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## Association of International NGOs in Nepal

An informal network of INGOs working in Nepal



## Development Dialogue in Gandaki Province

### Summary Report

By Reshma Shrestha & Shiva Paudel

## Introduction

The Ministry of Social Development of Gandaki Province, Pokhara in coordination with AIN, the Association of INGOs organized a half Day Development Dialogue on 5 May 2019. In the context of decentralization under the federal system in Nepal, this is the third Development Dialogue that AIN has been facilitating as an effort to ensure effective discussion and building clear understanding of AIN with Provincial Government entities.

The Minister of Social Development Hon. Nardevi Pun had graced the event as the Chief Guest and Dirgha Narayan Poudel Secretary of the Ministry had chaired the event. Vice Chair of Gandaki Province Planning Commission Hon. Dr. Giridhari Sharma Poudel along with Hon. Minister of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative Ministry Lekh Bdr Thapa Magar and various Ministries Secretaries & Undersecretaries were present as well. AIN SC Member & Treasurer Lora Wuennenberg, County Representative of CARE Nepal, Reshma Shrestha, AIN Program Coordinator and Policy Analyst Shiva Basnet had attended the event representing AIN.

The main objective of this dialogue was to interact with the government officials to establish a positive and productive relationship between them and AIN members, to improve collaboration and coordination with the Provincial Government in the projects and interventions across the Province by sharing information and identifying practical mechanisms for regular contact and discussion; and to provide basic information about AIN, its principles, objectives, INGOs operational procedures and the work INGOs do through its members in Gandaki Province.

Twenty three AIN Member INGOs namely CARE Nepal, IPAS, World Vision, Mountain Child, The Asia Foundation, IDE Nepal, Action against Hunger, Plan International, CRS, Action Contre La Faim, Humanity & Inclusion, Community Action Nepal UK, Oxfam, PSI Nepal, Heifer International, WWF Nepal, Fairmed, Good Neighbors International Nepal, Helen Keller International, Save The Children, FHI360, GNHA and Kidasha had attended the Development Dialogue.

NGO partners Shakti Samuha, NGO Federation, Koshish, CWIN, Federation of Children's Home, Naulo Bihani, INSEC, APR Nepal, Chetana Manch, NGN, Three Angels Nepal, IDEW, Centre for Education Development Nepal, NGO Federation Kaski, MADE Nepal, NFOF Nepal, NEN, Nepal House Kaski were present in the Dialogue. Medias like Samadhan daily, Nagarik Nepal, Annapurna FM, Barhakhari.com, FNJ Kaski, NSK- BBC had attended the interaction.

## Welcome remarks

Under Secretary of Ministry of Social Development, Tej Prasad Kafle, the Master of Ceremony in his opening remarks appreciated AIN for its presence and highlighted that Government and INGOs should work hand in hand in coordination and cooperation.

AIN SC Member & Treasurer Lora Wuennenberg, in her welcome remarks expressed her gratitude towards the Ministry for their cooperation in organizing the Dialogue. She remarked that AIN members are keen to engage more with all tiers of Nepal government at state, provincial and local level. AIN intends to promote regular dialogues and interactions at provincial and local level. She stated that AIN members in Nepal contribute to the achievement of global Sustainable Development Goals, Support the capacities, rights and wellbeing of people in all parts of the country.

Lora informed that AIN members along with their local National NGO partners are found working actively in all 77 districts of the seven provinces of Nepal. INGOs represent not for profit and charitable organizations that are legally recognized in their home countries. Many INGOs work in specialized sectors of work bringing expertise and resources to Nepal to address global poverty. Others work across a range of issues based on the mandates and priorities of their governing boards and as determined by their wider memberships and constituencies.

She emphasized that AIN Member INGOs stay committed to fulfilling its compliance and full support to Government of Nepal in terms of incorporation of Annual Plan & Budget in Local Government/Council, Central Project Advisory Committee Meeting with line ministries and District Project Advisory Committee meeting with line agencies. AIN members implement projects in partnership with around 1,553 local NGOs and generate employment for 22,163 development professionals, which is equivalent to 25% of the total government personnel. The INGO employees working with 137 organizations contribute 1.15 billion NPR annually (2017/18) as direct income tax. This contribution is approximately 20 percent of the estimated total payroll and workforce income tax (IRD). Lora mentioned that Members of AIN scaled up its approach with vigor to work around disaster preparedness, relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation, health, education and livelihood since 2016/17. INGOs raise funds from the citizens of their home countries, and the wider global community. INGOs mobilize 56% of projects funds from their own respective country's unrestricted sources of funding such as member contributions; trusts; foundations; cash appeals; monthly giving; community campaigns; legacy; piloting ideas; meeting core costs, and co-financing from private foundations. INGOs also mobilize volunteers and technical support from people around the world who support their common goals.

Lora emphasized that as development organizations INGOs are committed to promote people-to-people support, encourage right to information, encourage voices of the voiceless, build and inclusive society, increase people's access to fundamental rights, promote empowerment and entrepreneurship, pilot innovative approaches to sustainable development collaborate and support government agencies to achieve development goals.

Lora Wuennenberg reiterated that the Government's alliance is key to the objectives and achievement goals of all INGOs and NGOs in Nepal. She further stated that AIN firmly believes that mutual collaboration will contribute to humanitarian, socio-cultural and physical development of Nepal. She emphasized that AIN is hopeful for one window policy for INGOs regulation with empowered SWC with a comprehensive Social Development Act. In her concluding remarks she stated that AIN is looking forward to collaborating with government bodies and are open to engage them in INGO project sites for closer understanding of development approaches being made.

## Presentations

### **Ministry of Social Development, Gandaki Province: Overall polies, plans and coordination mechanism in the province**

Secretary of Ministry of Social Development, Dirgha Narayan Paudel presented about overall policies, plans and coordination mechanism in the province. He expressed that development is not possible by Government alone, it needs non- government and private sector's support as well. He stated that the Ministry's working areas are health, education, youth & sports, social development, labor &

employment. He highlighted about the core areas of collaboration with INGOs and expectations from Ministry namely:

- Mid- Day Meal programs in Early childhood development classes for deprived children
- ECD Classroom management
- Partnerships in establishing and managing Model residential schools in remote Himalayan areas
- Investment in Science, technology and vocational education
- Provide support for technology friendly trainings to teachers of community schools
- Fully literate province campaign. Educational and technological learning programs for Disabled children
- Capacity building of village/city school improvement plan
- Support with educational materials for endangered community children
- Upgrade the health post buildings/infrastructure and installation of equipment
- Establish online system of HMIS
- Mobilization of Public Health Awareness campaign
- Child Marriage elimination. Management of street child and renounced children
- Cooperation with local level for child friendly province. Development of women entrepreneurship

### **Gandaki Province Planning Commission: Role of INGOS in the development of Gandaki Province**

Vice Chair of Gandaki Province Planning Commission Hon. Giridhari Sharma Paudel started his presentation with a brief background of Gandaki province, its geography, population, GDP, Per Capita Income, total number of financial institutions. He shared about the current socio-economic indicators of Gandaki Province and their targets to be achieved in the next 5 years. The targets include increased agro and other production, increased linkages between agro and other producers to the tourism market, increased investment in energy generation, modernizing agriculture, increased industrialization, improved infrastructure; change education curriculum to link it with market, forest management to improve livelihood of people and economic wellbeing of the state.

He presented about key drivers of prosperity as: tourism, agriculture, energy, industry, infrastructure, human resource development and governance. He also highlighted on key enablers of program: maintaining natural beauty, bio- diversity, unity among social pluralism/diversity, cultural co-existence and identity, population benefit

### **On the role of INGOs in developing self-sustained economy he emphasized on the following areas:**

- ✚ Analysis of demand and supply of consumable goods
- ✚ Convince popular opinion to use national production
- ✚ Provide information on consumer intelligence to producers or help producers to take right decisions. Encourage tourism industry to link with local farmers and producers
- ✚ Help marginalized and poor to build their 'capital'. Encourage youth to involve in entrepreneurship
- ✚ Use local products for official and personal purpose to promote local producers
- ✚ Invest in education to produce technical human resources needed for tourism industry
- ✚ Support the provincial government in infrastructure development for tourism sector by partnering with provincial government

### **On Agricultural development**

- ✚ Facilitate to link agriculture and entrepreneurship
- ✚ Support farmers to use high productivity seed, organic fertilizers, maintain productivity of soil/land, encourage for community farming, link with supply/value chain
- ✚ Support in producing technicians for agriculture

### **On energy development**

- ✚ Share evidence based report on smart grid, smart technology and appliances
- ✚ Facilitate to increase and attract investment in energy sector, mainly in generation sector
- ✚ Advocate for the replacement of fossil fuel run vehicles by bio-fuel and electricity run vehicles. Likewise replacement of LPG by electrical appliances

### **On development of entrepreneurship and industry (not trade)**

- ✚ Invest in education and capacity building to have market study or on consumer intelligence
- ✚ Provide support in change of technology (efficient)
- ✚ Provide support to the establishment of agro based and other mining based industry (such iron, copper ore based industry)

### **On development of Infrastructure**

- ✚ Introduction of efficient technology in several sectors of infrastructure (road, transportation, tunneling, irrigation)
- ✚ Establishing technical university
- ✚ A safe transportation management system
- ✚ Facilitate or provide good messaging of establishment of industries

### **On human resource development**

- ✚ Help provincial government to analyze the gap of Human Resource need
- ✚ Help to establish technical school/university or transform the existing one to be able to provide technical human resources.
- ✚ Provide short term technical trainings

### **On governance**

- ✚ Provide feedback to government working system to make it better through dialogue (such as this and the future events.
- ✚ Support provincial government to increase its efficiency
- ✚ Support on e-governance system

Hon. Vice Chairperson also presented on development model, objectives of 1st five years plan & result based indicators. For the immediate action, Hon. vice chairperson advised as follows:

- ✚ Provide technical and vocational training to unemployed youths
- ✚ Provide seed money for running business or entrepreneurship

- ✚ Invest in building capacity of the existing institutions, revive the old and already closed down institutions
- ✚ Support in developing educational curriculum to be catered to the need of market

*\*Presentations from the Ministry & Gandaki Province Planning Commission attached with mail*

### **Deliberations from Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperative**

Hon. Minister Lekh Bahadur Thapa Magar opened his remarks appreciating INGOs for their commendable contribution during the mega earthquake. He stated that the response, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation activities done by INGOs in Gorkha are remarkable. The construction of schools and drinking projects are noteworthy. He acknowledged that Government mechanisms get weak during disasters because of lack of one door policy. Minister Magar expressed that they wanted to establish one model village after earthquake and NRN had built one. He mentioned that there is a need for capacity building at local level and support in sectors like livelihood, agriculture, education and health. He appreciated that INGOS have been doing great work and thanked INGOs for all their contributions. He advised that INGOs now need to focus on infrastructure since software/trainings part has been done a lot. The ministry seeks to double the production within five years' time in Agriculture. He also mentioned that one year was spent in law formulation hence now they want to emphasize on 'production'. He stated that there have been talks at high level but less action in ground level.

### **AIN presentations**

Hem Paudel from Plan International made a presentation on behalf of AIN highlighting on AIN member's sector wise program coverage and contribution in Gandaki namely on livelihood, DRR, education, health, GBV, WASH, Humanitarian, physical rehabilitation, Disability, Governance, GESI, economic development. He emphasized that INGOs are ready to respond to the needs of the province and it will be aligned with the local priorities.

AIN Policy Analyst Shiva Paudel made a presentation highlighting about AIN's role in Nepal's development, the historical background of AID & Development, role of INGOs, the regulatory framework (constitutional, periodic plan, DCP and Social welfare Act) of Cooperation, INGOs operational mechanisms, their contribution and key challenges. He emphasized on the need of having one door policy and mechanism to facilitate INGOs, stronger coordination between SWC and various Ministries & the need of common understanding and approaches to create enabling development space. Shiva provided facts and figures of AIN member's contribution in development aligning with priority sector's government. He also highlighted about INGOs three years budgetary commitment trend. He stressed on the need of clarity in the coordination structure at the Federal, Provincial and Local government level for INGOs, issues of fees and taxes at various level, facilitation and reporting systems for INGOs. He stated that AIN and the Government should engage in more constructive dialogue and participation at policy and decision making level.

*\*AIN presentations attached in the mail*

### **Remarks from NGO Federation**

NGO Federation Secretary General Ram Prasad Subedi stated that the Federal government is changing the laws which seem to restrict the freedom of association of NGOs; which is not acceptable to the civil society. He emphasized that NGOs cannot accept the current practice of providing police certificate for

NGO registration. Since the police certificate is not needed to register a business or cooperative, he questioned why it is required for NGOs. He added that NGOs are backbone of social development and acting as watchdogs for people's human rights. The government should encourage NGO's role in the development. He appreciated that the Development Dialogues are important, it should be carried out regularly and NGO Federation is interested to be co organizers of such events in the coming days.

## Participants' Comments, Feedbacks and Recommendations:

### A. Recommendations to the provincial government

- ✚ An industry based on local resources (human and technical) are necessary
- ✚ Govt. plan should focus on human development as well should not overly focus on physical and economic only
- ✚ Organizations should be classified on the basis of sector (eg. Education, livelihood etc.)
- ✚ Social Development Ministry should make a roster of INGOs/NGOs?
- ✚ Priorities of the provincial govt. (as reflected by the planning commission's document) are very diversified. It should be made achievable by prioritizing.
- ✚ (In relation to the govt. advice to INGO to focus on hardware) Govt. should focus on infrastructure and should mobilize NGOs/INGOs for training/capacity building. Nepal is lacking behind in HDI, government should recognize INGO's contribution in this sector. The focus on hardware doesn't sufficiently address this aspect.
- ✚ The ministry should develop a mechanism to deal with 'threats' received by traffickers and their accomplices. Often time, NGO workers are facing challenges of threats.
- ✚ There should be a fund to provide emergency support to survivors for their travel, treatment and other expenses.
- ✚ The 1<sup>st</sup> periodic plan of Gandaki Province should address gender and inclusion. Within inclusion, persons with disability should be included.
- ✚ There are 200 children without parents. The government should have a plan to provide care and reintegration.
- ✚ The government should address the need of sexual minorities including homosexuals and third gender in their programme.
- ✚ Govt. should help in expedite 'project approval' process (done by SWC).
- ✚ Govt. should have plans to prevent youths going abroad.
- ✚ Govt. should provide free of cost treatment related services to HIV and AIDs infected population.
- ✚ The ministry should make a plan to strengthen participation of women and children in local level committee (such as SMC, PTA, Forestry Users' Group and committees related to drinking water, road construction)

### B. Questions to the provincial government

- ✚ What is the government's plan to rescue and rehabilitate street children? Is there any plan for 'safe house' (street and other children in difficult circumstances)?
- ✚ How to complement the role of private and non-governmental sector in addressing provincial govt.'s role?
- ✚ We find different version of govt.'s opinion from the ministers (as political reps.) and bureaucrats. Their advices to us in project operation are different. Can these two governments work together and have a same opinion or advices?

- ✚ How to reach out to the children infected by HIV and AIDS? Can govt. provide social security allowances to them (at the moment provided by the global fund)?
- ✚ Among seven key drivers (for change), health is not included. Isn't health service a priority to the provincial government? Health related indicators of this province are lower compared to the federal level indicators. MNCH programs including golden 1000 days mothers should be strengthened by the provincial government.
- ✚ Sectoral meeting (on the basis of thematic area) on half yearly should be organized by the Ministry.

### C. Overall recommendations

- ✚ Introduction of participants (NGOs/INGOs) and their working areas should be done in the beginning
- ✚ Strengthening of municipality should be on the agenda
- ✚ Agendas of Inclusion and governance was not included on the agenda
- ✚ Such program should be organized after collecting information related to programs and having a series of preparatory meetings
- ✚ Programs related to mental health should be addressed by governmental and development sector. Courses and education (mental health, counselling, play therapy and art therapy) should be offered by the Universities
- ✚ Provincial government should include private sectors in such dialogue
- ✚ A mutual understanding should be reached between Gov. and INGOs to receive work progress report

## Summary of Government's response to the questions from the floor

**Hon. Minister for Social Development:** This is a generic and the first dialogue. This is not specific dialogue in one area such as agriculture, health or education. Hence the Minister advised to do separate discussion with sectoral Ministries for queries and concerns.

### Hon. Giridhari Sharma Poudel

**On Coordination:** The Govt. would like to strengthen the coordination with NGOs and INGOs. They are open to discussions. This is a good beginning. In last two years, NGOs/INGOs did not come to government as well. Govt. should acknowledge it. At provincial level, there is a committee for inter-municipalities coordination headed by the Chief Minister. He recommended INGOs to coordinate with this committee rather than to a municipality as INGOs usually cover more than one municipality.

For approval/coordination process of INGOs in the Ministry, they will decide what would be the best place to have a contact point. They are discussing between the Ministry of Social Development and Ministry of Law. On sectoral coordination issues, they should have one INGO desk in every Ministry.

**On Evaluation of INGOs:** They are aware that evaluations are carried out by SWC which is not standardized and their quality varies. Some of the reports are not of the good qualities as well. They should develop a standard evaluation process and make it systematic on the basis of OECD criteria.

**On Tax:** The civil society organizations should pay the income tax. Even UN's local/national staffs are bound to pay the tax. (On exemption of VAT on necessary equipment that is bought/imported for community's use, (area of federal government?))

**The purpose of the event:** The presentation was a snapshot of the periodic plan. The full report is 400 pages and would take longer time to present. Hence they would have one to two hours meeting in the sectoral ministries or NPC to coordinate with sectoral actors. They have included issues on gender based violence.

**HR and GBV:** Now most of the rights are included in the Constitution. All of the Government's work can be evaluated from human rights lenses. They are very sensitive of HR issues and their efforts will be to prevent violations and provide repatriation related support to the survivors and their families. The ministries and planning commission are sensitive on GBV issues. You can get a section on GBV in the periodic plan.

**On Human Capital:** The Ministry is sensitive to this issue.

**On inviting private sector in the event:** Ministry wanted to have a dialogue with INGOs & NGOs. While developing the first periodic plan, they had consulted the private sector. They are in constant touch.

### Remarks from the Chief Guest

Hon. Minister of Social Development Naradevi Pun appreciated AIN for taking the initiation as she had envisioned organizing such interactions with INGOs to understand the work of INGOs, the budget and their outputs. Minister remarked that INGOs and Government resources should be mobilized together for effective development work. She added that it is important to identify the priority needs of the Province and plan budget accordingly to fulfill the need.

Minister Pun recommended AIN Member INGOs to minimize duplication and reach out to the most deprived. INGOs and Government should match their budget and work in coordination for better results. She emphasized that 'one door system' is a must for efficiency & smooth operation of development work. Minister Pun stated that the Dialogue is just the beginning and introductory event to understand each other hence there should be more such interactions in the coming days. She appreciated that this Development Dialogue has 'intensified the interest' for more such dialogues. She advised INGOs to do a 'separate sectoral discussion' with line Ministries for better coordination & collaboration and to address the concerns. Minister Pun recommended that there is a need to change the 'Development Model' for effective development practices. In her concluding remarks she thanked and applauded AIN for a good beginning.

### Closing Remarks

Secretary of Ministry of Social Development Dirgha Narayan Poudel in his closing remarks stated that through this Dialogue INGOs and Government have come together in one platform which is a wonderful opportunity for stronger coordination and cooperation. He announced that the Gandaki Province seeks to become the number one Province and together it is possible. He mentioned that there was a gap in the past but now the relationship has been strengthened since the goal is the same and there should be no hurdles in the path of development.

## Meeting with the Chief Minister of Gandaki Province

As a follow up event of the Development Dialogue a meeting was held with the Chief Minister of Gandaki Province Hon. Prithivi Subba Gurung. Present in the meeting was Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Ghimire, Chief Attorney, Hon. Dr. Giridhari Sharma Poudel Vice Chair, GPPC and from AIN side Lora Wuennenberg AIN Treasurer, Jeremy Southon Kidasha, Devraj Gautam CARE Nepal, Santosh Mani Nepal WWF, Purna Bahadur Kunwar WWF, Kedar B. Tamang GNHA, Hem Paudyal Plan Nepal and Shiva Poudel, AIN.

It was a courtesy visit to the Chief Minister to introduce AIN. With a brief introduction of each participant, Lora Wuennenberg shared about the purpose of the Development Dialogue. AIN members informed the Chief Minister about the number of INGOs working in Gandaki Province, their total budget size and the thematic areas.

### Remarks from the Chief Minister

- ❖ He expressed surprise that he was not aware about the number of INGOs in the area and their program. INGOs and NGOs cooperation and collaboration in province level is a must. Even if the program is implemented in municipalities, provincial level government coordinates between municipalities on inter-municipalities issues. Provincial Government also set the provincial priorities which municipalities implement.
- ❖ INGOs should cover the entire municipality or area of two or more municipalities rather than scattered activities in several municipalities.
- ❖ INGOs or NGOs should coordinate between themselves to avoid duplication in their working geographical or thematic area.
- ❖ INGOs & NGOs need to go to remote or hard to reach population.
- ❖ INGOs & NGOs programs should prioritize physical development and production-oriented activities rather than service oriented programs. INGOs & NGOs should review their program priorities in the changed federal context.

An open discussion took place on how to facilitate INGOs to work in Nepal. It was discussed that the General Agreement should be done at the Federal level and the Provincial government should be given power to enter Project Agreement with the Provincial government if/when they are working in several municipalities of one province. The Provincial Govt. expressed that they would lobby for such policies and they expected that INGOs would also support them in this policy change process.

## Meeting between AIN Members

After the Dialogue a meeting was held between AIN Members to discuss on the way forward. The meeting agreed to form a 'Provincial Chapter of Gandaki' to work together and strengthen their coordination and collaboration in the coming days. It would function as per the working groups of AIN to discuss on the provincial issues, challenges and concerns. The meeting also agreed to discuss on sectoral and operational issues and stand as one voice in times of need. Present in the meeting were officials from PSI, FHI360, Helen Keller, ACF, Humanity & Inclusion, Mountain Child, Good Neighbors, The Asia Foundation, CARE Nepal, Save the Children, CRS, World Vision, Oxfam and AIN.

Development Dialogue participants



AIN DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE IN GANDAKI PROVINCE,

POKHARA 5 MAY 2019

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