

## **Activity No. 1.4 Development of critical mass for the protection and promotion of cultural diversity**

### **Activity No. 1.4.1 Form culture promotion groups (CPGs)**

The project has successfully formed a total of 80 CPGs in 80 target VDCs comprising of 1180 (or F 393/M 787) members from different cultural grounds during period of March - June 2010.

#### Topics/activities covered

Organizing community into CPG considered as an entry point of the project to bridge between the project and the target communities. Organizing community into CPG aimed at developing a critical mass at target community for the protection and promotion of local cultures and cultural diversity, and providing grassroots structures for the interventions of the project activities in the target communities.

To facilitate the process in an effective manner, project has developed and implemented CPG operation guidelines in local (Nepali) language. The guidelines include the process of community organizing, and purpose, role, meeting behavior, group action plan, institution development of CPG, etc.

The project adopted community organizing pyramid to organize community into CPG, where CPG is primary grassroots structure (at the bottom of the pyramid) comprising of 13 - 15 members, an ideal number of membership size that can be managed by themselves in each target VDC. However, the membership size varied and ranges from 13 to 23 depending upon the demographic composition of different caste/ethnic groups in the project VDCs. The average membership size stands as 14.7. For detail, *please refer to Annex 6: Formation of CPG by location, date and membership size.*

The project staffs in their respective districts lived with, motivated, encouraged and approached the target communities to organize into CPGs. In few VDCs, it is observed that community organizing, conducting meeting of CPG and performing collective initiatives is very hardship due to residing of CPG members in scattered clusters. CPGs consisted of different groups of indigenous communities. Besides, the target groups, non-indigenous communities were also encouraged to organize into CPGs.

#### Reason for modification or delay

None.

#### Results

As targeted, a total of 1180 (or F 393/M 787) organized into 80 CPGs in the 80 target VDCs. A sizeable number of people organized as a critical mass of grassroots for the protection and promotion of local cultures and cultural diversity, and local structures for implementing project activities at grassroots.

CPGs also provided forums for increasing access to and interact between the target communities and concerned local stakeholders in the cultural issues.

The field monitoring on the institution building of CPGs showed that 43 CPGs (or 54 per cent) are performing well and has very high chances of viability, followed by 21 CPGs (or 26 per cent) performing satisfactorily and they need capacity building support to be viable in the future.

It is expected that about 80 per cent of CPGs serve as critical mass for protection and promotion of local cultures, cultural rights, cultural cooperation and cultural diversity at local level, whereas, 16 CPGs, are

marginally functioning, still in primary stage of their growth and development and there is very low possibility to be sustained, ***please refer to Annex 7: Indicators for monitoring organizational development (OD) of CPG***. Brief information on the formation and membership size of CPGs as:

Table 8: Brief information on the formation and membership size of CPG

SN	District and date of formation	Target		No. of CPG	Achievement		
		No. of CPG	Membership (min - max*)		Membership size		
					F	M	Total
1	Kaski, Mar 17 - May 17, 2010	10	130 - 150	10	54	120	174
2	Lamjung, Mar 11 - Apr 27, 2010	10	130 - 150	10	42	136	178
3	Gorkha, Apr 3 - Jun 27, 2010	10	130 - 150	10	37	103	140
4	Kavre, Apr 14 - May 18, 2010	10	130 - 150	10	39	91	130
5	Dhading, Apr 9 - Jun 9, 2010	10	130 - 150	10	41	99	140
6	Rasuwa, Apr 16 - Jun 2, 2010	10	130 - 150	10	72	70	142
7	Chitwan, Apr 13 - Jun 19, 2010	10	130 - 150	10	51	89	140
8	Makwanpur, Apr 25 - May 26, 2010	10	130 - 150	10	60	79	139
Total		80	1040 - 1200	80	383	782	1165

\*figures refer minimum to maximum membership size

#### Activity No. 1.4.2 Conduct meeting of CPGs

In total, 1200 regular meetings of 80 CPGs conducted successfully in 80 target VDCs with a total of 63590 (or F 26677/M 36913) members of CPGs including community people during the project period.

##### Topics/activities covered

Main purpose of the CPG meeting was to provide a forum for discussion on the protection and promotion of local cultures and cultural exchange, and also to provide grassroots structure to facilitate project implementation in the fields.

To formalize the functions of CPGs, the project has developed and implemented CPG operation guidelines which comprised of community mobilization, meeting behavior, functions, role of executive members, and organization development of CPGs as the key elements. CPG has an executive body of selected 11 - 13 members consisting of chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, treasure and executive members.

CPGs conducted meeting in a regular basis. Common issues of CPGs meetings included interactions and sharing on different aspects of culture, local initiations for the protection and promotion of local cultures and cultural heritages, and information and preparation for project implementation in the fields (i.e. community mobilization, facilitation of project activities in the field). CPGs also perform local initiatives of community development and empowerment by mobilizing locally available resources at their own.

It is observed that the CPGs are in the progress of maturation and the meetings found to be concentrated on issue based interactive discussions. They have been sharing knowledge and experience among and raising voices and taking initiatives for the protection and promotion of local cultures and cultural identity, cultural entitlements and rights, exploring possibilities of linkages and resource mobilization. However, the growth and development of CPGs is uneven.

Reason for modification or delay

None.

Results

As targeted to a total of 1200 regular meeting of 80 CPGs in 80 target VDCs, 1200 meetings conducted successfully within the project period. In total, 63590 (or F 26677/M 36913) CPG members including local people from different cultural grounds met and discussed on different cultural issues of community concerns, and performed different activities for the benefits of the members and the communities.



CPG healding its regular bimonthly metting, Lamjung

The CPG meeting served as a forum for interactions and colletiveness. A sizeable number of local people interacted, shared and deepen their understanding on several issues related to culture, identity, rights and development. The issues discussed in the meeting were importance of culture, cultural diversity and harmony, needs of protection and promotion of local cultures, relation of culture in education and identity, cultural entitlements and rights, community organzing, meeting behavior, relation with local authorities, mobilization of local resources, collective work and bargaining to make access easy, etc.

CPG meeting also served as project structure at local level to make field interventions effortless. CPG provided noteworthy supports in community mobilization during the dialogues, FTG performance and in selecting potential participants to different training programs organized by the project.

The regular meeting of CPGs helped to develop a feeling of unity, collective bargaining power and joint initiatives in the protection and promotion of local cultures and community development. However, the growth and development of CPGs is uneven. The field monitoring showed that 43 CPGs (or 54 per cent) are performing well, followed by 21 CPGs (or 26 per cent) are satisfactory and 16 CPGs are marginally functioning. However, the majority of CPGs serve as critical mass for the protection and promotion of local cultures at their own and with the supports of others.

It is expected that the increased and established linkages with a wide range of local organizations and institutions, such as local government (VDC), public service institutions (school), informal organizations (users' group, mothers' group, etc.), traditional institutions and with entire groups project (i.e. FTGs, CCs, cooperatives) provide a strong base for the viability of CPGs to run their core functions beyond the project.

Besides, usual functions of CPGs, some CPGs also performed humanitarian activities,



CPG conducting bimonthly meeting at Syaphrubensi, Rasuwa and Tasarphu and Dhading respectively

i.e. CPG of Piple mobilized cash to the families whose houses caught in fire and to Red-Cross for the construction of its building in the community.

The degree of participation, eagerness to hone understanding and local initiations of the CPGs is found increasing. Collective initiations, such as protection of historical, cultural and religious places, maintenance of traditional source of drinking water (natural spring), promotion of self-help culture, worship of nature (i.e. Bhuyar), interactions with knowledgeable local people and traditional institutions, such as Lama, Bonbo, Tamba are some of noteworthy initiatives made by the CPGs.

A majority of CPGs of Kavrepalanchowk, Rasuwa and Dhading districts started to develop action plans to mobilize resources from the local authorities, and to function in a systematic manner. Brief information on the meeting of CPG is provided as:

Table 9: Brief information on the meeting of CPG

SN	District	Total no. of CPG	Meeting of CPG			Total participants of CPG meeting*		
			Frequency	Target	Achievement	Female	Male	Total
1	Kaski	10	15	150	150	3362	5026	8388
2	Lamjung	10	15	150	150	3708	5429	9137
3	Gorkha	10	15	150	150	3703	4687	8390
4	Kavre	10	15	150	150	2716	4909	7625
5	Dhading	10	15	150	150	2582	5041	7623
6	Rasuwa	10	15	150	150	3714	4022	7736
7	Chitwan	10	15	150	150	3496	3552	7048
8	Makwanpur	10	15	150	150	3396	4247	7643
Total		80	-	1200	1200	26677	36913	63590

\*figures in cumulative terms.

***Some noteworthy initiations taken by the CPGs are as follow:***

- A total of 13 CPGs of Makwanpur, Kavrepalanchowk, Lamjung, Chitwan and Rasuwa able to mobilized local resources (worth NPR 9,13,000) cash from their respective DDC and VDCs to maintain community based infrastructures, such as small drinking water, reservoir of drinking water, installation of pole for community electrification, community building and community trail. Result of which, about 317 families have been getting benefits,
- Five CPGs of Makwanpur, Chitwan and Kavrepalanchowk mobilized NPR 312,000 from the respective VDC for conducting interaction workshops and orientations on the rights of indigenous people. Result of which a total of 290 local people aware on the rights of indigenous people,
- CPGs mobilized worth NPR 7,454,861 (cash 1,454,012 and kind 3,587,709, calculated in monetary terms, locally available resources, i.e. land, semi-skilled labor, labor, stone, sand, etc.) for renovation of traditional institutions and cultural heritages, such as Chorten, Mane, Gompa and other historical places, etc.
- CPG of Piple, Chitwan has mobilized NPR 50,000 from the respective VDC to construct a building of the local chapter of red-cross. Similarly, the CPG mobilized cash NPR 5000 and kind to the families whose houses caught in fire.
- CPG of Bhandara mobilized NPR 700,000 (NPR 500,000 from respective DDC, NPR 150,00 from respective VDC, NPR 50,000 from NCA) and a small size of land from District Forest Office (DFO) to establish Chepang Museum along with a botanical garden of medicinal plants which are traditionally used by the Chepang community,

- CPGs of Kavreplanchowk and Rasuwa organized traditional institutions, such as lama, ganba, tamb, bonbo into the groups, and organized orientations and interactions as a means to protect and promote traditional institutions of Tamang community,
- After receiving the training on Tamang dress (traditional attire) provided by the project, CPG of Syphrubensi, Rasuwa mobilized NPR 80,000 from the respective VDC for the production and marketing of Tamang dress,
- CPG of Shyampati, Kavrepalanchowk organized a health camp with the support of the sub-health post in the VDC during the Namu Buddha fair. The CPG has also provided volunteers to manage the fair in November 2010,
- Similarly, the CPGs are serving as village committees to GTNA of the Gurungs and NTGA of the Tamangs.

These are the evidences on the progress and institution building of CPGs.

#### **Activity No. 1.4.3 Form district culture promotion groups (DCPGs)**

All together eight district culture promotion groups (DCPGs) formed with 91 (or F 22/M 69) members comprised of at least one representative from each CPG and respective IPO in eight districts during period of June - August of 2010.

##### Topics/activities covered

Purpose of DCPG formation was to provide a common forum for discussions on the grassroots issues carried forward by the CPGs with view to protect and promote local cultures. DCPG also expected as a structure to fight against cultural discrimination and bridge between the target community and district stakeholders.

DCPG is an umbrella structure of CPGs in each project district. DCPG consisted of a committee of 11 - 15 members, i.e. chairperson, vice-chairperson, treasurer, member secretary and the members representing all CPGs and existing IPO networks, namely NEFIN-DCC.

The committee members are expected to perform their roles and responsibilities, i.e. the chairperson is expected to lead and preside over the committee, secretary to keep the meeting minutes, treasurer to handle finance and the member secretary to call and organized the meeting with the prior consent of the committee.

##### Reason for modification or delay

None.

##### Results

In total, eight DCPGs comprising of 91 (or F 22/M 69) members representing 80 CPGs and district committees of target IPOs formed in the project districts. DCPG constituted a committee of 11 - 15 members, i.e. the chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer and the member secretary.

DCPG, an umbrella structure of CPGs in each district provided a common forum for discussion on the cultural issues carried forwarded by CPGs with district level stakeholders for the protection and promotion of local cultures and cultural rights, and fighting against cultural discriminations.

Most of DCPGs have strong relationships with existing IPO networks, local government bodies and initiated collaborative efforts in the protection and promotion of local cultures and serving as the bridge

between CPGs and district stakeholders to mobilize resources and voice against cultural discrimination. Brief information on the formation of DCPG is provided in the table below:

Table 10: Brief information on DCPG and its membership size

SN	Formation of CPG by district and date	No. of DCPG	Total membership size of DCPGs		
			Female	Male	Total
1	Kaski, June 28, 2010	1	0	11	11
2	Lamjung, August 4, 2010	1	2	9	11
3	Gorkha, August 13, 2010	1	3	8	11
4	Kavrepalanchowk, June 17, 2010	1	2	9	11
5	Dhading, June 22, 2010	1	1	10	11
6	Rasuwa, June 25, 2010	1	5	6	11
7	Chitwan, June 23, 2010	1	4	7	11
8	Makwanpur, June 22, 2010	1	5	10	15
Total		8	22	70	92

#### **Activity No. 1.4.4 Conduct meeting of DCPGs**

In total, 75 regular quarterly meetings of DCPGs conducted in eight project districts with 2167 (or F 703/M 1464) representatives of CPGs and local networks of IPOs during the project period.

##### Topics/activities covered

DCPG, an umbrella structure of CPGs made discussions on the issues forwarded by the CPGs and other cultural issues for the protection and promotion of local cultures. The members of DCPGs participated in the meeting regularly. DCPG is the vital bridge between the target communities and the district stakeholders.

DCPG provided forum for discussion on the cultural issues of communities concerns and provided support to CPGs in resource mobilization to realize the initiation of CPGs.

DCPGs also invited concerned stakeholders, i.e. government bodies, NGOs, IPO networks, media in the meeting to make them aware and take initiation on the cultural issues of communities concerns. The key issues of the meeting included views and voices of CPGs, project activity in the district, coordination and mobilization of district stakeholders in the project activities, rapport building and resource mobilization to realize the plan of CPGs.

In some project districts, DCPGs have begun their meetings at target communities. For instance, DCPG of Lamjung has started its meeting in project VDCs in rotation basis. Such practice is found helpfull in building rapport and direct link between DCPG and local community. DCPGs provided significant supports in implementation of project activities, raising voices of the community, bilding linkage between CPG and district stakeholders and resource mobilization.

##### Reason for modification or delay

None.

##### Results

As targeted, 75 quarterly meetings of DCPGs conducted with 2167 (or F 703/M 1464) representatives of CPGs and local networks of IPOs in eight project districts in the project period.

DCPG served as vital bridge between CPG/target communities and concerned stakeholders. DCPGs maintained good coordination and rapport with concerned local stakeholders, i.e. government bodies, NGOs, IPO networks, media to make them aware and take initiations to response the cultural issues of target communities.

DCPG brought conversed issues of CPGs at district level, provided support in facilitation of community and district level activities, and created forum for discussion on the cultural issues of the target communities for the protection and promotion of local cultures, cultural rights and cultural diversity with district stakeholders. DCPGs also discussed and reviewed the functions and progress of CPGs in the meetings and provided inputs and supports to CPGs. It is hoped that the DCPG will continue its roles on the basis of its existing prominence and the relations with district stakeholders. Brief information on the meeting as:

Table 11: Brief information on the meeting of DCPG

SN	District	Total no. of DCPG	Meeting of DCPG			Total participants of DCPG meeting*		
			Frequency	Target	Achievement	Female	Male	Total
1	Kaski	1	9	9	9	68	153	221
2	Lamjung	1	9	9	9	69	156	225
3	Gorkha	1	9	9	9	73	122	195
4	Kavre	1	9	9	10	94	209	303
5	Dhading	1	9	9	10	58	251	309
6	Rasuwa	1	9	9	10	114	181	295
7	Chitwan	1	9	9	9	127	168	295
8	Makwanpur	1	9	9	9	100	224	324
Total		8	-	72	75	703	1464	2167

\*figures in cumulative terms

#### Activity No. 1.4.5 Organize mass based campaign

A total of 18 mass based campaigns, two in Kathmandu and 16 in project districts successfully organized with a total of 3304 (or F 1429/M 1875) people from target communities and people from different grounds for the period of August 2011 - September 2012.

##### Topics/activities covered

The purpose of the mass base campaign was to raise awareness and create pressure to the concerned authorities for the protection and promotion of indigenous cultures, cultural diversity and cultural rights. Major programs of the campaigns included issue based paper presentation, floor discussion, key note from the guests, march pass/rally with displaying banners and play cards, cultural performance to raise awareness to sensitize concerned authorities and public to make them responsible on the cultural issues of indigenous communities. Almost all campaigns were organized during different occasions, such as International Indigenous Peoples', Tamu Losar (New Year of the Gurungs), Sonam Lhotshar (New Year of the Tamangs), Kruskaisa-Paikaisa (annual fete of the Chepangs).

In order to make mass based campaigns effective, the project has organized consultative meetings with implementing partners and concerned stakeholders (i.e. NEFIN, an umbrella organization of IPOs in Nepal, NEFIN-DCC, IPOs, political leaders of major political parties, CA members belong to indigenous communities, NGOs working in the field of indigenous rights, IP intellectuals, media, etc.). Throught these consultative meetings, the project has materialized plans and programs, including division of role in

information, management, coordination, development of banner and playcard and mass mobilization, etc. of the campaigns.

Most of campaigns were organized for one day, whereas three mass based campaigns (two in Kathmandu and one in Chitwan) were organized for two days. Two-day campaigns contained interaction for one day and mass based rally for following day. The interaction workshops were organized on 'issues of indigenous people and their cultural rights' on 8 August 2011 in World Trade Center and 'voices on indigenous cultures and cultural rights' on 3 December 2012 in Nepal Tourism Board, followed by mass rallies on the occasions of the international IP day 2011 and at the entrance of Tamu and Tamang Lhotshar (the New Year) in 2012.

Dr. Mukta Sing Lama, Dr. Chaitanya Subba, Prof./Dr. Om Gurung, Mr. Parshuram Tamang, Mr. Amrit Yonjan, etc. presented papers on different issues of indigenous cultures, cultural rights, international instruments for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, indigenous people's movement, country situations, etc. Interaction workshops of 2011 and 2012 were chaired by Mr. Mukti rijal, Executive Director of IGD and Mr. Til Bikram Nembang, vice-chancellor, Nepal Academy respectively.

Followed by interaction workshops, two mass based campaigns- one in collaboration with NEFIN and other with Nepal Ethnic Museum were organized on the occasions of International Indigenous Day and at the entrance of Tamu and Tamang Lhotsar in Kathmandu. A large mass of people from target communities and their organizations and institutions, members of CPGs, DCPGs, FTGs and cooperatives developed by the project, IP intellectuals, political parties, CA members and civil society organizations actively participated in the rallies.

Similarly, CPGs, DCPGs, FTGs and cooperatives developed by the project, NEFIN-DCC and district committees of the partner IPOs, NGOs/CBOs, district leaders of major political parties, etc. participated in the mass rallies organized in the project districts.

The campaigns marched pass around the core areas of capital city Kathmandu and the district headquarters of project districts. Banners and play cards with slogans and the project visibility (name of the project, EU logo, logos of the implementing organizations) were displayed in the campaigns. Cultural performances by FTGs and marchpass were the main attractions of the campaigns. The members of CPGs, DCPGs and FTGs performed different forms of traditional dances and folk songs with playing traditional musical instruments and traditional attaires in the campaigns. The campaigns were scheduled for one day in the district and two days in Kathmandu.

#### Reason for modification or delay

Originally, the campaigns were planned for year 2010 and 2011. Due to urgent need of accomplishment of some important and time consuming activities, the campaigns were replanned to accomplish in the year 2011 and 2012.

#### Results

The project successfully organized 18 mass based campaigns, two in kathmandu and 16 in the project districts with a total of 3304 (or F 1429/M 1875) people as per the attendance records maintained by the participants themselves, whereas a large mass of people were actively participated in the campaigns organized in special occassions and in collaboration with different likeminded organizations in years 2011 and 2012.



A large number of people from target community, CPGs, DCPGs, FTGs, cooperatives developed by the project, partner and other IPOs, NEFIN, NFDIN, political leaders, CA members belong to indigenous communities, NGOs working in the field of indigenous rights, IP intellectuals, media, etc. actively participated in the campaigns.

The campaigns were organized in the special occasions and in collaboration with different organizations, i.e. NEFIN, NEFIN-DCC, Nepal Ethnic Museum and committees of partner IPOs. Thus, the campaigns emerged as sharing task among the collaborators and the synergy in raising awareness among concerned authorities and public to sensitize them on the cultural issues of IPs.

Undoubtedly, the campaigns came into view as collective and the largest mass based rallies in the issues of indigenous culture and



Mass based campaign in Kathmandu on the occasion of the International Indigenous Day 2011

and cultural rights in Kathmandu and districts as well, and these helped to draw attention and instrumental to create pressure to the concerned authorities for the protection and promotion of indigenous cultures, entitlements of democratic rights and cultural diversity.

Interactions organized as the part of the campaigns and for sharing information on the different issues of indigenous people by the experts. Interactions provided an opportunity to deepen understanding on the situations of indigenous cultures and their cultural rights. Interactions helped to encourage indigenous people's leaders to take necessary steps for the protection and promotion of their cultures and cultural rights. Cultural performances of FTGs and other indigenous groups, displayed banners and playcards and marchpass of a large number of people were the main attractions of the campaigns. For detail of the campaigns, ***please refer to Annex 8: Detail information on the campaign.*** Brief information on the campaign is provided in table below:

Table 12: Brief information on the campaign

SN	Date & location of execution	Execution of campaigns		Total no. of participants*		
		Target	Achievement	Female	Male	Total
1	8 & 9.8. 2011 & 3.12.2012 in Kathmandu	2	2	171	312	483
2	2011 & 2012 in the project districts	16	16	1258	1563	2821
Total		18	18	1429	1875	3304

\*figures represent only the number of those participants who have recorded their attendance themselves.