

WORKSHOP

"Building an Asian community of practice on monitoring and budget analysis"
09-11 July 2007 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Organized by SILAKA and Social Watch
in collaboration with OXFAM- Novib/KIC

PARTICIPANT'S QUESTIONNAIRE
SYSTEMATIZATION OF EXPERIENCES
To be submitted before 3 July, 2007

Congratulations on being selected to participate in the workshop. Since this workshop is based on the exchange of knowledge contained in specific practices, please fill in this form as fully as possible so that we can make the most of it. If you have any queries about how to complete it, do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

I. Personal and Contact Information

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| Gender | F | | M |
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| Name(s) | BAL KRISHNA |
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| Surname (s) | KATTEL |
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| Nationality | Nepali |
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Name of the Organization/Movement/Community (and Acronym)

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| NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) |
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Describe your current position in the organization

I have been working for the organisation as Programme Coordinator for two years now. Currently I am coordinating a project entitled Campaign from Below for Constituent Assembly Elections in Nepal. The project is intended to respond to opportunities to support democratic processes in Nepal particularly in connections with the Constituent Assembly and drafting of a New Constitution. The project takes into account the evolving situation on the ground while being sensitive to the country's complex post-conflict dynamic and efforts to build sustainable peace. Aim of the project is to increase ability of people particularly women, *dalit*, *janajati* and other marginalised community to participate in informed debate and dialogue related to democracy and constitutional issues. As Programme Coordinator, my responsibility include:

- Coordinating programme projects, writing reports and building relations with other agencies including donors
- Developing campaign materials for inclusion, social justice, gender equality and so on and disseminating them
- Designing and conducting workshops, seminars, trainings and other capacity building activities of the partner organisations
- Coordinating and organizing policy and planning meetings, organizing and managing regional consultations
- Conducting research, documenting information on poverty, human rights and democracy issues and disseminating them nationwide
- Compiling information of project activities and disseminating them through email and

- internet and also printing in newsletters
- Preparing press statements and stories related to the activities and providing to media for their publicity
- Coordinating consultations and interface discussions on poverty, inclusion issues
- Lobbying with political parties, facilitating meeting with them
- Developing organizational policies and monitoring them
- Managing project staff
- Managing project finances
- Preparing progress report and submitting them to NFN management and the donor
- Monitoring the progress of implementations
- Making routine visits to NFN district chapters and regional resource centers to ensure proper implementation of project activities
- Producing and submitting project reports

Does your organization take part in or does it have bonds with local, national, regional or international networks? If so, which?

Yes. My organisation, NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN), is an umbrella organisation of over 3700 NGOs working in 75 districts and five development regions of Nepal. Established in 1991 for the promotion and protection of social justice, human rights and pro-poor development, NFN has evolved as a national organisation working for the entire NGO movement in Nepal. It is actively working to conscientise, organise and mobilise civil society to create a peaceful, democratic and just Nepal.

NFN is also recognised as confederation - federation of federations in Nepal. It has coordinated a movement network called Citizens' Campaign for Democracy and Social Transformation where 33 civil society federations, networks, alliances such as Human Rights Alliance, Federation of Community Forestry Users' Nepal, Dalit NGO Federation, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, National Federation of Disabled Nepal, Women Security Pressure Group, Democratic Confederation of Nepalese Trade Unions and so on are the members. NFN participates in a number of forums, both national and international, and put civil society perspectives to strengthen civil society movement through consolidated civil society networks.

NFN also has a bond with international networks such as Voluntary Action Network India, The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh, South-South Solidarity, Asian NGOs Coalition, Philippines.

II. Description of experiences and selection of a practice:
Please answer the following questions. Use the necessary space.

What is a practice?
 We understand a practice to be a process, strategy or activity of an organisation or a group of organisations to achieve social change. A practice may vary from an agricultural technique or an educational method to more complex processes like international coalition building. Its scope may be limited, but it may also correspond to entire projects or programmes.

1. ¿Which are the principal fields of expertise of your organization? (E.g., social development, human rights, budget monitoring, sexual and reproductive rights, etc)

- Social development
- Human rights

2. Which are the main strategies used in your organization? (E.g., education, research, campaigning, advocacy, lobbying, satisfaction of specific demands, etc.)

- Research
- Campaigning
- Advocacy
- Lobbying

3. Among the activities and experiences of your organization, please chose one you consider relevant to be transmitted to the other participants. The practice selected should be a specific action, plan, intervention or process in one of the four topics that will be explored in the workshop (ESCR, Budget analysis, monitoring, and advocacy). And you should be able to divide it into the following elements:

a. Summary of the practice (no more than 5 lines, please).

An advocacy campaign against discrimination and poverty, for democracy, peace and food sovereignty was launched by the NGO Federation of Nepal in coordination with other 33 civil society organisation, networks, alliances and federations in 2006. The campaign was particularly to collect people's agenda for discrimination and poverty eradication, and for democracy, peace and food sovereignty. At the end of the campaign, a citizen's memorandum was developed basing on the people's agenda and submitted to the major political leaders and the Speaker of house of Representatives urging them to make the memorandum a basis while drafting the interim constitution.

b. Motivation: Situation or problem that the practice aimed to resolve.

Nepali state now is in a transition from a decade-long armed conflict to '*positive peace*', a state devoid of unequal social, political and economic structures and systems that sustain structural discrepancies and discrimination between groups of people. Transitioning as it is, Nepali society is in a critical point of time, one filled with enormous challenges. One of them is to address poverty outcomes: exclusion, discrimination, violence and powerlessness. Perpetuation of poverty is often compounded by the political instability, ensuing armed insurgency and structural inequalities. These are more prevalent in rural and remote areas where unequal power relations, unequal distribution of land and income, lack of basic facilities and discrimination are taking their toll on the dignity and self-respect of the people. Realising that these problems can be addressed through genuine efforts, the campaign was launched in a massive involvement of the people who led the process throughout.

c. Objective(s)

Collect people's agenda for discrimination and poverty eradication, and for democracy, peace and food sovereignty

d. Strategies used to solve the problem or situation.

An alliance was strengthened amongst 33 organisations working in the filed of social issues in the central level. Such alliance was constituted in five development regions of the country and members of the alliances mobilised to interact with the people organising different forums and roundtables. Public mass gatherings were also organised in local level where the people put forth their concerns.

To gather issues of diverse groups, issues based consortiums were formed such as *dalit* consortium, women consortium, *janajati* consortium, trade union consortium and the local level thematic activities such as roundtables, workshops were facilitated through the consortiums. Doing so helped, among others, reach out to more people and collect diverse issues.

e. Resources (financial, human, materials, etc.).

Financial and human. Some publicity materials such as posters, pamphlets and stickers were developed and disseminated.

- f. **Level of action** (local, national, regional and/or international, and if there are any relations among them)

Local and national. Issues discussed and collected from the local level activities were brought to the national level, discussed and sort out to insert in the citizens' memorandum.

- g. **Brief description of the process** (main activities, beneficiaries, when and where it was carried out, methodology, collaboration with partners, etc.).

The activities included the forms of mass mobilisation, rally and demonstrations, workshops, media mobilisation, parliamentary action and lobbying. It was carried out in 2006 in five different places of the country and in Kathmandu, the Capital City of Nepal. The primary beneficiaries of the programme were the people were passing through the discrimination and other forms of poverty. Secondary beneficiaries included the political leaders, policy planners and other development agencies.

- h. **Main results and changes made during the implementation** (if it is still running, please comment on the potential outcomes, obstacles, etc.)

The campaign impacted on the policy framework. Because of the campaign and associated activities, the government was compelled to explicitly speak out in the interim constitution to:

- o allocate 33 percent of seats to the women in all state apparatus, which has also guaranteed by the political parties. This was reflected while the political parties nominated representatives in the interim parliament.
- o guarantee as the directive principle of the state to poverty eradication
- o guarantee food sovereignty as human rights of the people
- o guarantee right to reproductive health and maternity protection of the women

3 Evaluation of the Practice.

1. **What is the general evaluation of the practice? Was the practice successful in achieving the objectives stated? Was the situation/problem resolved?**

The practice was successful to achieve the objective to some extent. But still the challenges lie how provisions guaranteed in the constitution will be practiced. Still the exclusion and discriminations against people lie in a massive scale at the local and remote places. Poverty prevails over dignity of the people. So there is no room to be fully satisfied. However, some achievements are made the success has encouraged the campaigner to continue the campaign in a more coordinated way.

2. **What were the key factors for success or failure?**

The key factors of the success include the involvement of the target people in the process of the campaign. The coordinated approach of the civil society organisations to pick up the issues from local to nation level and government response to address them are some of the factors to make such achievement.

3. **What are the major lessons learned?**

Coordinated efforts in the involvement of the mass of people can garner change.

Equally important is to reach out to the people who are the real victims of exclusion, discrimination and injustice. Also we need to recognise that the poor are the expert of the poverty ,be it economic, social, mental and others.