



Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Project

Government of  
Nepal-JICA  
Technical  
Cooperation

# GeMSIP Update

August 2010, Volume 4

## GEMSIP FACILITATORS

Here are our 12 Facilitators supporting GeMSIP activities in each of the 6 pilot VDCs.

Syangja District			Morang District		
Jagatradevi VDC	Biruwa Archale VDC	Fedikhola VDC	Pokhariya VDC	Tetariya VDC	Tandi VDC
Senior Facilitator	Senior Facilitator	Senior Facilitator	Senior Facilitator	Senior Facilitator	Senior Facilitator
Ms. Nanda Rana	Ms. Dhan Maya Rana Thapa	Ms. Praticbhaya Gurung	Mr. Mahesh Kumar Mandal	Ms. Ranjana Kumari Majhi	Ms. Sangita Rai
					
Facilitator	Facilitator	Facilitator	Facilitator	Facilitator	Facilitator
Mr. Binod Neupane	Mr. Nar Bahadur B.K.	Mr. Nar Bahadur Karki	Mr. Shiva Dayal Mandal	Mr. Manoj Kumar Chaudhary	Mr. Dil Bahadur Magar
					

### GeMSIP Completed Activities (May - August, 2010)

Month	Activity	Place
May	2nd Facilitator Training	Morang and Syangja
May-August	Social resource mapping at wards in pilot VDCs	Morang and Syangja
May-August	VDC-level GM/SI Appraisal and Audit Workshop	Morang and Syangja
June	GM/SI Training for Gender Focal Persons (GFPs) and Planning Officers	Kathmandu
August	VDC-level GSI Planning Training Workshop	Morang and Syangja

### GeMSIP Upcoming Activities (September – November, 2010)

Month	Activity	Place
September	VDC-level GSI Planning Training Workshop	Morang and Syangja
September	6th Project Management Committee (PMC) meeting	Kathmandu
October	Formation of Ward Citizen Forum in Pilot VDCs	Morang and Syangja
November	3rd Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Meeting	Kathmandu
November	VDC-level Pilot Project Preparation Workshop	Morang and Syangja

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### MESSAGE FROM VDC SECRETARY IN SYANGJA

I would like to express my happiness on the success of GeMSIP to publish 4th issue of its Newsletter. I am grateful to GeMSIP for the opportunity to put my few words in this newsletter.



Biruwa Archale VDC of Syangja is 20 km away from the district headquarter. Inhabitants of the VDC are Magar, Gurung, Dalit, Bharmin, Chhetri and Muslim. The geography of the VDC consists of hill, slope, and forest together with irrigated, fertile and plain land. We have 1 Secondary, 6 Primary and 2 private schools. Biruwa Archale VDC also has facilities and services such as health post, livestock service center, sub forest office, police post, Muktinath Development Bank and post office. Non-pitched road is also available in the VDC.

When GeMSIP started its implementation in the VDC, firstly, GeMSIP VDC level Integrated Planning Committee was formed having the VDC secretary as coordinator with ensuring the representation from women, Dalit, Janajati, Brahmin, Chhetri, people with disability and child club. Secondly, inviting applications for the selection of facilitators, facilitators were selected through the written test and interview. Then, GeMSIP conducted various trainings to enhance facilitators' capacity. Thereafter, by organizing a number of training/workshop and review in different topics under gender mainstreaming and social inclusion (GM/SI), it has developed an important concept that all villagers i.e. women, Dalit, Janajati and excluded groups, have to participate in each process.

Similarly, preparation of Social Resource Map of some of the wards has been completed. Further, there was a discussion concerning the structure and roles of Ward Committee. Women, Dalits, excluded groups of the VDC together with people from all settlements and wards are happy generating new ideas after the project has been commenced in the VDC.

Finally, I am very optimistic that we would be successful to develop Biruwa Archale as a model VDC in the days to come by bringing the voices of women, Dalits and excluded groups up to the decision making level in the development activities. I express my best wishes to this newsletter to be successful in accelerating GM/SI.

Mr. Hari P Poudel, VDC Secretary, Biruwa Archale

### MESSAGE FROM VDC SECRETARY IN MORANG

Tetariya VDC, situated at the middle of the western part of Morang District, falls 15 km north to the Biratnagar sub-metropolitan city. This VDC covers total area of 14 km<sup>2</sup>. Tharu language is widely used as it is estimated that more than 80% of the inhabitants are Tharus.



Hence, the VDC is rich so far as identity of Tharu culture is concerned. Others living in this VDC are OBC, Dalit (Bantar, Musahar, BK) and of hill origin at 6%, 7% and 7%, respectively. Being highly inhabited by the people such as indigenous people, OBC and Dalit, the VDC is backward in terms of social development. Gender and social development couldn't take pace due to the poverty and socio-cultural malpractices. Also, the VDC has remained underdeveloped in terms of physical, environmental and sanitation aspects.

Government of Nepal has declared this VDC as a child friendly VDC to develop it as a model child friendly village as per the International Child Right Convention signed by Nepal and the Child Law, 2048 enforced by the government. Following the child friendly program of the government, the VDC is now in the implementation phase after having developed indicators at the community level to solve the problems existing at VDC and prepared 5 year plan to fulfill those developed indicators. To establish VDC as truly child friendly within the remaining 2 planning years, it is targeted to make all the areas of VDC defecation free by FY 2067/2068.

It is needless to say that overall development of all aspects is necessary to make the VDC extensively child friendly. The VDC can't be child friendly unless equal opportunity is provided to mainstream indigenous, Dalit and OBC who were pushed behind from ages and the equal participation of women and excluded groups is ensured. Having good understanding of this reality, to address and support the issues of GM/SI, major hindrance in achieving the pre-declared objective of GoN as mentioned above and strong commitment of VDC, GeMSIP has been implemented in the VDC. I do believe that Tetariya VDC will benefit getting support from this project to meet its future goal and the VDC will be model environment friendly, open defecation free, and child friendly VDC in the days to come.

Mr. Lila Ram Bastola, VDC Secretary, Tetariya

**GMSI BASIC TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR GFPS AND PLANNING OFFICERS**



GeMSIP in collaboration with MoWCSW and MoLD organized GM/SI basic training for Gender Focal Persons (GFPS) and Planning Officers (POs) of various ministries, departments and agencies on 9-14 June 2010 at Chetana Kendra, Budwal, Kavre. The training organized for two and a half days for each of the two groups was attended by a total of 54 participants. Perhaps this was the first effort in Nepal to bring together both the GFPS and the officers from planning sections of various ministries, departments and agencies and train them on GM/SI. The overall objective of this training was to enhance knowledge and skills of GFPS and the POs on GM/SI. Specific objectives of the training were to: Share inter-ministries/departmental experience on GM/SI, develop common understanding on GM/SI among the participants and prepare back-home action plan of GFPS and POs to promote GM/SI within their Ministries/Departments/ organizations. Major contents of the training include GM/SI basic concept, GM/SI policy framework in Nepal, good practices and lessons learned in GM/SI, GSI issues in different sectors.

A total of 22 ministries, 2 departments, 1 National level committee, NPC and Nepal Police shared their experience and views with regards to GM/SI. With the sharing of the experiences the participants came up to the conclusion and realization— issue of GM/SI is taken as the responsibility of donor and of special project, necessary to bring clarity of the concept of GM/SI at the decision making levels. Just a provision of GFP would not bring expected change. It is necessary to establish a Gender and Social Inclusion section headed by a senior person preferably Joint Secretary level and reflect GM/SI in planning and budgeting system as well. A clear ToR together with guidelines for GFP and specific GSI responsibilities in the ToR of other personnel is a must.

The training ended up with back home action plan on GM/SI for each of the participating organization. Mr Ratna Kaji Bajracharya JS, MoWCSW, Mr Shiva Bahadur Rayamajhi, JS, MoLD and DG DWD, Mr D. Devkota and Ms Laxmi Konwar, Programme Officer, JICA Nepal Office also delivered the opening and closing remarks.

*Shankar P. Paudyal  
National Project Officer, GeMSIP*

**GMSI APPRAISAL AND AUDIT IN PILOT VDCS**

GeMSIP conducted Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion (GM/SI) Appraisal and Audit Training Workshop in three GeMSIP pilot VDCs; Jagatradevi, Phedikhola and Biruwa Archale in Syangja dated 25-27 May, 1-3 June and 26-28 June, 2010 respectively. Similarly the same training workshops have been conducted in VDCs Pokhariya, Tetariya and Tandi in Morang on 22-24 June, 8-10 August and 14-16 August respectively. The main objective of the workshop was to assess existing situation of GM/SI in the VDCs. The contents of each workshop were, Understanding of VDC Level Stakeholders on GM/SI, Issues of Gender and Social Exclusion, Problem Analysis of Gender Inequality and Social Exclusion, GM/SI Approach, GM/SI Appraisal and Audit, Gender and Social Inclusion Budget and Budget Audit and Social Resource Map of VDC.

Altogether 117 participants (56 women and 61 men) actively participated in all the six events of the workshop. GeMSIP IPC members, GeMSIP VDC facilitators, government personnel from VDC level sector offices and VDC IPC members were as the participants. GeMSIP district officers and GESI Implementation Committee/Working Group members had facilitated the sessions. Before conducting the workshop, facilitators were provided with one day orientation. Being the first training of this kind in VDC, Ms. Toshiko Hamano and Ms. Yoko Komatsubara and Mr. Tej Sunar from GeMSIP Kathmandu Office were present for backstopping in Jagatradevi, Syangja and Pokhariya, Morang.



The workshop has significantly contributed to strengthening understanding of the participants on the given subjects as well as the realizing gaps of GM/SI in the VDCs through the exercise of GM/SI appraisal and audit and GSI budget audit. VDC resource maps were also prepared from the workshops.

*Tej Sunar  
National Project Officer, GeMSIP*

**TRAINING ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING POLICIES FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS IN JAPAN**

JICA is currently hosting a Training on Gender mainstreaming Policies for Government Officers in Kyushu, Japan. It aims to enhance capacity of national gender machinery in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs with gender perspectives. The training is from 15 August to 25 September, 2010. Three of our counterparts, Ms. Durga Baral (WDO, Morang), Mr. Saroj Gautam (Social Development Officer, DDC, Morang) and Ms. Meera Sherchan (WDO, Syangja) are participating in the training together with several officers from other countries.

*Masami Watanabe  
JICA Expert, GeMSIP*

**GEMSIP PILOT PROJECT: WHAT, WHY AND HOW?**

**What is GeMSIP Pilot Project?**

GeMSIP will conduct a “Pilot Project” in selected VDCs in Syangja and Morang. As the first group, we have selected three VDCs each in the two districts.

Syangja	Morang
Phedikhola	Tandi
Biruwa Archale	Tetariya
Jagatradevi	Pokhariya

Under this Pilot Project, we will ask the Pilot VDCs to plan, select, implement and monitor development projects in a gender-responsive and socially inclusive way. Necessary funds for the Pilot Project will be provided by JICA for the pilot period (three years for the first group).

The Pilot VDCs are basically free to use this extra budget for whatever projects they like. They can spend the entire amount on just one project like road construction. Or they can divide this budget into ten and finance smaller projects like drinking water, skill training for women, primary school rehabilitation, or distribution of improved seeds. GeMSIP will not instruct them what to do. Instead, GeMSIP will impose only one condition: the projects must be formulated, selected, implemented and monitored in a gender-responsive and socially inclusive way.

**Why GeMSIP Pilot Project?**

GeMSIP has been initiated with one fact in mind: Nepal has many policies, guidelines, committees, etc. established to address gender equality and social inclusion issues, but they have not been so effective in reality. Given this fact, one main objective of GeMSIP is therefore set to make such policies and guidelines work.

What is wrong? Why don't they work? According to our observations and analysis, one of the main causes lies at VDCs, where most population reside and malpractices and injustice are rampant. Unless the current ways of VDC administration is changed, no policies, no guidelines, no committees can make any difference in the lives of underprivileged people.

This is why GeMSIP focuses on VDCs and their ways of development administration. In more specific terms, GeMSIP will try to make the whole process of “VDC project selection and implementation” gender responsive and socially inclusive. Or put differently, GeMSIP will try to democratize the way in which VDC budget is allocated and spent.

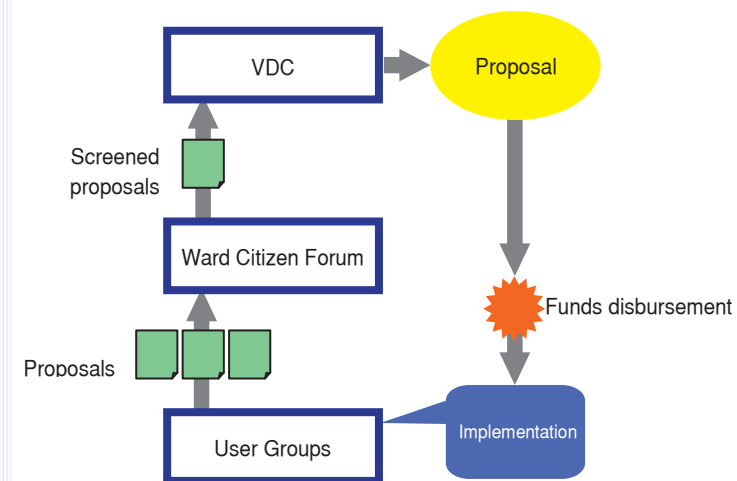
But is it possible to make such changes overnight by just “instructing” something from above? Of course not. It will definitely take time because we have to change people's perceptions, mindsets and behaviors. We think the only way

to accomplish this task is to follow the “learning by doing” approach. We have to and will give VDC people (from VDC Secretary to political leaders, social leaders and further to underprivileged people) a real opportunity to practice a new, democratic and inclusive way of selecting and implementing VDC projects. GeMSIP Pilot Project has been conceived exactly as the opportunity for this purpose.

**How GeMSIP Pilot Project Will Work?**

Since our purpose is to give a real opportunity to practice a new, democratic process, GeMSIP Pilot Project will basically follow the official regulations and timetable regarding the VDC development administration. Nonetheless, one modification needed was establishing GeMSIP Integrated Planning Committee in each Pilot VDC. This new organization is separate from the official Integrated Planning Committee but has basically the same functions to do. Some members belong to both.

JICA will provide a block grant to each Pilot VDC (Rs300,000 to Rs500,000 a year). User groups and CBOs will make proposals for projects to be financed with this grant. They submit their proposals first to Ward Citizen Forum. The Forum will screen the proposals and forward the prioritized proposals to GeMSIP IPC for the final selection. GeMSIP IPC will select the proposals to be funded with the JICA grant. For this selection, GeMSIP IPC will refer to the Periodic Plan and use their selection criteria set forth in advance. The selected proposals will be implemented respectively by the User Group or CBO that proposed one.



To facilitate this whole process, two Facilitators each are assigned to Pilot VDCs. They will play a key role to ensure this whole process be democratic, gender responsive and socially inclusive.

*Norimichi Toyomane  
JICA Expert, GeMSIP*