemes. The project also put strong emphasis on health and sanitation awareness and education in the community. These social activities are part of a comprehensive effort to assure the success of local participation and ownership as well as the project's long-term sustainability. The communities have been

contributing to the project by supplying their labour and locally available materials to the project. The villagers also held themselves responsible to operate and maintain the system. Locally appropriate norms have been developed to operate and manage the sanitation units with the roles and responsibilities assigned to the individuals in the community in respect to participation requirements, decision-making processes, dispute resolutions, etc. This project has brought significant impacts in the lives of the beneficiary communities by contributing to improve the lifestyle of the rural poor and providing them with the clean and safe water supply and proper sanitation system. As the project made water available right in their villages, the communities have been able to save maximum of time, which otherwise would have been spent in fetching water from a distant source.

Consequently, the project helped reduce women's drudgery thus empowering them and widening their livelihood options. The increased availability of clean and safe drinking water and proper sanitation system contributed to improve the health of the beneficiaries. With the provision of clean and safe drinking water and environmental sanitation, the people are prevented from water borne diseases, thus leading to improvement in the quality of life of local communities. The awareness and non-formal educational activities related to health and sanitation also brought positive changes in the lives of the beneficiaries, eventually resulting in improvement in the personal, household and community sanitation and environment. The direct and physical involvement of the local people in the project activities has developed a sense of ownership and responsibility in them to operate and maintain the project activities after its completion. In the facilitation support of RCDS, community has constructed 105 hand-pipes for drinking water support and constructed 210 pit-latrines at household level and 3 schools are supported with child friendly toilets.

2.2.3 Poverty Alleviation Program

The Context and Rationale

Poverty and discrimination in Nainahi, Padaul, Bathanaha, ParsaPataili and Siswa Kataiya is widespread. Extreme malnutrition in children and women compounded by domination upon women and marginalised caste is beyond imagination. In such VDCs, RCDS has been supporting the poor and marginalised community with income generation through capacity building, saving credit group formation and community asset creation with the financial assistance received from PAF. These VDCs are located at a distance of 12-16 KM from the district headquarter, Jaleswar of Mahottari district. Lack of education, entrapped into vicious poverty trap, unemployment and inaccessible to government resources are the usual phenomenon of the area.

Objectives

- Enhance access to drinking water,
- Improve health and sanitation of the community,
- Reduce drudgery of women,
- Develop social capital in the community among members belonging to various social caste and ethnic groups

Components

- Social mobilisation for rural drinking water and sanitation
- Training on health and sanitation education to mothers and children, health and sanitation for teachers and students , and
- Maintenance and service training for sustainability of the scheme

- Leadership development and future plan for users groups

Location

- Nainahi, Padaul, Parsapataili Bathanaaha & Siswakatiya VDCs of Mahottari district

Key achievements

- In the year 2010/2011 the project has reached out to 978 households 6989 population of whom 3358 (48 per cent) were women. 80% of the entire community are Dalit. Under the intervention of the project identification of the poor through PRA methods was done. The baseline survey resulted that income generation initiatives including, goat, pig, buffalo raising, capacity building through saving credit interventions and social upliftment. The communities have taken full ownership of activities due to demand driven and community based program and transparency at all levels.
- 41 CO members are trained on social mobilization, Account keeping, Revolving Fund management, and accordingly these members have trained other members of the COs.
- 41 households have constructed their own toilets as a result of awareness on sanitation and hygiene.

2.2.4 Youth and Women Focused Legislative Town Hall Meeting

The Context and Rationale

Nearly five years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord marked a ceasefire between the government of Nepal and the Maoists, many marginalized groups still remain on the fringes of the decision-making process. Across political, ethnic, and social divides, Nepal's young people are finding it particularly difficult to make their priorities matter in the halls of power. And given that 60 percent of Nepal's population is believed to be below 25 years of age, the youth represent a critical constituency for ensuring a successful peace process and developing a legitimate constitution. Therefore, with the support of The Asia Foundation/USAID, RCDSC has been working to collect voices of youth and women -whose voices have always remained unheard- to be heard at the Constituency Assembly.

To meet the end, RCDSC has organized a series of meetings so as to strengthen the voice and role of youth and women in the Constituent Assembly process, particularly among youth from smaller towns in Nepal where educational and employment opportunities are few, and where young people have less exposure to the political process."Youth and Women Focused Legislative Town Hall Meeting" program is organized primarily with the purpose of raising awareness and collection of feedback regarding from the youth and women of 15 different towns from 10 districts of Nepal. The agendas of the meeting are finalized in accordance with the bills passed to the Constitutional Assembly and are finalized jointly in consensus developed among the three implementing agencies namely; RCDSC, Samudayik Sarathi and

Women Act Nepal, in the guidance of TAF/USAID.

The consultative Town Hall Meetings are for legislative debate among youth and women to increase civic awareness of the legislative politics to enhance the quality of political discourses as well as the demands on political accountability among a sizeable section of the Nepali population.

Objectives

- To enhance the knowledge of legislative and constitutional provision, progress and probable implication of the related topic
- To collect the opinion from the participants to disseminate among the stake holders and line agencies

Component

- To organize interaction program quarterly - four interaction in a year- in each given venue among 50 youth and women on the different legislative and constitutional subject

Location

SN	District	Towns (15 Towns)	Number
1	Sunsari	Dharan, Itahari, Inaruwa	3
2	Saptari	Rajbiraj	1
3	Siraha	Lahan, Siraha	2
4	Udayapur	Triyuga	1
5	Sindhuli	Kamalamai	1
6	Mahottari	Bardibas, Jaleswor	2
7	Dhanusha	Janakpur	1
8	Sarlahi	Barahathwa, Malangawa	2
9	Rautahat	Gaur	1
10	Bara	Kalaiya	1

Key achievements

During the reporting time (Fiscal/Year: 2010/2011) a total of 3 events of Town Hall Meeting were organized on a quarterly basis.

- 1st Phase from January 2011 to February 2011 (*Title: On Domestic Violence - Crime and Punishment Act, 2066 and 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission'*)
- 2nd phase from March to May 2011 (*Title: Human Disappearances and Sexual Exploitation at Work place/sites*)
- 3rd phase from June 2011 to August 2011 (*Title: Amending some Nepal Acts to Maintain inclusiveness on some public services Acts*)

- 4th Phase from September to November 2011 (*Title: Citizen Awareness on voting name list Bills and Right to Electricity Related Bills*)

RCDSC has reached out to a total of **2,998 youth men and women** that include 1,252 women (41.76%) in the 4 phase meeting. There was a remarkable and meaningful participation of ethnic minorities. A total of 52% ethnic minorities, 7% Dalits, 4% other marginalized community with 74% Madhesi citizens participated in the 1st Quarter of the meeting. In the 2nd Quarter, the participation was 33.73% for ethnic minorities, 15.21% for Dalits, 7% for other marginalized community and 43.78% for women with 77% participation of the Madhesi citizens. In the 3rd Quarter, the participation was 23.54% for ethnic minorities, 15.48% for Dalits and a significant number of Muslim citizens were also present in the program. In the 4th Quarter, the presence of ethnic minorities was 27%, while it was 13.24% for Dalits, 7% for Muslim minorities and 39% for women. Of the total participants, 86.22% were youths aged in between 18 to 39.

2.2.5 Promoting Peace and Democratization Process in Terai Madhesh

The Context and Rationale

RCDSC implemented *Promoting Peace and Democratization Process in Terai Madhesh* to advocate the issues and demands of Madhesi with the framework of the constitution on behalf of the people that they have worked with in the past. The program was designed to articulate the aspiration of the disadvantaged Madhesi people based on the findings of the previous phases of the project to be complemented with fresh consultations with Madhesi groups. This proposed exercise will not only put to good use the data generated under earlier phases of project regarding the needs and aspirations of the Madhesi women and excluded groups but will also amount to a very strategic intervention in making the constitution responsive to the needs and wants of the Madhesi people. This is particularly necessary also in view of the fact that while the political parties have been advocating a federal set-up, they have not been particularly forthcoming regarding the issues of equality, equity and inclusiveness.

The newly elected constituent assembly has formed 14 committees comprising of 10 thematic, three procedural and one main drafting committee. The thematic committee members are to draft the preliminary concept paper during which they incorporate the people's opinions. However, the members will share their draft papers with the people to once again get their feed-back and recommendations. Therefore, the other rationale of this

proposal is to continue with the sensitization of the CA, Thematic committee members, state restructuring commission as well as people in the Madhesh so that they remain abreast of the developments regarding constitution making in the country, particularly, in their bid to make the historic charter as responsive to their aspirations as possible.

RCDS implemented the project "PROMOTING Peace and Democratization Process in TARAI MADHES" from March 15, 2010 – March 14, 2011. The project was financially supported by CCO Nepal through SAP Nepal. SAP Nepal in partnership with RCDS implemented this project in some VDCs of Morang, Dhanusha and Mahottari districts.

Objectives

- Develop common understanding on restructuring of the state among civil society, academicians and political parties
- Advocate issues of Tarai Madhes to address in the new constitution

Component

- Interaction meeting on Modules of federal system, federal division of the state at municipality and VDC Level

Project Location

18 Outreach VDCs of 3 Districts as tabled below:

District	Outreach (VDC)
Morang (6 VDCs)	Rangeli, Kathari, Jhurkiya, Buddhanagar, Amardaha, Babiya Birta
Dhanusha (6 VDCs)	Ghorghans, Devpura Rupaitha, Babhangama, Phulgama, Baheri Bela, Tulsiahi Nikash
Mahottari (6 VDCs)	Mahottari, Matihani, Simardahi, Majhaurabisampur, Dhirapur, Parsapataili

2.2.6 Multi-Sectoral Gender Based Violence Response at the District Level in Nepal

The Context and Rationale

Worldwide, Gender Based Violence (GBV) is the leading cause of death of women between the ages of 19 and 44 – more than war, cancer, or car accidents (WHO 2002). GBV is a global challenge that violates basic human rights and human security. Apart from the individual suffering, it carries high cost for society and is a major obstacle to development. Researchers have mentioned that Nepali women and girls are vulnerable to both domestic and public violence. Domestic violence includes physical abuse (for example, beating, slapping, hair pulling, kicking, burning, beating with a stick, or using a knife) and mental torture (threats, verbal abuse, and neglect) by husbands or other relatives, and also includes early

marriage, dowry-related violence, sexual abuse in the household, polygamy, and marital rape. Forced and early marriage is still a pervasive phenomenon despite the legal age for marriage being 18. Violence in the public arena includes rape and sexual abuse in the workplace, trafficking of women and girls, and harmful traditional practices and accusations of witchcraft. The challenges experienced by women in Nepal are especially severe. Women, particularly widows and women from marginalized communities, are subjected to discrimination and physical, sexual and psychological abuse.

In this context RCDSC manages to make a survey study on Gender-based violence that reflects and reinforces inequities between men and women and compromises the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its survivors. It encompasses a wide range of human rights violations, including sexual abuse of children, rape, domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment, trafficking of women and girls and several harmful traditional practices. Any one of these abuses can leave deep psychological scars, damage the health of women and girls in general, including their reproductive and sexual health, and in some instances, results to death.

Violence against women has been called "the most pervasive yet least recognized human rights abuse in the world." Accordingly, the Vienna Human Rights Conference and the Fourth World Conference on Women gave priority to this issue, which jeopardizes women's lives, bodies, psychological integrity and freedom. Violence may have profound effects – direct and indirect – on a woman's reproductive health, including unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortion or injuries sustained during a legal abortion after an unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, persistent gynecological problems, and psychological problems

Gender-based violence also serves – by intention or effect – to perpetuate male power and control. It is sustained by a culture of silence and denial of the seriousness of the health consequences of abuse. In addition to the harm they exact on the individual level, these consequences also exact a social toll and place a heavy and unnecessary burden on health services.

Objectives

- Assess the current context at the national level and in the project districts and villages
- Assess the current status of output indicators in the logical framework in the project document

- Given the current context, assess the opportunities and the risks of the project to achieve the intended results

Location

Districts	VDCs	Municipalities
Kanchanpur	Daijee, Chandani, Dodhara & Tribhuwanbasti	-
Surkhet	Malarani, Jarbuta & Sahare	Birendra Nagar
Kapilvastu	Sisawa, Pathardaiya & Hathihawa	Kapilvastu
Mahottari	Ramgopalpur, Ekarhiya & Parsa Devad	Jaleswar

Key achievements

Out of 1059 respondents of household survey, 35% do not know whether the GBV is against the law or not and 30% women answered that it is against the law. Whereas most of the participants of FGDs reported that they do not know it is against the law or not. Most of the participants of FGDs have not tried to accompany with the survivor of GBV due to the fear of several problems. They reported that the interference seemingly hampers the internal matters of the family. According to them it is a private matter between a husband and his wife. 28% of the respondents of HHS reported that being beaten by a husband if she leaves home without asking him is justified. Likewise, 51% women reported that being beaten by a husband if she does not take care of the children and if she does verbal argument against him is justified.

Discriminatory practices between boys and girls in society and between sons and daughters at home are found in all caste and ethnic groups. 62% of the respondents reported that there are discriminatory practices between sons and daughters at their home and in the communities. Similarly, child marriage (51%), forced marriages (38.5%) are found in the study area. Other practices such as dowry, polygamy, discriminatory behavior with widow, accusing women as witchcraft are also common in the study area.

2.2.7 Livelihood Recovery for Peace (LRP Project)

UNDP funded LRP project was implemented by RCDS effective from 10 December 2009 till the end of February 2011. The overall objective of this project is to contribute to restoring the foundations for sustainable development by strengthening the capacities of communities and local institutions to achieve sustained livelihood recovery and peace building. The project primarily targets Vulnerable, Excluded, and Economically Disadvantaged (VEED) individual

households and communities with a particular focus on women, youth, conflict-affected, poor, and historically excluded groups. RCDS managed to operate its intensive social mobilization activities to strengthen social cohesion, local peace building initiatives and improve community access to available resources through PALs by operating weekly PLA sessions enabling awareness at the community level.

Objectives

- Promote peace and social cohesion at the community level
- General short term employment as peace dividends
- Strengthen various assets of rural households and communities for better livelihood results
- Strengthen capacity of relevant Government and other institutions to deliver livelihood services

Location

38 outreach VDCs of Mahottari district

Achievements

In the proactive mobilization endeavors of local volunteers and PALs, communitys' demands were accumulated through meaningful participation of entire VEED members and therefore, recommendation was made to UNDP for the perusal of the support. During the mobilization, 152 VEED groups i.e, 4 from each 38 VDCs were formed and they were empowered for articulating their voice like that of more privileged people of the community.

2.2.8 Local Governance Accountability Facilities (LGAF)

The Context and Rationale

In Mahottari district every year a large fund gets either freeze or a number of cases of corruption are heard in regular interval in almost all the projects delivered by Municipality/DDC/VDC and other development agencies as well which is supposed to reach to the most deprived community. Such corruption and freeze in the budget occur due to unaccountability of relevant service providers which has deprived the community from receiving the benefits of government goods and services. In the Fiscal Year 2066/67, due to the failure of DDC to manage and irresponsibility of political parties for managing the minimum criteria of fund management, the grants were cut off and this year i.e., F/Y 2067/68 it has again been mobilized on different projects. The fund of previous year and this year has been congregated and is on the process of being distributed for community development purpose. However, there is still a question of utilization, accountability and transparency of the resources. Thus, the proposed project aims to monitor those projects right from the beginning of the project implementation till the end by creating and raising awareness level at the community level about the project implementation system and process.

With the financial and technical support received from Local Governance & Accountability Facility (LGAF), RCDSC has become responsible to implement Public Hearing and Compliance Monitoring and Community Based Monitoring of Local Government/Public Goods and Services at VDC level and in different wards of Jaleswar municipality. Accountable leadership, transparent government system and participatory planning and implementation of projects and programme are the cornerstone of good governance. Therefore, to help increase transparency and accountability in governance as also to make public services more responsive to the needs of the citizens, RCDSC implemented community based monitoring in Mahottari district which has played a crucial role for enabling accountability and transparency at project level.

Time Frame: June 14 2011- 15 March 2011

Objectives

- To create access to the community on information about available resources and utilization status of resources through multiple medium
- Organize citizens and communities for the demystification of information, data and analyze implementer’s (government’s) performance for achieving efficient and effective public service delivery;
- Provide platform to citizens, particularly women and marginalized/vulnerable communities, to voice their opinions on the quality of services they have received, express their needs and grievances and hold local government accountable to them
- To popularize good governance and impart responsibilities in citizens to build accountability

Component/Location

Sn	Component	Progam Location
1	Public Hearing and Compliance Monitoring	VDCs: Nainahi, Padaul, Siswakatiya, Bathnaha, Prasa Pateli , Dhirapur, Matihani and District Development Committee, Mahottari
2	Community Based Monitoring of Public Goods and Services	Jaleswar Municipality ward No. 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 & 12

Key achievements

(Program Ongoing)

2.2.9 Anti-Tobacco Awareness Program

Context and Rationale

Tobacco users are increasingly available in Mahottari district. District Health Office Mahottari and other concerned organizations are operating different programs against the use of tobacco but there has been no substantial changes observed at the behavior of the community. Even political party representatives, Constitutional Assembly (CA) members are used to it. Therefore, it was felt that the program needs to be organized to raise awareness level from the political party representatives, journalists, youth club members and other loose

networks available in the district. On this context RCDSC has conducted one day workshop with political party representative and CA members for raising awareness against tobacco use and develop strategic plan to campaign against the use of tobacco.

The one day interaction meeting cum workshop was supported by Respect Nepal and was conducted on 20 February, 2011.

Objectives

- To aware district level stakeholders including CA members and political party representatives on the new guidelines 2067 formed against the use of tobacco
- Collect and disseminate suggestions and recommendation of participants for controlling and preventing tobacco use in Mahottari district
- To form plan of action for eliminating the use of tobacco through leaders and CA members and collect their commitment

2.2.10 Ambulance Service

RCDSC has its own Ambulance in Jaleswor, Mahottari. It is for emergency service to transport patients, mainly for delivery cases of women from rural communities to the hospitals of Nepal and also to India. Before RCDSC's intervention, problems were witnessed during emergencies of illness amongst the communities in Mahottari district.

The Ambulance service is being provided to the people of rural areas. Mahottari is the larger district where there are 76 VDCs and 1 municipality. Ambulance provided service up to 10 Km to 60 Km distance within the VDC. During rainy season due to muddy road it needs to move along a long way instead of finding straight way up to the village. Ambulance services are being provided from Jaleswor to different villages of Mahottari to Janakpur Hospital and also to Patna, Sitamadhi and Darbhanga of India. The extended services of ambulance reach even to hospitals in Kathamndu and Chitwan to pick up the patients.

This year the services of RCDSC has reached out to 1350 patients of Mahottari district alone.



2.2.11 Community FM service of RCDS (94.4 MHz)

RCDS has its own Community radio FM which is "*Radio Appan Mithila*" 94.4 MHz. It was established in Jaleswor, Mahottari in May 2007. At present, there are a total of 16 staff (Technician 4, Programme 6, News 4, and Marketing 2). There is a management committee of FM radio which is responsible to oversee entire management aspect of the radio.

The radio has been proved to be a useful media at local level to promote and advocate for the rights of Dalit, women, children, poor and excluded people. Similarly, its role is pivotal in raising awareness on health, sanitation and education, and about the role of community people on new constitution drafting. It broadcasts news information in local language such that even the local community can easily comprehend the intended messages.





Photo: Broadcasting Different Activities in FM Radio Programme of RCDSC in Jaleswor, Mahottari

2.2.12 Mithila Saving Credit Cooperative of RCDSC in Mahottari

This institution has a total of 1,082 shareholders (Women 626 and Men 456) further affiliated with small cooperatives. The shareholder members include the staff of RCDSC, members of community groups and some others. In this cooperative, total saving so far is NRs.4,783,767. Organizational saving of Mithila Cooperatives is 1,927,620.30. Similarly total amount provided in loan is NRs. 14,977,020.90. By this cooperative, members can get loan easily. There is no need to go to money lenders who used to take more interest and were also not transparent.

Mithila Saving and Credit Cooperative has managed to support its farmer members by implementing Project for Agriculture Commercialization and Trade (PACT) Project. The project is implemented through community groups that are linked with Mithila cooperatives. Most of the group members are poor and some are land less. The project is implemented through 50 existing groups of 10 target VDCs. Total 1500 members are from 50 groups i. e. 5 groups from each VDCs. A total of 8,780 people are the direct project beneficiaries. Mid-level farmers who are considered to be the indirect beneficiaries of the program also participate in training; and those beneficiaries hold 3940 population from 730 households. They are considered indirect beneficiaries, as they are not entitled for seed support from the program but are expected to buy seeds on their own. Technical support, however, will be from the program.

It means that primary target groups will be supported with seed irrigation facilities and nursery and for others mid level farmers they have to pay seed cost on their own. They get technical support and also provide necessary training together with primary target groups. The primary target groups of the program are poor and ultra poor farmers' families.

The total project cost is NRS. 6,486,960 and of which 50 per cent is borne by PACT project, 12 per

cent of the total cost is supported by RCDS and 25 % is managed by Mithila Saving and Credit on its own and the rest of the project cost is shared by concerned farmers.

Chapter 3

3. Financial Outlook of the Organization

RCDS has been successfully implementing annually more than 7 programs in an average. The yearly turnover of the organization in the programs is outlined in the graph which shows the 8 years turnover of the organization.

Thank You