

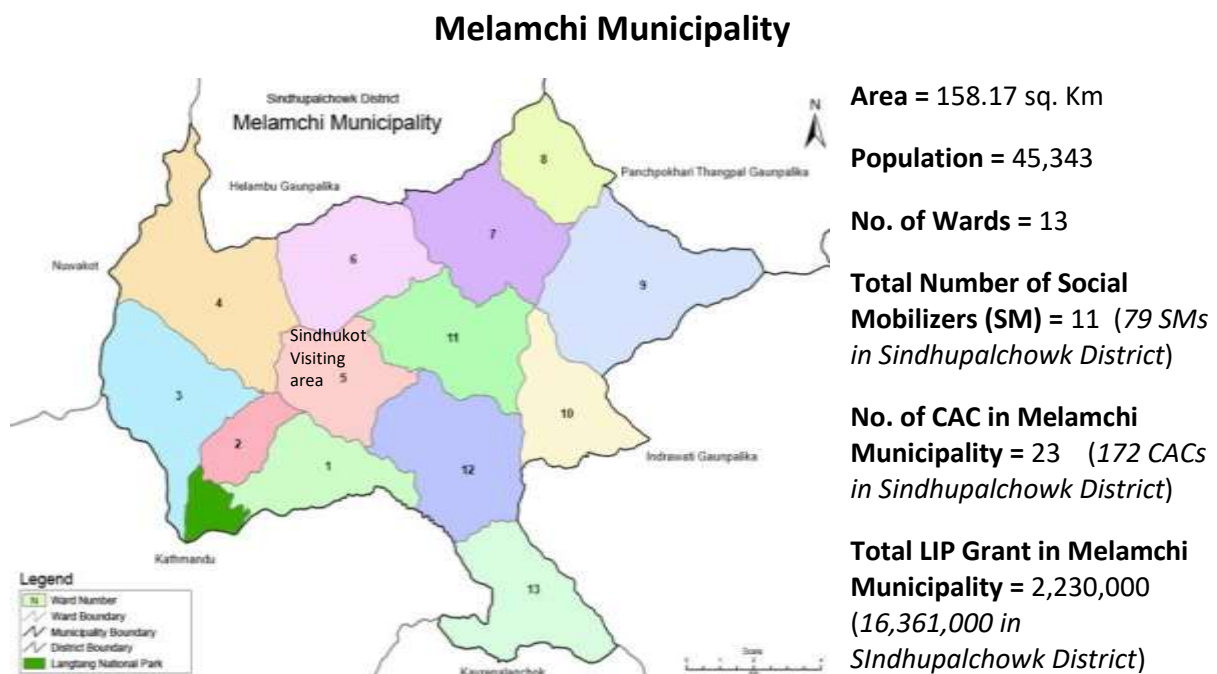
Joint Field Visit to Melamchi Municipality and local CAC

On 17 December, 2017, a joint team of Ministry officials, Development Partners and other staffs visited Melamchi Municipality and Sindhukot Citizens Awareness Center (CAC), Ward No. 5, Melamchi in Sindhupalchowk. The team consisted of Joint Secretaries and UN Under-Secretaries of Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), representatives from various Development Partners including European Delegation, The Embassy of Switzerland, UNDP, DFID, World Bank, UNCDF, UN Women, SEED as well as staffs from PCU and PSU of LGCDP II – TSNP.

The team initially visited Sindhukot Citizens Awareness Center (CAC), Melamchi Municipality, Ward no. 5 Sindhukot, Sindhupalchowk where there was interaction and discussion with community members and Social Mobilizers of the CAC regarding implementation of Livelihood Improvement Plan (LIP) and Small Infrastructure Grant (SIG) and its impact on the community.

The team then visited Melamchi Municipality and had interaction with Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and other elected representative of Melamchi Municipality including Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and senior municipal staffs.

Overview of the Joint Team Field Visit



Background

The main thrust of social mobilization component of LGCDP is to ensure meaningful participation of citizens, especially the poor, women, child and socially and economically deprived communities in all sorts of decision-making process at the local level and make local level accountable to them. For this, social mobilization has created **Citizen Awareness Center (CAC)** which are engaged in social reformation process.

Livelihood Improvement Programme (LIP) is a grant given to CAC members of graduated CACs to initiate small-scale income generating programme like goat farming, pig farming, small-scale grocery shops etc to improve their livelihood means.

Small Infrastructure Grant (SIG) is the grant given to the CACs with an intention to address the genuine productive small infrastructure demands of the poor member of citizen awareness center.

Sindhukot CAC



Sindhukot CAC is situated in Ward No. 5 of Melamchi Municipality. It was established in 2011 and has a total of 25 members. This CAC has received a total of NRs 200,000 as the LIP Grant. Normally a graduated CAC receives only NRs 100,000 as LIP Grant but an additional amount of NRs 100,000 was given to the CACs of earthquake affected districts after 2015 earthquake. The major LIP activities undertaken by this CAC are goat farming, pig farming etc. Similarly, Sindhukot CAC has received SIG Grant of NRs 350,000 which has been used for construction of a drinking water reservoir which is distributed to vegetable farming of some CAC members as well as surrounding communities. It takes around 15-20 minutes to reach this project site from this meeting point.

Reflection from CAC Visit:

CAC Coordinator made the verbal presentation of progress of CAC and also Ms Parbati Nepal, Social Mobilizer made the brief presentation on the activities that they had accomplished. The high level delegates had an interaction with CAC members at Sindhukot. The major LIP activities undertaken by this CAC are goat farming, pig farming etc. Most of the CAC members are involved in goat farming, 5 CAC members are undertaking pig farming and interesting thing is that most of the CAC members are associated in women's group as well. Furthermore, this CAC is also collaborating with MEDEP program and conducting skin processing center in their own small building.



Reflection from Municipal Interaction:

The high level joint field visit program was held on December 17, 2017 at Melamchi Municipality at Sindhupalchowk district. In this event, Chief Administrative Officer introduced himself and requested all participants for self introduction. Mayor of Melamchi municipality Mr. Damber Aryal briefed the overall situation of the municipality and also presented approved annual action plan of the municipality. In this regard, the interaction with Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and other elected representative of Melamchi Municipality including CAO and senior municipal staff of Melamchi Municipality, Sindhupalchowk district was held smoothly. The event went very successfully and the overall management was sound. During the interaction program among development partners, high level MoFALD official and elected representative of the municipality executive, we had observed the following points as reflection:

- There are 49 staff including 11 Social Mobilizers. SM are providing adequate support to the municipality to ensure smooth running of day to day function as well their

social mobilization activities. Staffs from education, health, agriculture and livestock have already arrived in the municipality but they are low level. According to the source of municipality, they need high level professional staff from these sector area as well need the same for other areas like infrastructure etc.

- Interestingly, municipality identified long term vision on tourism sector and also allocated NRs 50 hundred thousand for long term tourism development fund. Similarly, municipality also allocated budget of NRs 50 hundred thousand for vegetable farming. Municipality has the concept to build Melamchi ring road. So, it was observed that the municipality has begun to initiate the action with long term and short term vision. Municipality also confirmed the holy area in order to strengthen the local tourism like Phadkeshwor Mahadev, Sindhukot temple etc
- For short term, in order to implement immediate action, municipality has set the priority list to accomplish those work. Municipality has first priority of poverty reduction, then vegetable farming, and tourism development and infrasturcture, however we observed that municipality has allocated huge budget in infrastructure. We didn't observe the allocation of budget on women, children, deprived/marginalized communities as well Janjati.
- Municipality has made the provision for waiver to pass the map of individual household belonging to earthquake affected people, though it seemed that this provision may arise the problem of record keeping in future and could reduce the income of municipality immediately.
- It was also observed that the revenue collection plan is not formally endorsed, like Integrated Property Tax (IPT)
- Last but not the least, municipality has low level of collection of internal revenue, which is only NRs 70 hundred thousand.



Joint Field Visit Program

Participants List

SN	Name	Organization	Designation
1	Mr. Purusottam Nepal	MoFALD/LGCDP II - TSNGP	Joint Secretary/NPD
2	Mr. Bed Bahadur Karki	MoFALD/LGCDP II - TSNGP	Joint Secretary
3	H.E Jorg Frieden	Embassy of Switzerland	Ambassador
4	Mr. Resham Raj Kandel	MoFALD/LGCDP II - TSNGP	Under-Secretary/NPM
5	Ms. Odile Humblot	European Delegation	Governance Manager
6	Mr. Tom Wingfeild	DFID	Team Leader Governance
7	Mr. Bishwo Marasini	MoFALD	Under-Secretary
8	Mr. Chabi Rijal	MoFALD	Under-Secretary
9	Mr. Pralhad Karki	MoFALD	Under-Secretary
10	Mr. Bhesh Raj Khanal	MoFALD/LGCDP II - TSNGP	Section Officer
11	Mr. Prakash Regmi	The Embassy of Switzerland	Senior Programme Officer
12	Mr. Yam Nath Sharma	UNDP	Assistant Country Director
13	Mr. Bigyan Pradhan	World Bank	Senior Operation Manager
14	Dr. Suresh Balakrishnan	UNCDF	Regional Technical Advisor
15	Ms. Gitanjali Singh	UN Women	Deputy Representative
16	Mr. Anders Magnusson	UN Women	Programme Expert
17	Aino Efraimsson	UN Women	Coordinator
18	Dr. Raghu Shrestha	LGCDP-TSNGP DP Cell	LGCDP DP Cell
19	Mr. Anil Chandrika	LGCDP -TSNGP DP Cell	LGCDP DPs Coordinator
20	Mr. Mandip Rai	LGCDP II - TSNGP	Deputy NPM
21	Mr. Puspa Basnet	LGCDP II - TSNGP	PSU Coordinator, Province no.3
22	Ms. Apsara Karki	LGCDP II - TSNGP	PSU, SM cum GESI Expert
23	Ramila Sapkota	SEED	LSP Officer
24	Tara Bahadur Thapa	LGCDP	Social Mobilizer
25	Parbati Nepal	LGCDP	Social Mobilizer
26	Shiva Prasad Nepal	LGCDP	Social Mobilizer
27	Hareram Rajbhandari	LGCDP	Social Mobilizer