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## Effectiveness of Reconstruction Aid in Nepal

Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiative (HAMI) organized program on “Effectiveness of Reconstruction Aid in Nepal” on March 2nd, 2018 Kathmandu. The program was successful for bringing the existing and former Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) at the same program reviewing international aids in reconstruction progress and challenges faced in the process.

Rigorous discussion was made regarding the effectiveness of reconstruction aid in Nepal concerning with achievements and challenges that have been encountered; in which, all the participants solidly presented the views that effectiveness of reconstruction aid has been slow but progress has been observed in the meantime.

The chief guest of the program was Mr. Yubaraj Bhusal, CEO of NRA. Other notable guests were

former Dr. Govind Raj Pokhrel and Mr. Sushil Gyawali (both are former CEOs of NRA); and Rabindra Adhikari, member of the parliament. All the guests presented their views on reconstruction process that has been taking place in the earthquake affected districts. Meanwhile, a report, titled, “Effectiveness of Reconstruction Aid in Nepal” was made public by Mr. Yubaraj Bhusal, CEO of NRA. The report was prepared by HAMI.

The program was chaired by Min Bahadur Shahi, convener of HAMI. Representatives from different civil society organizations (COSs) were also present in the program. It remained successful for reviewing/assessing international aid's effectiveness. It recognized that there are several challenges for bringing all the aids in particular basket fund and mobilize as per the need of the earthquake survivors though attempts from the NRA and other concerned stakeholders have been regular.



## HAMI Strategic Review

HAMI organized review reflection and planning meeting on 12th and 13th January at Park Village Hotel, Budanilkantha, Kathmandu with an aim of discussing with HAMI core committee about the current ongoing issues and reflections towards completed activities of 2017 along with discussion for further planning for 2018. The meeting focused on activities, achievements and challenges encountered by the organization during its campaigns on reconstruction. HAMI has been working to bring out the voice of the affected communities widely through evidence based reports and dialogues were considered as major achievement. Members also shared facing challenges mainly due to slow working pace of the government and mind set of controlling to the CSOs rather



than facilitating has also created hurdle in coordination with government bodies in the process of reconstruction.

The meeting also made key decisions after reviewing the overall annual progress of HAMI. Some of them include, annual General Meeting of HAMI to be carried out in Dolakha on April during the 3rd commemoration of Earthquake; review to be done on the strategy and guideline of HAMI;

bimonthly discussion to be carried out on different thematic areas on reconstruction such as youth and reconstruction, indigenous people rights and reconstruction, Dalits and women in disaster and so on; to develop HAMI position paper on National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), effectiveness and accountability monitoring of NRA; i.e. position of CSOs on reconstruction; continue series of advocacy with political parties, bureaucrats and NRA and CSOs.

## National Conference of Community Radios

Association Community Radio Broadcasters' (ACORAB), Nepal organized a national conference of community radios on January 24-25, 2018 at Pokhara Grande Hotel, Pokhara. HAMI was one of the partner organizations of the program. The main objective of the conference was to bring community broadcasting leaders, local government representatives and civil society members together and search common way forward to eliminate the harmful traditional practices and bring sustainable social change through the community broadcasting system. More than 260 community radio representatives, high level political

leaders, media activist, researchers, civil society representatives have participated in the conference. Series of panel discussions and keynote speeches were delivered during the plenary sessions of the conference.



In the program, Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar presented his views on Disaster and Radio. He highlighted the importance of community radio during and its linkage with disaster reporting asserting Community Radios have played important roles to promulgation of the Disaster Preparedness Acts 2016. He highlighted the importance of the act in the days to come for the effective preparedness for disasters. The conference completed with unanimous decision for strengthening community radios standing firm for eliminating traditional mal-practices and bring sustainable social change in the communities.



## Review and Reflection Workshop

HAMI conducted review and reflection workshop at Dhulikhel, Kavre on 19-20 March, 2018. In the program, representatives from HAMI, HCG, CSRC, and OXFAM were

present for reviewing and reflecting past activities and their results in the society in the areas of advocacy and lobby for ensuring the rights of the people; particularly, natural disaster affected people/families.



HAMI's campaigns on reconstructions carried out were presented in the program. It has continuously been advocating and lobbying for democratic reconstruction after the devastating earthquake in Nepal. On behalf of the civil society organization, HAMI conducted many policies and community level dialogues and discourses to ensure rights of victims/affected communities during reconstruction process. It has been able to build multi stakeholders partnership including Human Rights Megna Meet, value based on interaction with AIN, government agencies, political parties etc. The program completed with the acknowledging the achievements and preparing plans for carrying out tentative campaigns and activities in the year 2018.

## Policy Dialogue Series on “Freedom of Association: Shrinking Space of Civil Society”

HAMI organized Policy Dialogue Series-2 on “Freedom of Association: Shrinking Space of Civil Society” on February 1, 2018 at Patan, Lalitpur. In the program, members from numerous CSO Federations and INGOs were present. Representatives from AIN (Association of International NGOs in Nepal), NGO Federation, ACORAB, Nepal, Human Rights Alliance, INSEC Nepal, IM Swedish Development Partner are some of the notable I/NGOs and CSO community.

The program was organized in the pretext of assuring the space in the

policy formation process for CSOs of the country as the government was in the process of the forming numerous policies relevant to CSOs' mobilization. Since the government has drafted numerous policies and preparing for implementing them in the name of mobilizing CSOs of Nepal but meaningful participation of the CSOs has been utterly ignored in the process.

This interaction program was organized with the aim of demanding meaningful participation in the policy formation process and ensuring

fundamental constitutional right to freedom of association and expression while regulating CSOs in Nepal. All the CSO community of Nepal has been experiencing apparent gloomy scenario of the community as shrinking space has been felt as the government has been in the mission of imposing guidelines and directives from the concerned authorities (in the name of supervision and regulation) that are against the spirit of constitutional provisions of freedom of association, functionality, and mobility.

## HAMI in Media

HAMI has been active for raising issues and concerns of reconstruction and recovery to the concerned stakeholders for timely completion through different campaigns and platforms. Using media has been one of the approaches. Feature news on Himal Khabarpatrika weekly news magazine (on 14 May, 2017) reflected that despite elected newly representatives available in the local level; their presence has not been felt by the earthquake affected people because of very slow pace of reconstruction. Banner news on Republica Daily (on 1 April, 2018) portrayed the problems that affected people are facing. Despite spending considerable time in

reconstruction, still significant numbers of earthquake affected people are still living in their temporary shelters.

Similarly, the news featured in the Spotlight magazine (21 January, 2018) illustrated that HAMI's campaign for raising the voice of the earthquake victims, a large number of people are living in temporary shelters almost three years after the devastating earthquakes through various campaigns. Same edition of the magazine also featured the interview of Mr. Min Bahadur Shahi Convener, HAMI where he had expressed his views on reconstruction issues which have been diluted severely

in the quagmire of complicated laws and policies related to land registration, tenancy, property sharing, and definition of families and households.

Front news was covered by Karobar Daily (on 14 January, 2017) raised the issue of untimely release of installments. Affected communities are desperate for returning into normal life but all have been in vain. Financial support to them has not been effective so far as most of the families are not able to receive second and third tranche provided by the government. As a result, they have started to rebuild their houses without the assured support.

## Inequality Study: The Himalayan Divide: Rich and the Rest in Nepal

HAMI is conducting the inequality study titled, The Himalayan Divide: Rich & the Rest in Nepal. This study assesses how economic inequality manifests itself in the Nepalese context through the country's various deep rooted multiple inequalities. The purpose of this study is to identify inequality trends (economic, social and political), drivers, intersections, consequences and policy interventions that are relevant at the national level. The study report is in the process of final review before publication.

Published report will be published and shared with policy makers

including parliamentarians, national and local governments including Finance Ministry; Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Ministry of Land Reform and Management, National Planning Commission, and National Reconstruction Authority. Similarly, politicians, media, emerging civil society movements, researchers and academics working on inequality, fiscal justice and other associated issues, partners, other influential think-tanks, intellectuals and development professionals, youths and their associations will be the key stakeholders for consultations in this study.

## Interaction with Federations

HAMI organized interaction program on December 30, 2017 at HAMI Secretariat, Sanepa, Lalitpur on *"Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Present Context"* with federations working in Nepal as civil society organizations. Dr. Bajay Subba, In-Charge of Human Rights Alliance was the chief guest in the program. The program was chaired by Min Bahadur Shahi, Convener of HAMI. Agenda of the interaction program were to conduct discussion on effective role of civil society organizations in the present context; to discuss on freedom of association and organization in Nepal. Guests of the program were Gopal Lamsal, Chairperson of NGO Federation of Nepal, Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, Technical Advisory Member of HAMI, Subodh

Raj Pyakurel, Chairperson of INSEC, Dr. Netra Prasad Timilsina, Former President of NGO Federation of Nepal.

Chief guests and participants of the meeting viewed that progressive Human Right movement in Nepal has been reflected in the recently organized Magna Meet in Kathmandu in the pretext of International Human Rights

Day. But there are still cases of challenges in human rights concerns regarding legal and institutional system structures in the country. There has to be even only provision for women and other marginalized communities. It asserted to carry out further discussions and interactions on these sorts of forums on effective role of civil society organizations in

the present context. The meeting also decided for lobbying further to the concerned authorities to ensure the on freedom of association of CSOs as provisioned by the constitution. All the guests shared that policies and plans have to be prepared by understanding the right to association and association of association ensured by the constitution.

## Initiative to Promote Access to Justice of Earthquake Affected People: Agency Mapping Workshop

A workshop on 'Agency Mapping and Launching the Stories of Rebuilding' was organized by HAMI on April 22, 2018 in Kathmandu. The program was mainly intended for identifying issues, priorities and methodology for agency mapping concerning with different Stakeholders like GOs, I/NGOs, CSOs, private sectors contributing in reconstruction and recovery in earthquake affected districts of Nepal to promote accountability of those stakeholders. The program was chaired by Min Bahadur Shahi, Convener of HAMI and moderation by Rem BK, Secretary of HAMI.

Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, Technical Advisor of HAMI, presented relevant campaigns and activities that were initiated and led by HAMI in reconstruction and recover aiming to make accountable to the concerned authorities in reconstruction and recovery. Similarly, concerning with 'who is doing what as well as who got what among the affected communities', prepared draft of agency mapping was presented by Bidur Subedi. It covered that

status of reconstruction pointing out the gaps and challenges resulting slow reconstruction process along with general information about countries, agencies, donors, government, private sectors contributing in the reconstruction process. Alankar and Tanneri Chaso presented documentaries reflecting the stories of the reconstruction from the field including the voices of the affected people. They also raised the issues that have been prevalent in affected communities. Participants representing different

I/NGOs shared their experiences in the program. Guest, Prem Sapkota, Deputy Director of Social Science Baha presented crucial issues that have to be covered in the report concerning with earthquake affected people who had lots of expectations to be fulfilled on time but all those expectations are turned into despair as significant households are yet to be returned into their permanent houses. Min Bahadur Shahi, Convener of HAMI viewed that CSOs are needed to be further accountable with regard to their contribution in reconstruction and recovery.





## Policy dialogue program on “Youth Participation in Disaster Management”

Policy dialogue program on “Youth Participation in Disaster Management” was organized by Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiative (HAMI) on May 13, 2018 at National Youth Council, Tripureshwor, Kathmandu. The dialogue was jointly managed by JCYCN, SDG Studio in collaboration with National Youth Council. The program explored and assessed the necessary role of youth in policy formation process and their engagement concerning with disaster management by emphasizing the scenario of the reconstruction carried out after April 2015 earthquake which has been marred by policy gaps for mobilizing the youth in disaster management.

The chief guest of the program, Min Bahadur Shahi, Member of National Planning Commission (NPC) considered crucial role of youth in disaster management being crucial yet not been recognized by the state that is apparent from ongoing reconstruction process. He assured for putting the issues in the discussion at NPC. Bidur Subedi, behalf of HAMI he made presentation focusing youth engagement in disaster management. He briefly presented HAMI's campaigns on reconstructions and advocacy and performed role of youth.

Dipesh Ghimire, Associate Professor of TU presented on “Policy Provisions on Disaster Management for Youth Engagement”. Existing provisions concerning with youth mobilization through policies were presented i.e. Constitution, Periodic Plan, DRR National Policy, Youth Policy and Policies of NRA with regard to the space, role, and recognition for youth prior, during and after the disaster.

Netra Prasad Subedi, Under Secretary, National Reconstruction Authority (NRA, Mr. Mahendra Poudel, Under Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Dhurba Poudel, Under Secretary National

Youth Council, Narendra Khatiwada, Youth Advocacy Nepal, Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, General Secretary of Human Rights Alliance all acknowledged that there have been some gaps for addressing youth engagement through policies and assured for addressing this concern in coming days. Discussion was concerned with necessity of revisiting policies on disaster management targeting to motivate youth for being more engaged in disaster management. The program was chaired by Tillotam Poudel, President of JCYCN and Core Committee Member, HAMI and the program was moderated by Niraj Neupane, SDGs Studio.



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