

Community Based Monitoring of Local Government/Public Goods and Services.

Final Report

Submitted By

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February, 2012

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Acknowledgement.

This assignment on ‘ Community Based Monitoring of Local Government/ Public Goods and Services’ was conducted in three selected infrastructure development projects of Kathmandu district with the financial support of Local Governance Accountability Facility (LGAF), a semi-autonomous entity established to facilitate and strengthen downward accountability. This intervention aimed at promoting downward accountability through the strengthening of capacity of local communities and piloting of community based monitoring approach at project level. It is expected that the key learning of this intervention can contribute to promote the meaningful engagement of local communities in the process of project implementation and monitoring and ensure accountability and transparency in project activities.

In the process of the completion of this intervention at project levels of the three selected projects, a number of government and non-government organizations, key stakeholders and community members have made significant contributions at all levels of project implementation. On behalf of WVAF and on my own I would like to express my gratitude and thanks LGAF Regional Office, Hetauda for its guidance and financial support. I highly appreciate the guidance and cooperation of Ms. Manju Singh Rana and Ms. Sovita Pariyar, the regional program officers of LGAF Regional Office, Hetauda. On behalf of WVAF, I am also thankful to the officials of DDC, Kathmandu and Kathmandu Municipal Corporation for their valuable support and cooperation during the implementation of this intervention. Especially the LDOs Mr. Uddabh Timilsina, Mr. Gopal Pd Parajuli, Div. Engineer Mr. Kumar Thapa, Er. Mr. Subash Bhattra, Audit Officer Mr. Gopal Pd. Pokhrel, Information Officer Mr. Prabin Pyakurel of DDC, Kathmandu deserve special thanks in this respect. Similarly, I also want to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of User’s Committees of Dhobikhala Corridor Bridge project, Chunnikhel VDC, Jarunkot – Vedigoth Road Project, Kabhresthali VDC and Deep Boring Project of Jadibuti, KMC – 35. and the VDC Secretaries of Chunnikhel and Kabhresthali VDCs. I do appreciate the active participation, cooperation and valuable inputs of the stakeholders and community members of all the three projects. Thanks are also due to the participants of dissemination workshop held at Transitional Justice Resource Centre (TJRC)/WVAF meeting room for their valuable comments and feedback on the findings of the report.

Special thanks are due to Dr. Tika Prasad Pokhrel, Mr. Bharat Bahadur Khada, Mr. Damodar Regmi, Mr. Manoj Bhattra, the Executive Director of LGAF and other invitees for their valuable presence and support in the dissemination program. Finally, I specifically would like to thank Mr. Sudarshan K.C., Project Coordinator, Mr. Lokendra Bhatta and Ms. Manamaya Gurung, Monitoring Assistants for their painstaking efforts and facilitation which led to the successful completion of the project interventions.

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Executive Summary:

Community Based Monitoring (CBM) is an effective approach to foster downward accountability through the meaningful engagement of communities in implementation and monitoring of community projects. An effective implementation of CBM process at community level can significantly contribute to the transparent and accountable local governance system. Under this assignment, CBM approach was experimented in three local development projects with the objective of enhancing transparency and downward accountability in governance by strengthening capacities of CSOs and citizens especially marginalized and vulnerable groups and women and thereby ensures equitable access to public goods and services. This report presents the methodologies used, the main activities carried out, the achievements made and the lessons learned during the period of this assignment.

Three infrastructure development projects - Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge at Chunikhel VDC, Jarunku -Vedigoth Road Project at Kabhresthali VDC and Drinking Water Deep Boring Project at Jadibuti, KMC – 35 were selected to implement the community based monitoring approach. In this process, communities' participation was more focused. Inclusive and participatory methods were used to mobilize community participation and to obtain information. During this period several meetings and consultations were held from district to community levels to obtain, share and disseminate information. Orientation programs were organized for the members of users committees and public hearings conducted in all the three projects. Several on-the-spot observation visits were carried-out to the construction sites. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were broadcasted through local FM radio to raise awareness about the obligations and entitlements of the citizens.

The major findings of this assignment are outlined below.

- No monitoring committees have been formed in the projects as provisioned in the LSGA regulations and guidelines. No effective mechanisms for the regular monitoring, reporting and documentation of the information do exist at the moment.
- In all the three projects under the CBM study, though the user's committees were formed through the meeting of beneficiaries but such meetings and the users committees found not inclusive as provisioned in the LSGA. After the formation of user's committees, their members were involved in all the processes of project implementation and monitoring. However, communication and information sharing between user's committee and beneficiaries was found extremely poor.
- Participation of women, Dalits and marginalized communities in the process of local governance and project activities is extremely low or non-existent in all of the three projects. Community efforts to encourage participation of women and marginalized groups have also been observed inadequate and weak. The participation of women in the meetings and discussions was found better in Kabhresthali compared to other two projects of Jadibuti and Chunnikhel.
- Despite the mandatory provision of social auditing for the final payment of project bills, it was found that the DDC, Kathmandu and KMC settle the final payments without the social auditing of project expenditures and activities. Therefore, the implementing agency/UC do not bother to conduct social auditing because they can get the final payment of the bills without social auditing.
- Adequate attention has not been given to the inclusive and participatory processes in the implementation of the project activities. It has been observed that there is still the domination and high influence of local elites in decision making processes at local level. The women and the marginalized communities were mostly left behind in all aspects of local development processes.
- Mostly the project budget was found lately released and the project works started only towards the end of the fiscal year. Due to the late start of implementation works, the users

committees should work under high pressure to complete the construction works within the fiscal year. It was mentioned in the meeting that under such pressure mobilization and involvement of the communities and the systematic and regular monitoring of project works was very difficult.

- The absence of elected representatives at local bodies has greatly hindered the mobilization of communities and also weakened the participatory processes in project planning and implementation. All Party Mechanism lacked common understanding on the issues of local development and were also unable to effectively mobilize local people for the common cause and benefit of local communities.

- While talking to the beneficiary people of the three project sites, it was stated that including women and marginalized groups people were all interested to participate in community development activities provided that they are properly and timely informed.

- In the present context, there is no any strong mechanism at the local level to develop linkages between the communities or citizen's groups and local bodies and strengthen citizen-local body relationship and cooperation.

- Despite the defined provisions in LSGA, there is no regular practice of public auditing and public hearing on project activities at the VDC and project levels. Such tools have been practiced at DDC level on selected projects only.

- LSGA and the Guidelines have made the provision of maintenance budget as mandatory for the projects but, there is no separate provision of budget for the maintenance after the handover of the three projects.

INTRODUCTION:

The Government of Nepal has shown its commitment to enhancing governance and accountability as articulated in Three-Year Interim Plan (2007 – 2010). A number of Governance reform programs have already been initiated. Local Governance and Community Development Project (LGCDP) is one of such major programs implemented by Ministry of Local Development (MoLD) to support for good governance through improved local governance and accountability.

LGCDP is a national program designed to promote good governance at the local level through inclusive and participatory community led development approach. “Community-led development” is defined as ‘ an approach where citizens and communities either individually or collectively, as active partners in the local governance process, prioritize, implement or fulfill their basic needs through collective action (LGCDP Project Document). This project is jointly financed by the MoLD and International Development Partners and has been implemented in all the 75 districts of Nepal.

In the final stage of the design of LGCDP, MoLD and the participating International Development Partners realized the need of a separate semi-autonomous institution to further facilitate and support the program of LGCDP. In response to this need, Local Governance and Accountability Facility (LGAF), a separate semi-autonomous entity, emerged as a support mechanism to foster a positive, constructive and critical engagement of citizens and civil society with local government bodies and the primary units of public service delivery. This is a semi independent body able to facilitate and enhance effective and constructive citizen/civil society engagement both at policy and implementation levels. The major objectives of LGAF are to develop capacity of citizens, especially women and marginalized, vulnerable groups and civic organizations to enhance transparency and accountability of local governance system, support CSOs advocating for easy and equitable access to better public services, support citizens engagement in monitoring of local development projects and independently tracking down financial transactions and improve the coordination and linkages among citizens, civic organizations and local bodies. In order to achieve its above mentioned objectives, LGAF has initiated several grant projects to be implemented and coordinated through CSOs in all the districts of Nepal.

In such a context, LGAF Central Regional Office, Hetauda has granted consulting services to World Vision Advocacy Forum (WVAF) for piloting “Community Based Monitoring Local Government/Public Goods and Services” in selected local development projects implemented by local bodies. Community Based Monitoring has been considered as an effective tool to promote transparency and accountability in local governance system. However, this is a new concept attempted to experiment in local development projects. But it requires a deal of efforts to strengthen the capacity of CSOs, stakeholders and community members for institutionalizing the community based monitoring process at local level. For this study, WVAF identified three following local infrastructure development projects for piloting community based monitoring process.

1. Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge Project, Chunnikhel VDC,
2. Jarunku – Vedigoth Road Project, Kabhresthali VDC,
3. Drinking Water Deep Boring Project, Jadibuti, KMC – 35.

The piloting of community based monitoring approach at the three above mentioned projects covered a period of seven months.

Overall Objective:

The overall objective of this assignment is to enhance downward accountability in governance through strengthening the capacity of the CSOs and citizens especially of marginalized, vulnerable groups and women and thereby ensure easy and equitable access to public goods and services.

Specific Objectives:

a. To strengthen an effective participatory monitoring mechanism and ensure appropriate utilization of grants and effective implementation of development projects.

b. To empower and equip communities especially the marginalized and vulnerable groups including women to assert their rights.

AREA COVERAGE (GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION)

Following three projects were selected for this assignment. Among the three selected projects, Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge Project lies in Dhobikhola Corridor Road at Chunnikhel VDC. Similarly, Jarunku – Vedigoth Road Project is located at Kabhresthali VDC and Drinking Water Deep Boring Project in Kotdevi, Jadibuti, KMC – 35.

1. Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge, Chunnikhel & Mahankal VDCs.

2. Jarunku - Vedigoth Road Project, Kabhresthali VDC

3. Drinking Water Deep Boring, Jadibuti, KMC – 35.

Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge, Chunnikhel VDC.

Budget Allocation:

S.No.	Institutions	% of Contribution	Amount
1	DDC	72	20,00,000.00
2	VDC	00	00.00
3	Local Contribution	28	7,61,866.72
	Total Amount	100	27,61,866.72

Before the construction of this Dhobikhola Corridor road bridge, Chunnikhel and Chapali VDCs were among the least developed VDCs of Kathmandu valley from the perspective of transportation facilities. Therefore, people of Chunnikhel, Chapali and Mahankal VDCs jointly demanded a project at DDC, Kathmandu for the construction of a bridge in Dhobikhola corridor. Decision was taken through an Ilaka level meeting to make formal request at DDC Kathmandu to include the project of Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge in the annual program and budget of DDC. With the continued efforts of local people of the three above mentioned VDCs, this Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge project was approved and incorporated in the annual programme and budget of current fiscal year. After the approval of this project, the User's Committee was formed by Ilaka level meeting of the beneficiaries in the year 2064 to start the construction works of this bridge. The construction work was started after the first instalment released from DDC, Kathmandu. Now the construction works of

the bridge has been completed and the final payment of construction works has been fully made by DDC Kathmandu to User's Committee. Out of the total estimated cost of Rs. 27,61,866.72, the contribution of local beneficiaries is Rs.7,61,866.72 and DDC grant contribution is Rs.20,00,000/. The local contribution is more than 20 % in this project. But according to users committee members, the local communities have not paid a single penny yet on the part of local contribution. This bridge is 9 mt. long and 7 mt. wide and has linked Chunnikhel VDC with Mahankal and Chapali VDC. The construction of this bridge has greatly enhanced the access of local people to the core market area of Kathmandu and also facilitated for the trade and business of local products. Due to the access of roads, some of the people from Dalit and Adivasi Janajati communities have started raising pigs and ducks and running small tea shops in the area. Expansion of settlements is also taking place. The price of land in the area has gone up. The communities of the adjoining areas are linked with the main transportation network of Kathmandu and are benefited with the easy access to markets.

Jarunku - Vedigoth Thanti Road Construction, Kabhresthali VDC
Budget Allocation

S.NO.	Institutions	% of Contribution	Amount
1	DDC	80	30,00,000
2	VDC	0	00
3	local Communities	20	7,50,614.13
	Total Amount	100	37,50,614.13

Kabhresthali VDC is just 7 K.M. away from Balaju by-pass. But Kabhresthali was also considered as one of the remote VDCs of Kathmandu valley before the construction of this road. People of Kabhresthali had to walk long on foot via Dharmasthali VDC and spent almost whole day to come to Kathmandu. During the summer, the journey from Kabhresthali would be much more painful and difficult due to muddy narrow lane and swelling streams. Then the people of Kabhresthali organized a meeting and decided to construct a road to connect with the main road of Balaju on their own

effort. The construction of the present Jarunku – Vedigoth Road was initiated in the year 2039 in the form of a narrow lane. The strong commitment and the continued efforts of the people of Kabhresthali has brought in the present form of black top road. Starting from the year 2039, this road was upgraded into a narrow motorable road and was graveled in the year 2055. This road was incorporated in district level project only in the fiscal year of 2064/065. Since that fiscal year of 2064/065, this project has been receiving grant from DDC, Kathmandu every year for the construction and improvement of the road. Over the last four years, DDC, Kathmandu has already given the total grant amount of Rs.13 million for this road. Besides the grant money of DDC, Kabhresthali VDC and local estate dealers have also made cash contribution to this project. The contribution of local people far exceeds to the contribution of the government's grant money in this road because, a total of 528 Ropanies private land has been occupied by this road. This road is 3800 mt. long and 30 ft. wide. Now, the main target of local people is to connect this road with the district of Nuwakot.

The construction of this road has greatly enhanced the transportation facilities and the access of local people to different service sectors and markets. The settlements in the area are gradually expanding and the production sectors are growing due to the easy access to the market. The price of the land has been tremendously increased. About 991 households or more than 5000 people are directly benefited from this road.

Drinking Water Deep Boring, Kotdevi, Jadibuti, KMC – 35.

S. No.	Institutions	% of Contribution	Amount
1	DDC	70	50,40,000
2	KMC	15	10,80,000
3	Local Communities	15	10,80,000
	Total Amount		72,00,000

Inadequate supply of drinking water is the common problem in all the settlements of Kathmandu Valley. Kotdevi, Jadibuti is also one of the newly expanded settlement areas of Kathmandu Valley which is located in KMC Ward No.-35. The people of Kotdevi were suffering due to the severe shortage of drinking water. The supply of water in this area was not regular and adequate to meet the minimum needs of the people. Therefore the local people decided to demand for the construction of a deep boring project in the area at KMC and DDC. Due to the continued efforts of local people, this Deep Boring Drinking Water Project was approved in the annual program of fiscal year of 2066/067. For the construction of this Deep Boring Project, government land was acquired

from Electricity Corporation on the condition of supplying required amount of water to the corporation after the completion of construction works.

The construction works of this project was started from the month of Baisakh 2067 and has been completed by the end of fiscal year 067/068. The construction of this Deep Boring Drinking Water Project has greatly facilitated the regular supply of drinking water in the area. The whole construction works of this project was done by Kotdevi Tole Sudhar Samittee which also worked as User's Committee of this project. This Tole Sudhar Samittee was also formed by the meeting of local people. Currently, about 750 households in the area are benefited from the supply of water of this project. The project has planned to reach up to 1000 households in the future. Now the water treatment plant is under construction.

Methodology and Approach:

The methodologies and approaches adopted in the process of this assignment mainly focused on participatory methods and approaches. This process was initiated aiming at increasing communities understanding of their rights, obligations and entitlements through interactions and orientations.

The process of this assignment was started with the review and study of relevant documents and literatures. The review and study of the documents greatly helped the study team to be familiar with the provisions of LSGA, 2055 and LSGR 2056 regarding the process of planning, implementation and monitoring of local development projects at DDC, VDC and Municipality level. It also helped to understand about different types of local development grants, procedures of budget allocation, budget release and expenditures and the provisions of monitoring and evaluation of local development projects. Review of the literatures also helped the team members to understand the procedural guidelines and the provisions of LSGA relating to the transparency and accountability in local governance.

Besides the review and study of literatures, following methodologies and approaches were also used during the implementation of CBM approach.

- **Meetings and Consultations:** During this assignment, several meetings and consultations with the local body's officials, stakeholders, community members and representatives of local NGOs were conducted. Such meetings and consultations helped to establish good rapport with the communities and stakeholders and to encourage and motivate them to participate in the process of collecting information and identifying issues at project level.

- **Focus Group Discussions:** Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were conducted in all the three project sites. The purpose of organizing FGD was to investigate concerns, impressions and experiences of community members about the project works and performance. Following questions were used during focus discussion.

1. Who were involved in the process of selecting this project?
2. How was the User's Committee of this project formed?
3. Were you informed about the details of the project before its implementation?
4. How were the project activities and financial matters made transparent to the communities?
5. Who were involved in implementation and monitoring of the construction works of this project?

6. How do you evaluate the quality of construction works?

7. Are you satisfied with the overall performance of User's Committee?

- **On Site Observations:** On the site observations were made at different times of all the three projects to observe the construction works, and work progress.

- Broadcasting of PSA: To raise awareness of community members about their obligations and entitlements PSA announcements were broadcasted through local FM radio.

Findings:

The findings of this assignment are primarily based on information derived from the study of files and records, interactions, discussions, interviews with target communities, stakeholders and officials of local bodies and on the spot observations of team members.

- No monitoring committees are formed in the projects as stipulated in LSGA regulations and guidelines. Mechanisms for the regular monitoring, reporting and documentation of the information do not exist at the moment. The site supervisor and even officials of local bodies once in a while monitor the construction works of the project at their convenience. In the existing practice, the community members and stakeholders are not concerned and involved in the monitoring process of all the three infrastructure projects.

- In all the three projects, though the user's committees are formed through the meeting of beneficiaries but such meetings of beneficiaries were found not inclusive. Even the users committees formed by the meetings are not inclusive and representative of all the sections of the respective communities. After the formation of user's committees, the members of user's committees are found all in all in the process of project implementation and monitoring. Communication and sharing of information between user's committee and beneficiary communities is extremely poor in the projects selected. There is no such mechanism in all the three projects for the regular sharing of information with communities regarding project activities, work progress and expenditures.

- Despite the provision of three installments for the payment of construction works of the projects as laid down in LSGA, but the payments are made in two installments in practice. The first installment is paid as an advance to start the construction work immediately after the agreement signed. The second installment is made as final payment only after the completion of project works. This also has contributed to weaken the monitoring process because no link exists between monitoring information and the payment of project works at the moment.

- Majority male members of project communities of Jarunku- Vedigoth road project and Drinking Water Deep Boring Project were found satisfied with the performance of users committees in construction works. But the majority of women and a few members of marginalized groups of project areas were found unaware and ignorant of project construction and activities. In the case of Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge Project also, majority of the community members both male and female expressed their ignorance about project activities, budget and expenditure. Some of the community members also blamed that the project was carried out by the interest of one single party rather than the interest of whole community. It clearly indicates that there is no representation of all the sections including women and marginalized groups of the community while selecting the projects. It is found that the information regarding the selection of the project was not adequately shared with the communities.

- The participation of marginalized groups and women in meetings and discussion programs found extremely low or non-existent in Jadibuti and Chunnikhel projects. When asked about the absence of women and marginalized groups, the Dalits and women say that they were not properly informed about the meeting, time and date. The participation of women in the meetings and discussions was found better in Kabhresthali compared to other two projects of Jadibuti and Chunnikhel.

- Despite the mandatory provision of social auditing for the final payment of project bills, it was found that the DDC, Kathmandu and KMC settle the final payments without the social auditing

of project activities and expenditures. Therefore, the implementing agencies do not bother to conduct social auditing because they do not need social auditing for the payment of final bills.

- Adequate attention has not been given to the inclusive and participatory processes in project activities. In all the projects, local elites still have direct domination and influence in decision making. The women and the marginalized communities are left far behind in local development process.

- Due to the late release of project budget, the construction works of the projects generally do start towards the end of the fiscal year. Because of this late start of project implementation works, the users committees should work under great pressure to complete the construction works within the fiscal year. It was mentioned in the meeting that under such pressure it has been difficult to properly communicate and mobilize the communities and to conduct systematic regular monitoring of project works. Again, the absence of elected representatives at local bodies has also made the mobilization of communities difficult and also weakened the participatory processes in project planning and implementation.

- While talking to the beneficiary people of all the three project sites, it was found that community members including women and marginalized groups are interested to participate in community development activities provided that they are properly and timely informed.

- In the present context, there is no any strong mechanism at the local level to link the communities or citizen's groups with local bodies to strengthen communication and relationship between citizen, citizen's groups and local bodies. The absence of elected representatives has weakened the coordination and relationship between the citizens and local bodies.

- Despite the clearly defined provisions of LSGA, there is no regular practice of public auditing and public hearing on project activities at the VDC and project level. Such tools are practiced at DDC level only on selected projects.

RESULTS/ACHIEVEMENTS (To the extent possible achievements should be supported by evidences):

Major Achievements:

- The project coordinators participated in TOT program at Hetauda

- Relevant Documents and Literatures were reviewed

- Good communication and rapport with Users Committees, project communities/stakeholders and officials of local bodies were established.

- Good support and cooperation of project stakeholders, users committee and officials of local bodies in carrying out activities were obtained.

- Introductory and Consultation meetings with stakeholders/UC/ beneficiaries were held at all the three project sites.

- Community members frequently were involved in meetings and discussions which helped them to be aware of their obligations and entitlements. The local communities and officials of local bodies were sensitized about the CBM approach and process.

- Progress and status reports were submitted to LGAF Regional Office, Hetauda

- The construction works of all the three projects were observed with local communities and had assessed the use of inputs and progress of project works.

- Broadcast of Public Service Announcement (PSA) through Ujyaalo 90 Network

- Focus Group Discussions at community levels of all the three projects were carried out.

- Orientation programs on construction management and financial procedures for the user committees of the three projects were conducted. To some extent, this has enhanced the knowledge of UC members in technical and financial procedures.
- Commitment of local bodies and stakeholders were obtained to initiate the establishment of a monitoring mechanism at the local level and the use of participatory and inclusive approach from the next fiscal year.
- Public Hearings in all the three projects organized and questions and commitments documented. Awareness about the use and importance of Public Hearings for transparent and accountable local governance has been raised.

The details of the activities carried out during the project assignment and achievements made are outlined below.

□ Participation of project coordinators in TOT program at Hetauda: The participation of project coordinators helped to some extent to understand about the overall project goal, objectives and activities. It also helped to share experiences and learn some concepts and tools.

□ Review of Relevant Documents and Literatures: The study and review of relevant documents and literatures greatly helped to be familiar and update the knowledge on the prevailing laws, regulations and the provisions of guidelines issued by MLD and to understand the whole concept and focus of LGCDP and LGAF.

Activities carried out in the three selected projects and the achievements made during the assignment are as follows.

Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge Project, Chunikhel VDC:

a. Introductory and Rapport Building Meeting:

An introductory and rapport building meeting was organized at the project site of Dhobikhola corridor bridge on June 23, 2011. This meeting was organized near construction site of the bridge. The purpose of this meeting was to get acquainted and to build rapport with the stakeholders, beneficiaries and local leaders and to share the objectives and the planned activities of this assignment. The members of User's Committee (UC) and local leaders were invited in the meeting. But all the invited participants were not present. Some members of UC and a few local stakeholders were present in the meeting. The participation of women and dalits or marginalized was nominal or non-existent. The meeting started at around 12 noon with the introduction of our staff members and the participants. Project Coordinator Sudarshan K.C. welcomed the participants and briefly outlined the objectives of the study and the planned activities to be carried out during the six months of of this assignment. Pointing out the objectives and activities of the study, he stressed the need to develop capacity of local communities to establish harmonious relation with local bodies, institutionalize a participatory process of monitoring and evaluation of community projects which contributes to make the local bodies more transparent and accountable to its citizens. He further emphasized the importance of citizen's active participation in all the decision making processes of planning, implementation and monitoring of local development projects to ensure community ownership, sustainability, transparency and accountability. Mr. K.C. also urged the participants to sincerely cooperate and actively participate to successfully complete the process of present assignment. The participants were observed very positive and cooperative in attitude. This meeting passed a resolution to fully cooperate and participate in the activities of the assignment. The meeting was closed with thanks to all the participants.

The immediate outputs of this meeting are as follows:

- Community members, stakeholders and VDC officials attended the meeting.

- Good rapport and communication with UC members and stakeholders established.
- Preliminary information about the project implementation obtained.
- Commitment of UC members, stakeholders and VC Secretary for the full cooperation to the team members to carry out the assignment obtained.

The name list of the participants and the decisions made in the meeting are given in Annex I

b. Consultative Meeting at Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge Project, Chunikhel VDC.

After several rounds of talks with the VDC secretaries of Chunikhel, Kapan and Mahankal VDCs and the chairman Mr. Shree Ram Chhetri, secretary Mr. Raju Ram Adhikary of Users Committee of Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge Project, the date for the consultative meeting was set for Wednesday, Srawan 4, 2068 at 2.00 PM in Chunnikhel VDC. All the stakeholders, beneficiaries, representatives of local NGOs and some influential local people including women representatives and dalits, Janajatis from the three VDCs, Chunnikhel, Kapan and Mahankal, were invited in the meeting on Wednesday, Srawan 4, 2068, at 2.00 PM at the office of Chunnikhel VDC. The main purpose of this meeting was to share information about the objectives and action plan of the assignment, seek cooperation and active participation of community members in the process and identify the issues of project monitoring and implementation. All the invitees were expected to attend the meeting. But VDC officials, members of users committee and some members of beneficiaries groups only were present in the meeting. Altogether, 25 participants were present in the meeting. The participation of women and the dalits or marginalized groups was not encouraging as expected.

After the brief introduction of all the participants and project team members, project coordinator Sudarshan K.C. welcoming the participants briefly introduced the objectives of consultative meeting and shared objectives and action plan of the assigned project. Requesting for sincere cooperation and active participation in monitoring process, he also urged the participants to freely and openly share their opinions, experiences and issues of the on-going project activities. Lokendra Bhatta and Manmaya Gurung, other two members of the team assisted in registration, facilitation and taking notes of the points of discussion..

The major concerns and issues expressed by the participants in the meeting were as follows.

- It was informed that this project was selected and proposed by Ilaka level meeting of three VDCs (Chunnikhel, Chapali and Mahankal). But that meeting was not inclusive and represented by all sections of the community including women and dalits.
- The construction of the bridge has facilitated the transportation access to the people of Chunikhel, Kapan, Chapali and Mahankal VDC the Bridge has also enhanced the expansion of road networks and access to the market. Due to the enhanced market access, marginalized people of surrounding VDCs are encouraged to initiate income generating activities like vegetable gardening and duck and pig rising. But the process of selection and the implementation of the project activities not inclusive, participatory and transparent as prescribed by LSGA and procedural guidelines of MLD. The participants seriously raised the issue of inclusion and transparency in project activities.
- The participants also raised the point that though the User's Committee has been formed through the so called meeting of beneficiaries. But the meeting itself was not inclusive and representative of all the sections of communities. As a result, the formation of User's Committee also was not inclusive and representative of all the sections of the beneficiaries. This is because most of the community meetings are like one party or one sided meeting but still take decisions on behalf of communities. This has been a very bad practice in the community, one participant added.

- The secretary of users committee informed that despite some shortage of construction materials and difficulties in transportation of construction materials on the site in time, efforts are being made to complete the construction works of the bridge as planned. The progress of construction works was satisfactory up to the date he added.
- When asked about the monitoring process of construction works, it was informed that due to the absence of supervision and monitoring committee as envisaged by LSGA and other regular monitoring mechanism, currently, the members of users committee and the supervisor overseer or engineer of DDC, Kathmandu were monitoring the construction works. There was no any mechanism at the moment for the regular monitoring of the project and documentation of the information.
- The participants also stated that the communities are not aware of their rights, obligations and entitlements. So they advised to organize sensitization and orientation program for the communities and training for the officials of project VDCs and users committees. The user's committee members also pointed out the need of basic training on technical and financial matters and participatory monitoring tools and techniques for the members of users committee to maintain the construction quality of the project.
- The political leaders of all party mechanism have not common opinion and understanding on matters of local development. So, the local communities are also divided as their leaders. Due to such groupies in communities, the project initiated by one party does not get support and cooperation of workers of other party. Such situation has badly affected the efficient and effective use of development grants and implementation of local development projects.
- As mentioned by the participants, the local development projects are generally planned and implemented according to the interest of local leaders rather than the common interest of the local communities. Therefore, majority of the participants pointed out the need to establish a common understanding among all the stakeholders, political leaders and community members in the matters of local development and carry out the project works in an inclusive, participatory and transparent manner.
- Due to the lack of common vision and understanding among the members of all party mechanism, about community development, there is mostly inappropriate and unproductive competition among the political parties regarding the allocation of development budget and selection of the projects . This situation has badly influenced the motivation of local people to actively participate in local development activities. It has also discouraged the feelings of mutual cooperation and unity of the community.
- There is no practice of disseminating detailed information to the communities about the details of approved project and budget before the implementation. So, the communities do not know any details of the project. Due to the lack of project information and transparency, the communities do not take interest and initiative to participate in local contribution and project activities. Secretary of UC pointed out that none of the community member has given even a single pie in the part of local contribution. He also added that UC is under great pressure to complete the construction works only with the grant money. He also urged the participants to cooperate in collecting the amount of local contribution.
- Participants also claimed that no meetings are called and no information about project works and financial expenditures are shared with the communities yet. In practice it is observed that generally, the user committee and the technical site supervisor are engaged to complete the

construction works. Beneficiary communities are not timely and rightly informed and also not engaged in implementation and monitoring works..

- Even if when there are community meetings, the participation of women and dalits or marginalized groups is extremely poor or non-existent. The participants stressed the need to initiate the efforts for encouraging the participation of women, dalits and other marginalized groups in future
- The chairman of UC raised the issue of maintenance budget after the handover of the project. No provision of budget has been made yet for the provision of maintenance. He urged the officials and local communities to think for the provision of maintenance budget of the bridge.
- In the meeting, it was also discussed to find the ways for strengthening community based monitoring mechanism and promote accountability on the part of service provider and recipients? The participants suggested to form a monitoring committee of 7-11 members composed of the representatives of political parties, local NGOs, local elites, women and marginalized groups. The secretary of Chunnikhel VDC also assured to initiate the process to form such monitoring committee in consultation with DDC, Kathmandu from the next fiscal year.
- Another issue raised in the meeting was the illegal extraction of sand by contractors from the closed by area of the bridge. The UC members warned that if the illegal extraction of sand is not stopped or controlled by VDC and DDC that can damage the foundation of the bridge.

The immediate outputs of this Consultative Meeting are as follows:

- The team members were also benefited having opportunity to understand the context, identify procedural and managerial issues and assess the implementation of the provisions of LSGA and guidelines in practice.
- This consultative meeting provided a platform to community members and stakeholders to freely express their views, opinions and suggestions about project performance.
- UC members and VDC officials also got the opportunity to listen to the feelings, impressions and views of community members regarding project performance.
- This meeting also helped the participants to better understand their role, rights and entitlements through the sharing of opinions and discussion.
- It was also helpful to share information about the concept and importance of community based monitoring approach and its process.

The participant's list is attached in Annex II

c. Focus Group Discussion:

Focus discussions were conducted in Chunnikhel and Mahankal VDCs. In both VDCs, the discussions were facilitated on the following questions.

1. Who were involved in the process of selecting this project?
2. How was the User's Committee of this project formed?
3. Were you informed about the details of the project before its implementation?
4. How were the project activities and financial matters to the communities made transparent?
5. Who were involved in implementation and monitoring of the construction works of this project?
6. How do you evaluate the quality of construction works?
7. Are you satisfied with the overall performance of User's Committee?

In the first question, the participants agreed that though the meeting was not representative of all the sections of the communities of all the three VDCs and also not inclusive, but the selection of the project was done through Ilaka level meeting.

The participants also agreed that, though the formation of User's Committee (UC) also is not inclusive as prescribed by LSGA, but UC is formed by the Ilaka level meeting. The participants pointed out the weakness of the staff of DDC, Kathmandu who has signed the agreement with UC which is not formed according to the proscribed norms of LSGA.

In the discussion of third question, the participants informed that the communities of respective VDCs were not informed about the details of approved project and budget. Majority of the participants even had no knowledge about the formation of UC. Only a few participants had heard about the construction of bridge and formation of UC.

Regarding the fourth question, all the participants said that they know nothing about the progress of project works and income and expenditures. No body from UC or VDC has ever informed them about the performance of the project and its expenditures. No system of sharing information with project communities do exist at the local level they added.

The participants do not know about the monitoring of the project. They believe that the engineer and overseer do monitoring of the construction works. When asked why they are unknown about the monitoring of the project. They answered that they are never informed and there has never been any discussion on the issue of monitoring of the project.

The participants were found not aware about the quality of construction works of the bridge.

On the discussion of the last question, majority of the participants agreed that they are partly satisfied because the construction of bridge has facilitated the transportation access of local people. But they are not fully satisfied because they know nothing about the project works and were ignored in all the activities of the project. But a few participants reported that they had attended the Ilaka level meeting once.

Suggestions from the participants:

- The beneficiary communities must be made well aware of the details of project activities, budget provision and the expected role of the communities before implementation.
- Special efforts are required to encourage women and marginalized communities to participate in meetings and project activities.
- VDC and users committee must disseminate information to the communities about the progress of project works and expenditures at least twice a year.

The participant's list is attached in Annex III

d. On-Site Observations:

During the period, the team members with some community members visited the construction sites four times to observe the progress of construction works and use of construction materials and labor. But it was difficult for the team members to properly monitor the use of construction materials and assess the quality of construction works. During the visits, the progress of construction works was observed satisfactory. But, during an informal discussion, some of the community people were found not very satisfied with the quality of construction works.

d. Broadcast of PSA:

The communities of Chunnikhel and Mahankal were informed about message of Public Service Announcement broadcasted through local FM Ujjyalo 90 Network. When asked about the message, only a few reported that they had heard the message in both VDCs. Majority of the community members in both VDCs had not listened the radio message.

CD of PSA has been attached with report.

Orientation Program:

On the demand of User's Committee members, an orientation program was organized at the meeting hall of Mahankal VDC office on Jan. 9, 2012. The purpose of this orientation program was to share information with the members of UC to update their knowledge and understanding on technical matters related with construction management, financial procedures, responsibilities of UC and the concept and importance of community based monitoring approach. The members of UC and few community members had participated in this orientation program. Engineer Subash Bhattra and auditor Gopal Pokhrel were invited as resource persons to facilitate the sessions on construction management and financial procedures respectively. Sudarshan K.C. facilitated the session on the concept and importance of community based monitoring approach. The sessions were very lively and the participants actively participated in discussions. At the end, the participants appreciated the sessions and extended thanks to resource persons for their interesting delivery of sessions.

Public Hearing:

Public Hearing program on Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge Project was organized at the community hall of Chunnikhel VDC Jan 24, 2012. The community people and stakeholders from Chunnikhel, Mahankal and Kapan VDCs were invited with letters and the notice about public hearing was issued and posted in different public places of the above mentioned three VDCs for the general information of the public. The chairman and secretary of UC, local development officer, site supervisor engineer and audit officer of DDC Kathmandu were also invited to respond the queries of the citizens in public hearing. Due to busy schedule, the local development officer Mr. Gopal Parajuli could not attend the program. But he had assigned the site supervisor engineer and his immediate officer to attend the program.

Questions raised by the participants of Public Hearing:

Jujubhai Shrestha, Chunikhel: Why are the activities and the performance of the construction works of the bridge not transparent to the people? Why are the local communities not informed yet about the construction works and financial expenditures?

Answer from the Chairman of UC:

The agreement with DDC, Kathmandu was done very late and the first instalment of the budget was also released towards the end of Baisakh. So, UC had great pressure to start and complete the construction works within the fiscal year. Even then, UC had announced the date and time to start the construction works of the bridge through miking in project VDCs for the information of the communities. Due to the heavy pressure of works, UC could not spare time to share information with the communities Mr. Chairman added. He assured the participants to publish detailed information regarding project activities with financial statements of income and expenditures during the inauguration function of the bridge.

Mahendra Shrestha, Chunikhel: Why is the condition of the road adjoining to the bridge worst? Is it true that the technical supervision of the construction works not adequate to maintain the quality?

Answer from the site engineer D.E. Mr Khagendra Dahal, DDC.

It is not because of poor quality of construction works. Due to the newly structured road on the river belt naturally the land is soft and unstable. So, it has gone a bit down of the level of bridge.

Some fillings will be required. It takes sometimes to be stable. He also stated that he has personally checked and observed the construction works of the bridge. Assuring the participants, he urged the participants not to doubt the quality of construction works.

Purusottam Koirala, Mahankal VDC: Why were the beneficiary communities not informed and consulted about the details of the project and local contribution?

Answer from the Chairman of UC, Mr. Shri Ram Chhetri:

The answer of this question has been given earlier.

Bhagirathi Shrestha, Kapan? Why is the participation of women and marginalized communities very low or non-existent in such meetings?

What measures the User's Committee and VDC have taken to encourage the participation of women and Dalits or marginalized groups?

Answer from the Chairman of UC, Mr. Shri Ram Chhetri:

When the meetings are organized, UC has informed all the communities including women about the date, time and venue of the meeting through the issue of notice and the information through person. He also stated that mostly, the women do not take interest in community works and again the rural women are generally occupied in their household works. He accepted that no special effort has been made yet to encourage their participation. From the next time, special attention will be given to encourage the participation of women and marginalized groups in meetings and other community activities.

Pramila Sapkota, Mahankal: What kind of participation and contribution of women are expected?

Answer from the Chairman of UC, Mr. Shri Ram Chhetri:

The female population occupies more than fifty percent of the total population. So, their active engagement in community works is essential for the empowerment and upliftment of women. But actions are needed to raise awareness of women and dalits to encourage their participation in community works.

Durga Thapa, Mahankal: Why the monitoring committee including community members could not be formed?

Answer from Mr. Prabin Pyakurel, Information Officer, DDC, and Kathmandu:

Due to the absence of elected political representative at DDC, the monitoring and supervision committee has not been formed as envisaged by LSGA. He informed that the government recently has issued a circular to make the management and implementation of local development projects more accountable and transparent. The circular has made mandatory provision of monitoring system of local development projects he added.

Tika Bhurtel, Mahankal: What measures have been taken to stop the extraction of sand from around foundation of bridge?

Answer from Gopal Pd Mishra, VDC Secretary, Chunnikhel:

VDC secretary said that it is not easy to stop the extraction of the sand from the stream by contractors. But Chunnikhel VDC in coordination with Mahankal VDC and DDC, Kathmandu will initiate necessary action to stop the extraction of sand.

Commitments of User's Committee Chairman:

1. Prior to the beginning of construction, community members were informed about the starting date and time of construction works through miking. If miking alone is not enough, other means and media will also be utilized to inform communities from the next time. Efforts will also be made for door to door information as much as possible.

2. The details of construction works and financial expenditures will be published for the information of the whole communities during the inauguration of the bridge which is planned in the near future. From the next time, in close coordination with VDC, efforts will be made to organize community meetings to disseminate detailed information about the project before the implementation.

Commitment of Mr. Gopal Pd. Mishra, VDC Secretary, Chunnikhel VDC:

1. It is true that participation of women and dalits of marginalized group is very low or non-existent in meetings. Efforts will be made to mobilize the support of political workers to encourage the participation of women and marginalized groups in meetings. Political workers will also be requested now on to bring at least one female member from their own family when they come to attend meetings.

2. In consultation with DDC, Kathmandu, VDC will also initiate to form a monitoring committee at VDC level comprised of the representatives of VDC level political parties, representatives of local elites and community.

3. VDC secretariat in coordination with Mahankal VDC and DDC Kathmandu will initiate action to stop the extraction of sand from around the foundation bridge.

Commitment of D.E. Mr. Khagendra Dahal, DDC Kathmandu:

1. From the technical point of view, there will be no compromise in the quality of materials and construction works.

2. Assuring the participants, Mr. Dahal informed that he has personally monitored the construction works and the foundation of the bridge. In future also, the technical monitoring and supervision of construction works will be carried out seriously to ensure the quality of the construction works.

Commitment of Mr. Prabin Pyakurel, Information Officer, DDC, Kathmandu:

1. From the next fiscal year, projects related with the development of women and children will also be incorporated at Ilaka level program.

The participant's list is attached in Annex IV

Jarunku – Vedigoth – Sangamchowk Road Project, Kabhresthali VDC:

a. Introductory and Rapport Building:

An introductory and rapport building meeting was organized at the office of User's Committee of Road Project, Kabhresthali on Asadh 17, 2068 (July 1, 2011). The main purpose of this meeting was to establish good communication and rapport with project communities and stakeholders and to

introduce project objectives and planned activities of the assignment. The meeting was started with the introduction of team members and the participants. Welcoming the participants, Sudarshan K.C. the project coordinator, briefly introduced the objectives and functions of World Vision Advocacy Forum (WVAF), and also outlined the objectives and planned activities of the assignment and the concept of community based monitoring. He urged the participants to actively cooperate by participating in the planned activities and contribute to the successful completion of this assignment. The immediate outputs of this meeting are;

- The team members were introduced with UC members and project stakeholders.
- Good rapport and communication with UC members and project stakeholders were established.
- Project objectives and planned activities were shared and discussed with stakeholders and the members of UC.
- Commitment of UC members, stakeholders and VDC Secretary for the full cooperation to team members in carrying out the planned activities of the assignment obtained.

The participant's list is attached in Annex V

Consultative Meeting at Jarunku – Vedigoth Road Project, Kabhresthali VDC:

In consultation with the members of User's Committee (UC) of Jarunku – Vedigoth Road project and the VDC secretary of Kabhresthali Mr. Bachhu Ram Chapagain, the date of the consultative meeting was set for Wednesday, Srawan 4, 2068 (July 20, 2011) at 7.00 AM in the morning. Considering the convenience of the invitees' participants, the meeting was set for early morning. The main purpose of this consultative meeting were to establish good working relations with the stakeholders, beneficiary communities and civil societies, share information about the monitoring process and performance of project implementation, identify major issues and build consensus for the meaningful engagement of community members in implementation and participatory monitoring process of development projects. In this meeting, representation from all the wards and the sections of communities was expected. But the participants were not present as expected. The presence of women and the marginalized communities was not encouraging in the meeting. Altogether, only twenty one participants were present. The invitee's participants were gathered at around 8.30 AM and the meeting started with the introduction of the study team members and participants. Project coordinator Sudarshan K. C. welcomed the participants and briefly outlined the objectives of consultative meeting and also shared the purpose and action plan of the assignment for the information of the participants. The concept and purpose of community based monitoring approach was also briefly explained. He requested all the participants to actively participate and share opinions and experiences openly and freely in the meeting. Then the floor was open for discussion. Among the two other study team members, Lokendra Bhatta was engaged in registration and assisting in facilitation and Manmaya Gurung in taking notes.

The major concerns and issues raised during the meeting are outlined below.

□ Kabhresthali VDC is also one of the remote VDCs of Kathmandu valley due to the absence of road connection. People of Kabhresthali had to walk a long way of narrow lane through Dharmasthali VDC and spend the whole day to come to Kathmandu. To walk through the narrow trail especially during the rainy season was very difficult. Due to the daily sufferings of difficult

walk, the people of Kabhresthali decided to construct a motorable road to link with the main road of Balaju on their own initiative and contribution..

□ The present Jarunku – Vedigoth Road is the product of continued hard work and sincere contribution of the people of Kabhresthali.

□ Though its construction was started in the form of a narrow trail in the year 2039, As mentioned in the meeting, the local people struggled more than two decades to bring this road in the present form.

□ This road was incorporated in district level project only in F.Y 064/065. Since its promotion to district level project in F. Y. 064/065, this project is getting grant money from DDC Kathmandu for its improvement and expansion.

□ A Users Committee (UC) of fifteen members was immediately formed by the meeting of local communities in 2064/1/14 to initiate the project work.. It was informed that irrespective of the provision of LSGA, the meeting of beneficiary communities had nominated the member of UC only those persons who were dedicated, honest, sincere and had good reputation in the community.

□ Participation of women and marginalized groups in community meetings and activities is nominal or non-existent. There is still the domination and high handedness of local elites in meetings and project activities. These groups are not encouraged to participate in the meetings because their concerns are not generally considered and voices heard. Again the efforts also are not made to inform properly and encourage them to participate them in the meetings.

□ Participants informed that the construction of this road has greatly enhanced people's access to the market and other service facilities. Present transportation system has saved a lot of time of local people. The saved time are mostly used in productive works.

□ There is no provision of budget for the maintenance of this road. This has caused problem to properly maintain the road.

□ Due to the absence of elected representative in local bodies, no supervision and monitoring committee as envisaged by LSGA do exist. The monitoring of project works is very weak despite the occasional monitoring of the members of users committee and the supervisor overseer and engineer of DDC, Kathmandu The participants pointed out need of a strong participatory monitoring mechanism to ensure the quality, ownership and sustainable

□ The importance of community based monitoring process was realized in the meeting but they raised doubt for its implementation and continuity. Because, they argued that to implement this process, first the communities must be aware and be prepared to actively participate in the process which is difficult at the moment. If this process implemented properly, it will certainly ensure the quality of construction, transparency in activities, ownership and sustainability of the project.

□ Majority of the community members do not understand design estimate of the project. They do not know about monitoring and also not aware of their obligations and entitlements. So, prior to the initiation of this process, sensitization and orientation programs are essential for the communities. VDC officials and members of the users committees will also require training on participatory tools and accountability.

□ They also informed that, since the fiscal year of 064/065, the users committee is organizing ward level meeting to inform the communities about the progress of work activities and statement of income and expenditures of the project. In addition, they also publish the statement of income and expenditures in the notice board of VDC for the information of community members.

The immediate outputs of this Consultative Meeting were as follows:

- This meeting provided common platform for UC, VDC and the beneficiary communities to freely share the opinions and experience about project performance and identify some common issues.
- UC members and VDC officials were able to get feedback and suggestions to improve project performance and to carry out activities in a transparent manner,
- Participants were able to better understand their role, rights and entitlements through the sharing of opinions and discussions.
- This meeting also helped the participants to be aware about the concept and importance of community based monitoring approach and its process.

The participant's list is attached in Annex VI

C. Focus Group Discussion:

Focus group discussion was organized in Kabhresthali VDC on Saturday, Kartik 19, 2068 (Nov.5, 2011). The discussion was facilitated by Sudarshan K.C. on the main following questions.

1. How was the User's Committee of this project formed?
2. Were you informed about the details of the project before its implementation?
3. How were the project activities and financial matters to the communities made transparent?
4. Who were involved in implementation and monitoring of the construction works of this project?
5. How do you evaluate the quality of construction works?
6. Are you satisfied with the overall performance of User's Committee?

In the first question, the participants agreed that the User's Committee (UC) was formed by the Ilaka level meeting. But the formation was not made as per the prescribed norms of LSGA. The meeting selected the members of UC based on the criteria of dedication, sincerity, honesty and reputation on the society. The participants argued that though the UC is not inclusive as envisaged by LSGA, but it is actively working on behalf of local communities.

Majority of the participants accepted that they were informed and invited to attend the meeting but the participation of people in the meeting was not as expected. Some of the participants pointed out that due to the absence in meetings, the information regarding project activities do not reach to common people. They also stated that participation of women remains nominal in meetings. There are only 3 households of Dalits in Kabhresthali VDC and they do not attend any meetings or community works.

Regarding the transparency in project activities and expenditure, some of the male participants argued that they are informed about work progress and financial expenditures. But majority of the participants accepted that the information regarding project activities and financial expenditures are not widely disseminated for the whole community. The meetings are generally attended by limited number of community people. So majority of community people including women remain uninformed and unaware of project activities

Generally the information regarding project activities and financial expenditures has been disseminated in meetings and the information are also posted in notice board of VDC office. The information is also given in 'Smarika' which is published once a year. Despite these efforts of dissemination, majority of the community members are unaware of the information.

All the participants informed that they do not know about the monitoring process of the project. They are not involved in monitoring and construction works and also not informed about it. The UC is responsible for all the construction related works of the project they added.

Majority of the participants agreed that the quality of construction works is much better than the works previously done by the contractors. But one of the participants pointed out that there are holes

in different places of the pitch road, so some doubts has been raised about the quality of construction.

In the discussion the participants expressed their satisfaction on the overall performance of UC. They have reservation only about the timely and regular dissemination of information and transparency in project activities.

Suggestions from the participants:

- VDC, UC and the local political leaders should work jointly to raise awareness of the communities including women and marginalized groups about their rights, obligations and entitlements and encourage them to participate in community works.
- UC must implement the project works in close coordination and consultation of communities and disseminate the information regarding work progress and financial transactions regularly in a transparent manner.

The list of participants has been attached in Annex VII

d. On-Site Observations:

During the assignment period, the team members observed the construction works of the road several times accompanied with some local people. Information regarding the quantity, quality and timely supply of construction materials and the labor cost were obtained. According to the version of local people, the quality, use and supply of construction materials and the progress of construction works were satisfactory.

Broadcast of PSA:

The communities of Kabhresthali VDC were informed about the message of Public Service Announcement and requested to listen at FM Ujjyalo 90 Network in the morning and evening. Some of the community people reported during the next visit of the team that they have heard the message.

Orientation Program:

An orientation program was organized for the members of UC at the meeting hall of Dharmasthali High School, Kabhresthali on Poush 5, 2068 (Dec. 20, 2011) The purpose of this orientation program was to share information with the members of UC to update their knowledge and understanding on technical matters related with construction management, financial procedures, responsibilities of UC and the concept and importance of community based monitoring approach. The members of UC and few community members had participated in this orientation program. Engineer Mr. Manish Kumar Aryal and auditor Mr. Gopal Pokhrel were invited from DDC as resource persons to facilitate the sessions on construction management and financial procedures respectively. Sudarshan K.C. facilitated the session on the concept and importance of community based monitoring approach. The sessions were very lively and the participants actively participated in discussions. At the end, the participants appreciated the sessions and extended thanks to resource persons for their interesting and interactive delivery of sessions.

Public Hearing:

A Public Hearing program was organized in Magh 4, 2068 (Jan. 18, 2011) at the compound of Dharmasthali School. The notice of Public Hearing program was posted and published in all the wards of VDC for the information of the communities. The VDC secretary and the political leaders of all party mechanism were also requested to inform the communities to attend the Public Hearing Program. The Regional Office of LGAF Hetauda and central office were also requested to attend the program. But because of the other official engagements, nobody was able to represent LGAF in

the program. LDO Mr. Gopal Pd. Parajuli, site engineer and UC Chairman and members were present to respond the queries of the participants.

Questions raised by the participants during public hearing.

Mr. Radheshyam Phuyal Sharma, Kabhresthali – 8 : Is it true that DDC has already cleared the advance of the construction works which are not done yet in the field on the on the basis of joint recommendation of site supervisor and users committee ?

Clarification from UC Chairman Mr. Radha Krishna Khadgi:

UC is working in coordination with VDC and in consultation with community people in implementing the projects. Assuring the participants the chairman said UC has not committed any such wrong-doings and also not paid any undue cash amount to engineers this is totally a wrong assumption and allegation to UC.

Answer from LDO Mr. Gopal Parajuli;

Mr. Parajuli informed that DDC clear the advance money only after fulfilling the prescribed financial rules and regulation and the submission of documents with evidence and certification of site engineer. In this situation it is difficult to clear the advance money without implementing the works. But, even then, if such malpractices have been done, he urged the participants to complain at DDC with full evidence. Assuring the participants he strongly committed to take strict action against the culprits who abuse the authority and involve in mal-practices. He also requested community people to be always aware of the possible abuses and misuse of development funds.

Mr. Kumar Tamang, Kabhresthali – 5: There are holes on the pitch road in different places within the six months of its construction. Are the holes on pitch road are because of the poor construction quality?

Answer from the Chairman of UC Mr. Radha Krishna Khadgi.

Mr. Chairman agreed that some holes have been observed on the pitch. UC is consulting with the engineer to find out its reason. He further said that it may not be because of the poor quality of construction, but may be due to the flow of water under the road. The reasons are not sure yet. But UC is taking initiative to repair and maintain the road he added.

Mr. Bhuwan Prasad, Ward No. 2: Is this road getting extended up to Gurje Bhanjyang ? What is the provision of the budget for its extension?

Answer from LDO Mr. Gopal Pd. Parajuli:

If the local communities are strongly committed to extend the road up to Gurje Bhanjyang, and take initiatives for further actions, DDC will continue its support.

Mr. Ram Thapa, Ward No. – 6: Is there any plan to link this road with the district of Nuwakot?

Answer from UC Chairman Radha Krishna Khadgi:

The people of Kabhresthali are committed to link this road with Nuwakot. But it depends on the support of local people and DDC. This is important because if this road is linked with Nuwakot, this will be the shortest route to go to Nuwakot and will also contribute to the socio- economic development of Kabhresthali.

Answer from LDO Mr Gopal Parajuli:

DDC will certainly continue its support if the local people are strongly committed and the road is really beneficial for the development of Kabhresthali. But the extension of road must be environmentally and technically feasible.

Mr. Laxman Bhandari, : Why is the budget released towards the end of every fiscal year? What are the reasons of releasing the budget very late every year?

Answer from LDO Mr. Gopal Parajuli:

Sometimes, due to the late collection of revenue, DDC can have shortage of the resources to release budget of all the projects in time. Except in such situation, DDC can release the budget immediately after the formation of user's committee and signing of agreement. Assuring the participants he said if the communities form the users committee in time according to the prescribed norms of LSGA and comeat DDCto sign the agreement of implementation early, DDC will also release the budget earlier..

Mr. Anil Bhandari : What was the total amount of money collected for this road from different sources including the real state dealers and VDC and how much money have been spent so far in this road?

Answer from UC Chairman Mr. Radha Krishna Khadgi:

The tentative amount spent on this road is more than 15 million rupees. Assuring the participants he committed to submit the detailed statement of income and expenditures in the community meeting to be held in the month of Chaitra.

Mr. Ramhari Sharma, Ward No. – 2: Are the provisions of LSGA and guidelines followed in implementing the local development projects? Why DDC also overlook the provision of LSGA and settle the final payments of the projects without social audit?

Answer from LDO Mr. Gopal Parajuli:

Most of the projects are completed at the end of fiscal year. At the end of every fiscal year, there will be great pressure at DDC to clear the advance amount and settle the final payments of the projects. If the advances are not cleared and the final payments are not settled within the fiscal year, the amounts will be lapsed and the advance money given to the projects will be unaccounted (Beruju). Due to this pressure there will be no time to wait for social auditing. Efforts are being made to follow the stipulated time frame but in practice it has been very difficult due to several reasons. From the coming fiscal year new initiatives will be taken to release the budget in time.

Commitment of UC Chairman Mr. Radha Krishna Khadgi.

1. In future efforts will be made to follow more participatory and inclusive processes in project activities.
2. The total expenditure of Jarunku – Vedigoth Road Project up to the date is about 15 million rupees. The detailed statement of income and expenditures will be made available during the meeting of beneficiary communities to be held in the month of Chaitra.

Commitment of Mr.Gopal Pd. Parajuli, LDO, DDC, Kathmandu:

1. From now on, DDC Kathmandu will sign agreement only with those Users Committees which are formed according to the provision of LSGA. DDC will not accept the users committees which are not inclusive and formed according to the provision of LSGA.
2. Efforts will be made to prepare the design estimate of the projects in simple Nepali language as much as possible for the convenience of Users Committees.
3. From the next fiscal year, if the Users committees are formed in time and ready to sign agreement, DDC will sign the agreement and release the budget in time.

Commitment of Mr. Bachhu Ram Chapagain, VDC Secretary, Kabhresthali.

- 1 All the information regarding income and expenditures of the projects implemented are well documented at the office of VDC. Every citizen can have easy access to the information filed and documented in the office. Kabhresthali VDC highly respects the right of the citizens to the access of information.

The participant's list is attached in Annex VIII

Deep Boring Drinking Water Project, Kotdevi, Jadibuti, KMC – 35.

a. Introductory and Rapport Building Meeting:

An Introductory and Rapport Building Meeting was held at the office of UC in Kotdevi, Jadibuti on Asadh 29, 2068 (July 13, 2011). The meeting aimed at establishing good rapport with project communities and stakeholders and introducing the objectives and action plan of the assignment. This meeting was started at around 8:30 A.M. in the office of users committee. In this meeting, the team members and the participants were introduced. Welcoming the participants, Sudarshan K.C. briefly outlined the objectives and planned activities of the assignment. The concept of Community Based Monitoring (CBM) approach was also briefly introduced. He also requested the participants to actively participate and cooperate the process and activities of the assignment. The other two members of the team Mr. Lokendra Bhatta and Manmaya Gurung were supporting in registration and taking notes. The participants lively discussed the activities and assured the team for full cooperation.

As in other two projects, the immediate outputs of the meeting were as follows.

- The team members were introduced with UC members and project stakeholders.
- Good rapport and communication with UC members and project stakeholders were established.
- Project objectives and planned activities were shared and discussed with stakeholders and the members of UC.
- Commitment of UC members, stakeholders and VDC Secretary for the full cooperation to team members in carrying out the planned activities of the assignment obtained.

The participant's list is attached in Annex IX

b. Consultative Meeting with Stakeholders, Beneficiaries and User's Committee of Drinking Water Deep Boring Project at Jadibuti, KMC - 35

In consultation with the Users Committee (UC), this consultative meeting was held in Sunday, Srawan 29, 2068 Aug. 14, 2011) at 8.00 AM. at the office of the office of Drinking Water Deep Boring Project, Jadibuti, KMC-35 Considering the convenience of local communities, the meeting was set for the morning time. The main purpose of this consultative meeting was to share information about the process and performance of project implementation and monitoring, identify major issues and build up consensus among the stakeholders, beneficiaries and users committee for their meaningful engagement in the process and also enhance their capacities. Gathering the stakeholders and beneficiaries in the meeting was a real challenge for the organizers. In this meeting too, the presence of the stakeholders and beneficiaries was not as expected. The presence of women and the marginalized communities was nil. Only sixteen participants were present in the meeting. Though the meeting was scheduled to start from 8.00 AM, but started only at 9.00 AM. The project coordinator Sudarshan K.C. welcomed the participants and introduced the objectives of the study project and the consultative meeting. He also urged the participants to be open and frank to share experiences and opinions about the overall management of project construction. The other two members of the study team, Lokendra Bhatta helped in facilitation and Manmaya Gurung in taking notes.

The major concerns and issues raised during the discussion have been outlined below.

- Drinking Water Deep Boring Project of KMC-35 was prioritized and selected by ward level meeting and approved by municipal council.
- The User's Committee (UC) was formed by ward level meeting of the beneficiaries.
- The Ward Level meeting had selected the members of UC on the basis of their time availability, interest, sincerity on their previous assignments,. Justifying their criteria, they argued that if any one member is inactive, that will affect the performance of the whole UC members and the project will also suffer. So the formation of UC though is not inclusive as prescribed by LSGA but it functional they argued.
- The issues of social inclusion and participatory process were raised. It was argued that being an urban area it was difficult to get the time of the community members in meetings and community works and follow the concept of social inclusion and participatory processes.
- In the meeting, the UC member informed that construction works are almost completed and the distribution works has been started in trial basis.
- UC members also informed that statement of all the expenditures were already submitted in the prescribed format at the office of municipality. But the balance amount of the budget has not yet been released from the municipality which caused problems for the payments.
- The participants expressed serious reluctance with the non-cooperative attitude of the technical staff of KMC head office..
- There is no mechanism for the regular monitoring of the construction works. The monitoring of construction works has been done by the members of UC. The supervising engineer of KMC visits the construction site for monitoring at call.
- The members of UC have expressed the need of orientation for the communities to raise awareness about their obligations and entitlements and training for the UC members on participatory tools and techniques with basic technical know how.
- UC members stated that they organize meeting of beneficiary communities every year and disseminate information about project activities and the statement of income and expenditures. The information about the projects is also published in their annual journal 'Smarika'.for general information.
- The participants raised concern about the provision of maintenance cost of the project. There is no provision of budget for the maintenance of the project.
- In the meeting it was agreed to conduct public hearing and social audit after the completion of the project work.

The immediate outputs of this Consultative Meeting are as follows:

- This consultative meeting provided opportunity to understand the context and to identify issues of project implementation and monitoring.
- Community members and stakeholders had an opportunity to express grievances and share views and opinions about project performance.
- Community members and stakeholders were able to better understand their role, rights and entitlements through the sharing of opinions and discussion.
- Participants became aware about the concept and importance of community based monitoring approach and its process.

The participant's list is attached in Annex X

c. Focus Group Discussion:

Focus group discussion was conducted in Kotdevi, Jadibuti on Dec.16, 2011, at Kotdevil. The discussion was facilitated by Lokendra Bhatta. on the following main questions:

- 1.. How was the User's Committee of this project formed?
2. Were you informed about the details of the project before its implementation?
3. Are the project activities and financial matters transparent to the communities?
4. How do you evaluate the quality of construction works?
5. Are you satisfied with the overall performance of User's Committee?

The participants informed that the User's Committee (UC) was formed by the meeting of beneficiary communities. The formation of UC was not inclusive as envisaged by LSGA. But it was argued that the meeting selected the members of UC based on the criteria of interest in community works, time availability and sincerity.

The participants agreed that there is no frequent and regular meeting and sharing of information about the project. They informed that communities have entrusted UC the overall management and implementation of the project and the community meeting is called once a year to share information about the project works and expenditures. But there was no practice to inform communities about the details of the project and its budget before its implementation. The participants accepted that communication and sharing of information among UC, communities and local bodies are not frequent and adequate to encourage them to participate in community development activities and make the process more transparent.

The participants agreed that UC organize meeting of the beneficiary communities and stakeholders once a year and share the information about project activities and income expenditures. The information regarding project activities and financial expenditures are also published in annual publication of 'Smarika'. But some of the participants claimed that the yearly meeting and the publication of information in 'Smarika' are not enough to make the project activities more transparent and for the wide dissemination of information to the whole communities including the women, marginalized groups and the illiterates. Other media and means should be used for the information of those left out groups and to promote transparency in activities. Frequent communication and sharing of information is needed to involve communities in the process they advised.

Majority of the participants agreed that the quality of construction works is much better than the works previously done by the contractors. The participants pointed out the need to communicate with the communities frequently about work progress and performance.

In the discussion the participants expressed their satisfaction about the progress of project works and the overall performance of UC. They were concerned only about the timely and regular dissemination of information about project activities.

Suggestions from the participants:

- Now on inclusive and participatory approach must be followed in project activities.
- The community members and stakeholders must be well oriented in CBM approach and process to be prepared for its implementation.
- UC must implement the project works in close coordination and consultation of communities and disseminate the information regarding work progress and financial transactions regularly in a transparent manner.

The participant's list is attached in Annex XI

d. On-Site Observations:

During the assignment period, the construction works of Deep Boring project were observed. Information regarding the quantity, quality and timely supply of construction materials and the labor cost were obtained. According to local people, the use and supply of construction materials and the progress and quality of construction works were satisfactory.

Broadcast of PSA:

The communities of Kotdevi, Jadibuti were informed about the message of Public Service Announcement and requested to listen at FM Ujjyalo 90 Network in the morning and evening.

Orientation Program:

An orientation program was organized on Thursday, Magh 12, 2068, (Jan.26, 2012) for the members of UC at the meeting room of the office of UC. The purpose of this orientation program was to share information with the members of UC to update their knowledge and understanding on technical matters related with construction management, financial procedures, responsibilities of UC and the concept and importance of community based monitoring approach. The members of UC and few community members had participated in this orientation program. Site supervisor Mr Sushil Chapagain from KMC – 35 Ward Office and the auditor Mr. Gopal Pokhrel from DDC were invited as resource persons to facilitate the sessions on technical standards and financial procedures respectively. Sudarshan K.C. facilitated the session on the concept and importance of community based monitoring approach. The sessions were very interactive due to the active participation of the participants in discussion. Several questions were asked by the participants for clarifications. At the end the participants expressed that the information shared were valuable for them.

Public Hearing:

A Public Hearing program was organized on Monday, Magh 16, 2068 (Jan. 30,2012) at the compound of Subash Smriti Bal Batika School. The notice of Public Hearing program was posted and published in different public places of the settlements for the information of the communities and stakeholders.

The ward secretary and the members of UC were also requested to inform the communities to attend the Public Hearing Program. The Regional Office of LGAF Hetauda and central office were also informed to attend the program. But nobody were present from LGAF. Site engineer from ward office, Chairman and members of UC were present to respond the queries of the participants. Joint Secretary of MLD (Ministry of Local Development) Mr. Dinesh Thapaliya was also present in the program..

Following questions were raised by the participants during the Public Hearing Program.

Mr. Jaya Ram Shrestha, Kotdevi : What is the capacity of this deep boring project
And how many households will be covered under this project?

Answer from UC Chairman Mr. Kamal Thapa Chhetri:

The total quantity of water reserve is not exactly known. But according to the version of the experts, the water reserves are adequate for the supply of 1000 households and can be continue for many years.

Mr Shiv Mainali : What measures have been taken to encourage the participation of women, dalits and other marginalized groups?

Answer from UC Chairman Mr. Kamal Thapa Chhetri:

No special measures have been taken yet to encourage the participation of women and marginalized groups. They are simply informed to attend the meeting when called. Some kind of special initiatives focusing on these groups are needed to encourage the participation of these groups. One of the members of UC added that this issue has been considered and UC in consultation with its members will initiate some measures in the future.

Ms. Sarita Dahal : Why are the communities not informed about the action plan and budget of the project yet?

Answer from UC Member Mr. Navaraj K.C:

KMC has not yet released the balance amount of project expenditures. So the total expenditures of the project has not been cleared yet by KMC. UC is planning to call meeting in near future after all the project costs are settled.

Mr. Roshan Subedi, Kotdevi : When will the pipe lines laid on for the distribution of water in new settlements ?

Answer from Chairman Mr. Kamal Thapa Chhetri:

The budget for the pipe lying works is available. So, pipe lying works will be started soon.

Mr Sharki Man Lama: To what extent are the functions of the committee transparent?

Answer from the Chairman Mr. Kamal Thapa Chhetri:

All the project activities carried out by UC are transparent. Efforts are being made to disseminate information about project activities and income and expenditures through meetings and publication of 'Smarika'. Various concerns have been shown by the participants and valuable feedback also received. UC will seriously take into account the concerns shown by the participants and the feedback in its future actions.

Mr Madan Pd. K.C. : How was the construction works of the project monitored? And by whom?

Answer from the Chairman.

At the moment, due to the absence of a strong mechanism, project monitoring is very weak. The UC members themselves and site in-charge are monitoring the project works at this time. But still UC is trying its best to maintain to maintain the quality of construction works. A strong monitoring

mechanism involving local communities is very essential for the effective implementation of projects, efficient use of resources and transparency of project activities.

Commitment of UC Chairman Mr. Kamal Thapa Chhetri:

1. From the coming fiscal year the Users Committee (Kotdevi Bidyanagar Samaj Sudhar Samiti) will organize the meeting of beneficiary communities soon to share and disseminate detailed information about the projects.
2. A meeting of all stakeholders and beneficiaries will be organized and the details of income and expenditures of Deep Boring Drinking Water Project will be made public soon.
3. Sincere efforts will be made to make this Kotdevi Bidyanagar Samaj Sudhar Samiti more inclusive in coming days.

Commitment of Mr.Sushil Chapagain, Technical Supervisor, KMC-35,Ward Office.:

1. The technical unit of KMC – 35 Ward Office is ready to provide all sorts of technical support to Users Committee as and when required.
2. The Ward Office will also facilitate at KMC head office for the timely release of budget of the project.

The participant's list is attached in Annex XII

Information Dissemination Program:

An information dissemination meeting was held in Kathmandu to disseminate the results and findings of the assignment. The detailed report of this meeting has been attached in Annex XIII

Lessons Learned:

The regular interaction and communication with stakeholders and communities of the project and the experience gained during the implementation of the assignment have provided some lessons which are given as follows.

- In the context of local governance, community based monitoring approach has been initiated as a new concept. Being a new initiative, the stakeholders and the communities are not aware about the concept, tools and the process of community based monitoring approach. Therefore, good preparation, conceptual clarity on application of CBM tools and methods and adequate budget provision are the prerequisites for the effective implementation of community based monitoring process.
- For the meaningful participation of project communities, CBM process must start from the very beginning of project implementation. If this process is started towards the end of project works, the community members will not be interested to involve in monitoring process. Thus, it is very important to consider the time factor to initiate this process from the beginning and follow the steps of CBM tool in a systematic manner.
- Project communities in all the three projects were found interested to participate in the process of local development activities. But they said they were not timely and properly informed to participate in the activities. So, prior to the initiation of CBM process, sensitization/awareness campaigns are needed to prepare project communities for their meaningful participation in implementation and monitoring process.

□ The beneficiary communities are capable to monitor and manage their project by themselves if their capacities are adequately built. The stakeholders and community members do not have confidence and required knowledge and skills for the effective management of development projects. Therefore, capacity building and community empowerment are the most essential components of this process.

□ Provision of some incentives should be made in budget for the meaningful participation of community members who are involved in CBM process. Otherwise, it is difficult to get their time and sincerity in works when required in the process.

□ Flexibility in scheduling of activities is necessary for the convenience of community members and multi-stakeholders. Therefore, the assignment can take longer time than expected. Again, CBM is a time consuming process which requires continuity of efforts, adequate resources and patience.

□ The participation of women and disadvantaged groups in meetings and project activities is extremely low or non-existent. Therefore special attention and efforts are needed to encourage and motivate the participation of women, Dalits, Adivasi Janajatis and disadvantaged groups in meetings and project activities.

□ The community members have difficulties to understand the technical words and calculations of design estimate of the project. This also hindered to their meaningful engagement in implementation and monitoring process.

□ From the interaction and discussion with community people and stakeholders, it is believed that CBM process can promote transparency, accountability and also a learning oriented culture in local governance. If properly established this mechanism at project level, it also ensures community ownership and project sustainability.

Problems and Challenges:

□ Inappropriate time to initiate CBM Process: The time of awarding this assignment for initiating CBM process was found inappropriate. Conceptual confusion in the beginning also hindered in the smooth implementation of CBM process and tools:

□ The construction works of all the three projects were about to completion when CBM process was initiated. So the community members were not interested to form monitoring committee towards the end of the construction works. This situation also created problem to smoothly mobilize the meaningful and effective participation of community members in CBM process.

□ Knowledge, skills, time and motivations of community members were found key challenges to mobilize communities in monitoring process. The community members were not aware and had no knowledge of the CBM concept and process. Again there was no any provision of incentives for their time of involvement. So, some difficulties were experienced to mobilize their active participation in CBM process.

□ Inadequate time and budget provision were also realized as challenges to properly complete the whole process of CBM.

□ Difficulty in getting required information from certain groups of informants. Some of the community members were found not willing share information. They just say either 'everything is good' or 'do not know'. But they do not tell us what things were good or what weren't.

□ To obtain adequate participation of all the sections of communities including women and marginalized groups in meetings was really difficult in all the three project sites. The participation of women and marginalized groups in meetings and orientation used to be very nominal or non-existent.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Conclusion:

Community Based Monitoring (CBM) approach is a powerful tool to promote downward accountability for responsive, accountable and transparent local governance. This approach actively involves the meaningful participation of beneficiary communities in the process of monitoring and local development. The most important part of CBM approach is its special focus on women, poor and marginalized groups in the process of local governance. The CBM approach being newly introduced in the context of local development projects in Nepal, many people and stakeholders were found unaware about the use and importance of this concept. In the process of implementing this assignment, the stakeholders, community and UC members of all the three projects were involved in meetings, discussions and observations of project works several times. They were also involved in orientation and public hearing programs. Their meaningful participation in all these activities has helped to enhance their capacities and empowerment to some extent and to raise awareness about their rights, obligations and entitlements. Building capacities and empowerment of local communities are the most important aspects of this process. This approach also promotes the feeling of ownership of the project and ensures its sustainability. CBM approach if properly implemented and continued, it strengthens the communication and relations between local bodies, CSOs and citizens and contributes to promote downward accountability and better local governance. However, CBM is a time and resource consuming approach. Continuity of technical and financial support with adequate budget provisions is very crucial for the institutionalization of this approach at the local level. The present assignment should be considered as a learning phase. Because, being a new initiative, mobilizing meaningful engagement of the communities and stakeholders in this process is a challenge. Despite some weaknesses in the process of implementation, many more things were learnt during the implementation of this assignment. These experiences and learning can greatly contribute to the effective and improved implementation of interventions in the next phases.

Recommendations:

- o In order to ensure inclusive and participatory process and to promote transparency and accountability in local governance, the local bodies must strictly follow the provisions of LSGA and guidelines of MoLD.
- o In Chunikhel and Kabhresthali VDCs, majority of women due to their heavy engagement in household chores, were not able to spare time for community gatherings and meetings. The marginalized groups of the community were also absent in community works due to their ignorance and poverty. Thus, the information regarding local development initiatives was not reached to the most vulnerable groups of the community. Therefore, special efforts and continued supports were needed to mobilize meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups in local development initiatives.
- o Organize awareness camps and conduct training programs to raise voice and capabilities of local communities especially the women and disadvantaged groups. It is essential to build capacities and confidence of local communities including women and marginalized groups to mobilize their meaningful participation and enhance influence in decision making process that affect their lives.
- o Organize specific training course on community based monitoring approach and its tools and techniques for the members of monitoring team.
- o Continue the technical and financial support and maintain close communication and coordination with local bodies, project stakeholders and communities for the effective implementation of community based monitoring approach at local level.

- o For the sincere and active participation of monitoring committee members, provision of some incentives is needed. Without any incentives, the committee members may not be interested to give the required time in monitoring process.
- o The process of CBM approach must start from the very beginning of project implementation to mobilize meaningful participation of community members in following the sequence and steps of participatory monitoring tools.
- o Continued technical and financial supports for at least two to three years and the commitment of local bodies, stakeholders and project communities are needed to institutionalize the process and procedures of community based monitoring approach at local level.
- o Mechanisms should be developed and established for the proper documentation and regular dissemination of information.
- o Attractive Public Displays made public containing project information including budget and expenditures for public information and attention.
- o Adequate preparation, conceptual clarity in process and methods and reasonable budget provisions are required for the effective implementation of CBM process and tools.
- o Sensitization/awareness campaigns are essential to prepare project communities for their meaningful participation in planning, implementation and monitoring process.
- o Capacity building training on tools and techniques of community based monitoring to the members of monitoring team should be conducted prior to the beginning of CBM process.
- o CBM approach should not be taken as single shot event. Continued support and commitment of local bodies, users committees and stakeholders are required to institutionalize this process at local level.
- o Mechanism needs to be established for proper documentation of information regular dissemination and publicity.

ANNEXES

Annex I

Participant's of list Introductory Meeting (Dhobikhola Koridor Bridge, Chunikhel)

S.N.	Name of participants
1.	Gopal Prd. Mistra
2	Shri Ram Chetri
3.	Badri Adhikari
4.	Raju Ram Adhikari
5.	Gopal hhetri
6.	Tulsi Prasad Paneru
7.	Shri Ram Devkota
8.	Gham Raj Subedi
9.	Narendra Shrestha
10.	Ram Kumar Shrestha

11.	Suman Dahal
12.	Raju Thapa
13.	Dhani Budha Magar
14.	Tej Narayan Magar
15.	Panchi Devi Magar
16.	Jamuna Rai
17.	Sudarshan K.C.
18.	Lokendra Bhatta
19.	Man Maya Gurung

Annex II

Participant's of list Consultative Meeting (Dhobikhola Koridor Bridge, Chunikhel)

1.	Bhagiratha Shrestha
2.	Rajaram Silwal
3.	Rishi Ram Joshi
4.	Salik Ram Khanal
5.	Juddha Bahadur Khadka
6.	Mahesh Kumar Basnet
7.	Min Bahadur Tamang
8.	Hari Kumar Poudel
9.	Kaji Bahadur Bista
10.	Dhurba Raj Neupane
11.	Prakash Rai
12.	Satya Narayan Adhikari
13.	Shyam Adhikari
14.	Uddhav Poudel
15.	Rajendra Rokka Chettri
16.	Ram Prasad Acharya
17.	Sri Ram Chettri
18.	Raju Ram Adhikari
19.	Sagun Kumar Bhandari
20.	Narayan Bahadur Silwal
21.	Bal Dhoj Limbu
22.	Ram Bahadur Silwal
23.	Sova Bhandari
24.	Basant Chettri
25.	Asab Nagarkoti
26.	Sudarshan KC
27.	Man Maya Gurung

28.	Lokendra Bhatta
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Annex III

Participant's of list Focus Group Discussion Program (Dhobikhola Koridor Bridge, Chunikhel)

1.	Juju Kaji Shrestha
2.	Sri Krishna Shrestha
3.	Mitha Ram Adhikari
4.	Juju Bhai Shrestha
5.	Krishna Kaji Shrestha
6.	Gopal Prasad Mishra
7.	Mangal Das Shrestha
8.	Bishnu Hari Shrestha
9.	Sagar Shrestha
10.	Damodar Poudel
11.	Purushottam Koirala
12.	Rama Poudel
13.	Ganesh Kumar Koirala
14.	Rajaram Silwal
15.	Ranjit Adhikari
16.	Hari Ram Dhungana
17.	Jati Man Gurung
18.	Man Devi Shrestha
19.	Dhurba Raj Neupane
20.	Bishnu Hari Shrestha
21.	Ram Krishna Shrestha
22.	Anile Shreshtha
23.	Sudarshan KC
24.	Man Maya Gurung
25.	Lokendra Bhatta
26.	Ram Kaji Shrestha

Annex IV

Participant's of list Public Hearing Program (Dhobikhola Koridor Bridge, Chunikhel)

S. N.	Name of Participants
1	Khagendra Dahal
2	Prabin Pyakurel
3	Gopal Prasad Mista
4	Shri Ram Chhetri
5	Nhuchhe Narayan Shrestha
6	Tulsi Prasad Paneru
7	Hari Krishna Tiwari
8	Shambhu Prasad Adhikari
9	Sanu Kaji Khatri
10	Hira Man Shrestha
11	Rudra Bahadur Shrestha

12	Maiya Shrestha
13	Bhagiratha Shrestha
14	Durga Thapa
15	Ganga Shrestha
16	Pramila Sapakota
17	Ashab Shrestha
18	Sunita Shrestha
19	Jaya Prasad Lamsal
20	Ram Kaji Acharya
21	Tika Prasad Phutel
22	Purushotam Koirala
23	Damodar Paudel
24	Govind Thapa
25	Chitra Bahadura Thapa
26	Ganesh Bahadur Shrestha
27	Ram Lal Shrestha

28	Mahendra Shrestha
29	Shri Krishna Shrestha
30	Buddhi Chandra Shrestha
31	Gokul Khatri
32	Dinesh Nagarkoti
33	Prem Bahadur Shrestha
34	Udhab Thapa
35	Man Devi Shrestha
36	Narendra Shrestha
37	Shri Krishna Shrestha
38	Sarita Shrestha
39	Jagat Bahadur Shrestha
40	Bibek Shrestha
41	Kalapana Shrestha
42	Rama Kanta Shrestha
43	Jeevan Shrestha

44	Naresh Shrestha
45	Bikash Acharya
46	Sarita Khatri
47	Suji Thapa
48	Shova Bhandari
49	Prakash Rai
50	Bel Bahadur Gurung
51	Sudarshan K.C.
52	Lokendra Bhatta
53	Narendra Basnet
54	Sova Banjade
55	Man Maya Gurung

Annex V

Participant's of list Introductory Meeting (Jaranku Vedigotha Sangamchowk Road, Kabhresthali)

S. N.	Name of Participants
1	Radha Krishna Khadgi
2	Shrikrishna Man Shrestha
3	Nirmal Dangal
4	Atma Ram Phunyal
5	Laxman Bhandari
6	Ram Babu Phunyal
7	Bachchu Ram Chapagai
8	Hari Krishna Phunyal

9	Sri Ram Thapa
10	Balaram Phunyal
11	Khil Bahadur Bhandari
12	Raj Kumar Lama
13	Dhurba Thapa
14	Gautam Bahadur Tamang
15	Manju Tamang
16	Uddhav Adhikari
17	Bishnu Prasad Dhakal
18	Gopal Phunyal
19	Bhuvan Prasad Chamrel
20	Rajendra Tamang
21	Beena Lama
22	Sudarshan KC
23	Man Maya Gurung
24	Lokendra Bhatta

Annex VI

Participant's of list Consultative Meeting (Jaranku Vedigotha Sangamchowk Road, Kabhresthali)

S. N.	Name of Participants
1	Ram Babu Phuyal
2	Bal Ram Phuyal
3	Bishnu Prasad Dhakal
4	Radha Krishna Khadgi
5	Bachhu Ram Chapagain
6	Ram Hari Sharma
7	Laxman Bhandari
8	Kiran Raj Pradhan

9	Prithivi Man Taman
10	Dhurba Thapa
11	Khil Bahadur Bhandari
12	Bhakta Bahadur Thapa
13	Bhuwan Prasad Chamrel
14	Murahari Bhandari
15	Subharna Dhakal
16	Ram Chandra Thukari
17	Ramji Lama
18	Narendra Lama
19	Sanjeev Lama
20	Bishnu Phuyal
21	Sharmila Phuyal
22	Sudarshan KC
23	Man Maya Gurung
24	Lokendra Bhatta

Annex XIII

Report on Results Dissemination Programme (Feb. 8, 2012)

Name of the project: Community Based Monitoring of Local Government/ Public Goods & Services and Local Body Grants Expenditure Review

Date programme conducted: February 8, 2012

Venue: Transitional Justice Resource Centre (TJRC), Anamnagar

Objective of the programme:

- Disseminate findings of the component 1 and 3 to relevant stakeholders

Major accomplished activities

- Successfully conducted the programme at the fixed date and time
- Able to obtain the participation of all the targeted people and relevant stakeholders
- Disseminated the findings of the programme to relevant stakeholders.

Narrative report on the outcomes:

It was on February 8, 2012 that WVAF organized a joint dissemination programme with the objective to disseminate the findings of the component 1 and 3 to the relevant stakeholders. The venue of the programme was WVAF Nepal's office at Transitional Justice Resource Centre (TJRC), Anamnagar.

The participants of the programme in case of component 1 included: VDC Secretaries, VDC Assistants and Community representative of respective 5 project VDCs.

The participants of the programme in case of component 3 included: VDC Secretaries, VDC Assistants, 2 representatives from User's Committee, 1 representative from beneficiaries of 3 project areas and 2 representatives from Kathmandu Metropolitan City, ward office, ward-35.

The other common invitees of the program included: Local Development Officer (LDO)/Kathmandu district, 5 resource persons from DDC/Kathmandu district, Executive Secretary General-Association of District Development Committees of Nepal (ADDCN), Executive Director, National Association of Village Development Committees of Nepal (NAVIN), Executive Secretary, Municipality Association of Nepal (MuAN).

It must be noted that due to some unavoidable circumstances the Local Development Officer (LDO) and 3 resource persons from DDC could not make it to the programme. Hence, Mr. Bharat Bhadur Khadka, Central Committee Member, Association of District Development Committees of Nepal (ADDCN) and local committee member, LGAF western region was made the Chief Guest for the programme. The programme however was also attended by Mr. Manoj Bhattarai, Executive Director, LGAF-IA and Mr. Damodar Regmi, National Committee member. In total 56 participants including the project teams attended the programme, out of which 13 were Women.

The programme started a little later than the scheduled time due to late arrival of the guests. The emcee of the programme was Project Facilitator, Ms Subina Shrestha and the programme was chaired by Dr. Tika Prasad Pokharel, Chairperson WVAF Nepal. The programme started with the introduction of participants followed by a 15 minute power point presentation on the objectives and activities accomplished and methodology adopted in component 1 that is Local Body Grants Expenditure Review and Community Engagement Survey facilitated by GSIO, Ms Acharya. This was followed by another power point presentation on the major findings, achievements and challenges of the project facilitated by Project Coordinator, Mr. Arjun Jung Shah.

Similarly, there was presentation on objectives, activities accomplished, methodology, major findings, achievements and challenges of component 3, Community Based Monitoring of Local Government/Public Goods and Services Project facilitated by Project Coordinator, Mr. Sudarshan K.C. These power point presentations were followed by observation sharing from DDC resource persons, Mr. Subash Bhattarai and Mr. Pravin Pyakurel on component 1 and 3 respectively. Mr Bhattari pointed out that the project did a good job as third party monitoring agency and this type of monitoring in his opinion is needed for better results. Similarly, Mr. Pyakurel pointed about his observation of component 3.

However, the main highlight of the programme was open discussion where the participants raised many queries, the details of which are furnished below:

The first person to raise query was Nayab Subbha from Goldhunga VDC, Mr Raju Timilsina who at the first appreciated the efforts made by project team for refreshing the VDC Officials about the VDC Block Grant Mobilization Procedures, 2067. He however, remarked that sometimes there is pressure from the community people to allocate the budgets in non productive areas such as cultural programme and programme of youth wings of various political parties. Besides this there are administrative problems but till now there is no institution where the VDC could take forth their problems. He also remarked that there is also the need to make the activities of the community transparent as well as there should be need to specify in what type of activities the percentage allocated for disadvantaged communities be expended.

The second person to raise query was Nayab Subbha from Buddhanilkantha VDC, Mr Raj Kumar Thapa who remarked that although there is frequent change in the guidelines in the last few years yet the Ministry of Local Development has never made any efforts to orient the VDC officials about the frequently changing guidelines. He expressed the view that although he was quite hopeful that the project would provide orientation about the guidelines but this also did not happen and this has disappointed him. Next he remarked that it is not possible for a single VDC Secretary to look after the entire VDC. According to him in recent years in the absence of elected representatives the workload of VDC officials has increased but there has been no befitting increment with regards to salary and other facilities of VDC officials. So in his opinion an inquiry should be done in this sector too.

The third person to raise query was Nayab Subbha, Narayan Prasad Timilsina from Ichhangu Narayan VDC, who remarked that the VDC officials at times have to face the intervention of the political parties in allocating budgets in non productive areas like cultural and religious programme,

motor cycle rally etc. He also reiterated that the VDC officials are over loaded with regular work and as such are sometimes unable to fulfill the required procedures.

The fourth person to raise query was VDC Secretary, Prakash Adhikari from Dahachowk VDC, who asked the project team to clarify who are the real community? In his opinion all the people who take the benefit from VDC block grant are the elite groups and not the disadvantaged community or the poor masses and it is this elite group which dominates the masses. He further remarked that NGO/INGOs should empower the VDCs to reach to the genuine disadvantaged community or the poor masses. He admitted that it was due to the implementation of this project that this year he could manage to allocate the required percentage to women, children disadvantaged community and agriculture otherwise usually it is the political parties who would make the final decision sometimes irrespective of the guidelines.

The fourth person to raise query was vice chairperson, Kote Devi Bidya Nagar Samaj Sudhar Samity of Component 3 who remarked that the programme would have been more fruitful if representatives from higher level of Ministry of Local Development have been invited. According to him it is from higher level of Ministry of Local Development who prepare the guidelines without knowing the field situation as they never consult the field staffs while preparing the guidelines as such there can be seen many gaps in the field level implementation. He further narrated the example of relevancy of percentage allocated for agriculture sector flatly without any analysis. According to him in Gongabu VDC and some other VDCs of Kathmandu district one can hardly find people's engagement in agriculture sector. He further remarked that there is commission play in the allocation of budget in the Municipality and also there is no trend to release advance and trend to release the budget late, thus forcing the community to complete the project in very short period. Sometimes there is duplication of the projects as well.

The fifth person to raise query was Ms. Samjhana Kunwar, women representative from Buddhanilkantha VDC of Component 1, who remarked that the VDC officials should be able to exercise the power designated to them freely and they should not work under the pressure of the elite groups or political parties or the local gangs. She remarked that most of the development budgets are allocated to these local gangs out of fear but the VDC officials should cooperate in bringing forth the women and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

The sixth person to raise query was Ms. Durga Timilsina, women representative from Baadbhanjyang VDC of Component 1, who remarked that the percentage of development budgets allocated for women should not be spent in religious or cultural programmes like motor cycle rally or darkhane programme for women but should be allocated in income generation activities or productive areas.

The seventh and last person to raise query was Ms. Asha Lama, representative from indigenous communities from Ichhangu Narayan VDC of Component 1, who remarked that the community people at the grassroots level should have access to the guidelines and is social audit mandatory?

After the open discussion round there was remarks from the guest. The first person to make the remarks from the guest was LGAF representative, Mr. Manoj Bhattarai, ED LGA-IA. In his remarks

Mr. Bhattarai mentioned about the objective of LGAF which is to ensure that the community people should avail all the facilities due to them by the local government institution and monitoring of this by the CSOs is very good part of both the projects implemented. Another good aspect of the project is the partnership with local government institutions. He further appreciated the complications expressed by the VDC officials. He also pointed that the claim which MoLD had made regarding the dissemination of the guideline was found to be incorrect. So he raised apprehensions that as VDC officials themselves had not been properly oriented about it than there is a big question as to when the community people will be oriented about it. He further remarked that the development budgets should not be allocated in cultural or religious programme rather it should be allocated in productive sector as far as possible. Lastly, he also appreciated the radio programme as it has benefitted community people from other districts too as the network has its access in all the 75 districts of Nepal. He also appreciated the visual clippings of public discussion programme which was an opener for knowing the genuine problems of the community people. He also appreciated the role played by User's Committees especially in component 3.

The second guest speaker of the programme was Mr. Damodar Regmi, member, National Committee/National Planning Commission who remarked that the government is currently under problem as this is the transitional phase. He however, praised that the VDC officials are doing good job even in circumstances where there is the absence of elected representatives. He further reiterated on the point that information regarding no orientation to the VDC officials about the various guidelines should be reported to the MoLD. He emphasized on the need to orient the VDC officials about the various guidelines prepared by MoLD from time to time and according to him for this no extra budget is required as according to him MoLD already possess huge amounts which freeze every year due to non expenditure. He also opined that MoLD is the ministry which has maximum Beraju (unsettled amounts). He advised that the project should also focus on the problems faced by the supply side. He next advised the VDC officials to provide the guidelines to the local community as according to him there are chunks of copies of guidelines in the store room of MoLD. He also praised the project teams for their efforts to educate the community people about their fruitful engagement and suggested them to submit the reports to the MoLD and other stakeholders and requested to focus not on drastic change but on incremental change.

The next guest speaker of the programme was the Chief Guest of the Programme Mr. Bharat Bahadur Khadka, Central Committee member, ADDCN. He remarked that this is the period of no elected representatives and lack of sufficient human resources particularly technical staffs in the VDCs. Currently the VDC Secretaries are playing the dual role of VDC Secretary as well as VDC Chairperson, hence they are in difficult situation. However, he emphasized on the need to maintain financial discipline in allocation of development budgets etc. He pointed out that there is unhealthy competition among UCs and SMCs due to 5 % commission to be paid to local bodies which is very bad. According to him good achievements were made in the past such as development of village profiles but the present situation of absence of elected representatives has over shadowed all these achievements. He however praised WVAF for capacitating the local community as it is necessary for the citizens to take their voices to the policy making level. He expressed the view that allocation of certain percentage for women, children and disadvantaged communities are good and infact child clubs in many areas are playing the role of watch dogs in school management. Similarly women

groups are also doing well. He however, concluded his remarks by saying that in New Nepal, local government is the only reliable institution but the local government should be constitutional.

The programme finally concluded with concluding remarks and vote of thanks from WVAF Chairperson who reiterated on the need to disseminate or submit the reports to relevant stakeholders for greater results.

Annex XIV

PHOTOGRAPHS



Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge at Chunikhel



Dhobikhola Corridor Bridge (Completed)



Deep Boring Water Project at Jadibuti Kathmandu

Jaranku Vedigoth Thanthi Sangamchowk Road



Focus Group Discussion



Focus Group Discussion Dhobikhola Bridge project Focus Group Discussion Jaranku Vedigoth Road

Public Hearing



Public Hearing Program at Chunikhel VDC



Public Hearing Program Deep Boring Water Project at Jadibuti

Annex XV
Copies of Meeting Minutes