

IN THIS ISSUE

- Report Launching on “Fighting Inequality in Nepal: Road to Prosperity”
- Inequality Campaign against Inequalities in Nepal
- Meeting with Federation in Sindhupalchok
- Capacity Building of CSOs on Accountability Tools and Training to Local Level Representatives on Local Level Planning
- Delegation with National Planning Commission (NPC)
- Lesson Learning and Sharing Workshop
- Dialogue with Parliamentarian
- HAMI Core Committee Meeting
- Archiving on Post-Quake Reconstruction News

Report Launching on “Fighting Inequality in Nepal: Road to Prosperity”

Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiative (HAMI) launched report on “Fighting Inequality in Nepal: Road to Prosperity” in Kathmandu on January 11, 2019. The Chief Guest, Dr. Puspa Raj Kadel, Vice-Chairperson, National Planning Commission (NPC) formally launched the report. He shared that this report has incorporated factors for causing inequalities and possible measures as recommendations; hence, relevant recommendations will be addressed through the policies and provisions. The program was chaired by Rem BK, Core Committee Secretary of HAMI. The guest of the program was Min Bahadur Shahi, Member of NPC, Hari Sharma, political analyst presented his critical observations on the report and Dr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada, Associate Professor, Tribhuvan University presented brief summary of the report.

This research based report was prepared by the experts Dr. Dilli Raj Khanal on wealth and income inequality, Debendra Adhikari on

labour markets and wages, Bal Krishna Mabuhang on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), and Jagat Deuja on land. The report was collaboratively published by OXFAM International and HAMI along with the technical inputs from South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE). Min Bahadur Shahi, Member, National Planning Commission; Gauri Pradhan, Guest and Human Rights Activist; Binda Pandey, Parliament Member; Dilli Raj Khanal, Economist; Rem BK, HAMI Core Committee Secretary shared their views and observations on the report in relation to existing policy and day to day reality.

Prior to the program, press meet was organized among the journalists from print, online and electronic media on January 10, 2019 aiming for the wider dissemination of findings and recommendations of the report. Journalists were also made aware on global inequality scenario and the inequality study of South Asia. Media were well informed about the inequality report and the findings.



Inequality Campaign against Inequalities in Nepal

"Civil Society Campaign against Inequality in Nepal" was organized on January 22, 2019 at Jawalakhel, Lalitpur with the collaboration among along HAMI, National Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice–Nepal (Human Rights Alliance), Nepal Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Forum, NGO Federation of Nepal, and (SAAPE). The program was organized on eve of the world's business elites and top politicians come together for the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland from 22 to 25 January 2019 in Davos-Klosters discussion for possible strategies to tackle for eliminating inequalities; however, the discussion carried out at annual basis does not bring aspired changes to the people from countries like Nepal.

Dr. Netra Timisina, Civil Campaigner presented rationale cum context of the campaign that has been ongoing annually. The program was chaired by GauriPradhan, Civil Campaigner. He welcomed the participant campaigners in the program with a poem, titled as "Davos ko Dum Dum" (Arrogance of Davos). In the program, civil society organizations and social movements and individuals were the participants. The chief guest was Literary Century Person and Culturist, Satya Mohan Joshi, who inaugurated the event; where he was provided civic honor recognizing his great contribution for fighting against inequalities through cultural advocacy and writings.



The program was organized under the modality of poetry recitation and art gallery display reflecting the message of collective efforts needed to tackle existing inequalities in the country and around the world. In the program, poems were recited by the poets representing across the country. The session was called "Poetry Recitation: Voice for equality". Aun Shree Acharya, Ganesh Dangal, JB Darlami, Tara Nath Parajuli,

Shrishya Pandey, Devika Timilsna, Narayan Dhakal, Purushottam Subedi, Matrika Pokhrel, Rajani Dhakal, Lakshmi Mali, Bal Krishna Kattel, Bidhan Acharya, Dipana Sharma, Bimala Niva, Shardul Bhattarai, Sambriddhi Lamichhane, Sneha Sayami, Saroj Dilu, Sulochana Manandhar. Cartoons, prepared by Umesh Chandra Adhikari, illustrating inequalities were displayed during the events.

Meeting with Federation in Sindhupalchok

HAMI organized a meeting with federations working in Sindhupalchok on 6 February, 2019 at Chautara. The meeting was organized with the aim of finding status of CSOs working the district with regard to post-quake reconstruction and their possible effective role as watchdog to the government or implementing body on reconstruction of the district. Representatives from civil societies

(CSOs and CBOs) working the district on post-reconstruction were present in the meeting. Samir Nepal, Senior Vice-Chairperson of Human Rights Alliance was the chief guest; whereas, Som Sapkota, NGO Federation, Sindhupalchok chaired the program. Samir Nepal asserted for carrying out active role from the CSOs side in reconstruction playing constructive watchdog role to the

government. Bidur Subedi, HAMI moderated the meeting.

Nati Babu Dhital, Representative of INSEC Sindhupalchok, Sita Thapa, Human Rights Alliance, Sindhupalchok Chapter, Yagya Dangal, Radio Sunkoshi, Rina Shrestha, Human Rights Defenders for Women, District Network Sindhupalchok shared their observations and experiences on the post-reconstruction in the district. Overall, the meeting was successful to explore and assess the status of CSOs and their crucial contribution in reconstruction in the district. They asserted that despite efforts from the government and CSOs, reconstruction progress has not been according to the expectation because almost 4 years have been completed. But still noticeable numbers of families are yet to return back to their permanent houses. Meanwhile, other infrastructural reconstruction pace has also been slow in the district. The participants stated that this type of meeting or dialogue may help to analysis the situation and may create a platform to work together for the common issues on reconstruction so that it could be an advocacy from CSOs' side.



Capacity Building of CSOs on Accountability Tools and Training to Local Level Representatives on Local Level Planning



HAMI organized two-day capacity building training to CSO representatives on accountability tools in Sindhupalchok district. Series of trainings were organized in August 2018; where, local CSOs representatives/youth groups took part in the training. The participants were from Jugul, Indrawati and Tripurasundari, Bhotekhosi Rural Municipalities; where, training at Bhotekhosi RM was

conducted in September, 2018. Participants from each RM were capacitated on social accountability tools such as Public hearing, Public Expenditure Tracking, Citizen Complaint Structures and Citizen report card and its importance to promote accountability in disaster affected areas.

Under the same capacitating series campaign, two-day local level planning process training was organized to elected representatives including staffs of Rural Municipality in December 2018 at Jugul, Indrawati and Tripurasundari and Bhotekhosi Rural Municipalities. Similarly, the training was conducted at Helambu RM in January 2019. Participants were capacitated on local level planning process, steps including annual planning and budget, prioritization at ward level. They committed to follow the seven steps of planning and made the planning process more

inclusive and transparent by prioritizing the sectors for the development in their respective RMs in the planning process guided by Constitutional rights of local government and the local government regulation act.



Delegation with National Planning Commission (NPC)

HAMI went for a delegation to NPC and submitted the report, titled, "Fighting Inequality in Nepal: Road to Prosperity" on January 10, 2019 at Singhadurbar, Kathmandu. The delegation aimed to pull the attention of NPC and other concerned stakeholders regarding the importance of equality in the country. Dr Padma Prasad Khatriwada and Geeta Pandey from HAMI, Dr. NetraTimsina from SAAPE and Bal Krishna Kattel from Oxfam in Nepal and Mustafa Talpur from Oxfam Region were in the delegation team. The team met Prof. Dr. Puspa Raj Kandel, Vice Chair and Min Bahadur Shahi Member of NPC. The delegation team handed over the inequality report to Vice Chair, National Planning Commission to reflect key issues of the report. The report illustrates findings of several dimensions of inequalities prevalent in the country along with recommendations to the stakeholders. During the meeting, issues of national and global inequalities were also discussed with possible measures through necessary policies and institutional mechanisms in the country.



Lesson Learning and Sharing Workshop

Two-day learning sharing workshop was organized at Dhulikhel, Kavre on March 21 and 22, 2019. In the learning sharing workshop, the elected representatives from 5 Rural Municipalities, namely, Tripurasundari, Helambu, Jugul, Bhotekhosi and Indrawati took part. The participant representatives in the previous trainings were sensitized on local level planning process and their effective execution. After implementing their learning in day to day activities at office, they shared the planning process and their practice of working on budget allocation of their respective RMs and the issues associated with it. They were able to learn that previously prioritizing road construction only as the key of development had fueled to increase the disasters. But now, they have realized that integrated development is most for the sustainable development. The



roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders have been well understood after the training as expressed by the participants. Furthermore, they were sensitized on the role as and responsibilities of the local governments on disaster risk reduction and preparedness and response and on the newly formed DRRM act and localization of the act in their context. Overall, the workshop was able to help to bridge the gap among them bringing them together at same place and share their ideas which facilitated their roles and responsibilities. The workshop was facilitated by Bidur Subedi covering the content on local level planning process; whereas, Geeta Pandey presented the DRR act and its provision.

Dialogue with Parliamentarian

Dialogue with parliamentarian was organized on 19th of March, 2019 in Kathmandu. Around 20 parliamentarians from National Assembly and Federal House of Representatives attended the dialogue. In the program, findings of the inequality study report "Fighting Inequality in Nepal: Road to Prosperity" were shared among the parliamentarian. Hon'ble Tara Devi Bhatta, Chairperson of Sustainable Development and Governance Committee chaired the program. Dr. Netra Prasad Timsina, South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) moderated the discussion. Gauri Pradhan, Human Rights Activist stated that the widening gap of the inequality must be reduced to contribute on the vision of happy Nepal, prosperous nation. Economic as well as social indicators must be achieved. The fact which the report has portrayed and the



gap between rich and poor if not addressed timely will further worsen the inequalities in the society. All the parliamentarians, present in the program, assured to raise the issues in the concerned bodies as the inequality agenda has been a grave concern in these days. The recommendations provided by the

report was appreciated by all and taken as the feedback for budget making process and the plan and programs of the government. In order to achieve the sustainable goals, inequality must be reduced through necessary policies and institutional mechanisms. In the meeting, discussion centered on key policy interventions are needed and proper implementation of the policies is also necessary to reduce inequalities. All the participants urged the parliamentarians to lobby to introduce more progressive taxes, where businesses and the wealthy pay more. The parliamentarians also stressed the need of introducing more progressive taxation to reduce the gap between the rich and poor as recommended by the report.

HAMI Core Committee Meeting

HAMI organized its core committee meeting on March 26, 2019 in Lalitpur. The meeting was able to carry out discussion about updates on the status of HAMI and explore possible ideas as well as fund for carrying out initiatives in coming days. In the meeting, Core Committee members Min Bahadur Shahi, Rem BK, Fatik Thapa, Subash Khatriwada, Suman Basnet, Dr. Padma Prasad Khatriwada, Rajendra Pradhan, Bidur Subedi, and Geeta Pandey were present. In the meeting, member participants considered the contribution of HAMI has been praise

worthy as has been working as a watchdog to the stakeholders with regards to humanitarian accountability, advocacy and capacity building activities.

The meeting made some key decisions for upcoming plans and strategies. They include; to organize national level "civil-political dialogue" on 24th April, 2019 to commemorate 4th year of April 2015 earthquake in Nepal that caused massive damage in the country; to issue a white-paper covering the findings of "Fighting Inequality in Nepal: Road to Prosperity"

report as well as humanitarian related initiatives led by HAMI; bi-monthly policy dialogues to be carried in districts related to advocacy and accountability based concerns. Since HAMI has been focused on the mandate of humanitarian initiatives, it has to prioritize the activities or campaigns related to it; hence, upcoming initiatives will be aligned with this perspective. The meeting also decided to search for fund raising opportunities so that it can work in humanitarian accountability monitoring related initiatives in coming days.

Archiving on Post-Quake Reconstruction News

Since January 2018, HAMI has been archiving post-quake reconstruction related news. Archiving news concerning with post-quake reconstruction is one of the approaches for making the concerned stakeholders accountable in the reconstruction process. It also works as a part of documenting the reconstruction journey in the country so that future course or preparedness could be made by the concerned stakeholders. In this archiving, news of post-quake reconstruction areas has from

the newspapers and online portals have been categorized under: advocacy and reconstruction stakeholders, individual housing, cultural and religious heritages, government and physical infrastructure, education, health, drinking water and sports, livelihood.

Source of news are from both print and online sources from the national levels. Till the date, among the sectors, more than 1200 news stories have been archived so far. On the official website of HAMI, monthly update is

made. Meanwhile, crucial, relevant, critical issue based news from the aforementioned sources have incorporated in the agency mapping report as well in other advocacy based initiatives carried out by HAMI. Overall, this initiative has been concerned with making the stakeholders to play constructive role in the campaign for timely completion of reconstruction in those earthquake affected districts.

For more information please contact:



Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiative (HAMI)
Sanepa, Lalitpur

PO Box No. 20842, Kathmandu

Tel: 977-1-5548321, 5548040, Fax: 977-1-5549093

Email: hami.nepal.2015@gmail.com, Website: www.hami.org.np