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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CECI Opens Regional Office	1
RBM Training	1
AVID Successful to Raise Funds	2
SUSASAN Inception Workshop	3
GESI and Social Mobilization ToT	4
New Volunteers	5
Uniting Health Professionals in Nepal	8
New Partnership between Local Partners in Australia and Nepal	10
Working in Nepal: In the Lens of Volunteer	11
News in Brief	12

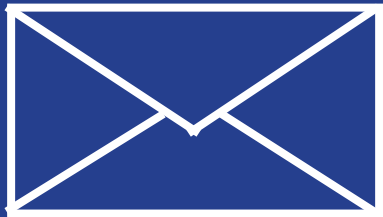


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CECI Nepal's Newsletter

June - September
2017

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the CECI Nepal's Newsletter "REFLECT"! This newsletter highlights some of our major activities carried out between June and September 2017. During this period, we signed project agreement of PUNARNIEMAN project with Social Welfare Council (SWC); started inception phase to SUSASAN project, including preparation of Project Implementation Plan (PIP); continued various programs/activities of ongoing projects. Also, we welcomed three Australian and six Canadian volunteers in this period.

CECI Nepal's strategic focus is on agriculture and livelihoods development, disaster risk reduction (DRR), capacity building, governance, gender equality and social inclusion.

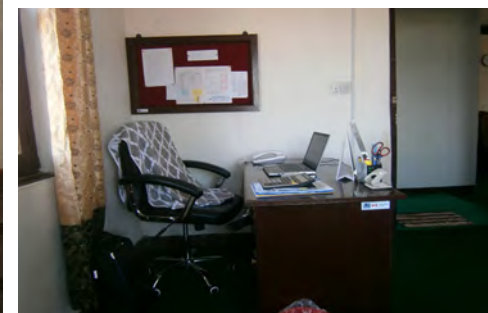
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners, including government agencies, donors and civil society organizations. I would also like to offer sincere thanks to the CECI Nepal staff for their support in preparing this newsletter. Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Mallika Bhattarai, Communication Officer for her hard work in bringing out this newsletter.

We hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter; we also expect your feedback and suggestions for improving it.

Keshava Koirala
Country Representative
CECI Nepal

CECI OPENS REGIONAL OFFICE

With the launching of the project Sustainable Use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability in Nepal (SUSASAN), CECI Nepal opened a regional office in Dadeldhura to oversee the project activities in four districts i.e. Kailali, Dadeldhura, Achham and Bajhang of Province No. 7. Besides, this project is implemented in two other districts of Province No. 3 i.e. Sindhupalchowk and Lalitpur.



CECI Office in Dadeldhura

© Nirmala Chaudhary

TRAINING ON RESULT BASED MANAGEMENT

On 05 May 2017, CECI Nepal organized a training on Result Based Management and Performance Measurement framework to assist newly launched SUSASAN project staff in advancing and applying their knowledge and skills for better monitoring and evaluation. Participants of the workshop included staff of implementing partners from six project districts, consortium members and CECI project team. Hussein Amery, Senior Consultant for SUSASAN project delivered the session. Mr. Amery focused on the methods of adding value to the program development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting by demonstrating the results of the project.



Mr. Hussain Amery on the top and the participants listening to him

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AVIDS SUCCESSFUL TO RAISE DISABILITY INITIATIVE GRANTS

Australian volunteers, working in different sectors in Nepal, are not only providing technical supports to their host organizations, but also contributing to raise funds for them. This year four volunteers had applied for the grants and each volunteer was successful to receive US\$ 1,000 Disability Initiative Grants from Australian Aid. Sarah Studds, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for Cottage and Small industries Development Board (CSIDB) raised funds to promote access of people with disabilities to micro entrepreneurship opportunities. Manasi Kogekar, Program Development Officer for National Association of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened Nepal (Shruti) utilized the funds for the awareness raising on hearing loss developing a child-friendly information story booklet.

Similarly Natalie Long, Social Work Support Officer of Sutra Centre for Development, Education and Research (Nepal School of Social Work- NSSW) used the grant to build an accessible toilet and ramp for the people with mobility disabilities in NNSW. Likewise, Ms. Claire Morcer through the Independent Living Centre-Kathmandu, organized the mental health training for the persons with disabilities.



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Mental health training

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INCEPTION WORKSHOP OF SUSASAN PROJECT

The newly launched SUSASAN Project conducted a three day Inception Workshop from 3-5 August, 2017 to familiarize the field staff with project objectives, approaches, methodologies and activities. A total of 30 participants from six districts and one national partner Freedom Forum participated in the workshop. The project focuses on addressing digital technology gaps and developing specific strategies directly reaching to 45,000 people particularly women and marginalized groups (WMG).



© Mallika Bhattarai

SUSASAN Team Leader Hem Tembe addressing at the workshop



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SUSASAN project relies on the evolution of governmental structure from local to national level; and its activities and technological tools will be identified as required by both government and citizens.

Major components

- Enhancing Citizen Engagement and Influence;
- Establishment of Techno Hubs;
- E-Governance Capacity Building and Accountability
- Project Management.

GESI TOT FOR SUSASAN PARTNERS

SUSASAN project organized GESI ToT to build the capacity of its district partners to formulate and/or update their GESI policies, guidelines and strategies. The first slot of a two day residential training for four District Civil Society Organizations (DCOs) of Province 7 was conducted in Dadeldhura from 15-16 August 2017. The second slot of training for two DCOSOs of Province 3, and national partners was conducted in Bhaktapur from 21 to 22 August, 2017. A total of 20 participants in Dadeldhura and 18 participants in Bhaktapur participated the ToT. GESI Specialist, Governance Advisor, Area Coordinators facilitated the training.



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Dr Surya Laxmi Bajracharya delivering the session

GESI AND COMMUNITY FACILITATION TOT KICKS OFF



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Ms. Sujata presenting group work discussion

In Nepal women constitute 51.5% of the total population, but this large portion of population in the country is deprived from mainstreaming in development as they are lagged behind in the economic social and political aspects. To mitigate the deep rooted traditional patriarchal mindset, social values and norms of the country; Livelihood Supports for the Earthquake Affected Population in Nepal (PUNARNIRMAN)

project has set a goal to support 18,000 women, men and youth (4,000 families) for their economic recovery. The targeted number of beneficiaries accounts for 70% of the population of the project executing VDCs of three districts. Under this project, CECI organized Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) ToT from 24 to 28 July 2017. The purpose of this ToT was to make the project implementing part-

ner staff understand the GESI concept and its importance and utilization in the project; and to build their capacity on social mobilizations and community facilitation skills. The project aims to build capacities and close the existing gaps of both demand and supply side in different spheres of economic activities, with a specific focus on vulnerable women.



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Area Coordinator Madhu Karki facilitating the session

ARRIVAL OF NEW VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Cooperation Program is one of the core activities of CECI. It manages two volunteer cooperation programs: Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) and Canadian Volunteers Cooperation Program (Uniterra). During this period CECI Nepal welcomed three Australian and six Canadian volunteers, which includes two long term, one intern and three leave for change (L4C). Long-term volunteers come normally for six months to two years mandate, Intern for three to eight months, whereas L4C for three to four weeks, which is a corporate volunteering initiative that enables employees to transform part of their annual vacation into a volunteer assignment.

Jay Tyler Malette

Jay joined Uniterra in August 2017. As a Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor, he is working with Prerana, a local NGO that focuses on women and persons with disabilities' rights. He is supporting Prerana to strengthen the organization's gender and social inclusion policy and programming, and is developing a gender responsive monitoring and evaluation framework. Prior to this role, he was a long-term consultant at UNDP Bangladesh, where he worked for an urban poverty reduction programme.

uniterra
A WUSC & CECI PROGRAM

LONG TERM

Barbara Kubica

Barbara arrived in Nepal in May, 2017 for a year-long mandate to work in Fair Trade Group Nepal (FTGN). She is based in Pokhara and working as a handicraft product designer for two FTGN's member organizations: Women's Skills Development Organizations and Suryamukhi Handicrafts. Barbara is splitting her time for both organizations equally and supporting each in reaching new markets with the design and creation of fresh and diversified collections of handmade product.

INTERN

Kristen Dunlop

Kristen Dunlop came to Nepal for three months to work with Sana Kisan Bikas Bank (SKBBL). She was from the University of Ottawa. During her stay in Nepal, she conducted a training on social media for SKBBL staff. The training glanced at the importance of utilizing social media for the business promotion and marketing. The session highlighted many subjects such as posting, types of posting, post writing, scheduled posts, sharing and increasing likes in posts, and the difference between Facebook profile, group, and page, etc. The training was practical showcasing various real data and information.

Jennifer Lee Dawson, a professor from the Humber Business School came to Nepal as a volunteer to train FWEAN executive members on leadership and management. During her short mandate, she conducted two workshops on leadership and management for FWEAN and Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA) members. She taught about leadership theories, traits of good leaders, effective communication, negotiation skills, idea pitching.

Andrea Bidgood, who came from the University of Guelph worked as Laboratory Technologist Advisor at Himalayan College of Agricultural Science and Technology (HICAST). She provided three types of training to five teachers who worked in the Laboratory of HICAST. The topics covered Microbiological and biochemical confirmation of poultry salmonella and e.coli testing; drug residue testing introduction; and egg inoculation and HA/HI testing.

LEAVE FOR CHANGE

Kimberly Sharpe, who came to Nepal from Durham College to work with National Youth Federation Nepal (NYFN), conducted several workshops on Career Counseling for NYFN members. She conducted four rounds of workshops, where 117 youths participated. The youths were satisfied with the workshops, as it helped to make better career choices in their lives. During her stay in Nepal, she also conducted workshop on Career Counselling for both the students and teachers of Balaju School of Engineering and Technology (BSET), a Uniterra partner, from which 16 teachers and 124 students were benefitted.



Miss Natalie Long is volunteering at Sutra, Centre for Development Education and Research - Nepal School of Social Work (NSSW) as a Social

Work Support Officer. The NSSW is a dynamic institution of social work with a vision of nurturing young social workers and scholars to advance the well-being of populations at risk. As a volunteer, Natalie is supporting to build the capacity of NSSW's staff to improve the quality of field work placements for students and support students to write reflective accounts of their placements. She is closely working with teachers to strengthen teaching content and resources. During her stay in Nepal she will also lead an increased number of competent and professional social workers in Nepal, so that they can provide quality services to marginalized sections of society to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of the communities.



Mr David Rorke started volunteering work in June, 2017 in Saksham Yuwa Nepal in the capacity of Program & Communication Support Officer. Since then he has been supporting to build, manage, and expanding the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (DoEIA); which the SYN is delivering in Nepal. The DoEIA is an internationally recognised program aimed at building the skills of young people. Since 2015, the SYN has enrolled over 500 participants in the Award and is steadily expanding, with the aim of reaching participants living in more remote areas of Nepal. David will also support and build the capacity of the two full time staff members at SYN in areas such as communication and mentoring.



Mr. Angus Towart is working with Siddhi Memorial Foundation (SMF) as a Partnerships and Donor Relations Officer. SMF is an NGO that runs two major programs: a 50 bed hospital for women and children, and a 60 bed senior citizen home providing care and services to the elderly. Both programs are running with the financial grants from national and international institutional and individual donors. Mr. Angus Towart is supporting SMF to strengthen their international networks and fundraising activities, with the Foundation to develop funding proposals, and build staff capacity in preparing reports in standard formats. He also contributes towards the sustainability of the SMF, leading to improvements in women's and children's health as well as promoting the rights of senior citizens within Bhaktapur and the surrounding community.

UNITING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN NEPAL

Motivated by a visit to Kathmandu, Tina Bryce McKay was looking for a way to help improve patient experiences in Nepal. When a suitable role came up with the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program, Tina jumped at the chance to volunteer for 12 months at the Kirtipur Hospital.

As Nurse Educator at the 150 bed community hospital, Tina's role was to increase the practical skills of the nursing staff. Yet Tina discovered early on in her volunteer assignment that her previous research had only half prepared her to understand the needs of patients and nurses in Nepal.

"I figured that the only way forward was to observe the day-to-day running of the hospital, attend rounds and handover and see nurses actually practicing their profession," she says.

Tina set out to speak to as many health practitioners as possible, both inside the hospital and from the wider

health community in Kathmandu.

Bringing together the medical community

Tina soon found herself running education sessions on all kinds of topics.

"I have worked with not only the nurses, but doctors, physiotherapists, nutritionists and any other hospital staff interested in the skills I am teaching" she says. "I have networked with the School of Social Work to bring social workers to Kirtipur, and counselling services, burns services and Nepali entrepreneurs, who are able to offer a sustainable supply of medical equipment for the hospital."

"I have been able to teach classes at the Kathmandu Model Hospital School of Nursing, as well as meeting visiting midwives, doctors and dignitaries."

Tina was involved in setting up the Intensive Care Unit at Kirtipur and training staff in ICU skills, helping to

establish basic procedures and practices for nurses. With the assistance of a small NGO, CCNepal, she also helped train doctors and nurses in basic and advanced life support skills.

"At first I thought that any improvements I was able to make would be a huge accomplishment," remarks Tina. "But as I look back now on the things I have done and have been able to initiate, I am very happy."

Support from Australia

Tina has been supported by Interplast, an Australian organization working in partnership with hospitals in 17 Asia Pacific countries, to provide surgical services to those who could otherwise not afford or access them. The NGO has been working in Nepal since 2006, specializing in advanced reconstructive surgical training, and nurse and allied health education.

Jess Hill, Program Manager from Interplast says: "Tina's assignment was

developed to provide longer-term support of nurse education at Kirtipur Hospital, working alongside many of our local partners.”

Interplast was able to share knowledge of the hospital with Tina and send her valuable teaching resources.

“It was an ideal opportunity to provide additional support to areas which we have been working on for a number of years,” Jess said.

Tina feels she has learnt a lot during her volunteer assignment. She has been particularly inspired by the women she has worked alongside.

“I have been encouraged by little triumphs and have felt pride as I watched my shy, timid and unsure nursing staff become confident professionals who are sure of themselves and the importance of their role.”

Source: <http://volunteering.scopeglobal.com/uniting-health-professionals-in-nepal/>



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NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEPAL

Australian volunteer Zoe Keightley has helped to establish an official partnership between her host organization, the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) and her Australian partner organization, the Local Government Professionals Australia (LGPro).

The parties recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which will enable knowledge and experience sharing between the two organizations. Zoe believes that this formal partnership will support local governance initiatives in Nepal, and will help MuAN to enhance the capacities of municipalities.

“MuAN and LGPro will now be able to share their diverse network of connections, and experience in multi-lateral program delivery,” she said. The international partnership enables institutional and people-to-people links between local governments in Nepal and Australia.

“Since the MoU has been signed, staff from both organizations have been working together to develop joint-

program proposals. Our Executive Secretary has also been invited to attend and speak at LGPro’s annual conference. Zoe is currently volunteering with MuAN to help strengthen their capacity in communications and marketing, through the AVID program, an Australian Government initiative.

“For the rest of my assignment I am helping LGPro and MuAN with the expansion of an international mentorship program, and pairing Nepali youth with an Australian government professional”, Zoe said.

The growth of the mentor program is now possible because of the MoU between the two organizations. The MoU and support from LGPro comes at a time of enormous change to local governance in Nepal due to decentralisation and the implementation of federalism. Nepal’s new Constitution includes a mandate to distribute local-level executive, legislative and judicial powers.

LGPro is a membership-based,

not-for-profit organization which represents and supports local government professionals, senior managers, and emerging leaders to develop and improve government management and opportunities for communities in Australia and abroad. MuAN, a non-for-profit municipal government association, provides technical advisory assistance, information and networking support and advocates for the interest of all of Nepal’s 217 municipalities to ensure that self-sufficient local governments are established across the nation.

Source: <http://volunteering.scopeglobal.com/new-partnership-between-local-governments-in-australia-and-nepal/>



WORKING IN NEPAL: IN THE LENS OF VOLUNTEER

Mr. Karl Brown, Unitera Volunteer

There are many rewards to being a Unitera Volunteer in Nepal, the yummy cuisine, the quiet summer mornings and the clear air just after a monsoon rain, but the greatest is experiencing the kindness of the people and the sense of community that is built in the friendships.

Over the last few months I had the privilege and the opportunity to interact with a 1,000 talented Nepalese youth through my various workshops and trainings with the National Youth Federation of Nepal. Some of the highlights in this time were a 3 day training on organizational management at the KIST College with the students of the Microbiology Department, where I was thrilled to see their commitment to partake in all the communication and project management activities

and exercises. I also held, a two day Strategic Planning and Proposal Writing Workshop with students from the Biotechnology department at the Asian Institute of Technology and Management who presented innovative solutions for agriculture, health and economic growth via micro and genetic manipulations. In August, I was blessed with the chance to provide a 3 day training on Youth Coaching and Empowerment with the Student Welfare Society for the School of Management at Tribhuvan University. In September I visited Kailali in the far western region of Nepal to provide a ToT on Leadership, communication and career counselling to the district chapter members of NYFN who will begin providing the program to youth within their communities. Also, through a gracious invitation from Liverpool College. I spent a morning discussing mental health issues such as stress, anxiety, depression and suicide with the brilliant young social work students.

It's been an incredible journey filled with inspiration and hope, watching the youth challenge themselves and to witness their

determination to not only succeed, but to leave their positive footprint on the roadways of Nepal's future.



Leadership and Professional Communication training at Bhaktapur Multiple Campus of Biotechnology



Mental Health Workshop



Career Counseling



International Youth Day 2017

CECI NEPAL PARTICIPATES IN A SOCIAL SERVICE DAY



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CECI Nepal participated at the 38th Social Service Day celebration organized by

Social Welfare Council (SWC) amid a various programs with the slogan, 'Peace and Prosperity- Aspiration of All: Selfless Involvement in Social Service', The program was attended by the Honorable President Bidhya Devi Bhandari, the Honorable State Minister for Women Children and Social Welfare Mohammad Zakir Hussain, SWC's Vice Chairman Nilmani Baral and Member Secretary Dilli Prasad Bhatta among others along with representatives of different INGOs and INGOs. The ceremony was chaired by President Bhandari. Prior to the



© Social Welfare Council

program, a rally was taken out from the capital's Bhrikutimandap that ended at the SWC's premises in Lainchaur.

CECI WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS

CECI Nepal welcomed Seven Canadian volunteers and three Australian Volunteers in Nepal.



© Mallika Bhattarai

Uniterra Volunteer



AVID Volunteer

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TRAININGS IN SERVICE SECTOR

Skills Development Project (SDP), managed by CTEVT where the



© SDP

technical assistance (TA) is provided by a Consortium involving CECI, contracted Private Training and Employment Service Providers (TESPs) for the second round trainings and employment services to 1,900 young women of Kathmandu, Chitawan and Kaski districts. The trainings include the service sectors such as: waitress, housekeeping, receptionist cum cashier, cook and tailoring. The training graduates will be linked with the private companies for the employment .

ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

Claire Morcer, the Australian volunteer working in the Independent Living Centre-Kathmandu organized a Mental Health Training for Persons with Disabilities on 4 August 2017 in Kathmandu. The training was funded by the Australian Aid, through the AVID Disability Initiative Grant. The training provided an understanding of mental health issues and also enhanced the capacity of the individuals experiencing mental health problems.

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION



CECI Nepal celebrated 150th Canada Day by organizing a small informal event at CECI Nepal office.

PROJECT EXTENSION

The Nepal Resident Mission of Asian Development Bank (ADB) has extended the consulting services to SDP led by World University Service of Canada in association with CECI, International, Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI), and Colleges and Institutes of Canada from 31 August 2017 to 30 June 2018. This consulting service will support the Project Implementation Unit of SDP in the overall implementation of the project such as reporting, financial management, procurement and administration, monitoring and database and emerging demands of the project, particularly to provide technical assistance to the TVET Sector Development Unit (TSDU) and the Ministry of Education, to support the development of the TVET Strategy, Road Map and Results Framework.

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Professor Jennifer Dawson, Uniterra's L4C volunteer, conducted workshops on Leadership and Management for the FWEAN board and general members on 7 and 12 July, 2017. The events were participated by 42 participants altogether. The participants found the workshop very useful and interesting as they reported improved knowledge on Leadership and Management after participating in the workshop. Team building exercises and idea pitching were the highlights of the event.



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CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND COOPERATION (CECI) NEPAL
135 NAYA BASTI MARG
G.P.O. BOX 2959
BALUWATAR, KATHMANDU, NEPAL

TEL: +977 1 4414430/4426791
EMAIL: cecinepal@ceci.ca
LIKE US ON [Face book](#)
www.ceci.ca/nepal