

Activity No. 1.1 Conduct community level dialogue on the promotion of cultural diversity and exchange

Activity No. 1.1.1 Conduct community level dialogue at target VDCs

In total, 160 substantive dialogues conducted at 80 target VDCs with a total of 7729 (or F 3256/M 4473) local people from different settings for the first and second round during the period of January - October 2010 and May - June 2011 respectively.

Topics/activities covered

In the year 2010 and 2011, the project has convened a number of substantive dialogues at target VDCs with the aim at raising awareness and improving understanding on the importance of culture, cultural rights and cultural diversity among local people. The dialogues also expected to collect views and voices of grassroots for constitutional protection of local cultures in the new constitution. The first round of dialogues was convened during the period of January - October 2010 and second round was convened during the period of May - June 2011.

The dialogues covered key issues, i.e., importance, promotion and protection of local culture, cultural identity and diversity, entitlement of cultural rights and local initiations for the protection and the promotion of local cultures. The dialogue was scheduled for one day in each target VDC.

In the dialogues, sharing of understanding and interactions to increase awareness among the local people interactions held, and the views and concerns of the local people on cultural issues compiled and carried forward to district dialogue for further discussion. The respective implementing partners and Culture Promotion Groups (CPGs) developed by the project facilitated the dialogues. Entire local people from different castes/ethnicities, CPG members, representatives of community-based organizations (users' groups, mothers' groups, etc.), local government bodies (VDCs), schools, political parties, etc. actively participated in and contributed to the dialogues. The dialogue was scheduled for two rounds in each target VDC with a scheduled for one day, ***please refer to Annex 3: Summary of community dialogue by participant, execution date and location.***

To make the dialogues effective and to maintain document, the project has developed and implemented basic operation guidelines which contained a brief of the project, a list of expected participants, process and methods of the dialogue and a broader framework for the documentation. To ensure the visibility of EU contribution, the banner containing the title of the event, name of the project and the flag of EU and the logos of implementing partners was displayed.

Reason for modification or delay

None.

Results

As targeted, 160 community dialogues convened in 80 target VDCs in the year 2010

key views and voices of target communities (2010)

- Respect to all cultures equally.
- Protect culture and cultural resources.
- Eliminate all forms of discriminations.
- Develop plan to support ethnic and cultural museum.
- Establish cultural rights as fundamental rights.
- Recognize and adopt indigenous culture and knowledge system in contemporary governance and development.
- Develop curriculum in mother language.
- Retain the declaration of Nepal is a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-cultural and secular state.
- Eliminate culture based discriminations and respect to all cultures equally for coexistence.
- Formulate policy and plan to protect indigenous culture and cultural entitlements.
- Establish cultural rights as fundamental rights to protect and promote indigenous culture and cultural diversity.
- Recognize and ensure protection of indigenous culture and knowledge system in the new constitution.

and 2011. A total of 7729 (or F 3256/M 4473) people from different backgrounds participated in and contributed to the dialogues.

Average number of participants of the dialogue was 48 people, ranges from 26 people at the minimum in Darkha VDC of Dhading district to 70 people at the maximum in Uttarkanya VDC of Lamjung district.

This activity is one of the most significant activities which helped to increase awareness and inform a sizeable number of local population and concerned stakeholders on the importance of local cultures, cultural rights and cultural diversity, and also helped to generate grassroots views and concerns on the cultural issues to inform concern authorities for the fresh adjustment in the new constitution.

The dialogue provided a forum for raising voices and claims on the cultural rights and an opportunity to improve understanding on cultural issues, such as importance of culture, cultural rights and cultural diversity. The dialogue helped to encourage and stimulate local communities for the protection and promotion of local cultures, cultural rights and cultural diversity.

The chairperson of CPG of Kavilas, Chitwan says on the importance of the dialogue as: *'our culture is our own identity, if we lose our culture, we will lose our identity and dignity- is exactly said by our forefather, and I learnt the same lesson from the project. Therefore, I am happy to be a part of project and I will make utmost efforts to educate our community on the need and importance of culture'*.

CPGs provided meaningful supports to mobilize local communities and the key stakeholders to make the dialogues successful. Brief information on the community dialogues is as:

Table 2: Brief information on the community dialogues

SN	Districts	Target		Achievement		Total no. of participants*		
		VDC	Dialogue	VDC	Dialogue	Female	Male	Total
1	Kaski	10	20	10	20	429	643	1072
2	Lamjung	10	20	10	20	445	716	1161
3	Gorkha	10	20	10	20	495	598	1093
4	Kavrepalanchowk	10	20	10	20	248	500	748
5	Dhading	10	20	10	20	261	538	799
6	Rasuwa	10	20	10	20	411	410	821
7	Chitwan	10	20	10	20	568	540	1108
8	Makwanpur	10	20	10	20	399	528	927
Total		80	160	80	160	3256	4473	7729

*figures in cumulative terms

Activity No. 1.1.2 Conduct district level dialogue

All together 16 district dialogues on the protection and promotion of local cultures conducted in eight project districts with 923 (or F 271/M 652) people from different settings for the first and second round during the period of July - August 2010 and June 2011 respectively.

Topics/activities covered

Purpose of district dialogue was to further discussion with and to inform district level stakeholders on the views and concerns of grassroots people on the cultural issues, compiled through community dialogues. Key issues compiled through community dialogues, such as importance and protection and promotion of local cultures, cultural rights and diversity were presented and made further discussions for reordering

and strengthening the voices of the grassroots in the district dialogues. All the dialogues concluded as the 'District Declarations' in respect with key cultural issues of the community concerns.

The dialogue organized in July - August 2010 for the first round and in June 2011 for the second round immediate after the completion of community dialogues. An average, 57 people from different settings, i.e. district government bodies, NGOs, IPOs, NEFIN-DCC, CPGs, journalists, political parties, CA members, intellectuals, etc. actively participated in and significantly contributed to the dialogues for reordering and strengthening key cultural issues of the target communities. The dialogue further added genuine issues of cultural harmony, revitalization of local cultures and cultural heritages.

District dialogues were documented in Nepali language as the 'District Declarations' and forwarded to policy dialogue. District dialogue was also scheduled for one day. Banners of the EU flag displayed in the dialogues to ensure visibility of EU contribution in the project.

Reason for modification or delay

None.

Results

As targeted, 16 district dialogues conducted successfully in eight project districts. Dialogue was scheduled for one day.

A total of 923 (or F 271/M 652) people from different settings, i.e., district government bodies, CA members, NEFIN-DCC, district networks of IPOs, political parties, NGOs, media, intellectuals, etc. were informed on the cultural issues of target communities.

An average, 58 people, ranges from 50 people at the minimum in Pokara of Kaski to 69 people at the maximum in Hetauda, participated in the dialogue.

Dialogues further discussed on the community's views and concerns of cultural issues, and reorganized and reinforced by adjusting other genuine issues of cultural harmony, diversity, etc. into the District Declarations embodied with key cultural issues of the community concerns. The dialogues provided a basis for further discussion with the policy circle for the constitutional protection and promotion of local cultures, cultural rights and cultural diversity.

District dialogue was found successful in informing and sensitizing district government bodies, political parties and other concerned stakeholders on the cultural issues of target communities. The District Declarations serve as the advocacy tools for the protection and promotion of indigenous and local cultures, entitlements of cultural rights, cultural diversity and cultural harmony at local level. Brief information on the district dialogues as:

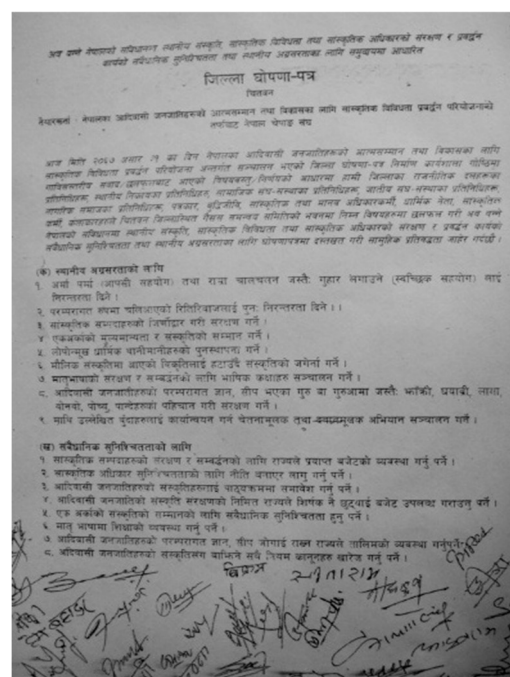


Table 3: Brief information of district dialogue

SN	District	Target (Dialogue)	Achievement (Dialogue)	Execution date (I & II round) (dd.mm. yy)	Total no. of participants*		
					Female	Male	Total

1	Kaski	2	2	28.6.2010/29.6.2011	19	90	109
2	Lamjung	2	2	4.8.2010/25.6.2011	40	77	117
3	Gorkha	2	2	14.8.2010/27.7.2011	38	66	104
4	Kavrepalanchowk	2	2	10.6.2010/24.6.2011	41	75	116
5	Dhading	2	2	23.6.2010/29.6.2011	16	77	93
6	Rasuwa	2	2	26.6.2010/26.6.2011	41	75	116
7	Chitwan	2	2	15.7.2010/11.6.2011	34	84	118
8	Makwanpur	2	2	14.7.2011/11.6.2011	42	108	150
Total		16	16		271	652	923

*Figures in cumulative terms