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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. HAMI was able to bring existing and former Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) into the same platform for reviewing international aids in reconstruction progress and challenges that have been faced so far.

Rigorous discussion was made regarding the effectiveness of reconstruction aid in Nepal concerning with achievements and challenges that we have faced so far in this process; in which, all the participants unanimously 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. Similarly, guests were former

CEO Dr. Govind Raj Pokhrel and Mr. Sushil Gyawali; and Rabindra Adhikari, member of the parliament, were present. All the CEOs presented their views regarding reconstruction process that has been taking place in the 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. The program became 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 Reflection and Planning Meeting 2018

Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiative (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 reflect the work of 2017 and discuss for further planning for 2018.



The meeting focused on activities, achievements and challenges of HAMI. HAMI working to bring out the voice of the affected communities widely through evidence based reports and dialogues was considered as major achievement while bureaucratic mindset of government was seen as challenge

which was more controlling rather than facilitating the CSOs which created hurdle in coordination with government bodies. Major gap was observed was regarding the follow up process on the works done by

HAMI to ensure its implementation and effectiveness. empower them so that they can take control of reconstruction of their own houses and ensure facilitation of owner driven reconstruction.

National Conference of Community Radios

Association Community Radio Broadcasters' (ACORAB), Nepal organized a national conference of community radios on January 24-25, 2018 in Pokhara Grande Hotel, Pokhara. 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 Sustainable Social Change through the community broadcastingsystem. 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.

The conference successfully brought the community radios contribution for positive societal transformation as well as sustainability and content issues in the discussion. In the program, Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar put forward his views on Disaster and Radio. He highlighted the importance of community radio during and its linkage with disaster reporting. He asserted that Community Radio have played important roles to promulgation of the Disaster Preparedness Acts 2016. They have helped to create the public opinion all over the country. The role played by the community radios during and after the disaster was praise worthy. He highlighted on the importance of the acts in the days to come for the effective preparedness for disasters.



“Nepal is one of the disaster vulnerable countries. It is ranked, as 4th for climate change; 11th for earthquake; 20th for multiple disaster and 30th as floods and landslides vulnerable country. Being such vulnerable country, we are lacking on awareness of preparedness education and plan. This act, which we just passed from the parliament has emphasized for preparedness education and plan at individual to county level. This is very important acts to save the people in risks. The community radios can broadcast the major aims and provision of this acts and aware the people nationwide. Members of the parliaments have started the campaigns on Disaster Risk Reduction through the MP for DRR campaigns. The campaigners’ former MPs could be the resources person to provide the information about the positive features of acts for community radios. We will be more than happy to collaborate with community radios to expand the disaster preparedness act messages all over the country. I believe, the Transformation is impossible unless political leaders understand and internalized the issues.” Ganga Lal Tuladhar, ex-member of legislative parliament.”

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 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.

Achievements of aforementioned organizations were presented in the program. HAMI 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.

Similarly, it has been able to contribute for influential policy dialogue and discourses on democratic reconstruction including structural changes of National Reconstruction Authority,

Nepal. Policy advocacy and lobby for CSOs environment in the context of shrinking space of CSOs in Nepal. Organized series of policy discourse on freedom of association and expression has been another milestone. HAMI has been publishing reports and disseminating on different issues e.g. Post-Quake Reconstruction in Nepal: What Next Fact-Finding, Effectiveness of Reconstruction Aid in Nepal etc.

Similarly, discussion was made on current socio-political issues ranging from three tier elections e.g. local, provincial and federal government considering major milestone for political stability and suitable environment of constitution’s implementation. Shrinking space of CSOs also was one of the areas of discussion in the meeting. The draft bill of Social Development Act is not ready to accept the current democratic landscape of CSOs. It is headed by the Social Welfare Council (SWC)

which is the apex body for national and international NGOs and INGOs.

Meanwhile, scoping for future-common agenda for intervention was also assessed in the meeting. Some of the issues were influential policy advocacy and lobby, discourse on new development dimension, discourse on dimensions of inequality, continuous humanitarian accountability monitoring, discourse and lobby for democratic civil society space, localization of Disaster Management Act, capacity building of multi stakeholder’s. Strategy to achieve the objectives are: building networking with Parliamentarian Committee, Sub-Committee and office of House of Speaker and General Secretary of Parliament; evidence based policy advocacy, research and lobby; co-creation and partnership; collaboration, cooperation and communication; joint monitoring; knowledge sharing and critical positioning.



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

Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiative (HAMI) took part in a policy dialogue series-2 on “Freedom of Association: Shrinking Space of Civil Society” on February 1, 2018 at Patan, Lalitpur.

During that program, members from numerous CSO Federations and INGOs were present in the program. Representatives from AIN (Association of International NGOs in Nepal), NGO Federation, ACORAB, Nepal, Human Rights Alliance, INSEC Nepal, IM Swedish Development Partner and others were present in the program. 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.

This interaction program was organized in the pretext 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. 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. All the CSOs’ community has been experiencing apparent gloomy scenario of the community as shrinking space has been felt by CSOs in Nepal 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

Issues and concerns raised by HAMI was widely covered in the media. Feature news on Himal Khabarpatrika weekly news magazine 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. It depicted that Role of NRA and local level government in the reconstruction process has also been not specified (particularly, local level) as blame game looms over the head. Banner news on Reublica daily 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. Financial support to them has not been

effective so far as most of the families are not able to receive second and third installments.

The news featured in the spotlight magazine illustrated that HAMI has been 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 platforms such as organizing people’s caravans, taking part in human rights magna, constantly monitoring the state of earthquake victims and reconstruction, interacting with various stakeholders and publishing reports. 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 and 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 installments. Now, people have begun to rebuild or construct new houses from their own sources due to burdensome process of providing financial support. Through the article and news coverage the needs and concerns of affected communities was reached among wider audience.

Inequality study: The Himalayan Divide: Rich & the Rest in Nepal

HAMI is conducting the inequality study entitled 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 will be published and will be 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.



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