

Local Governance and Community Development Program  
Environment Friendly Local Governance  
Field Visit to Sindhuli  
Debendra Karkee and Ek Raj Sigdel  
7-9 July 2015

## Objective

With the aim of facilitating training on EFLG and monitoring field activities, Section Officer Mr. Debendrakarki and Environment Specialist Mr. Ek Raj Sigdel visited Sindhuli in 7-9 July 2015. The following sections highlights key activities, observations and issues.

## Training Participation

- As Resource Person, we (Debendra Karkee, Section Officer and Ek Raj Sigdel, Environment Specialist) facilitated Environment Friendly Local Governance (EFLG) Sensitization Training organized jointly by Sindhuli District Development Committee (DDC) and Kamalamai Municipality to district and municipality stakeholders in Sindhuli District Headquarter on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015. Around 65 participants; including DDC and Municipality Officials, political party representatives, civil society organizations, and government line agencies attended the Training. Training course covered linkage of environment and poverty, background work of EFLG Framework, salient features of EFLG Framework and introduction to EFLG Program. Mr. Bharat Ghimire and Bicky Koirala Monitoring and Evaluation Officers in DDC and Municipalities presented EFLG implementations progress status in Sindhuli District and Kamalamai Municipality respectively.

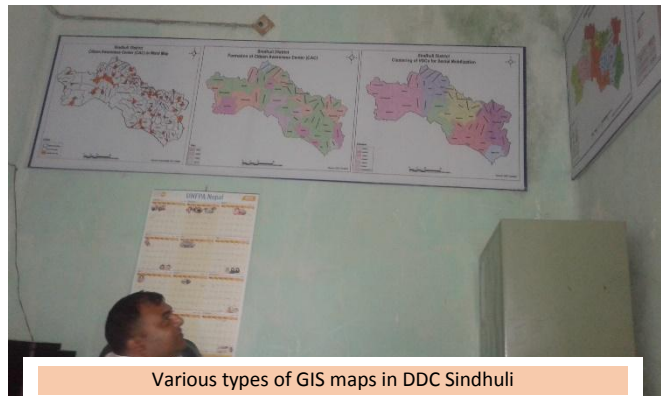


*Training on CFLG to Social Mobilisers and VDC Secretaries*

- A long discussion was held on issues such as which subject to give priority like environment or development, regulation of sand gravel and stones extraction, and level of environmental awareness among stakeholders. It was felt necessary of having environment mainstreaming tools such as Environment Management Plan (EMP), Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) more user friendly. Awareness program on importance of considering environment while designing and implementing sustainable infrastructure development programs especially rural road maintenance is needed. Further, participants were unaware about the EFLG program in Sindhuli district.
- In the same day, we attended ongoing Two-day Social Mobilization (SM) Training on Child Friendly Local Governance in Sindhuli District Headquarter. The training was attended by over 50 participants including Social Mobilisers and VDC Secretaries. We briefly explained salient features of EFLG Framework and roles of SM and VDC Secretaries on implementing EFLG program in their respective areas. At the end of the training, participants requested EFLG books in their hand.

## Information Communication and Technology

- SindhuliDDC with the support of ICT Volunteer has developed various GIS based thematic maps including land use, political boundary, earthquake vulnerable areas, and geographic distribution of social mobilization organizations such as Ward Citizen Forum (WCF) and Citizen Awareness Centers (CACs).The DDC Information Management Section has maintained database of social mobilizations and



Various types of GIS maps in DDC Sindhuli

developed software of earthquake victim and relief material distribution. Moreover, it was noted that SindhuliICT volunteer developed a software for birth and death registration. It was reported that the ICT Volunteer has provided on the job training to DDC Information Officer Mr. Deepak Karkee on adopting the various technologies. Likewise, Kamalamai Municipality through ICT Volunteer has designed digital information board at entrance gate of the Municipality Office. So, it can be said based on aforementioned information that works of ICT volunteers are considered very useful and effective too in Sindhuli DDC as well as Kamalalamai Municipality.

## Solar Lamp Distribution

- On 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 we attended 20 PWT. Solar panel distribution event to 30 family of Bhuwaneshwor VDC, Sindhuli. In total 30 solar panel were distributed – one for each family with the total costs of Rs. 285,000. DityaUrjaPVt. Kathmandu has agreed to extent technical backup for solar installation and maintenance in the days ahead. Most of the beneficiary communities were comprises of Damai, Sarki, Tamang and Magar.The participants who got benefits were devoid of electricity from national grid as well as from other sources. “After having a solar lamp in our home, my children will have better opportunity for study in the coming days”, said a local beneficiary woman.



Solar panel distribution event

## Public Toilet

- We observed three roomed public toilet being constructed along Madhya PahadiLokMargain Bhubaneshwori VDC ward no 2 of Sindhuli DDC. Separate rooms are



Public toilet, under construction

allocated for male, female and disabled people. It seems that the rooms were very small and congested. Maintaining toilet was found challenging in the days ahead as there were no clear scheme developed towards this direction. Even, there was no linkage of the construction with the mission of EFLG declaration.

### EFLG Activities in Bitijor VDC

- Bitijor 6, Bagaichaawas constructing 30 m \* 26m garden in BitijorVDC building premises. In this connection, annual and perennial ornamental plant species and necessary benches are purchased already. According to Ms. UshaHamal, a member of the garden construction committee, said they had a dream of maintaining a garden in the VDC premises since long ago, but due to inadequate budget they could not have started until when they got support from EFLG program. With the support of EFLGP, we are optimistic that we can develop our village now, said her. It seems, local people were found highly committed and positive towards declaring their VDC as environment friendly. In this regard some indicators are already achieved. Supporting some other indicator based activities could help expediting the declaration process.

It was reported that with EFLG support plantation has also been carried out in seven different schools in Bitijor VDC. The VDC has already been declared as open defecation free zone and Indoor Air Pollution. Out of total 415 household in Bitijor VDC, 68% were damaged from the Earthquake of April 25 and subsequent aftershocks. Immediate relief support was extended for earthquake victims from World Vision and NEWA in coordination with BitijorVDC Officials. In addition, a Monitoring Committee representing political parties, WCF and VDC was formed to ensure relief was distributed fairly.

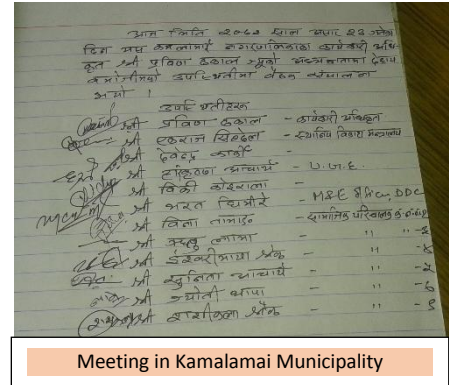
### Interaction with DDC and Municipality Officials:

We interacted with LDO, DGE, Account Officer, Information Section Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and ICT Volunteers in Sindhuli DDC Office. It was noted that almost 90% planned activities of the DDC were in completion stage. Out of total Rs. 90, 20000 planned for DDC activities, Rs. 13,15,164 was spent in various activities. Of the total expended, Rs. 625000 was spent in earthquake impacted communities.



On going garden site construction and VDC Offices

We also participated in an interaction meeting in Kamalamai Municipality. The meeting was participated by Executive Officer, Urban Governance Expert, six Social Mobilisers, and District and Municipality Monitoring and Evaluation Officers. It was informed that the Municipality hardly 15% EFLG approved activities were implemented until when the date when the meeting was held. Less expenses in Municipality, as said was due to engagement of SM in Earthquake impact data collection and relief distributions. Social security allowance, birth and death registration, right access, citizenship certificate awarded and facilitation in ODF declaration were the key achievements of SMs. Moreover, expected regular follow up from central level



**Coordination:** Coordination between D/UGE and M&E Officers were found cordial. Moreover, there were some confusion regarding reporting procedure. It was agreed to forward a copy of progress report to D/UGE by M&E Officers.

### Key Observations

On the whole, after having interaction meetings with DDC & Municipality Officials, participating training of social mobilisers and district stakeholders and observing field activities, various programs were found worth mentioning. The appreciative activities include, i) DDC has maintained EFLG project book and documented project activities systematically, ii) Kamalamai Municipality has kept documentation of social mobilization activities appropriately, iii) Work of ICT Volunteer in DDC as well as Municipality was found very useful, iv) Coordination between M&E officers and D/GE were found very impressive, v) if all goes well, DDC will implement over 90% planned EFLG activities in time, and vii) Coordination meeting in DDC and Municipalities were found very useful.

### Key Issues

There were various ongoing activities that need improvement. The activities that need perfection include; i) Kamalamai Municipality should pay attention in improving EFLG activities documentation and even they need to put extra efforts for timely implementation of planned activities, ii) Support for public toilets construction need to be discouraged in the days ahead unless it contributes to declaring EFLG entity, iii) M&E Officers should provide a copy of progress reports to D/UGE iv) MoFALD's support should give priority to the sites and activities that contributes declaration of local bodies as environment friendly, v) Environmental integration tools such as EMP, IEE need further simplification and more user friendly vi) All Social mobilisers need to be made aware on importance of designing environment friendly development activities and its implementation, vii) Prior to using EFLG fund in unplanned activities need approval from higher authority, vii) DDC and Municipality should erect project notice board on site, ix) Process of expending available fund Rs. 315,000 of Citizen Awareness Center (CAC) received from LGCDP should be expedited, and x) EFLG activities are to be designed and implemented

following participatory approach so that more and more people be aware about its objectives and implementation approach.