

Civil Society Mutual Accountability Project

Annual Progress Report

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CA: Common Assembly

CAR: Community Action Researcher

CS:MAP: Civil Society Mutual Accountability Project

CSO: Civil Society Organization

DAO: District Accountability Officer

DCOP: Deputy Chief of Party

HEAD: Health, Education, Agriculture and Disaster Risk reduction

ISO: Intermediary Support Organization

LDAG: Listening Discussion Action Group

OGP: Open Government Partnership

PEAR: Participatory Evidence-based Advocacy Research

RM: Rural Municipality

SCSCSC: Community Score Card

SFR: Sub-Awardees Financial Report

SMPC: Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City

1. Introduction

Banke is one of the districts of Nepal where the human rights violence has remarkably known with alongside Bardiya district. During the internal conflict in country Banke and Bardiya had suffered a lot from the sense of human rights. Although the decade long conflict has passed over yet there was a need to people to know their rights thus IHRC was established in February 27, 2013 and has performed a number of remarkable activities like PIL filing and solving various contemporary issues of public affairs, likewise it has further supported people through RTI application and in other hand service providers to adopt RTI policy. It has been working with the people to entertain their rights to public service delivery from government and other mechanisms. There are lacking on policy making and moral accountability of leaders for their actions. Political and constitutional issues can be seen in palikas. The leaders of local governments pay their attention towards their voters. So IHRC has been working with CS:MAP in Banke and Bardiya to oversight of public service delivery and enable other existing civil societies through coordination, discussion, information sharing and working together.

IHRC worked out with integrated approach that equally manages to improve two parts of the service delivery-efficient delivery of service and empowering marginalized communities to

demand services. In local level LDAGs, CAs were capacitated on SA tools which created an environment that they themselves able to identify issues and able to raise voice for their rights. Similarly, Civil Society Key Champions, HEAD coalition were mobilized in joint monitoring and advocacy process. Apart from all these activities IHRC has been involved in celebrations of different campaigns like Human Rights Day, International Peace Day, International Labor's Day, National and International Women's Day, International Anti-corruption day etc. In this way IHRC has been showing its existence and has been able to establish itself as an Information Center in Banke.

Aim and Objectives:

The goal of this project is to recreate the vibrancy of civil society in the district by ensuring civic participation in policy/legal reforms, promote civic engagement with government entities and strengthen their capacity to carry out public policy advocacy and oversight for effective public service delivery and public resource use. To this end, IHRC will serve to achieve the following ten objectives:

Objective 1: Strengthened CSOs initiatives to coordinate with GoN& to implement constructive advocacy strategies

Objective 2: Improved coalition-building between local and national CSOs, and between CSOs and the media that leads to joint actions undertaken on selected policy priorities across sectors.

Objective 3: Improved CSO and media capacity to conduct participatory and evidence-based research on issues, policy, and enforcement to benefit marginalized groups.

Objective 4: Improved capacities of local CSOs, media, and community-based organizations to monitor and report on cross-sectoral public service delivery, based on common standards applicable to each sector.

Objective 5: Improved bottom-up coordination between community, district, and national formal and informal CSOs engaged in public service oversight.

Objective 6: Improved citizen awareness and use of available GoN social accountability mechanisms.

Objective 7: Improved citizen engagements in media and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) tools to strengthen public participation and oversight.

Objective 8: Improved institutional governance of selected CSOs and media organizations.

Objective 9: Improved capacity of select CSOs and media organizations to mobilize social and financial resources for sustainability.

Objective 10: Improved capacity of CSOs and media organizations to advance local solutions on priority development issues across sectors and to promote peer-learning opportunities.

2. Activities Progress

2.1. Key Development and Submission of Deliverables

1. **Monthly update and plan:** IHRC has submitted 12 monthly activity updates and monthly calendar plans during the period of Oct 2019-Sep, 2020.
2. **Quarterly Plan and Budget Projection:** IHRC has submitted the Quarterly Budget Projection and Plan for all 4 quarters of the period of Oct-2019 to Sep 2020.
3. **Sub-Awardees Finance Report (SFR):** IHRC has submitted total 12 SFRs from the month of October 2019 to September, 2020.
4. **Quarterly Progress Report:** IHRC has submitted total 3 quarterly progress reports from October-September 2019 along with 1 annual report.
5. **Annual Progress Report:** IHRC has been submitting annual reports as agreed. So this is the 4th Annual Report.

2.2 Progress Achieved towards Project Objectives

IHRC has completed total 94 events out of 161 events but some have been forwarded due to COVID 19 crisis. However 11 Common Assembly meetings were conducted out of 20 events. Similarly, 11 CAs Sub-HEAD meetings out of 16 events were completed. All six, three in Banke and three in Bardiya LDAGs had been conducting their bi-monthly meetings regularly and raising local issues but the regularity of LDAG meeting has been limited due to COVID-19 issues. The *Sahjedari Manch* meetings were also conducted 2 events in Banke and Bardiya where the stake holders kept local issues and problems which were made commitment by Gaunpalika Chairs, province level elected members to solve the issues and problems. Likewise IHRC has conducted 4 events Sajha Sabha in both Banke and Bardiya districts. IHRC provided orientation to CA members on public service entitlement and local level planning process. The 4th round of OCA and ARI workshop has been completed and both OCA and ARI plan have been implemented by organization. Interaction meetings with civil society key champions have been done and mobilized them for advocacy issues. Community Action Researchers (CARs) were mobilized till June 2020 for collecting data and to manage field based activities. District level interaction meeting for vibrant civic space was completed 4 events (2 events Banke and 2 events in Bardiya). IHRC in coordination with other stakeholder has submitted 30 delegation letters and memorandum in many different public affairs issues to address. IHRC has applied a numbers of RTIs to different agencies and local levels to support governance. Strategic Coalition Building Meeting with SCOs and Media in Bardiya which has activated the civil societies to raise agendas and voices on contemporary issues.

In addition IHRC has conducted HEAD Coalition Network/Standard Check list orientation in both Banke and Bardiya and has conducted oversight of agriculture Service Center and health post in Badhaityatal. Likewise Social Accountability Tool Orientation, orientation, implementation of strategic advocacy plans have been done in this reporting period. Banke and Bardiya CA and LDAG team submitted their plans during local level planning process.

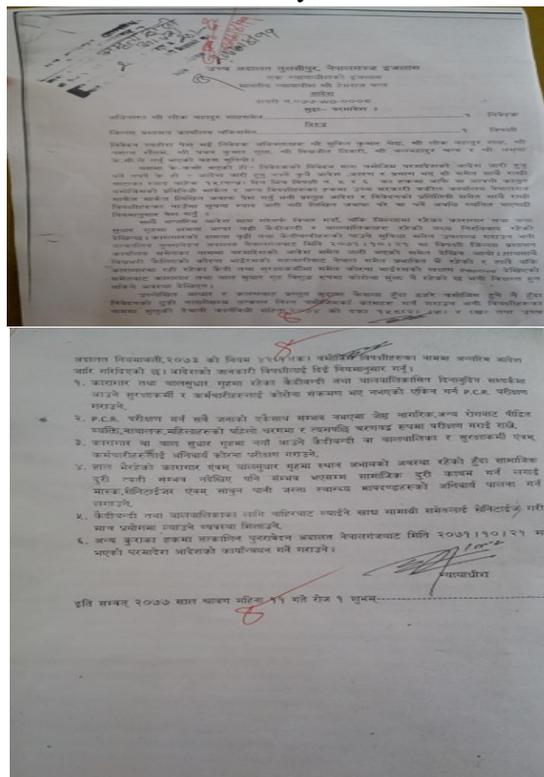
Because of staff's movement, long time lock down, frequent curfew, IHRC couldn't cover some planned activities in this reporting period. Further, IHRC engaged in some other public interest issues. Basically CS: MAP/FHI360 have provided many capacity building trainings and workshoplike System Leadership training, Fund raising training, ToT on OCA, training for

finance officers etc. ISO have supported in advocacy documentation to make them stronger and suggested some more evidence to give strength to the advocacy process.

Objective 1: Strengthened CSO initiatives to coordinate with the GoN and to implement constructive Advocacy Strategies:

Activity 1.1: Implementation of Constructive advocacy plans/strategies

IHRC had identified total 9 major issues and 7 small issues from community, coalitions and CAs and after analyzing the related policy the plans were developed and initiated advocacy. The advocacy team visited Badhaiyatal and Duduwa Gaunpalika to put pressure on not only identified issues but also to solve community problems raised by CAs and LDAGs. The advocacy issues were shared in HEAD coalition meeting, Civil Society Key Champions' meeting, Sajhedari Munch meeting, Sajha Sabha Nagarik Bahas and District Level Interaction meetings.



Some of the Issues almost completed:

Implementation of RTI in Duduwa Schools and RTI practice in Badhaiyatal:

This issue have been completed which had the three basic requirements i.e. arrangement of Information Officer, Pro-active Disclosure and Use of Citizen Chart. All the schools have followed as required by RTI procedure now. Similarly, in Badhaiyatal RM all health post, ward office and schools have managed comment boxes after frequent talks with palika representatives.

Free Health Check-up of students in schools: Badhaiyatal *Gaunpalika* has already suggested all the existing health-posts to manage health check-up of students and some have already started it in ward No 3 and other wards as well.

X-ray machine establishment in Sorahawa Health Post Bardiya: CA team had raised issue of Sorahawa Health post Badhaiyatal ward-3 Bardiya. The issue was the staffs of health post unable to provide health service full time because of their negligence and there was no X-ray machine in health post. After interaction meeting with Health management team and Palika the issues have solved now. The health post is providing 24 hours health service and X-ray machine has been established.

Internet management in Bhawani Secondary School Badhaiyatal: School teachers were not getting facilities of internet service which was most necessary for teaching learning process and database management. So CA of Manjhundi took initiation on it and request to Palika and raised the issues during Sajhedari Munch meeting. Finally the internet facility was managed and now teachers and students getting email internet facilities.

Sickle Cell Patient Support (Banke and Bardiya): The Bheri Zonal Hospital where the sickle cell machine was useless due to mechanical problem and the IHRC advocacy team had managed to send the machine to Kathmadu to be repaired. The machine was not working properly even after maintenance. SO again IHRC filed an RTI application and Chief of the Hospital provided written letter that the Bheri Zone Hospital has bought new sickle cell check up machine.

Badhaiyatal Gaunpalika has managed fund for marginalized sickle cell patient house-holds to provide transportation amount to sickle cell patient to travel from and to Bheri Hospital from their homes. Bangadhi Health Center also started sickle cell support service to sickle cell patient as the issues wide-spread on news papers and media.

Rapti Sonari Gaunpalika has started providing support to sickle cell patients an amount of Rs 7,000.00 each to support them to visit Bheri Hospital for better treatment to identified sickle cell patients.

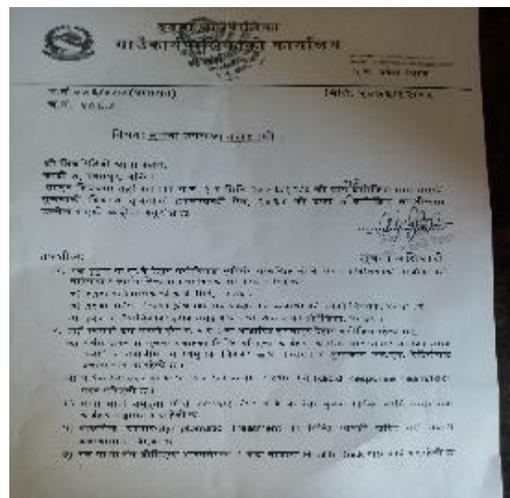
Bageshwory Temple Disclosure of Assets: Although this issue had not been raised in FHI360 related meetings, work-shops yet the matter was related to the people's right to know and transparency. IHRC itself raised the matter and demanded information through RTI application which was later covered by hot newspapers and the matter got into existence. The matter of land of Bageshwory Temple, income and use of it, assets like golds, silvers other jewelries, expense of the temple reconstruction (fence, floor etc.) were brought into talks.

As a result the Temple Management Committee and stakeholders conducted a number of meetings and temple regulations were renewed and assets of temple were disclosed and Nepalg *Malpot Karyalay* was visited to see the lands of Bageshwory Temple and the property box also inspected by stakeholders.

Some ongoing issues of IHRC:

Formation of Agriculture Policy in Duduwa:

IHRC and advocacy team/coalition have been frequently making approach to Duduwa *Gaunpalika* to develop Agriculture Policy and implement it. The Agriculture Policy sample had been provided to Plika and the issue had also been registered in through council meeting. Duduwa *Gaunpalika* had given written letter about agriculture policy status to CA team. In this letter, Duduwa *Gaunpalika* Agriculture Policy 2064, Duduwa *Gaunpalika* Agriculture business promotion Bidhayak 2076 and Duduwa *Gaunpalika* Farmer Group Formation and Management Guideline 2076 have been developed. In this reporting period IHRC conducted District Interaction Meeting and Sajha Sabha Nagarik Bahas where Chief Administrative Officer, Agriculture Officer and Health Coordinator also were invited to take part in those virtual Interaction meeting. Civil Society raised voice about pending process of Agriculture policy finalization; TV journalist broadcasted the issues in Sagarmatha news to give pressure. CAO and agriculture officer said that Duduwa RM updated the policy two times as per feed backs received from assembly.



Further they added that it is their first priorities and they will finalize it in coming General Assembly meeting. Duduwa Rural Municipality has managed 2 vets for 6 ward and they have been providing home to home service. If any animals became sick they visit to farmers' home and treat animals as free service so farmers are happy with this free service.

Governance Policy Formulation: IHRC and the team have been making approaches, using media and coalition and other stakeholders to develop Governance Policy in all 16 Local Levels of Banke and Bardiya.

In Banke and Bardiya both districts the civic interactions were conducted on (29th Dec Banke and 26th November Bardiya) focused on Status of Local Levels on Governance Policy Formation and Implementations. In total 9 *Gaunpalikas* of Banke and Bardiya had made written commitments to form the policy by coming general assembly meeting. In this reporting IHRC again conducted *SajhaSabahaNagarikbahas* on (27th October Bardiya and 28th October Banke) and District Level Interaction meeting on (8th Sep Bardiya and 13th September 2020 Banke) virtually in both Banke and Bardiya districts. Participants raised voice to make governance policy as mandatory task. Civil Society Key champions also made plan during Key champions' interaction meeting to follow up the status of Governance policy in palikas. In Bardiya district, Gulariya Municipality and Badhaiyatal RM have drafted governance policy and they committed that they will finalize it whenever they will get better situation to conduct meeting. Similarly in Banke district Duduwa RM and Nepalgunj Sub-metropolitan city committed to take it as first priorities. Nowadays, due to COVID-19 issues they are unable to gather in meeting with physical presence. Because of long time lockdown and COVID 19 crisis local government and civil society have been engaging in management of COVID 19 instead of developing governance policy. Some improvements on governance practice can be seen like Duduwa Rural Municipality Banke has started to provide senior citizens allowance to senior citizen and disable allowance to disable citizen visiting them in their own home. None have to go to bank to receive their allowance. Similarly, Nepalgunj SMPC has developed health profile, online registration facilities, (*Online ghtna darta, Samajik Suraksha Bhatta distribution*, website updating, Comment boxes in wards, palikas, health post etc. It was great achievement that IHRC was frequently arising this voice and now palika started to provide this service.

Open Cattle Movement Policy (OCMP): Nepalgunj SMPC has been working on OCMP in coordination of IHRC and other CSOs and stakeholders. The issue has been raised during interaction in Nepalgunj. IHRC had filed PIL against all 16 local levels to manage Open Cattle Movement which has been a headache to all local levels as they are not being able to find a good place to manage thousands of open cattle like cow, ox, donkey, dogs, horse etc. However the issues are still hot during interactions, media and advocacy team as well. High court has ordered that Kohalpur Municipality should manage Kanji House to keep the open cattle. The talk is going on to manage a space in joint venture of all 16 local levels of Banke and Bardiya. In this 4th quarter again participants of *Sajhasabhanagarikbahas* and district level interaction meeting. Local governments have accepted their lacking on the management of the open cattle and committed to give priorities after COVID 19 management. Geruwa RM, Madhuban RM, Gulariya Municipality, Kohalpur Municipality have established Open Sheds with boundary but the sheds are not well managed due to lack of financial resource. There are challenges that cows, oxen from India also come to Nepal and farmers chased out their pet animals. So it is necessary to keep records of animals with tags. Although there are challenges palikas have been keeping the animals into sheds as possible as they can.

Reconstruction of Deep Borings: The Amrahawa and Kamdi CAs of Banke have been repeatedly raising the matter during CA meetings. Therefore IHRC had visited the Under Ground Water Management Office in Nepalgunj and asked the authority about how and when the matter can be solved as the community people are interested to know about. The authority replied the reconstruction will make expense of Rs 20 lacks minimum and they need to wait till the matter rose in the central office at Kathmandu. However the issue had been kept during the Sajha Sabha of Banke and the representative Mr. Surendra Bahadur Hamal had noted it and made strong commitment that he will certainly put it in provincial assembly and even federal assembly. In this FY 2020/2021 Under Ground Water Management Office has made plan to maintain Deep Boring and field survey has been completed.

Dissatisfied with the government's response to COVID-19, IHRC in coordination with civil society leaders in Banke and Bardiya had filed a PIL at the High Court Nepalgunj. The PIL had demanded the government should implement effective programs facilitating health services, information and surveillance in the two districts. IHRC had already registered 4 PIL in 3rd Quarter and in the 4th quarter one more PIL was registered on 25th July 2020 by advocate Bishwajeet Tiwari, Advocate Lokendra Shaha, Advocate Sunil Kumar Shrestha, Advocate Basanta Gautam and Pawan Kumar Gupta. When the Corona Positive case into a prisoner and a security guard was seen in prison they took action assuming that there might be high risk. So the team registered PIL against Jail Banke, Balsudhar Griha Banke and DAO Banke. The PIL was about rights of children who were into Prison/ jail and Balsudhar Griha. On 26th July 2020 the High Court had given order to take PCR test of all prisoners and children of Balsudhar Griha. As per high court order PCR test is mandatory to all visitors, prisoners, and they should get sanitizers, Mask and safety measures. The news link has been pasted for more detail information. https://sagarmathagantabya.com/2020/07/3487/?fbclid=IwAR0rKq5-B3JvbN_IAGXk-k6DFM3aKM7ogzx2Y3Jqj0E7e8AHV3FnxkuMv9g#.Xx2KKtRfoQw.facebook

The CAs and coalitions now understand the methodology of issue finding and advocacy process like raising issues through existing policies and service delivery quality, policy analysis to find the gap and work on the issues. The CAs, LDAGs with other locals are advancing toward self discussions, need identification, law provisions and putting demands which shows the outcome level of CS: MAP objectives.

Activity 1.2: Establish and facilitate Common Assembly meeting at local level - (a) Conduct Common Assembly Meetings.

IHRC has formed 4 ward level loose networks “Common Assemblies” in Banke and Bardiya. There are CAs in Ward No 4 and 5 of Duduwa of Banke likewise Ward No 1-2 and 3 of Badhaiyataal of Bardiya district. The annual target of CA meeting was 20 events. In this reporting period total 11 CA meeting had been conducted out of 20. It was conducted as per SOW plan for 2 quarters (1st and 2nd Quarter). But from 3rd quarter lock down due to COVID 19 crisis was started so IHRC couldn't conduct the meeting based on plan.

In the reporting period of 4th quarter (July to September 2020) only one CA meeting was conducted because of COVID-19 and frequently locks down and curfew in this quarter. On 30th July 2020 it was conducted in Jamuni Badhaiyatal RM Bardiya. During this meeting CA of Jamuni discussed on 3 main agendas (Deliver COVID-19 awareness in community level, JTA vacancy and alternative teaching learning process during COVID 19). They said that there was no any JTA in ward no-1 and 2. So they handed over a memorandum to Badhaiyatal RM. Further

the issue was kept in district level interaction meeting. Deputy chair and Chief Administrative Officer of Badhaiyatal RM committed that they will assign a JTA from ward no-6 to provide need base service and open vacancy as soon as possible.

IHRC tried to join other CA members through virtual meeting but became unsuccessful because they have not enough ideas on technology and most of the participants have not android mobile for using zoom, Google meet application.

The members have however now initiated raising issues during CA meetings, Sajha Sabha and other occasions. They have been well informed about solving issues of service delivery, advocacy and other requirements. The CAs are now able to raise issues and agendas and conduct local level interactions. Even other issues they have been found in oversight, seeking budgetary provisions, asking for local development with Gaunpalika.

The CAs raise local issues and problems and sometimes advocacy level issues are also raised as following:

- Agriculture Policy not completed (CA of Kamdi asked information on it through formal letter and DuduwaGaunpalika committed to complete it by this year 2076)
- COVID-19 issues (CA of Banke and Bardiya requested to Gaunpalika to take necessary action against COVID-19 and Palika also mentioned their Plans and provided to CA team in written letter.)
- Because of Bad weather crops were destroyed in Bardiya Jamuni (CA team demanded information from palika that how can Palika support to marginalized farmers in this case?)
- Irrigation problems,
- Agricultural problems like not getting quality seeds, not getting fertilizers in time, agricultural dieses etc.
- No Dr. to operate X-ray machine in Badhaiyatal ward no-3 Health Post
- Participation in planning process,

Many of the problems are solved locally (common assembly level) through discussions with stake holders who participate in the CA meeting (HEAD related representatives, elected members). The CAs have been advancing toward local solutions on their own as we have found them visiting ward offices and *Gaunpalika* for community related issues.

However the CAs and LDAGs along with other community people have started such discussions on their own learnt from CA and LDAGs and demanding their needs with ward and *Gaunpalika* offices.

Thus we should not expect extra but the objective of the CS: MAP "demand of rights" is slowly being visible through many evidences as given above.

Some Details CAs:

SN	CA name	Gaunpalika	Issues Raised	Solved issues
1	Kamdi CA	Duduwa-5, Banke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Give pressure to Gaupalikatodevelop Agriculture policy To ask Gaunpalika to take quick action on COVID-19 issue. Some goats have died together and CA team raised voice for treatment for remaining goats in village Participatory engagement in local level planning process. To manage IT officers in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DuduwaGaunpalika provided the written information to CA about agriculture policy status and action plan of COVID-19. Duduwa RM Agriculture Policy 2076, Duduwa RM's Farmer Group formation and Management Guideline 2076 and DuduwaGaupalika Agriculture business promotion Bidhayak 2076 have been submitted to assembly meeting and updated 2 times as per feed backs of stakeholders in assembly meeting. Duduwa RM has managed 3 Vets for 6 wards and they have been providing home service with free of cost. CAs and LDAG team handed over their plans to ward chair during local level planning. School management committee managed IT officers in each school in Duduwa.
2	Amrahawa CA	Duduwa-4, Banke	<p>Deep boring management for irrigation,</p> <p>local community school improvement,</p> <p>participation in planning process.</p> <p>Pollution caused by</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some locals had visited Underground Water Resource Office to talk about deep boring issue. The issue is ongoing. Because of not getting success on managing deep boring Amrhawa people had demanded small hand

			distillery and its' effect in community people	<p>pumps with Gaupalika for irrigation. In this year Duduwa RM has been managing NAHAR for easy irrigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palika suggested to the factory to manage pollution and province level representative also noted the problem.
3	Manjhundi CA	Badhaiyataa -3, Bardiya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To manage X-ray service in Health Post • To establish transformer for extra voltage • Social Audit and Proactive Disclosure • Engagement in local level planning process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X-ray machine has been established after pressure of CA team • Internet in Health post and Secondary school has been managed and electricity transformer has been established for extra electricity power. • After providing Gyapan Patra and regular visit of Gaupalika, pro-active disclosure has been done. Palika updated their website with required information based on template. Comment boxes have been managed in each and every ward office, health facilities. Social Audit was done by Palika. • Gaunpalika accepted CAs plan during planning process.
4	Jamuni CA	Badhaiyataa 1, 2	<p>Agricultural support needed to be provided.</p> <p>COVID-19 issue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 farmers group received power tiller tractors and other 10 farmer groups received water supply motor. • CA members had asked to

				<p>Gaunpalika to take quick action against COVID-19 and Palika also accepted their needs and did accordingly. Mask, relief package, soap were distributed in communities.</p>
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CA Members holding CA meetings in Duduwa, Banke and Badhaiyatal, Bardiya.

The members have however now initiated raising issues during CA meetings, *Sajhedarimanch* meetings, *Sajha Sabha* and other occasions. They have been well informed about solving issues of service delivery, advocacy and other requirements. The CAs are now able to raise issues and agendas and conduct local level interactions. Even other issues they have been found in oversight, seeking budgetary provisions, asking for local development with Gaunpalika.

b) Sub-HEAD Committee Meetings:

Sub Committee members find the issues in toles, villages and community during their work, talk, walk. This helps CAs to bring core problems, issues of locals because the Sub HEAD Committee members are from the same community and are always with the common people where they work together, talk as neighbors and thus problems are shared with each other and they are brought to CA meetings. In this reporting period 11 Sub -HEAD committee meetings had been conducted. The issues provided in above table are the issues brought to CA meetings are collected by the Sub-committees of CAs. These issues are:



CA team submitting their plan to ward chair during local level planning

- Irrigation problems in Amrahawa Duduwa-4
- Animal problems/dieses,- Kamdi -5 Duduwa
- School children problems etc.

-Crops had been destroyed due to lack of irrigation and sitlahar in ward no-1 and 2 Jamuni Bardiya.

-Covid-19 spreading all over the world

The above issues were discussed on CA meetings and District level interaction meeting.

Activity 1.4: Form and Facilitate SajhedariManch Meetings - (b) Organize SajhedariManch Meetings

Banke and Bardiya both districts had conducted SajhedariManch meetings. Banke has conducted on November 27, 2019 in Duduwa at Shahpurva School Hall where in total 48 participants participated the meeting including the *SajhedariManch* members. The local issues like Fauzi Kira Problem, Distillery Problem that the pollution from distillery was affecting to the community people in Duduwa and Schools Problems like less number of students in Nepal Rastriya Primary School, and in other schools not availability of IT officer, lack of sanitation were discussed and promised to be addressed. With the support of CA during enrollment period the number of students have been increased in the school and CA team demanded to manage a English teacher to run the teaching learning activity in English medium because parents want to send their children into private school.



Likewise the local issues of Badhaiyatal CAs were also brought to the *Sajhedari Meeting* conducted on December 2, 2019.

However, during the meeting many of the members raised the issues of women related budget management, health post service delivery system, schools quality management, people's participation in planning process were discussed and planned for further action. The updates of previous issues were also discussed for early response. The decision written in minute was handed to the Chair and he promised to address the matter so far as possible with his signature in the minute.

The *SajhedariManch* Meeting participants were Ward chairs, ward members, RM members, Coordinator of Sajha Sabha, CA members, LDAG members, Journalist, Women Group representative. The main objective of the meeting was to promote accountability and transparency at local government level through discussion on policy issues.

In meeting, open discussion was done on the issues raised from common assembly (CA) meeting which were related with health, and education. The main agendas of the meeting were:

- Discussion on school health check up program and making plan on it
- Management of nutritious food for primary school children
- Discussion on Governance policy at Badhaiyatal RM

IHRC with CA and LDAG visited 2 schools and Health post and conducted interaction meeting about free health check up program. Health post incharge said they are ready to provide service to all school children. Meeting minutes with schools staffs and management committee with the interest to conduct health campaign was shared to palika chairs and health coordinator. Palika conducted health check up campaign for senior citizen and now school children getting free health service from health post.

As per ward chairs and CA members there is school plan to provide the primary school students @12 rupees per day to retain students in schools for tiffin cost. But parents did not provide homemade tiffin to their children and use their children's tiffin cost in bad practice like drinking and smoking. Sajhdari Munch had established canteen (Khajaghar) in school zone where students have been getting nutritious tiffin as per weekly schedule.

Challenges in Sajhdari Munch meeting: This activity was not conducted in 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarter. IHRC had plan to conduct 2nd round meeting in March 2020 but COVID issues gone long till date. In Sajhdari Munch there are local participants and they have no enough idea to utilize zoom application or Google meet application for virtual meeting too. IHRC conducted district level meeting but became failure to conduct Sajhdari Munch meeting.

Activity 1.5: Conduct ShajaShabas

IHRC had conducted Sajha Sabha on December 30, 2019 at Nepalgunj and 25 December 2019 at Bardiya. There were total 38 participants in Bardiya and 50 participants in Banke. Similarly, in 4th quarter Sajha Sabha Nagarik Bahas program was conducted in Banke and Bardiya. All total 4 events have been completed.

In Banke District, Mr Surendra Hamal the Elected Member had been invited in the meeting as Chief Guest. The program lasted for 3 hours on raising questions and discussions. The CA members of Kamdi and Amrahawa including LDAGs and other locals from Nepalgunj raised many questions during the meeting. IHRC presented about the objective of CS:MAP and current existing issues of Duduwa and Nepalgunj along with other key interventions of Duduwa those can be replicated other places as well. IHRC informed how the local structures working at Duduwa have been able to solve local problems and raise issues those are related to better service delivery from government.

Here are some key issues and changes seen after Sajha Sabha

1. **Agriculture Policy Formation in Duduwa:** Duduwa RM is going to finalize in by coming general assembly meeting. This issue was also raised during filed monitoring in Duduwa agriculture development depart
2. **Women right against rape was also raised:** Bardiya Civil Society and CSOs including IHRC conducted interaction meeting with District Police Administration Bardiya and about 42 domestic violence and rape cases has been registered in Bardiya police record. Similarly in Banke CDO mobilized Banke police administration as a result many cases like domestic violence, crime and black business cases has been registered and it is in legal process.
3. **Distillery Pollution Management:** CA team, Duduwa RM representative and youths had suggested to Distillery owner to manage pollution, further it was shared with

province member, as per villagers and CA team nowadays the distillery has improved the drain and other maintenance

4. **Re-construction of Deep Boring:** In this FY 2020/21 Under Ground Water Management Office has made plan to maintain Deep Boring and field survey has been completed.
5. **Agriculture Subsidy Arrangement:** Duwa RM distribute agriculture self employment package and planned to provide mushroom farming program. Palika has developed mushroom farming operational guidelines and approved it. In Badhaiyatal water pumps and small tractors had been provided to farmers groups. But there is still lacking in distribution of fertility like DAP, Urea and Potas.
6. **Quality management in community schools:** In primary level school stopped to provide tiffin cost to the parents but they started to provide quality tiffin preparing in schools. LDAG of Bardiya had provided some local teaching learning materials to ECD and conducted drawing competition and Friday quiz contest in school. Internet has been managed in Bhawani SS Badhaiyatal. IT officers have been managed in Duduwa community schools. In this way some good changes can be seen in schools.
7. **Pro-active disclosure from public service delivery agencies:** Proactive disclosure practice has been improved than before. Information, news, report and data records have been updated in local governments' websites. Nepalgunj SMPC established Toll free number for easy access of information. Online registration system has been started. All local governments in Banke and Bardiya have trained IT officers and they started to provide information to RTI applicants. But still there are some lacking because of less coordination between province and local governments.
8. **Smoking in public places must be prohibited etc.:** In hotel, schools, Health post there are notice about No smoking. Ward chairs and palikas take fine if any one neglect the rules.

Likewise *Sajha Sabha* was conducted in Bardiya as well on December 25 2019. There were



around 38 participants from CAs, LDAGs, community locals, ward chairs and members, government officials, media persons, civil society organizations. The province level elected representatives Mr. Bhuwaneshwor Chaudhary had been invited along with Gulariya stakeholders like municipal representative, ward representatives etc. It was conducted in a way like panel discussion the invited guests were sat in front and the participants facing them. Participants not only kept previously identified issues but also a number of questions like "why the roads being constructed are not maintaining in time? Why are the elected representatives not available when

they need them at district? "The participants demanded many questions with the elected representatives and at last all the questions were answered to satisfy the participants.

In 4th Quarter, Sajha Sabha Nagarik Bahas was organized both Banke and Bardiya districts on **27th and 28th August 2020** respectively. Because of lock down it was conducted virtually. IHRC followed the guideline and suggestions which had been received from FHI360/CS: MAP. The interaction was done through Zoom meeting. The objective of *Bahas* was to discuss on COVID-19 and local governments' efforts to respond to the pandemic. There were total 30 participants took parts in Banke and 26 participants in Bardiya. The event had been convened with focus on current COVID-19 scenario and local governments' effort to respond to COVID-19. Panelist and participants comprising of provincial legislator, mayors and deputy mayors, government officials, journalists and civil society leaders discussed various aspects of COVID-19 impact on society. CSOs and Media representatives explained how they can collaborate on local government's plans and response, besides pointing out to local governments' failure to provide need based services, especially in expanding testing, isolation and quarantine facilities and public recovery support. The programs were broadcast live via local TV channel, radio station and social network. All viewers and commenter had given good comments showing their appreciation with pictures. The host (Krishnasar FM) read the comment who had asked questions and Panelist answered the questions. In this way radio listeners and social network users connected indirectly during Sajha Sabha Nagarik Bahas.

Such discussions have been instrumental in ensuring the rights of marginalized people. A girl in Nepalgunj, Banke, for example, was able to acquire a citizenship certificate through her mother after a live radio discussion on people deprived of citizenship the following day. This is just an example of how such a discussion can improve the accountability of service providers. As per Province member Bhuwanesor Tharu -The one of the common lacking is no good coordination among federal level, province level and local level. This zoom meeting was good opportunity to share the information and current practice of different levels and citizens, radio listeners get chance to understand the roles of different level of stakeholders

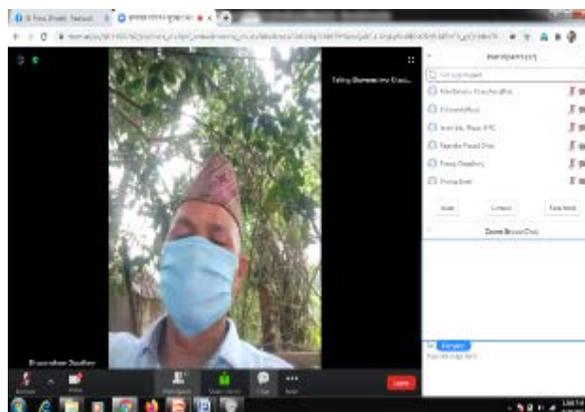
Sayings: *All should be work together from each and every side to win Corona virus. We are raising our voice in province level meeting to use fund on management of COVID-19 instead of using budget in other development process. Daily life should be run but don't break the government rules. Government should do 1 PCR test in each and every house but it hasn't been done yet so Positive cases have been increasing. All citizens should support to local governments with positive thinking.* - **Surendra Hamal (Province no-5 member)**

"Many meaningful action has been taken against COVID-19 crises from our side and information like expenses on COVID-19, report, relief package distribution etc has been shared on website and face book page. We have facing challenges due to lack of budget to manage COVID-19 issues. We request to Province level and NGO/INGOs to support us. We will finalize Governance policy as soon as possible." -

Arjun Subedi (Chief Administration Officer Badhaiyatal RM)



"The responsibilities of federal level, province level and local governments have been increased in this pandemic period. Strong coordination among them is most important. Now government only can't control CORONA so media, civil society, CSOs should give their hands from their sides. Province no-5 has funded 2, 00,00,000/- for constructing corona special hospital so related stakeholders and three level government must be honest for implementation. When CDO invites to local government and government agencies for meeting they attend in meeting anyhow but when any NGO/INGOs invite them they hesitate so this practice should be improved and mutual relationship among all should be established. Law, policy, action plan are road map of the government so local level government must make law, policy for good governance. " - **Bhuwanesor Tharu (province-5 Member)**



Activity 1.6: Provide orientation to CA members on Public service entitlements and local planning process

Activity 1.7: Conduct and Apply Advocacy Readiness Index

IHRC had gone through the ARI assessment which was conducted by NNSWA from Feb 18th to 20th, 2020. It was 4th round ARI for IHRC. NNSWA had conducted a 3 days assessment of IHRC. The marking obtained in assessment had shown improvement in many heads. However IHRC has made commitment to accomplish all required fields. Ms Ratna Tandukar from FHI360 was presented though out the assessment to provide more realistic marking and guidance. Mr. Binod Jairu, from ISO NNSWA facilitated the ARI workshop.



The average scores for each of the three main domains in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 assessed are presented in the chart below.

Summary of ARI Assessment

The Baseline to 4th round ARI, IHRC able to receive the following scores:

ARI assessment of IHRC Banke

Areas of Assessment	Score 017	Score 018	Score 019	Score 020
Section 1: Advocacy Goals, Plans and Strategies	0.2	1.4	2.3	3.4
Advocacy vision and Mission	0.2	2.0	2.5	3.5
Advocacy Plan and Strategies	0.1	0.7	2.0	3.2

Section 2: Conducting Advocacy	0.5	1.2	2.3	3.1
Building Constituencies	0.1	0.5	4.0	3
Coalition Building and Linkages	0.1	1.8	2.5	3
Advocacy Messaging	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.9
Engaging Government and Decision Makers	0.5	1.0	2.5	3.5
Advocacy Avenue	0.3	1.5	1.5	3.5
Outreach and Media	0.5	2.0	2.5	4
Research	0.1	0.5	1.5	3
Monitoring of Government Service	0.0	0.6	2.0	2.6
Section 3: Organization Commitment in Advocacy	0.2	1.2	1.2	2.2
Leadership/ Board commitment	0.3	1.5	1.0	2.7
Funding for Advocacy Initiative	0.1	1.5	1.5	1.8
Sustainability	0.1	0.6	1.0	2
	0.34	1.22	2.01	2.90

All over the average score in each Section has been increased among the subsection. IHRC has increased averagely scored on 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 serially 0.34, 1.22, 2.01 and 2.90 scored in all over the 13 sub-domains. In this comparative chart has indicated IHRC has forwarded on under the advocacy conducting process that have achieved and better than base line scored and IHRC new staff got opportunity to review all ARI Process and planning which boosted us to improve the lacking. After ARI workshop, the following capacity has been increased.

1. New recruited PC, DAO and overall IHRC team gained knowledge on advocacy cycle and IHRC made action plans on identified issues and implementing as well.
2. Innovative ideas on planning, implementation and documentation has been achieved from ISO which supporting us to cooperation, collaboration and alignment of an array of stakeholders with multiple interests.

3. ARI built capacity of IHRC to integrate ‘gender equality and social inclusion’ in public policy advocacy; public resources allocation and distribution; and public service delivery.



ARI Plan and Update
sheet 2020

Please see the details plan and update in this attached sheet.

Objective 2: Improved coalition -building between local government & national CSOs, & between CSOs and media that leads to joint actions under taken on selected policy priorities across sectors.

Activity 2.1: Identify Key Civil Society Champions at District Level

IHRC has identified few socially renowned personalities in Banke and Bardiya who have social recognition and can convey good message to the people who are:

Banke Key Champions	Bardiya Key Champions
Ravindra Karna / Former Professor Mahendra Multiple Campus Nepalgunj	Rajendra Dhital/ Chair of Bardiya Federation of Journalist,
Advocate Basant Gautam/ A Nepal BAR Member, Banke	Kamal Raj Poudel/ Activist Bardiya
Mohammadi Siddiqui/ Ex Parliament Member and social activist	Bishnu Prasad Timilsina- Chair of NGO Federation Bardiya
Prakash Sharma / Civil Society Activist, Nepalgunj,	. Kanshiram Tharu- Terai THIRD Aliens Bardiya
Dr. Janardan Acharya	Debidutta Devkota- Chair Of BAR Association Bardiya
	Bal Krishna Oli- Civil Society Coordinator Bardiya

IHRC frequently conducts civic interactions in various social contemporary issues where these or likeminded personalities host the programs to qualify the program or make the program effective.

The key civil society of Bardiya had led to give Gyapanpatra against COVID-19 to District Administration Office Bardiya. Similarly the Key person of Banke also had given Gyapan Patra against COVID-19 to District Administration Office Banke.

Further they engaged in budget collection, coordination and collaboration with Clean Nepalgunj Green Nepalgunj and IHRC for distributing mask to Rrikswawala. CDO of both Banke and Bardiya had taken action as per Gyapan Patra.

There were total 10 events for annual target but IHRC conducted only 2 events (1 event Banke, 1 event Bardiya) in this reporting period. Most of the Key champions were visited informally and mobilized together in advocacy issues. Advocacy issues were



shared in other meetings too with same participants so we conducted only 2 events formally.

On 9th June 2020, IHRC conducted an interaction meeting with Civil Society Key Champions in Bardiya district and on **13th July 2020** it was conducted in Banke. In this meeting there were 5 participants (All male) in Bardiya and 6 participants (1 female, 5 male) in Banke. In Bardiya, the participants were chairperson of Bardiya Civil Society, chair of Nepal Journalist Federation, chair of NGO federation, chair of BAR Association and chair of THRD Alliance. In Banke, the participants were Professor of Mahendra Multipus Campus Banke Dr. Janardan Acharya, Advocate Basanta Gaytam from BAR Association, Maimuna Sidhdhiki from Fatima Foundation, Citizen Activist Mr. Prakash Upadhyaya, Professor of MMC Banke and Human Rights defender Mr. Rabindra Karna. PC from IHRC shared the identified issues of Bardiya and Banke districts and shared the action taken by IHRC to sort out those issues. Open interaction had been done. They shared the field visit findings about quarantine centers and isolation centers. PCR test machine for Bardiya district was granted by MOHP, CDO Banke self led his team as per suggestion from Banke key champions and distributed mask and deliver COVID related information conducting monitoring program on road to road in Banke district. He said that the Civil Society key champions have provided me field visit findings; it is my guideline I work based on findings to minimize challenges on COVID-19 crisis.

The district level leaders discussed on the following agendas:

Bardiya Agendas	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop Governance Policy in local governments. 	<p>Badhaiyatal RM, Gulariya municipality and Madhuban municipality had done written commitment during Sajha Sabha (25th Dec 2019) to develop Governance Policy. Still the local governments of Bardiya haven't developed the governance policy so key champions gave pressure again to local governments to develop governance policy and implement as well. Gulariya Municipality and Badhaiyatal RM have drafted their Governance policy and they are going to give it final shape by General Assembly Meeting.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide free health care service in community schools. 	<p>As a norm of child friendly schools and Education Policy, all students of community schools will get free health care service once in a year at schools. So the team committed to play vital role to provide the free health service to students. They coordinated with Palika chairs and stakeholders. As per palika they provided free health treatment for senior citizens in Badhaiyatal and they committed to manage free health service for students by healthpost.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide free treatment for Sick cell anemia patients. 	<p>Although the Nepal government has been providing treatment service to sickle cell anemia patients with the value of 1 Lakh. This amount is not enough for those patients. So Key Champions decided to request local governments of Bardiya to make plan in palikas for free sickle cell anemia treatments. Now Gulariya and Barha Bardiya have been providing free health service to sickle cell patients.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage PCR test machine in Bardiya district and conduct awareness programs with safety measures in Isolation area community people. 	<p>The Corona positive cases have been increasing day by day in Nepal also. So Key champions participated in interaction meeting with related stakeholders like local government bodies, Province members to establish PCR test machine in Bardiya district. Further they took action to conduct safety measure distribution and awareness programs for community peoples. Now Ministry of Health and Population had given written acceptance letter to establish PCR machine in Gulariya Bardiya.</p> 
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Banke Agendas	Status
1. Alternative Class conduction for school students.	An interaction meeting with local government, SMC, PTA, Municipality level Education Committee and Civil Society should be organized to discuss on re-open community schools. The suggested that upper class (7 to 12 class) students should be divided into group and school should start class inviting small group of students in shift wise class and school must apply the proper management using safety measures.
2. Virtual Class and Fee	Private schools are conducting virtual class and they are asking to parents to pay the fee of virtual class so it is highly discouraged to stop to take fee of virtual class. IHRC including other CSOs do advocacy to stop this practice.
3. Governance Policy in Local Level	IHRC has provided a draft governance policy to local governments of Banke and Bardiya districts and the local governments have committed to develop governance policy and implement as well. Practically it is seen that they haven't been developed the governance policy so the meeting decided to knock them again to take quick action on it.
4. Advocacy for loose quadrupeds management	IHRC has already taken action against the loose quadrupeds management issue and High court also given order to local governments and related stakeholders to manage this issue. Further the investigation committee also has prepared a report about it. So the meeting decided to conduct a meeting with local governments and related stakeholders to find out the current status of action taken on these matters and further advocacy will be done to implement of high court order and follow up the report prepared by investigation team. Then the Key champions of both Banke and Bardiya district facilitated the District Level Interaction meeting and they asked questions to local

	governments about loose quadruped's management. Local Government committed that they will give the first priorities to manage these issue after the better situation of COVID-19.
5. COVID-19 and High Court Order	Key Champions supported on field visit monitoring. They visited Isolation and quarantine centers and shared the findings to DCC and DAO Banke. In leadership of IHRC they handed over delegation letter to Province also. Most of the orders have been implemented by local government, DAO Banke, DCC Banke, Jail Banke and Balsydhari Griha Banke.
6. Meeting with Disaster Management Committee	A meeting with disaster management committee should be organized to find out the way out of reducing effects from disaster.
7. News Cover	http://www.nepalgunjnews.com/main-news/20200745943/?fbclid=IwAR3WBUxAjHZ4kSnkPIBhgMEfS5NzlWTRJ7tLZawY8LMY9xIAYzTNyQyDBvY

Perception/Sayings:

"We have known the identified issues and we will do coordination, raise voice and give the delegation letter to local governments to take action on identified issues and give required based pressure to update policy. We will give our big hands to conduct CS: MAP activities in Bardiya district." -**Balkrishna Oli (Key Champions Bardiya)**

Activity 2.2: Organize district level interactions on vibrant civic space (role of civil society) and policy priority issues

IHRC organized interaction on the role of civil society in Banke and Bardiya districts. IHRC has 9 events as annual target for this interaction but only 4 events have been completed. It had been conducted 2 events in first quarter and 2 events in 4th quarter. IHRC was decided to conduct it in March 2020 but unfortunately March to June months was critical month for meeting and workshop due to COVID-19 crisis. So in 2nd and 3rd quarter IHRC couldn't conducted this events. In first quarter the interaction was held among CSOs, government agencies, political parties, media, and private sectors to recreate the vibrancy of civil society role at district level. The major agenda of the interaction in this quarter was "Governance Policy Formation and Implementation" in local levels,

Therefore, all the local levels of Banke and Bardiya have been invited to the interactions in Banke and Bardiya respectively. It was conducted in Banke on 22nd November 2019 and on 26th November 2019 in Bardiya district. There were 44 participants in Bardiya and 39 participants in Banke. In Bardiya only 3 Palaikas participated including other CSOs and stakeholders and there were 6 palikas in Banke districts. However the detail Palikas was as following:

Banke	Bardiya
1. Nepalgunj SMPC	2. Madhuban Municipality
2. Kohalpur Municipality	3. Madhuban Municipality

3. Baijnath Rural Municipality	4. Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality
4. Janaki Rural Municipality	
5. Khajura Rural Municipality and	
6. Duduwa Rural Municipality.	

Gulariya Municipality, Badhaiyatal RM has drafted governance policy and they are going to finalize it in their coming general assembly meeting.

Likewise in Banke the interaction was superfine although 6 Palikas of Banke out of 8 participated in the interaction meeting and made commitment to form Governance Policy. All the representatives and government staffs had made commitment to form Governance Policy in participation of civil societies.

On 4th Quarter it was not possible to conduct interaction meeting with physical presence but it was conducted virtually due to COVID-19 cases and Nepal Government standard. Our civil society Key champions facilitated the interaction meeting to add organic flavor. **On September 8, 2020**, Information and Human Rights Research Center (IHRC) organized a digital dialogue in Bardiya. Civil society leaders, human right defenders, journalists and local government representatives discussed COVID-19 scenario, local government's preparations and response plan. The participants also discussed their plans and programs to support and oversee local governments' response and ensure they are aligned with national and international standards. Representatives from Badhaiyatal *gaunpalika* and Gulariya municipality shared their plans and programs in the presence of 22 (15 m, 7 fe) participants.

Apart from the government plan and focus on COVID-19, the meeting also reviewed the previous decisions of local government to purchase and operate the PCR machine in the district. Lack of awareness among marginalized population for behavior change and effective implementation of prohibitory order were also the agenda of discussion. Concluding the dialogue, the participants agreed to produce a memorandum and handover to local governments and district administration for effective COVID-19 response. Similarly, on 13th September 2020 it was conducted in Banke with 24 participants (20 m, 4 fe). In Bardiya the interaction was done in identified advocacy issues and COVID-19 management issues. The participants had done open discussion on governance policy, agriculture service like availability of fertilizer, seeds and other materials. Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality realized that they couldn't support to farmers in this matter. They added that they have distributed small power trailer tractors to 10 agriculture farmers groups and 10 water supply motors to next 10 farmer groups. In Banke the interaction was done to find out the intention of local governments to support them by civic society. So the facilitator Mr. Prakash Upadhyaya asked to local government representatives to share their current public service delivery status and what is the lacking? And how can civil society support them during this COVID-19 pandemic. DuduwaPalika said the long time lock down created more difficulties for vulnerable community people who are already in difficulties, the real information of poor people and their difficulties is not covered by media people it is necessary to disseminate broadly to province level and federal level. Further they added that they have been

trying their best to support to citizens even in this pandemic situation and requested to give financial support to sort out difficulties faced by marginalized communities. They said coordination among 3 layers of government (Local, federal and Province level) is not good so civil society should play role from their side to make it meaningful.

Duduwa Rural Municipality Banke has started to provide senior citizens allowance to senior citizen and disable allowance to disable citizen visiting them in their own home. None have to go to bank to receive their allowance. It was great achievement that IHRC frequently arising this voice and now palika started to provide this service. Similarly, Duduwa RM established a lab where all citizens can get free lab test service. Civil society has been playing role to make public service organization more transparent and accountable.

Activity 2.3: Conduct strategic coalition building meetings between CSOs and media for initiative joint action

Strategic coalition-building meeting between CSOs and media for joint action was held in Nepalgunj on November, 2019. The meeting was organized amongst CSO coalition, media and other stakeholders. This was a follow-up meeting of civic interaction to go for joint action on the out-come of the interaction. The meeting decided to go for oversight in Duduwa ward 3, 5 and 6 respectively to conduct oversight to Hirmaniya Health post, Bankatti School and KamdiShahid Smarak Higher Secondary School and visited them to observe the status with oversight team. Likewise in Badhaitatal the Agriculture Office at Ward No 6 was visited and on the basis of provided Check-list.

Objective 3:Improved CSOs and media capacity to conduct participatory and evidence based research on issues, policy and enforcement to benefit marginalized groups.

Activity 3.1: Conduct research to generate evidence for advocacy

IHRC had conducted CA/LDAG, coalition meetings, *Sajhedari* Meetings, district level meetings to identify issues for advocacy process. Out of many issues raised most appropriate have been selected through CA, Coalition and Interaction meetings. The finally selected issues were shared with all stakeholders and plans were developed.

Some issues are given here:

1. Bhei Zonal Hospital Quality Improvement,
2. Re-operation/management of Deep Boring in Duduwa,
3. Manage pesticide free vegetable and fruit from Nepalgunj Vegetable Mandi
4. Private schools have taking high money from parents. (Admission fee, Virtual class fee, annual fee etc.) Local governments do not have any clear alternative education policy.
5. Open Cattle Movement Management in Banke and Bardiya
6. Management of Gulariya Hospital for allocated staffs as in policy
7. No human resource for operate X-ray machine in Sorahawa Health Post Bardiya

IHRC had identified total 16 issues (6 health issues, 2 education issues, 4 agriculture and 4 other issues). Among them, 9 issues have been resolved. The job assignment period of CARs has been ended from June 2020. IHRC need support from CARs so IHRC request to FHI360 to extend their working period. It is important for us to collect need based data to drive advocacy issue

ahead. We need their support to manage field level activities and we can mobilize them if any new issues identified.

Activity 3.2: Mobilization of Community Action Researcher (CAR)

Community Action Researchers had been mobilized in evidence collection, FGDs and other sources. They not only helped in evidence collection but they also participated in almost all events and meetings we conducted. CARs had already got some questionnaires to use in field for evidence collection. They played important roles with IHRC in different events and advocacy process.

CARs had supported to IHRC in collecting data and managing events in field till 3rd quarter 2020. Assignment of CARs had been ended since 1st July 2020. Still they have been supporting IHRC as per need. In the 3rd quarter, Banke, CAR supported to Consultant hired by FHI360 during field visit and interaction meetings with stakeholders. Further they, supported to Local Governments (Badhaiyatal RM and Duduwa RM) attending in their programs and contributing their need base efforts. During Lock down and COVID-19 crisis, they were mobilized to support local government in distributing relief package to poor households. They deliver COVID-19 message for safety to vulnerable communities.

Although their assignment has been ended they encourage people to demand information from local governments and they promote SA tools regularly. They assist to any citizen in their community as per need. In their community they are like key person because they applied their knowledge and skills which had been gained from CS: MAP. CAR of Duduwa Banke is facilitator of CA meeting. She is familiar about local people and palika representatives. She inform to IHRC if any urgent message found and also convey to ward or palika about the message of IHRC. So, it is the achievement that they have been playing role in their community which indirectly or directly supporting to achieve CS: MAP objectives. We need 1 CAR in Duduwa from November 1st 2020

Activity 3.3: Conduct public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETs) to generate evidence for advocacy

This activity was not conducted in this reporting period.

Objective 4: Improved Capacity of Local CSOs media, and community-based organizations to monitor and report on Cross Sectoral public service delivery, based on common standards applicable to each sector

Activity 4.1: No any activity has been seen in Annual work plan in objective 4.

Objective 5: Improved bottom up coordination between community, district and national formal and informal CSOs engaged in public service oversight

Activity 5.1: Organize coordination meetings of the Head Coalitions for oversight.

IHRC organized total 7 events HEAD coalition meetings in this reporting period where as annual target were 10 events. It was conducted 4 events (2 in Banke, 2 Bardiiya) in Q1 with total 98 participants. Similarly it was conducted 1 event in Q2 with 39 participants. Likewise it was conducted 2 events in Q4. The meetings discussed priority areas of the Banke and Bardiya districts and charted out future course of action for advocacy and oversight in the districts. Each HEAD coalition meeting had reviewed the minutes of earlier meetings. After healthy discussion on Health, Education, Agriculture and Disaster area, the meeting identified one of the priority areas and discussed the issues among members for consensus for carrying out oversight function. The team had selected school of Duduwa and Badhaiyatal, Agriculture Service center and Health post for Badhaiyatal for oversight functions.



In Q4, 2 HEAD coalition meeting was done. In Banke the HEAD coalition decided to publish press release on the public interest issue Dr. Govind KC demand fulfillment. HEAD coalition handed over Attention letter to Prime minister and Chief Minister of province no-5 Butuwal to ensure rights to live. Further the team organized candle light campaign with banner in front of Bheri Hospital. Some activist visited to Dr. Govind KC who was taken into Bheri Hospital that day. On 19th July 2020, In Bardiya district HEAD coalition meeting was organized. In this coordination meeting the team discussed on the following **agendas**:

1. Alternative Class conduction for school students.
2. Minimization and management of Salaha Kira outbreak
3. Management for stool and fertilizer
4. RTI practice in Local government
5. Formation and implementation of governance Policy in Local Level
6. Discussion on Sickle cell Anemia treatment service and its policy in Palika
7. AO

The meeting had taken the following decision:

Decisions:

1. Local Governments have to make plan to give continuity of teaching learning activities following the safety measures. Although the Nepal government has not announced the clear plan for school re-open the local governments have to think about right to education and take action to provide opportunity for education. They should make further plan analyzing the locality of own palikas.

2. Local government should be prepared pre-action plan for vigilance and awareness program to minimize and management for Salaha Kira outbreak.
3. Fertilizers, seeds and agriculture tools are always lacking for farmers. This is not in our control because the fertilizers and seeds have been supplied by **KirshiSamagri**. So the issues were raised in Sajha Sabha where the province representative and local governments' representatives committed to give the first priority totake action on it to solve the problems.
4. All Public Service organizations should provide the demanded information to ensure the right to information.
5. Gulariya Municipality and Badhaiyatal RM have made draft of governance policy and municipality will organize meeting and invite IHRC and Civil Society for finalizing governance policy and implementation in coming general assembly meeting.
6. At district hospital has established the sicklecell anemia treatment machine in Gulariya Bardiya Hospital. Head Coalition will take initiation on updating local government policy about Sickle Cell free treatment in their' own Palikas.

In the meeting, open discussion had been done on current issues. Suggestion and feed backs had been collected from Participants. PC shared the best practice and further plan of IHRC. After, HEAD coalition meeting, Bardiya Civil Society organized meeting and had invited IHRC, WOREK Nepal, FEDO, Sundar Nepal Journalist and district level stakeholders and they carried out our advocacy issues and made action plan in 2 days advocacy workshop. Now Governance Policy in Palikas, Open Cattle management issues, Sickle Cell Anemia free treatment issues, Agriculture policy in palika were covered in Bardiya Civil Society advocacy plan. All district level stakeholders accepted the issues we have been working and committed to work jointly with IHRC. So it is also a good achievement.

क्र.सं.	विषय	समय	स्थान	संयोजक	संलग्नक	टिप्पणी
1
2
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12



Activity 5.2: Conduct public service oversight through the HEAD Coalition

In this reporting period IHRC has conducted 5 events public service oversights 3 in Banke and 2 in Bardiya where as annual target was 6 events. On 30th December 2019 the Bardiya oversight team visited Badhaiyatal Agriculture office for oversight where FNJ chair, NGO federation representative, coordinator of Civil society and Chair Of Jamunni CA have took part in oversight. Similalry, Banke team had three oversights in

Q1. Oversight was done in Bankatti High School, Hirminiya Health post and Kamdi Shahid Smarak Higher Secondary School (on request from Kamdi CA this oversight was conducted additionally) where all the media, CA and LDAG with few local were involved. The schools and health post have made commitment to improve and follow policy onwards. The media like newspapers, FMs, TV have covered the news to wide-spread the status of the oversight findings. (Please see the link for details information and news: <https://www.facebook.com/BTVNPI/videos/1474240752734701/?t=3>)

A team of about 20 people were involved on oversight in Kamdi of Duduwa-5. The CAs frequently raised the issue of the school therefore the oversight was made to the schools of Kamdi. The oversight team observed the classes, toilets, talked with students and looked into the library and then had a meeting with school authorities like head master, teacher and management committee members to improve the quality of school.



Oversight visit to Kamdi School at Duduwa, Banke

After the oversight of school and health post both the findings were provided to media to publicize them to all. The oversight team has taken commitments from health post and schools to improve the recoverable findings from oversight. Now IHRC had followed the schools and health post and they have improved the lacking found during oversight. Schools have managed IT officers too.

In Q4 on 24th September 2020, public service oversight was done in Kalika Health Post Bardiya. In this oversight FNJ chair, BAR Association member, Journalist and coordinator of Bardiya civil society and CA chair took part and did interaction with Kalika Health post Incharge using Health checklist. After oversight the findings were shared with Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality. As per findings there were good points that all staffs attend in time, good hand washing facility, chart of available medicine in visible place, good behaviors of staffs, 6 PHC/ORC running well, secret patient checking room for women, 35 types of medicine available as per protocol. Some factors had seen poor like lack of infrastructure like own building, furniture, lack of staff nurse, no waiting room, lack of budget to implement better health service.



Oversight team sharing findings in Badhaiyatalgaunpalika

Badhaiyatal RM committed to support to Kalika Health Post in coordination with health staffs and health management committee.

Please click the link for news coverage: <https://faraksamachar.com/news/25096/>

Objective 6: Improved Citizen Awareness and use of available GoN social accountability mechanism.

Activity 6.1: Conduct orientation to citizens on social accountability mechanism at local level

The Social Accountability Tools Orientation had been conducted to CA, LDAG and other locals in Banke and Bardiya. On 19th Dec 2019, IHRC conducted one-day orientation to citizens of Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality and 1 event was conducted in November at Duduwa-5 Kamdi to sensitize them about legal provisions on SA tools. There were 26 participants (6 m, 20 fe) involved in the orientation on SA tools. The main objective of the orientation was to encourage local people to create demand for application of SA tools (public hearing, social audit, public audit and RTI) by local government. The orientation was focused on Public Hearing, Public Audit, Social Audit, Right to Information, Community Score Card. Before conducting SA tools orientation, IHRC had requested to local government to conduct public hearing, public audit and social audit as provisioned by the existing laws and guidelines.

The SA Tools were presented to the participants and suggested them to use these tools to ensure better service delivery in their respective locations to service providers.



- Public Hearing,
- Social Audit,
- Public Audit
- RTI
- PETS
- CSC and CRC etc.

The RTI tool is most common and easy to use just by sending a question letter to find reasonable answer from service provider. Although we had encouraged especially CA, LDAG members to use RTI at least and some locals had initiated using RTI. All the participants had been suggested to use the most appropriate tool RTI at first and IHRC has been supporting them.

Duduwa CA and LDAG demanded information from local government and received information that encouraged them. Similarly, CA and LDAG in Badhaiyatal also demanded information from Local government and Health post and they received information as well. It is good achievement that in local level youths and civil society somehow doing practice to make local government and government agencies more accountable and transparent.

information, concept of open government and our roles to make transparent local governments was shared among team.

On 28th September, IHRC with civil society handed over a memorandum through CDO Banke to send the memorandum to Prime Minister of Nepal and Chief Minister of Province no-5 Butawal. In this memorandum there were 5 points to ensure RTI as our fundamental rights, Free information, online information, effective role of National Information Commission and easy access in information for all citizens. CDO Banke Mr. Ram Bahadur Kurunbang committed that he will send the memorandum to both prime minister and chief minister as soon as possible.



On the same day in the evening **candle lighting campaign** was organized in front of IHRC hoarding board which has been established nearby DAO Banke office. We distributed masks writing RTI on the mask and free information related quotes in A4 size paper. Advocate Bishwajeet Tiwari shared the objectives of RTKD and its importance to make public service transparent and systematic. He explained the power of RTI and added that the role of civil society is important to provide rights of information in local level.

On 29th September 2020, IHRC conducted RTI orientation meeting in Nepalgunj Banke. This meeting was organized in close coordination with DCC, government agencies, FNJ, DAO, CSOs, Media, Advocates etc. IHRC has been playing role to promote SA tools in both Banke and Bardiya districts. Department of commerce, supplies and consumer protection Banke requested to IHRC to support for Proactive disclosure. The chief of Department of commerce, supplies and consumer protection Banke Mr. Krishna Prasad Poudel was chair person and Mr. Ajay Shreebastav, chairperson of DCC Banke was chief guest in this program. IT officer did over all presentation that Department of commerce, supplies and consumer protection Banke regularly has been doing proactive disclosure. Twenty types of information of this organization was shared and hard copy was distributed to stakeholders. Assistant CDO, Mr. Dirgha Raj Upadhyaya thanked to IHRC and Department of commerce, supplies and consumer protection Banke for conducting this important event. He said it is the first good practice in Banke. He announced that Proactive disclosure is most important for all public service delivery organization. He committed to follow up government agencies to make them responsible on it. Further He added, I will take commitment from government agencies in monthly meeting for regular proactive disclosure. Likewise district



level monitoring committee representative/ Chief of Post office Mr.Govind Prasad Panday committed to make effective monitoring mechanism. DCC chair said that mentality of government agencies should be change otherwise the implementation part won't be admirable it will be only limited in laws in paper.

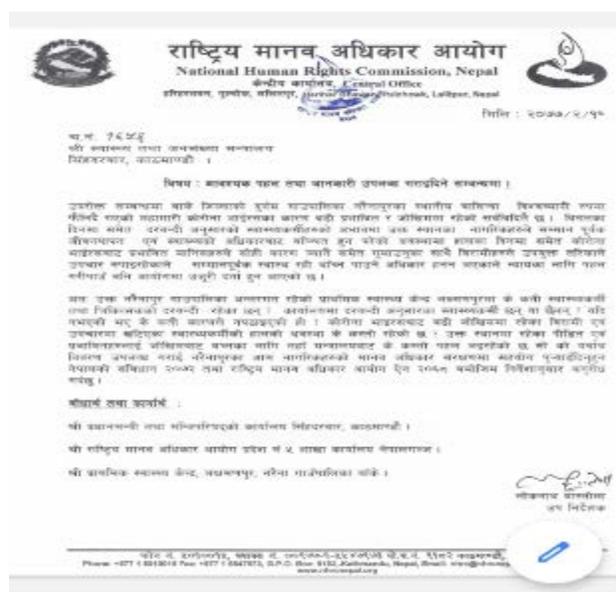
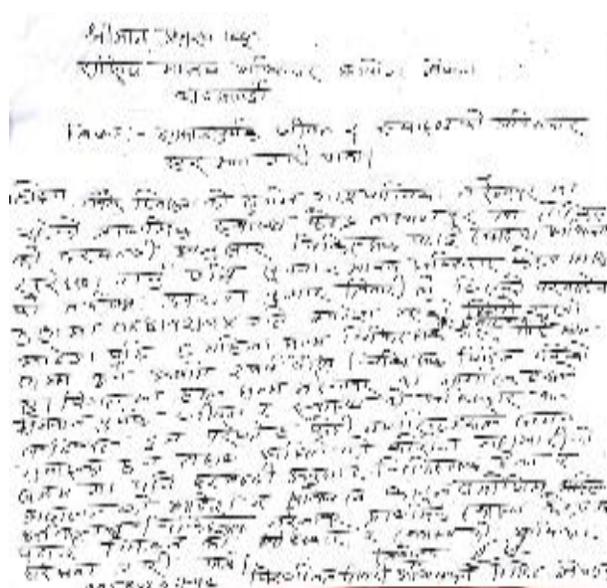
Advocate Bishwajeet Tiwari oriented to all Participants about the importance of RTI, Process of demanding Information. He shared the current status of RTI practice in Banke and motivated to participants to play active roles to keep public service more effective, transparent and meaningful. IHRC itself follows the minimum standard and Internal governance self regulation practice and request to other CSOs and local government to accept the best practice of governance.

Activity 6.3: Conduct Strategic RTI campaign and filing public interest litigation

IHRC has filed 5 PIL in this reporting period. On 15th March 2020 a PIL about distribution of Mask, Sanitizer, Soaps and Free PCR test and Health desk establishment in Boarder sites, Jail, school area. On 16 March 2020 High Court had given order to DAO, DDMC, Health Office and all local governments of Banke and Bardiya districts. Mask, Soaps had been distributed in communities. Similarly, Health desks were established.

On 9th April 2020, 2nd PIL had been filed demanding to secure rights of the Nepali citizens who were stocking in Nepal Bharat Border. They had been facing many challenges like not getting food, no any facility for toilet, bathing, far from safety measures etc. In this PIL advocate Bishwajeet Tiwari requested to follow up Nepal government COVID-19 management guidelines, PPE for Health workers and provide rights to live with dignity. On 10th April 2020, High Court Nepalgunj gave order based on PIL to DAOs, Health Office, DDMC and local governments. 184 Nepali citizens were settled to respective quarantine after high court orders.

On 23rd May 2020, Advocate Bishwajeet Tiwari chairperson of Information and Human Rights Research Center has filed an application to National Human Rights



Commission Nepal demanding to manage doctors, health workers and need based staffs for Laxmanpur Primary Health Post in Narainapur RM Banke district. In that health post, there were not doctor and health workers for 2 years.

After receiving application the National Human Rights Commission Nepal has taken quick action and has given formal order to Health and Population Ministry Nepal Kathmandu to identify the real status of this Health Post, what are the response taken by province and central level?, What are the real status of COVID-19 effect? Further, the National Human Rights Commission ordered to manage effective environment to provide rights to live with dignity. Order had been given to support the community as per Nepal's constitution 2072 and national human rights commission act 2068.

Now two doctors have been assigned to join into this Primary Health Post and public of Narainapur has got opportunity to take health service and their fundamental rights will be fulfilled.

On 22nd May 2020 a PIL was filed to collect the details of labors and poor dependant who are suffering from hunger people in palikas and provide them to relief package as soon as possible. Then update the website pages with the details of identified beneficiaries for relief package support. Further, to provide allowance to sinior citizens to their home, to prepare quarentine guidelines, issolation guidelines and implement as well. High court had given order to local governments and DAOs of Banke and Bardiya. Duduwa Rural municipalti made policy to provide allowance to senior citizens visiting their home and applied the practice as well. Palikas have distributed relief package to poor households and updated their websites too.

On 25th July 2020a PIL was filed to provide health service to prisoners who were facing many troubles in prisons that the monitoring team had found during field visit. On 26th July 2020 High Court Banke had given order to take PCR test and provide health service to children and prisoners as soon as possible. Then the ordered had been implemented as well. PCR test was done in Karagar and Balsudhar Griha.



PIL Document

(Please find the PIL documents:

District Accountability Officer Pratapsing Tharu also demanded information from Badhaiyatal RM Education department and Agriculture Service Center Mainapokhar-6 Bardiya

The following information has been demanded through online system.

Sn	Education Department	Agricuture Service center
1.	Educational Plan for 1 to 9 class students during lock down period cause of COVID-19.	List of working staffs with their job appointment types in this ASC.
2.	What is the initiation taken from local government on distance education for marginalized area school children?	What types of services available for service receiver in this ASC?
3		Beneficiaries of this ASC.
4		List of major service and facilities for FY

		2077/2078
5		What is the status of compensation and relief package for those affected farmers from disaster?

1. LDAG of Bardiya demanded information from Health post ward no-3 Badhaiyatal and Health post provided the human resource detail information with formal letter.
2. LDAG of Bardiya requested to Badhaiyatal RM to provide them quarterly report and IT officer provided the quarterly report with in time.
3. DAO requested to provide Health Post staffs details in Mainapokhar Health Post ward no-6 and IT officer provided the information in time.
4. DAO requested to Badhaiyatal RM to update COVID 19 expenses details in their website and IT officer updated website with COVID-19 expenses details.
5. DAO Pratapsing Tharu filed an application to 8 local governments of Bardiya and PC Man Bdr. Chaudhary requested to 4 local governments of Banke districts to provide COVID-19 management expenses through email. Only one Palika (GeruwaGaunpalika) has provided information details till date.
6. Bishwajeet Tiwari and Krishna Murari Prasad Bhatta filed an RTI application to DUDBC asking the location of High mast establishment in Kohalpur and Nepalgunj road. Secondly they had requested to provide total estimated budget and design. Details information has been received from applicants.
7. Duduwa CA and LDAG team had demanded information from Duduwa RM about COVID-19 plan and agriculture policy and they have received information as per legal timeline.
8. Bishwajeet Tiwari filed an RTI application to NEC Banke asking Load shading schedule, cause of load shading etc. Not received yet
9. A memorandum was sent to National Information Commission for RTI practice improvement
10. A memorandum was sent to Prime minister for RTI practice improvement
11. Similarly, about 15 different memorandums had been handed over to different government agencies like DAO, DCC, province, federal government, Local government, Bidhut, Malpot etc.
12. PC, Man Bahadur Chaudhary demanded information from Bheri Hospital Banke, about Sick cell anemia patients detail records and sickle cell checkup machine status. Bheri Hospital has provided demanded details information with formal letter.

Activity 6.4: Promote proactive disclosure of information

An orientation on Proactive disclosure was done in Banke Duduwa Rural Municipality on 25th October 2019 and another event was conducted on 14th November 2020 in Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality in Bardiya. Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality and Duduwa Rural Municipality government staffs have been involved in the orientation of Pro-active disclosure. A total of 64 participants (45 in Banke & 19 in Bardiya) from Education, Agriculture, Health and other were invited to Pro-active disclosure orientation.

They were oriented on 20 types of information that all public service organizations have to disclose after each 3 months. All participants had made commitments to follow the RTI policy.



Now Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality and Duduwa Rural Municipality updated quarterly information filling up the templates with 20 basic information as per RTI act 2064. Their official Web sites have been updated. Further, the chief administration officer ordered to schools, health facilities and ward offices to manage notice board and comment boxes as mandatory task. Now all institutions have managed the comment boxes at their offices. Similarly, GulariyaNagarपालिका also started to update quarterly basis progression reports including 20 information based on template. IHRC has been playing role to promote Proactive Disclosure in Banke and Bardiya districts. In Banke, the Department of commerce, supplies and consumer protection Office has done proactive disclosure with the presence of DCC, DAO, CSOs, Media and related stakeholders. DAO Banke admired on the initiation of IHRC and said it is the first practice of proactive disclosure in Banke. Assistant CDO Banke committed to follow up all public service organization to do proactive disclosure as mandatory task.

Activity 6.5: Conduct community score card at local level

This activity was not conducted in this reporting period.

Activity 6.6: Conduct Social Audit of IHRC



On 9th February 2020 IHRC conducted its Social Audit program at Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nepalgunj Banke meeting hall with 42 participants. The participants were invited from different concerned stakeholders. DCC, Civil Society, NGO Federation Banke, BAR Association, Third Alliance, Fatima Foundation, SEDA, Nepal Red Cross Society, Professor of

MMC, Radio journalist, TV journalist, and IHRC board members were invited in Social Audit program. It was conducted as per Social Audit guidelines 2067 prepared by Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration. An experienced facilitator Mr. YubrajPokhrel was hired by IHRC for facilitation. The main objective of Social Audit was to improve mutual accountability and transparency among stakeholders and improve public image of the CSO.

In the program, Participants were welcomed by Executive Director of IHRC. Further objectives and overall information about IHRC was shared. Facilitator, YubrajPokhrel had prepared Social Audit report collecting information from field visit and FDG with target groups in both Banke and Bardiya districts and including office documents. Social Audit report was shared among participants through power points. After completing presentation, feedbacks, suggestions were collected from participants. Similarly, participants received clarification on their queries about project's performance. All the stakeholders appreciated on IHRC Social Audit Report. Further they admired on the quarterly newspaper published by IHRC where they got opportunity to read major outcomes and practices done by IHRC. Many different flex chart covering information about different campaigns, activities, PIL etc were displayed at meeting hall during Social Audit Program for easy access on IHRC's practices.

Chair of DCC Banke, Member of NGO Federation, Chair of AFA Banke, and Representative of Civil Society had given speech. They said, corruption is high in Nepal and all have to play role from their sides to minimize corruption. They added Civil Society should be more active to control power and practice of local governments if they are out of rules and regulation. Mr. Krishna Murari Prasad Bhatta, deputy chair of IHRC had closed the program with his speech.

IHRC will conduct 1 more event Social Audit in the month of October 2020.

Objective7: (Improved citizen engagements in media and information and Communications Technology (ICT) tools to strengthen public participation and oversight)

Activity 7.1: Orientation of Shaja Shaba apps

IHRC had conducted the Sajha Sabha App orientation in Kamdi of Duduwa. The Sajha Sabha App had been developed to share issues through it. But due to some technical problems the Sajha Sabha App was not working. However at the same time the ICT officer of DuduwaGaunpalika had shown the website of Duduwa where the people can see every services, planning, budget provisions, other services, staff and elected representative information etc. Now people can easily see the website of Duduwagaunpalika. The ICT officer Suresh Verma had shown each and every tabs of website to inform them about the postings in website.

So the activity **Orientation of ShajaSahbha Apps** has been postponed or not conducted in this reporting period.

Objective8: Improved institutional governance of selected CSO's and media organizations.

Activity 8.1: Participatory Organization Capacity Assessment (OCA)

IHRC has conducted 4th round OCA with the technical support of NNSWA. The OCA was conducted from February 11-14, 2020. The OCA has assessed each and every points of OCA related issues. The OCA conducted for 4 days assessing and marking on related topics. IHRC Board members and staffs actively participated, did healthy discussion on series of topics and score was given with common understanding. The score has increased than earlier OCA

marking. IHRC has been following all OCA related matters. Further, on 8th June 2020, FHI360 supported to review on OCA-IIP which helped us to manage our remaining task in IIP.



The marking progress of IHRC goes as following:

Year	Percent	Changes seen in Percentage
2017	1.52	Base Line
2018	2.37	0.85
2019	3.02	0.65
2020	3.27	0.25

Domain	Subsection	Capacity Score 2017	Capacity Score 2018	Capacity Score 2019	Capacity Score 2020
<i>Governance</i>	Average	1.70	2.30	3.00	3.20
<i>Administration</i>	Average	1.50	2.17	3.00	3.50
<i>Human Resource Management</i>	Average	1.44	2.00	2.69	2.75
<i>Financial Management</i>	Average	1.00	2.13	3.19	3.13
<i>Organizational Management</i>	Average	1.60	2.30	3.00	3.50
<i>Program Management</i>	Average	1.33	2.25	3	3.33
<i>External Relations</i>	Average	2.00	2.37	2.87	3.12
<i>Average Placement</i>	Overall Average	1.52	2.37	3.02	3.27

IHRC has improved marking than earlier OCA assessments this time. The marking has been increased for the adaptation of suggestions on earlier planning like:

- Following the policy
- Maintaining the minutes and updating,
- Making improvements in over all performances of office operation,

- Increasing engagement of Board members and making them more responsible
- Management of financial documentation, and requirements, etc.

The major changes due to OCA workshop:

- Innovative ideas on planning and implementation has been achieved from OCA which supporting us to cooperation, collaboration and alignment of an array of stakeholders with multiple interests.
- ISO/FHI360 built capacity of IHRC to integrate ‘gender equality and social inclusion’ in public policy advocacy; public resources allocation and distribution; and public service delivery.
- Board members have been motivated on finding funds and paying their attention to make strategic plans for sustainability of organization.
- IHRC able to minimize lacking on organizational overall management.
- IHRC itself following the OCA tools and became more confident on facilitation knowledge and skills which will be applied during conducting OCA of others CSOs in the district.
- Internal Governance and Self Regulation Guideline was approved by IHRC executive board committee.



Internal Governance
and Self regulation Gt

Activity 8.2: Development of Capacity building plans

IHRC has been frequently provided with capacity building support by orientation, phone calls, emails and direct visits by ISOs and FHI360. IHRC has been able to carry-out the plans i.e. OCA improvement plans, Advocacy plans and strategic plans. Is has been able to score high marks in OCA and ARI during checks by ISOs. Even institutional governance indicators like minutes keeping, financial documents and other formats related to project i.e. travel request form, advance form, purchase order etc. The IIP is followed and adopted. Thus IHRC has been advancing toward sustainability and quite good documentation and follow-up of plans.

Activity 8.3: GESI audit and implementation of findings/ recommendations

This activity hasn't been conducted yet. IHRC will conduct this activity with coordination of FHI360.

Objective 9: Improved capacity of select CSOs and media organizations to mobilize social and financial resources for sustainability.

9.1 Financial Revenue form

IHRC had filled up the financial revenue form which supported to identify and develop relationship with potential funders and to diversify funding and achieve goals that foster financial sustainability. IHRC got support NRS 720000 from domestic source and membership fee was collected total 4900 rupees.

Challenges:Some planned activities couldn't accomplish due to COVID-19 and approved budget is not expensed.

Opportunities:Well coordination and collaboration was established with local government for ward level grants.

9.2 Fund Raising Training for CSOs:Executive Officer and Deputy Chair of IHRC Banke took part in 2 days fund raising training which was held from 29 June to 30 June 2020. This training has boosted on knowledge and tips to collect fund from potential funders. IHRC coordinated with wards and palika and submitted proposal and conducted some activities related with RTI and governance with the support of ward budget.

In the current situation IHRC has not collected any fund from donor but doing exercise to gather fund. In other to take active coordination some active general members also will be added during general assembly meeting. Further, IHRC has been updating its' website with best practice to cover well marketing.

Objective 10: Improved capacity of CSO's and media organizations to advance local solutions on priority development issues across sectors and to promote Peer-learning's opportunities.

Activity 10.1: Review of strategic plans

In 2019, IHRC had prepared new strategic plan for FY 2020- 2024. To ensure the implementation of strategic plan, IHRC had organized two days strategic planning review workshop in quarter 4 FY 2020. The 2 days workshop was conducted from 22nd September to 23rd September 2020. It had been conducted virtually because of lock down period and COVID-19 crisis. Board members and IHRC staffs were sitting together but facilitator Mr. Sunil Sun Shakya facilitated through Google meet online application. The review had focused to ensure the status of operational plan of year 1 and prepare new plan for year II and budget. In this workshop IHRC board members and Staffs were divided into 3 groups (Governance group, RTI Group and Human Rights Group). The facilitator guided to the team. As per guidance IHRC reviewed the status of operational plan and made new action plan for September 2020 to August 2021. IHRC will submit the new revised operational plan in annual general assembly. Please see the attached details action plan of IHRC.



IHRC Revised Plan
Sep 2020 to August 2

Strategic Plan review and planning participant's details:

Sn	Participants	Post	Participants type
1.	Bishwajeet Tiwari	Chair Person	Board Member
2.	Krishna Murari Prasad Bhatta	Deputy Chair person	Board Member
3.	SailendraBaisya	Member	Board Member
4.	Purna Khadka	Member	Board Member
5	Kebal Sing Tharu	Member	Board Member
6.	Tek Acharya	PC	Staff
7.	Man Bdr. Chaudhary	PC	Staff

8.	Pratapsing Tharu	DAO	Staff
9.	Sunil Chaudhary	AFO	Staff
10.	Rita Diwan	AFO	Staff
11.	Kul Raj Chaudhary	Documentation Officer	Staff
12.	Bikash Pakurel	Program Monitor	FHI360
13.	Sunil Sun Shakya	Facilitator	Kathmandu

Activity 10.2: Orientation CSO on OCA tools at District level

This activity will be conducted in next quarter October to December 2020.

Activity 10.3: Dissemination workshop on CSOs best practice in peer learning

On 25th September 2020, IHRC in coordination with district chapter of NGO federation Banke organized a half day dissemination workshop in the district to share and disseminate its best practices, project achievement, SA tools application, internal governance issues, OCA, ARI practices, self-regulatory mechanism among different stakeholders local governments, lawyers, CSOs, Media and government agencies. There were total 40 participants (33 m, 7fe). The sharing workshop was led by district chapter of NGO (Namaskar Saha) federation and provided platform to 5 other CSOs (BAS, Fatima Foundation, FEDO and SAC Nepal) to share their effective practices on internal governance and project delivery focusing on HEAD. It was good opportunity that helped to replicate the practice by other CSOs and promote sharing culture and practices in the district.

Because of COVID-19 crisis only 15 CSOs had been invited in this sharing event. But the participated CSOs and local government representative suggested to IHRC to invite all CSOs in next meeting. The Chief Administrative Officer from Duduwa Rural Municipality also shared the best practices of palika. As per presentations of CSOs they had only covered program achievement, challenges and learning. There was lacking that they had not applying OCA and ARI tools, they don't have self-regulatory guideline. IHRC had covered the internal governance, Self-regulatory guideline, minimum standard guideline, OCA and ARI tools, SA tool. After presentation session open discussion on lacking was done and all CSOs committed to adopt and apply best practice of each others. NGO federation chair person said, CSOs have been informing NGO federation Banke through sending formal letter that they have managed IT officer in their office which was discussed on previous best practice sharing workshop. It is one of the good achievements that IHRC and NGO federation had contributed to improve internal governance of CSOs.

Activity 10.4: Participate in various workshops and trainings organized by FHI360/ISOs

Board and staff members of IHRC participated in different capacity building events since 2017. And IHRC continued to participate in different workshops and training as organized by FHI360 in this project period. As per annual target there were 8 events training and workshops.

FHI360 conducted 3 days System Leadership Training at Hotel Siddharth View Nepalgunj, Banke. It had been conducted from 26th to 28th February 2020. In this training partner CSOs and role making leaders participated from 7 districts.

Similarly, 2 finance officers of IHRC were boosted on Smart excel package and accounting system. Likewise board members were also capacitated on fund raising parts. Performance of staffs has been improved and able to drive daily duties independently. ED and PC from IHRC received 5 days (from 14th Sep to 18th Sep 2020) ToT on OCA which supported to manage 5 domains and 17 sub contents of OCA tool and created facilitation knowledge and skills that will help to conduct OCA for other CSOs in district. ED and board members successfully manage budget from local government and implement 5 event RTI orientation, Women empowerment, and Good governance focus activities in community level with budget of local government.

Activity 10.5: Project Close out meeting

IHRC will conduct this activity in December 2020.

Activity 10.6: Celebration Of Days/Events/Movement

International Environment Day:

IHRC has conducted/involved in:

1. International Human Right Day
2. International Women's Day,
3. Anti-corruption Movement
4. Rights to Know Day
5. National Constitution Day
6. RTI Day



16 days campaign for against Gender violence



MalpotKarlay Chief Officer Mr. Prem Dauliyal

In December 2019, IHRC has been involved in Banke and Bardiya both districts with the coalition team, stakeholders and others to celebrate the given campaigns. NepalgunMalpotKaryalay was visited to stop corruption and a commitment was signed from the Chief MalpotAdhakrit not let any corruption activities tolerated and immediate action will be taken if any staff found in such activities.

Similarly, IHRC celebrated RTI month, RKD 2020, National Constitution in close coordination with civil society and government agencies.

Anti-corruption Day, Women's Day and Human Right Day, Rights to Know Day- photos Banke and Bardiya:



3. Cross Cutting Interventions

3.1. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Activities

Discuss critical GESI activities and/or results over this reporting period.

IHRC always respects GESI values and performs each and every intervention with full attention to GESI regards. It has developed GESI policy and follows it accordingly. But there is no such GESI remarkable issues currently IHRC working with.

However, IHRC has been paying full attention to GESI related issues if can be found or identified.

Numbers:

CAs:In 11 events CA meeting total 495 participants involved in the meeting. Among them 237 were male participants and 258 were female participants. By caste, there were 249 hill brhamin/kshetri, 89 Hill Dalits, 80 Hill/mountain Janjatis, 4 Newar, 12 TeraiMadheshiBrhamin/Rajputs, 5 TeraiMadheshi Dalit, 41 TeraiMadheshiJanjatis/Aadibashis, 10 TeraiMadheshi Other caste, 2 religious Minorities and 3 others.

Sajhedari Munch: In these reporting period only 2 events Sajhedari Munch Meeting was conducted with 58 participants (36 m, 22 fe). As per caste there were 25 Hill Brhamin/ Kshetri, 3 Hill/Mountain Janjatis, 2 Newar, 6 Hill Dalits, 9 TeraiMadheshiBrahamin/Rajputs, 7 TeraiMadheshiJanjati/Aadibashi, 6 Teraimadheshi Other cast.

1. **Issues:** Track the GESI issues:
2. *An issue of "Women" that is she has to pay more fees in MalpotKaryalay if she is provided with some land asset (as per newly formed policy) in comparison to male member of maternal home. The issue was raised during Sajha Sabha to remove such*

provision while the government needs to encourage woman support. The matter has been noted by elected representative of Banke Mr. Surendra Bahadur Hamal and he has promised to take the issue to provincial/federal parliament.

- a. Common Assembly Discussions-
 - b. *Sajhedari Manch* Discussions:
 - c. In Badhaiyatal Rural Municipality, IHRC added 3 new LDAG members from Muslim communities. In this communities female are not allowed to go out for any meeting but Facilitator of DigoBikas LDAG convinced their husband and now they regularly join the meeting and learn from peers.
3. **Tracking changes:** Muslim women started to attend in meeting with positive response from their husband in Badhaiyatal. It is one of the good changes. Muslim women go to health post or hospital for delivery.

3.2. Youth Engagement

IHRC is always promoting LDAG youths and other youth network to bring them in society affairs. The youth network IHRC has developed is working in different occasions. Some are involved in Street Drama (social inclusion, girls trafficking, environment issues etc.) IHRC invites youths in its programs and social events and occasions. Basically in Nepalgunj the youths are playing good role in promotion of civic engagement with government like they raise voice on citizen participation during planning process, child parks, youth engagement in programs of governments and civil societies.



+ 2 Students have been provided with RTI and Campaign based information in Nepalgunj.

IHRC has been encouraging youths to participate and engage in each and every events of IHRC. In the case of LDAGs, they need some more encouragement to bring them in mainstream or pro-active engagement in social affairs. Youths engaged in planning process and submitted their plan to ward chairs. They jointly celebrated National or International day like constitution day, human rights day, anti corruption day, 16 days campaign etc. They demanded information from palika which make local government more accountable. During COVID-19 Youth of Duduwa and Badhaiyatal supported local government in distributing relief package, providing real information of returnees from foreign country and played role to deliver information for safety measure in their communities.

3.3. Coordination and collaboration

IHRC has been able to build its good relations with most of the local levels in Banke. Nepalgunj Sub-metropolitan, Nepalgunj Ward Offices, DuduwaGaunpalika, NarainapurGaunpalika, Janaki Gaunpalika all have asked IHRC to support them to create good governance and managed budget for RTI and Good Governance Orientations. Likewise even Nepalgunj Sub-metropolitan Office request IHRC to maintain balance while there are some public dis-agreements in some cases like construction of Business Mall in Bageshwory Park because people are not allowing SMPC to construct Business Mall in park land, IHRC however convinced SMPC that it should care the feeling the people's intention.

Even other offices like, District Disaster Response Committee, Chamber of Commerce, National Human Rights Commission, NGOCC, Federation of Journalist and other local CSOs are in regular contact. Likewise Gulariya Ward Office called IHRC for OGP concept to organize district level orientation (during OGP orientation at Gulariya). IHRC has been able to develop good relationships with local government and CSOs existing in Banke and Bardiya. National and International days are celebrated jointly with civil society and local governments.

Bardiya Civil Society Coordinator, FNJ chair, BAR Association Chair, NGO Federation Chair and THIRD Aliens chair (civil society key champions) supported local government engaging as district level human rights monitoring team. Banke NGO federation chair asked to other CSOs to apply OCA tool during best practice sharing meeting. Ward chairs of Badhaiyatal committed to continue CA meeting. Most of the CSOs in Banke have assigned IT officers in their offices and informing to NGO federation through formal letter. This is the contribution of IHRC and NGO federation.

4. Other Specific Interventions:

4.1. Radio program effectiveness and linkages with civil society

LDAG formation and mobilization

LDAG formation

- IHRC has formed 6 LDAGs in Banke and Bardiya districts. During formation, self interested youths were invited to join in LDAG as members. There are about 15 to 20 members in each LDAGs. In BadhaiyatalRM, We added some Muslims community women convincing their family members.
- IHRC informed to FHI360 and Equal access if any facilitator or main role play members are changed in LDAG.
- Some causes of discontinuity of LDAG are migration, job, marriage and movement etc.

LDAG mobilization

IHRC has been regular contact or attends the meetings conducted by LDAGs in Banke and Bardiya. They have been providing chances to get involved in IHRC events to impart more knowledge regarding transparency, accountability and oversight. They are called in Social Accountability Tool orientation and even in other occasions so they can understand the government provisions to exercise the need of tools by service providers. During celebrating

national/international days, campaign or social fair the LDAG team jointly work with local government. Some time they demand information from ward, health post and palika to promote SA tool. In this COVID-19 crisis they engaged in dissemination of awareness through delivering right message in communities. Sometime they visit schools and conduct extracurricular activities in school like quiz contest program, drawing program etc.

Role of facilitators

The facilitators doing well by conducting by-monthly meetings and encouraging the team to listen to the radio program and discuss in the meeting. CRs of Banke and Bardiya record their voice and informed them to radio broadcasting time and date. They listen their voice and others voice. Facilitator plays radio using pen drive if any record is important. The facilitators have been working with feedback forms, submitting the related documents to IHRC (Account Section).

Challenges: In Badhaiyatal two facilitators had left and 2 new facilitators have selected from team and some new members have added and reformed the group. Some leave group when they have to go other place for further study. Sometime they leave group when they married and have to leave their village.

- **Community response to the LDAGs:** LDAGs have been focusing on community based issues. They deliver awareness in community people. LDAG conduct school activity like quiz contest, drawing competition, gender violence orientation etc. DigoBikas LDAG had provided local made teaching learning materials to ECD center in SarswotiAadharbhut School. In this COVID-19 crisis LDAG deliver information and awareness in community which increased the believe in community towards LDAG. If any personal issue likes domestic violence seen in any family, they inform to LDAG and the team support to take the victim to judicial committee in Palika.
- **Challenges and lessons learned** – LDAGs have been working as volunteer they don't get money or intensive except small amount of meeting cost. Most of the Youths in LDAGs are students and house wives, they have to go to schools and work in house or field. But IHRC inspired them in LDAG meeting and invite them in other meeting organized by IHRC. So they got chance to learn and they motivated to do continue. In Bardiya 2 Facilitators had left and long time the meeting haven't been organized in 2019. Again IHRC and CR from Equal Access reformed the groups and provided new radio to continue the meetings. Now all 3 LDAGs in Bardiya are active. Some members had left the group when they got job, when they got married and when they had to go city for further study. In Badhaiyatal ward no-6 there are most of Tharu households so most of LDAG members are Tharu.

4.2. Participatory Evidence-based Action Research (PEAR)

4.3. Use of ICT – focused to the utilization of *Sajha Sabha* app/website and *MeroReport*

When IHRC conduct the events and news is covered in Mero Report. Most of LDAG and CA meeting update and practice have been shared in Mero Report by CR. Similarly, Mero Report helping us to learn about policy, guidelines, other CSOs good practices and hot news.

5. Challenges and Mitigation Measures

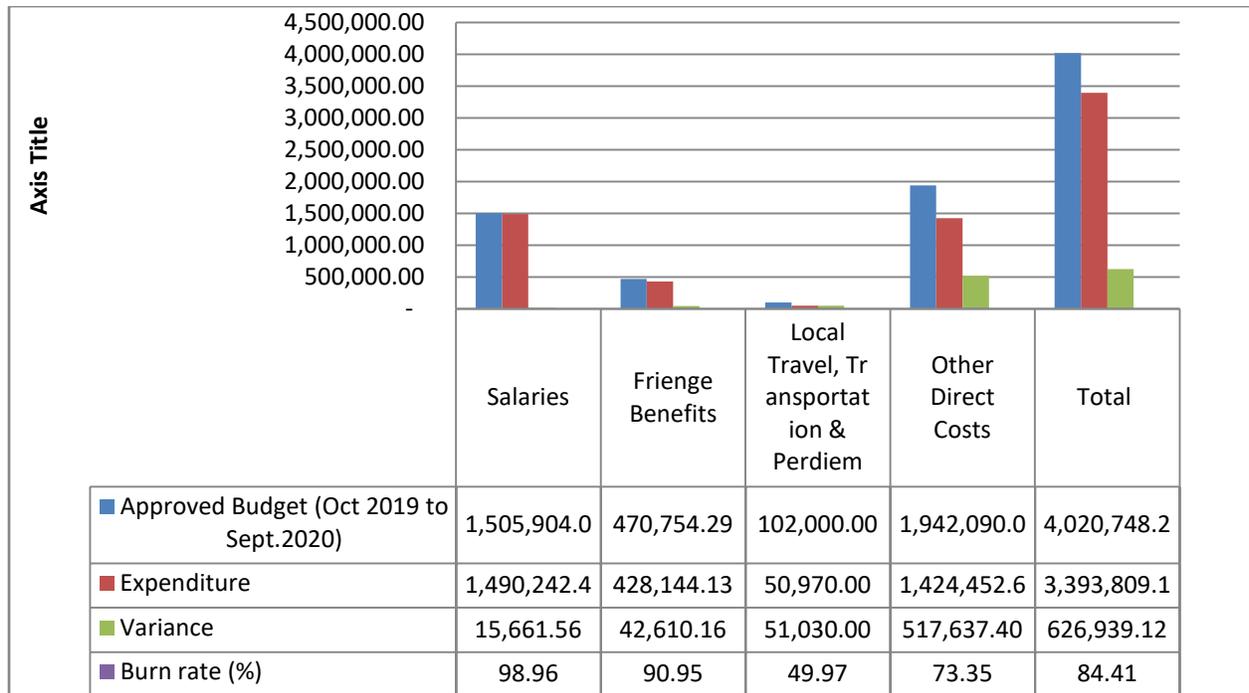
- Another challenge was Program Manager resigned his job and new staff should be recruited. So staffs termination was major challenge for IHRC. New staffs had lack of ideas in advocacy matters. Now ARI, System Leadership Training and OCA have supported to new staffs on advocacy matters.
- In this quarter April to June 2020 activities had not been smoothly going on because of worldwide unexpected problems COVID-19 seen. IHRC conducted virtual meetings with staffs and board members regularly and made action plan to give continuity to our work. We conducted some activities virtually; we conducted field level activities in small numbers of participants with full care of safety measures.

6. Lessons Learned

- Although we have supported to local governments by providing right information to public and delivering awareness in communities mobilizing our local structure they expecting financial support in COVID 19 crisis management. So, we learn that organization should manage some funds for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- COVID-19 crisis, Lockdown and curfew developed our learning to utilize technical service for communication and way out of connecting with people.

7. Overview of Financial Performance

Total approved budget was **NRP. 4020748.2** and total expenditure was **NRP.3393809.1** and the variance was **NRP.626939.12**. The variance seems high because of no expenses in direct cost. The average budget **burn rate** is **84.41%** in this reporting period. In Q4 the total projected budget was NPR. 1382051.02 and total expenses was NPR. 933307.77 where as total variance was 448743.25. The budget burn rate in Q4 was 67.53% . Because of long time lockdown and curfew some activities were not conducted in this period so budget burn rate seems low.



8. Activity Progress Summary

Implementing Agency:

SN	Activities	Measuring Unit	Activity Target – FY 2020 (events, participants, beneficiaries' details etc.)					Progress in Q4 – FY 2020	Overall Progress – FY 2020	Remarks
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total			
Objective 1: [Text] Strengthen CSO initiatives to coordinate with the GON and to implement										
1.1	Implementation of Constructive advocacy plans/ Strategies	Events			00	3(45)		1(8)	4(53)	
1.2	Establish and Facilitate Common Assembly meetings at Local level- (a) Conduct Common Assembly meetings	Events		4(100)	4(100)	5(125)		1(25)	11(266)	
1.3	Establish and Facilitate Common Assembly meeting at Local level- (b) Conduct Sub Sectorial Sub-Head Committee Meetings	Events		4(80)	4(80)	6(90)		2(40)	10(185)	
1.4	planning Conduct Advocacy Readiness Index (Advocacy Capacity)	Events		1(10)	9.	0		0	1(15)	
1.5	Form and Facilitate SajhedariManch Meetings - (b) Organize SajhedariManch Meetings	Meetings	0	10.	11.	4(100)		0	2(56)	
1.6	Conduct ShajaShabas	Events	12.	13.	14.	2(100)		2(49)	4(131)	
1.7	Provide orientation to CA members on public entitlements and local planning process.	Events		2(50)	15.	0	16.	0	2(65)	
1.8	planning Conduct Advocacy Readiness Index (Advocacy Capacity)	Events		1(10)	17.	18.	19.	0	1(15)	
Objective 2: [Text] (Improved Coalition-building between local and national CSO's and between CSO's and the media that leads to joint actions undertaken on selected policy priorities across- sectors.										
2.1	Identify key civil society	Events	20.	21.	2	6(30)		1(6)	2(12)	

SN	Activities	Measuring Unit	Activity Target – FY 2020 (events, participants, beneficiaries' details etc.)					Progress in Q4 – FY 2020	Overall Progress – FY 2020	Remarks
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total			
	champions at district level.									
2.2	Organize district level interactions on vibrant civic space (role of civil society) and policy priority issues.	Events	0	2(100)	2(100)	2(100)	2(46) 2(83)	4(129)		
2.3	Conduct strategic coalition building meetings between CSOs and media for initiative joint action	Events	22.	23.	24.	2(60)	0	1(15)		
Objective 3: [Text] Improved CSOs and media capacity to conduct participatory and evidence based research on issues, policy and enforcement to benefit marginalized groups.										
3.1	Conduct research to generate evidence for advocacy	Events	25.	2(2)	2(2)	2(2)	0	4(4)		
3.2	Mobilization of Community Action Researcher (CAR)	Events	26.	2	2	3(2)	1(1)	10		
3.3	Conduct public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETs) to generate evidence for advocacy	Events	27.	28.	29.	2(30)	0	0		
Objective 4: [Text] Improved Capacities of Local CSO's media and community-based organizations to monitor and report on cross sectorial public service delivery based on common standard applicable to each sector										
4.1	Form and facilitate LDAG meetings	Events		36 (540)	36 (540)	0	30.	0	33(441)	
4.2	Conduct Orientation to Head coalition /Network on common standards / checklist for public service oversight	Events	31.	32.	33.	0	0	0		
Objective:5 (Improved bottom-up coordination between community, district and national formal and informal CSO's engaged in public service oversight.										
5.1	Organize coordination meetings of the Head Coalitions for oversight.	Events	0			5(125)	2(0)	6(165)		
5.2	Conduct public service oversight through the Head Coalition.	Events	0			2(14)	1(5)	5(40)		

SN	Activities	Measuring Unit	Activity Target – FY 2020 (events, participants, beneficiaries' details etc.)					Progress in Q4 – FY 2020	Overall Progress – FY 2020	Remarks
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total			
Objective 6 Improved Citizen awareness and use of available GoN social accountability mechanism.										
6.1	Conduct orientation to citizens on social accountability mechanism at local level	Events	0			1(20)		0	1(26)	
6.2	promote public transparency and accountability by Right to Information Tools	Events	0	1(20)	34.	2(40)		3(64)	4(88)	
6.3	Use RTI applications for transparency of service providers.	Events	0					0	1(12)	
6.4	Conduct Strategic RTI campaign and filing public interest litigation	PIL/ Information		1	35.	1(5)		3	4(00)	
6.5	Promote proactive disclosure of information	Events	0	36.	37.	38.	39.	0	2(64)	40.
6.6	Conduct Social Audit of IHRC	Events		1(40)	41.	42.	43.	0	1(42)	44.
6.7	Conduct orientation to citizen on SA mechanism at local level	Events		2(40)	45.	46.	47.	0	0	
6.8	Conduct community score card at local level	Events	48.	49.	50.	2(50)		0	0	
Objective7. Improved citizen engagements in media and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) tools to strengthen public participation and oversight:										
7.1	Orientation on Sajha Sabha Apps	Events		1(30)	51.	52.	53.	0	0	
Objective 8 (Improved institutional governance of selected CSO's and media organizations.										
8.1	GESI audit and implementation of findings/ recommendatios	Events	54.	55.	56.	1(7)		0	0	
8.2	Participatory Organization Capacity Assessment (OCA)) Follow up virtual meeting	Events		1(10)	57.	58.	59.	0	2(31)	

SN	Activities	Measuring Unit	Activity Target – FY 2020 (events, participants, beneficiaries' details etc.)					Progress in Q4 – FY 2020	Overall Progress – FY 2020	Remarks
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total			
Objective 10 (Improved capacity of CSO's and media organizations to advance local solutions on priority development issues across sectors and to promote Peer-learnings opportunities.										
10.1	Review of strategic plans	Events	60.	61.	62.	1(15)		1	1(11)	
10.2	Orientation CSO on OCA tools at District level	Events	63.	64.	65.	1(30)		0	0	
10.3	Dissimination workshop on CSOs best practice in peer learning	Events	66.	67.	68.	1(40)		1(40)	1(40)	
10.4	Participate in various workshop and trainings organized by FHI360/ISOs	Events	69.	1		2(2)		1(2)	7(67)	
10.5	Project Close out meeting	Events	70.	71.	72.	2(100)		0	0	
Cross Cutting Activities										
1	Quarterly review/reflection meeting	Events	73.	74.	75.	2(10)		1(14)	3(37)	
2	Celebration of days/events/movement	Events	0			1(25)		1(29)	5(149)	
3	Dissemination workshop on CSOs' best practices for peer learning	Events	76.	77.	78.	1		1(40)	1(40)	

79.Priorities for next reporting period

1. LDAG/CAs meeting
2. Implementation of Constructive advocacy plans
3. Sajhedari Munch meeting
4. Social Audit
5. Conduct OCA of CSOs in District
6. General Assembly Meeting
7. PETS
8. District Level Interaction Meeting
9. Conduct public Service Oversight
10. Identify key Civil Society
11. Conduct Strategic Coalition building meeting between Media and CSOs for initiative joint action

80.Success story

A success story relating can be attached as Annex.

81.Annexes



Activity Tracker sheet



Issue Tracking database



CS:MAP Database sheet



Success story



CS:MAP AT Plus Info